
EDITORIAL

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One of the enduring aspirations of the Editorial Board during my period as Editor has been the production of themed issues of the journal alongside those with a mixture of articles on current research. For one reason or another most of the projected themes have either fallen by the wayside or are still in development, but I am pleased that the present double issue brings to fruition the publication of a group of articles on the theme of islands in the eastern Mediterranean in prehistory. This has been the project of two long-serving members of the Editorial Board, Christina Marangou and Philippe Della Casa. As they point out in their Introduction, Mediterranean Europe has not tended to feature prominently in previous issues of the *European Journal of Archaeology*. There may be several reasons for this, including the relatively low numbers of EAA members in Mediterranean countries and the many other journal outlets available for the publication of archaeological research in the Mediterranean, but I hope this issue goes some way towards restoring a balance.

Very successful recent Annual Meetings of the EAA – in 2007 in Zadar (in a university building just metres from the blue water of the Adriatic) and in 2008 in Valletta (with most delegates staying in hotels overlooking the Mediterranean), and where in both cases the local organizers provided field trips to Mediterranean islands – underscore the fact that the EAA is very keen to reach out to archaeologists and the archaeology of southern Europe. There may historically have seemed to be an EAA bias towards parts of northern and central Europe simply because of the circumstances in which the organization was founded and initially developed, but the EAA rationale was never other than Europe-wide.

Fortuitously, but extremely appositely, the second of our series of interviews concerns an archaeologist in whose career the Aegean has featured prominently, but who equally has been impressively pan-European in his research, publication and influence. Colin Renfrew will be known personally by many EAA members

and will be familiar to most others through his work, to which the interview by our President, Anthony Harding, provides a very illuminating adjunct.

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Mediterranean countries also get good coverage in the reviews section of this issue, which as usual ranges widely and eclectically, but the reviews editors have made a special effort to squeeze in as many titles as possible bearing on southern Europe.