Clay Figurines in Bending Posture
to the West of the Kantō District
—— Notes on their local features ——

Isomae Jun'ichi

The religious relics of the Kamegaoka Culture were identified as to type and attributes by manipulating the commonness and exclusivity of the materials, physical characteristics, and expression of patterns, which are the main deciding factors of a culture, and considering the relationship between the various styles. This suggests that the society, at that time, had a unified intention which ran through the various religious relics, and that there might have existed some kind of structure. In the Kamegaoka Culture, with its basic structure common to the whole Tōhoku District, each sub-area therein attempted to reform the components of its basic structure, and to show an originality unique to that sub-area.

On the other hand, though the structure of religious relics in the Kantō District had a lot in common with the Kamegaka Culture, the difference between it and the Tōhoku District was larger than the differences among the various sub-areas of the Tōhoku District. So far, eight clay figurines in bending posture have been excavated from six sites to the west of the Kantō District. These clay figurines show a trend similar to those of the Tōhoku District in the later and final period, but the final assessment should perhaps be discussed based on their position in the cultural structure of the Kantō or Kinki Districts.