

The story of a journal: Sixty years of *Buried History*

Christopher J. Davey

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Abstract: The progress of *Buried History* is described, from its beginning as a quarterly Bulletin to an annual online refereed journal. There is discussion about its name, editorial policies, content, presentation and role in Australian and international archaeological publishing.

Keywords: Buried History, Biblical Archaeology, Archaeological publishing,

Introduction

The Australian Institute of Archaeology (the Institute) began in 1946, in Melbourne, with purposes that included the education of students and the general public about archaeology. Initially, that was done by providing public lectures and mounting exhibitions. In 1954, a permanent display was opened at Ancient Times House at 116 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne. Associated with these activities, the Institute produced pamphlets and leaflets that discussed specific subjects. However, it was not until 1956 that a regular publication was commenced; and 1964 in the current series of *Buried History* (*BH*) began. Its development is the subject of this paper. There have been five editors and one guest editor, all of whom are remembered appreciatively. However, *BH* was not the Institute's first venture into journal publication.

Ancient Times

In July 1956, the Institute began a 'quarterly review of Biblical Archaeology' called *Ancient Times* (*AT*), Figure 1. It was circulated to subscribers for 5 shillings annually. The first editorial was written by the Institute's founder and President, Walter J. Beasley (1890–1975), who stated,

"Ancient Times" is issued as a testimony to the world that the Church was founded on no structures of shifting sand of myth or unsupported traditions, but on the solid rock of Eternal Truth. The Apostle's words were never more true than today, even though uttered nearly 2,000 years ago (AT July 1956: 2).

As it turned out, this apologetic approach overlooked the New Testament. *AT* contained mainly unreferenced papers about Old Testament subjects written by Institute staff, only one of whom, John Thompson (1913–2002), had any archaeological field experience (Davey 2001–2). His departure from the Institute was announced in the second issue of *AT* (October 1956). Clifford Wilson (1923–2012), who may have been the prime mover for *AT*, also left the Institute soon after in April 1957.

AT also contained news about the Institute and recent archaeological discoveries. Book reviews were included; John Thompson's book, *The Bible and the Old Testament*, was an early review (April 1958: 15–16). Archaeology as it related to the Bible was the main focus, and problematic Old Testament issues, such as the walls of Jericho that

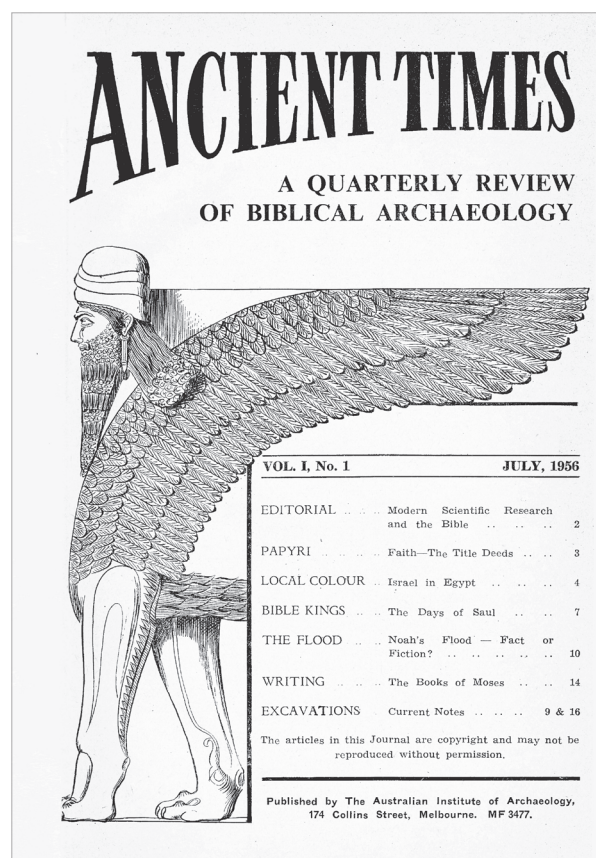


Figure 1: The cover of the first edition of *Ancient Times*, July 1956.

fell down at the time of Joshua, were discussed. Mr Beasley was convinced that Professor John Garstang had excavated these walls, proving the biblical story to be true (Beasley 1938). However, as one of the Institute staff members, Mary Neely, later Mary Dolan (1931–2004) (Horsley 2004: 3), wrote, Kathleen (later Dame) Kenyon had found that the walls described by Garstang were built in the Early Bronze Age, at least one thousand years before Joshua (*AT* Jan. 1958: 11–14). Neely drew on Kenyon's work to explain that the tell was abandoned in the Late Bronze Age, and that it had been subjected to substantial erosion, removing much archaeological evidence. Beasley never really accepted Kenyon's findings, so the fact that Neely was able to publish on the subject suggests that there was a certain level of intellectual freedom at the Institute.



Figure 2: The cover page of the first edition of *Buried History: The Story of Ancient Times*.

AT ceased publication in 1961 with Volume 5, Number 4 (April–June 1961), which carried a notice stating that the ‘economic situation in Australia’ had made it necessary to ‘suspend’ the publication of *AT*. The anticipated resumption in 1962 did not eventuate.

