

RESEARCH REPORT OF NARA NATIONAL CULTURAL
PROPERTIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NO. 42

NARA IMPERIAL PALACE SITE EXCAVATON REPORT XII

SURVEYS AT THE LOCATION OF THE IMPERIAL
STABLE BUREAU

ENGLISH SUMMARY

NARA NATIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES
RESEARCH INSTITUTE 1985

CONTENTS

	Page
Chapter I Introduction	1
1. Aims of excavation	1
2. Progress of recent excavations	2
3. Preservation and maintenance of the site	5
4. Publication of the report	6
Chapter II Outline of Excavation	7
1. Excavation areas	7
2. Order of excavation	9
A. Excavation No. 47	9
B. Excavation No. 50	9
C. Excavation No. 51	10
D. Excavation No. 52	11
E. Excavation No. 59	12
F. Excavation No. 63	13
G. Excavation No. 71	14
H. Excavation No. 127	14
I. Excavations of the western first avenue in the Nara capital grid plan of streets	14
3. Excavation diary	15
A. Excavation No. 47	15
B. Excavation No. 50	16
C. Excavation No. 51	17
D. Excavation No. 52	18
E. Excavation No. 59 (north)	19
F. Excavation No. 59 (south)	21
G. Excavation No. 63	21
H. Excavation No. 71	23
I. Excavation No. 127	24
Chapter III The Site	25
1. Constitution of the site	25
A. Topography prior to the excavation	25
B. Features dating to the period prior to the Palace construction.....	26
C. Ancient topography.....	28
2. Features	29
A. Features of Phase I (period of Palace const- ruction)	30
B. Features of Phase II (early Nara period)	31
C. Features of Phase III (middle Nara period)...	35
D. Features of Phase IV (late Nara period)	40
E. Features of Phase V (earliest Heian period)..	47

	F. Features after the Palace's abandonment and other indifinable ones	50
	G. West boundary wall of the Palace and the western first avenue in the Nara capital.....	61
	3. Relative chronology of the features	62
Chapter IV	Artifacts	66
	1. Wooden tablets	66
	A. from posthole for fence SA5950.....	66
	B. from ditch SD5960	66
	C. from ditch SD6155	67
	D. from ditch SD6477	67
	E. from ditch SD6499	67
	2. Roof tiles and bricks.....	69
	A. Classification of eaves-tiles	70
	B. Rounded eaves-tiles	70
	C. Flat eaves-tiles	79
	D. Special rooftiles and bricks	86
	E. Rounded and flat rooftiles and those with written character impression	87
	F. Some arguments	89
	3. Pottery	93
	A. Pottery prior to the Palace construction	96
	B. Pottery of Nara period	96
	C. Pottery after the Palace's abandonment	105
	D. Glazed pottery	110
	E. from disposal pit SK1623(excavation No. 25)... ..	112
	4. Wooden objects	119
	A. Nara period.....	119
	B. after Nara period	122
	C. Building materials	123
	5. Metal and stone objects	126
	6. Coins	127
Chapter V	Articles	129
	1. Changing configurations at the location of the Imperial Stable Bureau	129
	A. Phase I features	129
	B. Phase II features	130
	C. Phase III features	133
	D. Phase IV features	136
	E. Phase V features	138
	2. The nature of the location of the Imperial Stable Bureau seen from the written resources	140
	A. History and function	140
	B. Imperial Stable Bureau in the Nara Palace ...	144

3. Consideration of the Heian period pottery unearthed from the area of the ancient Nara capital	147
A. Pottery types from ditch SD650B	147
B. Pottery types following those from SD650B ..	148
C. Pottery types from the floor of the western monk quarters, Yakushi-ji Temple	149
D. Pottery types posterior to the western monk quarters	151
E. Some arguments	152
4. Dendrochronological study on the pillars used in the location of the Imperial Stable Bureau	153
A. Samples and method	153
B. Results and some considerations	154
5. Conclusions	157
SUPPLEMENT : Construction of the Nara Palace Site Museum and the storage	158
1. Selection of the construction place	158
2. Resisting pressure investigation	158
3. Plan and execution	161
4. Making of the site model	162
SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES	163
ENGLISH SUMMARY	177

