

Overview: Japanese Archaeological Research Trends 2018¹

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The Japanese Archaeological Association (JAA), which was established in 1948, greeted the 70th anniversary of its founding in 2018. Born shortly after the wartime defeat, the JAA has played out its role piling up one effort after another through several periods of postwar society's historic transition.

On the occasion of its 70th anniversary year the JAA held a program of commemorative projects, designated "Greeting the Transition Period of Japanese Archaeology and the JAA,"³ which are linked with the following conditions of recent years.

Nearly twenty years have passed since entering the twenty-first century, and as economic globalism advances in the world on the one hand, reaction against it is born on the other. In addition, Japan is becoming a low-birthrate society with an aging population and disparities in wealth, and the future direction of society appears uncertain.

Trends in archaeological research are surely not unrelated to such conditions of

¹[*Trends in Japanese Archaeological Research, 2018*, is a partial translation of "Nihon kōkogaku kenkyū no dōkō" 日本考古学研究の動向, in *Nihon kōkogaku nenpō 71 (2018 nendoban)* 日本考古学年報70(2018年度版) (Archaeologia Japonica 71 [2018 Fiscal Year Issue]) (Nihon Kōkogaku Kyōkai, 2020), pp. 1–56. 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 2021. 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.]

² 谷川章雄

³ "Tenkanki o mukaeta Nihon kōkogaku to Nihon Kōkogaku Kyōkai" 転換期を迎えた日本考古学と日本考古学協会. [Translator's note: A full description of the program is available in Japanese on the JAA's website (<http://archaeology.jp/activity/70kinenn/>). In brief, the projects are the following: (1) Gathering and archiving materials related to the JAA's founding, (2) Commemorating individuals who have maintained membership in the JAA from 1965 or before, (3) Publishing an edited volume summarizing the current state of Japanese archaeological research (*Nihon kōkogaku - Saizensen* 日本考古学・最前線 [Japanese archaeology: The Forefront], Yūzankaku, 2018), (4) Holding a series of public lectures in conjunction with JAA regular meetings and other occasions, (5) Compiling a commemorative volume of *Nihon kōkogaku* 日本考古学 (Journal of the JAA) (published as issue no. 47 in October, 2018), and (6) Holding an international session at the JAA's 2018 Autumn Meeting, "Contextualizing the Yayoi period as a farming society in East Asia" (Shizuoka, 20 October 2018), conducted in English.]

Japan and the world. The problems which Japanese archaeology has been facing in recent years, the decline in population of researchers supporting regional studies, severe personnel shortages at regional public organizations, issues in the training of successors and the educational environment for archaeology at universities, and further, the decline in JAA membership, 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 2018 fiscal year.⁴ What follows will outline the research trends for each period in turn.

For trends in Paleolithic period research, there has been discussion with regards to the oldest archaeological culture in the Japanese archipelago of a southerly route of humans, based in part on the discovery of new materials at the Sakitari⁵ cave site in Okinawa, along with studies of the spread of human population and the establishment of Upper Paleolithic culture in the archipelago, taking as background the worldwide tendencies of research in recent years.

Also, concerning archaeological culture at the end of the Upper Paleolithic period, topics were taken up such as climatic change and the process of human adaptation at the transition from the Pleistocene to the Holocene, the age of the appearance of pottery, and the periodic division with the Jōmon era.

With regards to stone tools, for the oldest tool assemblages, those from the lower strata of the Sōzudai⁶ site in Ōita prefecture, from the Tsurugaya⁷ site in Gunma, and from Layer 8 of the Hoshino⁸ site in Tochigi and so forth have been reexamined. Also, for backed blade tool groups there has been debate on the Higashiyama-type⁹ backed blade, and in research on microblade assemblages, identification has been made of the microblade flaking methodology at the Fukui¹⁰ cave in Nagasaki. In studies on the stone tool assemblages of the end of the Upper Paleolithic period, there has been research on relations with stone tools of the Incipient phase of the Jōmon period, and on the process of emergence of stemmed points.

In experimental use-wear research, while methodological issues and prospects have been sorted out, Yamada Shō pointed out that not only are there biases in the objects of research and methods of analysis as well as insufficient experimentation, but the educational system for training the next generation of use-wear researchers in Japan is deficient.¹¹ Also, Midōshima Tadashi¹² has been advancing the reorganization of the extant body of data through a variety of experiments so that

⁴ The fiscal year begins on April 1 of each calendar year.

⁵ サキタリ

⁶ 早水台

⁷ 鶴ヶ谷

⁸ 星野

⁹ 東山型

¹⁰ 福井洞窟

¹¹ Yamada Shō 山田しょう, *Shiyōkon kenkyū no genjō to kyūsekki jidai ni okeru kōdō kenkyū e no ōyō* 使用痕研究の現状と旧石器時代における行動研究への応用 (Current status of traceology and its application to human behavioral studies in the paleolithic period), *Kyūsekki kenkyū* 旧石器研究 (Paleolithic Research), 14 (2018): 1-16.