***Buried History* for young people**

The first format of *Buried History: The Story of Ancient Times* (*BHAT*) appeared on 1 March 1958, Figure 2 (*AT* April 1958: 2). It was a six-sided bi-monthly pamphlet written for a senior-school student readership by Mary Neely as part of her Education Officer responsibilities, Figure 3. In the editorial of the first edition, she explained that the title appeals to the idea of buried treasure, but that ‘we are going to be detectives, not simply admiring the craftsmanship of an ancient helmet and dagger, ... but trying, from all the clues we can locate, to find out as

much as we can of the people who used such artefacts’ (*BHAT* March 1958: 1). The publication used colour printing, had half-tone photographs, and line drawings. Mary left the Institute in 1960 to take up a tutorship in Prehistory and Ancient History at the University of New England, Armidale, with Isabel McBryde. *BHAT* ceased to be published in November 1963.

***Buried History* – A new look**

In March 1964, *Buried History: A Quarterly Journal of Biblical Archaeology* (*BH*) was first published, Figure 4. It was a twenty-page bulletin, approximately half-quarto in size (200x130mm). The editor was the Director of the Institute, Rev. Gordon Garner (1926–2001) (Davey 2000: 5–6), Figure 5, who described it as a ‘new look’ *Buried History*, and that:

Important discoveries will be reported as details are received from overseas. News of Institute activities, its support of excavations and the acquisition of new museum pieces will be included from time to time, so that our members will become familiar with the Institute they have joined (*BH* 1964: 2).

The first edition had an article on Roman Palestine, a report on the acquisition of a bronze cast of the goddess Asherah and bronze Baal figurine, an article on Codex Sinaiticus and a report on James Mellaart’s excavation at Catalhöyük, which the Institute had been supporting financially for three years. The documentary sources for the content were not quoted and no author names were



Figure 3: Mary Dolan (Neeley) in academic dress.

given, although it is probable that Garner wrote most it. The most common sources were probably the publications of the American Schools of Oriental Research. This approach continued for the next sixteen years.

The editorial of the first issue of Volume 3 (March 1967) began with an apology for the failure to publish *BH* in 1966. It was said to have been the result of ‘staff changes;’ Garner had left the Institute in early 1966, in unfortunate circumstances, and his replacement, Mr W. Porter-Young, had not attended to the preparation of *BH*. The editorial announced that Porter-Young’s ‘association with the Institute’ had ‘concluded’ in February 1967, and that Wilson, Figure 6, had returned to the Institute and ‘taken over’ Garner’s ‘responsibilities’ and was now the editor of *BH* (*BH* 1967/1: 3).

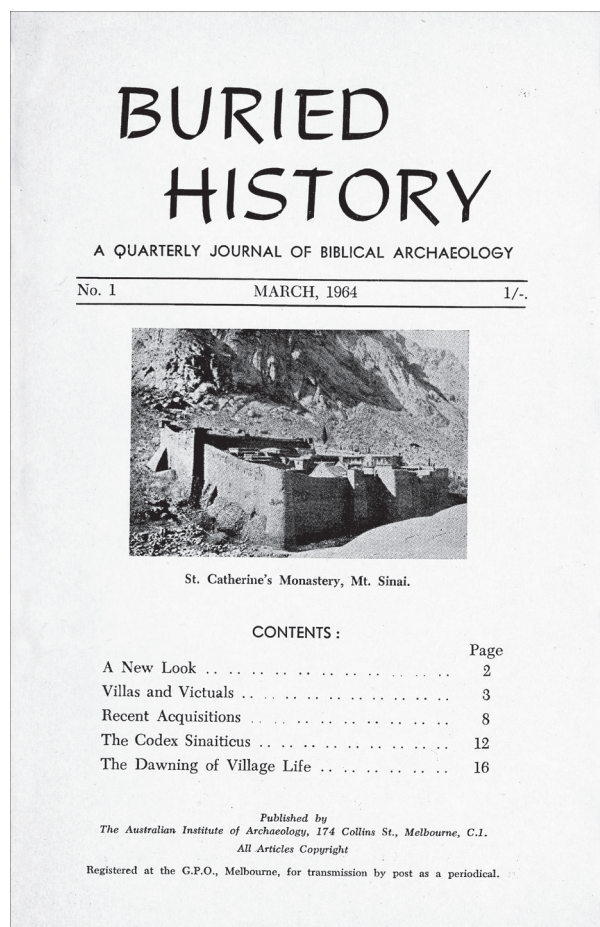


Figure 4: The cover page of the first edition of *Buried History*. The masthead font is Studio.

Wilson had a commitment to publication. The March 1967 edition was thirty pages in length, and *BH* continued to be so until Wilson’s time as editor finished in September 1970. Its cover was still badged as *A Quarterly Journal of Biblical Archaeology*, but the copyright page referred to it as the *Quarterly Journal of the Australian Institute of Archaeology*. This double badging continued for ten years. There was also a statement that the journal was ‘written and compiled’ by Wilson, or was ‘from his pen’.

