Keum-Guan Gaya and Wa

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It is clear from studies into changes in plate-shaped iron adzes and iron plate, circumstances surrounding funerary accessories, Wa-style relics, and changes in the characteristics and distribution of articles common to both Keumkwan Gaya and Wa between the second half of the third century and the beginning of the fifth century that extremely close relations were maintained between Keumkwan Gaya and Wa and that the main geographical focus for this interaction shifted from the Kyushu region to the Kinki region, the seat of the Yamato government. The shift in the geographical base of interaction in the Japanese Archipelago from Kyushu to Kinki was accompanied by the subsumption into Gaya society of Wa citizens settled in Gaya, and in the Japanese Archipelago it was accompanied by the acceptance of advanced cultural items such as weaponry and prestige items. Hence, interaction between Keumkwan Gaya and the Yamato court government was strengthened and reached its zenith during the second half of the fourth century.

However, after Koguryo's southern conquest, the decline of Keumkwan Gaya altered relations between Gaya and Wa, as the focus now shifted to Ara Gaya in the western Gyeongnam region. While this change in relations with Wa marks a period of transition between Early Gaya and Late Gaya, it is linked to the process of a reorganization of power in Gaya and also to a similar reorganization of power that was occurring in the Japanese Archipelago. These social and political changes occurring in Gaya provided one source of momentum for change within society in the Japanese Archipelago.