

Midwest Archaeological Conference, Inc.
Annual Editor's Report 2021–2022
September 2022

To: MAC Board

From: Thomas E. Emerson, Editor, mcjaeditor@gmail.com; Tamira Brennan, Book Review Editor, tbrennan@illinois.edu; Mary Lou Wilshaw-Watts, Editorial Assistant, <wilshaww@illinois.edu>; Robert Cook, Associate Editor <cook.426.edu>

(Administration) Building on last year's efforts (see Editor's Report 2020–2021), the transition to MCJA's new publisher, the University of Illinois Press; the implementation of the new Open Journal System (OJS) editorial software; and the use of the web staff of the Office of the Iowa State Archaeologist for the new MCJA system and the MAC website were successfully completed and put in place.

We are glad to announce that the first print issue of the 2022 MCJA Volume 47(1) was recently delivered. In 2021, working with the UIP journals staff, we were able to transition to full color production at no extra cost to either the MCJA or the authors. This has been a significant upgrade to the journal and provides authors with an expanded opportunity for high-quality images. Unfortunately, the printer mistakenly ran Volume 47(1) in black and white. Since this was an error on the printer's part, we have insisted on a new run in full color for this issue. This should be arriving soon.

As the membership were notified in a past MAC announcement, the MCJA Early Access system is now up and functioning, and current members can access these digital articles prior to their printing by logging on the MAC website and entering <<https://www.midwestarchaeology.org/mcja/digital-access>>. Members will need to log in for access. This same portal will also allow members to access archival copies of the journal as well as Supplemental Data from the articles. This process has been made possible by the joint efforts of Angela Collins and Josiah Salsbury at the Office of the Iowa State Archaeologist and the UIP journals section.

With the move to the UIP, we have adopted the Open Journal Systems, Editorial Software ver. 3. It is user-friendly and generally straightforward, especially for authors and reviewers. Furthermore, MCJA editorial staff will have much greater control over manipulating the software. This means that MCJA or UIP staff should be able to directly assist users. This is also true for the production process housed at the UIP.

While this transition to a new publisher will change how the editorial office interacts with the production process, MAC members will experience little difference. The journal will continue in its current format and style consisting of three issues (Spring, Summer, and Fall) per volume, with an annual length of about 312 pages, and continue to provide early online digital access to accepted articles. The individual member rates will continue to be \$45.00 per annum.

(Editorial Office Changes) The 2022 publishing cycle has completed the change in staffing. The Illinois State Archaeological Survey will no longer serve as the MCJA editorial office. We have appreciated their past assistance, especially during this period of transition. With guidance from ISAS's Sarah Boyer, Mary Lou Wilshaw-Watts, who has been a longtime copy editor for MCJA and for ISAS, stepped up to assume editorial assistant responsibilities. This allowed a seamless transition in the production process. Additionally, Dr. Robert Cook, Ohio State University, was appointed by the MAC Board to serve as associate editor of the MCJA. This appointment will allow for a smooth transition in the editorial office when Emerson steps down in 2022.

(OP series) Members should be aware that the cost and staff time expenditure involved in the Occasional Paper series has led to several changes in current practices. First and foremost, the Board has decided that the OP series will no longer be automatically tied to the Sponsored Symposium. The editor will create a subcommittee of the Editorial Committee to review any manuscripts submitted for consideration for the OP series. Such manuscripts are also strongly encouraged to include a monetary subvention as part of the submission package or to consider the papers for submission as a thematic issue.

(Thematic Issues) MCJA will now return to the practice of accepting, on a limited basis, thematic sets of papers. Initially, we will set a limit of one thematic issue per volume in order to avoid having an impact on the timely publication of individual articles.

(Open Access Book Reviews) Tamira Brennan, book review editor, has been productive, with 16 book reviews posted in 2021–2022. These continue to be Open Access and can be reached at <https://www.midwestarchaeology.org/mcja/book-reviews>. She also has numerous volumes that need reviewers. If you are interested, please send her a copy of your vita, a summary of relevant expertise, and an indication of the volume(s) you wish to review. The list is available at www.midwestarchaeology.org/files/Jan2020_Titles%20available%20for%20review.pdf. Please note that Dr. Brennan can be reached at tbrennan@illinois.edu.

(Call for Papers) The manuscript submission, review, and acceptance process is now in place and functioning smoothly. Authors can submit their manuscripts via the MCJA website at <https://ojs-mcja.press.uillinois.edu/index.php/mcja/about/submissions>. To thrive, the MCJA depends on manuscript submissions as well as willing reviewers. We encourage members, their students, and fellow researchers to continue submitting their work to MCJA. We also encourage MAC symposium organizers to consider if their session might be suitable for a thematic volume. For all those past contributors and reviewers, a Big Thank You. MAC and the MCJA editorial staff appreciate your past and future support.

(Editorial Change). The 2022 annual meeting will see a change in MCJA editorship. These last 10 years with the multiple changes in publishers (four different ones) and editorial systems have been challenging, but since I enjoy being challenged, they were also gratifying and fulfilling. I believe that the current UIP and OJS agreements in place have positioned the MCJA to successfully move forward over the long term. I have appreciated the support

of the MAC officers, the membership, the editorial board, and the editorial staff (especially Sarah Boyer and Mary Lou Wilshaw-Watts) during this process — all were essential in making it work. Thank you.

Thomas E. Emerson