

Cultural Property Survey Report
of Shari town XL

Chashikotsu-misakiue Site

Overall Report

2018.3.31

Shari Town Board of education

CONTENTS

Preface

Explanatory Notes

I	Outline of the Investigation	1
1	Purpose and process of the investigation	1
2	Implementation of the investigation	2
3	Geographical characteristics	4
4	Historical background	8
II	Execution of the excavation	9
1	Method	9
	(1) Setting excavation area and grid	9
	(2) Excavation and sorting processes	9
	(3) Stratification	12
	(4) Classification of artifacts	12
	(5) Selection of artifacts to be posted	13
2	The remains	15
	(1) Outline of the remains	15
	(2) Pit House 5 (TR5-Pit3)	15
	(3) Stone alignments for ritual purpose upper layers of the Pit House 5	25
	(4) Pit House 23	25
	(5) Disposal layer of Pit House 22 and 23 upper layers	29
	(6) Pit burial 1(TR4-Pit1)	29
	(7) Pit burial 2(TR5-Pit4)	34
	(8) Earthen Pit(TR4-Pit2a)	34
	(9) Earthen Pit(TR4-Pit2b)	38
	(10) Stone alignments for ritual purpose including (TR6-Pit 5)	38
	(11) Concentration of relics (TR6)	41
3	The relics	45
	(1) Outline of the relics	45
	(2) Excavated relics from Pit House 5 (TR5-Pit3)	45
	(3) Excavated relics from stone alignments for ritual purpose from Pit House 5 upper layers	46
	(4) Excavated relics from Pit House 23	64
	(5) Excavated relics from disposal layer of Pit House 22 and 23 upper layers	64
	(6) Excavated relics from Pit burial 1 (TR4-Pit1)	64
	(7) Excavated relics from Pit burial 2(TR5-Pit4)	70
	(8) Excavated relics from Earthen Pit(TR4-Pit2a)	70
	(9) Excavated relics from Earthen Pit(TR4-Pit2b)	70
	(10) Excavated relics from the stone alignments for ritual purpose including Pit5	70

(11) Excavated relics from animal ritual place (TR6)	79
(12) Excavated relics of I and II layer	79
(13) Excavated relics of III layer.....	89
III Various analyzes	101
(1) Tentative analysis of the chronology of Okhotsk pottery and Tobinitai pottery excavated from Chashikotsu-misakiue Site (Toshiro Kumaki)	101
(2) Stone implements and weapons excavated from Chashikotsu-misakiue Site (Isao Matsuda)	107
(3) Chemical analysis of Jingu-kaihou excavated from Chashikotsu-misakiue Site (Junya Kobayashi, Kazuyuki Nakamura)	113
(4) Analysis of carbonized fiber relic excavated from Chashikotsu-misakiue Site (Shinobu Yoshimoto, Tsuzumi Miyaji)	117
(5) Identification of tree species of carbonized material excavated from Pit House 5 at Chashikotsu-misakiue Site (Paleoenvironmental Research Institute, Inc.)	121
(6) Radiocarbon dating of Chashikotsu-misakiue Site and calendar year of Okhotsk culture based on 14C age (Kentarō Nakamura and Paleo Labo Dating Group, Paleo Labo Co., Ltd.)	129
(7) Human skeletal remains excavated at the Chashikotsu-misakiue Site (Hajime Ishida, Taketomo Touyama)	135
(8) Animal remains detected from Chashikotsu-misakiue Site (Takao Sato, Akiko Yoshinaga)	137
(9) Plant remains detected from Chashikotsu-misakiue Site (Goro Yamada)	179
IV Summary.....	185
1 Results of Investigation	185
2 Characteristics of the settlement in the terminal stage of the Okhotsk culture	189
3 Relationship between this site and with the Continent ore Honshu	193
4 Subjects to be solved	197
Abstract of the report	198
English Summary	205

Summary

Outline of the excavation results

Chashikotu-misakiue Site is a settlement of Okhotsk culture located on the coastal terrace at 55 m in altitude. From this site, various remnants including 31 pit houses, tombs, pits, stone alignments, abandonments, and relics concentration, were detected. Animal remains were also excavated with many relics. Considering with excavated remains and relics, we estimate this site is mainly founded in the terminal stage of the Okhotsk culture. On the basis of the analyzed radiocarbon ages and excavated old coins (Jingu-kaihou), this site continued from the 8th to 9th centuries.

This settlement founded here not only for living but also for strategic reason because it has an excellent wide view. This site is also characterized by its ceremonial function for animal, mainly bear, rituals. In addition, “Jingu-kaihou”, one of the twelve kinds of copper coins minted by the central government of that period, is the first detection from Okhotsk cultural remains. This is important to show the possibility of a connection between Okhotsk culture and the ancient state through intermediation by Satsumon culture.

Pit House 5 (TR5-Pit 3)

Pit House 5 is a burnt pit house in the Okhotsk cultural period. This is a small size or medium size pit in Okhotsk period and its planar shape is hexagonal. In the Pit house, there was a stone-paved floor, a stone furnace, and a bone mound. All of them are not typical form of Okhotsk culture. In addition, pillar holes and ditch surrounding a settlement were also detected. There are three large and small mounds of bones at the entrance of house. Those bones are brown bear, sable, marine mammals and so on. Except for this site, there is no example that all bone mounds set near the entrance. It may show the unique recognition of the ritual space.

