

Editorial

As the Chief Editor of the *Japanese Journal of Archaeology*, I would like to begin by expressing my sincere apology to readers, contributors, and fellow members of the Editorial Committee for the considerable delay in our publication schedule. I was in the hospital for a short period of time in the autumn of 2022 and felt quite weak throughout the rest of the year. While I regained physical strength in the spring of 2023, I was unable to fulfill my duty as Chief Editor under the backlog of work. Over my sabbatical from April to July of 2024, I intend to bring to publication all the papers submitted in 2022 and 2023 in Volume 12.

Besides a reproduction of the English summary section (pp. 227–239) of *Nihon Kōkōgaku Nenpō (Archaeologia Japonica)*, Vol. 74 (2022), this issue includes only one article by Roderick Campbell entitled “Beyond State Formation: Mass Production and Commercialization in Shang China.” The article is an enhanced and revised version of a paper presented at the “International and Comparative Approach to State Formation” session of the 87th Meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association on May 23, 2021. The three other papers presented in the session will be published in subsequent issues of the *JAA*.

I would like to apologise again for the delay and will do my best to bring the publication schedule back on track.

SASAKI Ken'ichi

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