

China

YAMAMOTO Takashi¹

Although the world-wide pandemic had significant influence on archaeological research in China, and although it was hard to conduct normal research activities, fiscal 2020 saw various research results and publication of specialized books that recapitulate the past research.

As for Neolithic study, there was a publication of NAKAMURA Shinichi and Liu Bin ed., *Hemudu & Liangzhu Culture: Reconstructing the Historical Processes through which a Rice-based Civilization Arose in the Yangtze Valley in the Late Neolithic* (Yuzankaku), and the beginning of rice farming in the lower Yangtze valley in the Neolithic and formation of early nation states were analyzed from various angles. It is notable that there were many results from related fields of archaeology such as zooarchaeology, strontium isotope analysis, paleo-osteology, and paleopathology, and the multiple research methods have provided clues to solve the social situation of the period, however on the other hand, discussion based on archaeological methods was not adequate. It is required of archaeologists in the future to indicate a comprehensive social image, while absorbing results of other fields.

Many results on bronze ware were published for studies from Yin and Zhou period to Qin and Han period. Among them, a landmark work was MIYAMOTO Kazuo, *Higashi Ajia Seidoki Jidai no Kenkyu* (Research on the Bronze Age of East Asia) (Yuzankaku). It is a great work that approached characteristics of bronze culture in East Asia, while keeping the whole of eastern Eurasia in sight, but also a big issue in this field became clear as the view of Bronze Age in the Central Plain has not been updated since the 1980s. Also, there were many research results that utilized research data and collections of artifacts in Japan in fiscal 2020, as an effect of COVID-19. We may have re-recognized the importance of domestic data as the present situation does not able us to conduct overseas research.

As for Wei and Jin period and after, IWAMOTO Takashi, *Triangular-rimmed Mirrors Displaying Divinities and Animals Motifs and the Society in Kofun Period* (Rokuichi Shobo) developed a persuasive discussion on manufacturing locations and periods of triangular-rimmed mirrors with divinities and animal motifs, with continued controversy in the past, by comparing mirrors of North China. Also, study on ceramic and porcelain

¹ SEN-OKU HAKUKOKAN MUSEUM, 24 Shimomiyamae-cho, Shishigatani, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8431, Japan
(t.yamamoto@sen-ku.or.jp)

continued to be active. There were diverse research results such as a thesis that approached production/distribution of ceramic/porcelain of the time from both historical documents and archaeological data, and a thesis that discussed production places based on scientific analysis.

Thus, Chinese archaeological study in Japan continued to progress despite having a hard year. However, focusing on the post COVID-19 world, the big issue is how to resume research in China and continue it.