

Archaeology International

Issue No.10

Archaeology International under its previous editors, David Harris (issues 1–8) and Ken Thomas (issue 9) has provided the main means by which the Institute brings its uniquely broad range of research to a worldwide readership. It is a pleasure, and a great responsibility, to take over as editor; I hope that I will be able to continue the very successful tradition established by my predecessors.

The most significant event of 2006/2007 for the Institute was the death of Peter Ucko, director from 1996 to 2005. A section of this issue of *AI* is devoted to a commemoration of his many contributions to the Institute and to the lives of its staff.

As a result there are fewer research articles than usual, but we still have eight papers, reflecting the broad geographical, theoretical and methodological scope of research at the Institute.

Clive Orton discusses the application of statistical theory to archaeological survey and the application of his *sherdnav* software in Kris Lockyear's Noviodunum Archaeological Project. Todd Whitelaw and his colleagues describe the first three years of the Knossos Urban Landscape Project, which is investigating the landscape context of the famous Minoan palace site and the entire occupational sequence of the valley from prehistory to the present. Also in the Aegean, Andrew Bevan and his colleagues describe a project on the very different island of Antikythera and demonstrate how archaeological survey on a tiny and remote island offers distinct analytical advantages.

The article by Marcos Martín-Torres and others is also island-based but in this case concerns the Caribbean island of Cuba; it deals with the way in which indigenous peoples in Cuba adopted metalwork of European origin but used it quite differently from the Europeans. Renata Peters and Frank Salomon's article is concerned not with archaeology, but with a conservation project, reflecting another major area of Institute research; it describes the conservation of *khipu*, cord objects used for recording information, in a village of highland Peru where they are still used in sacred rituals. Jim Aimers discusses the Postclassic ceramics from the site of Lamanai in Belize and shows how their analysis undermines the widely held view of the total collapse of Maya society in the Postclassic. Sue Hamilton's article describes work on another island, in the most remote location of all Institute research projects – Rapa Nui (Easter Island) – where she and her colleagues are studying both the landscape context of the famous statues and processes of construction.

The final article is the only UK-based one in this issue of *AI* and brings us close to home. Bill Sillar and others describe the West Dean Archaeological Project, which for the last two years has provided the base for practical training of Institute students. It is also the location of a long-term research project and both the training and the research are described in this article.

This tenth issue of *AI* is different in a number of ways. The first is the most obvious: it is now in full colour. I have also made some minor style changes, but I have retained the general format and layout features that have worked well in the earlier issues. Finally, and this follows popular demand, this issue of *AI* has a number, as well as a date, which should make it easier to quote in bibliographic references.

I am grateful to all my colleagues who have contributed to this issue of *Archaeology International*.

Ruth Whitehouse

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 practice 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.