The Formation Process of Onga River-type Jars in Kinki
—Yayoi jars from Settsu, Kawachi and Yamato—

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This paper will explain the process by which Yayoi jars emerged in places such as Settsu, Kawachi and Yamato in central Kinki. Yayoi jars are new jars that appeared in the Early Yayoi period in various areas of western Japan. Up until now they have mainly been referred to as Itazuke-type, Onga River-type and Onga River-style jars. In an earlier examination of Yayoi jars from northern Kyushu through to central Setouchi, I have shown that there are three different varieties of Yayoi jars. The first has come from the cord-patterned jars of an earlier period whereby cord-patterned (tottaimon) jars became Yayoi jars, with jars of the Kamenoko type from Chikugo and the Shimojyo type from Bungo falling under this category. The second variety is similar to the first in that it comes from the cord-patterned jar, but shows a shift away from a cord pattern to a jar with a twisted rim (gaihan-koen), with jars from western Setouchi with raised undersides of the rim (koenkan-totsujikame) being one such example. The third variety comes from the line of Itazuke jars that go back to the unpatterned pottery of the Middle period, and evolve into Itazuke I-type jars and Onga River-type jars. Until the middle of the 1980s, jars from Early Yayoi marked the last of these jars. The first two were called "regional jars" because they were distributed over a small area and showed influences particular to each region, while the third was referred to as the "standard jar" because these jars were distributed over a wide area and there was little variation according to region. This paper verifies Yayoi jars from central Kinki on the basis of these criteria. The results of this analysis are as follows. First, the Yayoi jars from each of the ruins are different. Second, it has been possible to confirm that because following the emergence of regional jars that were either the cord-patterned type or jars with twisted rims, standard jars emerged from a limited number of ruins, the Yayoi jars from each of these ruins are confined in terms of period as well as region.

From the above, it follows that after curved single-ribboned (kukkyokugata-ichijo) jars evolved into jars with twisted rims, they came to be stylized as Onga River-style jars. This constitutes the emergence of standard jars from regional jars. This is vastly different from regions west of central Setouchi where standard jars came into existence first, which then led to the evolution of twisted rim jars.