**THE HISTORY OF JAPANESE ART**

**Study Sheet 1.**

The ways of humans and gods: prehistoric art, dwellings, and Shinto shrines

Mason Ch. 1: pp. 12-31; Ch. 2: pp. 33-38.

**Periods:**
- **Jomon (10,500 BCE-300 BCE)**
  - (Incipient Jomon [10,500 BCE-8000 BCE] and Initial Jomon [8000 BCE-5000 BCE])
- **Early Jomon (5000-2500 BCE)**
- **Middle Jomon (2500-1500 BCE)**
- **Late Jomon (1500-1000 BCE)**
- **Final Jomon (1000 BCE-300 BCE)**

**Yayoi period (300 BCE-300 CE)**
- **Kofun (300-710 CE)**

**Useful Terms and Concepts**

**NOTE:** Here and elsewhere you should recognize the Japanese terms in parentheses and know their meanings (i.e., passive recognition) but you need not memorize them.

Functions of Jomon ceramics: practical (food storage, burial, etc.), ceremonial or ritual

Honshū, Kyūshū, Hokkaidō, Shikoku, southern island chain

*read right to left*

- pit-dwellings (or pit-houses) central hearth
- thatched roof post and beam construction
- nomadic hunting and gathering
- cord markings pots (vessels)
- incense burners (or oil lamps) storage vessel
- stone rod phallic symbol
- mixed gender symbolism dogū
- cromlech (stone circle) monolith
- raised storehouses Yoshinogari
- bronze mirror chokkomon design motif, spiral design
- dōtaku kofun burial mound
- Takehara tomb Emperor Nintoku tomb
- haniwa gable, gabled roof
- Shinto Ise Shrine, Shinmei style (zukuri)
- Main hall of shrine (honden, shoden) kami
- gates (torii), ridge pole, porch, bay billet (katsuogi), piles, lintel, post

**Useful descriptive terms:** design, motif, zones, form, construction, modeling, contour, 2-dimensional (2-D), 3-D, relief, balance, symmetry, asymmetry, symbolism, iconography, composition, aesthetic concern, emotional tenor, formal qualities.

*centimeter = .39 inches (2.564 cm = 1 inch).*

**Illustrations**

*number to left* is a B & W illustration unless a color plate ("CP") is noted:

- **map, p. 12**
- **3. Early Jomon pit house.** 1/2 meter deep, 4 X 4 m. square, thatched roof over posts.
- **10. Late Jomon cromlech.** Stone. D. 2.5 m. Northern Honshū (Akita).
35 and color plate 2. Takehara Tomb. 6th c. Kyūshū.
41. Main hall, Ise Shrine. Modern, based on ancient style. Wood, gilt bronze, thatch.