

# Overview: Japanese Archaeological Research Trends 2007<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

The results of investigations and research regarding Japanese archaeology in the 2007 FY (Fiscal Year) are as voluminous as ever, and tracing out trends within them can only be called an extremely difficult task. Under these conditions of the field, researchers from various areas of specialization give detailed treatments, period by period, in the sections that follow.<sup>3</sup> In light of this, the current author hopes for indulgence as he takes up various topics according to his personal interests, and focuses on information obtained from news reports in the mass media.

## 1. Paleolithic period

Takaharayama<sup>4</sup> is a mountain ridge of some 1,400 m elevation in Tochigi prefecture, where obsidian source sites were discovered in 2005. When a full-scale investigation was conducted in 2006 as a result, it was reported in April of this year, several hundred stone tools were recovered at the rock face of a stream, including four trapezoidal tools estimated as dating from the beginning of the Upper Paleolithic. Signs of steady progress in the study of Paleolithic culture can be discerned in various contributions, including: *Zemināru kyūsekkī kōkōgaku*

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<sup>1</sup> [*Trends in Japanese Archaeological Research, 2007*, is a partial translation of “Nihon kōkōgaku kenkyū no dōkō” 日本考古学研究の動向, in *Nihon kōkōgaku nenpō 60 (2007 nendoban)* 日本考古学年報 60(2007年度版) (Archaeologia Japonica 60 [2007 Fiscal Year Issue]) (Nihon Kōkōgaku Kyōkai, 2009), pp. 1-68. This essay appears on pp. 1-7, under the Japanese title “Sōsetsu” 総説. It was translated by Walter Edwards, and published by the Japanese Archaeological Association (Nihon Kōkōgaku Kyōkai 日本考古学協会) online in 2011. To streamline the text, characters for Japanese names and terms, and bibliographic information have been placed in footnotes. When an English translation of the name of an organization or publication (or symposium, etc.) is supplied by the party responsible, this is used with minimum changes in capitalization etc. to conform to the style followed by *Trends in Japanese Archaeological Research*. Romanized names of individuals are given with the surname followed by the personal name.]

<sup>2</sup> 西谷正

<sup>3</sup> [Translator’s note: The reference here is to summaries by period, etc., of research trends contained in *Nihon kōkōgaku nenpō*, the same volume as this introductory overview.]

<sup>4</sup> 高原山 [Translator’s note: Information on this site is available on the website of the Japanese Archaeological Association. URL: <http://archaeology.jp/sites/2006/kengamine.htm> ]

(Paleolithic Archaeology Seminar),<sup>5</sup> volume 3 of *Kyūsekki kenkyū* (Palaeolithic Research),<sup>6</sup> and issue no. 69 of *Kyūsekki kōkogaku* (Palaeolithic Archaeology).<sup>7</sup> Also, the monograph by Ono Akira, who for many years has led research on the Paleolithic period of Japan, is an epoch-making item indicating the current attainments in this field.<sup>8</sup>

Pursuit of Paleolithic culture for the Middle Paleolithic and earlier continues, and information on the new discovery of Lower Paleolithic tools at the Mansuli<sup>9</sup> site in Chungcheongbuk-do on the Korean peninsula, taken together with the natural environment of the times, suggests the possible presence in the Japanese archipelago of Paleolithic tools from the Middle Paleolithic or earlier. In this regard, the Japanese Palaeolithic Research Association needs to strengthen its international research links, and the formal approval in December of this year of a statement of agreement for the establishment of an Asian Paleolithic association is highly significant.

## 2. Jōmon period

Excavation at the Higashimyō<sup>10</sup> site in the city of Saga continued from the previous fiscal year, but in May of this year the three-year investigation came to a close. In the current fiscal year as well, a wooden board carved with what is thought to be a human face of the Earliest Jōmon was discovered, enriching the contents of a site said to be of the largest scale for that period in western Japan.

In the excavation of the Kami Inoharu<sup>11</sup> site in Kiyotake,<sup>12</sup> Miyazaki prefecture, which began in 2005 FY and was also continued in the current fiscal year, the remains of eleven pit dwellings from the Incipient Jōmon period were detected, and debate arose over the degree of sedentary settlement.

For the Sakenomiba<sup>13</sup> site in Hokuto,<sup>14</sup> Yamanashi prefecture, traces of soy beans were detected from a Middle Jōmon pot that had previously been excavated

<sup>5</sup> Satō Hiroyuki 佐藤宏之, ed., *Zemināru kyūsekki kōkogaku* ゼミナール旧石器考古学 (Paleolithic Archaeology Seminar) (Douseisha, 2007).

<sup>6</sup> *Kyūsekki kenkyū* 旧石器研究 (Palaeolithic Research) is the journal of the Japanese Palaeolithic Research Association (Nihon Kyūsekki Gakkai 日本旧石器学会).

<sup>7</sup> *Kyūsekki kōkogaku* 旧石器考古学 (Palaeolithic Archaeology) is the journal of the Palaeolithic Culture Discussion Group (Kyūsekki Bunka Danwakai 旧石器文化談話会).

<sup>8</sup> Ono Akira 小野昭, *Kyūsekki jidai no Nihon rettō to sekai* 旧石器時代の日本列島と世界 (Paleolithic Perspectives: Japanese Islands and the World) (Douseisha, 2007).

