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STUDIA ANTIQUA AT TEN YEARS OLD

DANA M. PIKE

My brief contribution to this ten-year commemoration of *Studia Antiqua* provides me the opportunity to reflect on the key contributions of several students and faculty who are primarily responsible for the continuing existence and current health of this undergraduate student journal.

Although I was teaching at BYU when *Studia Antiqua* was born in 2001 and I was aware of the journal during its first few years of existence, I had no involvement with it. However, due to my serving as the coordinator of BYU’s interdepartmental Ancient Near Eastern Studies major since its inception (Fall 2005), I have been in a position to observe the interest expressed and the challenges encountered by those ANES students who have brought this journal back from near death.

As was mentioned by Breanne White (pp. xix–xxii), *Studia Antiqua* was revived and reinvigorated by students majoring in ancient Near Eastern studies. However, it is not just an ANES journal (if it was, it would not have a Latin name!). As Dr. Matthew Grey indicates (see pp. xi–xvii), *Studia Antiqua* was created to provide publication opportunities for all BYU students interested in ancient studies generally (pre–c.e. 600). This initial vision remains unchanged. Publishing in the journal is still open to any BYU undergraduate student researching any ancient topic, thus fulfilling its creators’ dream. Since its rebirth in 2007, students majoring in ANES, Classics, history, art history, and other departments on campus have published their work in *Studia Antiqua*. I hope this trend of students from a variety of disciplines submitting their work to *Studia Antiqua* will continue.

*Studia Antiqua* has provided valuable training for those who have served as student editors. It has been gratifying to me to see the more recent student editors—Breanne White, Daniel McClellan, Angela Wagner, David Peterson,
and Alan Taylor Farnes—devote such time and energy to the production of this quality undergraduate journal. Their commitment has been exemplary, and it is much appreciated.

*Studia Antiqua* has also provided a valuable opportunity for students to have the experience and satisfaction of not only researching and writing papers, but polishing and publishing them. Publishing in a journal is good for one’s ego, but more importantly it demonstrates to graduate school committees and future employers that students who had their work published had the discipline and drive to go beyond, in at least this one way, mere course requirements. “Getting published” is part of the “extra mile” of an undergraduate student’s experience that helps set them apart.

The past five years in the life of *Studia Antiqua* have not been easy. In addition to the challenges of resuscitating the journal, there have been the ongoing challenges of soliciting quality submissions from students, getting faculty-level review of submissions, and deadlines to meet. It is rewarding, however, to see how far the journal has come and the commitment that has been made to its continued existence.

On 16 March 2007, Drs. Terry Ball (then and still dean of Religious Education and agent dean of Ancient Near Eastern Studies), Andrew Skinner (then director of the Maxwell Institute of Religious Studies), Richard Holzapfel (then director of the Religious Studies Center), and I met in Dr. Skinner’s office to discuss the value of and possible support for *Studia Antiqua*. At that meeting it was decided that rather than having student editors of the journal pursue editing support available through the Humanities Publication Center (then directed by Dr. Mel Thorne) it would be more productive in the long term to designate one student intern slot at the Religious Studies Center to be occupied by the student editor of *Studia Antiqua*. This would provide not only editing training and support, but also the equipment on which to produce the journal and some financial assistance for the student editors.

I express appreciation to Drs. Ball and Holzapfel for their support of this initiative. This development moved the journal from a labor of love, extra-load volunteer effort on the part of previous student editors to a more established position in which the student editor receives training and pay for doing what they love. This move has had a profound effect on the production values and sustainability of the journal.

I also express appreciation to those campus units which have provided funding for the ongoing publication costs of the journal: Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Students of the Ancient Near East, Anthropology, Classics, History, Humanities, and, significantly, the Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship,
which, although it has no student majors, is a regular supporter of the journal because it recognizes the value it adds to students’ education (some of whom may become future contributors to the Institute’s publications). The Maxwell Institute’s commitment of financial support for *Studia Antiqua* began in 2007 under Dr. Skinner.

Thanks are also due to the faculty members who have served as advisors to *Studia Antiqua*, including Drs. Stephen Ricks, Kent Jackson, Michael Rhodes (now retired), and myself.

Finally, special thanks are due to the journal’s current student editor, Alan Taylor Farnes, for ably helping trace the life story of *Studia Antiqua*. Landmarks such as this are worth commemorating. Well done, Alan.

Given its current, firmly established situation, I trust that ten years from now this journal will be alive and well, continuing to provide an important publishing opportunity for students at BYU who have interests in antiquity. Happy tenth birthday, *Studia Antiqua*! And best wishes for a long, bright life.