



April 2009

Editor's Preface

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McClellan, Daniel O. "Editor's Preface." *Studia Antiqua* 7, no. 1 (2009). <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/studiaantiqua/vol7/iss1/2>

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Editor's Preface

This issue follows the previous by a full year, thanks in large part to the birth of my daughter, Aryn, in December. As *Studia Antiqua's* sole editor, I was unable to finish the fall 2008 issue before the end of the semester, and the papers from that issue have been combined with papers from the spring 2009 issue. With me for this issue is Angela Chapman, who will replace me as editor in chief after I graduate in April and move on to a master of studies degree in Jewish studies at the University of Oxford. Angela is a junior in ancient Near Eastern studies. She is doing the Hebrew track, and a paper of hers can be found in *Studia Antiqua* 6.1 (Spring 2008): 41–50.

On Friday, November 7th, 2008, the Students of the Ancient Near East, with Ancient Near Eastern Studies and the Religious Studies Center, held the 2008 SANE Symposium on Temples and Ritual in Antiquity. 22 papers were presented by professors and students on a wide variety of topics. The Religious Studies Center has graciously offered to consider a selection of papers for publication, but space is limited, and many quality papers could not be accepted. This issue has included a selection of the papers from the symposium that were not published by the Religious Studies Center. A call for proposals for the 2009 SANE Symposium will appear shortly, so keep an eye out. This year's topic will be related to the idea of canon, and will include a general open session.

Angela and I are introducing a new segment to this journal that we hope will familiarize our nonspecialist readers with important aspects of the history of the ancient world. We will publish one paper an issue that presents an introduction to an important ancient topic. Joshua J. Bodine's introduction to the Shabaka Stone is our first of these papers, and we invite interested students to consider writing and submitting introductions to their favorite topics for future issues.

This issue would not have been possible without the help of a number of individuals. We wish to thank Michael D. Rhodes for his expertise, as well as Dan Belnap, William J. Hamblin, Eric D. Huntsman, Richard Lounsbury, Kerry Muhlestein, Donald W. Parry, Dana M. Pike, and Gaye Strathearn, who all contributed time to reviewing submissions and providing feedback to students. The Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship has contributed generously to the publication of this journal, as have the Students of the Ancient Near East, Ancient Near Eastern Studies, and Classics. We wish to especially thank Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and the Religious Studies Center, which provides the internship that makes it possible for us to dedicate the time necessary to publish this journal. Devan Jensen and his editors have provided invaluable aid in helping to edit the final version of this issue. Finally, Joany Pinegar, who has put up with far too much from me to go another issue without being mentioned, has my deepest appreciation.

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Editor in Chief, *Studia Antiqua*