
E DITORIAL

John Chapman
University of Durham

A NEW JOURNAL

The European Association of Archaeologists is now in its fourth year. After the successful negotiation of a European Code of Professional Conduct and the organization of four conferences, at Ljubljana, Santiago de Compostela, Riga and Ravenna, the Association now makes its presence felt in European archaeology. While its dreams remain the same – to unite East and West in the free exchange of ideas, data, professional practices and heritage management skills – the scale of its operations has been consistently growing. This is as true for the Association's journal, which has taken off in terms of the interest of the archaeological community in publishing there. It is for that reason that the EAA has approved the choice of a new publisher for a 7-year-period – Sage Publications. It is the EAA's pleasure to welcome Sage and its editorial, marketing and production team to this new partnership.

Sage is a leading international academic and educational publisher of books and journals. One of the few privately owned publishing companies, Sage has three closely linked editorial offices in London, California and New Delhi. In conjunction with the EAA, Sage's aim is to help retain the high quality of the journal and make sure that it reaches a larger audience. The EAA's partnership with Sage will bring a guaranteed growth in the EAA membership and dissemination of journal articles to the international archaeological community.

The Editorial Board looks forward to this new partnership with Sage that will provide a better service for EAA members and a new, higher level of academic content. I hope readers will agree that this new mood is captured by the change of title and the new look of the journal. The softback format of the journal and its regular publication three times per annum have been perceived within the Association as having evident benefits. The change of title was a different affair, as was shown by the passionate debate over the title at the Ravenna Annual Meeting. The issue

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was put to a free vote of members, who decided by a four-to-one majority that the *European Journal of Archaeology* was both appropriate and logical for our new journal. Appropriate since an important issue to reflect upon and debate is the question of the existence of distinctively European styles of archaeology. Logical since, although logic rarely wins, it is logical for an EAA to have a EJA . . .

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

The first issue of a new journal is a special event, marking out new pathways as well as emphasizing traditional directions in the cutting-edge research the journal is publishing. All of the authors in this issue not only move the interpretation of their own material forward but provoke others to attempt similar strategies with what could well be widely differing bodies of data. Two of the papers take hard data from archaeological science and make interpretations in a humanistic framework of social and economic change. Arturo Morales, Eufrasia Roselló and Francisco Hernández examine with consummate skill the problems of comparisons and integration of faunal samples from one and the same site retrieved by different excavators using very different recovery techniques. The site is the upper Paleolithic–Neolithic Cueva de Nerja in Southern Spain and the authors focus on the Magdalenian levels. Through a deft combination of taphonomic and paleoecological analysis, the quantification of mammals, fish, shellfish and birds is put on a sound level and an overall synthesis is achieved. The result moves far from a simple shopping list of species culled to a hypothesis on economic intensification in the latest stages of the Pleistocene – termed by the authors the ‘Tardiglacial paradigm’. The metallurgical equivalent of faunal shopping lists is surely the SAM metallurgical analyses, over 22,000 of which have been published. The challenge to utilize these data in new and provocative ways and relate the results to cultural strategies and semiotic codes is taken up by Mark Pearce for the Copper Age and Bronze Age of northern Italy. Thus, the differences in the quantities of arsenic added to copper weapons or tin added to bronze tools and weapons can be explained by status differentials or the selection of functional artifacts rather than display objects. Here, metal content allied to depositional context and use analysis provides a new approach to these seemingly intractable data which yield important cultural insights into the spatial resolution of regional metalworking traditions.

Two papers in this issue develop new approaches to Iron Age archaeological data. Giovanna Gambacurta and Angela Ruta Serafini interpret the multiple sequential deposits of that archaeological rarity – an intact and rich Iron Age tomb from northern Italy – in terms of the mortuary version of an ‘operational chain’ (‘chaîne opératoire’). Thus, full use is made of the high-quality 3-D recording to provide two complete sequences of complex mortuary practice – the first from a tomb in the Este cemetery and the second from Padova. The combination of taphonomic and social approaches to these mortuary data is novel for the Mediterranean Iron Age and supports the key principle of ancestral continuity in the use of the same

tomb. Teresa Chapa Brunet's paper departs from two traditional approaches to monumental Iberian stone sculpture – the stylistic and diffusionist approaches. Starting from the core-periphery relations between inland and coastal Spain and Phoenician and Greek traders, Chapa Brunet explains the changing context of the sculptures by changes in political centralization and economic and territorial consolidation, involving also newly-formed ethnic groups. Here, the transformation of traditional religious symbols into public sculptures erected on behalf of emergent elites occurs well before the Roman conquest.

The fifth paper develops post-processual insights into landscape perception in relation to the uncertainty of living adjacent to a flood plain to demonstrate how Geographical Information Systems (or GIS) could be used as a more flexible tool than is often the case. Demonstrating that GIS can play a far more interesting role than merely a support for environmental determinism, Mark Gillings attempts to transcend landscape dualities such as wet/dry, seen/not seen and culture/nature to develop a more refined classification of the Tisza flood plain and its settlement by Middle Neolithic communities. One of the next research breakthroughs in GIS is clearly the broadening of landscape perceptions into virtual reality and this paper leads the way in that direction.

LOOKING FORWARD

The launching of a new journal calls forth a sustained set of commitments from the Association, from Sage and from the Editorial Board to provide its readers with a high-quality product full of significant European archaeological research and raising issues of substance in heritage management and professional performance. There are planned innovations, such as the introduction of the occasional thematic issue. Guest editors, as well as contributors, will be needed for these issues. The first one is scheduled for issue 2(2) (August 1999) and the theme will be Archaeological Heritage. If EAA members have any proposals for improving the scope or balance of the journal, please contact any member of the Editorial Board or write directly to me. It is only with the active research support of the membership that the *European Journal of Archaeology* will realize its full potential in a continent so richly endowed with archaeologists and heritage managers.

John Chapman
General Editor