Lacquer Ware Techniques of the Jōmon Period

— A Study of the Rantai Lacquer Ware (Lacquered Bamboo Bowls) of Tōhoku Prefecture —

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The paper discusses Japanese Lacquer Ware Techniques during the Jōmon Period. Japanese Lacquer Ware was known to have existed in ancient times mainly from excavations at sites in the Tōhoku area characteristic of the Final Jōmon Period, for example at Korekawa and Kamegaoka. Meanwhile recent excavations have revealed that Japanese Lacquer Ware Techniques has spread through the country over a vast area in earlier periods. For example from the Torihama Shellmound in Fukui Prefecture, many pieces of Japanese Lacquer Ware of the Early Jōmon Period have been excavated. Moreover an abundance of remains from Junoh Site in Saitama Prefecture show the highly developed Japanese Lacquer Ware of the Middle to Final Period.

However, very little research has been done on the Japanese Lacquer Ware of the Jōmon Period and much has to be revealed. Taking the current state of research into consideration, in the first part of the paper, an overall analysis of the Japanese Lacquer Ware Techniques during the Jōmon Period, mainly focussing on the technical features is attempted. The latter part of the paper presents the results of a scientific study of a few pieces of typical Final Jōmon Rantai Lacquer Ware excavated in the Tōhoku area.

Japanese Lacquer Ware techniques are systematic, comprehensive techniques, a close study would reveal age and culture during the Jōmon Period. This is where the significance of this paper

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