

Editorial Note

Thank you for reading this, the 9th volume of *PIA*. I am pleased to report that this journal is being taken by an ever-increasing number of subscribers (both individual and institutional) around the world, which development I take to reflect the wider perception of it as a source of interesting and influential papers. This is particularly encouraging in view of the proliferation of periodical literature devoted to archaeology, not least, here at the Institute. For example, 1998 saw the launch of *Archaeology International* under David Harris' editorship, which serves to inform interested parties of the research activities undertaken by Institute staff and students, all with enviable production values! Regular readers may note that our customary section listing MPhil/PhD research in progress has been omitted to avoid duplication with the contents of *AI*. In the same spirit of friendly co-operation (or should that be competition?), I would also take the opportunity of welcoming the initiative to launch a *Journal of Public Archaeology* based at the Institute under the guidance of Neal Ascherson. An interview with our new colleague appears inside.

Although this is a matter that I have raised before, the editorial committee remain concerned over the poor internal response to our last call for papers. With the vital importance ascribed to publication in the modern academic world, this inertia from a substantial proportion of the current research establishment at the Institute, is simply inexplicable. After all, one of *PIA*'s main objectives is to act as a forum for the promulgation of the work undertaken by the Institute's own graduates, and it is disappointing to note how few individuals have taken advantage of this particular platform, a reticence not shared by our many (and most welcome) external contributors. Hopefully, various measures put in hand to correct this situation will result in the redundancy of this complaint in the future.

I would like to thank all those who have helped in the publication of this volume, particularly, the academic referees whose assistance, as ever, has been invaluable. As a result of certain production problems, this issue is somewhat late in appearing and the patience of the contributors is gratefully acknowledged. I would also like to express my personal gratitude to Dr Mark Nesbitt, whose input to the editorial committee will be sorely missed.

Gwyn Davies
(Senior Editor)