ILLUSTRATIONS IN TEXT

Fig.	Page
1. Areal divisions of the excavated area	8
2. Areal divisions of excavation No. 47 and major features	15
3. Areal divisions of excavation No. 50 and major features	16
4. Areal divisions of excavation No. 51 and major features	17
5. Areal divisions of excavation No. 52 and major features	19
6. Areal divisions of excavation No. 59(north) and major features	20
7. Areal divisions of excavation No. 59(south) and major features	21
8. Areal divisions of excavation No. 63 and major features	22
9. Areal divisions of excavation No. 71 and major features	23
10. Areal divisions of excavation No. 127 and major features	24
11. Stratigraphic profile of the earthen platform for the resting place for a portable shrine	25
12. Ancient topography and features prior to the Palace construction ...	28
13. Stratigraphic imposition of gravel pavement SX7000 and ditch SD6980	30
14. Stratigraphic imposition of pit SK6350 and posthole for fence SA3680	31
15. Stratigraphic imposition of ditch SD5960 and pit SK6098	32

16. Posthole shapes for fence SA5950	35
17. Interior situation of the smithy SB6360	38
18. Posthole shape for building SB6401	48
19. Scale drawing of one of the feature SX6137	49
20. Features relating to the western first avenue of the capital	62
21. Superimposition of postholes	64
22. Rounded eaves-tiles with concentric circles pattern	70
23. Rounded eaves-tiles with single petal lotus pattern	71
24. Rounded eaves-tiles with dual petal lotus pattern (1)	72
25. Rounded eaves-tiles with dual petal lotus pattern (2)	73
26. Relation between petals and partitions	73
27. Rounded eaves-tiles with dual petal lotus pattern (3) partition type A ...	74
28. Rounded eaves-tiles with dual petal lotus pattern (4) partition type B ...	76
29. Rounded eaves-tiles with dual petal lotus pattern (5) partition type C ...	78
30. Flat eaves-tiles with double square pattern	79
31. Flat eaves-tiles with oneway arabesque pattern (1)	79
32. Classification of minor leaves	79
33. Flat eaves-tiles with oneway arabesque pattern (2)	80
34. Flat eaves-tiles with oneway arabesque pattern (3)	80
35. Flat eaves-tiles with symmetrical arabesque pattern (1)	81
36. Flat eaves-tiles with symmetrical arabesque pattern (2)	82
37. Flat eaves-tiles with symmetrical arabesque pattern (3)	83
38. Flat eaves-tiles with symmetrical arabesque pattern (4)	83
39. Flat eaves-tiles with symmetrical arabesque pattern (5)	84
40. Flat eaves-tiles with symmetrical arabesque pattern (6)	84
41. Flat eaves-tiles with symmetrical arabesque pattern (7)	84
42. Flat eaves-tiles with symmetrical arabesque pattern (8)	85
43. Flat eaves-tiles with symmetrical arabesque pattern (9)	86
44. Demon-faced roof tiles	87
45. Written character impression on roof tiles	88
46. Regional difference of the distribution of eaves-tiles	92
47. Scale drawing of the pottery prior to the Palace construction	97
48. Scale drawing of the special earthen objects	104
49. Scale drawing of the pottery excavated from SK7097 · 7094 and SB7060	107
50. Scale drawing of the glazed earthenware	111
51. Scale drawing of the miscellaneous wooden objects	121
52. Layout of structural remains of Phase I and II	131
53. Arrangement of structural remains at the Western Government Quarters in Fujiwara Palace site	132
54. Layout of structural remains of Phase III	135
55. Layout of structural remains of Phase IV	137
56. Layout of structural remains of Phase V	139
57. Oldmap of Heian Palace	146
58. Relation between pottery and glazed-earthenware excavated from	

the western monk quarters, Yakushi-ji temple	150
59. Crossdating of mean curve and samples	155
60. Columnar figure of soil analysis	159
61. Relation between the excavated area and museum buildings	160
62. Schematic drawing of testing provision	161
63. Protection of the surface and foundation work	162

