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Editor's Preface

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The Student Society for Ancient Studies is pleased to present this fourth issue of *Studia Antiqua*. This is a landmark issue as it marks an important transition for both the Society and the journal. In the fall 2001 semester a handful of students had the idea for the creation of a student organization for the promotion of ancient studies. Soon the idea of having a journal to represent that organization was also discussed. With much effort this initial group of students organized the BYU Student Society for Ancient Studies as well as its journal *Studia Antiqua*. Along with the success the Society has enjoyed over the past two years, those involved with the journal have also been extremely pleased with the growth and accomplishments of such an upstart publication. Beginning with next to nothing, owing to the generous donations from various departments and the countless hours of volunteer student editors, the journal is now on its fourth issue and has become the standard for student publications in ancient studies at BYU.

Following this edition, the journal and Society will officially be under the leadership of a “second generation” of ancient studies students. Matt Grey was the founding editor in chief of the journal and has put untold hours and effort into seeing it brought to the light of publication. Matt could not have accomplished this without the indispensable help of Robert Ricks, Mindy Anderson, Andrea Ludwig, and Lani Axman, who have been excellent managing editors for journal’s first four issues. We would like to thank these ambitious students for allowing this publication to become a reality.

As appreciative as we are of the invaluable work of this initial group of students, we are also quite excited about the future of the journal and Society under its new leadership. The journal is pleased to announce Tyson Yost as its new editor in chief. Tyson is one of the valuable few among students who have an interest and talent in both ancient studies as well as publishing. We are confident that with his enthusiasm, vision, and abilities he will raise the journal to new heights. Surely with Tyson and his upcoming group of editors, *Studia Antiqua* will continue for future
generations of ancient studies students to enjoy as a primary source of publication.

Indications of the journal’s perpetuation beyond its founding leadership include plans already in process for the future. For example, this summer (2003) will see a special issue of the journal featuring student articles on Hebrew law in the Book of Mormon. This issue will be co-published by the Student Society for Ancient Studies and the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (FARMS) and represents the type of high-profile activity we hope becomes standard for the journal. We also hope that with the induction of a new Society presidency, the journal will soon be available to a wider audience in an electronic format on the Society website. This will hopefully allow for a greater distribution and recognition of the fine work being done by ancient studies students at BYU.

We again thank all those who have been involved in the formation of this journal as well as those assuming responsibility for it in the future. We also hope our readers will enjoy this fourth issue. In many ways, we feel this to be one of the strongest issues, in regards to content, the journal has yet produced. Hopefully the quality of work found in this issue will continue in setting the standard of academic excellence in issues to come.

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Brigham Young University

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