The Beginning of the Sue Ware Production

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The aim of the research described here is to probe interaction between the Korean Peninsula and Wa through the production of earthenware by examining when and from where Sue ware came to Japan, as well as reasons for its introduction.

Taking into account the periods and regions, I have established three stages for the introduction of earthenware production using structural furnaces: stage 1, stage 2a, and stage 2b. During stage 1 grey-soft earthenware production techniques were introduced from the Paekche region. During stage 2a grey-hard earthenware production techniques were introduced mainly from the Gaya region. During stage 2b grey-hard earthenware production techniques were introduced from the Yeongsan-gang River valley region in Paekche. Earthenware from oven remains from stage 1 are grey-soft utensils, and these ovens are thought to have been made for craftsmen from the continent, and are assumed to have been made for a different purpose than the grey-hard earthenware production that came later. Flat-bottomed cups have been excavated from oven remains found at Ooba-dera from stage 2a, though their origins are not certain. It is thought that these articles can be traced to flat bottomed cups distributed around Paekche and the Yeongsan-gang River valley, and while only a few of these and pitchers have been found among items of the Gaya variety from stage 2a, these were already found among Paekche and Yeongsan-gang River valley articles.

With regard to the purpose of the introduction of Sue ware production, an examination of the types of wares found in ovens from stage 2a reveals that they are mainly large jars, which were made for a long period after this time. There was a sudden decrease in pottery stands, while there was a gradual increase in pitchers followed by cups. Large jars are not to be found among the different varieties of wares found in burial mounds dating from the same time. Thus, the purpose of these large jars was to serve as a type of storage vessel made in association with large storehouses. The pottery stands were made as offerings for tombs, but soon decreased rapidly. In contrast, pitchers were well received and were soon stylized and in the performing of religious rites. However, there are strong suggestions that the cups were used to contain offerings, and this is thought to be the reason why both their adoption and stylization took some time to occur, and why it was one of the types of ware that was chosen
for introduction to Japan.

As for dating the commencement of production of Sue ware, on the basis of an examination of the parallel relationship they had with grey-hard earthenware, materials whose dates have been identified, and sites such as the Saitama burial mounds, I have concluded that they date from the beginning of the 5th century, the period of the Mochinoki burial mound. The reason for their introduction may be attributed to the alliances that Wa had formed with Paekche and Gaya as they held out against the southern advance of Koguryo.