

# Bronze implements buried with or without inhumation: Cases in the Yayoi Period Japan and the Bronze Age in Europe

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this paper is to introduce the recent archaeological theory about the interpretation of the deposited bronze implements in Europe into that in Japan. It is well known fact that many bronze implements had been buried with or without inhumation in Yayoi Period Japan. It is hypothesised in Japanese archaeology that some of these bronze objects found in graves are interpreted as individual properties or prestige goods and others are seen as ritual goods for their own groups. But in Europe, there are a large number of studies on the significance of bronze objects found not only in graves but also in watery places like rivers and bogs. Among these studies, the author focuses on the study by Richard Bradley. He recognises the deposition of such bronze objects as a behavior of destruction of wealth and hypothesises that by depositing those bronze objects as votive deposits, it is possible for rulers to demonstrate their social rules in their groups. The author evaluates that his social archaeological viewpoint offers the key to an understanding of the buried bronze objects in Yayoi Period Japan.

**Keywords:** Bronze implement; deposit; ritual; Richard Bradley; Bronze Age in Europe; Yayoi Period of protohistoric Japan.