

Ancient

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Accumulation of study on palaces and government offices is enormous and fiscal 2021 saw constant results. As for temple study, there were studies that focused on mountain temples, magaiutsu (Buddha figures carved on rocks or cliffs), sacred places on mountains, nunneries, and ancient roof tiles. Results were also seen in discussion of settlements, production, earthenware/ceramics, and attention was given to discussion of disasters and epidemics.

Along with the trend, there were a few outstanding movements in ancient mountain fort and temple sites.

ODA Kazutoshi's presumed theory on Mino castle was focused on mountain fort study. The site was discovered due to construction in 2001 and was destroyed after excavation research was conducted. Oda conducted a survey on surroundings of the site with local volunteers, and was able to confirm an unknown ancient mountain fort by recognizing related features. The down-to-earth survey and exploratory activity were highly evaluated, and at the same time, a problem was pointed out on the administrative response to unexpected discovery of an important archaeological site.

For temple study, remains of a stupa for Ide temple in Kyoto Prefecture were confirmed in an excellent condition, and preservation was immediately decided. The future organizational work is awaited. On the other hand, remains of a plane circle building were excavated from Sugahara site in Nara City, and it was assumed to be a memorial hall for Gyōki, belonging to Gyōki's Nagaokain temple. Beside the uniqueness of its features, the location has an excellent view overlooking the great Buddha hall of Tōdaiji temple to the direct east with Suzakumon gate and council hall of Heijō palace and in between. Under the current circumstances the administration for protection of cultural properties cries out loudly for preservation and utilization, and with the close ties with tourism administration, the view from Sugahara site might have been a scenery necessary for the future of Nara City. Considering the connection between Gyōki, Tōdaiji temple, and Nara, it must not only be the author who resents the lack of proactive movement for protection and preservation. With the destruction of features, it is no longer possible to conduct verification of the unique circle building at the site, making it hard to get more information other than stated in an excavation report expected to be published in the future.

Although these are administrative problems, it would give significant influence to the future study, so this opinion was shared here.

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