¹² 御堂島正

interpretations can be made from use-wear traces on stone tools of human behavior and the natural environment.

On the relationship of the natural environment and resources with the human environment, there were studies such as the research edited by Ono Akira ascertaining the interactions of changes in the ancient environment with the relationship between obsidian resource development in the central highlands of Nagano prefecture and utilization in the Chūbu and Kantō regions.¹³

For Paleolithic research, how can we evaluate the diverse archaeological cultures that unfolded during the Pleistocene over the archipelago, with their remarkable variation across space and time? The time has come, it is said, to re-examine what were the Paleolithic and Upper Paleolithic periods.

As taken up in the section on trends in interdisciplinary research,¹⁴ work is being done on various dating methods in Paleolithic period studies, such as the compilation of data for a master curve for oxygen isotope dendrochronology, the creation of a database for radiocarbon dating using accelerated mass spectrometry (AMS), as well as applications of the thermal luminescence and archaeomagnetic dating methods.

For trends in Jōmon research, chronological studies for the Incipient/Earliest phases at the start of the period based on wide-area examinations of pottery and features stood out, as did research uncovering regional differences. A nationwide anthology centering on the Incipient to the Earliest Jōmon, *Kyūsekki jidai bunka kara Jōmon jidai bunka no chōryū: Kenkyū no shiten* (Currents of long-term change from the Paleolithic to the Jomon cultures: Research perspectives),¹⁵ has been compiled. In addition, according to residual lipid analysis of Incipient to Earliest phase ceramics, the pottery was mainly used for processing aquatic resources.

Regarding the transitions from one phase to another, in addition to typological approaches, distributional studies based on differences in the environment and topographic location were debated, and in particular the Late phase advance into lowland regions was discussed based on changes in the numbers of sites.

Concerning the end of the Jōmon period, discussions on the beginning of the Yayoi period are being held from different analytical perspectives and methods. There were studies of archaeological features based on an attribute analysis of ceramics, plus examinations of the radiocarbon dating of rice seeds, and of stone tool materials and stone cores.

In debates on livelihood, there is active research using carbon and nitrogen stable isotope analysis, scanning electron microscopy with the replica technique, X-

¹³ Ono Akira 小野昭, ed., *Jinrui to shigen kankyō no dainamikkusu* 人類と資源環境のダイナミックス (Dynamic interactions between humans and natural environment) (Yūzankaku, 2019).

¹⁴ [Translator's note: The reference is to the section appearing on pp. 4–8 of *Nihon kōkōgaku nenpō*, the same volume containing this introductory overview, reporting on interdisciplinary research trends for the 2018 fiscal year.]

¹⁵ Shiraishi Hiroyuki 白石浩之, ed., *Kyūsekki jidai bunka kara Jōmon jidai bunka no chōryū: Kenkyū no shiten* 旧石器時代文化から縄文時代文化の潮流: 研究の視点 (Currents of long-term change from the Paleolithic to the Jomon cultures: Research perspectives) (Rokuichi Shobō, 2019).

ray computer tomography, and so forth. Studies were seen such as Sasaki Yuka and Noshiro Shūichi's consideration of changes in plant management and utilization due to cooling from the Middle to Late Jōmon at the Shimoyakebe¹⁶ site and elsewhere in the Kantō Plain,¹⁷ and research on replicas of maize weevil impressions in Jōmon pottery and their relations to human activity.¹⁸

There were case studies of stone-paved dwelling remains and stone arrangement features, research on rituals attending the abandonment of residences and on the mortuary system, debate regarding the possession and uses of clay figurines based on the results of observations and analysis of these items; for beads there was research on the origin of Jōmon articles made with beads, and on slit-disc earrings, while debate was conducted on trade and distribution by analyzing the production and consumption areas for obsidian, red pigment, asphalt, and so forth.

In Jōmon period studies, the steady and basic work of delineating transitions between periods and regional differences holds an important position, but there are larger issues ranging from research that cuts across disciplinary lines to that which leads to historical reinterpretation, and it is said that the definition of the Jōmon period and its temporal and spatial frameworks are also being questioned.

As stated in the section on trends in interdisciplinary research, in Jōmon period research, reconstructions of the paleoenvironment are being carried out with a combination of dating methods and pollen analysis, and with regard to cultigens there was discussion concerning legumes in the central highlands of the Chūbu and western Kantō regions of the latter half of the Middle Jōmon, and an increase in size has been pointed out for Japanese millet from the Early to the latter half of the Middle Jōmon for Hokkaido to the northern Tōhoku regions. In dietary reconstructions based on lipid analysis, it is held that in the inland portions of Hokkaido, the contents of cooking with earthenware were mostly species of salmon and trout.

In zooarchaeology, inferences of season based on a combination of growth ring analysis of shell bands and oxygen isotope analysis, and indications of diversity based on examinations of dog DNA were carried out, and research was conducted which determined that immigrants could be identified among skeletons from the Tsukumo¹⁹ site by analyzing strontium isotope ratios.