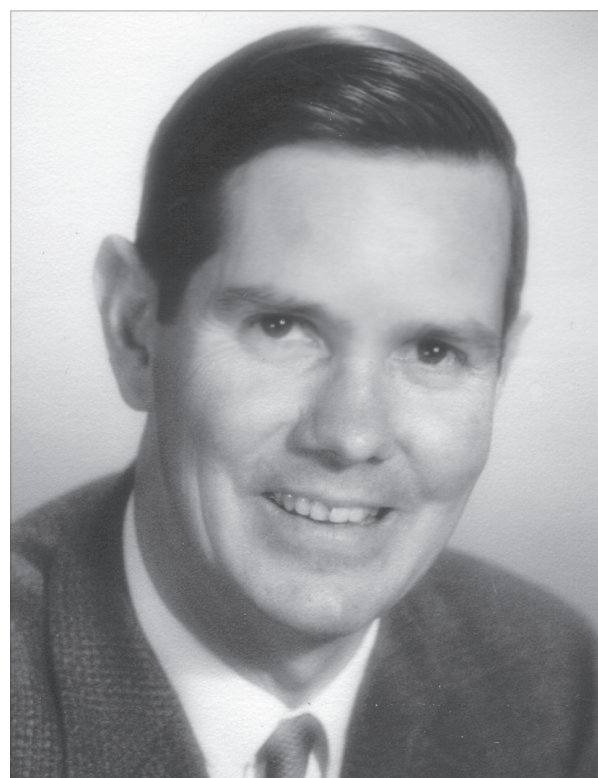


Figure 5: A 1970s photograph of Gordon Garner.

His writings ranged widely and only loosely alluded to sources. Summaries of interesting papers in international journals and reviews of important books were common, and there were news items, which normally quoted



Figure 6: A photograph of Clifford Wilson (*BH* 1967).

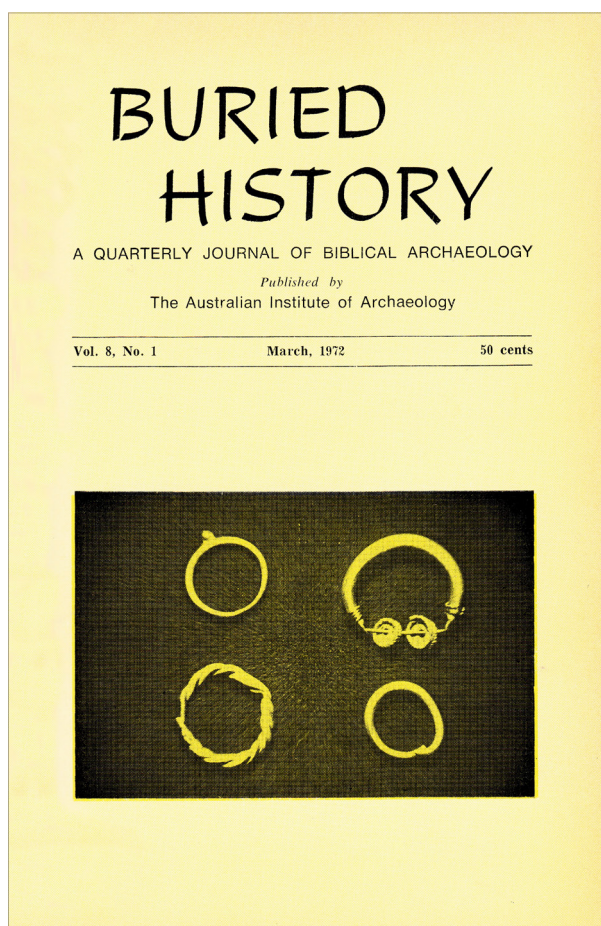


Figure 7: The first colour cover page of *Buried History*, March 1972.

a source. The September 1968 edition, for example, included a precis of the Tyndale Lecture given at Cambridge by A.R. Millard entitled *A New Babylonian Record of Creation* on the Atrahasis discovery. Some issues included answers to readers' questions. The 1967 Six-Day War passed without comment, which is notable because Ken Macnaughtan, a staff member of the Institute and regular contributor to *BH*, later joined the Jewish Evangelical Witness, an organisation with a Zionist outlook (*BH* 1968: 12). The Institute was not political.

During this time, readers of *BH* were well informed, although students may have found it difficult to pursue subjects in more depth because of the lack of references and further reading recommendations. Wilson's efforts were all the more impressive since he was also engaged in Institute exhibitions throughout Australia and New Zealand, excavations at Gezer, and lectures in the USA.

An international involvement

In 1970, Garner returned from Ridley College to again be the Director of the Institute. From December 1970 until December 1986, he edited *BH*. Volume 7, 1971 was produced on a higher grade of paper and included articles written by international scholars; Professor Donald J. Wiseman wrote on the biblical site of Ai and

Professor George E. Wright discussed Thor Heyerdahl and his papyrus boat. These papers had footnotes and references, something that was progressively taken up by local contributors. More effort was devoted to book reviews, and extended obituaries were included, the first being that of Nelson Glueck by journalist Pamela Ruskin (*BH* 1971: 26–29). Papers on artefacts held by the Institute were again included, and Institute news continued.

