

Editorial

We commence our second half-century of publishing by adopting colour images. Archaeology is essentially about material culture and colour is an important aspect of any investigation, whether it be object based or landscape. While there are cost implications for this change, there is a far greater cost increase for postage when the volume exceeds fifty pages, as it does this time. The increased size is partly the result of the inclusion of a number of papers associated with Institute projects.

The first paper by Josephine Verduci reports on her initial season of excavation at Tuleilat Qasr Mousa Hamid in Jordan near the Dead Sea. The excavation was sponsored by the Institute in conjunction with the Hellenic Society of Near Eastern Studies. Jo is a Research Fellow at the Institute. She commenced her professional life in the world of fashion before shifting the focus to the clothing and adornment in the ancient world. She made the transition to archaeology at the University of Melbourne and is currently completing a PhD, entitled *Philistine adornment and cultural intentions: Cross-cultural influences in the Eastern Mediterranean during the Early Iron Age*. She also consults in cultural heritage management in Aboriginal and historical archaeology within Australia.

During the last season of the Kourion Urban Space Project, Cyprus, where the Institute is a consortium member, we discovered an inscription. Professor Gregory Horsley together with the discoverers have prepared a brief comment about the inscription.

Michael Lever also came to archaeology as a mature student after a career in the textile business. He is a graduate of Sydney University and has done further study at the universities of La Trobe, Melbourne and McGill. He has worked with a number of archaeological consultancies and is a Research Fellow at the Institute. His research focuses on the history of archaeological theory. We are pleased that this has led him to work on Gordon Childe and to contribute a paper about him, which fits nicely into the series of papers that *Buried History* has recently published on early Australian archaeologists.

Many of my colleagues associated with the archaeology of Kourion, Cyprus, are sceptical about the suitability of the site as a port because of the perceived sailing limitations of Roman period merchant ships. My doubts about their perspective were confirmed as I reviewed current maritime research. The resulting paper was somewhat of an indulgence for me after a lifetime of sailing and

ship modelling. It was also a revelation to discover how research into ancient seafaring has progressed in recent years. Hopefully the paper fills a lacuna with respect to the sail-plan of Roman period merchant ships. My affiliation with the University of Melbourne is gratefully acknowledged as this work was heavily dependent on the services of the Baillieu Library.

Bashar Mustafa is from Syria. Like many of his countrymen he has had to leave his homeland for the time being and is working in the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, Granada, Spain, where he has completed Masters and PhD study in Ancient History. He has published on the culture of the Syrian coast, especially during the first millennium BC and we are delighted with his paper on a fascinating tomb complex.

Two years ago *Buried History* carried a brief communication about a project to publish all cuneiform material held in Australia and New Zealand. Dr Luis Siddall leads the project in Australia and provides a progress report. He is an Honorary Associate of the Department of Ancient History at Macquarie University and his publications include *The Reign of Adad-nirari III* (Brill, 2013) and numerous articles on Assyrian history and the Amarna Letters.

Wayne Horowitz is Professor of Assyriology at The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and Peter Zilberg is one of his students. The brief report, also authored by Larry Stillman, Monash University, and Scott Reeve and Moira White of the Otago Museum, reveals the Otago cuneiform material to be a fascinating collection. Its full publication will involve a significant amount of scholarly work.

Our reviewers have evaluated some weighty tomes for this edition. We are indebted to Dr Juan Manuel Tebes, Catholic University of Argentina, Buenos Aires, Luis Siddall, Macquarie University, Elizabeth Robar of Tyndale House, Cambridge, and Dr Lamia Al-Gailani. Lamia is a retired scholar who is currently writing the history of the Museum of Iraq, which involves spending time in Baghdad.

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

Christopher J. Davey
Editor