

Saturday 9, June (Afternoon)

Venue: Community Centre

Title of Session: *Issues in Contemporary Korean Archaeology*

Organizers:

Hyojai Im (Seoul National University) &

Yangjin Pak (Chungnam National University)

Session Abstract

This session is designed to illustrate the most recent developments in Korean archaeology. Eleven papers will be presented covering from Palaeolithic Age to later historical Three Kingdoms Period. Each of these papers will discuss some of the most important research issues in its own field of contemporary Korean archaeology. This session will demonstrate to the audience what the current scholarship has achieved so far and discuss some of the challenges that remain to be solved. Two designated discussants, with their own expertise in Korean archaeology as well as East Asian archaeology in general, will provide constructive comments, questions, and suggestions at the end of the session.

Timetable

13:30~13:45: Yoo Yongwook: A Preliminary Comparative Analysis of Korean Palaeolithic Raw Material: does its mechanical property seriously matter?

13:45~14:00: Pak Yangjin: A Preliminary Study of Transition from Neolithic to Bronze Age Pottery in Korea

14:00~14:15: Kim Bumcheol: Understanding Variability of Rectangular Dwellings in the Early Bronze Age, Central Western Korea

14:15~14:30: Kim Gwongu: Clarifying the Ritual Types Shown in the Korean Bronze Age Dolmens and Their Implications (provisional)

14:30~14:45: Woo Jung-Youn: *Macro and Micro Contexts of Songgungni-type Burials in Central-western Korea*

14:45~15:00: Cho Daeyoun and Park Seohyen: An examination on the production specialization of stone objects in the Korean Bronze Age

15:00~15:15 Tea & Coffee Break

15:15~15:30: Choi Jongtaik: Structural Characteristics and Historical Meanings of Koguryo Tombs in South Korea

15:30~15:45: Yang Sieun: New Achievements of Koguryeo Archaeological Research in South Korea

15:45~16:00: Choi Sung-rak: The formation and Change of the Ancient Tombs in Yeongsan River Basin, South Korea

16:00~16:15: Kim Gyongtaek and Kim Seongnam: Developmental Processes of Sabi Capital Town of Baekje Kingdom

16:15~16:30: Im Hyojai: An Ancient Ritual Site in Korea and Its Implications

16:30~17:00: Comments by Discussants (Sarah M. Nelson and Gina L. Barnes)

Abstract

A Preliminary Comparative Analysis of Korean Palaeolithic Raw Material: does its mechanical property seriously matter?

Yoo Yongwook

(Department of Archaeology, Chungnam National University)

Majority of researchers agrees that the crudeness of lithic tools is influenced by the coarseness and mechanical poorness of locally available raw material. In particular, the quartz and quartzite are main candidates to inevitably produce simple tools and have been entitled poor quality raw material category. However, we do not have any solid evidence to support that these two rocks are really “hard-to-deal” resource. In order to furnish a reliable background to classify excellent and poor quality raw material, a comparison of mechanical properties between so-called “high-quality” raw material—flint and chert—and quartz/quartzite rocks from the Imjin-Hantan River Area, Korea was made. The flint and chert were obtained from well-known classic palaeolithic sites of Europe: St. Acheul and the vicinity of the Somme River, Les Eyzies and the vicinity of the Vézère River, Atapuerca of Spain, Kara-bom of Altai Russia. The indices measured for quantifying mechanical properties include 1) tensile strength, 2) isotropy, 3) Young’s modulus and 4) elasticity. The preliminary result is that any significant difference is hardly identified in these indices; the intra-variability of flint-chert group is larger than inter-group variability and the quartz/quartzite group does not show any mechanical inferiority in terms of those four indices above. This result introduces a new hypothesis that the physical constraints imposed on the crude nature of the IHRA implements should be pursued other than sheer mechanical indices of quartz and quartzite.

A Preliminary Study of Transition from Neolithic to Bronze Age Pottery in Korea

Pak Yangjin

(Chungnam National University)

This paper aims to analyze the transitional period from the Neolithic Age to the Bronze Age in Korea with a particular focus on the change in pottery assemblage. The earliest types of pottery vessels of the Bronze Age will be examined and discussed in their relation to those of adjacent areas, especially of northeast China. The decoration elements of the early pottery vessels as well as the composition of pottery assemblage of different areas of Korea and northeast China will be compared to each other. It will also discuss other important developments in early Bronze Age pottery vessels. The result of this analysis will help us define the chronological framework of the Korean Bronze Age and understand the nature of cultural interaction among different areas of northeast Asia and its effects on the development of the new pottery culture in Korean Peninsula. It will also help us understand the nature, scale, and pace of major cultural developments during this transitional period and provide an opportunity to explore

various methodologies for the comprehension of an important change in material culture.

