
E DITORIAL

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Envoi

Seven years ago, I received a telephone call out of the blue from Professor Kristian Kristiansen, who told me as much about the (as it was then) *Journal of European Archaeology* as he could decently manage in 10 minutes and invited me to be the first General Editor. I thought about this offer for three seconds and decided to accept the honour. From my personal viewpoint, I know now that I did not make a wrong decision.

Since 1994, much has changed in European archaeology and the house journal of the EAA has changed too, sometimes too fast and too far for elements of the membership but always carrying a democratic majority in favour of those changes. The Journal has undergone a name change, an image make-over and an increased level of professionalism, which owes much to successive Executive and Editorial Boards, as much as to the two Presidents of the EAA – Kristian Kristiansen and Willem Willems.

It has been particularly stimulating to see the growth of the interests and activities of the Editorial Boards since 1994. These Boards defined their own sphere of activities and helped chart the guidelines for the principles of the Board and their editorial practices. Since 1999, Editorial Board members have the chance to read all papers submitted for publication before they are sent to peer review, underlining the advantages of a small Board where everyone works for the Journal rather than a large Board of 'grube rybe' ('fat fish' in Polish). The principle of peer review of every contribution is gradually gaining in strength in Continental Europe, not least because of the example of the Journal. And for authors in countries with careful monitoring of research quality, the Journal is clearly a very desirable place to publish.

The Journal is now with its third publisher since the founding issue in 1993. Ross Samson of Cruithne Press was our publisher when I started and I should like to thank Ross for his enthusiasm and energy in the three years in which we worked together. The big change for the Journal came in 1997, with the choice of a new publisher after an open competition. Sage Publications Ltd came with the reputation of a specialist journals publisher with a large output and they have upheld their high standards throughout the last four years. Questionnaire responses indicate that the membership is now content with the paperback format and the three issues per annum, while, ultimately, the name change bothered librarians more than readers. I am especially grateful to Jane Price and Miranda Nunhofer for their efforts at the birth of the new title, to Sarah Roulson and

Jeremy Toynbee for their hard work in improving the quality of the final product and to the marketing team for selling so many copies.

The main thanks I have to offer go to the contributors, who have sometimes had to put up with much from an Editor whose florid prose could not always conceal a talent at losing the ultimate version of a heavily-revised article. The greatest academic pleasure that I have gained from editing the Journal has been to read fresh and exciting ideas about European archaeology close to their genesis. The number of citations of articles from the Journal in my own writings of the last seven years owes not so much to Tom Lehrer's Lobachevsky as to a genuine appreciation of the quality of Journal's articles. I should also like here to thank those kind individuals who translated abstracts into French or German, often at ludicrously short deadlines – especially Françoise Audouze, Françoise Hivernel and the Halle student team. I was also lucky with two Reviews Editors of strongly contrasting styles – the flamboyant and inspirational Mike Shanks and the more traditional and meticulous Peter Biehl. Both of you have made the Reviews section a key place to turn to for current debate in European archaeology and I remain grateful for that.

Instead of my normal commentary on the articles that appear in this issue, which have been partly the responsibility of the new General Editor – Mark Pearce of the University of Nottingham, UK – I think it is more appropriate to look back at the harvest of the last seven years. Three of the most important principles devised by the Editorial Board define the balance that the Journal should maintain between the gender of the authors, the areas covered and the periods covered. It is worthwhile to make an assessment of the extent to which the Journal has been successful in maintaining balance in these three key areas. The sample on which the pie-charts are based comprises 163 articles from *JEA* 3–7 and *EJA* 1–4. In the case of multi-author articles, all named authors are included. Those articles with a thematic core are listed as 'General' for the period and area statistics, as are multi-period articles for the period analysis.

In the case of the gender attribution of authors (Fig. 1), it is clear that the aim of a 50–50 representation of male and female authors has not been achieved. Those who wish to remain self-satisfied with a 64–36 split in favour of males may point to the fact that the overall bias in EAA membership is 2:1 in favour of males. But this ignores the fact that publication of articles in the Journal is not restricted to members of the EAA and that the gender ratio amongst European archaeologists is not as much as 2:1. It also fails to

address the point that single-author articles were written by an even higher ratio of males to females, whereas articles with many co-authors often had large numbers of female contributors. I wish to identify this as an area where further progress could be made, perhaps by the creative use of positive discrimination.

