

The ninth issue of *Archaeology International*

With David Harris as editor, *Archaeology International* (*AI*) became an important means of bringing to a worldwide readership the diverse research work of members of the Institute of Archaeology. Those who wrote articles for him to edit will recall his enthusiasm, breadth of vision and attention to detail. He also established the attractive format and style that has appealed to archaeological and other readers alike. It was with trepidation that I agreed to steer the ninth issue to publication, because David has always been a hard act to follow. My first editorial decision was to retain the very successful format. A call for papers yielded an embarrassment of riches exceeding the page capacity of *AI*. Difficult decisions had to be made on which articles to choose for this issue and I hope that a good balance has been achieved (I apologize to colleagues whose draft articles were deferred to the next issue).

The articles cover a wide range of themes, methodological approaches, chronological and cultural periods, and geographical regions – from Kent in southern England to Fiji in the southern Pacific, taking in Germany, Spain, Nagorno Karabagh, the Levant, Egypt, Turkmenistan and India. Elizabeth Bloxam considers work techniques and labour organization in the quarrying of rocks for monumental architecture and sculptures in ancient Egypt. Also in Egypt, Thilo Rehren unravels the technological processes of early glassmaking at the site of Qantir (ancient Piramesses), considering the economic and social significance of this industry within its eastern Mediterranean context. In other multidisciplinary projects, Ethan Cochrane combines field archaeology with the laboratory analysis of pottery to investigate interactions between prehistoric populations on islands in Fiji; Julia Shaw views early Buddhist sites in India in the context of their landscapes and the water-management schemes that underpinned their economy.

Post-excavation analysis is always an essential part of archaeological work. Stuart Brookes, Sue Harrington and Martin Welch consider the problems of studying material from old excavations that has been dispersed or separated from its original contextual information. Their electronic database enables them to reconstruct the assemblages of grave goods from Anglo-Saxon burials in Kent and to use the information to address important social questions. Ulrike Sommer's post-excavation analysis of the struck stone artefacts from her excavations at the early Neolithic site of Hanau Klein-Auheim (Germany) also shows how this can lead to interesting social interpretations.

Recent additions to the Institute's staff have strengthened our research profile. Dietrich Stout and Ignacio de la Torre join Andrew Garrard and Norah Moloney in outlining their current research in various aspects of the Palaeolithic. Evolutionary archaeology is another developing research field, and James Steele outlines the theoretical foundations of this, along with the aims of the new AHRC-funded Centre for the Evolution of Cultural Diversity, of which he is director. Cultural heritage, another expanding area, is represented by Suzanne Keene's consideration of the future of museums from a postmodern perspective, and Tim Williams's report on conservation, management and training programmes at the World Heritage Site of Merv.

David Harris, in a valuable addition to the series of retrospective articles on the history of the Institute that he initiated when editor of *AI*, writes about his "pathways toward archaeology", retracing his pre-Institute career and his experiences of the Institute, first as professor of human environment and then as director.

I thank all my colleagues who have contributed in various ways to this issue of *AI*.

Ken Thomas

Mission statement

The Institute of Archaeology is a research-led institution recognized also for the excellence of its teaching. Its mission is:

- To be internationally pre-eminent in the study, and comparative analysis, of world archaeology.
- To enhance its national and international reputation for the quality and breadth of its multidisciplinary and thematic approach to the study of the human past.
- To promote best practice in the management of cultural heritage and in the study, care and preservation of archaeological artefacts.
- To promote awareness of the problems caused by illicit trade in antiquities and the destruction of archaeological heritage that it entails.
- To ensure that the social, political and economic contexts of the practice of archaeology are taught and appreciated.
- To be at the forefront of international research in archaeological sciences.
- To play a major role in furthering the understanding of London's archaeological and historical past.
- To provide archaeological opportunities of the highest quality to all, regardless of background.