In research trends for the Yayoi period, in the study of the timing of the start of the Yayoi period and the initial phase of wet-rice agriculture, the anthology edited by Morioka Hideto and the Paleological Association of Japan titled *Shoki nōkō katsudō to Kinki no Yayoi shakai* (What was the early agricultural society in

¹⁶ 下宅部 (Tokyo prefecture)

¹⁷ Yuka Sasaki and Shūichi Noshiro, "Did a cooling event in the middle to late Jomon periods induced change in the use of plant resources in Japan?" *Quaternary International* 471 (2017): 369–384.

¹⁸ Hiroki Obata, Katsura Morimoto, and Akihiro Miyanoshta, "Discovery of the Jomon era maize weevils in Hokkaido, Japan and its mean," *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 23 (2019): 137–156.

¹⁹ 津雲 (Okayama prefecture)

Kinki?)²⁰ was published, discussing society at the start of wet-rice cultivation from multiple perspectives, mainly centered on the Kinki region. In addition, there was research asserting that the practice of diversified farming, combining wet-rice agriculture with the cultivation of assorted cereals in dry fields, was related to the widespread diversity of both agriculture and of society and culture during the Early and Middle Yayoi periods.

In the study of interregional exchange, along with the macro perspective of east-west exchange within the archipelago, a regional approach was also seen which ascertains interregional exchange in the midst of intergroup relations focusing on the Ise Bay coastal area from the Late Yayoi to the start of the Kofun periods. There were also discussions of interregional exchange that included relations with China and the Korean peninsula. It is said that examinations of such interregional exchanges from the Late Yayoi to the start of the Kofun periods will clarify concrete human activities such as trade and migration, and provide opportunity for drawing a new image of the period of transition from the Yayoi to Kofun periods and the process of state formation.

In research concerning the technology of artifact production, there were studies of casting technology for bronze implements in the Kinki region, comprehensive research on wooden utensils, wooden implements, and civil engineering technology, and clarification of relations between settlements through bead-making.

In settlement research, in conjunction with research trends for interregional exchange, studies taking up settlement dynamics from the Late Yayoi to the start of the Kofun periods stood out, and aspects of the environment relevant to livelihood are being clarified, such as the vegetation enveloping settlements and the diversity of resource acquisition. In research on mounded tombs, the entire scope of the cemeteries at the Yoshinogari²¹ site in Saga prefecture was summarized.

In Yayoi period research, a tendency has been seen in recent years to reexamine the Yayoi period both as a temporal division and in terms of the concept of Yayoi culture from the vantage points of eastern Japan and East Asia. The relationship between these macro perspectives and Yayoi research in each region is regarded as an issue for the future.

As taken up in the section on trends in interdisciplinary research, radiocarbon dating with the AMS technique has been conducted in Yayoi period research for the string that suspended the tongue of a bronze bell (*dōtaku*).²² The regional characteristics and transitions in rice varieties were shown by combining the size,

²⁰ Morioka Hideto 森岡秀人 and the Paleological Association of Japan 古代学協会, eds., *Shoki nōkō katsudō to Kinki no Yayoi shakai* 初期農耕活動と近畿の弥生社会 (What was the early agricultural society in Kinki?) (Yūzankaku, 2018).

²¹ 吉野ヶ里

²² Sadamatsu Yoshie 定松佳重 et al., “Minami Awaji-shi Matsuho dōtaku no hōshasei tanso nendai sokutei chōsa seika ni tsuite” 南あわじ市松帆銅鐸の放射性炭素年代測定調査成果について (Regarding buried period of Matsuho Dōtaku), presented at the Dai 35-kai Nihon Bunkazai Kagakukai Taikai 日本文化財科学会第35大会 (Japan Society for Scientific Studies on Cultural Properties 35th Congress) (Nara Joshi Daigaku, 8 July 2018).

morphology, and DNA of rice seeds.²³ DNA analysis of human skeletal material recovered from the Aoya Kamijichi²⁴ site in Tottori prefecture was conducted, and the existence of an immigrant group was confirmed.²⁵ Nanba Yōzō is conducting an archaeological examination of *dōtaku*, coupled with lead isotope ratio analysis and high frequency inductively coupled plasma (ICP) analysis.²⁶

In Kofun period research trends, books were published bringing together comprehensive research on particular regions. This includes for example the second volume of the series *Kōza Kinai no kodaigaku* (Lectures in ancient studies of Kinai) edited by Hirose Kazuo and others.²⁷ It is anticipated that the archaeological matters discussed therein will be examined as to how they relate to Kinai of the ritsuryō period. In addition, at the JAA's 2018 Autumn Meeting, a session focusing on chiefs of the eastern provinces was held,²⁸ with debate taking as its subject the Late Kofun period tombs of the eastern part of the Tōkai region, at the border between eastern and western Japan.