TABLES IN TEXT

Tab.	Page
1. Duration of excavations and excavated area quantifications	7
2. Relative chronology of the major features	65
3. Chronology of principal types of eaves-tiles	90
4. List of eaves-tiles excavated from the features	91
5. Phase divisions of pottery from the Nara Palace	95
6. Composition of pottery from well SE6166	101
7. Provenience of pottery with lacquer	102
8. Quantities of pottery with lacquer	103
9. List of pottery with brush writings	103
10. List of grey-glazed earthenware	112
11. Provenience of green-glazed earthenware	113
12. List of imported ceramics and porcelain	114
13. Composition of pottery from pit SK1623	116
14. Methods of manufacture of <i>Haji</i> ware excavated from pit SK1623 ..	116
15. Measurements of <i>Kezurikake</i>	119
16. Measurements of board- and pole-shaped wooden objects	121
17. List of building materials of wood	124·125
18. List of coins	127
19. Revision of bureaucratic system of <i>Meryô</i>	141
20. Difference between mean curve and the newest tree-ring of the samples	154
21. Outline of museum buildings and their structure	160

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

1. Tabulation of the important buildings	164
2. Classification of rounded eaves-tiles	165
3. Classification of flat eaves-tiles	168
4. Quantities of pottery	171
5. Chronology of <i>Haji</i> ware	173
6. Chronology of black pottery	175

PLANS

PLAN

1. Topographical map of entire Nara Palace site
2. Distribution of features in the location of the Imperial Stable Bureau
3. Areas 6ADC-G (eastern half) and 6ADC-H (north-eastern portion)
4. Areas 6ADC-H (south eastern portion) and 6ADC-K (eastern half)
5. Areas 6ADC-G (western half) and 6ADC-H (north western portion)
6. Area 6ADC-H (western half)
7. Areas 6ADC-K (western half) and 6ADD-L (northern half)
8. Areas 6ADC-L and M (northern end)
9. Area 6ADC-M (central portion)
10. Area 6ADC-M (southern portion)
11. Areas 6ADC-K and N (western end)
12. Areas 6ADC-M and O (western end)
13. Areas 6ADC-O (southern end) and 6ADC-P
14. Area 6ADD-L (eastern half)
15. Areas 6ADD-L (southern end), 6ADD-P (eastern end) and 6ADD-M (northern end)
16. Areas 6ADD-L (southern portion), 6ADD-M (eastern half) and 6ADD-N (north eastern part)
17. Areas 6ADD-N (eastern half), 6ADE-A and B (north eastern corner)
18. Areas 6ADD-L (western half) and 6ADD-O (eastern half)
19. Areas 6ADD-P (central part)
20. Areas 6ADD-P (central part) and 6ADD-M (western half)
21. Areas 6ADD-N (western half) and 6ADE-B
22. Area 6ADD-O (western half)
23. Area 6ADD-P (western half)
24. Areas 6ADD-Q (eastern half) and 6ADD-P (southern end)
25. Areas 6ADD-Q (western half) and 6ADD-P (southern end)
26. Areas 6ADD-Q (southern end) and 6ADE-K

PLATES

PL

1. Airscope of the Nara Palace site
2. Area 6ADC-G•H
 1. Overview from east
 2. Juncture of the compound walls SA6510 and SA6150 (wooden conduit SX6505) from east
 3. Compound wall SA6150 from south
3. Area 6ADC-G•H
 1. Building SB6487 from north-east
 2. same from north
 3. Building SB6500 and compound wall SA6519 from north
4. Area 6ADC-G

