

Kanagawa in the Yayoi Period



Immigrant's Villages and Changes in Society

Kanagawa Prefectural Museum
of Cultural History

January 8, 2012 - February 12, 2012

Odawara Local Cultural Museum

February 18, 2012 - February 26, 2012

Atsugi City Local Museum

February 29, 2012 - March 11, 2012

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Introduction

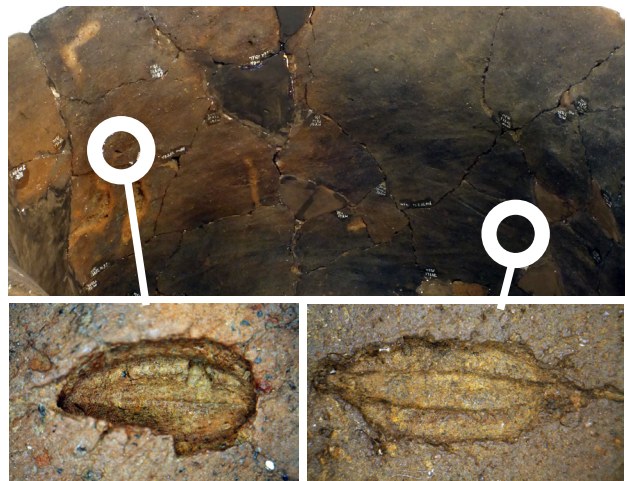
The Yayoi Period is approximately 2,000 to 1,700 year ago from now. It is known as a culture of rice-paddy cultivation. In this age, important society changes; conversion of stone to metal, hierarchy progress and war happened. The Yayoi period consists of three terms, early, middle and late. The early term consists of I term, middle consists of term II • III • IV and late as term V (Hereafter term I~V).

The Yayoi period in Kanagawa expands with immigrants and relation with other regions. The major sites are the rice-farming village of Nakazato, Akasaka of Miura city and Kanzaki of Ayase city. In the exhibition, these 3 main sites are introduced with the latest researches and excavations.

1. The beginnings of the Yayoi period in Kanagawa (term I, II)

The oldest Yayoi site in Kanagawa dated the Late of term I. Many carbonized rice, foxtail millets and millets were discovered from site of Nakayashiki in Ooi town. At Site of Uemura in Kiyokawa village, a pottery with impressions of paddy was found.

During this term, most of the sites were located at hillsides or among the mountains. There are no traces of pit dwelling houses, but it is certain that rice exists at the beginning of Yayoi culture in Kanagawa.



a pottery with impressions of paddy
Site of Uemura, Kiyokawa town

2. The site of Nakazato;

The beginnings of rice-farming village (term III)

An agrarian society was assumed to started from term IV in the southern Kanto region. However, in recent years, many similar remains of western Japan and pit dwellings were found from Nakazato in Odawara city. From these findings, rice-paddy technology is considered to be used already at Nakazato in term III. This discovery changed the belief of Yayoi history of eastern Japan.



Site of Nakazato, Odawara city

Nakazato was the first rice farming village which had agricultural technology of the western Japan. From Nakazato, 102 pit dwellings were found and could assume that the village was large and 30 or more houses were built at the same time.

Moreover, 50 dug-standing pillars were found which is unprecedented in southern Kanto region. From the findings, the researchers assumed that a large, 4.4m×10.5m, dug-standing pillar was built in the center of the village and had a role of a temple or a house for an important person.

Furthermore, the wells from Kinki region were found from Kanto region for the first time.

From west to north of the village, a trace of river was found and assumed it was a moat. Also ditches (for separating land) were found. The moat and ditches were one of the new elements of the village. Other finding include, 40 tombs were found at the cemetery, outside the village. Most of the tombs in the Yayoi period were square-shaped surrounded by ditches. The ditch-style tombs were considered to be used in Kanto region and later adopted in southern Kanto region around term IV. In term III, a new funeral style came from the western Japan to Nakazato.



pit dwellings



Large “Dug-standing pillar building”



A Giant Jar



Wooden hoe



Stone tool made of rock called “Sanukaito” from Kinki and Setouchi region.

3. The site of Akasaka;

Exchange with other regions through the sea(term IV,V)

There were few sites in Kanagawa at the start of term IV. The rice-farming technology in Nakazato did not continue that long.