In discussions of ceramics, pottery of the time of the emergence of Kofun period tombs and Korean-style pottery are drawing interest. In debate on settlements, the dynamics of settlements and tombs in Kyushu from the Final Yayoi to the Early Kofun periods were taken up, along with Kofun period settlements that were buried by volcanic ash.

In research on burial mounds, there were plentiful results seen of studies related to the production and distribution systems of *haniwa*, and examinations were made of funerary rites based on the expressions and arrangements of representational *haniwa*. In research on grave goods, there were analyses using 3D measurements of the mold marks, design motifs, and shapes of inscribed characters on bronze mirrors, and in studies of burial facilities, there were many symposia and special collections in journals on the theme of horizontal stone chambers. In research on mounds, there were studies of correspondences among the mound itself, the surface paving of cobbles, and the burial facilities, as well as research on building a

²³ Kamijō Nobuhiko 上條信彦, Tanaka Katsunori 田中克典, and Koizumi Shōta 小泉翔太, “Keitai/DNA bunseki kara mita shutsudo ine no rekishiteki henshen” 形態・DNA 分析からみた出土イネの歴史の変遷 (Historic transformation of the ancient rice from grain shape and DNA analysis), poster presented at the Dai 35-kai Nihon Bunkazai Kagakukai Taikai (Nara Joshi Daigaku, 7–8 July 2018).

²⁴ 青谷上寺地

²⁵ Shinoda Ken'ichi 篠田謙一, “DNA ga kataru Aoya no Yayojin” DNA が語る青谷の弥生人 (Yayoi people of Aoya revealed by DNA), presentation at the symposium “Wajin no shinjitsu: DNA/nendai/kankyō” 倭人の真実: DNA・年代・環境 (True image of the Wa people: DNA/chronology/environment), organized by the Tottori Prefecture Archaeological Center (Tottori, 2 March 2019).

²⁶ Nanba Yōzō 難波洋三, “Yayoi jidai no seidōki no en dōitaihi bunseki to ICP bunseki” 弥生時代の青銅器の鉛同位体比分析と ICP 分析 (Lead isotope analysis and ICP analysis of bronze artifacts in Yayoi period), *Maizō Bunkazai Nyūsu* 埋蔵文化財ニュース (CAO NEWS), no. 174 (2019): 16–25.

²⁷ Hirose Kazuo 広瀬和雄, Yamanaka Akira 山中章, and Yoshikawa Shinji 吉川真司, eds., *Kofun jidai no Kinai* 古墳時代の畿内 (Kinai of the Kofun Period), Vol. 2 of *Kōza Kinai no kodaigaku* 講座畿内の古代学 (Lectures in ancient studies of Kinai) (Yūzankaku, 2018).

²⁸ “Kofun jidai kōki kōhan no Tōgoku chiiki shuchō no shosō” 古墳時代後期後半の東国地域首長の諸相 (Aspects of chiefs of the Tōgoku region in the latter half of the Late Kofun period), session held at the Nihon Kōkogaku Kyōkai 2018 Nendo Shūki Taikai 日本考古学協会 2018 年度秋季大会 (JAA 2018 Autumn Meeting) (Shizuoka, 20 October 2018).

typology of the method of embankment.

In studies of handicraft production, the Tōhoku/Kantō Keyhole Tomb Research Society held its annual meeting on the theme of handicraft production and Kofun period society, and topics related to bead-making and iron production were the focus.²⁹

As site reports, there were publications for prominent sites such as the Early Kofun period Kurozuka mound in Nara prefecture,³⁰ and the Late Kofun period Kanai Higashiura site in Gunma prefecture where a man dressed in armor buried by ash from the volcanic eruption of Mt. Haruna³¹ was excavated.³²

As stated in the section on trends in interdisciplinary research, Uetsuki Manabu conducted a multifaceted study of cattle and horses from the Kofun period on, including the ratio of cattle to horses, size, paleopathology, breeding location, diet, age at death, and burial.³³

In research trends of the Ancient period, the Kōnin³⁴ earthquake in the interior portion of the Kantō region, and the Jōgan³⁵ earthquake in the Tōhoku region, were taken up as studies of natural disasters. Archaeological research on the history of natural disasters is a field with possible links to geology, seismology, and meteorology, and one in which archaeology can play a social role with regard to such contemporary issues as disaster prevention and mitigation.

In research on ancient capitals and regional government centers, studies of the latter were central. To commemorate the designation of the Hara Kanga³⁶ (government offices) site as a national Historic Site, a symposium was held on the theme of Asuka period government offices and regional society,³⁷ and conditions were clarified of seventh-century regional government centers, which have thus far eluded focus.

²⁹ “Shukōgyō seisan to Kofun jidai shakai” 手工業生産と古墳時代社会 (Handicraft industry production and Kofun period society), theme of the Dai 24-kai Tōhoku/Kantō Zenpōkōenfun Kenkyūkai Taikai 第24回東北・関東前方後円墳研究会大会 (24th Meeting, Tōhoku/Kantō Keyhole Tomb Research Society), held in Nanyō, Yamagata prefecture, 9–10 March 2019.