1. Juncture of the compound walls SA6475 and SA5950B(wooden conduit SX6504) from south-west
2. same from east
3. Detail of the wooden conduit SX6505 from south
5. Area 6ADC-G•H
 1. Fence SA5950 from south
 - 2~5. Postholes for fence SA5950
6. Area 6ADC•L•M
 1. Overview from east
 2. Ditch SD6473 (upper stratum) from east
 3. same (lower stratum) from east
 4. Building AB9553 and fence SA9554 from east
 5. same from west
 6. Building SB6453 from east
7. Area 6ADC-G•H•L•M
 1. Building SB6430 from east
 2. Building SB9552 from south
 3. same from west
 4. Building SB6429 (northern half) from south
 5. same from east
 6. Building SB6453 from east
8. Area 6ADC-H•M
 1. Phase II main hall SB6450 and overlapping structures SB6451•6454 from south
 2. same from east
 3. same from north-east
9. Area 6ADC-H•K
 1. Superimposition of buildings SB6460 and SB6175 from south
 2. Building SB6175 from north
 3. Superimposition of buildings SB6172•6173•6175 from south
10. Area 6ADC-H
 1. Superimposition of buildings SB6172 and SB6171 from south
 2. same from north
 3. Building SB6172 (northern half) from north
11. Area 6ADC-H•K•M•N
 1. Phase II front hall SB6180 and phase III main hall SB6185 (eastern half) from west
 2. Buildings SB6195•6185 (eastern half) from north
 3. Building SB6180 from east
12. Area 6ADC-M
 1. Phase II side hall SB6425 from south
 2. same (northern half) from south
13. Area 6ADC-M
 1. Overview from south-east
 2. Phase IV main hall SB6420 from east

3. Phase III rear hall SB6385 and phase II side hall SB6425 from south
14. Area 6ADC-M
 1. Phase III rear hall SB6385 from west
 2. Phase IV front halls SB6381•6190 from south-west
 3. same from west
15. Area 6ADC-O
 1. Overview from east
 2. same from thsou
 3. Central part of building SB6401
16. Area 6ADC-O•P
 1. Rectangular pit SK6350 and fence SA3680 from north
 2. same from south
17. Area 6ADC-M•N
 1. Phase III storage SB6340 and Western part of building SB6185 from south
 2. same from west
 3. Phase II storage SB6330 from south
 4. same from west
18. Area 6ADC-M•N•O•P
 1. Building SB6345 and fence SA6341 from east
 2. same from south
 3. same from north
19. Area 6ADC-P; Smithy SB6360
 1. Overview from south
 2. same from north
 3. same from east
 - 4~6. Detail
20. Area 6ADC-H•K
 1. Overview from east
 2. Superimposition of buildings SB6170 • 6168 and 6169
 3. Fence SA5950 from north
 - 4•5. Postholes for fence SA5950
21. Area 6ADC-H•K
 1. Ditch SD6155 crossing over the compound wall SA6150 from north
 2. same from east
 3. Northernmost part of ditch SD5950 from north
 4. Wooden conduit SX6514 from west
22. Area 6ADC-H•K
 1. Superimposition of buildings SB6165•6169•6170 and others from south
 2. same from north
 3. Superimposition of buildings SB6171•6172•6173 and 6175 from north
23. Area 6ADC-H•K
 1. Overview from east
 2. Superimposition of buildings SB6171 and 6172 from south
 3. Superimposition of buildings SB6173 and 6175 from south

