"Kizamime-Tottaimon Ware" (Wares with Incised Plastic band)

Found in the Western Part of Kyūsū

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Included in the earthenwares in the period when the paddy farming was started in Japan is a ware with incised plastic band. The representative pottery of this kind is a jar type pottery (a cooking tool) found mainly in the Western Japan, west of the districts along the Ise Bay. As the distinctive features, it is a deep bowl, and has incised patterns: the plastic bands are adhered at the mouth and the outer surface of its body, and then the plastic bands are incised using a finger or spatula. This is a pot positioned at the transition period from the Jōmon period of the culture of gathering and hunting to the Yayoi period of the culture of paddy farming. When dealing with the issues of the transition period, it is quite important where to position this ware. For example, when the division of the times is discussed, such as when the Yayoi period starts, a different conclusion may be drawn depending on the assumption whether this ware is regarded to belong to the Jōmon pottery or this ware is regarded to belong to the Yayoi pottery. The western Kyūsū (Fukuoka Prefecture, Saga Prefecture, Nagasaki Prefecture, Kumamoto Prefecture and Kagoshima Prefecture) is known as the district where the paddy farming had been started in the first place. It is an important fundamental work to put in order the chronological researches on the wares with incised plastic band found in these districts in order to carry on the studies on the start of the Yayoi period.

In this paper, attentions were given to the decorative patterns on the mouth and on the body of the jar and six forms were set up. Then, each form was classified into 5 types based on the six attributes (a method to incise patterns, positions to adhere the pastic band around the mouth, the form of the pots, the sizes or the clay bands at the mouth and on the body, surface adjustment of pots and clay band adjustment). As a result, the beginning and the end of the first half of the Yayoi period (approx. BC400~BC100) can be divided into five stages. Period I: a period the pottery with the incised plastic band was born and spread;
the pottery of this kind appeared in the Western Kyūsyū under the influence of the Setouchi and Kinki districts. On that occasion, Nijō-kame unique to this district was born.

Period II: Nijō-kame born in the Western Kyūsyū appeared also in the Setouchi and Kinki districts. Based on this phenomenon, it can be assumed that the paddy farming had been started even in the Setouchi and Kinki districts.

Period III: Itaduke-Ongagawa wares were born in the coastal districts of the Genkai-nada in the Western Kyūsyū (the district from Karatsu-city, Saga Prefecture to Fukuoka-city, Fukuoka Prefecture) and the distribution was expanded. In some regions of the Western Japan from Kyūsyū to Kinki district, the pottery with the incised plastic band almost disappeared, but continued in other regions.

Period IV: In the Setouchi district where the pottery with the incised plastic band had disappeared in the period III, the pottery with the incised plastic band reappeared.

Period V: The style of the pottery of this period onward developed further based on the patterns of potteries born in the various regions, as a result of the interchanges of the pottery with the incised plastic band born in the period I and Itaduke-Ongagawa wares born in the period III.

It is possible to vividly reproduce the circumstances how the Yayoi culture, a period of the agriculture unique to Japan, was born and developed in the dissension of the culture introduced from the Asian Continent and the conventional Jōmon culture, if the pottery with the incised plastic band is confrontally positioned with the pottery of Itaduke-Ongagawa wares.