Understanding Variability of Rectangular Dwellings in the Early Bronze Age, Central Western Korea

Kim Bumcheol
(Chungbuk National University)

An attempt at relating Early Bronze Age (hereafter EBA) rectangular dwellings to the familial structure is not that challenging any more in Korean archaeology, and has contributed for better understandings on the social organization in the context of EBA, Korea. However, some current practice in interpreting archaeological data diminishes explanatory strength of the attempt. It is a very interpretation that long rectangular dwellings were precedent to shorter ones, classified by the ratio of their long to short axes. However, its logical or empirical basis is not that solid. Examining data in opportunistic manner and applying the concept of local cultures of the Early Bronze Age in limited manner seem to place in the backside of the interpretation.

Challenging the practice prevalent in the Bronze Age archaeology, I try to establish a new archaeological explanatory model, focusing on some micro aspect of dwelling feature. The model includes understanding on the Early Bronze Age dwelling patterns—especially, of Yeoksamdong- and Heunamri-types— in relation to the concept of household developmental cycle. Analyses on dwelling data from both types' settlements in the central-western Korea say that the variation of floor shape could have been a function to varying family structure, in which parent generation and their off-spring(s) have resided in the same dwelling structure. That is, the dwellings of different floor shapes, such as short, middle, and long rectangular ones, might have been adaptive to the changes in number of family members but not represented a simply stylistic variation in terms of temporal and/or spatial dimensions.

Clarifying the Ritual Types Shown in the Korean Bronze Age Dolmens and Their Implications (provisional)

Kim Gwongu
(Keimyung University)

This paper aims to clarify the ritual types shown in the Korean Bronze Age dolmens and review the implications in their socio-economic context. To do this aims the archaeological examples related to rituals have been gathered and they have been classified as several types such as potsherd-scattering onto dolmen boundary(A), burying red-burnished pottery inside dolmen with stone dagger and arrowheads(B), breaking polished stone dagger on purpose and burying them into dolmen(C), stabbing the ground in front of the related dolmen(D), scorching the dolmen bottom for cleansing the burial ground(E), burning something at facilities near dolmen(F), and more

systemized ritual at a cemetery ritual center like the *Igeumdong* example(G). The above-mentioned ritual might have multi-layered symbolic meanings and functions, which could be interpreted and reproduced properly in their socio-economic context.

Basically the above-mentioned ritual types of dolmens might have been practiced to aim warding off evil spirits(I), serving the land god(II), succeeding this world to the next world(III), reproducing socio-economic and religious power(IV) during mortuary ceremony. After burial memorial rituals must have been arranged. So some ritual types might be related to part of a memorial ritual(V), which also might function for reproducing socio-economic and religious power in relation with ancestor worship.

The ancestor worship had become important memorial ceremony to legitimize territorial rights during the Korean Bronze Age, which had been featured as sedentary farming societies. As agriculture intensified the ancestor worship in the Korean dolmen society had become more essential. Such socio-economic context had been thought to force dolmens to be aligned according to blood affinity or social affinity in group cemeteries.

Ritual types(A, B, C, D, E, G) and their main purposes(I, II, III, IV, V, VI) had been inter-wined. Ritual type G near aligned dolmen cemeteries in overwhelmingly differential size with purpose III and IV would reflect the lineage of the dolmen-builders and their landownership with ritual power.

The meanings of dolmen rituals have been examined. They might be adopted as a social strategy to emphasize mainly the dolmen society chiefs' lineage and emerging socio-economic power although there might be some temporal and regional variations in their modification. So their meanings also must be related to such aspects.

Although there might be some conjecture and logical leaps, it is considered to be fruitful to clarify ritual type found from dolmens and trace their multi-layered symbolic meanings in their socio-economic contexts for better understanding the ideology of dolmen-builders. The distributions of dolmens in Korea and spread into the Japanese Archipelagos and their diverse local variations might during the Korean Bronze Age and the Japanese Yayoi Period show not only the strong socio-economic necessities of dolmen ideology but also differential necessities by the related groups' social strategies under different natural and socio-economic environments, which might keep changing

Macro and Micro Contexts of Songgungni-type Burials in Central-western Korea

Woo Jung-Youn
(Institute for Archaeology and Environment, Korea University)