The following year a colour cover was introduced, Figure 7. The June 1974 edition was jointly written by Dr John Thompson, the first Director of the Institute, and Dr Francis Andersen (1925–2020), who had been a member of the Institute Council and was then employed by the Institute (Judge 2020). Later, these two scholars became Consulting Editors for *BH*; Wiseman also joined them in 1975. The March 1975 issue saw a change to a more spacious font, an increase in size to 60 pages, and the start of a significant series by Colin Hemer on the archaeology of the seven churches of the Book of Revelation.

For the next two years *BH* had original articles written by recognised scholars; it was a high point for the journal. The March 1977 edition began with an announcement that *BH* would cease publication in its present format. The reasons given for the change was that subscriptions had been falling and production costs were rising. There is, however, some confusion. It was claimed that *BH* was a 'secondary source', which reprinted material from 'published works', and it was inferred that Institute staff no longer had the time to locate and prepare such copy. But for the preceding two years most articles in *BH* were prepared by international writers; indeed, the March edition was 52 pages long and was written mainly by non-staff members; Andersen, who was then at Macquarie University, Sydney, and myself, in London. Subscriptions were refunded, if people did not want to continue as Associate Members, and subscribers who wished 'to maintain regular contact with Biblical Archaeology in greater depth' were recommended to get *The Biblical Archaeologist* or *Biblical Archaeology Review*.

The June 1977 edition was badged the *Quarterly Newsletter of The Australian Institute of Archaeology*. It was 16 pages in length and was written almost entirely by Garner. This format continued for three years until another announcement in the December 1979 edition stated that 'heavy pressure of work' and poor subscriptions meant that from 1980, *BH* would appear as half A4 size! When it appeared, it was not professionally printed, and it was written in a sans serif font. This clearly was a cost-cutting measure, although the Institute was still funding excavations (*BH* June 1980: 1), and purchasing antiquities (*BH* September 1980: 8). Unfortunately, Yale University's Professor Benjamin Foster's important publication of some of the Institute's Akkadian tablets was in this photocopied newsletter format (*BH* June 1980: 3). Professional printing returned in 1981; and from June 1981, *BH* was again referred as a 'Journal'. Thompson, who was then President of the Institute, contributed a

series on *Everyday Life in Ancient Times*, covering the Town, Village, Water Supply, Household Utensils and Activities, Industry, Writing, War and Religion. By 1984, the journal had returned to a 64-page format.

Piers Crocker, Figure 8, was welcomed to the Institute staff in June 1986 and contributed a documented article on *Cush and the Bible*. Crocker had been a teacher in Khartoum after graduating from Cambridge University, where he majored in Egyptology at Trinity Hall. He became the editor of *BH* at the beginning of 1987. Initially, he seems to have written many of the contributions himself without attribution but always with references. Garry Stone joined the Institute in February 1987 and immediately began contributing papers to *BH*.

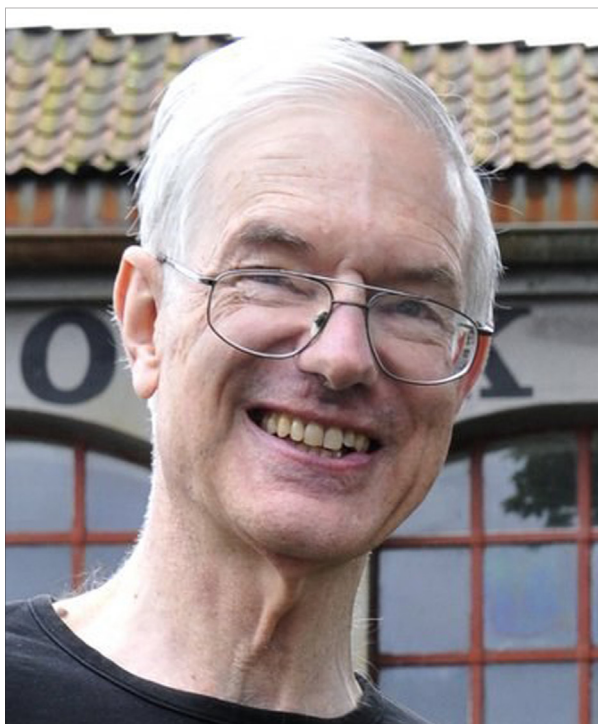


Figure 8: A recent photograph of Piers Crocker. Photo: © Bente Foldvik KYSTEN, courtesy Crocker.

In June 1988, the *BH* carried news of Crocker's appointment as Director, and the retirement of Garner and George Ashley, who had been working voluntarily since 1983. It also reported that the Institute had purchased an IBM PS/2/50 computer, enabling it to typeset *BH*. The September 1988 edition was the first to be so prepared. The format was substantially unchanged except for the adoption of a new font, probably *Times*, which increased in size to 12 point in September 1989. An interesting first occurred in the last two 1988 issues; an article published in *Biblical Archaeology Review* was reprinted in two parts, minus the colour illustrations, courtesy of the US-based Biblical Archaeology Society.

For the next ten years, a 32-page *BH* appeared quarterly, with articles and the occasional obituary, or book review, and news about additions to the library. Crocker often



Figure 9: The masthead of *Buried History* from June 1977 until March 1992. The font is Rondo. It had been used on the copyright page from March 1967, when Clifford Wilson became Editor.

tackled archaeological and Old Testament problems and the latest news, while Stone was more inclined to study artefacts. There were also articles from Australian supporters of the Institute.

