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A RECONSIDERATION OF THE LAYOUT OF ANCIENT CAPITAL CITIES IN JAPAN

INOUE Kazuto

Research on the planning of Japanese capital cities in the 7th-9th centuries has become increasingly sophisticated thanks to the results of archeological investigations carried out over the past 20 years. This article will present a reexamination of the planning of these ancient capitals and suggest a new date for the completion of Heijōkyō.

Japan's ancient capital cities were planned political cities laid out according to the street-ward (jō-bō) system with straight streets and avenues intersecting to form a grid pattern of standard-size wards. But the usual explanation of the realities of this city plan has been mistaken because of an incorrect understanding of the system of measurements in use at the time.

The present article presents reexamination of the actual city plans of Fujiwarakyō (694-710), Japan's first full-scale capital city, and of Heijōkyō (710-784), which represents ancient city planning in its fully developed form. This re-analysis is based on an accurate understanding of the system of measurements which has been made possible by data from archeological investigations.

In addition to correcting previous views on this point, this article will also show that the street and ward plan of Fujiwarakyō was a primitive one, and that the construction of Heijōkyō was not completed in 712, as has been thought previously, but was probably continued beyond 713. These points will provide a new viewpoint for analyzing the street-ward system of Heiankyō (794-) as well.

THE MANUFACTURE OF ROOF TILES IN 740 AND 741

UEHARA Mahito

The inscribed roof tiles in the Kuni-no-miya style are engraved with personal names ; they were produced in the period 740-743 and were presented to the Kuni-no-miya, the Tōdaiji's Hokkedō, Heijōkyō and other places. One theory regards these personal names as the names of the persons who donated the roof tiles, and another theory suggests that they are the names of the craftsmen who made the tiles. The present article demonstrates on the basis of an analysis of the size and weight of the tiles, and place and direction in which the name seal was impressed on the tile, that these names are in fact those of the tile makers.

There are also two theories regarding the tile artisans ; namely, that they belonged to either the tile-making section of the Tōdaiji Construction Office or to the tile-making section of a certain mountain-area temple construction office. The present article shows on the basis of a restoration of the workshop to scale that it is appropriate to consider it to the tile-making section attached to the office for construction of the palace buildings at Kuni-no-miya.

Further, the clear inscription of the maker's name seal on the tile is seen to have been made for a specific purpose ; namely, it can be linked to the method of payment used under the ritsuryō system (payment based on amount produced), and it can be compared to the method of managing labor described in the Engishiki for the tile-making section in the Bureau of Carpentry. Finally, consideration is given to the question of how much change had taken place in the management of the tile-making sections for the construction of official buildings in ancient Japan which had been based originally on the spirit of the Chinese ritsuryō system.