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Editor's Preface

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

I am very pleased to present to the reader this latest issue of *Studia Antiqua*. Notably, it is the longest in over five years in terms of final page count. To complement that, these pages hold seven papers—the most this journal has published in a single issue since Fall 2011. I am extremely proud of the efforts made by students, faculty, and editors to realize these important milestones, and I look forward to the bright future of *Studia Antiqua*.

This year *Studia Antiqua* received ten submissions! Thank you to all who submitted papers! After much deliberation, seven papers were chosen for publication. They reflect a variety of topics from the ancient Near East. This year's first paper, written by Zakarias D. Gram, discusses the Greek philosopher Xenophanes and the impact of his theological writings. Makayla Bezzant then offers a new reading of pomegranate symbolism in *The Hymn to Demeter*. Jacob Fuge's paper explores the aniconism of the returning Judahite exiles. Hanna Seariac discusses the role Canidia the witch played in Horace's poetry. Tyler Harris performs a semantic investigation of terms used to describe deafness in the Hebrew Bible. Jacob Inman evaluates Josephus's manipulation of Jewish nationalistic tales. Lastly, Samuel Mitchell seeks to recover pagan and Johannine influences in the Ignatian epistles.

I am very excited to present the hard work and research of these scholars to you, knowing full well that many sincere thanks need to be given to all who have contributed to *Studia Antiqua*'s success this year. Special gratitude is extended to R. Devan Jensen, Emily Strong, Emily Cook, and all others in the Religious Studies Center (RSC) at Brigham Young University (BYU) who have assisted with this year's issue. The RSC provides the internship of *Studia Antiqua* editor, and has done so for several years now. I am thankful to those whose financial donations have made *Studia Antiqua* possible. My deepest appreciation also goes to Dr. Lincoln Blumell, who led the effort in gathering faculty reviewers for the following papers. To each of the professors who volunteered their time and offered critiques for improvement, I express my heartfelt gratitude. Tyler Harris has played an important editorial role in this issue as well. He will take over as next year's editor, and I have no doubts that *Studia Antiqua* is in capable, thoughtful hands. He has already offered a great deal of help in making this year's issue come to life, and I am grateful for that. Thank you all. I hope that you will find the following offerings satisfying and exciting!

Samuel Mitchell
Editor-in-Chief, *Studia Antiqua*