

Editorial Note

Welcome to the eighth annual issue of *PIA* which continues the established tradition of including contributions covering a broad geographical and temporal range. Although this diversity may incur charges of eclecticism from certain quarters, the Editors are confident that the readership will agree with the existing policy of encouraging submissions that reflect the international character of modern archaeology. However, as one of our important objectives remains the provision of a forum for the publication of research undertaken by postgraduates at the Institute (and, by the application of rigorous refereeing and editing controls, to furnish contributors with useful experience of the academic publishing process), it is disappointing to report the poor rate of internal response to our last call for papers. Given the added importance ascribed to publication in the current academic environment, this apparent complacency is a matter of some concern.

Stephen Shennan's arrival at the Institute is marked by his *Forum* article entitled *Darwinian Archaeology*, a subject that it is hoped will generate more discussion than the inexplicable silence that followed Richard Reece's splendidly idiosyncratic contribution in *PIA* 7. In response to popular demand, the Editors have agreed to consider the inclusion of a 'letters page' in future issues subject to the proviso that the subject matter of any communication refers to the contents of the preceding volume and retains its relevance notwithstanding the passage of time (this is an annual publication after all). A further innovation which appears in this volume, is the inclusion of a new section entitled *Digging Diary* which is intended to comprise brief notes as to the progress of excavations currently in progress. Contributors should ensure that any material submitted under this section should include a note of the name and address of the relevant Project Director.

As ever, the Editors would like to thank all the contributors, referees and other individuals who have assisted in the publication of this volume. Particular thanks are also due to Robert Carter and Richard Hobbs for their invaluable assistance in the production of past issues.

Gwyn Davies
(Senior Editor)