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Cover photo. View of the Basei Glacier, in northwestern Italy's alpine River Orco headwaters, August 2003. The glacier's frontal moraine indicates that the equilibrium line altitude during the Little Ice Age was 175–200 m lower than at present. Studies of glacial activity, periglacial activity, soil development and downvalley floods in the Po River show that the warm modern period matches best with the Roman period between about 2200 and 1900 cal yr BP rather than the Medieval Warm Period. (See the article by Carlo Giraudi, pages 1–8, in this issue.)