Morgan Pitelka - The Material Culture of Religious Practice in Late Medieval Castle Towns

After the Onin War (1467-1477) ravaged the capital city of Kyoto and destabilized the Ashikaga Shogunate, provincial cities became increasingly significant as centers of trade and artisanal production. Archaeological evidence from castle towns such as Azuchi, Bungo Funai, and Ichijōdani illuminate aspects of religious practice that rarely appear in documentary evidence, pointing to the rhythms and rituals that animated residents’ daily lives.

Bio: Morgan Pitelka is Professor of History and Asian Studies, and Director of the Carolina Asia Center, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His most recent publications are Spectacular Accumulation: Material Culture, Tokugawa Ieyasu, and Samurai Sociability (2015) and Kyoto Visual Culture in the Early Edo and Meiji Periods: The Arts of Reinvention (Co-edited with Alice Tseng, 2016).

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