Colony Landscape on the Eastern Margin of the Musashino Daichi in the Middle Jomon Period

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Concerning the major colony remains in the middle Jomon period on the eastern margin of the Musashino Daichi, the distribution of dwellings was studied for each sub-classified earthenware period. The result showed that the remains of every colony experienced times when the number of dwellings increased temporarily and presented a landscape that had dwellings distributed in a circular shape, but basically, the temporary landscape in which one to several dwellings were scattered was presented and changed with repeated increase or decrease in the number of dwellings or disappearance of dwellings midstream. For the colony remains that are regarded as large colonies or circular colonies, the landscape having dwellings distributed continuously in a circular shape cannot be reproduced. Also, in the period when the number of dwellings increased, every colony site was different, and it is presumed that the factors differ by colony site or region.

In addition, according to the study result about changes in dwelling facilities such as surrounding ditches, main post holes and hearths, no proof was obtained that one colony site was continuously operated as planned by one group from the start to the end, but rather, it is obvious that various dwelling types existed at the same time in each period. Therefore, it is presumed that one colony site may have been formed through complicated overlapping of different colony areas which must have repeatedly expanded and reduced by period.

Therefore, the difference between a large colony and a small colony is not a difference in the quality of the colony but a difference in the frequency of use as a residence. Clarification of the factors in the difference of the frequency of use by period and site leads to clarification of selection of residence, environment, means of livelihood, etc. in each period. In a sense, the study of colony remains should not be based on only discussion by binary opposition such as the conventional arguments about colony with the viewpoint on settlement or migration, but clarification of the state of settlement and the actual conditions in a certain region through the study of individual colony sites is required. To that end, efforts for the study of various archaeological elements such as the aspect of the excavated earthenware and dwelling style in parallel with the reproduction of the temporary landscape in each colony site are required to clarify the extent of settlement and its detail in each period and each region.
Key words: the middle Jomon period, eastern margin of the Musashino Daichi, colony, temporary landscape, discontinuity, settlement