Another Route of Trading Activities and Interaction between Wa倭 and Han韓

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In the region to the west of Jeollanam-do situated in the southwest of the Korean Peninsula, many keyhole tombs were made for a very limited period of time between the second half of the 5th century and the first half of the 6th century. The existence of cylindrical haniwa clay figurines and Wa-style stone chambers with side entrances leaves no doubt that these appeared as a result of the influence of keyhole tombs found in the Japanese Archipelago. The fact that these are nowhere to be seen in Gaya which had had very close relations with Wa up until that time suggests that during this period the authorities in Jeollanam-do came to have extremely intimate relations with Wa. This also corresponds to the changes that occurred in respect to grey-hard earthenware, which is believed to be the forerunner of Japanese Sue ware, whereby after being made in early Gaya up to the first half of the 5th century it was to be found in the Jeollanam-do regions. This suggests that by the first half of the 5th century the central point of contact on the Han韓 side for trade and relations with Wa had shifted from Gaya to the Jeollanam-do region.

It would appear that the shift that occurred on the Wa side whereby the central location for conducting relations with Han shifted from the Genkai Sea coast to an area along the Ariake Sea coast corresponds with this change in the location of the point of contact on the Korean side. After the first half of the 5th century no more relatively large-sized keyhole tombs were to be found in the Genkai Sea coastal region, and instead large keyhole tombs came to be built in Chikugo and Hizen along the Ariake Sea coast. There can be no doubt that the Wa-style stone chambers with side entrances found among the keyhole tombs in the Jeollanam-do region were built due to the influence of similar stone chambers built in northern Kyushu and in southeastern parts of Hizen and in Chikugo along the Ariake Sea coast. The existence of full-scale ornamental tombs decorated in a number of colors in Higo on the Ariake Sea coast is also significant. This is because it is believed that their formation was due to some form of stimulus from the wall drawings in tombs situated in the Korean Peninsula. The Eta-funayama burial mound in Kikusui-machi of Kumamoto Prefecture and the splendid gilt bronze personal ornaments found inside also indicate a high level of activity between the people of this region and those in the Korean Peninsula from the second half of the 5th century.
through to the first half of the 6th century. The description of *Nichira* found in records of the reign of *Bidatsu* (572-585) contained in the *Nihon Shoki* (Chronicles of Japan) also point to relations between the chief of *Ashikita* and Paekche. The fact that this is further indicated by mention of *Ootomo-no-Kanamura* in central Wa shows that the diplomatic activities of the ruling class in the regions along the Ariake Sea coast were none other than diplomatic activities for the state of Wa. This is also borne out by the involvement of *Minuma-no-kimi* from the Ariake Sea coast in religious rites held on Okinosima Island in which prayers were offered for the safety of shipping along the route from the Genkai Sea coast to Gaya points to the shift of responsibility for conducting relations with Korea from the Genkai coast to the Ariake Sea coast as historical fact. From the findings of such investigations there can be no doubt whatsoever that by the first half of the 5th century those playing a central role in trading activities and interaction between Wa and Han shifted from those in power in Gaya to their Jeollanam-do counterparts on the Korean side and on the Japanese side from those in power on the Genkai Sea coast to their counterparts along the Ariake Sea coast.