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On the Bird or Animal Shaped Beads (*magatama*)

by Sueji Umehara

Among the various ornamental beads that have been transmitted in Japan since the ancient times, the comma-shaped beads (*magatama*) (勾玉) is the most remarkable one. The bead of this type is considered originally derived from the custom of dangling the tooth, the evidence of the hunted game in primitive society.

The *magatama* is especially significant in that it settled down to a regular, characteristic form rather early in ancient times, that some ones made of juidate, are very beautiful, and that scarcely the similiary devised objects have been found in their precedence in neighboring countries.

Magatama, therefore, has been made a subject of interest and debate among the archaeologists, especially with reference to the quality of its material substance, juidate, and its shape.

Some of the juidate *magatama* of the *Chō-ji-gashira* (丁字頭) Type, which are thought to be the oldest type, are striking. And many of the ones which were produced after the fist type are most regular in their form. The ones of agate or jasper or some other material, that are in diffused form of “コ” (*ko*), a Japanese syllabary of *Katakana* style, are found in the sites from the mound age to *Nara* (奈良) Period. A considerable number of *magatama* gatama of this sort in rather perfect form have been found in the south of Korea which was under the influence of Japanese culture at that time.

As to the *magatama* of other types, excepting the *magatama* found in the shell-mounds in Eastern Japan, we have found only a few of the so-called comb-shaped *magatama* (櫛形勾玉) and some other *magatama* of irregular shapes, which are treasured by some antiquarians. Among these irregular shaped

magatama, the so-called "*Ko-mo-chi*" *magatama* (子持勾玉), that are complicated and look crude, fascinate us.

On the other hand, among the large number of *magatama* found by chance at the old burial mounds in *Kinki* District (近畿地方), and preserved by amateurs, are found some comb-shaped *magatama* and not a small number of jadate *magatama* in animal shape. Some of these are bird or fish shaped. With the flourishing of excavating activities for scientific research after the war, some more *magatama* of this type are unearthed in *Kinki* District (近畿地方) and the north of *Kyushu* (北九州). I discuss here on some of them.

These *magatama* of bird, animal or fish shape are not uniform in their designs as most of other typed *magatama* are. Most of them are made of jadate as *magatama* of old style. Judged by their shape, it seems that they were made before the so-called *Chō-ji-gashira magatama* came into being. Also, these *magatama* are found in the sites of *Yayoi* (弥生) culture, which is considered preceding the emergence of the magnificent mound structure. And it seems that the same technique are applied to these animal shaped *magatama* as to the *magatama* of the old type. Therefore, we may safely infer that these *magatama* belong to the period preceding the time when the most common ones were made.

Some of these bird, animal or fish shaped *magatama* strike us too large to be used as ornamental beads. Some of them are made of such a precious stone as agate, and bear such carvings which we often found in the burial articles unearthed at some archaic burial mounds. (See examples shown in Section 4). Some of these large size *magatama* clearly show that they were made before the so-called "*Ko-mo-chi*" *magatama* appeared. (These
2 "*Ko-mo-chi*" *magatama* are generally considered to be found in worship places).

We may conclude as following. The so-called bird or animal shaped *magatama*, which can be thought to be the most characteristic of all the ornamental beads in ancient Japan, seem to

prove that *magatama* have originally been made for the purpose which is beyond the practical and, as is told in old Japanese legends. Further, it seems me that they, even made by imported material and technique, clearly show the way the ancient Japanese lived at the time preceding the period when these were made.

Die Entstehung der Reichstagsmehrheit und die Julikrisis

by Osamu Yoneda

Am Nachmittag des 6. Juli 1917 versammelten sich 17 Abgeordnete, Vertreter der Fraktion der Fortschrittlichen Volkspartei, Mehrheitssozialdemokratie, des Zentrum und der Nationalliberalen, im Hauptausschusszimmer des Reichstagsgebäudes, um über ein gemeinsames Vorgehen ihrer Parteien in den Fragen der Kriegszielpolitik und innenpolitischen "Neuorientierung" zu verhandeln. Diese erste Sitzung des interfraktionellen Ausschusses begründete die Zusammenarbeit in der Reichstagsmehrheit, die als Mehrheit der Friedensresolution in die Geschichte eingegangen ist. Diese Reichstagsmehrheit blieb bis zur Novemberrevolution erhalten. Selbst nach der Ablösung des parlamentarischen Kabinetts des Prinzen Max von Baden, durch die sozialistische Regierung der Volksbeauftragten machte sich ihr Einfluss teils latent, teils offen weiter bemerkbar. Damit darf die Weimarer Republik von 1919 als direkte Nachfolgerin der Reichstagsmehrheit der beiden letzten Kriegsjahre und der 6. Juli 1917 als ihr eigentlicher Geburtstag gelten. In dieser Sicht, unter dem Titel "die Entstehung der Reichstagsmehrheit und die Julikrisis" wird hier ein Gegenstand behandelt, der politisch-historisch ein Beitrag sein will zu dem Versuch, die Entstehung des interfraktionellen Ausschusses als die Vorgeschichte der