<sup>9</sup> 万水里

<sup>10</sup> 東名 [Translator's note: Information on this site is available on the website of the Japanese Archaeological Association. URL: <http://archaeology.jp/sites/2007/higashimyo.htm> ]

<sup>11</sup> 上猪ノ原 [Translator's note: Information on this site is available on the website of the Japanese Archaeological Association. URL: <http://archaeology.jp/sites/2008/kiyotake.htm> ]

<sup>12</sup> 清武

<sup>13</sup> 酒呑場

<sup>14</sup> 北杜

much earlier, in 1995. Also in Yamanashi, at the Nakaya<sup>15</sup> site in Tsuru,<sup>16</sup> traces of the maize weevil (*Sitophilus zeamais*) were verified in pottery of the first half of the Final Jōmon, providing an indirect glimpse on the possible existence of rice or wheat. These findings are the fruit of what is called the replica technique, in which cavities remaining in the clay bodies of vessels are infused with silicon resin to take a positive model, which is then examined with a scanning electron microscope. Using the same method, traces of soy beans have been detected from pottery of the mid-Late to Final Jōmon periods from other sites, such as Ōnobaru<sup>17</sup> and Kureishibaru<sup>18</sup> in Shimabara<sup>19</sup> in Nagasaki, and Samanda<sup>20</sup> in Kumamoto prefectures. Research in this field was taken up in a session at the 2007 Autumn Meeting of this Association.<sup>21</sup> Also, as a comprehensive summary of research in this area, publications in the series *Jōmon jidai no kōkōgaku* (Archaeology of the Jōmon Period) are highly significant.<sup>22</sup>

### 3. Yayoi period

Chronological research, including work on dating the start of the Yayoi period, continued to be carried out using Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) analysis. At present the number of samples measured by the research team at the National Museum of Japanese History is said to exceed 3,500 items, from every period and every part of the Japanese archipelago, and the absolute dates for the Early and Middle Yayoi are regarded as having become much clearer.<sup>23</sup>

At the Kamo<sup>24</sup> site in Kawanishi,<sup>25</sup> Hyōgo prefecture, four new moats from the Middle Yayoi were discovered, which combined with the three previously known bring the total possessed by the site to seven. In the Kinki region, this is second to

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<sup>15</sup> 中谷

<sup>16</sup> 都留

<sup>17</sup> 大野原

<sup>18</sup> 礪石原

<sup>19</sup> 島原

<sup>20</sup> 三万田

<sup>21</sup> “Rettō shoki nōkōshi no shinshiten” 列島初期農耕史の新視点 (New Perspectives on the Initial History of Agriculture in the Archipelago), research presentation session at the Nihon Kōkōgaku Kyōkai 2007 Nendo Shūki Taikai 日本考古学協会 2007 年度秋季大会 (Japanese Archaeological Association 2007 Autumn Meeting) (Kumamoto, 20 October, 2007).

<sup>22</sup> Kosugi Yasushi 小杉康 et al., eds., *Jōmon jidai no kōkōgaku* 縄文時代の考古学 (Archaeology of the Jōmon Period) (Douseisha, 2007 [vols. 5, 6, 9, 11], 2008 [vol. 2]).

<sup>23</sup> Imamura Mineo 今村峯雄 et al., “Yayoi jidai zen/chūki no jitsunendai” 弥生時代前・中期の実年代 (Absolute Chronology of the Early and Middle Yayoi Periods), presented at the Nihon Kōkōgaku Kyōkai 2007 Nendo Sōkai 日本考古学協会第 2007 年度総会 (Japanese Archaeological Association 2007 General Meeting) (Tokyo, 27 May 2007); Kokuritsu Rekishi Minzoku Hakubutsukan 国立歴史民俗博物館 (National Museum of Japanese History), *Yayoi jidai wa itsu kara!?* 弥生時代はいつから!?! (When did the Yayoi Period Begin!?!) (catalog of special exhibit, 3 July – 2 September 2007).

<sup>24</sup> 加茂

<sup>25</sup> 川西

the nine moats of the Shimo no gō<sup>26</sup> site in Moriyama,<sup>27</sup> Shiga prefecture, and indicates a high level of defense. In addition, at the entrance to the moated settlement a road-like feature 5 m in width, and a structural feature suggesting the presence of a gate, were detected. A moated settlement of the Middle Yayoi was also discovered at the Nishi no maru<sup>28</sup> site in Kanoya,<sup>29</sup> Kagoshima prefecture, further increasing the distribution of these sites. In contrast to such lowland moated settlements, a highland settlement of the Late Yayoi period was investigated in the Sakurai Kōen<sup>30</sup> site group in Sakurai, Nara prefecture. In this case the northeastern slope had three moats at an elevation of 127 m, and is said to be the second such example of a highland settlement in the Nara basin. A highland settlement was also newly found at the Izumo<sup>31</sup> site in Kameoka,<sup>32</sup> Kyoto prefecture, in an investigation that included pit dwellings of the Late Yayoi. At the Hagi no moto<sup>33</sup> site in Kashihara,<sup>34</sup> Nara prefecture, features with stakes and boards driven into the soil, thought to be irrigation facilities of Early Yayoi period rice paddies, were investigated.

The most significant research result for this year was the discovery of a cache of bronzes at the Yanagisawa<sup>35</sup> site in Nakano,<sup>36</sup> Nagano prefecture. The investigation, conducted in conjunction with the construction of a levee, led to the accidental discovery of a pit for storing bronze objects, from which seven bronze halberds and one bronze bell were recovered. Of these, six of the halberds were Osaka bay types and one was a Kyushu type, and this is the first instance known for eastern Japan sharing the ritual treatment of bronzes of the western part of the country, in which bronze blades and bells are buried together.<sup>37</sup> The unearthing of a bronze sword mold at the Kitoragawa<sup>38</sup> site in Higashi Osaka,<sup>39</sup> Osaka prefecture, and the revelation based on compositional analysis of connections between bronze bells unearthed at the Karako/Kagi<sup>40</sup> site in Nara prefecture and the Kamo Iwakura<sup>41</sup> site in Shimane prefecture are also of great interest. In addition, the smallest bronze bell

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<sup>26</sup> 下之郷

<sup>27</sup> 守山

<sup>28</sup> 西ノ丸

<sup>29</sup> 鹿屋

<sup>30</sup> 桜井公園

<sup>31</sup> 出雲

<sup>32</sup> 亀岡

<sup>33</sup> 萩之本

<sup>34</sup> 檜原

<sup>35</sup> 柳沢 [Translator's note: Information on this site is available on the website of the Japanese Archaeological Association. URL: <http://archaeology.jp/sites/sites2009/04yanagisawa.htm> ]

<sup>36</sup> 中野

<sup>37</sup> Watada Hiromi 綿田弘美, "Higashi Nihon hatsu no dōtaku/dōka ikkatsu mainō" 東日本初の銅鐸・銅戈一括埋納(First Collective Burial of Bronze Bells and Bronze Halberds in Eastern Japan), presented at the *Nihon kōkogakkai dai 62 kai reikai* 日本考古学会第62回例会 (62<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Archaeological Society of Nippon) (Nagano, 29 March 2008).

