

# Editorial

We apologise for the delay in producing this edition of *Buried History*. We hope that we can still produce the next edition before the end of the year.

The journal begins with a tribute to Professor Donald Wiseman who died on 2nd February 2010. He made a significant contribution in many areas throughout his life and the tribute attempts to highlight some of these. The Institute had his support from its inception and more recently was fortunate to have him as an Honorary Fellow. The tribute was prepared with the kind assistance and advice of an early student of Professor Wiseman, Professor Alan Millard.

The first paper is by another student of Professor Wiseman, Terence Mitchell, who was also a colleague of Professor Wiseman's at the British Museum. Before taking up his position at the BM, Terence was employed briefly by Walter Beasley, the founder of the Institute. He was also for a time the Institute's representative in the United Kingdom. Terence has retired from the British Museum but has maintained his connection with the Museum and, as demonstrated by his paper, has also remained active in research.

The paper by Dr Erica Hunter on the Hebrew inscriptions at Jām, Afghanistan, is on the fringe of the *Buried History* field of interest, however it does have some Melbourne input. The inscriptions at Jām were part of archaeological work undertaken recently by David Thomas of La Trobe University, and we are pleased to give it coverage amongst our readers. Erica has made a significant contribution to the analysis of Mesopotamian cursing bowls and in fact has the publication of the Institute's cursing bowl in her program.

The Institute's mummy has been the subject of some research by Janet Davey and Pamela Craig in the past as reported in *Buried History*. Janet is now pursuing formal research and her work on the mummy is part of that endeavour. The advances in digital analysis and presentation have been significant since the mummy was first scanned late last century. The Institute gratefully acknowledges the support of the Victorian Institute for Forensic Medicine in the current research project.

Dr Anne Gardner lectures in ancient history at La Trobe University and has been working for some years on the circumstances in the southern Levant at the end of the Late Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age. The paper published here is a follow-on from that work. The remains of the building at Jericho about which she writes no longer exist and the original building awaits an adequate interpretation. Anne offers a suggestion.

The Institute has a significant collection of archaeological material from the two main excavators of the Middle Building at Jericho, Professor John Garstang and Dame Kathleen Kenyon. Most of the material derives from tomb locations and not the Tell. The existence at the Institute of Kenyon Jericho material is generally known, but the Garstang collection is not.

We have been pleased to include material from Scott Charlesworth in past editions. In this issue Scott reviews Richard Bauckham's *Jesus and the eyewitnesses*. This book has been the subject of significant comment in other journals and we are pleased to present Scott's views.

As always we thank our reviewers and all who have contributed to this issue of *Buried History*.

Christopher J. Davey