
Rosetta

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<http://www.rosetta.bham.ac.uk/Issue27/editorial.pdf>

Editorial

It is with great pleasure, I present to you the 27th issue of Rosetta Journal. Engagement is a cornerstone of academia and as such this issue has been particularly special as we have gradually emerged from the national lockdown, in response to coronavirus, to once more engage with fellow researchers, sharing our ideas and developing new ones. The impact of the recent pandemic is still felt though, through increased digital interaction, opening up new networks and enabling wider engagement. Although based at the University of Birmingham, the Rosetta Journal has always benefitted from the support of a diverse range of postgraduate and early career researchers both within the UK and further abroad. This year, however, we have expanded our pool of editors further than before, with new members from as far as Germany, Cyprus and even Australia.

This year has also marked the beginning of a partnership with KSIO Journal (Časopis KSIO) based in the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade, in Serbia. This partnership has been based on our shared values and goals. Both are post-graduate run journals aimed at postgraduates and early-career researchers, committed to providing people with both the opportunity to publish and/or gain editorial experience in a peer-supported environment. Our partnership has led to not only shared marketing strategies to expand the reach of our respective journals but has more broadly opened up new networks to share research and experiences helping us as both individuals and organisations to improve our skillsets.

Before mentioning the exciting range of papers published in this issue, I would first like to pay testament to the incredible work of this year's editorial board without whom this issue would likely not have been the success that it is. I would like to thank Marcus Spencer-Brown, our articles editor, whose diligence in sorting through submissions and managing the peer-review process has helped us maintain the integrity of our journal and allowed us to include exciting new research in this issue. I would also like to thank Cannon Fairbairn, who despite working remotely from the USA for most of the year, has been a key part of the team, communicating with authors, publishing companies and editors to ensure we are able to provide books to prospective reviewers and in turn, are able to publish useful pieces on some of the exciting new

literature that is being produced at this time. Special thanks are also due to Laura Clark, who has provided vital tech support to the journal over the last couple of years. Without her patience and hard work, we would not have been able to share this issue with you today. I would also like to thank the rest of our editorial board, specialist and copy editors, both new and old, for the dedication and support in bringing this issue to fruition. In particular, I would like to mention the efforts of Dr Abraham I. Fernández Pichel, Dr Arnaud Quertinmont, Asa Lower, Beren-Dain Delbrook, Cinzia DuBois, Emma Thompson, Harriet Kent, James Cogbill, John Mitchell, Josh Webb, Lluís Jerez Bertolín, Lucilla Crespi, Lucrezia Sperindio, Marwa Abdel Razek Mahmoud, Mary Fragkaki, Oscar Goldman, Rachael Banes, Rachael McLaughlin, Tim Elliott and Toby Fenton.

This issue includes a variety of topics that showcase the diverse scope of the journal, as well as the incredible expertise of our editors. This year we are able to present a total of four articles and five book reviews in our largest issue in recent years. These cover various aspects of modern reception, classics, archaeology and ancient history from across the world.

Our issue starts with Maiken Mosleth King's article on the pseudo-archaeological narrative for the involvement of extraterrestrials in the emergence of ancient Near East civilisations. It links these ideas into concepts of 'otherness' in contrast to notions of western culture as more normative. This piece provides an ever-relevant commentary, as academic-based reasoning is ever under attack from pseudo-sciences and conspiracy theorists.

From this, we move on to Dr Anthofili Kallergi's piece which aims to provide a fresh examination of the portrait of Lucilius in Horace's satire. It examines Horace's thoughts towards Lucilius, as shown in his writings. This piece discusses both the ways in which Horace acknowledges his contributions to the genre but also criticises elements of his style, and in doing so sets apart his own work. With so much modern scholarship on the classics, this article shines light on an interesting perspective; a classical source discussing another.

Dr Youssri Abdelwahed and Dr Farag Shehata's co-authored article introduces an interesting examination of the administrative systems related to the Nile and water-management in Graeco-Roman Egypt. Citing a wealth of papyri and classical texts they take us on a guided tour through how the ancient Egyptians mitigated the damage caused by the Nile Flood, managed water resources from transport to irrigation and fishing, and administered the supply of water for private and public uses. This article encourages us to reconsider all of the aspects of life on and around the Nile.

The final article of this issue by Professor Thomas Heine Nielsen looks at how ancient Greek sport enforced boundaries between social groups. It covers broad social distinctions such as wealth, gender, slavery, ethnicity and culture, as well as examining those more specific to sport: whether they received coaching, and how the victorious were regarded. The article demonstrates how these are so intrinsically linked, for example, the link between athletes and their poleis, and also suggests how fundamental sport was to the 'Greek' identity. Through the lens of sport, it provides a much broader commentary on the cultural, social and political history of ancient Greece.

These articles are followed by five book reviews by Alexandra Pinkham, John Mitchell, Pavle Nikolić, Elliott Collins and yours truly, covering a range of books from various fields.

It is fantastic to see all of the great submissions we have received this year finally published. The breadth of subjects and institutions from which our submissions have been received is a testament to the knowledge of our specialist editors and the inclusive academic community that Rosetta is a part of. I hope you enjoy reading this issue's articles and book reviews and hope that Rosetta will continue to publish new and thought-provoking research and be a beacon of opportunity for postgraduates and early career researchers for many years to come.

Theodore Reeves
General Editor