May 2014

Editor's Preface

Brock M. Mason
EDITOR’S PREFACE

This issue constitutes my last issue working as editor for *Studia Antiqua*. Hopefully I have served satisfactorily as the student editor for these past two years. I have been especially grateful for the opportunity to work with the staff at the Religious Studies Center and the faculty at Brigham Young University.

I am also grateful to have had Jasmin Gimenez with me on this issue. Jasmin will be taking over as editor of *Studia Antiqua*; she is an excellent editor with a superb knowledge of the ancient Near East. I have full confidence in her abilities to take the journal to another level.

This issue features three articles and book reviews—all from Brigham Young University students. These articles are the winning essays from the annual ancient Near Eastern studies essay contest, a contest which we plan to continue for many years to come. They represent some of the finest work of Brigham Young University’s undergraduates.

Leading off this issue is the first-place essay written by Jared Pfost. Jared analyzes the literary structure and function of the biblical flood narrative in comparison to other Near Eastern flood narratives of its type. Following Jared’s article is the second-place essay written Sara K. Riley. Sara’s paper surveys the hand drum in the Israelite musical tradition and the role of women in musical performances during biblical times. After Sara’s paper, we have the third-place essay written by Andrew Mickelson. In his article, Andrew discusses the striking absence of the word ἐπιτιμάω in the Gospel of John. Andrew postulates some reasons why this might be lacking and gives an overview of John’s narrative structure and themes. Rounding out this issue we have a book review by Amanda Colleen Brown, who reviews the book *Daughter Zion: Her Portrait, Her Response*.

As always, this issue would not have been possible without the generous contributions from our esteemed faculty. A double-blind peer-reviewed journal takes its toll on the faculty reviewers, but I am grateful for their kind assistance. We would have no journal without the reviewers. My deep thanks to all of them and apologies if I have overstepped my bounds or sent one too many reminders. This journal recognizes its indebtedness to our wonderful faculty.

Also, we are continually grateful to our financial donors, not only for making the journal possible but also for making the essay contest an excellent opportunity to support and promote BYU’s students. We are deeply grateful to all of our donors for their continued support. Again, without them this journal—this unique opportunity for undergraduates to gain publishing experience—would not be possible.

Brock M. Mason
Editor in Chief, *Studia Antiqua*