

Early Modern

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Fiscal 2015 continued to see many studies on early modern archaeology. The fiscal 2015 Nara Convention of the Japanese Archaeological Association had a sectional research presentation session under the theme “castles and cities in transitional phases between medieval and early modern,” trying to grasp turning points from medieval to early modern from excavation and research results of castles and castle towns. Viewing research results of castles and castle towns mentioned in this article, this attempt seems effective.

Many works on castles were related to designation as historical sites or organizations. Excavation research and site tours were conducted for castle remains of Yonagojo, Okayamajo, Fushimijo, Osakajo, Fukuijo, Nagoyajo, and Toyamajo. Study meetings and symposiums with a castle theme was active. For Matsuejo castle, a symposium was held in Tokyo and Osaka to commemorate nomination of the castle tower as a national treasure. Also, fiscal 2015 was the 400-year anniversary since the Summer Campaign of the Siege of Osaka when Osakajo castle and its castle town were burned down. Events were planned in relation, and a special exhibition “Osaka: Kokogaku ga Kataru Kinsei Toshi (Osaka: the Early Modern City in Archaeology)” was held at the Osaka Museum of History to commemorate the 400th year since the Summer Campaign. It has been 30 years since excavation research has begun, and its real image is becoming clear. As for castle town study, excavations were active for Osakajo castle town and within Edojo castle. On the other hand, excavation was conducted for castle towns other than big cities such as the castle towns of Matsuejo, Shingujo, Himejijo, and the administrative headquarters (jinya) of Asada Domain, revealing their various aspects.

As for a study meeting on “machiya,” Edo Iseki Kenkyukai held the 29th convention in which aspects of “choninchi” continued to be discussed as in last fiscal year. As for excavation research, the 368th excavation of Itamigocho site yielded features for early modern oil pressing. Although Edo period oil pressing was known from pictures, excavated examples of features are rare, and it was an important discovery to learn the structure of early modern oil pressing.

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As for production sites, excavation research was conducted due to the organization of historical sites such as Mietsu Naval Yard and Tomioka Silk Mill that have been registered as UNESCO World Heritage sites, as well as many kiln sites. Since kiln remains of Kyoyaki ware are located within a big city, there are only a few excavated examples, and survey and trial excavation was conducted on a few kilns. Survey research was conducted on Sumiyama Kiln in 2005 and 2006 by Research Institute of History, Otemae University, and a research report was published in April 2015. In the report, the technological lineage of Kyoyaki ware was discussed compared to climbing kilns and tools of Bizen, Seto, and Mino. Other than the above mentioned, excavation was conducted on the climbing kiln of Akahatayamamoto, which is considered to have given technological influence to Kyoyaki ware, and Nipposhashita kiln remains which produced Nabashimayaki wares.

As for ceramic study, outstanding work was on distribution and composition. As for research conventions, Toyo Toji Gakkai held its 43rd convention “Bizenyaki: Kako to Mirai wo Kangaeru (Bizenyaki: Past and Future),” and Kinsei Toji Kenkyukai held its 6th convention “Kinsei Bizen Toji Kenkyu no Shomondai: Edo Zenki no Haiki Nendai ga Wakaru Shinshiryō wo Chushintoshite (Problems of Early Modern Bizen Ceramic Study: Mainly from New Data with Discarded Years in Early Edo).” As for research thesis, there is KOBAYASHI Katsu’s “Garo in Edo Period” in *Nihon Kokogaku* No. 40. Japan succeeded in the production of white sugar by a mud covering method in middle of the 18th century. Garo is an earthenware necessary for the production. Kobayashi examined pots excavated from Edo resident of Owari Clan and he indicated grounds for them to be Garo from their shape and excavated location. Many theses on ceramic distribution was published in *Toyo Toji* Vol. 45. For publications, Yuzankaku published *Chukinsei no Tojiki Kokogaku (Archaeology on Medieval and Early Modern Ceramics)* Vol. 1 and 2.

Thus, study trends of early modern archaeology in fiscal 2015 were overviewed. This fiscal year continued to see active study on early modern cities such as castles and castle towns. On the other hand, excavation research continues in the Tohoku region for reconstruction projects of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and further cooperation and support is necessary.