<sup>38</sup> 鬼虎川

<sup>39</sup> 東大阪

<sup>40</sup> 唐古・鍵

<sup>41</sup> 加茂岩倉

to be found in Kyushu, at a reconstructed height of 4.5 cm, was recovered from a ditch dating from the first half to the middle part of the Late Yayoi, at the Ryōmyōjichiku<sup>42</sup> site in Chikushino,<sup>43</sup> Fukuoka prefecture.

As for burials, the location of the Sakura no baba<sup>44</sup> site in Karatsu,<sup>45</sup> Saga prefecture, was rediscovered, and large amounts of glass beads along with ring-pommel swords were added to the contents. Among noteworthy finds, a wooden mask from the end of the Yayoi or the start of the Kofun period came from the Makimuku<sup>46</sup> site in Sakurai, Nara prefecture, and safflower pollen was also detected in soil analysis at the same site.

To mention briefly some results in the area of research, there was a reexamination of multiple-knob, geometric-patterned mirrors,<sup>47</sup> and an examination of exchanges in the technological lineages, and the production and circulation, of bronze mirrors in the second and third centuries.<sup>48</sup>

#### 4. Kofun period

The long-standing desire of those involved in archaeology for the chance to examine an imperial tomb was realized for the first time at the end of the 2007 fiscal year, on 22 Feb 2008 at the Gosashi<sup>49</sup> mound in Nara.<sup>50</sup> As a result, close observations could be made of the current conditions of the mound's tiers, projections, paving cobbles, and *haniwa*<sup>51</sup> ceramics at a keyhole-shaped mound that has been well-preserved and tended. In particular, at the base of the eastern flank of the tomb's rectangular portion, a row of cylindrical *haniwa* had become exposed due to the drop in water level of the moat over the winter, making it possible to verify the lower edge of the rectangular part of the mound.

With regard to the Hashihaka<sup>52</sup> mound in Sakurai, Nara prefecture, known as a tomb from time of the initial appearance of keyhole mounds, the scale of the tomb

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<sup>42</sup> 立明寺地区

<sup>43</sup> 筑紫野

<sup>44</sup> 桜馬場 [Translator's note: Information on this site is available on the website of the Japanese Archaeological Association. URL: <http://archaeology.jp/sites/2008/sakura.htm> ]

<sup>45</sup> 唐津

<sup>46</sup> 纏向

<sup>47</sup> Miyazato Osamu 宮里修, "Tachū saimonkyō no keishiki bunrui to hennen" 多紐細文鏡の型式分類と編年 (Typology and Chronology of Bronze Mirrors with Multiple Knobs and Minute Patterns), *Kōkogaku zasshi* 考古学雑誌 (Journal of the Archaeological Society of Nippon) 92, no. 1 (2008): 1-32.

<sup>48</sup> Morishita Shōji 森下章司, "Dōkyō seisan no hen'yō to kōryū" 銅鏡生産の変容と交流 (Interaction and Transformation of Bronze Mirror Production), *Kōkogaku kenkyū* 考古学研究 (Quarterly of Archaeological Studies) 54, no. 2 (2007): 34-49.

<sup>49</sup> 五社神 (designated as the mausoleum of Empress Jingū 神宮皇后)

<sup>50</sup> Takahashi Kōji 高橋浩二, "Ryōbo hōkoku" 陵墓報告 (Imperial Tombs Report), *Nihon Kōkogaku Kyōkai Kaihō* 日本考古学協会会報 (Bulletin of the Japanese Archaeological Association), no. 164 (2008): 57-60.

<sup>51</sup> 埴輪

<sup>52</sup> 箸墓

became clear with the detection of paving cobbles from the front flank of the rectangular portion, and it is now possible to reconstruct its original shape in its entirety. It also became clear that other mounds comprising the Makimuku tomb group along with Hashihaka, namely Higashida Ōtsuka,<sup>53</sup> Yazuka,<sup>54</sup> and Makinouchi Ishizuka,<sup>55</sup> were all initial phase keyhole-shaped mounds. Further, for the Narizuka Mukeyama No. 1 tomb<sup>56</sup> in Ōta,<sup>57</sup> Gunma prefecture, which was excavated in 2003, it became clear from subsequent processing of the finds that the tomb was a square mound of the Early Kofun period, and its relation to the Yamato monarchy was debated. With regard to triangular-rimmed mirrors, which are valuable for investigating trends involving the Yamato monarchy and regional chiefs throughout the archipelago, there was noteworthy research into developments concerning their production, focusing on similarities and differences in their form.<sup>58</sup>

The Tanaka tomb group in Takashima,<sup>59</sup> Shiga prefecture, includes the Tanaka Ōzuka<sup>60</sup> mound, which is legendarily the mausoleum of Hikoushiō<sup>61</sup>, father of Emperor Keitai.<sup>62</sup> When mound No. 36 of that group was excavated, the horizontal stone chamber showed a peculiar structure in which an additional inner chamber, greater in width than depth, opened up from the interior of the burial chamber. A similar example is known for the Hongō Uguisuzuka No. 3 tomb<sup>63</sup> in Tachiarai,<sup>64</sup> Fukuoka prefecture, and relations between the Kinki and Kyushu regions became the topic of debate. Investigation was concluded in June of this year of the Shōbuzako<sup>65</sup> tomb in Kurashiki,<sup>66</sup> Okayama prefecture, which received attention with the discovery of an undisturbed vertical stone chamber. As a result of the excavation, various factors including the use of lumber for constructing the inner and upper surfaces of the chamber's lateral walls, and the openwork carving on harness pendants of a complete set of equestrian gear that was unearthed, suggest connections of the elite of the ancient Kibi<sup>67</sup> region during the Yūryaku<sup>68</sup> dynasty with the Yamato monarchy, or perhaps the Gaya<sup>69</sup> region of the Korean peninsula.

