Sakura and Edo
—Local Features from the Viewpoint of Tile-type and Unglazed Potteries in the Early Modern Period—

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A Full picture of Edo from the viewpoint of archaeology has been gradually clarified, thanks to the excavations conducted mainly in the center of the city. In particular, reconstruction of the common people's lives, and a comparative study of the samurai (warriors) and common people, have become widespread by means of pottery. The pottery of the Edo period is classified into ceramics, which were extensively distributed over a large area, and tile-type and unglazed potteries, which was produced in various localities. Pottery to be selected as material for historical study depends on the subject. In this study, "Horoku", or plate-type earthenware for parching sesame seeds or beans, was used to investigate the difference in the level of daily life between Edo, which was the largest consumer city in the Edo period, and the castle town of Fudai-Daimyo (daikyo in hereditary vassalage to the Tokugawas) located near Edo. Since the bottom of Horoku was so thinly made, it is thought that they were not fit for transportation, and that they were produced in various localities, with very small trading areas. Therefore, by investigating local colors seen with the Horoku, it is possible to know the extent of its trading area. Also, as it is estimated that Horoku was manufactured to meet the level of local life and cooking facilities such as hearth and furnace, it may be effective as material to investigate the actual living conditions in various localities of the period.

Analysis has shown that the shift from hearth to furnace was considerably delayed in Sakura, when compared with the city of Edo. It was also found that there were Kansai workers who had been reportedly invited from the Kansai district in the 17th century, together with workers who had lived in and around Edo since the Medieval Age, and they were competing each other to meet the needs of consumers. The local workers, who surpassed the Kansai workers in number, were responsible for the greater part of production in Sakura. Their relationship with the historical potters' group in the Shimousa Area deserves special attention. The
regional differences seen in the boiling utensils of the Edo period reflect the living conditions of the time. This is a very hopeful theme of study with some relationship to the living conditions of the Jomon and Yayoi periods, in which I specialize.