June 2003

Update on the Student Society for Ancient Studies

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As the Student Society for Ancient Studies finishes its second full year its future looks brighter than ever. This, the fourth edition of *Studia Antiqua*, represents the culmination of another great year and a lot of hard work by the students involved. We are most grateful for the students who take part in this journal and the Society. We also extend our thanks to those who offered other assistance and suggestions for improvement.

This last semester enjoyed many insightful and engaging lectures. We were very excited to host Professor Richard Averbeck from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. His informative lecture on history and the Bible was a wonderful inaugural presentation for this semester. Other exciting lectures followed: Donald Parry on the Dead Sea Scrolls, John Gee on Egyptian Christianity, Richard Holzapfel on the earliest records of the Passion in the writings of Paul, Cynthia Finlayson on women in Palmyra, Paul Hoskisson on law in the Book of Mormon, and Kristian Heal on early Christian Syriac texts. Each lecture was well attended and we were excited to see many new faces at each lecture.

As is tradition, and mandated in the Society’s by-laws, we held elections toward the end of April. Taking over as president will be our former historian, Elizabeth Siler. Her energy and boundless enthusiasm during the last two semesters contributed most significantly to our success and the Society should only prosper and grow under her leadership. David Staheli is returning to the presidency but will be assuming the responsibilities of the vice-president. Together, Elizabeth and Dave will continue to lead the society in new and exciting directions.

It has been a pleasure to be associated with this student Society and with the people who took part in it. Each semester the Society continues to grow and students across campus from many
different disciplines take an interest in the ancient world. More students are submitting papers for the journal and the quality continues to rise. As always, the endless efforts of Matt Grey and his editorial team are the lynchpin for the journal’s success. As the reigns of leadership are passed along in the presidency, so too are they passed along in the position of editor in chief as Matt embarks on the adventure of graduate school and the efficient and most capable Tyson Yost fills his position. The level of the journal will continue to increase as the Student Society for Ancient Studies and Studia Antiqua continue to offer this outlet to those interested in ancient studies.

Once again, we thank everyone who donated their time and energy to the journal and Society. We offer our sincere gratitude to those departments whose generous contributions help make this journal possible and something we can all be proud of. The Society continues to strive to improve in all aspects and sincerely invites comments for improvement and new ideas.

Robert D. Hunt
Society President

June 2003
Brigham Young University