

Korean Peninsula

MORI Takanori¹

Fiscal 2015 study trends on Korean Archaeology are overviewed.

Paleolithic

OHTANI Kaoru's "Kankoku Saisekki Seisaku no Gijutsu Tokucho to Henka Yoso (Technological Characteristics and Change Aspects of Microlith Manufacturing in Korea)" [*Journal of Korean Ancient Historical Society* 91, pp. 5–51, in Korean] indicated a chronological model for Korean microliths (microblade and core) based on measurements of their form and size, and discussed the relationship with Japanese microlith culture.

Chang Yongjoon's "Chosen Hanto no Kyusekki Bunka to Kyushu (Paleolithic Culture in the Korean Peninsula and Kyushu)" and "Chosen Hanto kara no Shiten (Viewpoints from the Korean Peninsula)" [*Kokai Sinpojiumu Higashi Ajia to Retto Seitan no Kyusekki Bunka: Chosen Hanto/Kyushu/Nansei Shoto no Taihi kara (Open Symposium: East Asia and Paleolithic Culture on the Western Tip of the Archipelago: Comparison among the Korean Peninsula/Kyushu/Nansei Islands)*], discussed continuous exchange between the Korean Peninsula and Kyushu regions based on the relationship between knife shaped stone tools with processed base and flake points and excavated Paleolithic evidence from the Korean Peninsula.

Neolithic

OHNUKI Hideo's "Chugoku/Chosen Hanto no Doki Shutsugenki (Emergence Period of Pottery in China and the Korean Peninsula)" [*Archaeological Quarterly* No. 132, pp. 79–82] organized problems on research history for the pottery emergence period in the Korean Peninsula.

¹c/o Kyushu University Archaeological Research Office, 6–10–1 Hakozaki, Higashi Ward, Fukuoka 812–8581, Japan
(mori.takanori.514@m.kyushu-u.ac.jp)

Bronze Age

YAMASAKI Yorito compared a bronze ax excavated from a storage pit at Mitsusawa-kitanakao site in Ogori City, Fukuoka Prefecture with axes excavated from Korea, and examined the time it was brought in and its background in “Nikkan Seidofu no Kenkyu (Study on Bronze Axes in Japan and Korea)” [*Kobunka Danso* 74, pp. 131–161].

Early Iron Age

NAKAMURA Daisuke’s “Transition from Stone to Iron in the Korean Peninsula” [*Saitama University Review: Faculty of Liberal Arts* Vol. 51, No. 1, pp. 97–112] discussed the transition from stone tools to iron tools in the Korean Peninsula.

TAKESUE Jun’ichi and Yamasaki Yorito’s “Kankoku Urusan Chiiki no Yayoiikei Doki Sairon (Thoughts on Yayoi-type Pottery in Ulsan Region in South Korea)” [*Yujo no Kokogaku (Archaeology of Friendship)*, pp. 531–542] examined Yayoi-type pottery in Ulsan region. Since much Yayoi-type pottery were excavated from Sinhwali site, they pointed out the possibility that Wa people were living in the periphery of the central village.

Excavation at Bokyong-dong site yielded 50 Kasen coins along with one short-necked jar and 78 glass beads from No. 1 pit grave. A talc mold for mirrors with multiple-knobs was excavated from No. 1 pit grave (former half of Middle Yayoi) at Sugu-takauta site in Kasuga City, Fukuoka Prefecture.

Proto-Three Kingdoms

An Jaeho’s “Kinkai Chiiki Gashitsu Doki Shakai no Ichimen (Gimhae Region, Tile-quality Pottery, Social Aspects)” [*Yujo no Kokogaku (Archaeology of Friendship)*, pp. 201–239, in Korean] approached group relations and historical backgrounds from the chronology of tile-quality pottery and regional aspects in the Yeungnum region.

Three Kingdoms

TSUCHIYA Takashi’s “Emergence and Significance of Hiroobi-nizan Style Crowns in the Kofun Period” [*Nihon Kokogaku* No. 40, pp. 69–88] compared “Hiroobi-nizan style crowns” that was a type of crown seen in Wa in Late Kofun with crowns excavated from the southern part of Korean Peninsula. Kim Udae’s “Tanryo/Tanho Kantotachi Seisaku no Tenkai (Development of Long Sword Manufacturing with Circular Handles and Single Dragon or Phoenix)” [*Kodai Buki Kenkyu (Ancient Weapon Study)* Vol. 11, pp. 83–102] gave a detailed examination of round handled long swords with a single dragon or phoenix, mainly focusing on manufacturing techniques of the round head, and discussed the process of technological diffusion from the Korean Peninsula, establishment in Japan

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and mass production.

National Museum of Japanese History held an international symposium “Kodai Nikkan Kosho no Jittai (Ancient Exchanges between Japan and Korea)” in March 2016, and had discussion under the themes “Exchanges between Japan and Korea Seen from Wa-type armor in the Korean Peninsula” and “Yeongsan River Basin: Exchanges between Baekje and Wa.”

An outstanding finding was 38 letters inscribed on lime stone excavated from Seongryugull in Uljin. It was revealed that Haji ware bowls and dishes that were excavated from Heijokyu palace in Nara City, Nara Prefecture had a design that resembled the traditional Korean board game “Yunnori.”