Seven years have passed since our last editorial (silver anniversary issue, JMA 25.2, December 2012), and periodically we find reason to update JMA’s readers on various issues. In this one, we’d like to call your attention to the following changes and developments regarding JMA.

**JMA’s Editorial Advisory Board**

JMA’s standing in the Mediterranean archaeological community has benefited immensely over the past 32 years from the Editorial Advisory Board’s input, influence and scholarly reputation. JMA’s co-editors rely heavily on the Editorial Board and we owe them an immense debt of gratitude for their efforts on behalf of the journal. From the outset, we have periodically refreshed the Board’s membership, and with this issue we say farewell to Jennifer Webb, who joined us in 1996, and Yannis Hamilakis, who joined us in 2005. At the same time, we welcome to the board the following new members: Sarah Murray (University of Toronto), Catherine Kearns (University of Chicago) and Felipe Rojas (Brown University).

Board members have always been selected in the attempt to cover the broad sweep of regions, periods and approaches prevalent in and relevant to Mediterranean archaeology. In terms of regional and temporal coverage, Sarah Murray deals with submissions broadly concerning the prehistoric Aegean (especially Bronze–Iron Ages), Catherine Kearns with those on the prehistoric and early historic eastern Mediterranean (especially Cyprus and the Levant) and Felipe Rojas on those covering Anatolia and the Levant (especially from the Iron Age to Late Antiquity). All manuscripts worthy of review are evaluated by three referees, one of whom is normally an Editorial Board member whose expertise most closely matches the subject-matter of the submission. The active engagement of our Board members helps to ensure that every manuscript we receive is read by a group of well-qualified, non-partisan referees. The aim is to ‘cover’ as many of the regions, periods and approaches in Mediterranean archaeology as are reflected in the manuscripts we receive for consideration.

Our Board members not only serve as valued manuscript referees, but also help to encourage authors to submit to JMA promising and suitable papers. While the goal of the journal has from the outset been to publish studies from
all parts of the Mediterranean, this has not been easy to achieve. During JMA’s first decade (1998–1997), fully 56% of papers published dealt with Greece, Cyprus and the Levant, with only 14% from the central and western Mediterranean. Happily, that imbalance has been largely corrected, as indicated in Figure 1, which charts the numbers of papers published, rejected or still in review during the period 2015–2019. The geographical distribution is now much more satisfactory, although there still remain parts of the Mediterranean from which we would welcome more papers. These figures, moreover, only cover Mediterranean regions, and breaking them down by period would likely bring out further discrepancies. Even so, we feel that JMA has made notable progress towards the goal of covering the entire Mediterranean.

One notable gap in JMA’s coverage has long been the countries of Mediterranean Africa, and it is for this reason that we are particularly pleased to include in this issue the paper by Cyprian Broodbank and Giulio Lucarini. Their study represents the outcome of a three-year collaboration at the University of Cambridge on a project intended to synthesize and review the archaeological evidence across this entire area, from the start of the Holocene until the threshold of the Iron Age. No such overview has been attempted since Gabriel Camps’s book *Les Civilisations préhistoriques de l’Afrique du Nord et du Sahara* (Paris, 1974). JMA’s co-editors believe this is a landmark paper that will provide an invaluable resource for some years to come, and it is for this reason, as well as the sheer size of the topic, that we have allowed it far more space than is typical in the journal.

In this issue, we also break new ground by including a paper from Emma Blake and Robert Schon that concerns contemporary archaeology, specifically the material traces of migrants arriving in southwestern Sicily from Tunisia. Contemporary archaeology is a fast-growing field, one that now has its own journal (*Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*)—also, like JMA, published by Equinox. JMA has always welcomed manuscripts from any period of Mediterranean prehistory or history, from the Palaeolithic to the Early Modern, but we have now revised our Mission Statement (see below)
to extend that range to include the Contemporary.

