
Rosetta

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<http://www.rosetta.bham.ac.uk/issue20/Editorial.pdf>

Editorial

Welcome to the landmark Issue 20 of the Rosetta Journal. Since Issue 19, we have been working to improve our profile within our base of the University of Birmingham in the UK, with appearances at both the CAHA Colloquium and the Birmingham Assyriology Symposium. This has resulted in our Special Edition of extended abstracts from the CAHA Colloquium, launched at the same time as Issue 20.

Our landmark issue celebrates the core of studies into ancient history – ancient Greece and ancient Rome. These three articles also cover the two main approaches to studying ancient history, which is through literature and archaeology. Mureddu's first article falls into the first category. This focusses on the literary picture of pre-Classical Greece described in Thucydides' *Archaeology*, and concludes that rather than describing Mycenaean Greece, Thucydides is describing the situation directly after the palatial collapse in 1200 BC. Our second offering is again from Mureddu, this time discussing the terracotta figurines found throughout Greece in the post-palatial period, and asks what their contexts mean in terms of our understanding of the societal use of them. Our final offering is from Pinder, and in the same methodological category as the second of Mureddu's articles, looks at what the archaeology of a Roman colony's city walls can tell us about the society and – most problematically – when the colony was founded (or, indeed, re-founded).

We have also included three book reviews. Here we have a brief look at the true scope of the Rosetta journal, which is what makes this postgraduate-run journal so special. The first in this list is an offering by myself, where I have taken umbrage with the structure of Kämmerer and Rogge's *Patterns of Urban Societies*, which looks at the Ancient Near East and the urbanisation patterns within it. Despite many of the articles which are not written in English, which I believe limits the book's accessibility, I decide that it had indeed achieved its aims. Konstantopoulos' review is also of a book focussing on the Ancient Near East, but Hundley's *Gods in Dwellings* discusses the ways and means deities throughout the Ancient Near East were represented. Konstantopoulos decides that overall it was a success, considering the wide scope of the book, but would have liked inclusion of some more of the key works from the Ancient Near East. Our final contribution is de Rosen's rather scathing review of Haldon's *The Empire That Would Not Die*. To summarise,

de Rosen would have liked more clarification in many of the arguments made, as well as more discussion in some aspects which would have greatly benefitted the overall argument.

Myself and the Editorial team are incredibly proud to have produced Issue 20, and we hope that the Rosetta Journal will continue for twenty more issues!

Ellie Bennett

General Editor