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# Rosetta

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<http://www.rosetta.bham.ac.uk/issue21/Editorial.pdf>

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## Editorial

Welcome to Issue 21 of the Rosetta Journal. Since our last issue, we've made strides in our marketing, and have made appearances at various postgraduate events at the University of Birmingham. This has clearly had an effect, as we have had more submissions than the past two Issues! We also now have a new Editorial Board, and sadly I am stepping down as General Editor to make way for Nosheena Jabeen. I look forward to watching the Journal grow under this new Board.

This Issue celebrates the cultures of the Mediterranean. We start with Panayiotis Christoforou's contribution, which asks how we assess what the common people thought of the emperor, through the use of Plutarch and Tacitus' accounts of A.D. 69. The second contribution is Noga Erez-Yodfat's article discussing an enigmatic gold lamella plate from the Roman Palestine region, and the implications of its inscription. Our third article shifts our focus to Greek literature – specifically, Sophocles' *Ajax*. Efi Papadodima demonstrates how the sea heightens the suspense surrounding Ajax's suicide and his burial. Constantin Pietshcmmann investigates how kinship ties in the Western Roman Provinces were broadcast, as well as how the provincial interpretation of these ties were based on the imperial centre. Finally we round off this Issue's articles with a contribution from Panos Tzovaras regarding the symbolism behind the image of the ship in Minoan society.

This issue we only have one book review, but it reflects the Journal's interest in the Ancient Near East. Kerrie Myers reviews a recent publication of incantation tablets – many of which have never been seen before, and the importance of this work for Assyriological studies is stressed by Myers.

Overall, I'm proud to end my tenure as General Editor on Issue 21. I would like to thank the Editorial Board for their tireless efforts to produce it, and I am certainly leaving this journal in safe hands with Nosheena Jabeen. I think this issue demonstrates the Board's broad and extensive interests, and I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have.

Ellie Bennett

General Editor