
Rosetta

Simons, F. (2013) 'Editorial'

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<http://www.rosetta.bham.ac.uk/issue14/editorial.pdf>

Welcome to issue 14 of *Rosetta*. This issue is notable for a number of reasons. It is the first non-special issue the current editorial board have so far produced – it does not contain the proceedings of a Colloquium, or of AMPAL or of any other conference. It contains articles specially sent to us, without any previous connection to one another. Second, it is the fourth issue produced by the current committee. As far as I can tell, this is a record. No other committee in *Rosetta*'s history has produced more than three issues. This is particularly noteworthy as this committee still has an issue in hand, due to be published in January 2014, after which a new editorial team should be ready to take over.

This prodigious pace of publication is due principally to the devotion and dependability of the editorial board, to whom, as always, my deepest thanks are due. In addition, I would like to thank our burgeoning team of specialist editors, all of whom have been incredibly capable and efficient. In particular I would like to acknowledge Jonty Trigg and Guy Kirkham-Smith, who have each received an unreasonably large number of articles from us, all of which they have dealt with quickly and without complaint.

This issue features papers on two broad themes – classical religion, and heritage management. Marko and Seebauer, whose paper was originally given at AMPAL last year, but was considered by the board to warrant a longer treatment than was possible in the AMPAL special issue, offer a fascinating discussion of Maenadism in the classical world. Murredu examines the development of the conception of magic from the classical to the early Christian world. Van Der Ploeg offers a convincing analysis of some aspects of the sacred laws of the cult of Asclepius, with reference to a number of temples throughout the Roman world.

Sarah Howard and Elena Perez-Alvaro each offer discussions on aspects of the responsibility of the modern world to protect the remains of the ancient world. Howard examines the meaning of sustainability in terms of archaeological heritage, while Perez-Alvaro considers the threat posed to underwater archaeological remains by the laying of submarine cables.

In addition to these papers, we present book reviews concerned with British history in the Classical and Anglo-Saxon periods. Further, I'm proud to introduce a new section to *Rosetta* – Responses. Ellie Brown (previously Mackin) wrote an article on

Achilles' mourning for Patroclus for our AMPAL special issue. Ruth Léger has offered a considered appraisal of this piece, and Brown has been given the opportunity to reply. It is to be hoped that this section will continue, and be expanded in the future. If you would like a response to be considered by our editorial team, please submit it through the usual channels.

This issue also marks the launch of our new website. It is to be regretted that my choice of colour scheme for the website was rejected by the rest of the committee (furious red and lime green would have worked so well!), but I'm sure you will agree that the new website is both functional and (fairly) attractive. As I mentioned in the editorial for issue 13 (Summer 2013), this is to be shared by the *Rosetta Journal* and the *Rosetta Forum*. These bodies remain distinct, but are now able to work together much more closely. It has become clear in the last few weeks, not entirely unforeseen it should be said, that the boards of both bodies will have to be more precise when referring to only one. A number of times since our union, either the journal or the forum has been omitted from official University documents. I am sure, however, that these teething troubles will be ironed out in the fullness of time, and a stronger organisation will result.

As I mentioned above, the current editorial board should, hopefully, be handing over to a new one after the next issue. Ideally, this will be a two step-process. In the first place, we aim to recruit new people to fill non-editorial roles, such as treasurer and IT officer, in the next month or so. After publication of the next issue, we will fill the editorial roles. This should provide a measure of continuity which was lacking when the current board took over, and it is hoped that this will afford a smooth transition for the new board.

It remains only for me to thank, once again, all those involved in the production of this issue. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Frank Simons

General Editor.