

Paleolithic

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Fiscal 2021 saw active research on the beginning of the Upper Paleolithic, and transition from the Upper Paleolithic to the Jomon period. There were especially many studies on microblade industries and use-ware analysis. Also, there were active short reports on analysis of origin assumptions for material stones. Source analysis is now being conducted in various areas on stones like obsidian and Sanukite (Andesite). This change is assumedly caused by price reduction of fluorescent X-ray analyzers, actualizing their portability. Furthermore, extensive distribution surveys were being conducted on sedimentary rocks and local stone materials such as siliceous shale and rhyolite for which it was hard to assume the origin, and such a tendency could be pointed out as a characteristic of recent years. One research trend of Japanese paleolithic study in recent years is proactive cooperation with archaeological sciences. Maybe because of this reason, there were an outstanding number of coauthored papers in fiscal 2021. On the other hand, studies on lithic culture of the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) of the Upper Paleolithic stayed low-keyed. Also, there is a tendency of less single authored papers. Research presentations from humanities with abundant original thoughts are awaited in the future. Study conferences and symposia were active for the first time in the past few years. Although many of them were held online as the previous year, there were some such as Iwajuku Forum symposium and Kyushu Kyūsekki Bunka Kenkyūkai that were held face-to-face. It is related to the COVID-19 pandemic staying somewhat low-toned so behavior restrictions were relaxed nationwide.

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