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# **E**EDITORIAL

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This issue sees what is for the *European Journal of Archaeology* an innovation – the inclusion of an interview in addition to the usual research papers. Interviews (or perhaps ‘conversation’ would more appropriately describe this first example) are a way of reflecting, in a more personal, and indeed more revealing fashion, the very wide range of activities, views and concerns within archaeology as it is in Europe today.

We already have several interviews in the pipeline and these will appear over the course of forthcoming issues. Some of these interviews will take the more traditional approach of asking well-known distinguished scholars to reflect on their long careers in archaeology. Our first interview is rather different, however, since its subject is someone still early on in his career who is advocating particular and interesting approaches to making archaeology relevant in the twenty-first century. Some of the interviewee’s perspectives may already be familiar (see Högberg 2007), as certainly will those of the interviewer (e.g. Holtorf 2005; 2007), but I suspect that for many readers of this journal there will be much that is new and challenging in what Anders Högberg has to say.

The papers in this issue are the usual miscellany, diverse in approach and subject matter as well as being geographically disparate. Torben Sarauw has a fresh look at the ever popular topic of the western European Beaker phenomenon, this time from a Danish perspective with reference to the social role of Bell Beaker ceramics and flint daggers. Marie Louise Stig Sørensen and Katharina Rebay are also concerned with recovering social information, in their case from a particularly rich Middle Bronze Age dataset from in and beyond the Hungarian Plain. Konstantinos Chilidis on the other hand uses his case study, of aspects of the architectural construction of Macedonian tombs, as a springboard for examining the way in which new archaeological evidence can initially confront the prevailing consensus before being assimilated into a new consensus.

No less eclectic are the reviews, which truly feature books reflecting the chronological, geographical and professional diversity of archaeology in Europe today.

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At the time of writing this editorial it seems impossible to avoid making mention of the changed financial circumstances which are the main topic of conversation throughout Europe. How the current 'credit crunch' and general economic downturn will affect archaeology has yet to be fully diagnosed, though dire predictions are already coming from the commercial sector. If there is a serious impact on developer-funded and other types of contract archaeology it will unquestionably have a knock-on effect throughout our profession, and not just in those European countries where the commercial sector has expanded most. If there is a severe recession there will be no necessary immunity for universities, museums, institutes or wherever else archaeologists are employed. Even organizations like the European Association of Archaeologists will be unable to escape the outcomes from economic instability. We hope for the best, but the Executive Board will have much to consider at its next meeting.

## REFERENCES

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