24. Area 6ADC-H·M
 1. Superimposition of buildings SB6187·6188·6191 from west
 2. same from east
 3. Ditch SD6181 and buildings around it
25. Area 6ADD-O·P·Q
 1. Fences SA3680 and 6315 from south
 2. Fence SA3615 from east
 3. Northern extension part of excavation No. 51 from south
 4. Northern portion of excavation No. 59 (South) from south
 5. Southern portion of excavation No. 59 (South) from north
 6. Superimposition of fence SA3680 and building SB6120 from south
 7. Phase III building SB6120 from south
26. Area 6ADD-L·D
 1. Overview from east
 2. Fence SA5950 and ditch SD5960 from north
 3. Group of small buildings after Palace's abandonment; SB5944·5953 and others from north
 4. Southern low of pillars for building SB5941 from east
27. Area 6ADD-M·N·P·Q
 - 1·2. Overview of excavation No. 50 from east
 3. Fence SA5950 from north
 4. Juncture of ditch SD5960 and pit SK6098 from north
28. Area 6ADD-M·N·P·Q
 1. Overview from west
 2. Group of small buildings after palace's abandonment; SB6075·6080 and others from north
 3. Building SB6095 from west
29. Area 6ADD-P
 1. Overview of eastern half of excavation No. 51 from west
 2. Juncture of ditch SD5960 and pit SK6098 from south
 3. Fence SA5950 from south
30. Area 6ADD-L·M·P
 1. Phase II stables SB5955·5956 and fence SA5950 from south
 2. same from south
 - 3·4. Postholes for building SB5955
31. Area 6ADD-P
 1. Group of small buildings to the south of SB6130; SB6131 and 6134 from south
 2. Phase V main building SB6130 from south
 3. same from west
32. Area 6ADD-P
 1. Phase V side building SB6141 and phase III storage SB6140 from south
 2. Building SB6141 from north
 3. same from north
 4. Building SB6140 from south

5. Posthole for SB6140
33. Area 6ADD-P•Q
 1. Phase IV stable SB3690 (northern half) from north
 2. same from south
 3. Building SB3690 (southern half) from south
34. Area 6ADD-P•Q
 1. Overview from north
 2. Fence SA3680 and small buildings around it; SB6101•6102 from east
 3. Fence SA3680 and building SB6302 from east
35. Area 6ADD-M•Q; Phase IV stable SB6100
 1. Overview from south
 2. Southern portion from south
 3. Northern half from north
 4. Southern half from north
 5. same from west
36. Area 6ADE-A•B•C•K
 1. Ditch SD6980 from east
 2. same (weatern half) from east
 3. Northern end of ditch SD5960 from east
37. Area 6ADD-N, 6ADE-A
 1. Southern end of fence SA5950 from south
 2. same from north
38. Area 6ADD-N, 6ADE-A
 1. Southern end of fence SA5950 from north
 2. Postholes for fence SA5950 from west
39. Area 6ADD-N•Q
 1. Overview from east
 2. Small buildings after palace's abandonment; SB7026•7030 and others from east
 3. Building SB6100 from north
40. Area 6ADD-N
 1. Small buildings after palace's abandonment; SB7024•7026•7030 and others from west
 2. same from east
 3. Heian period pits SK7040 and 7041 from north
 4. Heian period pit SK7097 from east
41. Area 6ADC-K; Well SE6166
 1. Overview from west
 2. same from south
 3. South-eastern corner
42. Area 6ADD-P•Q, 6ADE-A
 1. Well SE7094, overview from south
 2. same, detail from east
 3. Well SE6123 from east
 4. Well SE6300 from north

5. Well SE6988, overview from east
6. same, detail from north
43. Area 6ADD-P
 1. Wells SE6143 and 6144 from north
 2. Detail of well SE6143 from east
 3. Detail of well SE6144 from north
 4. Wells SE6135 and 6146 from west
 5. Detail of well SE6135 from east
 6. Detail of well SE6146 from north
44. Area 6ADD-N·P·Q; Features of the Yayoi period
 1. Superimposition of dwelling SB6122, pit SK6121 and Nara period building SB6120 from south
 2. Dwelling SB6122 from north-east
 3. Pit SK7124 from west
 4. Pit SK7123 from north
 5. Pit SK7101 from north
45. Area 6ADD-M·N·P·Q; Features of the Kofun period
 1. Pits SK7080 7088 and others from east
 2. Pit SK7088 from north-east
 3. Pit SK7098 from east
 4. Ditch SD6060 (northern part) from south
 5. Ditch SD6060 (central part) from north-west
46. Wooden tablets (1)
47. Wooden tablets (2)
48. Rounded eaves-tiles (1)
49. Rounded eaves-tiles (2)
50. Rounded eaves-tiles (3)
51. Rounded eaves-tiles (4)
52. Rounded eaves-tiles (5)
53. Rounded eaves-tiles (6)
54. Flat eaves-tiles (1)
55. Flat eaves-tiles (2)
56. Flat eaves-tiles (3)
57. Flat eaves-tiles (4)
58. Flat eaves-tiles (5)
59. Demon-faced and other miscellaneous kinds of roof-tiles
60. Demon-faced and other miscellaneous kinds of roof-tiles
61. Demon-faced and other miscellaneous kinds of roof-tiles
62. Demon-faced and other miscellaneous kinds of roof-tiles
63. Demon-faced and other miscellaneous kinds of roof-tiles
64. Demon-faced and other miscellaneous kinds of roof-tiles
65. Demon-faced and other miscellaneous kinds of roof-tiles
66. Wooden objects (1)
67. Wooden objects (2)
68. Metal and stone objects, and coins