Songgungni-type burials, which consist of stone cists, earthen pits, and jar coffins, are representative of Korean Middle Bronze Age burials in central-western Korea. In previous studies of these burials, material patterns in macro contexts are thought of as a simple summation of material variations in micro contexts, while material variations in micro contexts are regarded as a simple exemplification of or exception to material patterns in macro contexts. In opposition to these decontextualized approaches to burials, I examine how material patterns in macro contexts are maintained or modified according to the association of burial attributes in micro contexts. As a result, a major

difference is found between burial sites near the Songgungni site and those away from it. In the former sites, burial attributes are associated in hierarchical ways to represent sequential relationships between burials. In the latter sites, on the other hand, burial attributes are associated in diverse ways to represent complementary relationships between burials. On the basis of the distribution of daily resources in the same area, this difference is interpreted as a difference in exercising power through burials.

An examination on the production specialization of stone objects in the Korean Bronze Age

Cho Daeyoun and Park Seohyeon
(Chonbuk National University)

The evidence of stone production found in the Korean Peninsula provides a rare opportunity for the detailed examination of changes in production organization in the Bronze Age. In this paper we present the results of our study which examines diachronic change in the production organization of stone objects at this time. Along with production evidence from settlements sites, stone products and manufacturing tools will be examined in order to assess the degree of production specialization in this period, which will enable a better understanding of how production specialization may be linked to social and economic change.

Structural Characteristics and Historical Meanings of Koguryo Tombs in South Korea

Jongtaik Choi
(Department of Archaeology and Art History, Korea University)

In 1981 a Koguryo-type stone-chamber tomb with a horizontal entrance passage was reported at Bangdong-ri in Chuncheon, for the first time in Southern Korea. Since then, a number of tombs, which are similar to the Bangdong-ri tomb in structural features, were found in Southern Korea. In these tombs, however, few artefacts were found which are typically found in Koguryo-type tombs. Subsequently, little progress has been made in studying this type of tombs in Southern Korea. It is since the second half of the 2000s that the cases, in which Koguryo pottery was found in that type of tombs, increased in number. As a result, the existence of Koguryo tombs in Southern Korea was confirmed.

On the basis of the above, I classified thirty-five so-called ‘Koguryo-type’ tombs as ‘Koguryo tombs.’ Then, an attempt was made to formulate their characteristics and determine their chronological relationships. For this purpose, their diverse attributes were compared with one another, including the location and distribution of the tombs, the positions of an entrance passage and a chamber, the way in which a chamber was constructed, the orientation of a chamber, the floor type of a chamber, the type of a platform for coffin, and grave goods.

In order to see the chronological relationships of the tombs, the plane shape of a

chamber and grave goods were referred to. As a result, I determined their chronological relationships as follows. The tombs, which have a long-rectangular shaped chamber and a coffin placed directly on the fire-hardened chamber-floor without a platform for coffin, are dated to the mid-fifth century. The tombs with a rectangular-shaped chamber are dated to the late-fifth century. This chronology, together with historical circumstances, suggests that the tombs with a long-rectangular shaped chamber were constructed in relation to the expansion of Koguryo to central Korea in the mid-fifth century, and that the tombs with a rectangular-shaped chamber were made after Hanseong had fallen in 475. Moreover, those who were buried in the tombs seem to have had a high status. Finally, settlement or fortress sites found around the areas, where tombs are located, indicate the possibility that Koguryo tried to govern the lower area of the Han River and the upper areas of the Bukhan and Namhan Rivers, as part of their territory.

New Achievements of Koguryeo Archaeological Research in South Korea

Yang Sieun
(Seoul National University Museum)

In the fifth century CE, Goguryeo (Koguryo, 高句麗) moved its capital south in northern Korea and then left many remains and relics before the collapse. After dominating Hanseong(漢城) at 475, Goguryeo built a command center to move southward in Mongchon Fortress. And then Goguryeo advanced to the Geum River basin. In this regard, fortresses which are barricaded by the wooden fence and tombs which are independently located on the traffic route are left in the late 5th century. Goguryeo pottery of these sites shows the surface decoration of dot-rows(點列) or wave lines(波狀) and the traces of tanal(paddling, 打捺).

In the 6th century, Goguryeo retreated from the Geum River basin to the Han River basin due to Baekje(百濟)'s power expansion. That time, Goguryeo fortresses of Acha Mountain switched the defense system from the wooden fence(木柵) to the stone wall(石築 城壁). These fortresses were organically interlinked, so fortresses in Acha Mountain themselves probably served as a single mid-scale castle, whose administrative center is assumed to have been Hongreong Fort No.1.