However, many villages started to appear in Kanagawa from the Late of term IV and the rice-farming technology became popular.

Akasaka of Miura city was considered to be the most flourished village during term IV ~ V.

The site of Akasaka is located near the tip of Miura Peninsula. From Akasaka, view of Izu Peninsula and Mt.Fuji can be seen over Sagami Bay in the westward as well as Boso Peninsula over Tokyo Bay in the eastward.

Akasaka spread across wide area of 70000m² and 170 pit dwellings were discovered. Also, several large houses with 100m²(floor) were found. The characteristic of Akasaka is the site remained and expanded in term V where other sites started to decrease in late term IV and extinct around in term V. The flourish of Akasaka is considered that it dues to the enhancement of cultural exchange with other regions through the sea and marine products with rice-farming technology.



Iron sword / Akasaka, Miura city
metal artifacts were made at
other region.



Bronze ring / Akasaka, Miura city



Necklace / Kurami-Saito, Samukawa town



Iron fishing hook / Akasaka, Miura city



Harpoon made of antlers / Makuchi cave, Miura city
This type of harpoon was discovered widely around the Pacific coast, from Hokkaido to Shizuoka.



Wooden bowl with tall foot / Kawaraguchi-Boju, Ebina city



Wooden fork-shaped hoe
Kawaraguchi-Boju, Ebina city



Ritual adze / Kurami-Saito, Samukawa town

4. The site of Kanzaki;

Village of immigrants from Tokai region (term V)

In term V, suddenly sites disappeared and natural disaster was considered. In this devastating situation, Kanzaki suddenly appeared.

9 pit dwellings and moats (approximately 103m south-north) were discovered by excavation. Most of the discovered potteries were very similar to the potteries found in Tokai region (current western Aichi through eastern Shizuoka). So Kanzaki was considered as a village of Tokai immigrants.

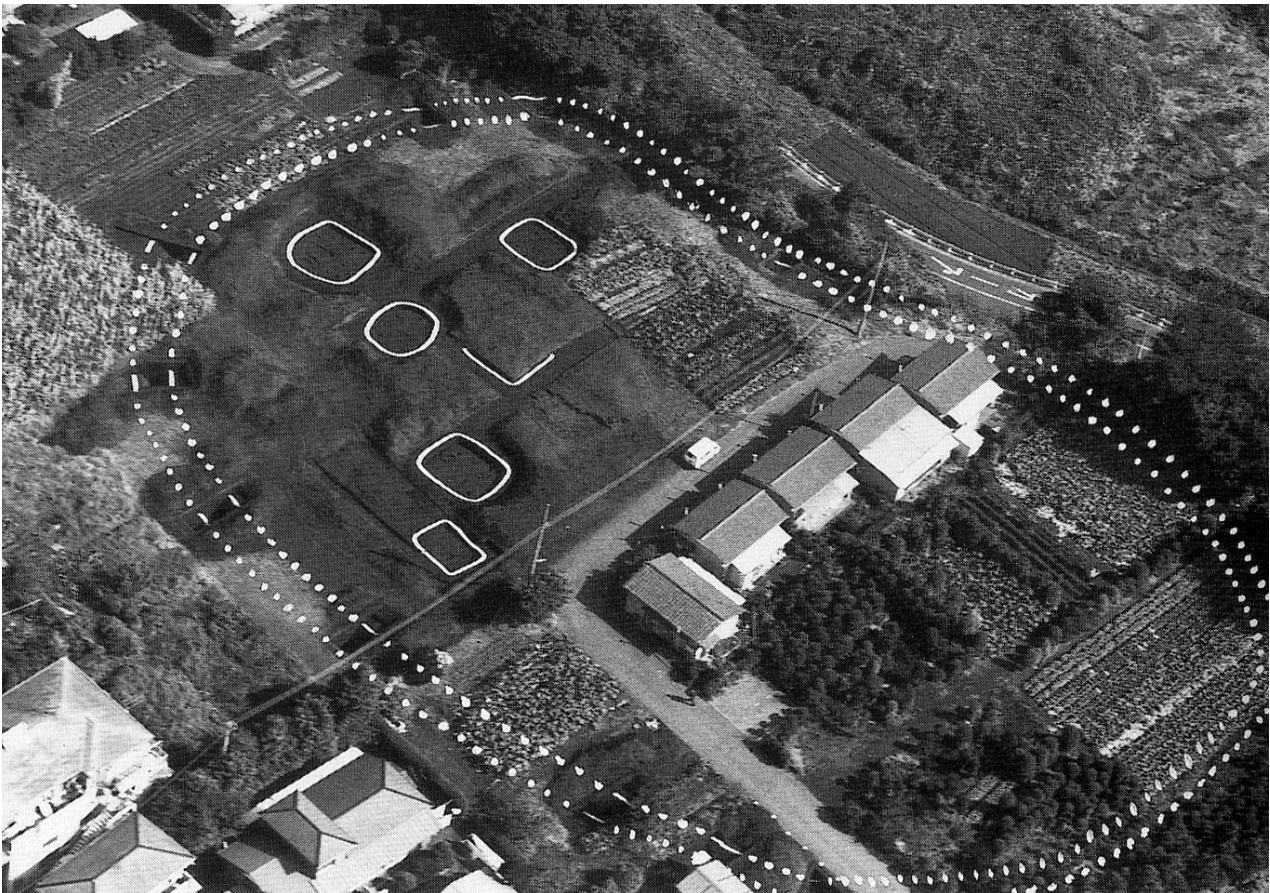
From Late term V to Kofun Period, remains increased drastically in Kanagawa and rice-farming technology was used again. Researchers consider that Tokai immigrant's cultural exchange helped the rice-farming technology to continue after the drastic decline of the sites in early term V.