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<sup>53</sup> 東田大塚

<sup>54</sup> 矢塚

<sup>55</sup> 巻野内石塚

<sup>56</sup> 成塚向山1号

<sup>57</sup> 太田

<sup>58</sup> Iwamoto Takashi 岩本崇, "Sankakubuchi shinjūkyō no seisan to sono tenkai" 三角縁神獸鏡の生産とその展開 (The Production and Development of Mirrors with Triangular Rims and Designs of Divinities and Animals), *Kōkogaku zasshi* 92, no. 3 (2008): 217-67.

<sup>59</sup> 高島

<sup>60</sup> 田中王塚

<sup>61</sup> 彦主人王

<sup>62</sup> 継体

<sup>63</sup> 本郷鷺塚3号

<sup>64</sup> 大刀洗

<sup>65</sup> 勝負砂

<sup>66</sup> 倉敷

<sup>67</sup> 吉備

<sup>68</sup> 雄略

<sup>69</sup> 加耶

At the Suemura<sup>70</sup> kiln site group in Sakai,<sup>71</sup> Osaka prefecture, a Sue<sup>72</sup> ware kiln from the beginning of the fifth century was excavated at the Nonoi Nishi<sup>73</sup> site, making it possible to learn the structure of the earliest Sue kilns. Kilns of the earliest Sue ware, from the beginning of the fifth until around the middle of that century, were also brought to light in Shikoku, at the Ichiba Minamigumi<sup>74</sup> kiln site in Iyo,<sup>75</sup> Ehime prefecture. The products made there have been verified among the items unearthed at the Jinryō No. 10 tomb<sup>76</sup> in Ōsaki,<sup>77</sup> Kagoshima prefecture, providing a glimpse of the conditions of long-distance exchange for the earliest Sue ware.<sup>78</sup> From the recovery of pottery from the Korean peninsula at the Sarugatani No. 2 tomb,<sup>79</sup> nearby in Iyo, the participation of immigrants in the start of the production of the earliest Sue ware has been noted. In considering relations between Japan and Korea with regard to ceramics, Korean Mahan<sup>80</sup> pottery (latter half, fourth century) unearthed at the Jinbayama<sup>81</sup> tomb in Shimonoseki,<sup>82</sup> Yamaguchi prefecture, and the pottery of Baekje or possibly Gaya lineage from the Dongo Nagata<sup>83</sup> site in Yamato Takada,<sup>84</sup> Nara prefecture, are of extreme importance. Also concerning immigrant-borne culture, the possibility has been raised for the Mayumi Kansuzuka<sup>85</sup> tomb (mid-sixth century) of Asuka,<sup>86</sup> Nara prefecture, that it was a burial of the powerful Yamato no Aya<sup>87</sup> immigrant lineage. A huge horizontal stone chamber over 19 m in length was built into a circular mound of 40 m diameter, but it had a peculiar structure with two entrances, one on both the north and south sides. For the history of relations between Japan and Korea in the Kofun period, Park Cheun Soo's *Kaya to Wa* (Gaya and Wa) is worthy of attention as a statement from the Korean perspective.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> 陶邑

<sup>71</sup> 堺

<sup>72</sup> 須恵

<sup>73</sup> 野々井西

<sup>74</sup> 市場南組

<sup>75</sup> 伊予

<sup>76</sup> 神領10号

<sup>77</sup> 大崎

<sup>78</sup> *Kagoshima daigaku sōgō hakubutsukan Newsletter* 鹿児島大学総合研究博物館 Newsletter (The Kagoshima University Museum Newsletter), no. 19 (2008): 1-8.

<sup>79</sup> 猿ヶ谷2号

<sup>80</sup> 馬韓

<sup>81</sup> 仁馬山

<sup>82</sup> 下関

<sup>83</sup> 土庫長田

<sup>84</sup> 大和高田

<sup>85</sup> 真弓罐子

<sup>86</sup> 明日香

<sup>87</sup> 東漢

<sup>88</sup> Park Cheun Soo 朴天秀, *Kaya to Wa: Kan hantō to Nihon rettō no kōkogaku* 加耶と倭: 韓半島と日本列島の考古学 (Gaya and Wa: Archaeology of the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago) (Kōdansha, 2007).

## 5. Ancient period

### *Asuka/Hakuho periods*

At the Fujiwara palace<sup>89</sup> site in Kashihara, Nara prefecture, this year also saw excavations yield significant results. First, the podium and stairway of the southern gate to the Imperial Audience Hall Compound<sup>90</sup> were detected, and were impressive in their grandeur. In addition, the tamped earth technique was used to great extent in the construction of the podium, and under the cloister, where it joined the western side of the southern gate, there was a Sue ware vessel containing Fuhonsen<sup>91</sup> coins and pieces of quartz crystal as ritual earth-placating offerings. Further, from the lower strata near the southern gate, a large ditch thought to be the remains of a canal used for transporting materials necessary for the construction of the Fujiwara palace was detected, and a realistic image of the construction of the central portions of the Fujiwara palace emerged. Incidentally, with the discovery of the Nishi Tanaka<sup>92</sup> kiln site in Yamato Kōriyama,<sup>93</sup> Nara prefecture, new data have been added regarding the kilns that were needed to supply the Fujiwara palace.

