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Editorial: Volume 1

John Bintliff

Why another new journal? Since my PhD research I have specialised in Landscape Archaeology in the Mediterranean, and over the decades this field has broadened in a totally unpredictable fashion. Originally it was developed to locate places mentioned in Classical texts, then Prehistory was added by the end of the 19th century, with occasional mention of Medieval sites. With the advent of intensive survey in the late 1970s, field-by-field study of the Mediterranean landscape inescapably recorded pottery scatters of every age up to the Post-Medieval era, although it has been a slow progression for post-Roman sites to be given the same attention as earlier eras. The serious study of deserted Medieval and Early Modern villages and farms could be added to the well-known Roman villas and Classical farmsteads recognised from the start of intensive survey programmes. Then the survival of substantial ruined buildings on post-Roman sites called for their documentation and contextualising into similar buildings still rarely observable in existing communities. Just as ancient texts had been invaluable from the beginning of landscape archaeology, so now Medieval and later sources could be brought in to give depth to ceramics and houses in the countryside.

A parallel development can be observed in the archaeology of towns and museum collections. Ever greater prominence was given in recent decades to the post-Roman buildings and artefacts, offering a bridge too to longer-existing but usually disconnected ethnographic and folklore records and museum collections.

Yet publication in journals and textbooks ran up against a long tradition of compartmentalisation by period and academic institutions. Greek and Roman studies had a plethora of periodicals and works of synthesis, Prehistory was divided into a niche within the Classical field or employed its own set of journals and book series. Medievalists published generally apart, and the Post-Medievalists had little scope for their own research. Individual periodicals have nonetheless increasingly introduced occasional insertions outside their main period interest, for example *Hesperia* and the *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*.

For anyone with the widest interest in the archaeology of the Greek World from the Palaeolithic through to the 21st century, including all the countries outside the Aegean where Greeks and Greek culture took root, there has not been a single journal where key papers, reviews and works of synthesis can appear. Given the expansion of Mediterranean rural and urban archaeology into all the periods of the human past, it is indeed opportune to launch such a periodical. The potential of such a *longue durée* approach to the Aegean Greek past has already been explored in a textbook (Bintliff 2012) and an edited conference volume (Bintliff ed. 2015), but already in this first JGA volume we have been able in the articles, not only to cover all our desired timescale, but also extend our geographical net beyond Greece to include Italy, Anatolia, Cyprus and the Levant. Our reviews have the same time-breadth and cover the entire world of Greek culture—except for the migrant communities of Early Modern Australia and the United States (a gap to be filled in the future).

We have kept our policy of an English-language journal with the exception of one book review; haste in getting Volume 1 out on its promised deadline left this still untranslated.

This volume was aided immensely by the support of our Editorial Board, mostly at Edinburgh University, and the many members of our worldwide distinguished Advisory Board. Vital aid to the Editor came from the Editorial Assistant Fiona Mowat, financed by a grant from the Leventis Foundation. The encouragement and continual hard work by our production-publication team at

Archaeopress must be acknowledged as without parallel in my publishing experience – Rajka, David, Gerry and Patrick.

Bintliff, J. L., 2012. *The Complete Archaeology of Greece, from Hunter-Gatherers to the Twentieth Century AD*. Oxford and New York: Blackwell-Wiley.

Bintliff, J.L. (ed.) 2015. *Recent Developments in the Archaeology of Greece* (Pharos Supplement). Leuven: Peeters.

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