

The Formation Process of Yayoi Pottery in Tohoku District

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This paper deals with the chronology of pottery in Tohoku (the Northeast) district of Japan from the final stage of Jomon period to the beginning of the Yayoi period. First, the boundary of Ohora A' type pottery is determined, since this type is considered as the last of Jomon pottery in Tohoku district. Considering that the most important criterion of Ohora A' type is the triangular pattern called "Henkei-Koujimon", we should examine the developing process of this pattern. The writer of this paper has classified this pattern into three groups, and has pointed out the multiple occurrence of these groups in this district. In addition to that, just before Ohora A' type, we can find Ohora A₂ type, which features a kind of relief pattern. Ohora A₂ type at the same time provides the earliest bound of Ohora A' type. Ohora A' type can be seen throughout Tohoku district with some local variation of pottery shapes and patterns.

The latest bound of Ohora A' type is demarcated with the recognition of the first Yayoi pottery in various parts of Tohoku district. At this stage, we can recognize regional differences: the northern part developed Sunazawa type, the middle part developed Aokibata type, the southern part developed Miyota type. Consequently we see two stages; one is Ohora A' type stage and the other is Sunazawa/Aokibata/Miyota type stage. After a comparative study of wide ranging chronology of pottery in Japan, the former is considered to be positioned as the middle stage of the first style of Yayoi pottery in Kinai district (the center part of Japan), and the latter is considered as the new stage of the same style.