
Bronze Ware Production System in the Late Yayoi Period in the Kinki Region

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In examining the bronze production system of the Late Yayoi Period, I have adopted a different policy from previous studies by focusing on casting tools, which have rarely been the topic of discussion. As a premise of the research, the amount of metal material to be melted in the blower tube and the crucible, which were difficult to assume as the target products among the casting tools, was derived by focusing on the hole diameter and bowl capacity, respectively, and classified into two major categories: for large and small products. In addition to this broad classification, based on the correlation between the lineage of casting tools in the Middle Period and the Dotaku group, I examined casting tools in the Late Period and found that the production of small bronze vessels in the Late Period developed while drawing on the technical lineage of multiple lines of Dotaku production in the Late Middle Period. In addition, with reference to the use of crucibles with different bowl capacities and the production of bronze vessels in other regions, I considered that there were cases of large bronze vessels, bronze bells, and small bronze vessels, which were assumed to have been produced under different production systems, being made at the same casting site. Furthermore, the fact that late casting tools capable of melting large quantities of metal material are found prominently in the northern Osaka Plain and the distribution of Kinki Dotaku suggest the possibility that Kinki Dotaku, which were previously thought to be produced only on the southern shore of Lake Biwa, had multiple production sites, and that B-series Kinki Dotaku were made in the northern Osaka Plain.

Key word: Yayoi period, Bronze ware production, Kinki region, Blower tube, Crucible