The division of articles by period (Fig. 2) shows that the core of the Journal's articles is in later pre-history – almost two thirds of the articles with a single period focus. These articles are split equally

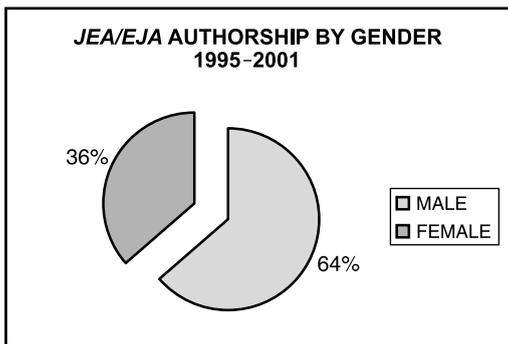


Figure 1 *JEA/EJA* authorship by gender, 1995–2001.

between the Neolithic/Copper Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, perhaps a confirmation of the Editor's repression of his natural penchant for articles on early European farming! Hunter-gatherer types will be a little satisfied with the ~ 10% of articles on their specialization. But the biggest weakness of the Journal thus far is the failure to attract more articles on Classical, Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeology. Mark Pearce is very aware of this point and has already laid plans to remedy this problem.

The regions of Europe are covered in a more balanced way than the periods (Fig. 3), with strong interests in the Mediterranean and in South East and Eastern Europe. In this sense, a truly European coverage has been developed and this could be seen to be one of the successes of the Journal thus far. If the analysis of regions had examined the country of the authors, a very different picture would have emerged, with a strong bias towards what the Executive Board terms the 'Anglo-Nordic group'. But members of that group have colonized many parts of Europe and the regional focus of the articles is just as important as the birthplace of the author(s).

Earlier, I defined what had been for me the greatest academic pleasure of the job. But the greatest personal pleasure has been meeting so many wonderful people in European archaeology – especially on the Boards and in the Secretariat but also at the Annual Meetings and in many other, less predictable venues. It would be improper to single out one individual before all the nice folks I have met, so I shall and it is Henri Cleere,

since it was his sense of humour that enabled me to live through some of the marathon Board meetings of the last few years.

I sense that the Journal is in good heart and that, in its first nine years, it has become an established part of the European archaeological landscape and a beacon for innovative interpretation in European archaeology. I am certain that the EAA has made a wise choice in appointing Mark Pearce to the post which it has been my pleasure to hold. I wish him, the Journal and the Association great success in the next decade.

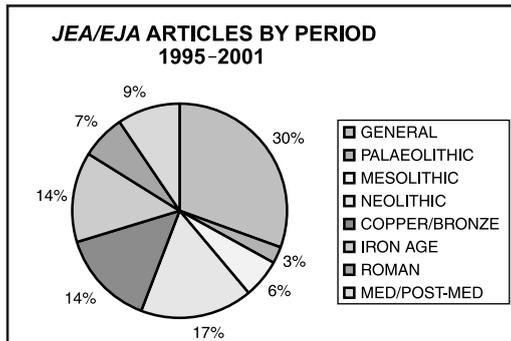


Figure 2 JEA/EJA articles by period, 1995–2001.

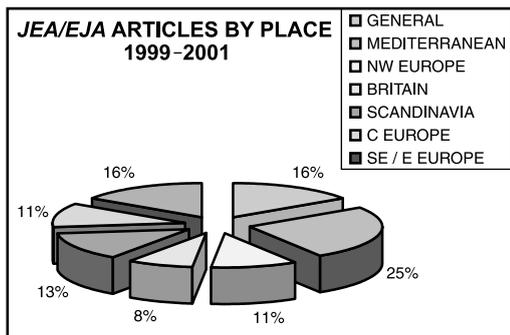


Figure 3 JEA/EJA articles by place, 1995–2001.