

Editorial

Welcome to Issue 16 of the Rosetta Journal.

I would like to extend my greatest thanks to the editorial committee, especially Charlotte Booth for her tireless work as Articles Editor, and Frank Simons, the former General Editor who has taken the helm of Book Reviews, providing this current issue with extensive contributions. As always, this could not come to publication without the Specialist Editors, whose breadth of knowledge in ever broadening areas of study provides the foundation for the journal, or our ever watchful Copy Editors.

The articles demonstrate how we must always be furthering our understanding, whether reanalysing the approaches of the past and updating with more modern techniques, or ensuring that we have the analytical skills to continue our research.

Novo provides an invaluable discussion of the intricacies of Greek Lyric Periods, certain to be of use to any researcher of verse, whether Greek or not. This manner of linguistic analysis is vital, as understanding the framework on which the language rests brings added dimensions to the poetry, and one can never truly understand the verse without it.

Making use of the archaeological record alongside historical data from state texts and trade data, Nutall gives an encompassing approach to understanding the Mycenaean influence at Phylakopi. As always in archaeological study, techniques of past studies have been improved on by more modern approaches, and we must always endeavour to keep with the times. The often drastic shift in how we view ancient civilizations through new archaeological technique or different analytical approach is fascinating and should spur on research in every field.

It is, of course, articles that drive an academic journal, but we must also be mindful of the effect of book reviews, and this issue certainly goes to demonstrate that. As postgraduates we must not only contribute to the research community through our own writings, but interact with other publications. Engaging with the corpus of new literature not only creates a tangible link between postgraduate and post-doctoral research, but also ensures that no matter at what stage in the long and winding road of academic life an author is, that their work is always tested and examined. We

must, of course, highlight the merits of publications, but also be mindful of its limitations. They allow us to see the aims of the author, and whether they are met, and a publication read alongside a review can lead to a far greater understanding of the publication itself and promote further research.

We see glowing recommendations of some publications, such as Bealby's review of Dudley's *Museum Objects*, pointing out the utility such a text may have to those not immediately directed towards it; we also see some problems raised, reminding us to be critical of the secondary literature.

The intricacies of dealing with sensitive matters is considered in Samuel's review of Kennedy et al's *Race and Ethnicity in the Classical World*, and we see that while a publication may be important, it can be limited by its approach, and the provision of a bibliography allows the reader to approach the matter in even greater depth.

Young, meanwhile, offers the reader of Postgate's *Bronze Age Bureaucracy* a warning to persevere, as the wealth of information that may seem at times overwhelming is in fact one of the book's greatest strengths, aimed not at the complete novice but proving invaluable for students of the Ancient Near-East. The conclusion, albeit tentatively, that it 'may have repercussions for our understanding of Assyrian history as a whole' is a thrilling reminder of the progressive nature of research.

Tsatsani shows a similar appreciation of the exciting developments Tzifopoulos' *Paradise Earned* can provide, daring 'to open new promising paths for future researchers and academics'.

Mushett Cole's review of Schneider and Raulwing's *Egyptology from the First World War to the Third Reich* considers the history of the discipline, affected by the political turmoil, showing how we must be aware of the wider implications and influences on academic research. While the publication is slightly lacking in some places, though there could always be more insight in such a fascinating period of academia, it serves an 'important step in understanding the effect that period had on the academic community'.

The detailed review by Fenston of Harrison and Liapis' *Performance in Greek and Roman Theatre* demonstrates how consultation of a review can provide insight into

an extensive edition, while the discursive nature effectively demonstrates the benefits and limitations of the criticism contained therein.

Simons review of Gadotti's *Gilgamesh, Enkidu, and the Netherworld* concludes by describing it as an example of 'rigorous and persuasive scholarship... required reading for every student of Sumerian,' but he is right to list some of errors contained within. While they fortunately do not detract from the argument here, it is easy for simple mistakes in publication to alter one's argument, and we are indebted to reviewers to pointing them out.

In this current issue we show the broad spectrum of what a journal can provide. Whether it is challenging the views of the past or providing us with the tools to move forward; whether it is drawing attention to an invaluable addition to scholarship, or providing warning lest we leap headlong into accepting publications without question, it is through engaging with the wider academic community that we can we develop not only our own research but the discipline as a whole.

Best Wishes,

Guy Kirkham-Smith

General Editor

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