

Yayoi Period

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The Yayoi period study of Japanese Archaeology in fiscal 2021 was rather limited by prevention of the COVID-19, and on the other hand, online conferences became our everyday life.

In one of the outstanding collaborative research publications, Environmental Foundation of Wars and State Formation (*Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese History* No. 231), NAKATSUKA Takeshi “Nenrin Sanso Dōitai-hi wo Mochiita Yayoi/Kofun Jidai no Kikō/Nōgyō Seisan Jinkō no Hendō Shimyurēshion (Fluctuation Simulation of Climate/Agricultural Production/Population in Yayoi/Kofun Periods Using Oxygen Isotope Ratio in Tree Rings)” succeeded in simulating rice production amount, stockpile volume, demographic change from the Yayoi to Kofun period, referring to significant data seen in the relationship between summer climate and rich/poor rice harvests during the Edo period. Also, MATSUGI Takehiko “Nihon Rettō-shi: Genshi Dankai no Shakai Henka to ‘Kankyō’ (History of the Japanese Archipelago: Social Changes in Primitive Phases and ‘Environment’)” divided the Japanese archipelago into three regions and calculated the “social complexity degree” based on 19 indices, and evaluated the relationship between the progress period of social change and paleoenvironment. Matsugi also conducted the most outstanding study of this fiscal year in “Nihon Rettō Senshi: Genshi Jidai ni Okeru Tatakai to Sensō no Purosesu (The Process of Conflicts and Warfare in Prehistoric and Protohistoric Periods of the Japanese Archipelago)” (*Annual Papers of the Anthropological Institute, Nanzan University* Vol. 12), where he tried to observe transitions of war up to state formation, based on two archaeological indices: “traces of struggle” and “traces of violent culture complex” over a long period of time from the Jomon period to the Nara period.

Other major research results were on bronze tool production and reconstruction of casting techniques based on detailed observation of bronze products such as KIKUCHI Nozomu “Yūkō Dōkushiro Seisan no Tenkai (Development of Hooked Bronze Bracelet Production)” (*Quarterly of Archaeological Studies* 68-3). Also, so called “domain a” material in lead isotope ratio analysis found in the Lelang Commandery, China is outstanding in Japan, and studies are emerging to actively conduct its historical evaluation such as OKAMURA Hidenori “Hakusai Sareta Oumo Kyūteikyō: Osaka-fu Shikinzan Kofun Shutsudo no Hōkaku-Kiku-Shishinkyō no Namari Dōitaihi Bunseki kara (An Imported Mirror from Wang Mang’s Court: A Study of the Provenance of the TLV Mirror Excavated from the Shikinzan Tumulus, Osaka Prefecture Based on a Lead Isotope Analysis)” (*Shirin* 104-5).

The above studies utilizing social archaeology and natural science could be linked to international research.

Other than the above, there were studies on artifacts like pottery, lithics, iron tools, jade, and so on, study on “highland villages” which means advancement to hilltops and mountain summits, as well as study on dating measurements due to introduction of IntCal20.

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