At the Amakashi no oka Tōroku<sup>94</sup> site in Asuka, Nara prefecture, where excavation has been continued from the previous fiscal year, in the current FY remains were newly discovered of storehouses and other buildings, fences, stone walls, etc., inferred to have been abandoned around the mid-seventh century.<sup>95</sup> In this manner, an additional step forward was made in clarifying the residence of Soga no Iruka,<sup>96</sup> which appears in the *Nihon shoki*.<sup>97</sup> In the excavation (no. 19) made at the Ishigami<sup>98</sup> site, also in Asuka, in relation to the Abe Yamada<sup>99</sup> road of the mid-seventh century, the technique of spreading leafy branches to stabilize the soil was recognized.

At the Yamatogawa Imai<sup>100</sup> site, which stretches across the cities of Sakai and Matsubara<sup>101</sup> in Osaka prefecture, features of a road built around the mid-seventh century were newly discovered. They form a straight line with features previously investigated, extending as much as 280 m in combined length. Judging from the location, the possibility strengthened that they represent the main roadway, namely

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<sup>89</sup> 藤原宮

<sup>90</sup> 大極殿院

<sup>91</sup> 富本錢

<sup>92</sup> 西田中

<sup>93</sup> 大和郡山

<sup>94</sup> 甘樫丘東麓

<sup>95</sup> Asuka Shiryōkan 飛鳥資料館 (Asuka Historical Museum), “Asuka no kōkogaku 2007” 飛鳥の考古学 2007 (The Archaeology of Asuka, 2007) (special exhibit, 4 January – 3 February 2008).

<sup>96</sup> 蘇我入鹿

<sup>97</sup> 『日本書紀』

<sup>98</sup> 石神

<sup>99</sup> 阿部山田

<sup>100</sup> 大和川今池

<sup>101</sup> 松原

Suzaku Boulevard,<sup>102</sup> of the Naniwa palace<sup>103</sup> which appears in the *Nihon shoki*. The importance of roadways can also be seen in Ōmi Toshihide's *Dōro tanjō* (The Birth of Roads).<sup>104</sup>

This year, in conjunction with the repair and preservation of the murals of the Takamatsuzuka<sup>105</sup> tomb, which has been the focus of the nation's attention, excavation and dismantling of the stone chamber were conducted beginning in October 2006, and the work was completed without mishap in early September 2007. From these procedures the process of construction of the tomb has been clarified, and reasons for the deterioration of the murals were analyzed.<sup>106</sup>

In addition, the discoveries of a tamped-earth wall from the latter half of the seventh century at the Komadera<sup>107</sup> temple site in Kizugawa,<sup>108</sup> Kyoto prefecture, and of a group of pillar base stones for a large-scale building from approximately the same period, at the ancient mountain fortress Ki no jō<sup>109</sup> in Sōja,<sup>110</sup> Okayama prefecture, should not be overlooked.

### *Nara period*

At the Shimo Mitsuhashi<sup>111</sup> site in Yamato Kōriyama, Nara prefecture, remains of a road inferred to be Tenth Street<sup>112</sup> from the Nara capital<sup>113</sup> were detected for the first time. From this discovery the established view of Ninth Street as the capital's southern extent was overturned, and Nara was also understood to share the same street plan as its predecessor, the Fujiwara capital. In addition, at the Nara palace<sup>114</sup> site, on the eastern side of the Second State Halls Compound<sup>115</sup> from the latter half of the eighth century, the remains of two large buildings with internal pillars and pillar base stones were found, and are said to be very possibly the Rin'in,<sup>116</sup> the group of rice granaries supervised at that time by the Ministry of Financial Affairs.<sup>117</sup> In this manner, clarification of the structure of the Nara palace and capital made

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<sup>102</sup> 朱雀大路

<sup>103</sup> 難波宮

<sup>104</sup> Ōmi Toshihide's 近江俊秀, *Dōro tanjō* 道路誕生 (The Birth of Roads) (Aoki Shoten, 2008).

<sup>105</sup> 高松塚 (Nara prefecture). [Translator's note: Information on this site is available on the website of the Japanese Archaeological Association. URL: <http://archaeology.jp/sites/2008/takamatsu.htm> ]

<sup>106</sup> “Takamatsuzuka kofun: Hekiga hozon shūri no tame no sekishitsu kaitai kara” 高松塚古墳: 壁画保存修理のための石室解体から (The Takamatsuzuka Tomb: From the Dismantling of the Stone Chamber for the Repair and Preservation of the Murals), March issue of *Maizō bunkazai nyūsu* 埋蔵文化財ニュース (CAO News), no. 131 (2008).

<sup>107</sup> 高麗寺

<sup>108</sup> 木津川

<sup>109</sup> 鬼ノ城

<sup>110</sup> 総社

<sup>111</sup> 下三橋

<sup>112</sup> 十条大路

<sup>113</sup> 平城京

<sup>114</sup> 平城宮

<sup>115</sup> 第二次朝堂院

<sup>116</sup> 廩院

<sup>117</sup> 民部省

further advance. At the site of Emperor Shōmu's<sup>118</sup> Kuni palace,<sup>119</sup> located at a spot about 13 km to the northeast of the Nara palace in Kizugawa, Kyoto prefecture, investigation of the Imperial Audience Hall Compound continued from the previous year, and from the conditions detected thus far for the remains of the cloister, it is seen to be a grand edifice on about eighty percent of the scale of the Nara palace. This substantiates the information seen in the *Shoku Nihongi*,<sup>120</sup> stating that the cloister of the Imperial Audience Hall Compound was moved along with the Audience Hall itself. From the site of Kudaraji<sup>121</sup> temple, located in Hirakata,<sup>122</sup> Osaka prefecture, held to have been established by Kudara no Konikishi Kyōfuku,<sup>123</sup> greatly favored by Shōmu, fragments of a large tile bearing multiple Buddha images in relief were unearthed on the western side of the remains of the lecture hall. Among these, gold leaf was detected on the seated image of Amida Nyorai,<sup>124</sup> and on the Heavenly General<sup>125</sup> figures standing to its side. It will probably be noteworthy as a discovery providing a glimpse of the power of the Kudara no Konikishi lineage.

