Interaction between the Three Han States and Wa: From the Perspective of Settlements Based on Marine Resources

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Farming settlements in the Yayoi period arose chiefly as a result of making a living from the sea or mountains. The quantity of stone knives provides an indication of whether a settlement was a sea or mountain settlement. The quantity of stone knives found at the Mitokomatsubara Site in Fukuoka Prefecture, a former marine settlement, is roughly one-fifth that found in normal farming settlements. On Tsushima, where it is thought marine activities formed a large part of people's livelihoods, so far only several stone knives have been found.

From the end of Early Yayoi through the first half of Middle Yayoi when states were being formed, groups with a late Memon pottery culture came to Japan from the Korean Peninsula. While settling on the edges of base settlements, by maintaining networks with their old homelands they initiated trade, developed ports, transferred bronze implement production technology, are thought to have even contributed to state building, and engaged in full-scale maritime trade at a number of settlements based on marine resources.

In the south of the Korean Peninsula as well, there are vestiges of Yayoi people from the same period. Although Yayoi pottery from the Nukdo Site was thought to be mostly from the first half of Middle Yayoi, recently a large quantity of pottery has been excavated which dates from the latter half of Middle Yayoi or from the first half or Late Yayoi at the very latest. If pottery from before the first half of Middle Yayoi is labeled Nukdo Stage I and that from the latter half of Middle Yayoi Nukdo Stage II, the extent of interaction with Japan was greater in Nukdo Stage II than in Nukdo Stage I. Pottery from this stage includes fishing implements from northern Kyushu (abalone scrapers, coupled fish hooks), which points to the migration of sea-going people from Wa. Similar fishing implements found in San’in have been linked to sea-going people.

Pottery and coins made in China became conspicuous in marine settlements in western Japan and southern Korea after the latter half of Middle Yayoi (latter half of Yayoi). It is believed that they were part of the trade network that spanned from Kinki to the Nangnang commandery. In contrast to Chinese mirrors, many Chinese coins have been excavated from areas in marine settlements where people went about their daily lives, although scarcely any have been found in the huge farming settlements in the center of the country or in the urban settlements that they evolved into. The
same applies to the south of the Korean Peninsula, although five have been found from areas at the Nukdo Site where people went about their daily lives, none have been found from such areas in base settlements. What is more, large quantities of coins made in ancient China have been discovered in the coastal regions of both the Three Han states and Wa. Accordingly, it is believed that the marine settlements of western Japan and the southern Korean Peninsula created a world that was distinct from that of farming settlements, and used Chinese coins as payment when engaging in trade, which was their main form of livelihood. They most likely traded in raw iron and iron materials. It is also possible that the trade of the marine settlements involved not only the transfer of southern goods to the north and northern goods to the south, but that processing took place part way that added further value.

Keywords: The settlement based on marine resources in ancient Japanese archipelago and Korea Peninsula. The second half of the Yayoi Period, Pre three Kingdoms, the newcomer from Korean Peninsula, Nangnang pottery, the coin made in ancient China