

Thursday, 7 June (Morning)

Venue: Museum

Title of Session:

Seafaring and long-distance interactions in ancient East Asia

Organizers:

Uozu Tomokatsu (Otemae University), Randall J. Sasaki (Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University), Nakamura Daisuke (Saitama University)

Session Abstract

In the early 20th century a German ethnologist Kurt von Boeckmann has defined that cultural realms of the sea falls into four categories; fishery culture, seaborne culture, naval culture, and culture of maritime arts. The sea has provided seafood, routes for trade, colonization and war, and also provided inspiration of human creative genius (such as literature, music and fine art) throughout the long history of mankind.

In the region of East Asia, a line of islands including Japanese archipelago, Ryukyu Islands and Taiwan creates a partially enclosed sea from the Pacific Ocean, like the Mediterranean Sea. This marginal sea, comprising Japan Sea (the East Sea), Yellow Sea and East China Sea, led to numerous historical and cultural connection between the societies located around its shore in ancient times. These societies shared common cultural background such as rice cultivation, Buddhism and using Chinese characters under strong influence of Chinese civilization on one hand, but they also exhibited rich regional diversity on the other hand. This region goes from the Subtropical to Subarctic Zones, so there is a wide range of ecological conditions that led to regional characteristics. In addition, this region is adjacent to the realm of Austronesian-speaking peoples in the Tropical Zone, the realm of the Northern Peoples such as Aleut and Tungus in the Arctic Zone, and the realm of nomads in the Eurasian steppe and desert climates. Such geographical condition of the marginal sea region has been a source of historical and cultural dynamism in East Asia.

This session showcases papers about the archaeology of seafaring and long-distance interactions in the marginal sea region in East Asia. It may include papers of a wide array of topics and themes such as fishing, seafaring technology, migration, warfare, cultural exchange and maritime art.

Timetable

9:00~9:10: Session introduction

9:10~9:30: Tomokatsu Uozu: "Hakata Bay trade" and the beginning of burial iron tools in the Kofun period

9:30~9:50: Nakamura Daisuke: Trade innovation between coastal region and inland in Northeast China

9:50~10:10: Tomoko Nagatomo: The technological communication and migration through an inland sea -Beginning of the iron implements production in Kinki Area-

10:10~10:30: Randall J. SASAKI The Archaeological Studies on Two Mongol Invasion Sites – Japan and Vietnam

10:30~10:45 Tea & Coffee

10:45~12:30: Discussion

Abstracts

"Hakata Bay trade" and the beginning of burial iron tools in the Kofun period

Tomokatsu Uozu
(Otemae University, Japan)

How was the society of the Kofun period formed? What kind of social meaning did have buried various iron tools in Japanese keyhole tombs? The author has thought that the key to solving this problem is long-distance sea exchange which increased rapidly from the latter Yayoi period to the beginning of the Kofun period.

First, development of "Hakata Bay trade" hypothesis which is a typical sea exchange in this time is retrospect. And, the author considers how it can be analyzed from archaeological materials.

Secondly, the aspect of iron tools production in this time is investigated. Introduced ironware and advanced forging are established along coastal areas of Genkai-nada (the north Kyushu), Setonaikai inland sea and the Sea of Japan. This is in stark contrast to the method of making iron tools which developed in the Middle Kyushu area.

Moreover, the situation of burial iron goods in the formation of keyhole tombs is reexamined. The author's idea is that the "rule" of burial iron goods was formed just before the establishment of stereotyped keyhole mounds. This "rule" was not something single, but plural "rules" in the beginning was integrated gradually. These "rules" may not that Kinki area established monopolistically at first, but centripetal force of the Kinki area fixed from some stages in the former Kofun period.

The conclusions are below: the formation of the Kofun society can smoothly understand as a result of accomplishment in the social network symbolized by "Hakata-wan trade" from the situation of practical ironwork. Advance of the smithery is also one of the results raised by the developed trade between Korean peninsula and Japanese archipelago. But it can't also be denied that there is a gap to the development of the "rules" of the burial goods only with this. The redistribution hypothesis of the prestige goods adopted by some researchers on the Kofun period is one of the solutions for burying this gap. However, if this phenomenon can be understood as the formation of the social capital which accompanied the network, many matters will be explained.

Trade innovation between coastal region and inland in Northeast China

Daisuke Nakamura
(Saitama University)

At about 10-9th century BC, people of Xiajiadian Upper Culture (XUC) which is distributed in north part of Liaoxi area has started horse riding, besides they could do long distance trade with people of Baijimbao Culture in the Songnen plain which is

700km away. Beside, their symbolic bronze implement are accepted in cultures of Liaodong inland. These cultures were located in inland, however, also the influence extend to cultures in the coastal region.