³⁰ Kashihara Kōkogaku Kenkyūjo 榎原考古学研究所 (Archaeological Institute of Kashihara), ed., *Kurozuka kofun no kenkyū* 黒塚古墳の研究 (Research on the Kurozuka tomb) (Yagi Shoten, 2018).

³¹ 榛名山

³² Gunma-ken Maizō Bunkazai Chōsa Jigyōdan 群馬県埋蔵文化財調査事業団 (Gunma Archaeological Research Foundation), ed., *Kanai Higashiura iseki, Kofun jidai hen* 金井東裏遺跡 古墳時代編 (Kanai Higashiura site, Kofun period volume) (Shibukawa, Gunma prefecture, 2019).

³³ Uetsuki Manabu 植月学, “Tōgoku ni okeru ushiuma no riyō” 東国における牛馬の利用 (The role of cattle and horses in eastern Japan), *Kikan kōkogaku* 季刊考古学 (Archaeology Quarterly), no. 144 (2018): 47–50.

³⁴ 弘仁 [Translator’s note: This earthquake occurred in the seventh month of the year Kōnin 9 (818), with the epicenter inferred to have been in the region of modern Gunma prefecture, and the magnitude estimated at M7.5 or greater.]

³⁵ 貞観 [Translator’s note: This earthquake occurred in the fifth month of the year Jōgan 11 (869), with the epicenter inferred to have been off the Pacific coast of the Tōhoku region, and the magnitude estimated as at least M8.4.]

³⁶ 幡羅官衙 (Saitama prefecture)

³⁷ “Asuka jidai no yakusho to chiiki shakai” 飛鳥時代の役所と地域社会 (Government offices and regional society of the Asuka period), symposium held by the city of Fukaya (Fukaya, Saitama prefecture, 10 November 2018).

Also, the annual Ancient Government Office/Settlement Research Meeting³⁸ was held on the theme of large brewing pots which are recovered from ancient government office and settlement sites, and issues involving the food supply facilities of capitals, government offices, and temples, along with large brewing pots, the brewing of sake in relation to the state and regional rule, and the sites of production and consumption of large brewing pots and so forth were discussed.

Excavations of ancient temples were conducted in conjunction with the management of Historic Sites. These include the Shimoterao³⁹ abandoned temple site in Kanagawa prefecture, the Teramachi⁴⁰ abandoned temple site in Hiroshima prefecture, the Shimotsuke Yakushiji⁴¹ temple site in Tochigi prefecture, and the Kōzuke Kokubun Niji⁴² temple site in Gunma prefecture. Also, with regard to Ancient period temples and roof tiles, there was research related to temples, roof tiles, and so forth in ancient Koma district of Musashi province,⁴³ and in the Dazaifu⁴⁴ regional government office complex.

In research on regions and settlements, there were studies of the transitions and dynamics of sites, piecing together regional views from the local roles, locations, and scenic perspectives of individual sites. Research is also being conducted on interpreting the movements of immigrant clans and of the Emishi,⁴⁵ based on sites and artifacts.

Regarding production, the topics of iron, charcoal, and horses were taken up, and there was research on ancient transportation through the collaboration of archaeology and historical geography, concerning post roads and regional network routes.

In ceramics research, there were many studies focusing mainly on regional topics and vessel types, and as research on artifacts, there was Yoshida Eiji's monograph *Bunbōgu ga kataru kodai Higashi Ajia* (Ancient East Asia as told by stationery).⁴⁶ This study looks over the ritsuryō state through the implements of stationery of Japan and East Asia, beginning with ceramic inkstones.

In research trends of the Medieval period, with regard to urban studies Ōba Kōji's monograph on the archaeology of Hakata was published,⁴⁷ containing basic research articles on the Hakata site. It touches on Tōbō and finds of items inscribed

³⁸ “Kanga, shūraku to ōmika” 官衙・集落と大甕 (Government offices, settlements, and large brewing pots), Dai 22-kai Kodai Kanga/Shūraku Kenkyū Shūkai 第22回古代官衙・集落研究集会 (22nd Ancient Government Office/Settlement Research Meeting), held by the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (Nara prefecture, 7–8 December 2018).

³⁹ 下寺尾

⁴⁰ 寺町

⁴¹ 下野薬師寺

⁴² 上野国分尼寺

⁴³ 武蔵国高麗郡 (Saitama prefecture)

⁴⁴ 大宰府 (Fukuoka prefecture)

⁴⁵ 蝦夷

⁴⁶ Yoshida Eiji 吉田恵二, *Bunbōgu ga kataru kodai Higashi Ajia* 文房具が語る古代東アジア (Ancient East Asia as told by stationery) (Douseisha, 2018).

⁴⁷ Ōba Kōji 大庭康時, *Hakata no kōkogaku: Chūsei no bōeki toshi o horu* 博多の考古学: 中世の貿易都市を掘る (The archaeology of Hakata: Excavating a Medieval trade city) (Koshi Shoin, 2019).

in ink with the character 綱,⁴⁸ and on trade ships, ports, and so forth. Oka Yōichirō's monograph on major roads in the Kamakura period was published.⁴⁹ It takes up the topic of ancient Medieval roads, centering on the Kamakura period, over which it is said that culture, goods, human traffic, and even *yōkai* (phantoms, goblins) came and went.