The Kumeda<sup>126</sup> pond in Kishiwada,<sup>127</sup> Osaka prefecture, is said to have been built by the Nara period priest Gyōki.<sup>128</sup> In an investigation of a dike thought to date from the time the pond was built, along with a wooden culvert, its nature as a tamped-earth dike, built with layers of tamped earth and leafy branches spread for stability, was revealed.

Discoveries of written materials were also plentiful, but a piece of lacquer-permeated paper that had been recovered in 1977 from the Kanzeonji<sup>129</sup> temple site in Dazaifu,<sup>130</sup> Fukuoka prefecture, was recognized as the first example known for Kyushu of an almanac (*guchūreki*<sup>131</sup>) from the Nara period. From the combination of the date, and the solar term under the East Asian lunisolar calendar, indicated on this scrap, it was inferred to belong to the first month of the year 780.<sup>132</sup> Discoveries of *mokkan*<sup>133</sup> (wooden documents) in Niigata prefecture drew attention, one from

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<sup>118</sup> 聖武

<sup>119</sup> 恭仁宮

<sup>120</sup> 『続日本紀』

<sup>121</sup> 百濟寺

<sup>122</sup> 枚方

<sup>123</sup> 百濟王敬福

<sup>124</sup> 阿弥陀如来

<sup>125</sup> 神将

<sup>126</sup> 久米田

<sup>127</sup> 岸和田

<sup>128</sup> 行基

<sup>129</sup> 観世音寺

<sup>130</sup> 大宰府

<sup>131</sup> 具注曆

<sup>132</sup> Sakai Yoshiji 酒井芳司, “Kanzeonji shutsudo mojishiryō ni tsuite” 観世音寺出土文字資料について (On Documentary Materials Recovered from Kanzeonji Temple), in *Kanzeonji: Kōsatsuhēn* 観世音寺: 考察編 (Kanzeonji: Current Research into Kanzeonji Temple), ed. Kyūshū Rekishi Shiryōkan 九州歴史資料館 (Kyushu Historical Museum) (Kyūshū Rekishi Shiryōkan, 2007). 33-40.

<sup>133</sup> 木簡

the Enmeiji<sup>134</sup> site in Jōetsu,<sup>135</sup> related to the leasing of rice paddy in 735, and another from the Komakubigata<sup>136</sup> site in the city of Niigata, related to *shijin*<sup>137</sup> (attendants assigned under the ritsuryō system to persons of high rank), following the earlier discovery at that site of *mokkan* concerning the forced relocation of Emishi<sup>138</sup> to Echizen<sup>139</sup> and Echigo<sup>140</sup> from the Nara into the Heian periods.<sup>141</sup>

### *Heian period*

Noteworthy discoveries of *mokkan* came one after another for the Heian period. At the Shiotsukō<sup>142</sup> site in Nishiazai,<sup>143</sup> Shiga prefecture, excavation was continued from the previous fiscal year. As a result, a group of buildings and moats inferred to be the remains of a Shinto shrine were detected. Of these, from the fill of a moat, numerous wooden slips with votive inscriptions, bearing dates such as the year 1137, were recovered. These “votive amulet *mokkan*” are thought to have been set in prayer leaning against the shrine, as oaths by those charged with the transport of goods such as fish would that they not lose their cargo.<sup>144</sup> At the Shimoda Higashi<sup>145</sup> site in Kashiba,<sup>146</sup> Nara prefecture, *mokkan* related to rice agriculture were found, noting the different varieties of early, regular, and late ripening rice, and the adjustment of the seeding times accordingly. Also, at the Uneda Nabeta<sup>147</sup> site in Kanazawa, Ishikawa prefecture, *mokkan* inscribed with the names of several varieties of rice were unearthed. From these *mokkan*, it is possible to discern patterns of administrative planning, and the production of improved strains of rice, in the Kinai and outlying regions. Further, at the Zanmochi<sup>148</sup> site in Izumo,<sup>149</sup> Shimane prefecture, *mokkan* inferred to date from the latter half of the Nara to the first half of the Heian periods were recovered, and are said to be possibly work logs used in the management of labor.

Incidentally, at the Heian palace site in Kyoto, a portion was found of the

<sup>134</sup> 延命寺 [Translator’s note: Information on this site is available on the website of the Japanese Archaeological Association. URL: <http://archaeology.jp/sites/sites2009/06enmeiji.htm> ]

<sup>135</sup> 上越

<sup>136</sup> 駒首潟

<sup>137</sup> 賚人

<sup>138</sup> 蝦夷

<sup>139</sup> 越前

<sup>140</sup> 越後

<sup>141</sup> Watanabe Masumi and Aizawa Ō 渡邊ますみ・相沢央, “Niigata: Komakubigata iseki” 新潟・駒首潟遺跡 (Niigata: Komakubigata Site), *Mokkan kenkyū* 木簡研究 (Proceedings of the Japanese Society for the Study of Wooden Documents), no. 29 (2007): 127-28.

<sup>142</sup> 塩津港 [Translator’s note: Information on these sites is available on the website of the Japanese Archaeological Association. URL: <http://archaeology.jp/sites/2008/shiotsu.htm> ]

<sup>143</sup> 西浅井

<sup>144</sup> Shiga-ken Maizō Bunkazai Hogo Kyōkai 滋賀県文化財保護協会 (Shiga Prefecture Cultural Properties Protection Association), “‘Kishōsatsu mokkan’ ga tasū shutsudo” 「起請札木簡」が多数出土 (“Votive Amulet *Mokkan*” Recovered in Large Numbers) (pamphlet for a public site-viewing, 2007).