In 551, as the allied powers of Silla(新羅) and Baekje moved northward, Goguryeo retreated further to the north in the Imjin and Hantan River basin. That time, Goguryeo fortresses of Imjin River basin also switched the defense system from the wooden fence to the stone wall. That area's center is assumed to have been Horogoru Fortress which built the tile-roofed house.

As explained above, studies on Goguryeo remains are carried out continuously and a lot of outcomes have been produced in a short period. In particular, as they were built in a specific period, they can be used as a chronological benchmark for comparative studies with Goguryeo remains or relics in North Korea and northeast China.

The formation and Change of the Ancient Tombs in Yeongsan River Basin, South Korea

Choi Sung-rak
(Mokpo National University)

The most salient feature in cultural transformation of the Yeongsan River Basin during the 3rd ~ 4th century was the change in mortuary practice from Jukumyo to the mound jar-coffin tombs. Although Jukumyo initially came to light in the central part of the Peninsula, it is found throughout the entire southwestern part of Korea including the Yeongsan River Basin. It is now recognized that Jukumyo was the main burial system in the Yeongsan River Basin from the 1st to the 3rd century. The shape of the encircling ditches changed from square to oval, and finally to trapezoid. By the late 3rd century, Jukumyo gave way to small mound tombs containing large jar-coffins, which occurred only in the Yeongsan River Basin, rendering the jar-coffin tombs as a cultural feature unique to the this region.

At the end of the 5th century, the mound stone-chamber tombs appeared, along with unique keyhole shaped tombs. Especially, 13 keyhole shaped tombs scattered around the Yeongsan River Basin brought on many mysteries and opinions are divided on the characteristics of the tombs. I believe the buriers of the tombs are regional people and the style of the tombs are result of exchange with Japan.

According to ancient records, including documents from China, there were several small polities in the Yeongsan River Basin during this period, but there is no evidence suggesting any political unification until the end of the 5th century. The ancient Yeongsan River Basin society is called by various names; a popular one is Mahan or sometimes jar-coffin society. However, the ancient Yeongsan River Basin society should be named according to documented records. Therefore, this society at the late 4th century should not be called Mahan according to the archaeological characters. The entity of the Yeongsan River Basin from the late 4th to the end of 5th century can be seen as the Shinmi-Jegug (新彌諸國, various small countries representing Shinmi) which shows up in Chinese records until the late 3rd century. What I would like to do is to explore the internal perspective and identify the ancient society from a preexisting regional power. Even though the Yeongsan River Basin was under the influence of Baekje, it still kept its unique culture until the end of the 5th century, when it was directly integrated into Baekje.

Developmental Processes of Sabi Capital Town of Baekje Kingdom

Kim Gyongtaek (Korean National University of Cultural Heritage) and
Kim Seongnam (Buyeo Cultural Heritage Center)

In ancient Korean history, the Three Kingdoms Period (18 BC ~ AD 660) refers to a period when three kingdoms, Baekje, Goguryeo, and Silla coexisted. According to *Samguksaki (History of the Three Kingdoms)*, the history of Baekje is divided into three phases to the location and/or movement of the capital town: Hanseong phase (18 BC ~ AD 475), Ungjin phase (AD 475 ~ 538), and Sabi phase (AD 538~660). Sabi (current

Buyeo) region was the third and last capital of Baekje, and Baekje of Ungjin (current Gongju) phase, which had already planned to move her capital to Sabi, had prepared and designed urban planning of Sabi capital town in advance as early as in the early 6th century, the end of the Ungjin phase. There might have been at least three stages in the construction of the Sabi capital town. The first phase (from the end of the Ungjin phase to the third quarter of the 6th century) is the stage of advance preparation of urban planning and preparing foundation of capital town. In the second phase (from the fourth quarter of the 6th century to the first quarter of the 7th century), the Sabi took on appearance of a capital town of an ancient kingdom. In the third phase (from the second quarter of the 7th century to 660), urban planning of the Sabi capital town was complemented and it reached the highest stage. These three developmental stages of Sabi capital town system based elaborate urban planning is discussed with available archaeological data.

An Ancient Ritual Site in Korea and Its Implications

Im Hyojai
(Seoul National University)

This paper aims to introduce Jungmak-dong Site on the southwestern coast of Korean Peninsula and discuss its relation to other contemporary ritual sites in Korea and Japan, especially the Okinoshima Site on an island off northern Kyushu, Japan. It also discusses the political, social, and religious significance of these ritual sites in ancient northeast Asia, including Goguryeo, Baekje, Silla, and Japan.