The trees most widely used in the pillars and flooring of houses are Sakhalin fir. Taxus and broad leaves trees were also used.

The age of the pit house analyzed by the AMS method is coincident with the pottery chronology, from the late 8th to the early 9th century.

The stone alignments for ritual purpose upper layers of the Pit House 5

The stone alignments for ritual purpose was constructed after the abolition of the Pit House 5. It is about 4 m wide and consists of flat sharp gravel with a diameter of 30 to 40 cm. Four perfect potteries were excavated from the same layer on the east side and on the west side of the stone alignments for ritual purpose.

The age of Stone alignments for ritual purpose analyzed by the AMS method is from the early- to mid- 8th century. However, as this result se is slightly older than Pit House 5, it might be affected by the old tree in this alignments.

On the basis of the excavated pottery, we assume that it belongs to the Tobinitai cultural period.

Pit House 23

As we conducted only small scale trench survey details are not clear yet. However, judging from the shape of the excavated pottery and the Pit house recess, it should be a Pit House in the Okhotsk culture period. This pit house is medium size and the planar shape is pentagonal or hexagonal. A disposal layer of the Okhotsk cultural period partly formed the upper layer.

Carbon dating of Pit House 23 was carried out by the AMS method using the carbonized seeds of the excavated floor surface. However, the estimated age, from the early- to the mid- 7th century shows discrepancy with the chronology of pottery excavated on the floor.

Disposal layer upper layers of the Pit House 22 and 23

It is the disposal layer of the Okhotsk cultural period formed in Pit House 22 and 23. Both the 1st and 2nd layers contain large amounts of fish bones, and many Okhotsk pottery pieces with pasted patterns are excavated from those layers. The 3rd layers contain much more pieces of burned bone. In addition, one Jingu-kaihou, a money of the Nara period, has been excavated from the top of the 3rd layers.

Carbon dating by the AMS method using the excavated carbonized seeds among revealed that Pit House 23 age is from the late eighth to the early ninth century. It is consistent with the circulation period of Jingu-kaihou excavated from the disposal layer.

Pit burial 1 (TR4-Pit 1)

Pit burial 1 belongs to Okhotsk culture period. The planar shape in one part is irregular, but another part is corner round rectangle. In addition, a rounded gravel about 5 to 40 cm in diameter is placed around Pit burial 1. A pottery was covered on the head of the buried person. Judging from the excavated pottery and positions of teeth, head position faced to the southeast. We estimate that the burial method is the contracted burial. In addition, the age of the burial person is less than or equal to 20 years of age based on the analysis of the excavated teeth.

We estimated age of Pit burial 1 by AMS method carbon dating of carbonized seeds (walnut shell) excavated from fill. The estimated age is from the late 8th to early 9th century, and it is almost consistent with the time of the excavated pottery.

Pit burial 2 (TR5-Pit 4)

Pit burial 2 belongs to Okhotsk culture period. The planar shape is the corner round rectangle. In the top of Pit burial 2, round gravels of 30 to 50 cm in diameter were stacked like a circle shape about 1.3 m in width, and teeth and relics were excavated under them. It is different from burial method of Pit burial 1. Carbonized plain weave material is a remarkable relic among excavated remains.

We estimate head position faced to the south-west, judging from the excavated position of the tooth. The age of the buried person should be around 4 years old based on the formation stage of the permanent tooth. We estimated age of Pit burial 2 by AMS method carbon dating of carbonized seeds excavated from fill.

The estimated age is the early- to mid- 8th century which is consistent with the time of the excavated pottery.

Earthen Pit (TR4-Pit 2a)

Pit 2a is earthen pit of the terminal stage of Okhotsk culture or in the Tobinitai cultural period. The planar shape was misshapen ellipsoidal, and there was a stone alignment of 2.5m in width in the upper layer.

Through observation of the fill, it became clear that the Okhotsk people constructed Pit 2a after breaking down the lower pit (Pit 2b).

Earthen Pit (TR4-Pit 2b)

Pit 2b is earthen pit in the late stage or in the terminal stage of Okhotsk culture. The upper layer of Pit 2b is pulled down for the construction of Pit 2a. The planar shape of the extant part of this pit is misshapen ellipse. The scale is small.

Stone alignments (TR6-Pit 5)

Stone alignments for ritual purpose and Pit 5 are excavated from the late- or the terminal Okhotsk cultural remains

or from the earthen pit. Both stone alignments and Pit 5 were detected in the same layer. Stone alignments for ritual purpose was approximately 4.5 m in width and it was existed in the I - II layer.

Material of them is mainly large sharp gravel with 50 to 60 cm in diameter, but also there are many small gravels of 5 cm in width. Pit 5 is earthen pit dug just under gravel arranged in circle. We found a brown bear's molar tooth from this pit.

Teeth of two brown bears have been excavated from stone alignments for ritual purpose.

Since some of the teeth were heated, these teeth should be used for animal ritual place in the open.

Concentration of relics (TR6)

Animal ritual place are dated from the late stage or the terminal stage of Okhotsk culture. It consists of pottery, stone implements, stone weapons, bone or antler implements and animal remains. Also, since it was detected from the upper part of the III layer or from the bottom part of the II layer, it should be older than the adjacent stone alignments for ritual purpose (Pit 5).

It is remarkable that this animal ritual place in the open contains many relics and animal bones.