

The third issue of *Archaeology International*

With the appearance of this issue, I like to think that *Archaeology International (AI)* has established itself as the main means by which we convey each year to the world at large, in non-technical language, an impression of the range of research being carried out by staff and students of the Institute of Archaeology.

Like its two predecessors, this issue features a wide geographical, chronological and thematic variety of projects. This year they range from the Palaeolithic to the present and from Cornwall (eastwards) to Peru. Thematically, there are some interesting linkages between pairs of articles. Thus, those by Roger Matthews and Ken Thomas focus on frontier situations in prehistory; those by Vivek Nanda and Bill Sillar explore the concept of sacred topography or ritual landscape (as, less explicitly, does the article by Sue Hamilton, Chris Tilley and Barbara Bender); and those by Nicholas Stanley-Price and Paulette McManus engage with questions of how heritage sites and landscapes are, and should be, preserved and presented to the public.

Looking back over the first three issues of *AI*, other thematic threads can be discerned, such as an interest in the distinctive archaeology of islands, as far apart as the Caribbean (in the first issue), the Philippines (in the second) and the Aegean (in the third) – a commonality that goes beyond the pleasures or working in such delectable places. Geographically, too, certain parts of the world have been the subject of several articles in the first three issues: Egypt has four entries, Turkmenistan three, Peru two, and (unsurprisingly) our own back yard, London and Southeast England, more than other area with six.

In what is becoming an editorial tradition for *AI*, I am pleased to be able to include a retrospective element again. This time it takes the form of personal recollections of the early years of the Institute by two of our earliest alumni: Rachel Maxwell-Hyslop, who was one of the first three students to be admitted to the fledgling Institute in 1934 even before it had a building to call its own; and Nancy Sandars, who was one of Gordon Childe's first students when he moved from Edinburgh to London in 1946 to become Director of the Institute, then housed in St John's Lodge in Regent's Park. In last year's issue, Geoffrey Dimbleby recalled his years as Professor of Human Environment at the Institute, and it is with great regret that I have to report this year that he died, at the age of 82, on 8 April 2000.

In addition to the research and retrospective articles, this issue also includes what have become regular features of *AI*: the Director's remarks on the academic year and on new initiatives taken by the Institute (some of which are listed on the back cover), reports from the coordinators of the four primary research groups, a world map of current field projects, and, following the research articles, updated lists of academic staff, honorary members, registered research students and PhDs awarded, as well as a note about *Papers from the Institute of Archaeology*.

I would like to thank the many colleagues who have contributed to this issue, as authors and in other ways. It represents a collective effort, and I hope the result will please our many readers worldwide.

David R. Harris

Mission statement

The Institute of Archaeology is a research-led institution recognized also for the excellence of its teaching. Its mission is:

- To be internationally pre-eminent in the study, and comparative analysis, of world archaeology.
- To enhance its national and international reputation for the quality and breadth of its multidisciplinary and thematic approach to the study of the human past.
- To promote best practice in the management of cultural heritage and in the care and preservation of archaeological artefacts.
- To promote awareness of the problems caused by illicit trade in antiquities and the destruction of archaeological heritage that it entails.
- To ensure that the social, political and economic contexts of the practice of archaeology are taught and appreciated.
- To be at the forefront of international research in archaeological sciences.
- To play a major role in furthering the understanding of London's archaeological and historical past.
- To provide archaeological opportunities of the highest quality to all, regardless of background.

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.