

# Overview: Japanese Archaeological Research Trends 2017<sup>1</sup>

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More than 15 years have passed since entering the twenty-first century, and the world today appears to be in the midst of a period of upheaval due to the forces of economic globalism and its reaction. For our nation the critical problems of social disparity in wealth and an aging society with a low birthrate are becoming more prominent. Trends in archaeological research are not unrelated to such a state of affairs currently enveloping Japan and the world. The problems with which Japanese archaeology has been saddled in recent years, the decline in population of researchers supporting regional studies, severe personnel shortages at regional public organizations, and issues in the training of successors and the educational environment for archaeology at universities, all appear to have such conditions as their background.

Herein I would like to look back on the overall trends in Japanese archaeological research for the 2017 fiscal year.<sup>3</sup> What follows will outline the research trends for each period in turn.

In Paleolithic period research, studies on the arrival of modern humans to the Japanese archipelago and surrounding parts of Asia drew attention. In the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Grant-in-Aid Project “Cultural History of PaleoAsia: Integrative research on the formative processes of modern human cultures in Asia,”<sup>4</sup> work is underway on the construction of a database of Late Pleistocene sites of Asia, and results are emerging regarding the movements of characteristic cultural elements, the classification of types of tool kits

<sup>1</sup>[*Trends in Japanese Archaeological Research, 2017*, is a partial translation of “Nihon kōkogaku kenkyū no dōkō” 日本考古学研究の動向, in *Nihon kōkogaku nenpō 70 (2017 nendoban)* 日本考古学年報 70(2017年度版) (*Archaeologia Japonica 70 [2017 Fiscal Year Issue]*) (Nihon Kōkogaku Kyōkai, 2019), pp. 1–67. This essay appears on pp. 1–4, under the Japanese title “Sōsetsu” 総説. It was translated by Walter Edwards, and published by the Japanese Archaeological Association (Nihon Kōkogaku Kyōkai 日本考古学協会) online in 2019. 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.]

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<sup>3</sup> The fiscal year begins on April 1 of each calendar year.

<sup>4</sup> “Pareoajia bunkashigaku: Ajia shinjin bunka keisei puroseshu no sōgōteki kenkyū” パレオアジア文化史学: アジア新人文化形成プロセスの総合的研究 (Cultural history of PaleoAsia: Integrative research on the formative processes of modern human cultures in Asia), MEXT Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas (16H06407, FY2016–2020, Project Leader: Nishiaki Yoshihiro).

for East and Southeast Asia, and the construction of a population replacement model.

In the Ryukyu Islands, results of the investigation of the Shiraho Saonetabaru<sup>5</sup> cave site in Okinawa prefecture are drawing attention. Analysis of mitochondrial DNA from human bone suggests a southern origin, and similarities with Insular Southeast Asia in the nature of the site as a cliff burial have been pointed out, strengthening views of a southern origin for Pleistocene man in the Ryukyu Islands. Also, research regarding navigational techniques of around 38,000–35,000 years ago is being conducted to learn about the possibilities for mobility and routes of access to the Japanese archipelago for modern humans.

Meanwhile, it is being questioned whether humans existed in the archipelago prior to the arrival of modern humans, in other words before 40,000 years ago. Reevaluations are being conducted of excavations of the Tsujita<sup>6</sup> and Babayama<sup>7</sup> sites in Fukuoka prefecture, the Hoshino<sup>8</sup> site in Tochigi, the Kanadori<sup>9</sup> site in Iwate, and the Gongen'yama<sup>10</sup> site in Gunma. Within the archipelago, growing concern was seen regarding problems of the regionality of tool kits and of behavioral research. For the latter, there were debates about adaptive behavior in response to changes in the climate or fauna, the utilization of stone tool materials, hunting technology, and so forth. Behavioral research integrating analyses of use wear or of stone scatters is showing signs of entering new stages of investigation. In this manner, notable trends were recognized in Paleolithic period research including studies of the arrival of modern humans in the archipelago with a widened perspective on Asia as a whole, and in approaches to behavioral research based on analyses of tools and stone scatters.

For trends in Jōmon period research, results of reconstructions of livelihoods and environmental conditions made in coordination with natural scientific analyses drew attention. There were results of research, popular in recent years, on seed impressions in pottery using replica studies of plant remains, and dietary analyses based on organic remains adhering to pots and on carbon and nitrogen stable isotope analysis of human bone, while lipid analysis and the analysis of starch grains were also carried out on organic adhesions to pottery. Research was seen making wide-area comparisons of climate change and cultural phenomena such as the emergence of pottery through the use of high-precision dating. The use of three-dimensional measurements centering on features and artifacts is spreading, and advances are anticipated for research based on new investigative techniques.