One change that passed without comment in 1992 was the font of the *BH* masthead. It was originally printed on the cover in a font called *Studio*, Figures 4 and 7. In June 1977, the font changed to *Rondo*, which had been used for the name on the copyright/table-of-contents page from March 1967, Figure 9. In June 1992, *Brush Script MT* was adopted, and continues to be the masthead font, Figure 10.

Toward the end of 1996, the Institute experienced some major changes. A new President and Council were elected, the office was relocated, and the format *BH* also changed. The March 1997 edition announced that *BH* would increase in size to an A4 format. This was implemented in the September 1997 edition, which began with Crocker's editorial explaining:

Welcome to the new format Buried History, which I trust will continue to bring you the same mix of articles, but more of them, and at a very reasonable rate – as from January 1998. It is often hard, as an Editor, to make choices between tradition and progress, or between a magazine which can be easily digested in one sitting, or one that may require more time. We aim to have more pictorial content, which is easier in the larger format. So too, the larger size should help to gain



Figure 10: The June 1992 masthead of *Buried History* using the font *Brush Script MT*, which is still used.

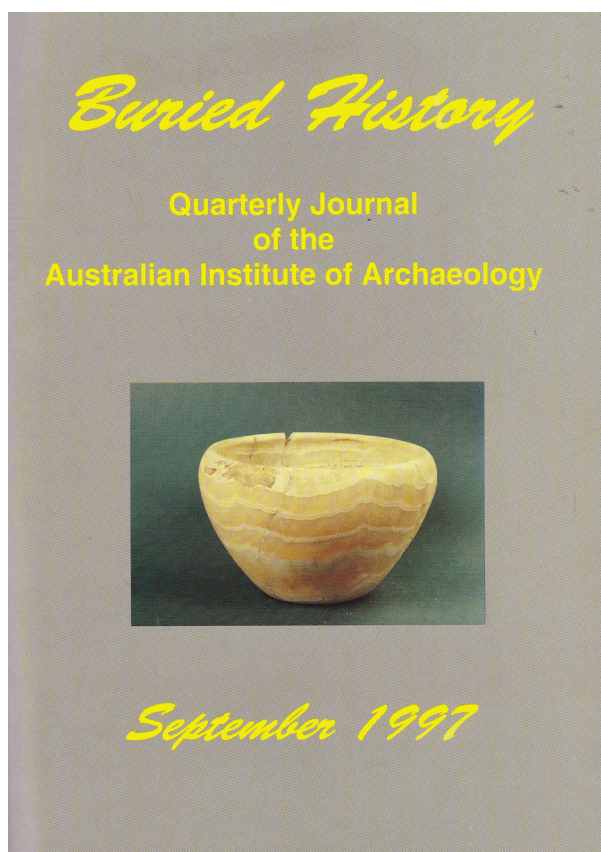


Figure 11: The cover of the first A4 format edition of Buried History.

additional subscriptions, and ultimately support the survival of the Institute (BH Sept 1997: 67).

The covers of the new format were in colour with a picture, Figure 11, but internally, there were almost no illustrations. Crocker was responsible for much of the content. John Currid, the 1998 Petrie Orator, wrote a paper on *The Rod of Moses* (BH Dec 1997: 107–117), Richard Hess, recently appointed to Denver Seminary, wrote on the Institute's Alalakh tablets (BH March 1998: 4–15); Andersen's Beasley Lecture text entitled *I have called you by name...* filled the June 1998 edition; Margaret Zarifeh wrote on ancient libraries (BH Sept 1998: 69–76); and Kenneth Kitchen wrote on the possible location of the Garden of Eden (BH Dec 1998: 101–103). Crocker announced his resignation in this last edition for 1998, as he and his family were heading for Norway.

More Institute changes were to follow in 1998 and 1999. Ancient Times House closed, and the museum collection was put into storage. The new President left, and Garry Stone, who had health issues, was farewelled. The office was closed, and the library joined the collection in storage.

Rev. Dr Paul Swinn became the Director in 1999, and paid tribute to Crocker for his 'scholastic acumen', 'good humour' and 'Christian character' (BH March 1999: 3). Pier's commitment to quality content in *BH* was certainly significant. Swinn also announced that the new Editor of *BH* was Professor Francis Andersen. Andersen's first

editorial claimed that 'Buried History tries to interest a wide range of readers' and that it would 'report the latest discoveries', 'publish in-depth studies of significant finds' and 'review recent publications' (BH March 1999: 4). The March 1999 edition of *BH* went to a different level with Andersen's paper on the dedicatory Philistine inscription from Eqrone, and Kitchen's paper on the recently published Rameses II stele from Damascus. This primary research on current archaeological subjects was a new dimension for *BH*, but the renaissance was short lived. At the end of 1999 Andersen resigned because of ill-health.

After a hiatus of a couple of years, Professor Greg Horsley, a member of the Institute Council, guest edited and published a double issue of *BH* March–June 2000. He was assisted by Mary Dolan, who had been a colleague of his at the University of New England, Armidale, and who had started the original series of *BH* in the 1950s. This edition was published at the end of 2001.

