

Abstract of Doctoral Dissertation

Title: Unified Silla Pottery style Research

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This paper examines the temporal transition of unified Silla pottery of the Korean peninsula from the 7th to 10th centuries by comparing the pottery cultures of Gyeongju, the capital of the Silla kingdom (新羅王京), and the surrounding regions.

Unified Silla era pottery has been excavated in Japan due to the active exchange between ancient Japan and Silla, mainly in Gyeongju where the capital was located. Therefore, the research area of this study focuses on the Korean peninsula, specifically the area of Gyeongju, and the Kyushu, Kinai and Kanto areas of Japan.

Gyeongju archaeological sites were divided into mortuary sites, village sites, and production related sites, and the pottery from these sites was analyzed. Since the 7th century, there have been a variety of pottery types produced, however this study has centered on artifacts that provide diagnostic information related to material dates. Shape and stamped pattern (印花文) changes were identified and organized into 5 main stages, which were further divided into 12 sub-stages, creating the pottery typology for the study.

Regional pottery analysis was mainly conducted in the five main administrative centers (五小京) of the Silla kingdom. It was possible to divide the pottery cultures of the Hanju (漢州) and Sangju (尚州) regions chronologically. In other areas, pottery was examined from representative archaeological sites. Up until the beginning of the 7th century, local pottery existed in each region, but it was thought that the local pottery gradually changed to Gyeongju pottery.

The Silla pottery excavated in Japan was compared to the transition of Gyeongju pottery, and a pottery typology chart of the Silla pottery excavated from the northern Kyushu, Kinai and Kanto regions was created. This pottery typology chart showed that pottery exhibiting Silla earthenware characteristics in the 7th century in Japan were concentrated in northern Kyushu and Kinki, but not seen in other regions. The 8th century essentially mirrors what is seen in the 7th century, but the concentration in specific areas begins to weaken, showing signs of decentralization. From the middle of the 8th century to the 9th century, the distribution of Silla pottery becomes concentrated at the Korokan site (鴻臚館跡) in northern Kyushu.

The pottery styles and stamped patterns of funerary urns (藏骨器) were examined and divided into 5 phases. Stamped patterns applied to funerary urns continued through to phase V, when their application decreased depending on the style of funerary urn. This development has resulted in the ability to integrate funerary urn typologies with the broader changes over time in Gyeongju pottery from the 7th century onwards.

In the future, I would like to further develop this research and promote similar pottery analyses in other regions. Regions outside of this study were not able to be studied due to a lack of excavated materials. However, as excavations and the amount of excavated pottery increases over time, research into the regional characteristics of Silla pottery from the 7th to the 10th century should be able to advance.