
Studies on the Setting Directions of *Haniwa* Clay Figurines on Mounded Tombs — Was Cock a Morning Herald in Ancient Times ?

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The setting directions on 79 mounded tombs of 114 *haniwa* clay figurines, including some *haniwa*-like objects, of cock and hen were statistically analyzed.

In the early and middle Kofun periods, they were setted in all directions of the mound except east, independent of shapes of the mound. In the late Kofun period, the distributions of their setting directions, measured both from the center of the mounds and from the burial facilities, showed two peaks in west and east. The west peak belonged to the east Japan (Kanto and Tohoku districts), while the east peak the other regions of Japan.

Most archeologists claim that a cock-shaped *haniwa* symbolizes the cockcrowing before sunrise which would bring about revival of the burier in a tomb. However, "east taboo" of the setting directions of cock- and hen-shaped *haniwa* and *haniwa*-like objects on mounded tombs, suggests that cock was not a morning herald, in disagreement with the archeologists' opinions, since the sun rises from east. The author proposes a hypothesis that cock was, in ancient times, a holy bird which lives in Hades to maintain peace of the soul of a burier in a tomb.