Picking up the pieces

In late 2002, I became the honorary Director of the Institute after retiring from a merchant banking position. Paul Swinn had collected material for the next edition of *BH*, but he had also joined the British Army as a chaplain and had been posted to Iraq. Thus, the editorship of *BH* came to me. *BH* Volume 36, July–December 2000 was formatted as the previous editions had been, and contained papers written by past contributors, Andersen, Dolan, Peter Hill, Paul Lawrence, and Nicholas Hardwick, and I compiled a tribute to Gordon Garner, who had died in 2001. The editorial apologised for the two-year delay and said:

... from Volume 37 Buried History will be an annual and will be refereed. It will not become an academic journal and will continue to



Figure 12: Professor Francis Andersen 2017.

target a readership that may be described as archaeologically informed but not specialist.

The circumstances faced by *BH* were not straightforward. *The Biblical Archaeologist*, produced by the American Schools of Oriental Research, *Biblical Archaeology Review*, from the Biblical Archaeology Society, and *Archaeology*, published by the Archaeological Institute of America, all provided good, up-to-date, well-illustrated information about archaeology in the Middle East. There was also the *Bible and Spade*, published by the Associates for Biblical Research, that gave a theological perspective on recent finds and biblical archaeological controversies. In Australia, from about 1995, David Downs' *Archaeological Diggings* had a glossy layout, similar content to the American journals, and an Australian circulation through newsagents of about 40,000. These journals all published at least quarterly. At the other end of the academic spectrum in Australia there were scholarly annuals such as, *Ancient Near Eastern Studies*, edited by the University of Melbourne and published by Peeters, and The University of Sydney's *Mediterranean Archaeology*, published by the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens.

BH had already been developed into an A4 format, with articles that carried a level of scholarly content and discussion of archaeological issues. In Australia, archaeological journals of this format included *The Artefact*, published by the Archaeological and Anthropological Society of Victoria, which dealt with Australian prehistory, and *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, published by the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology that covered historical subjects. These journals were intended for non-academic and academic people, who were members of professional societies, and who had an informed knowledge of the subject areas, but did not necessarily know all of the jargon. It was therefore decided that with an improvement in presentation, more illustrations, and a system of peer review, *BH* could fulfil a similar role in ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean archaeology.

In preparation for publishing, an Editorial Board was established, comprising scholars on the Institute Council, and Professor Alan Millard. Since then, *BH* has always maintained a Board with members who are recognised in the fields that it publishes. Detailed peer review protocols have never been developed. Instead, *BH* aims to have at least one of the reviewers to be an acknowledged world authority on the subject of the paper. Very occasionally, there have been conflicting recommendations from reviewers, which have been resolved with reference to the Editorial Board.

It took eight months to prepare the double-volume, 37 and 38 for 2001 and 2002, the years that the Institute was closed. Papers needed to be edited and reviewed, and in some cases illustrations were obtained or prepared. In keeping with most archaeological publishing practice, the Harvard referencing system was adopted, although



Figure 13: A photograph of the the current editor, Christopher Davey, Cyprus 2018.
Photo: Barbara Porter.

endnotes were also allowed. The first paper was a reflection on the history and current significance of the Dome of the Rock, *al-Haram al-Sharif*, by Noel Freedman and his colleague, Rebecca Frey. In *BH* tradition, I contributed a paper on ancient Egyptian excavation techniques as evidenced in tombs, an earlier version of which had been published in a German mining history journal. A member of the Editorial Board organised the review of that paper. A doctoral student, Matthew Whincop, also provided a well-illustrated survey of Iron Age Philistine culture.

The former practice of having an expensive colour cover was discontinued. Instead, the cover was a colour card printed with a line drawing highlighting one paper in the journal, Figure 14, and the contents were printed on superior quality gloss paper, which improved the presentation of illustrations. Typesetting was undertaken using Adobe *Pagemaker*. The two-column page layout, which had been adopted by Andersen in March 1999, continued to be used, as was the Times font. Author, issue details and page numbers were in a footer. Apart from the change of font to Times New Roman in 2005, when Adobe *InDesign* was adopted, and some minor spacing modifications, the format has remained unchanged to the present. Colour was adopted in 2015.

Content commentary

Prior to the editorship of Andersen, most *BH* content was derived from sources published elsewhere. With the adoption of a professional society journal model and peer-review, papers were expected to make a distinct and interesting contribution to the understanding of a subject;