As stated in the section on trends in interdisciplinary research,<sup>11</sup> with regard to

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<sup>5</sup> 白保竿根田原

<sup>6</sup> 辻田

<sup>7</sup> 馬場山

<sup>8</sup> 星野

<sup>9</sup> 金取

<sup>10</sup> 権現山

<sup>11</sup> [Translator's note: The reference is to the section appearing on pp. 5–10 of *Nihon kōkōgaku nenpō*, the same volume containing this introductory overview, reporting on interdisciplinary research trends

both lipid and starch residue analyses, caution should be paid not only to methodology and utility, but also to issues and limits of these approaches as well. Comprehensive research such as analyses of transitions in exploitation patterns has become more viable precisely because current accumulations of data have greatly advanced, but the current tendency pointed out for increasing specialization indicates the need to aim for reconstructions of environment and livelihood using broad perspectives that encapsulate human and natural history. Also, as seen in zooarchaeology, a trend toward using archaeological data to pose meaningful questions for other fields is also vital.

Meanwhile, basic debates of Jōmon period research on artifacts, features, settlements, etc., are said to be in a stagnant trend. This problem should be examined in light of the tendency in recent years for the methodological diversification of archaeology. Also, Imamura Keiji has re-presented his notion of the Jōmon as a “woodland neolithic culture,” and for comparison with a global “neolithic age,” points out a two-step transition to a neolithic age in Japan in the Early Jōmon and Yayoi periods.<sup>12</sup> Such discussion of the position of Jōmon culture from a world historical perspective is likely needed in the future.

Among research trends for the Yayoi period, topics that were taken up include various aspects of food procurement such as cultivation and fishing, the structure of regional society as seen from settlements and burials, images of Yayoi culture seen from ceremonies and rituals, interregional exchanges revealed through the production and circulation of various types of artifacts, and the outline of Yayoi culture itself.

As general trends, in the same manner as for the Jōmon period, advances were made in research conducted in coordination with natural scientific analyses. For the analysis of diet in particular, comprehensive investigations were made at the Ikego<sup>13</sup> site in Kanagawa prefecture of the composition of floral and faunal remains and the form of human skeletal remains, of human and animal bone through carbon and nitrogen stable isotope analyses, and of seed impressions, carbonized adhesions on pottery, and starch residues; issues were discussed regarding the vegetative diet of rice, nuts, assorted grains and so forth, and the proportion of marine products in the dietary intake.<sup>14</sup> Also discussed were the surprisingly small effects showing little individual variance of marine products on the human diet, based on carbon and nitrogen stable isotope analysis, and the question of management of *inoshishi* (wild boar, but in this analysis including possibly pigs) arising from the division of those faunal remains into two groups based on differences in the creatures’ diet.

With regards to Yayoi culture in the context of Asia, problems such as incipient

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for the 2017 fiscal year.]

<sup>12</sup> Imamura Keiji 今村啓爾, *Jōmon bunka: Nyūmon kara tenbō e* 縄文文化: 入門から展望へ (Jōmon culture: From introduction to outlook) (Nyū Saiensusha, 2017).

<sup>13</sup> 池子

<sup>14</sup> Sugiyama Kōhei 杉山浩平, ed., *Yayoi jidai shoku no takakuteki kenkyū: Ikego iseki o kagaku suru* 弥生時代食の多角的研究: 池子遺跡を科学する (Multilateral research on Yayoi Period diet: Scientific study of the Ikego site) (Rokuichi Shobō, 2018).

agriculture in East Asia and the start of cultivation in the Yayoi period are being taken up. Crawford has reviewed the ages and conditions of recovery of cultigens such as rice, other cereals, and legumes in East Asia (Japan, China, Korea), and pointed out that the phenomenon of domestication cannot be explained exclusively as a unitary dispersion out from China, but followed independent historical transitions in each region. In a symposium held by the National Museum of National History focused on reconstructing Japanese prehistory,<sup>15</sup> concurrent relations between Japan and Korea in a temporal frame centering on the Yayoi period were examined, and relations of exchange in metals and ceramics between the two regions were clarified. Also, it is said the problem of the eastward spread of early metal implements in Northeast Asia can anticipate future developments in Yayoi period research.

