EDITORIAL

The delay in the production of the Journal has been due to unforeseen circumstances and the Editor apologises for this. This volume contains a wide variety of papers, some of which have been waiting to go to press for a considerable length of time. One paper by Christine Longworth, has, unfortunately, had to be delayed until the next volume for technical reasons. We hope to have a colour plate in the next volume.

Many thanks to Peter Davey, Susan Nicholson, Jenny Woodcock and Susie White for editorial assistance, to Jen Lewis for doing the index and to Ruth Hurst Vose for organising the cover illustration.

We are grateful to Mr Burgoyne of Pilkington Glass Museum, Mr Roy Stevens of the Marc Fitch Fund, Edmund Southworth of Liverpool Museum for arranging the awarding of grants for publication of certain articles in this volume and to the School of Classics Archaeology and Oriental Studies, The University of Liverpool, for the use of computing and photocopying facilities.

Contributions to the Journal are welcome in the form of long articles, shorter notes or reviews. Please note that figures and captions should be prepared by the author and submitted with the text. Papers will not be accepted unless they conform to the 'Notes for Contributors'. No extensive re-writing will be allowed once the text is accepted but help and advice on preparing texts will be given, if requested. Please obtain a copy of the 'Notes' from the Editor, (c/o The Centre for Manx Studies, 6 Kingswood Grove, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3LX) before writing your article.

The Society organizes a variety of activities, including: a Newsletter; a lecture series (held in Liverpool Museum on the third Thursday of the month during term-time); specialist courses run in association with the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Liverpool; a series of summer fieldtrips and outings; opportunities to take part in local excavations and fieldwork; and social events. New members are always welcome and membership is open to all. Please write to the Membership Secretary, at the address below, for details and an application form.

Current membership subscriptions are as follows: £8 individual, £5 concessional, £10 family, £2 junior (no journal), £12 institutional.

Dr Philippa Tomlinson
Honorary Journal Editor

Cover illustration: Miniature of a glasshouse from a manuscript of 'Sir John Mandeville's Travels'. Probably Bohemian: c.1420. British Library London. The main working furnace illustrated has two pots (crucibles) resting on sieges (platforms) on either long side, a fire trench apparently running from end to end, the subsidiary furnace being used for annealing (controlled cooling) of the glass. It follows the northern European tradition of main and subsidiary furnaces on the same level and sharing the same heat from the fire trench. It is probable that the Bickerstaffe glasshouse, Lancashire followed this Northern tradition.

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Merseyside Archaeological Society, c/o Department of Antiquities, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EN.
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tools once again emphasises the industrial nature of the site, and the unusual find of a good quality Corinthian capital described by Tom Blagg hints at other, higher status buildings in the vicinity.

All in all, this report is certainly a worthy effort which has perhaps unduly suffered from an over-long editorial gestation of 13 years during which time nothing appears to have been altered. One cannot help feeling that the information would have been of greater value published swiftly in a local journal or in *Britannia* rather than the relatively lavish treatment accorded it here. What is needed now is a report which can bring together the evidence from all the previous excavations and try to fathom the site’s meaning. An excellent opportunity is provided by Gifford and Partner’s excavations on the Brewery site in the first half of 1993 which, when combined with all previous data, will perhaps finally establish Wilderspool on the north-western Romano-British map with the prominence it deserves. It is sincerely to be hoped that we might expect such a report to appear before the next millennium.

Roger H. White, University of Liverpool

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May T. 1904 *Warrington’s Roman Remains*

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This book provides a witty and crisp account of ‘the story of three years spent reading for a degree in archaeology’. The author took early retirement from a career teaching librarianship and turned what had been a ‘background fancy for years’ into a full-time degree course at Durham University. He describes the process of selection, application, interviews, rejections and acceptances leading him to a place at Durham. There are lively descriptions of his experiences over the three years and his view of the ‘youngsters’ on the course. It is fascinating to read his descriptions of members of the academic staff, including transcripts of interviews he recorded with two of them. The index provides a useful means of browsing through the book to find snippets on some of these characters. There are some interesting discussions about theoretical archaeology as well as descriptions of the various excavations he worked on.

Here is admirable proof that an undergraduate degree in archaeology can be achieved purely for its own sake and not simply as qualifications for a future career. It is never too late to become active in archaeology!

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