

Editorial

We are pleased that *Buried History* again has a range of contributions, from the primarily archaeological to the potentially more controversial relationship between material culture and text. Indeed this time ‘theology’ is actually considered.

Professor William Dever and Pam Gaber visited Australia in April 2012 as guests of the Australian Institute of Archaeology and we are pleased to be able to include the Petrie Oration that Professor Dever delivered. The theme, the relationship between field archaeology and Biblical archaeology, is one that has engaged Bill for over forty years. While some may consider this topic to be old ground, it is important to be aware of the journey that has been travelled so that we do not pass that way again. Professor Dever inherited the archaeological tradition of William Foxwell Albright and George Ernest Wright, and he has passed it on to almost thirty PhD students who now teach throughout the world. The recently arrived head of the Archaeological Program at La Trobe University, Stephen Falconer, is one such student. Bill, with the support of Pam, who has her own teaching and field archaeological career, continues to publish profusely and speak generously.

Alan Mugridge’s paper derives from his doctoral work completed at the University of New England on early Christian manuscripts. The Institute was pleased to support him in his work. Originally Alan was a mathematics teacher before studying at Moore Theological College. After a period of parish ministry and missionary service he joined the faculty of the Sydney Bible and Missionary College in 1993, where he continues to teach.

Carolina Quintana is a teaching assistant in the Universidad de Buenos Aires and in the Instituto Superior del Profesorado Joaquín V. González. She graduated from Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina, and is currently a researcher in the Centro de Estudios de Historia del Antiguo Oriente (CEHAO), which belongs to Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA). Her paper on the characterization of the A-Group of ancient Nubia derives from research she completed as a CONICET’s scholarship holder and PhD student at the Universidad de Buenos Aires.

The title of Professor Arbino’s paper may appear rather presumptuous, the very idea that *Buried History* could offer advice to one of the most successful archaeological

organisations in the world is of course ridiculous. However, when he read an abbreviated form of the paper at last year’s ASOR Annual Meeting in Chicago, Professor Tim Harrison, who is the President of ASOR and a member of our Editorial Board, agreed with me that the paper should be given broader circulation. We are pleased that Gary agreed. Gary P. Arbino, is Professor of Archaeology and Old Testament Interpretation at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, where he has taught since 1994. His excavation experience in the Middle East has included Tel Miqne-Ekron, Tall al-Umeryi, Beth Shemesh and Tel Rehov. Since 2006 he has served as Senior Field Archaeologist in the renewed excavations at Tel Gezer. He is also Curator of The Marian Eakins Archaeological Collection at Golden Gate Seminary. He is active in professional organizations including the Society of Biblical Literature, National Association of Professors of Hebrew, and American Schools of Oriental Research, for which he has served as Trustee since 2004. The subject he addresses is increasingly relevant for many American archaeologists who find themselves on the faculties of seminaries that support field archaeology but also have theological imperatives to satisfy.

Dr Anne Gardner has kindly reviewed two books. Originally trained at Edinburgh University, she has taught religious studies and history for many years at La Trobe University and is now a Senior Research Fellow at Monash University. She has written on various aspects of the Hebrew Bible and Dead Sea Scrolls as well as the history and archaeology of Ancient Israel. She has a major work on Jerusalem up to the tenth century BCE in preparation.

The final review brings this edition full circle. Has the volume of collected essays entitled *Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith* turned the wheel back to a time before that dealt with by Professor Dever? Some may say yes, that by framing archaeology with theological concepts, we have regressed over fifty years. However it may not be as simple as that; there are details in the content of the book that could lead one to conclude otherwise. However, the fact remains that some important archaeological contributions may have been buried in the process.

As always I remain ever in the debt of our contributors, peer reviewers, and our Editorial Board.

Christopher J Davey