ENGLISH SUMMARY

1

The Nara National Cultural Properties Research Institute has been carrying out a continuous series of archaeological investigation at the site of the Nara Imperial Palace since 1959. Results of these investigations have been published in Nara Palace Site Excavation Report, Nos. I~XI. The present report is the following one, No. XII, containing the results of nine excavations (excavation Nos. 47, 50, 52, 59 north-south, 63, 71, and 127) carried out between 1967 and 1980.

The investigation area dealt with in this report is the westernmost locus of the palace grounds along the west enclosure wall between central gate (*Saeki-mon* 佐伯門) and north gate (*Kusakabe-mon* 藻壁門) measuring 280 meters north to south and 110 meters east to west. Since there is no paddy placename or land division in this area, it was previously considered to be the Western Palace (*Saigû* 西宮) based on Tadashi Sekino's expectation. However, as the excavations of this area progressed, it became apparent that the ground plans of architectural structures were not equivalent to *Saigû* but one of the government bureaus.

The results of excavations are first described dividing into two categories; features and artifacts. By means of using those results it is going to be made clear that this area is the site of the Imperial Stable Bureaus (*Meryô* 馬寮).

2

Topographically this area lies on the alluvial apron of the Nara basin lowlands and is almost flat (70.5 m msl at the north-western corner and 69.5 m msl at the south-eastern corner). During Yayoi and Kofun periods peoples seem to have inhabited in this area because 1 dwelling, 2 ditches and 6 pits of early Yayoi period and 5 ditches and 6 pits of Kofun period were uncovered, most of which were concentrated in the southern portion of the area. The ditches of both periods can be considered to have flowed from north-west to south-east, that means the topography prior to the Palace construction was almost same as present.

The features uncovered can be assigned to five phases between the beginning of the Nara period and the early Heian period. They represent the construction and layout of a palace compound with special characteristics not changing throughout whole phases. And after the palace's abandonment around 835, this area was begun to be continuously used for inhabitation until about the 14th century (Phase VI), therefore many features of different phases are complicatedly overlapped.

Phase I (beginning of the Nara period)

The construction of the Palace started; the ground was prepared and allotted and some provisional structures such as fence SA3680 were erected, but no structures for administrative use had not been completed.

Phase II (early Nara period)

This is the period in which the layout of the Imperial Stable Bureau was first settled. At the center of the northern sector was built a main hall SB6450 which was accompanied by side hall SB6425 and front building SB6280. These com-

posed the administrative headquarter. To the south, on both sides, there situated stables SB6170・5955・5956 and storage SB6330. All these structures were arranged accordingly to the 75 shaku grid plan. The central part of the southern sector formed a kind of courtyard without any architectural structures whatsoever. This can be supposed to be a riding ground. To the west of the headquarters there found a large rectangular pit SK6350 which fits to the washing pond for horses.

Phase III (middle Nara period)

In this phase most of the structures were rebuilt according to the same idea of layout as that of the Phase II. However, the composition of the structures was different somehow, as well as the east boundary of the compound was first encompassed by wooden fence SA5950. In all eleven architectural structures were regularly laid out on a grid plan of 40 shaku basic units; these structures included three administrative buildings on north to south axes lined up in a row in the center of the northern sector, stables SB6172・5951・6120, storage SB6140 and smithy building SB6360 on either side.

