The Grand Map of Sakai dated 1689 held by the National Museum of Japanese History records land ownership details for the late seventeenth century. After the city of Sakai was completely destroyed by fire during the summer siege of Osaka in 1615, a portion of the encircling moat remaining today was dug out by the Shogunate, and the area inside the moat (Sakai-ku, Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture) is believed to have been laid out anew. Comparing the information included in the map with historical sites in Sakai within the moat, it is clear that the location of the Kishū Kaidō road that functioned as an axis crossing Sakai from north to south, with the Ōshō-ji road running east-west along the borders of Settsu and Izumi Provinces intersecting at right angles, basically follows the original plan. Therefore, this is a significant map which has the possibility of permitting a recreation of the land distribution of the Genroku era. The scale of this map is 1/325.

Archaeological excavation is extremely important as an approach to reconstructing the structure of the medieval city lying hidden underground. The findings of excavations shedding light on the structure of the medieval city lying deeply buried have not been sufficient. The present map accurately reflecting the early Edo period city is evaluated as an important graphic resource.

A photographic reproduction has been published, and although research is advancing in such fields as pre-modern history and architectural history, the 1977 publication is dated and has the drawbacks of being overly large and the details difficult to read. It is anticipated that recent advances in graphics processing will overcome these drawbacks. Through preparing digital imagery of the map, archaeological data and detailed examinations of locations related to that can be made, aiming at a basis for cooperation between archaeology and historical geography, historical documents, and architectural history.

The Yamato River flowing through the Kawachi Plain towards the east of Osaka Castle flowed north, but was altered to flow west in the early eighteenth century. Due to that, the volume of silt deposited in the sea directly north of Sakai increased, and the perimeter of Sakai Bay became shallower, and these came to have a major impact on the flow of goods.

Key words: Sakai, map, moat, land ownership, digital photography