

The second issue of *Archaeology International*

When I introduced this new publication last year, I explained that part of its purpose was to combine the roles of the Institute's former *Bulletin* and *Annual Report*, and to do so in an annual publication that combined short research reports with news of other research-related activities of the Institute. The aim was to produce a non-technical, visually attractive account of research being carried out by Institute staff and research students in Britain and around the world. The first issue was widely distributed to staff, research students, alumni, visitors, and other friends and colleagues, and it seems to have been well received – even by a recent royal visitor (Fig. 1).

It is a pleasure to introduce the second issue, which covers the academic year 1998/99. Like the first, this one features a selection of research projects, in Britain and overseas, in which members of the Institute are actively involved. This year it has been possible to include 15 articles on current projects (compared with 12 last year). They range chronologically from the Mesolithic to the present and geographically from England to Southeast Asia and South America. The world map of field projects that was published in the first issue has also been updated (see p. 8 of this issue). Following the retrospective article that appeared last year on the Institute's first 60 years, I am delighted to be able to include Geoffrey Dimbleby's recollections of his 15 years as Head of the Institute's former Department of Human Environment, when he did so much to establish environmental archaeology as a research field in its own right in Britain.

Mention of one of the Institute's former departments leads on to a new feature of this issue: reports from the coordinators of the four Primary Research Groups that have replaced the former internal departments (a process explained by the Director in the first issue of *AI*). As the reports show, all four groups are very actively promoting research, through projects, conferences, workshops, lectures and seminars. This issue also contains news of several new collaborative projects that link the Institute with colleagues in other UCL departments, UK and overseas universities, and other research organizations. Some of these are announced on the back cover, and in his contribution the Director reports on how the initiatives that were featured on the back cover last year have progressed since then. Finally, listed at the end of this issue are academic staff and their research interests, honorary members of the Institute, current research students and the topics of their theses, and PhDs awarded in 1998. This summary information demonstrates the volume and diversity of the research going on at the Institute, which it is the aim of *AI* to project to the wider world each year.

David R. Harris

Citation of radiocarbon and calendric dates

The 1997/98 issue of *AI* included a note (on p. 2) explaining the differences between "conventional" and "calibrated" radiocarbon dates and their relationship to calendric dates. *AI* has adopted the recommendation of the Twelfth International Radiocarbon Conference on how dates should be cited, and uses the following typographical conventions:

- calendar years – AD, BC, BP (= before present, defined as before AD 1950)
- conventional radiocarbon years – ad, bc, bp
- calibrated radiocarbon years – cal AD, cal BC, cal BP.

Figure 1 HRH the Prince of Wales receiving the copy of *Archaeology International* that was presented to him by the Editor when he visited the Institute in November 1998.

