

The Construction of Central Pillars and the Formation of Pagoda Frameworks

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After the Asuka period, records can be found of the date of the erection of central pillars noted to be an important process in the construction of pagodas. During the Heian period the setting up of the framework of a pagoda was recorded as taking place at the same time as the central pillar was erected, or sometimes only the record of the former can be found. Later on, the significance of the setting up of the framework seemed to change. An assumption can be made that this change was related to the change in construction methods due to the construction of the Taho pagoda and also to the decrease in the importance of the central pillar.

The theme of the central pillar and the setting up of the framework is studied with reference to literature and actual remains of pagodas; in the study the methods and the periods for construction of the central pillar are discussed.