People of Shuangtuozi III Culture (about 10-9th century BC) in Liaodong peninsula used I-shaped bone fishhooks by tradition. However, after influence of XUC in bronze trade and making, bone fishhooks change from I-shaped to J-shape while coexisting momentarily. Although J-shaped hooks are not confirmed in XUC, they appeared as stone molds in Yanshang area at about 13th century BC which is influenced by Northern Bronze Culture earlier than XUC. In addition, at 6th century BC, bronze fishhooks and their molds appeared in the Liaodong Peninsula and inland. Some of them are large size of 6-7cm. Since large size hooks are unnecessary in inland fishing, it seems that large size J-shaped fishhooks in inland were made for supplying to coastal regions.

By the way, since harnesses and carriages appeared in Liaodong inland at 6th century BC, it seems that the use of horses spread at that time. The breeding of horses requires salts, however there are no salt lakes in Liaodong inland, differently from northern part of Liaoxi. Therefore, it is suspected that people in inland started to obtain salts from coastal regions by exchanging bronze fishhooks directly in addition to raw materials of bronze. Besides, in the southern part of Liaoxi and Liaodong, ornaments of marine products such as shrimp and ray appear in addition to animal-shaped ornaments which common with steppes. Considering it and commonality of pottery between Liaodong inland and peninsula, they show that frequency of exchange is higher at that time.

In conclusion, the starting of use of horses varies not only inland exchange, but also exchange between inland and coastal region. The content of "Book of Han" which salts was specialty of Liaodong area might be originated from the change at that time.

The technological communication and migration through an inland sea -Beginning of the iron implements production in Kinki Area-

Tomoko Nagatomo
(Otani University)

In Japanese archipelago, Iron implements and simple forging technology appeared in Yayoi period. After the introduction of iron implements, material of tools changed from stone to iron at first. Besides, manufacturing of many artifacts and specialization, such as wooden tools and jasper beads also changed.

Stone implements disappeared until the middle stage of late Yayoi period almost at the same time, almost all over the Japanese archipelago excluding Southern Kyushu. However the beginning process of forging was not same in Japanese archipelago. There were much iron implements and high technique in Northern Kyushu, Sanin and Setouchi area where are geographically near Korean peninsula. In contrast to these, there were little iron implements and low technique in Kinki area where is the center of social complication in Japanese archipelago and more eastern region like Kanto area.

Thereupon, I will examine by comparing the different beginning process of forging between Kyusyu area which is nearest Korean peninsula and Kinki area which becomes the center of Japanese archipelago in Kofun period. In this presentation, I will focus on

the role of iron implements for manufacturing and specialization of daily artifact including migration of people who have technique of forging through inner and outer sea.

The Archaeological Studies on Two Mongol Invasion Sites – Japan and Vietnam

Randall J. Sasaki
(Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University)

The story of the 13th century Mongol Invasion of Japan and the fabled storm known as *Kamikaze* that destroyed the invading fleet became a popular tale. This was a significant event in Japanese history and it has shaped the ethos of later Japanese society. On the other hand, the Mongol Invasion of Vietnam has yet to gain much attention, considering the fact that the battle at Bach Dang River is regarded a symbol of national independence. It is recorded that Vietnamese General Tran Hung Dao devised an ingenious strategy to destroy the Mongol navy by setting up traps of wooden stakes along rivers to immobilize enemy's ship.

For long, the only means of studying these events was through reading historical documents. However, recent technological advancements led to the discovery and new method of aiding in interpreting the ancient battles. Underwater archaeological research has been conducted at Takashima Underwater Site of Nagasaki Japan for three decades and the site has yielded hull remains of possible Chinese ships. The hull and artifacts uncovered at the site illustrate a vivid story of the invasion. In Vietnam, the Bach Dang River Survey Project was initiated in 2009. This project aims to reconstruct the battle-field through the remains of above-mentioned wooden stakes which was part of the trap set up by the Vietnamese General. This research reveals that human utilized their profound knowledge of a river system to their benefit even to alter the course of history.

These two sites, Takashima Underwater Site of Nagasaki and Back Dang River Battle Site of Vietnam, share many similarities but also exhibit marked differences. Because of their historical proximity, the sites can provide excellent case for a comparative study and any further research at both sites should be examined closely together.