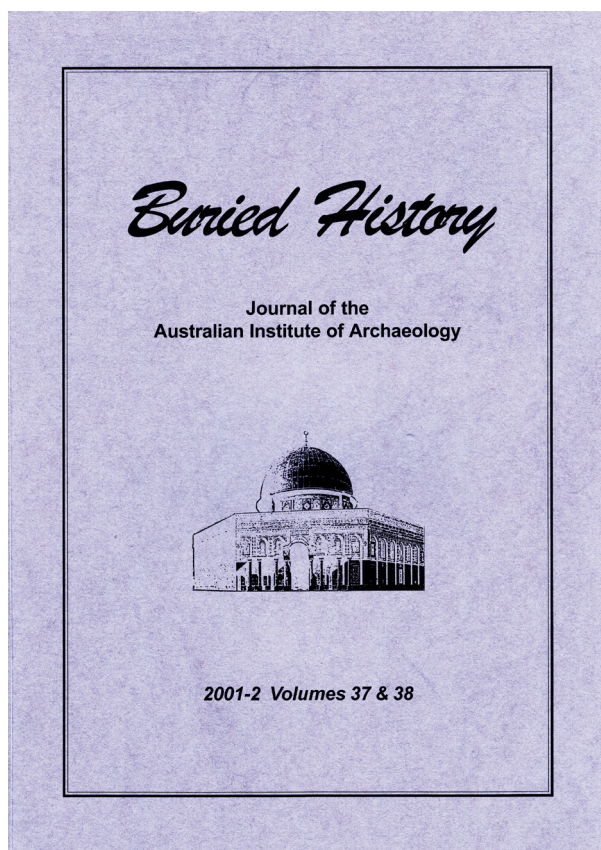


Figure 14: The cover of the double volume for 2001-2.

they were not meant to report on, or rework, material from other publications. *BH* has also steered away from detailed excavation reports and has instead offered the freedom for authors to explore issues not normally discussed in higher-level academic journals.

The Institute has an annual lecture, the Petrie Oration, which commemorates the contribution to scientific archaeology by Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie and recognises the work of present-day distinguished scholars. Many of the addresses have been included in *BH*. Professor Rosalie David's 2003 Oration on *Petrie and the Egyptology collection at the Manchester Museum* was the first to appear (*BH* 2003: 3–10), and the most recent 2024 Petrie Oration by Dr Claudia Sagona on the archaeology of southeastern Malta, is in this edition.

A regular theme in *BH* has been the history of archaeology and the life stories of archaeologists. Volume 49, 2013 had: an extended tribute to Basil Hennessy by his daughter, Linda; a paper on Australia's first female archaeologist, Nancy Champion de Crespigny, by her son Geoffrey Movius; a paper on Australia's second female archaeologist, Veronica Seton-Williams, by Dr Robert Merrillees; an investigation of the origin of the archaeological field techniques of Dorothy Garrod and Gertrude Caton-Thompson by Dr Phillip Edwards; an archaeological biography of G.R.H (Mick) Wright by Christopher Davey; and reviews of archaeological biographies of Eve and Jim Stewart, and

Tessa Wheeler. *BH* interest has often dealt with the history of archaeological practice. Ron Tappy's 2016 Petrie Oration on the early Harvard excavations at Samaria, for example, included many quotations from personal journals and images of Gottlieb Schumacher's maps and field notes (*BH* 2016: 3–30).

The history covered by *BH* has gone well beyond archaeological excavation:

- with his capacity to read German handwriting and Gothic script, Dr Albrecht Gerber penned a revealing history of philologist, archaeologist and peacemaker, Gustaf Adolf Deissmann (*BH* 2005: 29–42);
- the strategic contribution of Dean Arthur Penrhyn Stanley to the historical geography of Sinai and Palestine prior to the formation of the Palestine Exploration Fund was described by Dr Geoffrey Treloar (*BH* 2008: 13–34);
- the importance of imperial iconography of Augustan triumphal arches to the theology of St Paul was explored by Dr James Harrison (*BH* 2011: 3–18);
- at its centenary, Professor Greg Horsley documented the history of the Loeb Classical Library in a paper that was adopted by Harvard University, the publisher of the Library (*BH* 2011: 35–58); and
- Michael Lever examined the secret service files on Vere Gordon Childe in England and Australia (*BH* 2015: 19–30).

All these contributions described original research, based on primary sources that had not previously received very much attention.

Original papers reporting on archaeology include Dr Gillian Bowen's article on early Christian burial practice at Kellis in the Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt (*BH* 2004: 15–28), which is now being published in a book, and Dr Jo Verduci's preliminary report on her excavations at Tuleilat Qasr Mousa Hamid, south of the Dead Sea (*BH* 2015: 3–16). Also subsequently in book form is Susan Balderstone's paper on the expression of liturgy and doctrine in the plans of churches from the fourth to sixth centuries (*BH* 2004: 29–38; Balderstone 2007).

Papyrological analysis of several early Christian texts was provided by Scott Charlesworth (*BH* 2006: 25–36). He later studied the origins of British Library Papyrus 2053 (*BH* 2017: 35–44); and Alan Mugridge drew attention to possible early Christian school texts, some of which were written on papyri (*BH* 2012: 11–26).

BH has had a steady stream of scientifically-based papers. The Institute's mummified material has been the subject of several papers, most recently one by Carla Raymond and Joseph Bevitt on the investigations carried out on the cat mummy at the Australian Synchrotron, and at the neutron neutron beamline at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (*BH* 2018: 15–22). A three-dimensional reconstruction of the architecture at Kellis was described in Volumes 41, 42 and 44 (*BH* 2005: 41–64; 2006: 17–24; 2008: 35–38).

