A CONSIDERATION OF THE FORMATION OF FLAT EAVES-END TILES IN THE THREE KINGDOMS PERIOD

KIM Yoosik
National Museum of Korea

Generally, Korean researchers on roof-tiles have dated the origin of Flat Eaves-End Tiles at around the late 7th century which was the early Unified Silla Kingdom period. This dating comes from the assumption that the style of Flat Eaves-End Tiles had changed and developed from straight form to bent form.

However, Flat Eaves-End Tiles of Three Kingdoms period have been excavated of Janggoon tomb (장군총) from Koguryo, the Goonsoori temple site, the Booso mountain fortress wall and Ajosansung near the Han River from Paekche, and Moolcheonri and Wolsunghaeja from Silla. These excavations, specifically reconsideration the current presumption of the date of the birth of Flat Eaves-End Tiles in the late 7th century.

In particular, there is concrete evidence Prefiguring the appearance of Flat Eaves-End Tiles during the Three Kingdoms period and the fragments of earthenwares found in the Booso mountain fortress wall, Wolsunghaeja, Flat Eaves-End Tiles with finger printed designs found in Goonsoori and Flat Eaves-End Tiles with no pattern found near Choongju.

Accordingly, the date of the origin of Flat Eaves-End Tiles in Korea should be pushed back to the period from the mid 6th century to the mid 7th century.