

Kofun Period

KAWANO Masanori¹

There was a successive publication of memorial theses collections for the Kofun period that contained many good papers. Outstanding discussions of the Kofun period were state formation theory and comparative archaeological study. Characteristics of the Kofun period are revealed not only by understanding the Japanese archipelago, but by comparing it with examples from various parts of the world. In climate change study, future development of dendrochronology using oxygen isotope ratio is awaited as it can give clues to social changes.

As in other years, mounded tombs were the main discussion of features study rather than settlements. Construction methods were discussed for burial mounds, as well as direction of burial mounds from a viewpoint of landscape history. As for stone chamber study, there was more discussion on horizontal stone chambers than pit-style stone chambers, and lineage and artisans were discussed.

While the main discussion of artifacts was on burial equipment of mounded tombs, progress was seen for Haji and Sue wares, and *haniwa* (clay figurines). Among burial goods study, comparative examination of Japanese and Korean artifacts was active in order to find lineages of grave accessories. There were many papers on horse harnesses, weapons, and armors, and they were discussed multilaterally from Japan–Korea exchanges, production, and usage. *Haniwa* study was also active, and its nature and manufacturing organization were discussed.

Other than burial mound study, settlement study should be mentioned as there was a deepening in theoretical discussion and nature of specific buildings. Especially aspects of rituals and ceremonies were focused, and funeral rituals were discussed.

As for regional study, study on autonomy and individuality of each region was active rather than influences of the Yamato sovereignty, which was the main-stream in the past. Good progress was seen in transportation, foreign exchange, *toraijin* (migrants), and migrant related artifacts.

Kofun period study was also diversified. Rapid progress was seen in gender study, public archaeology to introduce the mounded tomb boom in recent years, and measurement technology by three-dimensional measurement. Progress is also seen in interdisciplinary study such as strontium isotope analysis on human bones and DNA analysis.

¹ Tokyo National Museum, 13–9 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110–8712, Japan