Colonies and Disposal in the Middle Jomon Period:
Mainly in the First Half to the Second Half of the Middle Jomon Period in South Kanto

NAKAYAMA Shinji

In the abandoned house-pits of the middle Jomon period in South Kanto, a large number of remains including earthenwares were disposed of. The house-pits were often effectively used as waste disposal places for residue generated in daily life. Concerning the disposal in the middle Jomon period, the characteristics and transition of the disposal of remains according to the time which can be observed from the joints of the earthenwares mainly from the sites of the middle period in the Tama region, Tokyo were grasped.

At the beginning of the middle period, earthenwares were thrown away mainly on slopes, and two opposing disposal places were set on both sides of vacant land, "open field", at the center of a colony. After the first half of the middle period, as the construction of house-pits increased, the disposal into the concave parts of the abandoned house-pits increased. In the first half of the middle period, earthenwares were sometimes intentionally thrown into the abandoned house-pits on the opposite side of the dwelling and across the "open field" at the center of the colony. At that time, single earthenware was sometimes intentionally divided into pieces and thrown away. In the middle stage of the middle period, colonies which had disposal places, so-called "earthenware disposal sites", at the outside of the construction appeared. From the middle stage to the second half of the middle period, earthenwares were often thrown into the concave parts of the abandoned house-pits which are located at a place relatively close to living places. This is considered to be associated with the use of earthenwares for furnace body, buried pots, etc.

Concerning the so-called "Fukiage pattern", which is the state of gathering of semi-finished earthenwares, especially in the first half of the middle period, 15 to 20 pieces of similar earthenware types (implement types) were found in every house-pit. This is considered to verify the en bloc handling of earthenware as one unit at that time (disposal at the same time). However, the individual items left in the abandoned house-pits contain not only semi-finished earthenwares but a lot of broken pieces, stone implements, gravel, etc. Therefore, it is presumed that the house-pits originally functioned as daily disposal places.

Key words: disposal, abandoned house-pit, joint, Fukiage pattern