

## Kofun Period

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It is obvious that many academic conferences and research activities for fiscal 2020 Kofun period study were restricted and largely influenced by the spread of the novel corona virus infection (COVID-19). However, Kofun period study is developing steadily, with many research papers being published, excavation research results accumulated, and the bright topic of the artifacts excavated from Watanuki-kannonyama mounded tomb in Gunma Prefecture being nominated as national treasures.

Due to the influence of COVID-19, research presentations and sessions of the 86<sup>th</sup> general meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association took place only in publication, and many academic conferences and symposia were delayed or canceled such as conferences of Kyushu Zenpokoentfun Kenkyukai and Tohoku/Kanto Zenpokoentfun Kenkyukai. With many changes in exhibition periods and delays in museum exhibitions, new methods such as utilization of internet were actively introduced.

As for study on Kofun period theory and nation formation, research with various viewpoints was progressed such as keyhole-shaped mounded tombs, beads as jewelry, bronze mirrors, decorated large swords, and regional rule by chiefs, and results were published as single books. Thus, research revealed social changes around the beginning of the Kofun period, management of sovereignty, structures of sovereignty, and differences between early nations and nations, as well as a discussion on the political/religious significance of keyhole-shaped mounded tombs.

Other than the above, progress was seen for the Kofun period study in a wide array of fields such as tombs, burial goods like clay figurines (*haniwa*), bronze mirrors, weapons, armor, harnesses, accessories, stone objects, farming tools, settlements, pottery/metal containers/earthenware, and imported artifacts/foreign exchanges. As for mounded tomb study, reevaluation with modern research standards were conducted on Higashinomiya mounded tomb in Aichi Prefecture and Watanuki-kannonyama mounded tomb which were excavated a long time ago, and multiple researchers conducted study on Haizukayama mounded tomb in Fukushima Prefecture and mounded tomb culture of Hitachi. Many theses were published for clay figurines and bronze mirror studies as other years, on the other hand, the author had an impression that there were less works on weapons/armor/

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harnesses compared to recent years.

As for settlement study, an excavation report was published for Kanaishimoshinden site in Gunma Prefecture where a settlement buried under volcanic ashes from an eruption of Mt. Haruna 1,500 years ago was discovered. As the settlement was excavated in good condition, it yielded an enormous volume of information, archaeological knowledge, and scientific analysis results along with the neighboring Kanaihigashiura site. These are significant research results for the future settlement study.

Also, many theses were published for pottery, metal containers, earthenware, imported artifacts, and foreign exchanges. It could be said that despite the influence of COVID-19, fiscal 2020 saw deepening of Kofun period study.