There was considerable research related to glazed stoneware and porcelain. With regard to Yuan blue and white ware, it was pointed out that importation most likely began from the middle portion of the fifteenth century, later than the time of its production. Also, it was noted that term 陶瓷 (Ch., *taoci*) often used for such special ceramics should not be confounded with the Japanese term for prestige goods (威信財 *ishinzaï*). Celadon *meiping* vases did have a great impact on the production of glazed ceramics in Japan, but rather than as tea ceremony utensils or interior decorative items, they are held to have been used as vessels for serving sake, along with sets of sake cups and decanters.

Regarding Medieval graves, a Medieval Funerary and Burial Customs Research Meeting⁵⁰ was held to synthesize work on the cessation of Medieval burial customs. Through holding such meetings and producing compilations of data on Medieval graves thus far, research has been deepened on topics such as the start and finish of Medieval burials, cremations, interment, burial mounds and shrines, and stone monuments. Also, for Medieval graves in Shizuoka prefecture, data for Medieval graves, Medieval and Early Modern daimyo graves, and major stone monuments of the Medieval period were published,⁵¹ listing the sites plus giving maps of locations and scale drawings, clarifying the characteristics of Medieval graves for the prefecture.

The Medieval Studies Society's second symposium was held on the Medieval period of the Ryūkyūs.⁵² This was conducted with the aim of inquiring into the facts pertaining to “the state” in the Medieval era while confirming the multi-nucleated and dispersed conditions of Ryūkyū society. Topics concerning the Ryūkyūs such as the Ryūkyū Kingdom and East Asia, and the history of the Ryūkyūs seen from its mortuary system were debated, with a high level of interest discernible.

As taken up in the section on trends in interdisciplinary research, a topographic survey of the environs of the Iwabitsu castle site was conducted using an airborne

⁴⁸ [Translator's note: Tōbō 唐房 was a quarter in the port city of Hakata where many Chinese merchants took up residence from the latter part of the eleventh century, participating in the trade between Song dynasty China and Japan. They were known in Japan as Kōshu 綱首 or Kōshi 綱司, and finds of ink-inscribed pottery with the character 綱 (*kō*) are associated with their activity.]

⁴⁹ Oka Yōichirō 岡陽一郎, *Daidō Kamakura jidai no kansen dōro* 大道 鎌倉時代の幹線道路 (Daidō, major roads of the Kamakura period) (Yoshikawa Kōbunkan, 2019).

⁵⁰ Chūsei Sōsō Bosei Kenkyūkai 中世葬送墓制研究会

⁵¹ Shizuoka-ken Kyōiku Inikai 静岡県教育委員会 (Shizuoka Prefecture Board of Education), ed., *Shizuoka-ken no Chū/Kinsei bo* 静岡県の中近世墓 (Medieval/Early Modern period graves of Shizuoka prefecture) (Shizuoka Prefecture, 2019).

⁵² “Ryūkyū no Chūsei” 琉球の中世 (The Medieval period of the Ryūkyūs), Chūseigaku Kenkyūkai Dai 2-kai Shinpojiumu 中世学研究会第2回シンポジウム (2nd Symposium, Medieval Studies Society) (Tōkyō Daigaku, 30 June–1 July 2018).

lidar survey system,⁵³ and along with the scenery, location, rivers and roads surrounding the castle, its enclosures and the cross-sectional form of its moats were ascertained.

In research trends for Early Modern archaeology, as a half century has passed since Nakagawa Shigeo and Katō Shinpei raised a proposal in 1969 for Early Modern archaeology,⁵⁴ a commemorative research meeting on the theme of Early Modern sake and banquets was held jointly by the Edo Archaeological Site Research Society, Kansai Early Modern Archaeological Research Society, and Early Modern Ceramics Research Society.⁵⁵

In research on castles, the foundation of the main keep of Sunpu⁵⁶ castle in Shizuoka prefecture was investigated, and from strata beneath the foundation built by Tokugawa Ieyasu,⁵⁷ a foundation of the main keep of Nakamura Kazuji⁵⁸ of the Toyotomi⁵⁹ era was excavated.

Regarding castle towns, at the daimyo residence in Edo (Toyamasō⁶⁰) of the Owari domain's Tokugawa family,⁶¹ the scenery of the garden was discussed as analysis was made of the large pond and garden path. For daimyo gardens, there was research by Hara Yūichi on the Ikutokuen garden at the main mansion in Edo of the Kaga domain.⁶² For townhouses, there was research taking up the townhouse residences of Osaka and elsewhere.

