The Production and Distribution of Pottery during the Middle Stage of the Middle Jomon Period in Regions from Nagano Prefecture through Gunma Prefecture

KOBAYASHI Ken-ichi

This paper proposes a model for characterizing the locality, transportation and other features of pottery. The attributes of pottery as manufactured items are examined on the basis of time, place, manufacturer and manufactured item.

The pottery covered in this study is Katsusaka, Atamadai, Daigi, Yakemachi, Hokuriku-region and Kasori-E type pottery dating from the middle stage through to the latter stage of Middle Jomon. They have been classified into three time periods.

Pottery from archeological sites in Gunma Prefecture and the Kawarata Site in Nagano Prefecture were investigated as case studies and the component ratios of the different types of pottery among the number of individual pieces were examined. A study of Setchu (mixed-style) pottery was also conducted on the basis of pottery patterns. These investigations revealed that Middle Jomon pottery from Gunma Prefecture reflects the transportation of pottery from other regions and the movement of pottery manufacturers to the area from other regions.

The three sites of the Kawarata Site, Shounan Site and the Hanageishinakayama-Rokutanda Site were studied in order to determine the component ratios of the different types of pottery. As for the locations of these sites, the Kawarata Site is located in Saku-gun in Nagano Prefecture, the Shounan Site on the western banks of the Tone River in the western part of Gunma Prefecture and the Hanageishinakayama-Rokutanda Site is located at the southwestern foot of Mount Akagi in the central part of Gunma Prefecture.

The study showed clear differences in the component ratios of types of pottery at the three different sites. Yakemachi pottery accounted for nearly half of the pottery from the Kawarata Site dating from stage two of the second period, while Yakemachi pottery was found in small quantities at the two Gunma Prefecture sites.

Items of mixed-style pottery were classified into one of two categories as the result of an examination of the types of pottery represented in the bases and which elements belonging to the different types are incorporated into which parts of the items, such as the opening and body. Thus, they were classified as being either locally produced mixed-style pottery or mixed-style pottery that was possibly manufactured in another region.

A model for the movement of Jomon pottery was established by classifying items on the basis of region, origin of manufacturer and differences in their detail and then arriving at a description formed by the combination of these elements.