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Editor's Preface

Matthew J. Grey

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The Student Society for Ancient Studies is pleased to present this third issue of *Studia Antiqua*. Since the initial discussion of creating a venue for students to research and publish in ancient studies, the journal has been founded, funding has been offered by various departments on campus, a large amount of support has been forthcoming from both faculty and students, and now three issues have been produced.

While the second issue (Winter 2002) established a standard in formatting and design for future issues, this third issue marks even further growth and development. Notably, the generous and incredible talent of Michael Lyon has been added in the numerous illustrations used for the articles and section pages. The high quality of images offers a more professional and fascinating look to the journal and truly brings a new depth to the information provided to the readers. The images are quite detailed and are supplemented equally by detailed captions. Together, great insights are given to the reader concerning the topics covered by the articles. We can’t thank Michael enough for the time and contribution he volunteered.

In addition to the images, two new sections were added to this issue to offer the ancient studies students on campus a broader view of the field. The first is a section containing book reviews on recent works of interest to those in ancient studies. As an experimental attempt, Rob Hunt (SSAS President) and I each wrote a review of books we recently read. In this case, they both relate to biblical studies (where Rob and I personally spend most of our time), but we are hoping that as more members of the society and readers of the journal come across interesting works in the various fields of ancient studies, those reviews will be submitted and considered for future publication. The purpose of this section will be to increase the interest in and information concerning important books being written so that our students and readers will be more motivated to pursue their personal readings in their respective fields of study. We hope this will be a continuing and exciting section of the journal in the future.
Another section added in this edition was one for the purpose of increasing dialogue on various issues raised by previous articles in the journal. This idea was sparked as we received a wonderful, complimentary, and insightful letter by Dr. Jeffrey R. Chadwick (Religion) commenting on John Robison's article on the crucifixion (Winter 2002). We felt that it would be important for the author to respond to his comments, thus creating a friendly and constructive dialogue on an interesting topic. Like the book review section, we hope this will also become a regular feature. As faculty or other students write in to comment on what they are reading and the authors are given a chance to respond, all interested readers should benefit from such insightful discussion (comments may be sent to studia_antiqua@yahoo.com).

As always, S. Kent Brown and Pat Ward at Ancient Studies have been our most loyal supporters. Members of our Faculty Review Board have also contributed precious time to offer solid review to improve the articles. Likewise, our Editorial Staff has volunteered time and energy, all of which is much appreciated. Once again, funding was provided in generous amounts by M. Gerald Bradford of ISPART, Roger T. Macfarlane from Classics, Dil Parkinson from Near Eastern Studies, and from the deans of G.E. and Honors. Without the cumulative support from these various areas, this journal could not be a reality. Drew Johnson at BYU Printing has offered helpful assistance in the actual publication, and Mel Thorne has once again been extremely helpful in providing the facilities for formatting at the Humanities Publication Center. Finally, an enormous personal thanks goes to our Managing Editors, Lani Axman, Andrea Ludwig, Robert Ricks, and John Robison for their tireless work in the formatting to prepare for publication—they have been invaluable.

With the articles, new book review and dialogue sections, and wonderful images, I hope Studia Antiqua continues to inform and inspire students in their future pursuits in the fascinating field of ancient studies.

Matthew J. Grey
Editor in Chief

January 2003
Brigham Young University