

## Editorial Note

Welcome to this year's edition of PIA. We are continually striving to improve the journal, and have added some more new features. We begin a new *Forum* section, intended to provide an arena for debate among our readership. Replies to any papers in PIA are of course always welcome, but we particularly urge you to send us your responses to this article, so that we can publish your opinions in the next edition. We have, in addition, decided to discontinue the policy of only accepting contributions from those who have, or had, some connection with the Institute - contributions of all kinds are now welcome from anyone. Our first *Forum* article deals with aspects of the relationship between politics and archaeology, in particular issues of nationalism and racism. Some of these themes are revisited in our *Conference Reviews* section, specifically in the reviews of last December's World Archaeological Congress conference. Last year's successful introduction of an *Interview* section is continued, this year with Ian Hodder, Reader in Prehistory at the University of Cambridge and Director of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, one of the foremost archaeological theorists in the UK, and a former student of the Institute. Our long-established *Research Papers* section this year contains articles dealing with ethnoarchaeology, the archaeology of communications, and a study of Mayan social organisation; and we include a *Review Paper* in the field of Roman archaeology. As always our scouts have been out and about reporting on conferences both in the UK and abroad; and our usual summary of the latest Ph.D.s to be awarded at the Institute is this year supplemented by a listing of topics under investigation by current research students.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the assistance we have received in producing this year's edition, particularly from all the contributors, various members of previous editorial committees, and those who have acted as referees.