In research trends of the Kofun period, based on the steady work of republishing materials from past investigations and compiling basic data for various regions, collaborative research and studies to portray an image of the period continue to be widely conducted. These trends are not limited to the Kofun period, but are likely due to the tasks of assembling and analyzing massive amounts of data being beyond the capacity of any individual.

As studies depicting the image of the period, there was joint research by the National Museum of Japanese History published on the theme of the “Real image of the world of Wa in East Asia,”<sup>16</sup> and items also appeared such as Shimogaki Hitoshi’s monograph *Kofun jidai no kokka keisei* (State formation in the Kofun period)<sup>17</sup> explaining the Kofun period from perspectives of the formation of the state or of comparative archaeology. With regard to such issues in the history of state formation, there were achievements in the field of history beginning with Nakada Kōkichi’s *Wakoku makki seijishiron* (Treatise on the political history of the final phase of the country of Wa).<sup>18</sup> It is said that enlivened debate on this topic can be anticipated between archaeology and history in the future. Also, for foreign exchange, there were numerous monographs discussing Japanese–Korean exchanges in the Kofun period from a variety of perspectives, such as Yamamoto Takafumi’s *Kodai Chōsen no kokka taisei to kōkogaku* (Archaeology and the state system of ancient Korea).<sup>19</sup>

<sup>15</sup> “Saikō! Jōmon to Yayoi: Rekihaku ga mezasu Nihon senshi bunka no saikōchiku” 再考! 縄文と弥生: 歴博がめざす日本先史文化の再構築 (Rekihaku’s new perspectives on Jomon culture and Yayoi culture: Towards reconstruction of prehistoric Japan), international symposium organized by Kokuritsu Rekishi Minzoku Hakubutsukan 国立歴史民俗博物館 (National Museum of Japanese History) (Tokyo, 2 December 2017).

<sup>16</sup> “Kodai Higashi Ajia ni okeru Wa sekai no jittai” 古代東アジアにおける倭世界の実態 (Real image of the world of Wa in East Asia), a collection of 15 articles in *Kokuritsu Rekishi Minzoku Hakubutsukan kenkyū hōkoku* 国立歴史民俗博物館研究報告 (Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese History), no. 211 (2018): 1–512.

<sup>17</sup> Shimogaki Hitoshi 下垣仁志, *Kofun jidai no kokka keisei* 古墳時代の国家形成 (State formation in the Kofun period) (Yoshikawa Kōbunkan, 2018).

<sup>18</sup> Nakada Kōkichi 中田興吉, *Wakoku makki seijishiron* 倭国末期政治史論 (Treatise on the political history of the final phase of the country of Wa) (Douseisha, 2017).

<sup>19</sup> Yamamoto Takafumi 山本孝文, *Kodai Chōsen no kokka taisei to kōkogaku* 古代朝鮮の国家体制と考古学

Regarding the Kofun period and natural disasters, a session on sites afflicted by volcanic eruptions was put together for the Japanese Archaeological Association 2017 Autumn Meeting.<sup>20</sup> Also, information on tombs at various locations damaged by the 2016 Kumamoto earthquakes was summarized in materials from a meeting of the Kyushu Keyhole Tomb Research Society.<sup>21</sup>

In settlement research, trends were seen towards topics such as transitions of ordinary settlements and their backgrounds, storehouses and embedded-pillar structures, urbanization and the development of *miyake*,<sup>22</sup> whereas for artifacts, research was active with regards to Haji<sup>23</sup> and Sue<sup>24</sup> wares, *haniwa*, armor, and so forth. As a trend of recent years, examples utilizing three-dimensional measurements and laser-measuring technology are increasing, and there were studies such as Jōkura Masayoshi's monograph on the use of digital technology in studying human figurine *haniwa* previously unearthed from tombs in Kujūkuri, Chiba prefecture.<sup>25</sup>

For Ancient period research, while studies of capitals, regional government offices, temple sites, and so forth made from the perspective of the state accounted for the bulk of the work, research on particular topics such as settlements or artifacts is said to have been somewhat inactive.

