

The fifth issue of *Archaeology International*

With the appearance of this issue, *Archaeology International* (*AI*) reaches its fifth birthday. Since it was launched, as a successor to the former *Bulletin* and *Annual Reports* of the Institute, my aim each year has been to feature short articles on current research by Institute staff and research students, and to supplement them with summary information about other research-related matters. Thus, each year, the main articles are prefaced by reports from the Director and the coordinators of the Institute's four primary research groups, as well as a world map of current field projects, and followed by annually updated lists of academic staff, honorary members, registered research students and PhDs awarded. These reports and lists provide a useful record of research trends at the Institute over the past five years. For example, they show a striking increase in the number of field projects (from 39 to 58), which was accompanied by an equivalent increase in library-, laboratory- and museum-based research projects that do not appear on the map. The number of PhDs completed has also increased, 66 having been awarded since 1997.

As in previous years, I have sought to include in this issue a selection of articles representative of the wide thematic, geographical and chronological range of research undertaken at the Institute, from field projects in England, Italy, Greece, Morocco, Egypt and China, to accounts of sailors and sanctuaries in the ancient Greek world, literacy and the Roman army, public archaeology on the Black Sea coast, and the plight of university museums in the UK. This issue even contains (on pp. 44–45) the first published mention of a re-assessment of the antiquity of domesticated cereals found at the famous Neolithic site of Jericho, which was excavated by Kathleen Kenyon in the 1950s when she was on the staff of the Institute then in St John's Lodge, in Regent's Park.

St John's Lodge also features in this year's retrospective article, in which Joan Sheldon, who joined the Institute in 1948 as assistant to Frederick Zeuner, recalls how environmental archaeology developed during her 35 years on the staff. Her reminiscences neatly complement last year's retrospective article by Grace Simpson, in which she described life at St John's Lodge in the late 1950s and recalled her memories of Zeuner's teaching.

Turning from the Institute's past to the research topics represented in the 13 articles that follow Joan Sheldon's, several common themes are apparent. Perhaps the most obvious is a concern to identify and describe the often conflicting interests – local, national, and sometimes international – that increasingly affect the conduct of excavations and public access to archaeological sites. This theme is directly addressed in the articles by Neil Faulkner on the Sedgeford project in Norfolk, by Elizabeth Fentress, Hassan Limane and Gaetano Palumbo on Volubilis in Morocco, and by Neal Ascherson on Chersonesus in the Ukraine. In all three projects, efforts have been made to identify the various groups (amateur, professional and institutional) that have an interest, as active or more passive "stakeholders", in the site and the work being carried out there. The contrasted accounts of how such claims are, or are not, resolved makes fascinating reading. Another theme common to several articles, most explicitly in those by Alan Johnston, John Wilkes, and Andrew Monson and John Tait, is the importance for interpretation of trying to relate fragments of textual evidence (e.g. on pot-sherds, tablets or papyri) directly to their archaeological contexts.

Editing this issue of *AI* could be described as a labour of love, but sometimes it seem more to resemble a labour of Hercules. My thanks go to those colleagues who have fitted writing an article for *AI* into their many teaching, research and administrative activities, and I hope the end product will interest all who read it, within and beyond the Institute.

David R. Harris

Mission statement

The Institute of Archaeology is a researched 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.