

Archaeology International

Issue No.12

This issue of *Archaeology International*, like its predecessors, combines news about Institute activities and events in 2008/2009 with reports on research carried out by members of staff, including both new and on-going projects.

Undoubtedly the saddest event of the year was the death of Ben Samphire, who was tragically killed while on a primate conservation project in Ecuador, less than six months after he completed his PhD at the Institute of Archaeology. In this issue friends and colleagues share their memories of Ben.

The research section of this issue begins with an account by Anna Clement, Simon Hillson and Maria Michalaki-Kollia of the the Institute's ten-year involvement in excavation and study of the ancient cemeteries on the Greek island of Astypalaia, especially the remarkable Kyindra cemetery, used largely for the burial of newborn babies. In the next article Susanna Harris describes part of her British Academy Postdoctoral project on *Cloth Cultures of Prehistoric Europe*, discussing the use of both skins and textiles in the Bronze Age salt mines of Hallstatt in Austria.

The next three articles are all about new field projects, widely dispersed geographically, illustrating well the international scope of Institute of Archaeology research. Tim Williams and Paul Wordsworth describe a new field survey in Turkmenistan, which is investigating the role of the city of Merv in the medieval Silk Roads that traversed Central Asia. David Wengrow provides an account of the first season of renewed excavations at the site of Tel Bet Yerah (Khirbet el-Kerak) in northern Israel, focusing on the Bronze Age and Islamic phases of occupation, carried out in collaboration with the University of Tel Aviv. Ceri Ashley, another British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, describes fieldwork in the Khwebe Hills of Botswana, carried out as part of her Postdoctoral project on the *Archaeology of Migrations in Africa*.

In the previous issue of *Archaeology International* Louise Martin and Shahina Farid provided an outline of the major contributions of Institute staff members to the Çatalhöyük Project, directed by Ian Hodder, which now has its UK base in the Institute and in which many Institute staff are involved. This year Elizabeth Pye and Duygu Camurcuoğlu Cleere describe in more detail the work of the Conservation team, which deals with the conservation of buildings, wall paintings and other art, as well as human bones and artefacts.

The next article provides an account of a fieldwork project in the UK. Andrew Gardner and Peter Guest describe the first two seasons of a new excavation at the Roman fort of Caerleon, organized jointly by the Institute and Cardiff University. Among earlier excavations at Caerleon were those conducted in the amphitheatre in the 1920s by Mortimer and Tessa Wheeler, providing an appropriate link between the current project and the Institute's founder. The new excavations have so far concentrated on late and post-Roman phases of the site's use.

The final article, by Geoffrey Tassie, Joris van Wetering and Ian Carroll, is about repatriating prehistoric artefacts to Egypt and includes a timely account of the history and current position of the Institute's acquisition and collections policy, directly relevant to the third and fourth elements of the mission statement presented in the adjacent column.

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.