<sup>145</sup> 下田東

<sup>146</sup> 香芝

<sup>147</sup> 畝田ナベタ

<sup>148</sup> 山持

<sup>149</sup> 出雲

podium of the Seishodō,<sup>150</sup> a building used by the emperor as an anteroom prior to attending banquets held in the Burakuin,<sup>151</sup> the compound in the palace for that purpose, of which the Seishodō was a component. At the Nishi Chikatsu<sup>152</sup> site group in Saku,<sup>153</sup> Nagano prefecture, the Imajuku Gorōe<sup>154</sup> site in the city of Fukuoka, the Kitawaki<sup>155</sup> site in Kōka,<sup>156</sup> Shiga prefecture and elsewhere, various types of bronze seals related to regional government offices and local powerful figures were discovered. These will be useful materials for efforts to clarify the actual shape of seal use under the ritsuryō system.

Results of investigations at production sites are seen as having great importance for the Heian period. First of all, iron-producing furnaces were found at the Higashi Muroi<sup>157</sup> site in Ajigasawa,<sup>158</sup> Aomori prefecture, the Karuigawa Minami<sup>159</sup> site group in Kashiwazaki,<sup>160</sup> Niigata prefecture, and the Kita Oshikawa B site<sup>161</sup> in the city of Toyama, and kilns for producing charcoal were also detected at the latter two sites, providing a look at the conditions of iron production in outlying regions. Next, excavation was conducted at the Yoheinuma<sup>162</sup> roof tile kiln site in Sendai, Miyagi prefecture. Here, semi-subterranean roaster kilns, consisting of two updraft horizontal-style and seven tunnel-style items, from the end of the Nara to the first part of the Heian periods were detected. As the tiles produced at this site were supplied to Taga<sup>163</sup> castle and to the provincial monastery and nunnery of the ancient province of Michinoku,<sup>164</sup> it is assessed as a government-operated kiln, and due to its importance for learning conditions of production and circulation of tiles, means for its preservation are being explored. At the above-mentioned Zanmochi site, in the previous fiscal year road-like features received attention, and as a result of their extension being traced in the current year, stone-paved road remains over 50 m in length were detected. In an investigation similarly conducted over a continued period of stone-paved road remains at the Gusuku<sup>165</sup> site group, on the island of Kikai,<sup>166</sup> Kagoshima prefecture, road features over a length of 45 m from around the twelfth century were newly discovered. Both sites are very valuable for learning the conditions of ancient roadways.

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<sup>150</sup> 清暑堂

<sup>151</sup> 豊楽院

<sup>152</sup> 西近津

<sup>153</sup> 佐久

<sup>154</sup> 今宿五郎江

<sup>155</sup> 北脇

<sup>156</sup> 甲賀

<sup>157</sup> 東禿

<sup>158</sup> 鯨ヶ沢

<sup>159</sup> 軽井川南

<sup>160</sup> 柏崎

<sup>161</sup> 北押川B

<sup>162</sup> 与兵衛沼

<sup>163</sup> 多賀

<sup>164</sup> 陸奥

<sup>165</sup> 城久

<sup>166</sup> 喜界

## 6. Medieval (Muromachi/Warring States periods)

With regard to medieval archaeology, it cannot be said that the current year saw truly significant results. In these circumstances, though, a stone wall was discovered at Ginkakuji<sup>167</sup> (Jishōji<sup>168</sup>) temple in Kyoto. These remains are regarded as dating from the time of the temple's founding, by Ashikaga Yoshimasa<sup>169</sup> in the late Muromachi period, in the latter half of the fifteenth century, and the wall is said to have perhaps helped reinforce the base of the hill at the meditation hall, Seishian.<sup>170</sup> Apart from this, the Samegao<sup>171</sup> castle in Myōkō,<sup>172</sup> Niigata prefecture, is said to have been a primary stage in the latter part of the sixteenth century during the Otate no Ran,<sup>173</sup> a struggle for succession waged by Uesugi Kenshin's<sup>174</sup> adopted son Kagetora.<sup>175</sup> The castle remains were investigated in the 2006 Fiscal Year, and carbonized remains were unearthed in the vicinity of the third bailey. In the 2007 Fiscal Year these were recognized to have been balls of rice. Further, at the Nakazu Nishihara<sup>176</sup> site in Masuda,<sup>177</sup> Shimane prefecture, the remains of a large number of medieval buildings were discovered, but among the artifacts recovered were sherds of glazed stoneware made in Vietnam, an extremely rare find for the Japan Sea coast. This settlement site is said to be that noted in late fourteenth century documents as "Ōnakazu Kajimyō,"<sup>178</sup> and it has thrown out a puzzle regarding the nature of ceramics trade of the time.

## 7. Early Modern period and later

### *Azuchi Momoyama period*

Investigations in the archaeology of the Early Modern period produced a certain degree of results. First, investigation of the Taikōzutsumi,<sup>179</sup> a protective dike on the Uji river in Uji,<sup>180</sup> Kyoto prefecture, was useful for shedding light on water management projects. The Taikōzutsumi was a large-scale civil engineering work

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<sup>167</sup> 銀閣寺

<sup>168</sup> 慈照寺

<sup>169</sup> 足利義政

<sup>170</sup> 西指庵

<sup>171</sup> 鮫ヶ尾

<sup>172</sup> 妙高

<sup>173</sup> 御館の乱

<sup>174</sup> 上杉謙信

<sup>175</sup> 景虎

<sup>176</sup> 中須西原

<sup>177</sup> 益田

<sup>178</sup> 大中州鍛冶名

<sup>179</sup> 太閤堤

<sup>180</sup> 宇治

extending over 12 km, which Toyotomi Hideyoshi<sup>181</sup> ordered Maeda Toshiie<sup>182</sup> and others to construct; it was an attempt to make Fushimi<sup>183</sup> castle a stronghold of water transport. A portion of its structural remains were detected over a length of 75 m. In addition, full use was seen to have been made of a high level of civil engineering technology, such as setting stone protrusions called *ishidashi*<sup>184</sup> into the bank to control the flow and force of the water. Elsewhere, at the Nagoya<sup>185</sup> castle site in Karatsu, Saga prefecture, Hideyoshi's base for his invasions of Korea, as the investigation of the site of the central bailey progresses, the remains of twelve residential buildings have been verified thus far, and their scale is seen to be in the same class as at Osaka castle.

