

TANO VESTIGE

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Excavations and investigations were energetically conducted at Tano in Amagasaki City to obtain remains of ancient life, and the characteristic features of this Tano Vestige can be summed up as follows:

(1) Its extension over a long period of time.

It has proved to be a site where people resided for a long period of time — from the former Yayoi Period (B.C.3-2C.) to the latter Yayoi Period (A.D. 2-3C.).

(2) A great number of remains.

It is especially rich in the remains belonging to the latter Yayoi Period, such as earthen wares, stone implements, wooden works, bones of birds and beasts, all of which belong to the ages following the former Yayoi Period.

(3) Traces of ancient habitation.

As people inhabited there for a long period of time, their wooden houses were reconstructed over and over again in the course of time. This is clearly shown by the numerous traces of hearths, numberless pillar-holes, dumps, drains, and so on. Their houses were of various kinds — Large-round-pit-houses, Round-ground-houses, Ground-houses, High-flooring-houses, etc.

(4) Groups or graves and tombs.

So far the studies on the ancient graves and burial manners were mainly based on the cemeteries found in northern parts of Kyushu, because only in those districts Yayoi-pattern graves with jar-coffins, box-coffins, etc. were discovered, and in the Kinki districts there was not a cemetery equal to

them. Some people, therefore, even concluded that the large scaled mound of tombs, such as those grand mound "Zenpoo-Kouen-Fun" (Square-Front-Round-Back Tombs), had their origin in Northern Kyushu and not in the Kinki districts. This Tano Vestige has, however, produced jar-coffins of various sizes, as well as the framed or fabricated wooden box-coffin that was unearthed for the first time in Japan, and has proved that there were cemeteries in Yayoi Period in the Kinki districts, too, and that the large scaled mound of tombs probably had its origin in this part of the country as well.

(5) Plenty of human bones.

In the coffins of various shapes were found lots of human bones, which provides the clue to find the race of the people who lived at Tano some 2,000 years ago. It was also noticed that the wooden coffins and graves were used for grown-ups, and jar-coffins of various sizes for infants.

(6) Unique wooden coffins.

Some wooden coffins were filled with cinnabar, and more than 600 tube-jewels made of jasper were found on the chest of the body. In another wooden coffins KUSHIRO (a bracelet of bronze) was found on the left arm. These precious remains indicate the existence of the caste in their communities and that there was a great gulf between the rich and the poor.

(7) Remains of great rarity.

A). Molds of the bronze-sword.

The bronze arms, such as swords and halberds, were widely distributed in and around Northern Kyushu, but in the Kinki districts only the bell-shaped bronze works called "Doutaku" have been dug out. The discovery of molds of the bronze-sword at Tano, however, proved that bronze-swords were also cast in the Kinki districts, the center of the "Doutaku" culture.

B). Spinning wheels.

One of the characteristics of Yayoi Period is its highly developed

weaving technique. The spinning wheels dug out here are made of stone, horn or earth.

C). Stone knives.

During Yayoi Period the cultivation of paddy rice became popular. Here a lot of stone knives to cut the ears of rice were unearthed, which shows that the people at Tano were engaged in farming. Other stone implements, such as stone axes, spears, swords, awls, arrow-heads, sinkers' spindles, chisels, etc. were also dug out, and it is interesting to note that many of them were modeled after iron or bronze ones.

D). A lot of bones of beasts.

Bones of whales were found, but there is no knowing how the people obtained them. There are also many bones of deer and wild boars, which suggests that the people went hunting for food. Some bones and horns of deer were wrought and made into ornaments and practical instruments.

E). Wooden articles.

Logs for house-building, fulling blocks, wooden-arrow, bows, wooden-pestles and other household articles were also dug out.

F). Plenty of jewels.

There were plenty of jewels, such as curved-jewels made of jade, tube-jewels made of jasper, etc. Tube-jewels of Jasper seemed to be wrought in this part of the country, for both the original ores and wrought stones were also found.

Tano Vestige contains the remains of the people who lived in the remote ages of this country, and who played a most important role in the appearance of the next large-scaled Mound (Tomb) Age. It is supplying a valuable clue to the elucidation of the ancient history concerning the formation of our country Japan. The investigation has been carried out only partly as yet, but it has produced quite a number of precious remains and relics, and a

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complete full-scale investigation should be conducted, in near future. From these points of view, this vestige ought to be carefully preserved and treated as one of the greatest cultural inheritances of the nation.

