

EDITORIAL

Be direct, simple, brief, vigorous, and lucid.

—H. W. Fowler

This issue of *Hesperia* is my last as Editor. The American School of Classical Studies at Athens is a vibrant institution, and it has been an honor to edit the School's journal these past 14 years. As the School has become more inclusive, and archaeology and classical studies have turned toward new fronts, the scope of *Hesperia* has expanded—in the course of which the journal has gained not only new types of submissions, but also new readers. Still first and foremost a journal of record, *Hesperia* now sees a wider range of subjects, more interpretive syntheses, and more questions asked (if not always answered).¹

My greatest source of pride in the years of my editorship has been to contribute to this trend, and to see the journal thrive. The submission rate has tripled since 1999, while the acceptance rate has been cut in half. The increase in submissions and subscription revenue allows us to publish more research: *Hesperia* now averages 175 pages per issue, up from 125 pages in the late 1990s. To celebrate the journal's 75th anniversary, we produced an unusually large issue (76:1) that showcased the traditional strengths of *Hesperia* and reflected on the past and future of the journal. Two other issues have been devoted to specific themes, Mycenaean feasting (73:2) and American archaeology and philhellenism in Greece (82:1). In 2010, the expanded mission of the journal, first articulated in editorials, was incorporated into the mission statement for the School as a whole.

Readership increased dramatically when *Hesperia* became available online. In 2001 we enrolled in JSTOR and, in 2011, in the JSTOR Current Scholarship Program. As a result, *Hesperia* now reaches over 4,000 libraries in 167 countries. A steep rise in article downloads—from 4,559 in 2002 to 74,734 in 2012—attests to a growing audience. Moreover, in 2012 the back run of *Hesperia* (over 1,500 articles) was made freely available on the American School's website, searchable by multiple criteria.

It has also been gratifying to see the journal earn outside recognition. The European Science Foundation maintains an index for humanities journals, and in classical studies, archaeology, and history, *Hesperia* has placed in the top tier. In 2007, the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers honored *Hesperia* for "best journal design." Most recently, in 2012, *Hesperia* received the Codex Award from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals (an allied organization of the

1. For the evolution of *Hesperia* from an in-house periodical to a refereed journal with wide relevance to classical studies, see T. Cullen and J. L. Davis, *Hesperia* 76 (2007), pp. 1–20 and 21–35, respectively.

Modern Language Association) for outstanding scholarly achievement in a journal covering the period before 1500 in any region of the world.

The changes that have come about at *Hesperia* would not have been possible without close collaboration between the ASCSA Publications Committee and the Publications Office in Princeton. The directors of the School, colleagues in Athens and Corinth, and members of the Managing Committee and the Board of Trustees also offered steadfast support. To all these colleagues, too numerous to name, my heartfelt thanks. I would, however, single out Jack Davis, longtime friend and ally, for his contributions to the journal on many fronts and for further opening my eyes to the place and potential of *Hesperia*.

When I began work at *Hesperia* in 1999, the Publications Committee vetted all manuscripts. With the rise in submissions, however, this procedure became increasingly unwieldy. In 2004, working closely with Carol Matusch, Chair of the Publications Committee, I formed an advisory board and moved the review process in-house. Several members of the original board continue to serve. I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to all the board members for their astute counsel and assistance in reviewing manuscripts and recommending outside referees. The quality of a journal rises and falls on the stringency of its review process, and there are not pages enough to thank the many peer reviewers who have read submissions for us.

While I have edited every article that has appeared on my watch, the process has become a joint effort. A group of supremely talented freelancers proofread every article and often do the initial edit. For extraordinary help, I would like to thank Mark Landon and Molly Richardson, each of whom served as Interim Editor when I was on sabbatical; Nancy Winter, with the eyes of an eagle; Gene McGarry, terrifyingly thorough; Karen Donohue, Sheila Marie Flaherty-Jones, and Jen Sacher, wonderful editors all.

I must also thank my colleagues in the Publications Office, especially Sarah George Figueira, for her expertise as Production Manager and for her good humor and friendship throughout the years of our collaboration. Carol Stein (Managing Editor) and I first worked together at the *American Journal of Archaeology*, and we share similar views on publishing—and some might say an obsession with “getting it right.” Mary Jane Gavenda, graphics guru, has made authors’ artwork shine. Book editors Mike Fitzgerald and Timothy Wardell gave generously of their time, and Director of Publications Andrew Reinhard—and Charles Watkinson before him—led the way in all matters digital and fostered a collegial atmosphere in the Princeton office. It has been a pleasure to come to work.

I am leaving the journal in excellent hands. Susan Lupack will assume the editorship in July. Susan brings considerable publishing experience and strong academic credentials to the position. She has also undertaken extensive fieldwork in Greece, most recently as codirector of the Eastern Boeotian Archaeological Project. I have no doubt that Susan will be a superb editor of *Hesperia*, and will bring a new perspective and energy to the editorial team in Princeton. I look forward to seeing the directions the journal will take in the future, and to reading *Hesperia* for many years to come.

TRACEY CULLEN
Editor