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Editor's Preface

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

I am happy to herald another issue of *Studia Antiqua* (SA) filled with the engaging scholarship of my peers. Having worked with SA as both a submitter and an editor, I affirm the great value of the journal in affording primarily undergraduate students an opportunity to advance their skills in research, writing, and editing to a degree beyond curricular expectations.

Although the papers in this issue were written in the fall and winter months of the 2019–20 academic year, the publication process has certainly been affected by the events of the last several months, including the global COVID-19 pandemic and the responses to systemic injustices still existent today. These experiences, notwithstanding their accompanying difficulties, have brought important reminders about the fragility of life, the value of interpersonal connections, and the role we all have in creating true equality and justice. I am proud of our contributing scholars for enduring disruptions to our academic community, especially regarding courses, face-to-face interactions with faculty, and access to scholarship. Of the seven papers submitted for consideration, five have met the high standard of acceptance into this year's issue. The authors of these accepted papers had the fortune, time, and resources to endure rounds of feedback and revision, and they did so in a season of unprecedented changes in their academic pursuits and personal lives.

The first paper of this issue, written by Jeremy Madsen, analyzes the literary archetype termed the “covenant journey” pattern within the pentateuchal narratives of Noah, Abraham, and Moses. Talitha Hart then applies scholarship on ancient Israelite gates to the entrance areas of Israelite sanctuaries up through the Temple of Herod. Kelsie Cannon presents support for the interpretation of references to raised hands throughout the book of Psalms as a motif entreating the deity for grace. Jackson Abhau's paper posits that the Fourth Evangelist alluded to the Day of Atonement throughout the Gospel of John to reinforce its theological message concerning Jesus's redemptive value. Lastly, Rachel Huntsman's paper argues that the author of the Protevangelium of James used elements of the “betrothal at the well” Hebrew Bible type-scene in its annunciation account to defend the virginal image of Mary.

I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to the many contributors and volunteers who made this issue of *SA* possible. With the journal's move to its new home in the Ancient Near Eastern Studies program, I must give thanks to Eric Huntsman for facilitating the financial support of the *SA* editorial internship and to R. Devan Jensen and the staff at the Religious Studies Center for their willingness to continue as consultants for the journal. Additional appreciation goes to this year's faculty review board for their sacrifices of time and attention despite the interruptions of the novel coronavirus in their lives. I also thank the other members of the *SA* staff: Lincoln Blumell, for his continued faculty advisement over the journal, and Jeremy Madsen, whose editorial assistance with this issue has indeed prepared him to become *SA*'s next lead editor. Lastly, I thank the readers—including you—for your support of this issue and the journal at large. The goal of academic publishing is to disseminate scholarship, and your time spent reading these papers helps their authors reach their dreams of making an impact in the academy and in the world.

Tyler Harris
Editor-in-Chief, *Studia Antiqua*