

## **Ironworking and Availability of Ironwares East of the Kinki Region**

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In recent years, attention has increasingly focused on the uniqueness of eastern Japan, where, despite its geographical distance from the Korean Peninsula, the place of origin of iron materials, a large number of iron vessels are recognized and the existence of special-order and specially made vessels has been pointed out. However, the actual situation in this region, which has been studied based on the analysis of specific types of vessels and materials, is unclear in many areas. Therefore, in this paper, we conducted a cross-sectional and exhaustive analysis of excavated materials based on the analysis of ironworking remains and technological perspectives in order to understand the actual conditions of ironworking and procurement in the Yayoi period east of the Kinki region. As a result, we found that: 1) the distribution density of ironworking sites east of the Kinki region is lower than in western Japan, and that some of them were not operated at high temperatures; 2) the highest density of ironworking sites east of the Kinki region is in the central Kinki region, while no ironworking sites can be recognized in the Tokai and Kanto regions until the transition to the Kofun period; and 3) iron arrowheads in the central Kinki region were mostly forged. (3) Iron arrowheads in the Kinki Central region were mostly forged, while those in the Chubu Highland and Kanto regions were mostly cut. The following aspects of the ironworking remains were revealed. The aspects of the iron tool production remains and the forming technique of iron arrowheads suggest that active forging was practiced, and since most of the plate iron axes are thin in the central Kinki region, it is possible that large iron tools such as iron axes were produced in the region. On the other hand, in the Chubu Highlands and Kanto region, where iron tool production sites are limited and many iron arrowheads were formed by cutting, it can be assumed that iron tool processing was conducted mainly by cutting, and thick plate iron axes and iron swords, which require advanced processing techniques for production, may have been brought in. In the central Kinki region, where iron tools made with simplified techniques are prominent, it is thought that they focused on obtaining iron materials and actively used iron tools made in the region. On the other hand, the Chubu Highlands and Kanto region, where most large iron tools were made with advanced techniques, were highly dependent on imported goods and may be interpreted as having made efforts to obtain iron tools made into products.

Key words: Yayoi period, Areas east of the Kinki region, Ironworking Technology, obtaining ironware

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