Cuneiform texts have often featured in *BH*. Terrence Mitchell drew attention to the reference to Nebo-Sarsekim (Jeremiah 39:3) in a recently published British Museum tablet (*BH* 2009: 7–10). A most significant paper on a tablet held by the Institute appeared in Volume 54. Using scans taken at the Australian Synchrotron, Dr Luis Siddall, and Raymond and Bevitt reported on the discovery of a tablet enclosed in a clay envelope, and the translation of the tablet's text (*BH* 2018: 3–10). Another paper in that volume on Old Babylonian clay bullae by Professor Wayne Horowitz and Dr Peter Zilberg was also significant. It identified the city of Lagaba to be bullae's the place of origin, and located five other bullae originally from the same group, which are now held by museums in Sydney, New Zealand and Israel (*BH* 2018: 11–14).

Professors Eric and Carol Meyers discussed the problem of carrying out archaeological research in the 'Holy Land' where the current 'religious and political issues often play a role in site selection and in the interpretation of finds' (*BH* 2014: 3–16). Sadly, the topic remains relevant.

In the last few years, *BH* has extended its interest in the history of archaeology to Australia. Michael Lever discussed some historiographical aspects of Aboriginal history in the writing of Peter Beverage (*BH* 2022: 17–26), and Joanne Besley and Uncle Richard Widders reported on a recent repatriation of stone implements (*BH* 2023: 3–10). *BH* does not cover archaeological excavations and the analyses of Aboriginal material, which are left to journals that have the remit for such subjects.

BH has often examined the relationship between archaeology and the Bible. A paper by myself on the late nineteenth century controversy between two Oxford scholars, Professors Samuel Driver and Archibald Sayce, suggested that problems may derive from the differing attitudes to uncertainties in ancient evidence and the methodologies adopted to deal with it (*BH* 2022: 5–16). The failure of biblical studies scholars to appreciate the nature of ancient evidence means that they are unlikely to engage with archaeologists. This may explain why *BH* has often not been popular in theological colleges.

Changing times

In 2019 Macquarie University's journal, *Ancient History: Resources for Teachers*, ceased publication, prompting *BH* to consider the requirements of the history teachers. Two people with a knowledge of the field joined the Editorial Board, Dr Luis Siddall, Head of History at Sydney Grammar School, and Alanna Nobbs, Professor Emerita, Macquarie University. Access to past editions of *BH* was one issue to be considered.

The circulation of *BH* in Australia has declined in recent years. Andersen's editorship promoted *BH* in the international arena; in fact since then its main circulation has been in US universities, colleges and seminaries. Two American scholars are on the *BH* Editorial Board, and numerous American scholars have contributed to

its content. While most major US universities and many seminaries receive *BH*, in Australia only Macquarie University has taken it, by way of exchange.

The cost structure of *BH* has become more difficult to manage. It has generally been 50 pages in length, as any larger puts it into the next postal category. This has become a significant concern. Printing costs have not risen greatly since 2000, but postage has increased many times, especially for international addresses. This situation led to the consideration of online publishing.

Going online

The pattern of journal usage has developed over the last twenty-five years, and now seems to have standardised. Students and academics need journal material in a timely manner to assist with their studies and research. They do not normally want hardcopy on their shelves, and appreciate electronic resources that can be searched. Libraries have been struggling with shelf-space, and so have been turning to online resources.

As a publisher, we found commercial journal publishing companies to be expensive, and the levying of article processing charges made it expensive for authors. Instead, the Institute opted to use Open Journal Systems (OJS) as its online publishing platform, like many other international archaeological journals. OJS is an open source and free software for the management of peer-reviewed academic journals, created by the Public Knowledge Project, and released under the GNU General Public License. The software has all the necessary functionality, although at the moment only a portion of it is utilised. The site is at www.bhjournal.au, Figure 15. The completion of the documentation for the website and the technical aspects of the loading and operation of the software were not straight forward. Deputy Editor, Emily Tour, and Carrington.com General Manager, Simon Jackson, worked assiduously to solve the many inevitable and frustrating problems that arose.

The journal layout has been retained and the electronic text is PDF-based. This facilitates a print-run of the journal for those who have subscribed and for cataloguing/indexing institutions that still require hardcopy. An HTML version may be contemplated in the future.

Volume 59, 2023 was the first edition published online. Back issues from Volume 37–38, 2001–2 were also uploaded. This was not straightforward, as the earliest issues were set up using Adobe *Pagemaker* and did not load easily into *InDesign*. Where colour photographs had been supplied and were still held, they were used in place of the half-tone images originally published. This improved the supporting information significantly.

Loading pre-2001 issues would be problematic. Digitised copies are not held, and there will be copyright concerns, as the arrangements under which authors submitted at that time did not envisage holding and distributing the journal in electronic form.



Figure 15: The Home page of the Buried History website. www.bhjournal.au.

The Institute has a small bequest, which covers the costs of typesetting and formatting of each edition, the maintenance of software, and the cost of hosting. The online journal is therefore available free of charge to online readers, and it publishes papers as open access, without charging authors fees.

The future

Most of the international journals that were exchanged for *BH* have followed a similar, path and are now available online as open access journals. Very few of them levy fees.

BH still has an ‘in-house’ character, but that may change as its online presence develops. It is hoped that its practical archaeological and evidence-based historical perspectives will attract content, continue to grow the readership and prove useful to students and researchers, while continuing to be attractive to a general audience.

Christopher J. Davey
Australian Institute of Archaeology, and
University of Melbourne
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1345-8638>

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