The Mission of JMA

It seems worthwhile at this time to remind readers and potential contributors of JMA’s mission statement, which emphasizes the types of paper we deem suitable (or not) for publication:

The Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology publishes material that deals with, amongst others, the social, politico-economic and ideological aspects of local or regional production and development, and social interaction and change in the Mediterranean. We encourage contributions dealing with contemporary approaches to gender, agency, identity, landscape, materiality, mobility and connectivities; we welcome studies that cover both the theoretical implications and methodological assumptions that can be extrapolated from the relevant archaeological data. In terms of its temporal scope, JMA welcomes manuscripts from any period of Mediterranean prehistory and history, from the Palaeolithic to the Contemporary. The geographical focus of JMA is the islands within, and the lands or regions that border the Mediterranean Sea, from Gibraltar and the Iberian Peninsula in the west, to the Jordan Valley and Egypt in the east; from the mountain chains that fringe the diverse coastal plains of the northern Mediterranean to the Atlas Mountains of the Maghreb and the Saharan desert cultures that impact on the Mediterranean’s southern shores. All articles published in JMA should have relevance for our wider Mediterranean readership. JMA does not publish short notes, or purely descriptive studies (excavation reports, survey results, artefact types, collections of artefacts).

This mission statement, along with a range of other relevant information (Guidelines for Authors, the Editorial Board, subscription details, policies on copyright and permissions), as well as the archives of JMA, can be accessed online at: https://journals.equinoxpub.com/index.php/JMA.

JMA Guidelines

Included in this issue, and also now available online, is a revised set of Guidelines for Authors who wish to publish papers in JMA. These include new details on the Form of the Manuscript, the Figures (including digital illustrations), Tables, References and a recently established policy regarding the publication of papers that stem from work in occupied territories. In the past, we have published only one paper concerned with occupied territory (Palestine), but it was not based on archaeological fieldwork: Salah Hussein Al-Houdalieh, in JMA 25.1 (June 2012) 99-120: ‘Archaeological Heritage and Spiritual Protection: Looting and the Jinn in Palestine’, which dealt with the activities of antiquities looters on archaeological sites in the Occupied Palestinian National Territories (OPNT).

JMA Policy on Publication of Work in Occupied Territory

JMA policy is based on input from our Editorial Advisory Board, and on the understanding (1) that scientific inquiry must be constrained by ethical principles and (2) that archaeological heritage is a vital cultural resource and human right that is protected by international conventions and charters. The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict is an international convention stipulating a set of best practices to protect cultural heritage during armed conflicts and the occupation of one state’s territory by another. Acknowledging that military occupation can and does threaten the human rights of those being occupied and that cultural heritage is a human right, any party to the 1954 Hague Convention (Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Palestine and Turkey are all parties) agrees to safeguard and respect cultural heritage during war and occupation. They agree to refrain from exposing cultural property to damage, except in cases of military necessity,
and to prohibit theft or vandalism of cultural property.

If a monument, object or site is threatened as a result of development, military action or natural disaster, the occupying nation can carry out salvage work in order to protect heritage (1954 Hague Convention Art. 5), but even then only in consultation with the relevant national cultural heritage authorities (1954 Hague Convention Art. 5.2). Unilateral excavations and removal of excavated materials by representatives of occupying nations, without consultation and not under salvage conditions, should therefore not be sanctioned. By adopting this policy, JMA joins regional professional associations such as the American Schools of Oriental Research, which has stated that publication of materials and sites from occupied territories is contingent on the necessity of such research ‘to safeguard, record or preserve the archaeological heritage of the occupied territory, or when permission of the competent national authorities of the occupied territory has been obtained by the researcher’ (ASOR Code of Conduct E.7).

JMA’s new policy is set out here and follows the ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct: http://www.asor.org/about-asor/policies/policy-on-professional-conduct (Article E.7).

*JMA will not normally consider for publication research that has been undertaken in occupied territory and its contiguous waters as defined by the United Nations, unless that research is required to safeguard, record or preserve at-risk archaeological heritage of the occupied territory, or when permission of the acknowledged national authorities of the occupied territory has been obtained by the researcher.*