Regarding capitals, the *Jōri* Field System/Ancient Urban Research Society held a research meeting on the theme of *dōban* (ceremonial banners),<sup>26</sup> and as examples of *dōban* at sites of regional temples are increasing as well, it was an opportunity to reflect upon the majestic appearance of urban centers and temples with these banners raised high. Regarding regional government headquarters, the Ancient Government Headquarters/Settlements Research Society held a meeting on the

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(Archaeology and the state system of ancient Korea) (Yoshikawa Kōbunkan, 2017).

<sup>20</sup> “Kazanbai kōkogaku no shinten kai: Kazan funka risai iseki kara no shiten” 火山灰考古学の新展開: 火山噴火罹災遺跡からの視点 (New advances in volcanic ash archaeology: From the perspective of sites afflicted by volcanic eruptions), session held at the Nihon Kōkogaku Kyōkai 2017 Nendo Shūki Taikai 日本考古学協会 2017 年度秋季大会 (Japanese Archaeological Association 2017 Autumn Meeting) (Miyazaki, Miyazaki prefecture, 21–22 October 2017).

<sup>21</sup> *Heisei 28 nendo Kumamoto jishin ni yoru hisai kofun no genjō to kadai* 平成 28 年熊本地震による被災古墳の現状と課題 (Current state and issues of tombs damaged in the 2016 Kumamoto earthquakes), abstracts and materials from the Dai 20-kai Kyūshū Zenpōkōenfun Kenkyūkai 第 20 回九州前方後円墳研究会 (20th Meeting, Kyushu Keyhole Tomb Research Society), held in Kumamoto, Kumamoto prefecture; 17–18 June 2017 (Kumamoto, 2017).

<sup>22</sup> [Translator's note: *Miyake* were estates held directly by the Yamato court prior to the Taika Reform of 645, and many subsequently served as a basis for regional governance under the *ritsuryō* system.]

<sup>23</sup> 土師

<sup>24</sup> 須恵

<sup>25</sup> Jōkura Masayoshi 城倉正祥, *Dejitaru gijutsu de semaru jinbutsu haniwa: Kujūkuri no kofun to shutsudo ibutsu* デジタル技術でせまる人物埴輪: 九十九里の古墳と出土遺物 (Approaching human figurine *haniwa* with digital technology: The tombs of Kujūkuri and their recovered artifacts) (Yoshikawa Kōbunkan, 2017).

<sup>26</sup> “Toshi no sōgon: Dōban o tateru girei o megutte” 都市の荘厳: 幟幡を立てる儀礼をめぐる (Urban majesty: Concerning rites of erecting ceremonial banners), Dai 34-kai Jōrisei/Kodai Toshi Kenkyūkai Taikai 第 34 回条里制・古代都市研究会大会 (34th Research Meeting of the *Jōri* Field System/Ancient Urban Research Society) (Nara Bunkazai Kenkyūjo, 3–4 March 2018).

theme of the transitions and characteristics of regional government office districts.<sup>27</sup> Also, the output from a symposium held in 2015 by the Historical Society of Japan was augmented with related papers and results of investigations on regional government headquarters sites in the eastern provinces and published as *Kodai Tōgoku no chihō kanga to jiin* (Regional government headquarters and temples of the Ancient eastern provinces), an anthology edited by Satō Makoto.<sup>28</sup>

A special collection on the topic of regional acceptance of Buddhism with a focus on village-based temples was put together in the journal *Minshūshi kenkyū* (Popular History Research).<sup>29</sup> At a meeting of the Ancient Transport Research Society the theme of “People, places, roads that supported movement” was taken up,<sup>30</sup> and in reports centering on the San’indō<sup>31</sup> road a variety of roadway structures adapted to topographic variations were clarified, while topics were discussed including the role of major government temples at the start of the Heian period as places for providing relief to the indigent and the sick against a background of the *fukuden* philosophy,<sup>32</sup> and the performance of acts of tree-planting at strategic points of transport as imbued with Buddhist meaning.

As noteworthy excavation results, at the Nara palace<sup>33</sup> site (East Palace<sup>34</sup> sector), it became clear that the distribution of buildings in the northern periphery of the East Palace sector was extremely thin around the end of the Nara period. At the Dazaifu<sup>35</sup> site two *sōbashira* structures<sup>36</sup> were excavated, and these were possibly facilities related to the Storehouse Office which managed the local products and cloth that were paid as taxes from all over Kyushu. At the site of Mizuki<sup>37</sup> castle (Kamiōri Shōmizuki<sup>38</sup> remains), scales of the width, length, height and so forth of the earthworks were determined, and the method of piling the embankments depending

<sup>27</sup> “Chihō kanga seichōiki no hensen to tokushitsu” 地方官衙政庁域の変遷と特質 (Transitions and special characteristics of regional government headquarters office districts), Dai 21-kai Kodai Kanga/Shūroku Kenkyūkai 第21回古代官衙・集落研究会 (21st Meeting of the Ancient Government Headquarters/Settlements Research Society) (Nara Bunkazai Kenkyūjo, 8–9 December 2017).

