Editorial

This edition has suffered some minor delays in production, and I hope that this has not caused any inconvenience. After twenty years of annual publication Buried History is making a few changes that will be described throughout the editorial.

We begin by paying tribute to Henry Huggins. The Institute was privileged to have Henry as a volunteer for nearly twenty years. Henry had a significant career in Victoria as a pioneering police crime scene investigator that led to a retirement devoted partly to archaeology. I am indebted to his widow, Dora, who will celebrate her hundredth birthday as this edition is being mailed and his children Daniel and Flavia for family information about him and two photographs.

The first paper is also a form of tribute, in this case to Professor Henry Sayce (1845–1933), who was another pioneer. He was first to apply much newly discovered archaeological evidence to historical and biblical studies. In spite of his extraordinary memory, remarkable facility for ancient languages and personal relationship with nearly every archaeologist working in the field at the time, many biblical scholars have derided his many discoveries and opinions. Academics have often been unable to appreciate his scholarship because he wrote in a manner that was understandable to non-academics, and applied a theoretical basis that was unfamiliar to them but, as I have attempted to argue, was entirely appropriate for the nature of the evidence. The referees, two of whom identified themselves, made many helpful comments. I especially acknowledge Emeritus Regius Professor Hugh Williamson, who has advocated a contrary view but did not stand in the way of this publication.

One change to the journal has been the decision to include papers on the history of archaeology more generally and especially in Australia. Michael Lever’s paper is the first of this type. Michael is a Research Fellow of the Institute and a doctoral candidate at the University of Sydney where his dissertation on the history of archaeology in Australia is currently being examined. He has a deep understanding of the history of archaeology’s philosophical foundation. His dissertation topic derives from this longstanding interest in the history of archaeological thought and practice worldwide. When not studying, Michael works as a heritage consultant and archaeologist for a commercial consultancy based in Sydney.

The two preliminary excavation reports of the Kourion Urban Space Project (KUSP) have been lodged with the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus, as required. They have not been published by the Department’s journal, which has been inactive for some years, so they are included here to fulfil the excavator’s responsibility to make the preliminary results known to the international archaeological community in a timely manner. The Institute has been a member of the KUSP consortium from the first season in 2012.

There are two contrasting book reviews. Both books are written by world leading scholars, but one offers a large amount of new evidence, while the other presents a new approach to the history of the topic. As you will see, the conclusions of the reviews also differ in character.

Some readers will have noted that there have been some changes to the Editorial Board. Buried History aims to be useful to school teachers and will increase content relevant to school curricula. Dr Alanna Nobbs and Dr Luis Siddall are involved in this sector in NSW and so have joined the Editorial Board. Dr Merrill Kitchen has retired from the Board after ceasing to be active in ancient history. We thank her for her contribution.

It has also been decided to make Buried History available online from the next issue as an open access journal. A hard copy will also be available for those who are prepared to pay for it, although rising postage costs may mean that there will need to be an increased subscription if the journal expands. It is intended that all editions back to 1999 will be made available online. Some papers prior to that may also be placed online if copyright issues can be resolved.

This approach is part of a growing trend. Researchers invariably make use of online journals because of the immediacy of access, but other people often prefer to have the feel of the paper journal. We aim to cater for both preferences.

As always, we acknowledge our referees, who give significant time to ensure reliability of content.

Christopher J Davey
Editor