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Editor's Preface

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

I am happy to present to the reader this latest issue of *Studia Antiqua*. This is my first issue as journal's editor. This has certainly been a learning experience for me and one full of growth. I can only assume that the editing staff and reviewers who have had to put up with me have also experienced their share of growth through this. I am deeply indebted to the contributors, editors, reviewers, advisors, and donors who have made this all possible.

This issue represents a time of transition and experimentation and I have slowly implemented some new ideas that will be more apparent in the coming issue. One of the major changes we will be making to *Studia Antiqua* is the decision to cut down to one issue a year, which is why this issue was a little later in being published. I am grateful to all the individuals who listened to my ideas and have been supportive of the changes being made.

This year's issue saw an incredible eight submissions. After discussion with wonderful, attentive reviewers the decision was made to publish three of the submitted articles. I am incredibly grateful for every single student that submitted their work. The journal wouldn't be possible without you. Also in this issue I am excited to publish our first article from a student that does not attend BYU. The other two students presented their papers at this year's Students of the Ancient Near East Symposium. Unintentionally all these articles draw heavily upon archaeology and examine the material culture of varying regions and times.

The first article comes from a student who just completed his PhD at the University of Helsinki Heta Björklund. His paper, which is part of the dissertation he recently defended, focuses on the similarities in function between Greco-Roman uterus votives from the Classical and Hellenistic periods and Byzantine uterus amulets from tenth and twelfth centuries CE. The second article was written by Jolynne Minnick, who discussed the archaeological finds on Mount Gerizim and argued that the Temple of the Samaritans was meant to rival the Jewish temple at Jerusalem. Lastly, Rachel Huntsman explored the relationship Herod the Great had to the Nabateans through architectural similarities and other archaeological finds found at Petra in Jordan. All these papers make fascinating contributions to archaeological research in their respective time periods.

This journal would be impossible without the devoted time and talents of our faculty reviewers. They go above and beyond the call of duty as volunteers to our cause. I consider their continued efforts to us students the most important aspect of this journal, and what really makes the entire experience worthwhile. I also wish to thank our financial donors for their support to *Studia Antiqua*. I would especially like to thank the Religious Studies Center, which provides the internship that makes this student journal possible. I am grateful to all involved.

Haley Wilson-Lemmon
Editor-in-Chief, *Studia Antiqua*