<sup>28</sup> Satō Makoto 佐藤信, ed., *Kodai Tōgoku no chihō kanga to jiin* 古代東国の地方官衙と寺院 (Regional government headquarters and temples of the Ancient eastern provinces) (Yamakawa Shuppansha, 2017).

<sup>29</sup> “Kodai no Bukkyō juyō to zaichi shihai: Chiiki shakai to muradō” 古代の仏教受容と在地支配: 地域社会と村堂 (Local society and the Ancient reception of Buddhism: Village temples and regional society), a collection of six articles in *Minshūshi kenkyū* 民衆史研究 (Popular History Research), no. 93 (2017): 1–64.

<sup>30</sup> “Idō o sasaeta hito to ba, michi” 移動を支えた人と場・道 (People, places, roads that supported movement), Dai 19-kai Kodai Kōtsū Kenkyūkai 第19回古代交通研究会 (19th Meeting of the Ancient Transport Research Society) (Nihon Daigaku Keizai Gakubu, 24–25 June 2017).

<sup>31</sup> 山陰道

<sup>32</sup> [Translator’s note: *Fukuden* (福田, literally “field of blessing”) philosophy developed from a notion of the historical Buddha as a source (field) of good fortune, and encompassed the belief that performing compassionate deeds could serve to manifest reverence on the part of devotees.]

<sup>33</sup> 平城宮

<sup>34</sup> Tōin 東院

<sup>35</sup> 大宰府 (Fukuoka prefecture)

<sup>36</sup> *sōbashira tatemono* 総柱建物 (structures with regularly spaced internal pillars)

<sup>37</sup> 水城 (Fukuoka prefecture)

<sup>38</sup> 上大利小水城

on the topographic and geologic features became clear.

In Medieval period research trends, for urban research, the Medieval Urban Research Society held a meeting on the theme of Hakata as a port city.<sup>39</sup> Extending the field of view to East Asia, Hakata's nature as a city and as a base for the domestic and international circulation of goods and the transfer of technology, and its function as a military city and so forth were discussed.

With regards to castles, the Shokuhō Period Castle Research Society held a meeting on the theme of new perspectives on castle roof tile research,<sup>40</sup> and problems involving roof tile manufacture such as same-mold relations and clay-cutting methods were discussed. Also, a Chūgoku/Shikoku Residential Castle Investigations Discussion Meeting was held on current issues in Early Modern castle research as seen from Iyo Matsuyama castle.<sup>41</sup> In particular, comparative examinations were made of the *nobori ishigaki*<sup>42</sup> (stone walls built ascending a slope) at domestic castles beginning with Iyo Matsuyama castle, and at *wajō*<sup>43</sup> (Japanese castles built in Korea).

In research on Medieval graves, a series of Medieval Funerary and Burial Customs Research Meetings<sup>44</sup> (Representative: Sagawa Shin'ichi) have been held on the topic of the end of Medieval graves. As a result, for burial customs going from the end of the Medieval into the Edo period, in Kyushu there was disruption whereas in Shikoku continuity can be discerned, and while such continuity is also seen to extend as far as Ise<sup>45</sup> and western Mino,<sup>46</sup> as a semblance of disruption is visible from eastern Mino to Owari,<sup>47</sup> Mikawa,<sup>48</sup> Tōtomi,<sup>49</sup> and Suruga,<sup>50</sup> it thus appears that the continuity from the end of the Medieval into the Early Modern period in burial customs that was centered on Kinai<sup>51</sup> spread out to other regions.

The results of collaborative research on the theme of Medieval craftsmen and technology were published by the National Museum of Japanese History, and the nature of productive technology which increased dramatically in the Medieval

<sup>39</sup> “Kōshi to shite no Hakata” 港市としての博多 (Hakata as a port city), Chūsei Toshi Kenkyūkai Hakata Taikai 2017 中世都市研究会博多大会 2017 (Medieval Urban Research Society, 2017 Hakata Meeting) (Fukuoka-shi Maizō Bunkazai Sentā, 2-3 September 2017).