For sites related to production, Sasaki Kensaku's *Sengoku, Edo jidai o sasaeta ishi* (Stones that supported the Edo and Sengoku periods) was published.⁶³ Summarizing the Medieval and Early Modern procedures at Odawara of quarrying, processing, and supplying stone material, for the Early Modern period, the

⁵³ Yoshikawa Yuriko 吉川由里子, Yoshida Tomoya 吉田智哉, and Oshino Hirohito 押野博仁, "Kōkū rēza sokuryō shisutemu o mochiita Iwabitsu jōseki shūhen chikei no keisoku shuhō no kentō" 航空レーザ測量システムを用いた岩櫃城周辺地形の計測手法の検討 (Investigation of terrain measurement around Iwabitsu castle site with LiDAR system), presented at the Dai 35-kai Nihon Bunkazai Kagakukai Taikai (Nara Joshi Daigaku, 8 July 2018).

⁵⁴ Nakagawa Shigeo 中川茂夫, Katō Shinpei 加藤晋平, "Kinsei kōkogaku no teishō" 近世考古学の提唱 (Proposal for Early Modern archaeology), presented at the Nihon Kōkogaku Kyōkai Dai 35-kai Sōkai 日本考古学協会第35回総会 (JAA 35th General Meeting) (Tokyo, 1969).

⁵⁵ "Kinsei no sake to utage" 近世の酒と宴 (Early Modern sake and banquets), commemorative research meeting on the 50th anniversary of the "Proposal for Early Modern archaeology," jointly held by (the Edo Iseki Kenkyūkai 江戸遺跡研究会 (Edo Archaeological Site Research Society), Kansai Kinsei Kōkogaku Kenkyūkai 関西近世考古学研究会 (Kansai Early Modern Archaeological Research Society), and Kinsei Tōji Kenkyūkai 近世陶磁研究会 (Early Modern Ceramics Research Society) (Ōsaka Rekishi Hakubutsukan, Osaka, 9–11 February 2019).

⁵⁶ 駿府

⁵⁷ 徳川家康

⁵⁸ 中村一氏

⁵⁹ 豊臣

⁶⁰ 戸山荘

⁶¹ 尾張藩徳川家

⁶² Hara Yūichi 原祐一, "Kagahan Hongōtei Ikutokuen no kenkyū 1" 加賀藩本郷邸育徳園の研究 1 (Research on Ikutokuen at the Kaga Domain's Hongō mansion 1), poster presented at the Dai 84-kai Kōkogaku Kyōkai 2018 Nendo Sōkai (Meiji Daigaku, 27 May 2018).

⁶³ Sasaki Kensaku 佐々木健策, *Sengoku, Edo jidai o sasaeta ishi: Odawara no ishiriki to seisan iseki* 戦国・江戸時代を支えた石: 小田原の石切と生産遺跡 (Stones that supported the Edo and Sengoku periods: The stone masons and production sites of Odawara) (Shinsensha, 2019). 下寺尾官衛遺跡群 アクセス

Kanpakuzawa branch of the Hayakawa stone quarry group⁶⁴ and work for the construction of Edo castle are taken up.

Regarding glazed ceramics, Ōhashi Kōji discussed the position of Hizen ceramics in Early Modern society.⁶⁵

For burial customs, regarding the topic of Christian graves which has been gathering attention in recent years, a special exhibition on the 469 years of Christianity in Japan was jointly held by the museums of Kokugakuin University and Seinan University.⁶⁶

For archaeology of the Modern and contemporary periods, at the JAA's 2018 General Meeting, Kuroo Kazuhisa made a presentation on excavations at the site of the Zenshōen Sanatorium in Tokyo.⁶⁷ This will likely open up a new horizon of investigations into Hansen's disease-related remains in the archaeology of the Modern period.

As stated in the section on trends in interdisciplinary research, Sawafuji Rikai has conducted DNA analysis⁶⁸ on dental calculus from human skeletal remains at the Unkōin⁶⁹ site in Tokyo, and further advancements in this research are anticipated for the future.

For overseas archaeology, research trends are taken up regarding the Korean peninsula, China, Southeast Asia, and Northeast Asia.⁷⁰ Here I will touch briefly on matters that are particularly related to Japanese archaeology.

In trends for the Korean peninsula, much research was seen comparing artifacts and features of the peninsula and the Japanese archipelago, in order to examine the lines of derivation of artifacts and features in Japan. Japanese researchers carried out surveys and field investigations in South Korea, while joint projects and symposia were reportedly conducted by Japanese and Korean researchers.

Meanwhile, for trends in Chinese research, in recent years the influence of Western archaeology appears to be increasing in the academic realm of Chinese archaeology, and Japan's archaeological research on China is said to be under

⁶⁴ Hayakawa Ishichōba-gun, Kanpakuzawa shigun 早川石丁場群関白沢支群 (Kanagawa prefecture)

⁶⁵ Ōhashi Kōji 大橋康二, Hizen tōji kara mita Kinsei shakai 肥前陶磁からみた近世社会 (The early modern society from the viewpoints of Hizen ceramics), *Kōkogaku jōnanu* 考古学ジャーナル, no. 715 (2018): 5–8.

