

Editorial Statement

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The enormous changes in technology and the publishing industry at the end of the 20th century have affected all areas of archaeology. In general these changes enhance and supplement the traditional book rather than entirely supplanting it. Books continue to play a vital role in scholarly research and thus the book review section of the *AJA* will continue to seek important assessments of sustained and synoptic scholarly research. The *AJA* covers a large range of subjects ("the art and archaeology of ancient Europe and the Mediterranean world, including the Near East and Egypt, from prehistoric to late antique times"), and the *Journal* also needs to present the new methodologies and techniques that related areas and disciplines introduce.

As the new book review editors, we will attempt to achieve a balance in our coverage that reflects both established and new archaeologies. We shall be flexible and open to different formats, but in general we intend to continue the policy of distinguishing between Review Articles and Reviews; Review Articles discuss several related books in 3000–4000 words, and Reviews discuss usually a single work in 500–1500 words (we are discontinuing Book Notes).

The *AJA* regularly receives publications from only approximately one hundred major publishing houses. To do justice to all areas of archaeology, we need to attract books for consideration from as many presses as possible, especially foreign presses. We rely on our readers and on the authors themselves to send us books and notices so we may stay abreast of new and important publications. Since the *AJA* does not need to publish reviews of every eligible book, it seems prudent that we work cooperatively with other journals to avoid the unnecessary du-

plication of reviews of specialized studies.

We intend to take advantage of the Internet and have already begun to do this in the "AJA Book Reviews" website (<http://www.people.ku.edu/~jyounger/ajareviews/revguides.html>), which currently lists all books received and citations of their reviews from 1990, style guidelines, and appropriate links; eventually we hope to include the lists of books received before 1990. This website may soon also include other information, such as illustrations, and very short notices of books along with their tables of contents. Other ideas include a special editorial section in which we present items of special interest. This might announce new presses, the proceedings of conferences, electronic resources, and noteworthy developments such as the completion of a publication series (e.g., the excavations of an individual site).

Before World War II the *AJA* published articles in French and German; eminent scholars like Pierre Devambez, Louis Robert, Georg Karo, and Wilhelm Dörpfeld contributed to the *Journal's* international standing. Since the war the *AJA* has published only in English. The end of the millennium brings a sense of the shrinking world, globalization, and international cooperation; the ability to understand our neighbors is both polite and necessary. Since German, French, Spanish, and Italian are widely used in publications in Europe, we feel it appropriate to return to the practice of occasionally publishing the work of some scholars who write in these languages. Though it would be impractical at present to include articles written in non-Roman scripts, we shall strive also to include these when possible, even if in translation.

We are very eager to expand our base of reviewers, both from outside the United States and from younger scholars new to

academic publishing. We encourage potential reviewers to send us a curriculum vitae indicating areas of expertise. We are keenly aware that we work in a discipline with many fine scholars but few university jobs, so we also seek independent scholars as reviewers. Our profession depends on all scholars, especially young and emerging ones, to keep it alive and progressive; we urge graduate students to contact us once then have completed their degree.

The *AJA* depends on new ideas. We urge our readers to let us know what they are thinking, what they would like to see im-

proved or discarded, what they want *AJA* Book Reviews to do for them and for our discipline. Please e-mail us at aja-reviews@duke.edu.

Last but not least, we thank our predecessors, Susan Alcock and John Cherry, for making the transition as easy as possible. For all their patience, help, and encouragement, we thank too our editor-in-chief, R. Bruce Hitchner, our associate editors, both past and present, Tracey Cullen and Susan Holman, our past and present assistant editors Carol Stein and Mark Kurtz, and the entire staff of the *AJA*. ■