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Editorial

The Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity at Birmingham University is a large and diverse department, comprised of archaeologists, ancient historians, classicists, Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek studies, industrial archaeology and heritage management, and everything in between! This journal reflects the ethos of the Institute and has emerged from of the belief that in such a wide-ranging department we could all learn something by looking beyond our disciplines and subject areas.

There had been previous attempts to produce a journal of this type, but these had never quite come to fruition. This time, however, following the creation of the Institute, new strategic posts within the department, and with several successful interdisciplinary seminar series' up and running, it was finally accepted that our diversity was our greatest asset and that we should begin to promote this to the wider academic world. The name *Rosetta* was chosen for the journal as it was felt that this best reflected the diversity of the Institute. As an artefact of linguistic, historical and archaeological significance, the Rosetta Stone demonstrates the value of setting objects and ideas in a wider context.

The decision to publish in electronic rather than printed form seemed obvious. Initially, this allows us to reach a wider audience, way beyond traditional printed journals. The flexibility of the medium for display also allows us to publish almost anything: from traditional plans and photographs to GIS or movie files with no impact on cost. This leads directly to the third benefit. *Rosetta* is run entirely by a team of Birmingham postgraduates with limited (i.e. no) funds. Hosting by the University provides a permanent electronic archive of postgraduate and professional research and endeavour at Birmingham. The success of journals including *Assemblage* at Sheffield, now running for eight years and counting, provided us with models from which to develop. However, as *Assemblage* is primarily (although not exclusively) an archaeological journal we felt there was a niche that a diverse academic grouping, like that at Birmingham, might fill.

Rosetta is intended to give postgraduate students at Birmingham experience of organising and editing an academic journal for a wider audience, with contributions from both graduates and professionals. The journal is divided into two sections. The first is a static section of articles and book reviews reflecting a subset of the current state of research at Birmingham and beyond. The second is a more dynamic, updateable section with links to activities in the fields including conferences and seminars. This section will also house a forum, due to open later this year, for people to respond to the published works, with the intention of creating a vibrant research environment. As the journal progresses we hope to include themed issues based on seminar series' as well as articles that represent every aspect of the Institute's activities. We will also welcome external contributions for publication in future issues. For further information on this please contact us at rosetta@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

The first issue of *Rosetta* is dedicated to the memory of Professor David Keen, whose work at Birmingham epitomised the inter-disciplinarity of the IAA.

Helen Goodchild