⁶⁶ “Kirishitan: Nihon to Kirisutokyō no 469 nen” キリシタン: 日本とキリスト教の469年 (KIRISHITAN: Christians in hiding), special exhibit (Kokugakuin Daigaku Hakubutsukan 國學院大學博物館 [Kokugakuin University Museum], Tokyo, 15 September–28 October 2018; Seinan Gakuin Daigaku Hakubutsukan 西南学院大学博物館 [Seinan Gakuin University Museum], Fukuoka, 2 November–13 December 2018).

⁶⁷ Kuroo Kazuhisa 黒尾和久, “Kakuri no kioku o horu: Zenshō Byōin no hori, dorui, tsukiyama no kōkogakuteki chōsa” 隔離の記憶を掘る: 全生病院の堀・土塁、築山の考古学的調査 (Digging the memories of segregation: Archaeological investigation of the moats, ramparts, and artificial hill of Zenshō Hospital), presented at the Nihon Kōkogaku Kyōkai 2018 Nendo Sōkai (Meiji Daigaku, 27 May 2018).

⁶⁸ Sawafuji Rikai 澤藤りかい, “Shiseki no seibutsugaku kōkogaku: DNA to puroteomikusu o chūshin ni” 歯石の生物考古学: DNAとプロテオミクスを中心に (The bioarchaeology of dental calculus: DNA, proteomics and starch analysis), *Kikan kōkogaku*, no. 143 (2018): 80–83.

⁶⁹ 雲光院

⁷⁰ [Translator's note: The reference is to the sections appearing on pp. 37–53 of *Nihon kōkogaku nenpō*, reporting on research trends for these four regions for the 2018 fiscal year.]

demands to broadcast its achievements more vigorously than before both domestically and abroad.

In trends for Southeast Asian research, while some excavations are being conducted for prehistoric periods, on the whole there appears to be more research centered on ceramics of the Medieval to Early Modern periods, or discussing relations with Okinawa. This is probably linked with the research trends for the Medieval and Early Modern periods of Japan.

With regards to research trends for Northeast Asia, in relation to the Japanese archipelago there was research on the appearance of modern man in northern Asia and the stone tool assemblages of the initial phase of the Upper Paleolithic period, on the appearance of stone tools in Northeast Asia, on the prehistoric period starting with studies of the earliest agriculture, on the culture of Hiraizumi and castles of the Medieval Tōhoku region, on the circum-Okhotsk Sea region, and on relations with peoples of northern regions.

In this manner, trends in research in the peripheral regions around the Japanese archipelago appear to be deeply connected with the directions of Japanese archaeology of recent years, which has been pursuing connections with the surrounding regions and the diversity of the archipelago.

Through the above, with regards to the overall directions of Japanese archaeological research for the 2018 fiscal year, I have discussed in outline the trends for each period in turn. As touched upon for the research trends of the Paleolithic, Jōmon, and Yayoi periods, with the nature of the various cultures that developed within the Japanese archipelago becoming clear, we appear to be arriving at a time for reexamining the very concept of culture itself.

Regarding the diversity of the archipelago's culture, it goes without saying that there are a variety of aspects such as the three cultures of the north, center, and south following Fujimoto Tsuyoshi,⁷¹ or "eastern Japan and western Japan," or in even more finely drawn regional subdivisions. Both Hokkaido, as the "culture of the north," and Amami/Okinawa, as the "culture of the south," possess their own unique realms surpassing the notion of particular regional cultures of the archipelago.

As seen in the research trends of the areas surrounding the Japanese archipelago, we can discern a movement for thinking about the archipelago's culture in the context of Asia, which is related to clarification of Japan's internal cultural diversity. Along with this, there is movement to consider the archipelago's position in global context, and to consider it from the viewpoint of comparative archaeology.

In research trends for each era, interest in the points of transition seems to be on the increase, or to state this differently, it appears that the concept of era has come to be questioned anew.

⁷¹ Fujimoto Tsuyoshi 藤本強, *Nihon rettō no mitsu no bunka: Kita no bunka, naka no bunka, minami no bunka* 日本列島の三つの文化: 北の文化・中の文化・南の文化 (The three cultures of the Japanese archipelago: Cultures of the north, center, and south) (Douseisha, 2009).

Archaeology in Japan has thus far pursued a consistent path of taking a view of the archipelago as a whole, based upon steady investigations and research conducted in every region. How to relate the results of archaeological investigations and research in each region with the archaeology of the archipelago as a whole, and then how to situate that view in a global context, are vital problems that must be explored in the future.

Also, Japanese archaeology is in the midst of broad currents of diversification in 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 in research beginning with chronological measurements, ancient environmental and climatic reconstructions, and dietary analyses.

In addition to this expansion of subject matter brought by the diversification in methodology, investigations and research have come to be conducted on topics which conventional archaeology rarely handled, such as Modern period and contemporary sites. How research and education will respond with regards to such trends in Japanese archaeology are important issues for the future.