Editor's Preface

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Editor's Preface

The Student Society for Ancient Studies at Brigham Young University is pleased to present this first issue of *Studia Antiqua*. From its inception, the Society has sought to provide BYU students from all disciplines of ancient studies opportunities to further their academic interests. Certainly one element that is critical for such a specialized field is that of student research and publication. To provide this venue of student publication, *Studia Antiqua* ("Ancient Studies") has been recently created. The journal is dedicated to publishing original undergraduate and graduate research in all areas of ancient studies. It is hoped that such a publication will offer students the opportunity to improve their research and writing abilities, allow them to experience the editing and publication process, as well as prepare them for further educational pursuits by building their academic résumé. This new opportunity also hopes to motivate ancient studies students in their current class work by allowing them to expand their academic vision and goals.

The process employed by the journal is as follows: first students submit papers they have written, which are then reviewed by the Student Editorial Advisory Board (consisting of the Society presidency). Once the board decides which papers represent the highest quality of original research and writing, those selected papers are given to the appropriate member of the Faculty Review Board. As respected faculty in each area of ancient studies review their respective papers, the students are given helpful and professional suggestions for improvement, making each paper more academically credible. The papers are also given to competent student editors who help with grammar, structure, and formatting.

As this issue represents the first attempt at such a product, we thank the readers for their patience and understanding in noticing possible weaknesses inherent in its expected growing pains. This initial
groundbreaking process explains the belated publication of the Fall 2001 issue. Work has already begun on the Winter 2002 issue and the journal hopes to continue publishing every Fall and Winter semester. The Society is confident that each subsequent issue will only show improvement.

*Studia Antiqua* would like to publicly thank many who have made this venture possible. S. Kent Brown and Pat Ward in Ancient Studies, and Paul Y. Hoskisson as Associate Dean of the Religion Department have been our greatest support and have provided the opportunities to make the Society and Journal possible. Likewise, each member of the Faculty Review Board continues to offer their suggestions and expertise, adding a more professional quality to the project. Also to be thanked are the various departments and entities on campus, including Roger T. Macfarlane in Classics, Dilworth Parkinson in Near Eastern Languages, Joel Janetsky in Archaeology, and M. Gerald Bradford from the Institution for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts, all of whom have contributed financially to the publication of the journal. Certainly without their encouragement, the project would never have become a reality. The Society would also like to thank the authors who have put so much time and effort into their papers, as well as the work of Robert Ricks and Mindy Anderson. These competent student editors have volunteered hours of their time to make the quality of the product as high as possible.

We hope that all who read this journal will enjoy the work done by these dedicated and capable students. As publication of the journal continues, we also hope that the profile of ancient studies on campus will be raised and future students and scholars in the field will be increasingly motivated and inspired.

Matthew J. Grey
General Editor

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