

Editorial

This is the first edition of *Buried History* to be published online as an open access journal, free to readers and not charging article processing fees to contributors. The journal has a small endowment to cover the costs of preparation and the process is well defined, so that it is not onerous for voluntary staff. We have used Open Journal Systems software, created by the Public Knowledge Project, that provides a systematic procedure for handling submissions and managing publication.

The last twenty years of journal publication has been uncertain as digital systems have developed. It is now clear that the research community requires immediate, searchable publication of information that is made possible by using digital systems. The general readership and many academics, however, still appreciate the hardcopy, which they can read and handle at their leisure, and store on their shelves for casual reference, books remain important for modern human existence. *Buried History* will therefore continue to be published in hard copy for those who pay a subscription to cover printing and postage. During the last twenty years printing costs have not increased by very much, even with improved quality and the convenience of colour, while postage has increased over five times.

The first paper in this edition describes and discusses another modern practice, the repatriation of material culture collected previously by archaeologists. In this case, the gathering of the material was a form of rescue archaeology over fifty years ago. The collector, Will Rogers, was a devout Christian and, like many missionaries, was deeply concerned that Aboriginal material culture was being destroyed in one way or another without any record being made. As the paper describes, he collected the threatened artefacts, labelled and published them, and left some of them with the Institute to be returned to Coffs Harbour when practically possible. That happened in early 2023. The paper states that the Elders of the Gambaynggirr wanted no media involvement. The Institute was comfortable with that condition as the Australian national media seems bound to highlight disputation. This repatriation event, however, was a joyful coming together, which affirmed the importance of heritage and recognised all parties involved. The Institute is grateful to Dr Joanna Besley, who was the Senior Curator, Gallery & Museum, Cultural & Community Services, City of Coffs Harbour, and Uncle Richard Widders, also of the City of Coffs Harbour, for arranging the repatriation and writing about it for *Buried History*. The Institute also acknowledges the sound advice

from Professor Mark Moore of the University of New England and New South Wales Heritage's John Duggan and Alexandra Simpson.

The paper on the Egyptian Old Kingdom metalworking industry draws together my research on the subject that has been carried out over nearly fifty years. While the concluding narrative is fairly comprehensive, the lack of reliable data means that the subject is still open to further interpretation. I am indebted to my co-author, Emeritus Professor Peter Hayes, for his insightful metallurgical assessments. The paper is offered to encourage more research and highlights the need for accurate analyses.

Some of the research on Egyptian metallurgy is in the hands of Dr Martin Odler, currently at Durham University. His 860-page book, *Copper in Ancient Egypt: Before, During and After the Pyramid Age*, is the subject of an extended review. Also reviewed by my colleague, Michael Lever, is Barbara Little's *Bending Archaeology toward Social Justice: Transformational Action for Positive Peace*. Neither book wraps-up their respective subjects, as it were, but they offer insights that will assist those who continue to investigate the respective subject areas.

The 2023 Petrie Oration was delivered by Associate Professor Andrew Jamieson, University of Melbourne. He has provided the text of the address with full documentation. Andrew has been a long-term supporter of the Institute and a regular contributor to *Buried History*. He has conducted archaeological research in Syria and more recently in Georgia. Andrew initially studied Fine Arts at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology with a focus on ceramics and was inspired to pursue archaeology at the University of Melbourne when he heard Ian Edwards speak about ancient pottery technology. Andrew and Ian have continued to share their interest in the history of ceramics. It was therefore most appropriate to celebrate Professor Ian Edward's contribution to the study of ancient ceramics and his forty years of service on the Institute Board at the 2023 Petrie Oration. Andrew's address places Ian's research on the pottery assemblage from Tell Ahmar, Syria, in context and an Addendum to the paper contains the citation for the Fellowship of the Australian Institute of Archaeology that was awarded to Ian on the night.

As always we recognise the service of the reviewers and those who contribute to the preparation of *Buried History*.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.62614/r3a70564>