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# Rosetta

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It is my pleasure as General Editor to welcome you to the 30<sup>th</sup> issue of *Rosetta*. It is no small feat to have kept any publication running for such an extended period of time, especially given the transient nature of the postgraduate student body who runs the editorial process. For this reason, as we approach the twentieth anniversary of the journal in 2026, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every editor, reviewer, copy-editor, author, and reader for their part in keeping *Rosetta* alive and thriving. What started as a small publication for the postgraduate cohort of the University of Birmingham has now taken on an international authorship and readership, and I am excited to see the direction *Rosetta* continues to take going forward.

Issue 30 of the journal has been made possible through the hard work of a number of volunteers, both at the University of Birmingham and abroad. First and foremost, I would like to thank our Articles Editors, Reuben Hutchinson-Wong and Kat Ward, for their diligence, patience and commitment to ensuring the reviewing and editing process was conducted with the highest standards. I would also like to thank our anonymous reviewers and copy-editors, some of whom have been involved with *Rosetta* for many years already, and whose voluntary efforts make this journal possible.

Issue 30 offers a broad range of discussions across the ancient world. The first two articles, by Otto Linderborg and Victoria Fendel, consider specific aspects of language use in Greek and Roman literature. Linderborg questions the use of the term *monarchia* in Solon, suggesting it was an interpolation for *tyrannos*: a revelation which stands to challenge our understanding of the emergence of Classical Greek constitutional terms. Fendel's examination of half-lines in Vergil's *Aeneid* considers the special function of lines which deviated from the metre used throughout the epic, showing how these half-lines act as "switchpoints" which offer interpretive guides for the narrative of the text.

Our next two articles examine ancient approaches to the sciences. Héctor Horacio Gervan argues for an expansion of the understanding of ancient Egyptian mathematics. Gervan makes the case that the use of concrete numbers in mathematical problems did not necessarily equate to an Egyptian focus on practical calculations. Rather, these numbers served as examples which could be generalised to other instances of algorithmic use. On the other hand, Katherine Petrusek compares human and veterinary medicine to show the broad similarities between both practices,

suggesting that human medicine as a discipline did not develop in isolation, and that the ancient conceptualisation of humans and animals was not so different.

The next article considers the special function of metaphors. Wayne Rimmer examines the conceptual metaphor of night in Book 10 of the *Iliad*, showing how the metaphor both embellishes the text and shapes the audience's cognition of the events in the text, moving beyond a view of metaphor as a stylistic device alone.

We also have a trio of discussions focusing on various aspects of the Roman world. Pietro Scudieri looks at the mythical tradition surrounding the conception and birth of Romulus and Remus, in order to provide a deeper insight into the development of the Roman tradition and the Romans' efforts to define their own legendary past. Iliana Androutsopoulou highlights the evolving meaning of *luxuria* throughout the late Republican and early Imperial periods, tracing its development as a term to describe the corruption of the Roman elite. Finally, Dan Theodorou compares ancient and modern examples of political behaviour to argue that actions which would normally be considered a deviation from social norms could in some cases provide an alternative source of power.

In addition to our articles, we offer reviews from Haggai Olshanetsky, Carl-Loris Raschel, and Maria Eugenia Leoni on recent publications examining pre-Islamic Arabia, Romano-Byzantine Egypt, and the texts discovered at Nag Hammadi.

I hope you enjoy the selection of academic research displayed throughout this issue, and again thank the authors, reviewers, and editors for their part in developing the thriving postgraduate research community displayed in *Rosetta*.

Tyler Broome

General Editor