<sup>40</sup> “Shokuhōki jōkaku kawara kenkyū no shinshiten” 織豊期城郭瓦研究の新視点 (New perspectives on Shokuhō period castle roof tile research), Shokuhōki Jōkaku Kawara Kenkyūkai 2017 Nendo Kōga Taikai 織豊期城郭研究会 2017 年度甲賀研究集会 (Shokuhō Period Castle Research Society, 2017 Kōga Meeting) (Kōga, Shiga prefecture, 9-10 September 2017).

<sup>41</sup> “Iyo Matsuyamajō kara mita kinsei jōkaku no ronten” 伊予松山城から見た近世城郭の論点 (Issues of Early Modern castles seen from Iyo Matsuyama castle), Chūgoku/Shikoku Chiku Jōkan Chōsa Kentōkai 中国・四国地区城館調査検討会 (Chūgoku/Shikoku Residential Castle Investigations Discussion Meeting) (Matsuyama, Ehime prefecture, 25-26 November 2017).

<sup>42</sup> 登り石垣

<sup>43</sup> 倭城

<sup>44</sup> Chūsei Sōsō Bosei Kenkyūkai 中世葬送墓制研究会

<sup>45</sup> 伊勢

<sup>46</sup> 美濃

<sup>47</sup> 尾張

<sup>48</sup> 三河

<sup>49</sup> 遠江

<sup>50</sup> 駿河

<sup>51</sup> 畿内

period came under reexamination.<sup>52</sup> Also, for the initial symposium of the Medieval Studies Research Society,<sup>53</sup> even while recognizing the role played by Kyoto as a cultural model, the possibility was indicated that rather than regional society simply accepting the Kyoto model as such, Kyoto perhaps functioned as the embodiment of culture which should be universally shared amidst the loss of traditional order that was the Medieval period.

In Early Modern research, with regards to castles, investigations related to management as Historic Sites were central. These included an excavation attending repair work on the stone walls of Hirosaki<sup>54</sup> castle, an investigation of the moat and earthworks at Matsumoto<sup>55</sup> castle, an excavation of the base of the main keep at Suruga<sup>56</sup> castle, investigations for the reconstruction of buildings in the third bailey at Himeji<sup>57</sup> castle, and an excavation at the southeast portion of the main keep of Saga<sup>58</sup> castle.

Regarding castle towns, along with excavations in the Edo castle town, an investigation by the city of Kokubunji<sup>59</sup> in Tokyo prefecture of the Koigakubo-mura watercourse,<sup>60</sup> a branch of the Tamagawa aqueduct<sup>61</sup> that was cut in 1657, has drawn attention. In Osaka, the townhouse of a horn-carving artisan from the early Edo period was investigated. There was also an excavation of the Umeda cemetery, one of those comprising the circuit of the “Ōsaka seven graveyard pilgrimage”<sup>62</sup> that was a popular Obon festival event in the Edo period. Investigations were conducted at the Matsue<sup>63</sup> castle town, Takamatsu<sup>64</sup> castle town, and others as well. In relation to the Ryūkyū kingdom, the excavation report for the site of the Nakagusuku Udun palace was published.<sup>65</sup> The remains of the mansion of the heir to the Ryūkyūan king were confirmed, and a stair-shaped feature, stone pilings, a well, and so forth were excavated.

An excavation was carried out at the grave site in Nagasaki prefecture of Miguel

<sup>52</sup> “Chūsei no gijutsu to shokunin ni kansuru sōgōteki kenkyū” 中世の技術と職人に関する総合的研究 (General study on technology and craftsmen in Medieval times), a collection of 13 articles in *Kokuritsu Rekishi Minzoku Hakubutsukan kenkyū hōkoku*, no. 210 (2018): 1-272.

<sup>53</sup> “Gensō no Kyōto moderu” 幻想の京都モデル (The illusory Kyoto model), symposium organized by the Chūseiigaku Kenkyūkai 中世学研究会 (Medieval Studies Research Society) (Keio Gijuku Daigaku Hiyoshi Kyampusu, 1-2 July 2017).