Phase IV (late Nara period)

Basic layout followed the previous one, but composition was drastically changed. The administrative office buildings situated in the northern one-third of this area became more intensive with doublefold composition; three long buildings SB6175・6430・6400 being placed to the north, east and west formed a outlineal division, while wooden fences surrounded inner quarter. For the boundary of east and north there constructed compound wall SA5950B and SA6475.

Phase V (early Heian period)

The extent of the area enclosed by compound wall was same as previous ones, but by the ditch SD5961 running west to east near the center the area divided into two sectors, north and south. In the northern half there existed several buildings in the same manner as those of phases I~IV; the main building SB6386 at northern center and two long buildings on each side (SB6173・6460・6401), and the front of main building was left to be a open space. On the contrary the southern half seems to have had different characteristics. There were only two buildings SB6130・6141 at the northeast corner and remaining part was vacant.

3

Artifacts unearthed are relatively scarce.

Wooden tablets are only 18 and most of them seem to concern with the nature of the neighboring ministry or bureau to the east of the area.

There were unearthed 873 pieces of eaves-tiles. These consist of 54 types and 110 sub-types. In comparison with the other excavated areas in the Palace, it can be pointed out that the numbers of types and sub-types are so many considering about the total amount that the specific pairings of rounded and flat eaves-tiles can not be extracted.

The earthenware was discovered evenly throughout the excavated area in great number. Those include various kind of pottery dating from Yayoi period down to the 14th century.

Wooden objects, metal objects and coins are very scarce.

After recording above factual information, the report attempts some interpretations. At first changing configurations at the location of the Imperial Stable Bureau and the absolute chronology are examined. Secondly the nature of the location is studied in accordance with the written resources. Thirdly the Heian period pottery types are considered by using the specimens unearthed from the ancient Nara capital. Fourthly the pillars used in the location of the Imperial Stable Bureau are studied by dendrochronological method. And lastly conclusive phrases come.

Among the artifacts, the pottery sherds with brush writing play a very important role in reconstructing the use of this area. There are two kinds of writings; one is “*shume* 主馬” and the other is “*naikyû* 内厩”. In case of *shume* it indicates two possibilities, *Shume-ryô* 主馬寮 and *Shume-shô* 主馬署. *Shume-ryô* appeared in historical records between the 1st year of *Ten'nô* (天応, 781A.D.) and the 1st year of *Daidô* (大同, 806A.D.). Since the pottery type on which brush writings are is belonged to the end of the Nara period, and the extent of location is too extensive for *Shume-shô* that is a branch of the Crown Prince's office, *Shume-ryô* is more probable than *shume-sho*.

Naikyu means *Naikyû-ryô* 内厩寮 which had established in the 1st year of *Ten'pyô-jingo* (天平神護, 765A.D.) and appeared in historical records down to the 1st year of *Daidô*. This bureau was closely related to *Meryô* and *Shume-ryô* on account of their function. So it is clear that *Shume-ryô* situated in this area at the end of Nara period. And as *Shume-ryô* can be considered to have followed *Meryô* conforming to the regal cords having edited at latest in the late 7th century, it is natural to consider that before *Shume-ryô*'s establishment *Meryô* also had been here

The location and size of this bureau is similar to those of the *Meryô* in the old map of the Heian Palace. And in the Fujiwara Palace site situates so-called “western government quarters” at the same location and it shows the same composition and layout of the architectural structures as both side of the area must be the stables, and storages were probably for storing horse furnitures.

By the reasons cited above, this report intended to conclude that the bureau discovered in this area is the site of *Meryô* and *Shume-ryô* of Nara period and early Heian period. But according to the regal cords, *Meryô* was divided into two, (left)-*Sameryô* and (wright)-*Umaryô*, to which this area merges we do not have sufficient bases yet.