In connection with Hideyoshi's predecessor Oda Nobunaga,<sup>186</sup> the remains of the former Honnōji<sup>187</sup> temple in Kyoto were excavated for the first time. As a result, in addition to the cobbles used for stabilizing pillar base stones and the stone walls of the moat, round eave tiles with the character "nō" of Honnōji and other items were discovered, showing the possibilities of the archaeological approach to the study of this temple. Further, garden remains were detected at the remains of Nobunaga's residence in the city of Gifu, raising the possibility of their being one of the gardens appearing in Luis Frois's *History of Japan*.

#### *Edo, Meiji, and subsequent periods*

There were quite a number of excavations of sites illustrating various aspects of the Edo period. First, scholarly investigation of a Tokugawa<sup>188</sup> family cemetery began at the Yanaka cemetery,<sup>189</sup> Tokyo, in June 2007, in conjunction with the reburial of twenty-five graves of principal and secondary wives to shogunal graves on the precincts of Kan'eiji<sup>190</sup> temple. At present, a wealth of grave goods have been unearthed, including eyeglasses, cosmetic paraphernalia, stationary goods, and false teeth, enabling a glimpse into conditions of the Ōoku,<sup>191</sup> where women connected to the shogun lived.

In Shimane prefecture, stone paving and checkpoints on the San'indō<sup>192</sup> highway were excavated at both Tsuwano<sup>193</sup> and Hamada.<sup>194</sup> Taken together with the stretch of the Ōshūkaidō<sup>195</sup> highway, and the earthen mound erected as a

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<sup>181</sup> 豊臣秀吉

<sup>182</sup> 前田利家

<sup>183</sup> 伏見

<sup>184</sup> 石出し

<sup>185</sup> 名護屋

<sup>186</sup> 織田信長

<sup>187</sup> 本能寺

<sup>188</sup> 徳川

<sup>189</sup> 谷中霊園

<sup>190</sup> 寛永寺

<sup>191</sup> 大奥

<sup>192</sup> 山陰道

<sup>193</sup> 津和野

<sup>194</sup> 浜田

<sup>195</sup> 奥州街道

milestone at Namiuchi<sup>196</sup> pass, both in Ichinohe,<sup>197</sup> Iwate prefecture, that were investigated in the previous fiscal year, a realistic image of the Early Modern highway network has come into view as a result.

Excavations that showed the multi-faceted variety of Early Modern archaeology include investigations of: the Atake<sup>198</sup> office remains in the city of Tokushima, which are structural features of a boat docking facility of the Tokushima domain; the Tsutchōzu<sup>199</sup> saltpeter storehouse remains in the city of Kanazawa, Ishikawa prefecture, where the Kaga domain made and stored gunpowder; the Kamikagitani<sup>200</sup> kiln site in Echizen, Fukui prefecture, where red roof tiles of Echizen ware were fired.

Further, based on the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, made by the bakufu with America and four other countries at the end of the Edo period, the port of Yokohama was opened, and from the close of the Edo into the Meiji period a foreign settlement was maintained there; at the Yamashita<sup>201</sup> foreign settlement remains in Yokohama, Kanagawa prefecture, structural features of buildings and roads from that time were investigated. In this manner, the outline of the dawn of the modern era has started to come into view.

Archaeological excavation for the Modern and Contemporary periods has not been active. But under these conditions, there was an excavation of what is regarded as a subterranean storehouse of a pharmacy in Abeno<sup>202</sup> ward of the city of Osaka, which burned down in the massive bombing of March 1945, at the end of the Pacific War. Specifically, large amounts and varieties of medical paraphernalia were recovered en masse. With regard to this, speaking of Modern and Contemporary grave markers, and the field of the Ryūkyūs, Taiwan, and China, ambitious research seeking to shed light on patterns of incorporation of Japanese culture in the former colonial regions deserves attention.<sup>203</sup>

## Conclusion

In the above manner, the 2007 fiscal year has been reviewed focusing on new data from archaeological excavations. Nearly all of these investigations were initiated as

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<sup>196</sup> 浪打

<sup>197</sup> 一戸

<sup>198</sup> 安宅

<sup>199</sup> 土清水

<sup>200</sup> 上鍵谷

<sup>201</sup> 山下 [Translator's note: Information on these sites is available on the website of the Japanese Archaeological Association. URL: <http://archaeology.jp/sites/sites2009/08yamashita.htm> ]

<sup>202</sup> 阿倍野

<sup>203</sup> Sunami Sōichirō 角南聡一郎, *Nikkei tōshiki bohyō no tenkai to juyou ni kansuru busshitsu bunkashiteki kenkyū* 日系塔式墓標の展開と受容に関する物質文化史的研究 (Material Culture Research on the Evolution and Acceptance of Japanese-style Pillar Grave Markers), MEXT Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research report (project number 17720238) (Gangōji Institute for Research of Cultural Property, 2008).

rescue excavations in conjunction with various types of construction. Be that as it may, new discoveries open up new areas of research. Moreover, in the process of producing site reports, advances are made in the analysis of artifacts and features, and there is hope for even new research to come into being.

Japanese archaeological research in the 2007 fiscal year also grew significantly in its variation and specialization. For this reason, it can also be said there is greater need for synthesis of this research.