Research History of Faunal Remains in the Japanese Archaeology

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Archaeology in Japan is said to have started with the discovery and excavation of the Omori Shell Mound by Edward S. Morse, an American who came to Japan in 1877. Since Morse was a zoologist, he took an interest in the shellfishes in the shell mound. (The author wonders if Morse was really looking for brachiopods.) Morse ascertained that *Anadara granosa* Linné, which was fortunately found in a great amount in the Shell Heap, did not live on the contemporary Omori Seashore. This fact alone proved conclusively that the formation of the shell mound could be traced back to remote antiquity. He further wished to compare the number of radial stripes in *Anadara granosa* Linné with that of contemporary shellfish, but he was forced to give up this attempt due to failure to collect as many samples as he wished. As for other fishbones and animal bones, he could do nothing more than list names of species. He was more attracted by the artistic Jōmon pottery he had never seen before, and left sketches with a biological touch, which make a great impression on modern archaeologists who love pottery.

After Morse returned to his country, some interested scholars tackled the research of the shell mound though they had never had opportunity to learn directly from Morse. While grieving about their lack of Morse's scholarship, they soon aquired his level of knowledge by themselves. A picture book of shellfishes excavated from the shell mound was completed in (1895). Young researchers of the department of zoology identified and reported on the faunal remains of the shell mound.

At that time, MATSUMOTO Hikoshichirō and HASEBE Kotondo, together with a little later NAORA Nobuo, worked mainly on animal bones. MATSUMOTO and NAORA approached the subject from the viewpoint of fossil mammalogy, and HASEBE applied physical anthropology to his study. It was NAORA who was the closest to archaeology, but even he was some way off. SAKAZUME Nakao was one of those who attempted to make a thorough investigation of shellfishes of the shell mound from the viewpoint of archaeology. SAKAZUME, however, basically applied the methodology for fossil shells: therefore, he thought that identification of species was enough for fishbones and animal bones. ŌYAMA Katura classified the shellfishes of the shell mound from the standpoint of conchology. OHGYU Tadasi, attempted to look at the shell mound from an archaeological point of view, but his research went no further than fishbones. When research on the shell mound was just getting under way, the Ōyama Archaeological Institute, which was a center for the research, lost everything in the war, and the mammalian fossil laboratory to which NAORA belonged was also destroyed by fire during the war.