

Title	The lecture on the Nihon shoki (日本書紀) delivered in Konin (弘仁) era at the imperial court and the formation of the "Konin" private interpretation of the Nihon Shoki
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selected and supplied in each period.

(D) Judging from the positions of the shell mounds and the fact that the shell fish (taken mainly as food) were obtained inside the bay, the writer thinks that the shell fish were gathered just near the shell mounds. Probably the shell gathering was the work for old people, women and children.

### III. Chronology and regression

As all the shell mounds in this Valley consist of marine mollusca, it is quite probable that the sea extended into the depth of the Valley in the Jōmon period. The more secluded the shell mounds are in the Valley, the older they must be, because the sea has turned into what it is by gradual regression. After examining the earthenware of this Valley on this principle, the writer could obtain almost the same chronology of the earthenware as had been established for the shell mounds along the coast of Tokyo Bay. The writer, therefore, believes that the chronology of the Jōmon Culture along the coast of Kujūkuri has been successfully established.

The coastline in the earliest (or proto-) Jōmon period seems to have been over the line of ten metres above the sea levels measured today. The height of the coastline in each period has been proved as follows:

Early Jōmon period .....	8~10 m.,
Middle Jōmon period .....	8 m.,
Late Jōmon period .....	5 m.

Then the course of regression has been definitely disclosed, and the writer has succeeded in restoring the pre-historic topography in each period of the Jōmon culture.

The Lecture on the *Nihon Shoki* 日本書紀  
Delivered in *Konin* 弘仁 Era at the  
Imperial Court and the Formation of the “*Konin*”  
Private Interpretation of the *Nihon Shoki*.

By Masaji SHIMIZU

The purpose of this article is to describe the circum-

stances and intent of the meetings for lecture on the *Nihon Shoki* ("Chronicle of Japan" compiled in 720 by the Imperial command in the reign of Empress *Genshō* 元正) held in the *Kōnin* era (810~823) together with the formation of the "*Kōnin* Private Interpretation of the *Nihon Shoki*" 弘仁私記 which was compiled according to the lectures given at the Court. In conclusion, the writer of this article clarifies the following points.

In the early *Heian* period, the *Ritsuryō System* 律令制度 (the administrative and judicial system in accordance with provisions of the *Taihō Ritsuryō*, the Code compiled in the *Taiho* era (701)) was strained to the breaking point and the reconstruction of the administrative system was urgently required. Accordingly the historical consciousness was awakened among the courtiers. Under these circumstances, they took an interest in the description on the *Nihon Shoki* in which the ancient spirit of nationalism was expressed.

At the same time, the traditional clan system was in a state of disorder, and owing to changes in the language the ancient Japanese words had been misunderstood. Indeed the direct purpose of the promoters of the lecture meetings was to cope with the disorder in the clan system and in the Japanese language at that time. The lecture meetings in question were held during the two years 812 and 813 in the reign of Emperor *Saga* by Imperial order appointing *Ōno-Ninchō* 多人長 to the post of instructor to give lectures on the *Nihon Shoki* to the courtiers. The book of "*Kōnin* Private Interpretation of the *Nihon Shoki*", however, was compiled more than ten years after the time when the court had the lecture meetings. Accordingly, there are some misinterpretations in the description of the book.

Because of such misinterpretations, various doubts about the description have been entertained by many historians, especially as to its preface. The writer of this article proves the reliability of the descriptions by clarifying the circumstances in question.