

**ARTIFACTS EXCAVATED FROM THE HOKUWA-JŌNAN
TUMULUS MOUND
IN THE COLLECTION OF THE NARA NATIONAL MUSEUM**

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The Nara National Museum houses a collection of artifacts, excavated from tumulus mounds (Jpns., kofun), that were awarded to the museum by the Nara Regional Court in 1937 (Shōwa 12). The names of the tumulus mounds, or mound, from which the artifacts were excavated is unknown, but as it is thought to have been located in northern Nara or southern Kyoto prefectures, the objects are thus designated “artifacts excavated from the Hokuwa-Jōnan Tumulus Mound (Hokuwa being an abbreviation meaning Northern Nara and Jōnan indicating the Southern Kyoto area). The entire collection is composed of four mirrors, fifty-three items fashioned from stone in the shape of hoe-blades, wagon wheels, bracelets, and spindles, and stone jewels in the shape of hollow cylinders and jujubes, and glass beads. Among the collection, the mirror with a semi-circular head and square base and designs of divinities and animals and the gold bracelet are slightly later than the other objects, so they are thought to have come from another tumulus mound, but the remainder of the objects can safely be judged to be from the Early-Kofun period of the 4th century. Among the remaining three mirrors, the mirror with a triangular wedged rim pattern and images of divinities and animals has an auspicious inscription, which cannot be deciphered completely, but it is from the same mold as those found in the Samida-Takarazuka tumulus mound in Nara, etc. Furthermore, the fact that fifty-three objects fashioned from stone were excavated from this kofun, and the only other tumulus mounds to produce so many stone artifacts are the Tōdaijiyama kofun and Shimanoyama kofun in Nara and the Ishiyama kofun in Mie Prefecture, marks this as a valuable collection of artifacts from the early Kofun period.