The Interaction between Gaya and Wa:
the Pottery and Settlements in the Early and Middle Kofun Period

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This paper examines interaction between Gaya and Wa from the perspective of earthenware and settlements that appeared in the Japanese Archipelago during the early and middle stages of the Kofun period (second half of the 3rd century to the 5th century). I have adopted this approach because earthenware present the best evidence of the interaction between these two regions, their history, and a portrayal of groups of visitors who came to Japan from the Asian continent, and because they are closely linked to relics and remains of excavated settlements.

First, using examples from the earlier Yayoi period, I lay the foundation for an examination of several models and materials from the Kofun period. From the end of the early Yayoi period through to the first half of the middle Yayoi period, potters of late plain-coarse earthenware from the southern part of the Korean Peninsula lived for a time in Morooka in present-day Fukuoka, and there is also the Habu site containing many pseudo plain-coarse earthenware and where these potters lived for a long time and became assimilated into the local community. In addition to RAKUROU earthenware found in Tsushima and Karakami that dates from the latter half of the middle Yayoi period onwards, there is also earthenware from the Mikumo site that suggest that Chinese from RAKUROU came to that area.

Viewed from the perspective of the styles of earthenware and ironware from RAKUROU and the three Han states of Chinhan, Pyonhan and Mahan, relations were strong between the regional political systems in western Japan and the three Han states, RAKUROUGUN and TAIHOUGUN during the latter part of the Yayoi period.

One definitive site for studying interaction between Gaya and Wa in the early Kofun period is the site in Nishijinmachi in Fukuoka City. On the west side of this site there are dwellings with indigenous central furnaces, on the east side there are dwellings with foreign ovens, and in the middle there are lopsided furnaces that are a fusion of both types. People from Gaya and Paekche (Mahan) lived together with people from northern Kyushu and the Kinki and San'in regions while their dwellings were segregated into those of the east side and those on the west side. This area was an international port built for purposes that included obtaining "Gaya iron". Korean-style earthenware from this period found in the western Honshu and
Shikoku regions has strong links as they too followed a complicated route used for trade and relations that brought them from Paekche (Mahan) and Gaya to the Kinki region.

During the middle part of the Kofun period, people from the Asian continent mainly comprised of people from Gaya settled in various parts of Japan, making a huge contribution to the introduction of production techniques for Sue ware, new agricultural, building and metal making techniques, and techniques for raising horses. The analysis of soft earthenware excavated from settlement sites has been indispensable for gaining a better understanding of these phenomena. One possible site relating to a chief living in Japan with Gayan roots is the Miyayama burial mound in Hyogo Prefecture, although evidence from the Kinki region would suggest that it is not possible to establish that this burial mound is one befitting a chief from Gaya who came to live in this region.