End of Kofun in Tōtoumi, Suruga and Izu Regions

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In this paper, the end of tumuli in Tōtoumi, Suruga and Izu, namely the present Shizuoka Prefecture, is examined from the viewpoint of keyhole-shaped tumuli and group tumuli.

I. Later keyhole-shaped Tumuli and their End

Data on a total of 51 keyhole-shaped tumuli (35 in Tōtoumi, 13 in Suruga, and 3 in Izu), including those of the second half of the Middle Tumuli Period, are collected and analyzed. If when we classify tumuli by size, we consider that those with a total length of up to 30m are small, and those with a total length of over 30m are large, then Tōtoumi is characterized by a uniform smallness of size: only three of the tumuli there belong to the category of large tumuli. In Suruga, however, the continuous building of large tumuli is conspicuous. The change of size seems to affect the internal structure; in Tōtoumi, the tunnel-type, wood-cored clay room and tunnel-type stone room spread as a general trend with the Kinai-type grave construction technique, while Suruga, for keyhole-shaped tumuli to be included, was obviously lagged behind. In Tōtoumi, it became a common phenomenon in the group tumuli which were formed in the first half of the 6th Century or later. When the above specific aspects of the end of the keyhole-shaped tumuli in the 6th Century are examined through an analysis of several tumuli group, it becomes clear that these were largely restricted by the manner of building chief’s grave-type tumuli in the second half of the 5th century. It has been confirmed that the keyhole-shaped tumuli ended in the first half of the 6th century, and here we can see a strong social control.

II. End of Group Tumuli

In this section, the author overviews the larger group tumuli which were constructed in various areas in the first half of the 6th century or later, by dividing them into 8 tumuli groups in Tōtoumi, 7 tumuli groups in Suruga, and 3 tumuli groups in Izu. He also extracts and analyzes 14 tumuli groups which were part of the end of tumuli groups in the mid-8th Century. As a result, 3 types of group become clear, which can be understood by showing the local features of each area. The end can be recognized by two epoch-making events. The first one was in the mid-7th Century, and remarkable in Tōtoumi; grave construction activities, which had continued since the 6th Century, came to a stop all at once. The second one was in the mid-8th century, when people in Tōtoumi and Izu were almost simultaneously separated from the tumuli. Each of these events may have been a local version of the penetration into the family chiefs’ class of the statutory order brought about by political reform after the “Ōfube no Ō Accident”. 