

## INTRODUCTION

The first number of *PIA* marked a major innovation in archaeological publishing in this Institute. Taking advantage of new desk-top publishing facilities, students started to issue their own research results directly by-passing the cumbersome processes of submission to established journals, and in this way work-in-progress, and ideas, problems and arguments arising out of research projects could be put before peer groups and established scholars quickly and economically. But as anyone reading *PIA 1* will see there was no loss in scholarship, and the volume was carefully edited and elegantly produced. It is not surprising to find that the 300 copies printed were quickly sold out and there are even thoughts of a reprint.

In this volume the strengths shown by the first number are built on and consolidated; it follows a similar format with eight papers by current and recent research students on a range of topics in the prehistory of Europe, the Americas and East and Southeast Asia together with book reviews and abstracts of Ph.D. dissertations completed within the past year. If papers on pre-Columban archaeology of Meso- and South America appear to dominate the first two numbers of *PIA* (eight out of fourteen articles), it is a tribute to the enthusiasm generated in his students by Warwick Bray for this subject area, and their initiative in raising the money and putting in the hard work to establish the journal. In doing this they have set a trend which the many students at the Institute working in Palaeolithic archaeology, the prehistory of Europe and Western Asia, and materials and the environmental sciences could do well to follow.

There never seems to be a 'right time' to start a new archaeological journal and the editors of *PIA* are to be congratulated for ignoring the Jeremiahs, of taking advantage of newly-available DTP technology, and finding a rich vein of good research material which, as the Introduction to *PIA 1*, pointed out has too often remained in relative obscurity in a few copies of dissertations and reports in University libraries.

I have no doubt that *PIA 2* will be as well received as the first number and that very soon the journal will be on the shelves of most teaching department libraries and archaeological museums, and will increasingly appear on undergraduate reading lists and in the bibliographies of student and academic researchers.

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