<sup>54</sup> 弘前 (Aomori prefecture)

<sup>55</sup> 松本 (Nagano prefecture)

<sup>56</sup> 駿府 (Shizuoka prefecture)

<sup>57</sup> 姫路 (Hyogo prefecture)

<sup>58</sup> 佐賀 (Saga prefecture)

<sup>59</sup> 国分寺

<sup>60</sup> Koigakubo-mura Bunsui 恋ヶ窪村分水

<sup>61</sup> Tamagawa Jōsui 玉川上水

<sup>62</sup> Ōsaka nanahaka meguri 大坂七墓巡り

<sup>63</sup> 松江 (Shimane prefecture)

<sup>64</sup> 高松 (Kagawa prefecture)

<sup>65</sup> Okinawa Kenritsu Maizō Bunkazai Sentā 沖縄県立埋蔵文化財センター (Okinawa Prefectural Archaeological Center), ed., *Nakagusuku Udun ato* 中城御殿跡 (Nakagusuku Udun site), vol. 95 of *Okinawa Kenritsu Maizō Bunkazai Sentā hakkutsu chōsa hōkokusho* 沖縄県立埋蔵文化財センター発掘調査報告書 (Okinawa Prefectural Archaeological Center Excavation Reports) (Nishihara-chō, Nakakami-gun, Okinawa, 2018).

Chijiwa<sup>66</sup> and his wife. Christian artifacts and parts of a human skeleton were recovered from within an oblong clothes chest that had been converted into use as a coffin. It has been pointed out based on DNA analysis that the occupant of that grave was likely a woman.

At the site of a sugar refinery at Kuji<sup>67</sup> on Amami Ōshima<sup>68</sup> in Kagoshima prefecture, the remains were investigated of a refinery which utilized a steam engine and was in operation around the time of the end of the Edo period and the Meiji Restoration. Brick-paved features, the remains of a chimney, and so forth were excavated.

For archaeology of the Modern and contemporary periods, a meeting on the theme of “Ibutsu ni miru Bakumatsu, Meiji” (Bakumatsu, Meiji seen in artifacts) was held by the Edo Archaeological Site Research Society.<sup>69</sup> This was an attempt to assess the transition from the Early Modern to the Modern periods from changes in the artifacts recovered from Edo and Tokyo that have accumulated thus far. In recent years, as Modern and contemporary archaeological data continue to be collected, we appear to be arriving at the point of considering the framework for archaeology of the current era.

For research in overseas archaeology, trends for the Korean peninsula, China, and North America are being taken up, but for details I will yield to the descriptions given for each region.<sup>70</sup>

In the above manner, with regards to the overall directions of Japanese archaeological research for the 2017 fiscal year, I have discussed in outline the trends for each period in turn. In recent years Japanese archaeology can be said to be in the midst of broad currents for the diversification of its methodology and the temporal and spatial expansion of its subject matter. In addition to the conventional analytic methods of archaeology those of the natural sciences are being actively introduced, leading to epoch-making advances beginning with chronological measurements, ancient environmental and climatic reconstructions, and dietary analyses.

In addition to this expansion of subject matter in accompaniment with the diversification of methodology, investigations and research on topics which conventional archaeology rarely handled, such as Modern period and contemporary sites, have come to be conducted. At the same time, trends are emerging for assessments of Japanese culture in the contexts of Asia and the entire globe, and for research from vantage points of comparative archaeology. With regards to such

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<sup>66</sup> 千々石ミゲル

<sup>67</sup> 久慈

<sup>68</sup> 奄美大島

<sup>69</sup> “Ibutsu ni miru Bakumatsu, Meiji” 遺物にみる幕末・明治 (Bakumatsu, Meiji seen in artifacts), Dai 31-kai Edo Iseki Kenkyūkai Taikai 第31回江戸遺跡研究会大会 (31st Meeting of the Edo Archaeological Site Research Society) (Nihon Daigaku Bunri Gakubu, 27–28 January 2017).

<sup>70</sup> [Translator’s note: The reference is to the sections on overseas research trends for the Korean peninsula, China, and Central Europe, appearing on pp. 66–87 of *Nihon kōkogaku nenpō*, the same volume containing this introductory overview.]

directions in Japanese archaeology, how to respond in terms of research and education are important issues for the future.

Meanwhile, in its long academic history, on top of its steady investigations and research in every region, Japanese archaeology has tread a consistent path of taking a view of the archipelago as a whole. The issue of how to relate the results of archaeological research in every region with the archaeology of the entire archipelago, and how to assess those results overall in a global context, are vital problems in need of future exploration.