

Kofun Period

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Fiscal 2015 Kofun period study saw outstanding publication of many excavation reports and regional study meetings other than publication of individual study. Progress of the study by enhanced documentation is remarkable due to reexamination of fundamental data regarding mounded tombs researched in the past, such as Nara National Museum *Gojo-Nekozuka Kofun no Kenkyu (Study on Gojo-Nekozuka Mounded Tomb)*. Study meetings related to mounded tombs (such as Zenpokoentfun Kenkyukai in Kyushu, Chugoku, Shikoku, Tohoku, and Kanto, as well as Umi no Kofun wo Kangaerukai) are held periodically in various places making steady results. Exhibitions and symposia for the public were popular. Many proceedings and pictorial records with each result were published, making it possible to learn about discussions in each region.

The following three books should be mentioned as outstanding publications. WADA Seigo's *Kofun Jidai no Seisan to Ryutsu (Production and Distribution in the Kofun Period)* (Yoshikawa Kobunkan) clearly indicated the Kofun period viewpoint which regards Kofun period economy as inseparable from the political system and religion. KAWANISHI Hiroyuki's *Datsu-Shinka no Kokogaku (Archaeology of Anti-evolution)* (Doseisha) organized the transition of settlement formation in various places in the world using methodology of comparative archaeology, connecting the rise and fall of human activities and settlement study of the Kofun period. SASO Mamoru's *Kami to Shisha no Kokogaku (Archaeology on Gods and the Deceased)* (Yoshikawa Kobunkan) examined the latest research results on the relationship of worship and mounded tomb rituals, trying to unify ritual study of the Kofun period. A deepening of examination is expected on how such systematic studies should be related to individual study in various parts of the country. Also, major discussions on the beginning of Early Kofun or Middle Kofun could easily be grasped in *Kodaishi Kenkyu no Saizensen Yamataikoku (The Latest Ancient Study: Yamataikoku)* (Yosensha) and HIROSE Kazuo ed. *Kikan Kokogaku/Bessatsu 22 Chuki Kofun to Sono Jidai (No. 22 Separate Edition of Archaeology Quarterly: Middle Kofun and Its Age)*.

As technology for three dimensional measurements progresses, studies using highly

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accurate survey maps are being developed in various places. It is expected that further discussion will be possible if creation and publication of highly accurate survey maps becomes a common practice in the future.

On burial facilities of mounded tombs, there were many discussion on *nendokaku* (wooden coffin covered with clay). As for horizontal stone chamber study, examinations were conducted on interrelationships between various parts of the country, beyond the framework of individual study within the same region. As for study on goods buried with the dead, there was a high interest in metal objects. Discussions were made to grasp the history of buried objects from their production to distribution and burial, based on examples of burial of many weapons and armor.

A study meeting on Japan-Korea exchanges, “*Nikkan 4–5 Seiki no Doki/Tekki Seisan to Shuraku* (Village and Production of Pottery/Irons Tool in 4th to 5th Century Japan and Korea) was held. Although it is becoming clear that there is a strong relationship with the southwestern part of the Korean Peninsula as far as characteristics of pottery, the major place of exchange in goods buried in mounded tombs is the southeastern part of the Korean Peninsula. Future problems on how to systematically organize complicated exchanges between Japan and Korea in the Kofun period are becoming clearer. As for handicraft production/techniques, there were many studies on Haji ware, and there were works with multiple viewpoints such as handling both horse production and iron production. As for settlement study, interests were paid to villages for migrants or villages near the sea.