

Editorial

Apologies are offered for the delay in publishing this issue of *Buried History*. It is a double issue and corresponds to two years of publication for which only one year's subscription was charged; the Institute was effectively closed during the period represented by this issue. The Institute is going through a metamorphosis and will be located at LaTrobe University from the middle of 2004 by which time we hope to have dispatched Volume 39.

This edition of *Buried History* introduces changes in format and arrangement. The journal is now an annual and is refereed so that contributors can reference their papers in their *curriculum vitae*. The layout is based on the Archaeological and Anthropological Society of Victoria's journal, *The Artefact*, and we gratefully acknowledge the template provided by Naomi Stevenson who produces that journal. The papers in *Buried History* are intended to be comprehensible by an informed general readership and the range of papers herein is an indication of the scope of the journal.

We begin by paying tribute to Dr John Thompson, the first Director of the Institute. Before setting out on the study of ancient languages and the Old Testament, Dr Thompson trained as a field archaeologist and established the Institute in a professional way.

We are pleased to have a paper from Professor Emeritus David Noel Freedman and Dr Rebecca Frey on the Dome of the Rock. Professor Freedman has been a supporter of the Institute for many years and we shared his dismay when Ariel Sharon provocatively entered the Haram al-Sharif with 1000 security guards, an event that led to the killing of a large number of Palestinians and precipitated

the second intifada. The paper is part of a project that Professor Freedman has embarked upon to promote religious tolerance and inclusiveness. He calls the project *The Five Rivers of Paradise*. Professor Freedman and Dr Frey believe that the Dome of the Rock is sacred to the three religions that recognise Abraham and that all three should be welcomed there.

The editor has contributed a report on work undertaken some years ago in the Sacred Animal Necropolis at North Saqqara, Egypt. A preliminary report was published at the time, albeit in German, and is now presented with reference to work published in the field since then.

Matthew Whincop has provided a review of the Philistines' religious culture, as we now understand it. Matthew was the Institute's librarian prior to his departure to the University of Durham where he is undertaking doctoral studies.

Paul Lawrence again contributes a brief communication, this time on a couple of names that may have been lost in the transmission of the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. Paul is a research assistant to Professor Kenneth Kitchen at the University of Liverpool.

The publication of Dr Jenny Webb's 2002 Maurice Kelly Lecture at the University of New England is reviewed by Dr Kathryn Eriksson. Dr Eriksson is attached to LaTrobe University and is part of the International SCIEM 2000 Project (The Synchronization of Civilization in the Eastern Mediterranean in the 2nd Millennium BC).

Christopher J. Davey
February 2004