

Editorial

This edition has suffered some minor delays in production, and I hope that this has not caused any inconvenience. Unlike some recent volumes, the contents in this edition do not follow a theme, and there are no tributes, although during the final preparation the Institute's highly respected technical officer, Henry Huggins, passed away. He will be remembered in this year's *Buried History*.

Dr Luis Siddall provides the first paper drawing attention to some of the Institute's holdings from the site of Nimrud. Luis is a graduate of The University of Sydney and was a doctoral student at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where he was supervised by Professor Andrew George. As a Research Fellow of the Institute, he has regularly contributed studies on the Institute's Assyriological holdings and is engaged with scholars from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, in publishing the cuneiform material in Australasia.

We were pleased to receive Jonathan Smith's paper on the Ship of State tradition, numismatics and the emperor Elagabalus. Elagabalus belonged to the Severan Dynasty. He was born in Emesa, modern Homs in Syria, and as emperor took the name Marcus Aurelius Antoninus. Although he was assassinated at the age of eighteen in March AD 222 after a reign of only four years, he had had four wives, many concubines and lovers, and managed to alienate all of Rome with his excessive sexual behaviour and eccentric religious practices.

Dr Jonathan Smith studied Classics at the Australian National University under Professor Beryl Rawson. His doctoral thesis investigated how Hellenistic Scepticism and Manichaean metaphysics shaped the postmodern thought of Jean Baudrillard. He now works to clarify the historical record by investigating representations of reality in written texts and depicted in ancient imagery on related artefacts. We are indebted to him for his study of the numismatic evidence relating to Elagabalus and the Institute was pleased to receive from him the generous donation of an early issue of RIC IV 188, one of the coins in question.

The Institute was pleased to receive a grant from the Copland Foundation to undertake the conservation of the child mummy that it has held since 1965. During this time the mummy was regularly studied by students visiting the Institute. The restoration was undertaken by Dr Holly Jones-Amin and Marica Mucic of Grimwade Conservation Services, The University of Melbourne.

Holly is the Principal Conservator and Team Leader of objects, textiles, and archaeological conservation consultancy program at Grimwade Conservation Services at The University of Melbourne. She is a graduate of The University of Sydney, has an Applied Science degree in Conservation of Cultural Materials from the University of Canberra, and recently completed a PhD at Monash University. Marica is a graduate of La Trobe University and has an MSc in conservation from The University of Melbourne. Before becoming a Conservator at Grimwade Conservation Services, she was a loyal volunteer at the Institute. They hope that the treatment steps discussed in their paper will interest conservators working on mummies and elucidate non-conservators' thought processes and methods to stabilise friable organic materials and restore missing elements. The Institute also acknowledges the work of Tom Ingpen, Pod Museum and Art Services, Melbourne, who designed and made the storage and display cases for the mummy.

My paper reviews a recently published book about James Mellaart, a significant Anatolian archaeologist. While many scholars would like him to be expunged from the pages of archaeology because of his fabrication of evidence, that is not really possible because of his important contribution to the prehistory of Anatolia and the Ancient Near East more generally. He cannot be ignored. Drawing on my experience as a student of Mellaart in the 1970s, I reflect on some of the dilemmas posed by his legacy.

There are two book reviews. Prof Greg Horsley comments on a useful book written by Dr Michael Theophilos on the potential of coins to contribute to our knowledge of New Testament Greek. Both scholars are members of the Institute's Board. Eric Cline's book on the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, excavation of the site of Megiddo is a fascinating study of one of the major archaeological explorations in Palestine between World War I and II. Increasingly archaeological data from such expeditions is considered in the context of the history of the excavation itself. Cline's book now makes it a much easier process for the interpretation of Megiddo data.

As always, we acknowledge and pay tribute to our anonymous reviewers, whose diligence has contributed significantly to the dependability and consistency of the journal's contents.

Christopher J Davey
Editor