REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS FROM YAMATO TENJINYAMA KOFUN

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In the fiscal year 1998, the Gangoji Institute for Research of Cultural Property began a four-year project to conserve archaeological objects excavated from Yamato Tenjinyama Kofun (Tumulus), comprising twenty-three bronze mirrors, various weapons, and other metal objects.

The broken mirrors in this group had been adhered together after excavation but were in an extremely poor state due to remaining rust and sand on the surface. The condition was further marred by resin that had been haphazardly applied for the purpose of adhesion and reinforcement.

Rust on the weapons had progressed very little since the time of excavation, despite their not having received similar conservation treatment. However, further examination of the arrangement of the pieces revealed errors in the previously reported dimensions and number of weapons.

This article reports on the conservation of mirrors from Yamato Tenjinyama Kofun as well as changes made in the arrangement of broken pieces.