

トピックス

「キトラ古墳壁画の十二支像」

平成17年6月、キトラ古墳石室南壁壁画「朱雀」の取り外しの準備作業中に獣頭人身十二支像「午」が発見されたことは、その泥に転写された姿の鮮やかな朱色とともに記憶に新しい。この「午」を含め、これまでキトラ古墳で確認された十二支像は7体（子、丑、寅、卯、午、戌、亥）。いずれも長袍を着た立像で、手には武器をもつ。

キトラ古墳壁画は、天井に天文図、四周の壁面に四神と十二支を配す。それらが示す悠久の時空世界の中心に死者を安置し、その魂を鎮めるためのものなのだろう。こうした中でのキトラ古墳の十二支像のありかたは、中国のものと共通する。その一方、武器を取る姿は、新羅の十二支像と類似する。ただし、新羅のものは、墳丘の周囲に設置される外護列石に浮彫され、外向きに立つものが多く、より守護神的な要素が強い。

このように、キトラの十二支像は、唐・新羅両国のものとも異同点を指摘でき、壁画古墳に関する諸問題を考える上で重要な手がかりを与えてくれる。また、6世紀後半に中国長江中流域で出現し、その後、広範囲に流行した獣頭人身十二支像の伝播と変容を考える上でも貴重な事例といえる。

Topics:

The zodiac figures of the Kitora tomb murals

The discovery in June 2005, during work in preparation for the removal of the figure of Suzaku (a scarlet phoenix) on the southern mural of the Kitora tomb's stone chamber, of a figure with an animal head on a human body for the Oriental zodiac sign of the Horse, is still fresh in the memory, along with the bright red color of the image that had transferred over to the mud which covered it. Including the Horse, the zodiac signs now ascertained at the Kitora tomb are seven (Rat, Ox, Tiger, Hare, Horse, Dog, and Boar). All of them are depicted as standing figures, clothed in formal ceremonial dress, and holding weapons in their hands.

The Kitora murals have astronomical charts placed on the ceiling, and the four directional deities plus zodiac signs on the four walls. The deceased was laid to rest in the realm of eternal time and space which these represent, and were likely meant to soothe his soul. On the other hand, the weapon-holding pose bears similarities to the zodiac signs of Silla. But the Silla figures are relief carvings made on stone retaining walls circling the mound, usually face outward, so that the guardian deity element is stronger.

In this manner, it may be noted that the Kitora zodiac signs have points of difference as well as commonalities with those of both Tang and Silla, and provide valuable clues for thinking about various problems regarding tombs with murals. They also present a precious example for considerations of the spread and change of zodiac figures, which appeared in the second half of the sixth century in the mid Changjiang basin of China, and later became popular over a wide region.



キトラ古墳の十二支像（午）

Zodiac figure (Horse) at the Kitora tomb



唐の十二支像

(宋：李景由墓出土鉄俑)
Tang zodiac figure (Goat, an iron statue
unearthed from the tomb of Li Jingyou)

新羅の十二支像

(午：金庾信墓外護列石浮彫)
Silla zodiac figure (Horse, relief carving from
the retaining wall of the Kim Yusin tomb)