

Editorial

This edition of *Buried History* begins with a tribute to Emeritus Professor Tony Sagona who sadly died during the year. We are indebted to Dr Andrew Jamieson, a colleague of Tony's at The University of Melbourne, for preparing the tribute and to Tony's wife, Claudia, for providing many appealing images.

As a Melbourne-based scholar working on Middle Eastern subjects, Tony was a regular user of the Australian Institute of Archaeology library. He also directed his students to use the library and to work with the Institute as volunteers. His support and advice will be greatly missed.

The first paper is by Dr Albrecht Gerber, who has been a regular contributor to *Buried History*. Albrecht lives in rural Victoria where he has managed to maintain a scholarly program in classical studies. His paper draws attention to the existence of a Gospel Lectionary held by the University of Sydney and ponders why it has not been subjected to the study and analysis it deserves. It is a question that we often ask about the Institute's collection. University researchers are forever going overseas, at considerable expense, to study material held in foreign museums, while much material in the Institute collection remains unresearched and unpublished. Instead we find that it is often overseas scholars and Australian scholars from outside academia who take the lead in studying and publishing our collection.

The next paper by Susan Balderstone continues this trend. Susan was until recently was an Adjunct Professor in Heritage Management at Deakin University and is now a Research Fellow of the Institute. Her paper is based on a study of the G.R.H. Wright Archive, held by the Institute, to assess Wright's understanding of and contribution to the conservation and restoration of the ancient built environment. Susan originally studied architecture and worked on excavations in the Middle East as an archaeological architect. More recently she has consulted in heritage management and has acted as a reviewer for UNESCO where she is actively involved with the charters and protocols associated with architectural heritage management.

Dr Scott Charlesworth is a past contributor to *Buried History* and has recently had his PhD published, *Early Christian gospels: their production and transmission* (Firenze: Edizioni Gonnelli, 2016). His contribution to this edition relates to the research that he undertook for his doctorate. Scott is a papyrologist associated with the University of New England, Armidale NSW, and has been supported by the Institute when travelling to overseas destinations to examine papyri. His paper demonstrates that papyrology is not only linguistic but also involves the study of the physical characteristics of documents. This paper contains a number of papyrological conventions that may at first be off-putting but those who persist will find themselves engaging with practices that early Christians adopted to read the New Testament and that now need to be recognised when studying such documents.

Dr Luis Siddall is another Australian scholar who maintains an academic program outside the university environment. We are pleased to have his review of a recent book on Neo-Assyrian State ideology. Luis's doctoral studies focused on this period of ancient history. Readers will remember, from previous editions of *Buried History*, that he is involved in the publication of the Institute's cuneiform material.

Dr David Saunders is a retired research metallurgist who is now a Research Fellow of the Institute. His review of *Archaeometallurgy in Global Perspective* is a useful contribution to the Institute's metallurgical research program, which has focussed on the metalwork held by the Institute.

My review of the intriguingly titled *Three Stones Make a Wall* was prompted by the subtitle indicating that it dealt with the story of archaeology. This was found not to be strictly true, but then maybe it is also not entirely true that three stones make a wall.

As always, we acknowledge our reviewers, who have spent much time on our behalf. Their scholarly endeavour has added significant value to the papers here published.

Christopher J. Davey
Editor