Potteries found in Kanzaki.



Potteries found in Iba, Tokai region
They are very similar to each other.



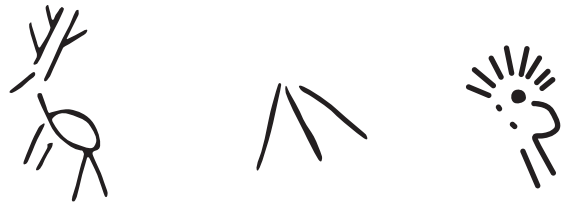
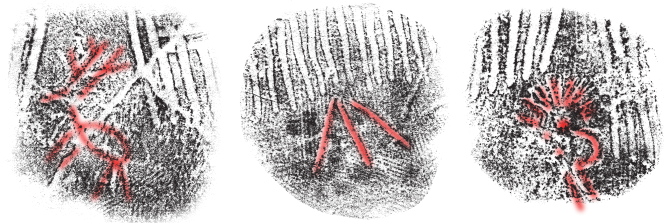
The site of Kanzaki / Ayase city
National Historical Site

5. Earthenware

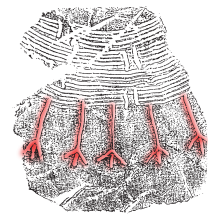
In Yayoi Period, there were many potteries with animals incised by spatula. Especially deer motif was popular. Some of the deer incised potteries were found from five sites in Kanagawa. Yayoi people believed deer was the symbol of rebirth and a spirit in the ground because the cycle of antler is similar to rice plant's harvest, both shed in fall.



Jars with deer, arrow and human incised.
They are found in Kanagawa



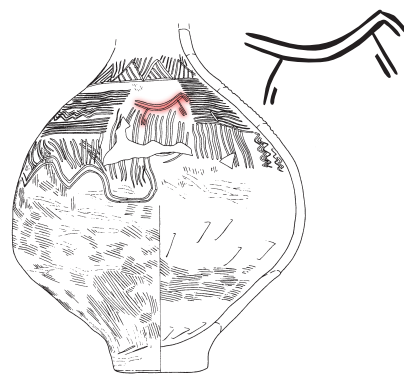
Hikijiwaki, Fujisawa city



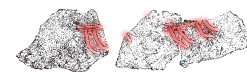
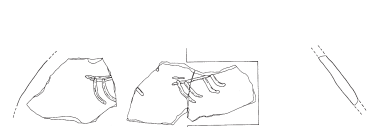
Yamanokamishita, Odawara city



Kobunemori, Odawara city



Orimoto-Nishihara, Yokohama city



Fujibayashi, Yokohama city