

Overview

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Archaeological study became active again in 2021 with symposia being held online, after the stagnation due to the pandemic. On paleolithic study, Homo sapiens culture in Asia was discussed, and aspects of transitional phase to the Jomon period were examined. Also, useware study progressed, and exchange between groups was discussed. On Jomon study, there was an attempt to discuss Jomon society through artifact study. While each category of artifact study is progressing, on the other hand, the relationship with the environment was discussed using information from human bones and various scientific analyses. Diversified aspects of Yayoi culture were discussed for Yayoi study. Also, the function and nature of highland settlements were examined regarding reality of warfare, and various individual studies were published. On Kofun study, discussions were held on evaluation of the transitional phase from the Yayoi period. Study on key-hole shaped mounded tombs progressed, and individual studies were published on artifacts such as bronze mirrors with triangular rims and sacred animal motifs, stone tools, and so on. Also, exchanges between Japan and the Korean peninsula were discussed through examination of personal ornaments. Progress was seen on study related to settlements, funeral rituals, and production. On ancient study, transition was elucidated for Fujiwara palace, the garden of Asuka-kyō, and features related to the Tōin of Heijō palace. Discussion was held on magaiutsu (Buddha figures carved on cliffs or rocks) in ancient mountain temples. As for artifact study, glazed pottery excavated from forts and government office sites in Tohoku region was collected and discussed. Tile study also progressed. On medieval study, research was conducted on gardens of many estates and castles such as the historical site Shojujidate castle remains and Matsuyama-jō castle. On artifact study, distribution was discussed for imported earthenware and ceramics. On early modern study, many castles were researched. Castle towers were researched and compared to drawings. Attention was given to the excavation of Nakagusukudoun in Okinawa. Research was also conducted on production related features and well-known graves. Modern sites are attracting attention and the number of research examples are increasing. Especially attention was given on excavation research on Takanawa Embarkment, remains of a railroad constructed between Shinbashi and Yokohama in the early Meiji period. It was well preserved, arousing a controversy on how to convey it to future generations.

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