The Interaction between the Ancient States in Korea and Wa Viewed from the Archaeological Materials

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This paper sheds light on the kind of relations that were formed by Gaya with Wa and other regions of Korean Peninsula through an examination of foreign archeological materials found in the entombment systems of the Gaya region where burial facilities comprised mainly of stone-lined tombs with an upper entrance and stone chamber tombs with a side entrance. First, during the stage when stone-lined tombs with an upper entrance were used as burial facilities not only is there evidence that earthenware was brought to these tombs from within Gaya and neighboring areas, but there are also archeological materials of the Wa, Paekche and Silla styles. However, the proportion of objects of these latter styles found in all entombment systems is limited. Furthermore, in the tombs found at Chisan-dang (池山洞) and Okjon (玉田), differences are evident between the regions that were influenced and the extent of the influence of entombment systems. At the stage when stone chamber tombs with a side entrance had been adopted as the main type of burial facility, in addition to the structural changes in these burial facilities it is recognized that a huge shift had taken place with respect to the concept of burial. This stage is also marked by an increase in the proportion of foreign archeological materials among funerary accessories. Although it has been suggested that this change was due to influences from Paekche, more than a few influences from Silla and Wa are also evident. A comparison between these tombs with noticeable amounts of foreign archeological materials from Wa and the keyhole tombs of the Yeongsang-gang Basin has led to the theory that the dead in these tombs were groups from Wa who were under the control of Dae Gaya. However, bearing in mind that similar changes are to be seen in tombs which were built in Gaya from the 4th A.D. and in tombs which were built in Japan, classification of changes in entombment systems and an explanation of these classifications is needed.