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EDITORIAL

In August 2010, while discussing the state of medieval archaeology in Italy, the editors concluded that unlike other branches of archaeology there were few academic forums for multidisciplinary, innovative publications on the postclassical period. Those which existed (the main journals at that time were – and still are – “Archeologia Medievale” and “Archeologia PostMedievale”) were focused principally on Italian research and on subjects linked to historical questions. Dissemination of their content was mainly limited to Italy and Spain, firstly because of the language of the papers and secondly because they were not online.

We felt the need to create a new scientific platform from which innovative Mediterranean research could be launched on the European scene; and at the same time to bring the contemporary framework of broader European research to Italian readers. Many exciting scientific innovations applied within archaeology were just starting to revolutionise several traditional topics and questions, but in many cases were published in highly specialist scientific journals with a mainly methodological focus, so that they were sometimes incomprehensible to archaeologists. Most importantly, often these papers were not exploring the potential multidisciplinary application to archaeological contexts or historical understanding. This was probably due to the forums in which they were published and to the fact that publications in “traditional journals” did not positively impact scholars’ careers.

The European Journal of Post-Classical Archaeologies was initiated in this context to be an international and free journal, exploring archaeology which is “postclassical” in both a chronological and a methodological sense. Its objective was to publish innovative interdisciplinary papers which could also be understood by archaeologists and in which new methods of research could be harnessed and provide solutions to debates on exciting old and – more often – new questions. The “low impact” tendency of humanities journals could be overcome not only by its quality but also by its free and online character. This would also

empower young early career researchers, an approach enhanced by our “young researcher award”.

The journal has published papers related to spatial urban analysis (PCA 2 and 8), “marginal” uses of medieval landscape (PCA 4), stable isotope analysis applied to diet and migration (PCA 3), disasters and resilience (PCA 5), recycling processes (PCA 6), and waterways (PCA 7). In the “dossier” section, we wanted to debate different aspects of archaeological heritage management such as changing Italian legislation (PCA 3), open access (PCA 5), preventive and rescue archaeology in Europe (PCA 2), or participatory research in archaeology projects (PCA 9). We have also published dynamic ongoing projects and a section on how medieval archaeology has been developing in different countries with different focus and chronologies (Poland in PCA 2, Germany in PCA 3, Sweden in PCA 4, Anglo-Saxon countries in PCA 5, Russia in PCA 6, Switzerland in PCA 7, Ireland in PCA 9).

The present issue was conceived (as was the first) as a reflection on archaeology today and the prospects and future of archaeology based on the principles of the Agenda 2030 for a sustainable Europe (C. Holtorf), ranging from future jobs (P. Everill), education (D. Henson), the sea (A. Rey da Silva), technology (C. Rynne), climate change (R.J. Williamson et al.) and health (P. Gelabert). The COVID-19 crisis occurred unexpectedly when the volume had already been finished and during the editorial process, but we decided that the new situation required a quick “colpo di timone” (change of direction) and further reflection on the present and future situation, although many current problems were already developing before the current crisis.

The second part of the journal, by contrast, offers papers on one of the “classic” subjects of Mediterranean archaeology (the transformation of late Roman countryside) although none of them deals directly with “the end of the villas”. For some time it has been understood that although the architectural transformation of farms and residences after the 5th century was a widespread phenomenon, it possibly does not fully reflect what was happening at this time in terms of local properties and production, and a wider perspective is needed, exploring the continuity of production and its significance (T. Lewit), numismatics (N. Conejo), and the broader information that multidisciplinary research can bring to the subject, such as in the studies offered by A. Carneiro, R. Montagnetti et al. and J. Nolla et al.

We wish to express our thanks to all the authors who have published with us over the past ten years, especially those who did so when this was a new and unknown journal, as well as to all the members of the editorial board who have worked with us and contributed to the journal’s success.