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Editorial IANSA 2/2024

# Diamond Open Access as a Fair Pathway to Interdisciplinary Archaeological Science

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As we release this latest issue of the IANSA journal, we first wish to acknowledge a significant transition within our Editorial Board. We extend our deepest gratitude to Roderick Salisbury for his invaluable contributions to the journal as he steps down from the position of Vice-Chair and leaves the Editorial Board. His expertise and dedication have been pivotal in elevating the journal's significance within the academic community. We are pleased to announce that Michaela Ptáková, an archaeobotanist from the University of South Bohemia, has been elected to fill this role. Furthermore, the Editorial Board was expanded by the inclusion of Kévin Salesse, an esteemed authority in the field of isotope analyses affiliated with Masaryk University in Brno. His specialised knowledge will undoubtedly enrich the scientific rigour and thematic diversity of the IANSA journal.

Since the primary mission of the IANSA journal is to foster scholarly communications, we feel a need to stress the fair publication practices of IANSA in the era of today's 'publish or perish' culture. Being an independent journal published by the University of Hradec Králové and the Archaeological Centre Olomouc in cooperation with four other Czech scientific institutions, the IANSA journal competes with many other journals, frequently those belonging to major commercial publishers. Despite this challenge, the journal's inclusion in the Web of Science core collection and its stable positioning within the second quartile in the field of Archaeology signify a journal's success in maintaining a solid rigour and impact in research. Moreover, IANSA has newly obtained an impact factor of 0.2, presenting an opportunity to grow further.

A great asset of the IANSA journal lies mainly in its fair approach to the scientific community, reflected in the Diamond Open Access publishing model. In contrast to the Gold Open Access, which imposes article processing fees on authors, IANSA ensures unrestricted, public access through the journal's webpage (www.iansa.eu) without subscription fees and article processing charges. While we commend the fundamental principle of Open Access, which advocates that peer-reviewed research be freely available, it has given rise to some unethical practices, including predatory publishing and questionable business models that impose article processing fees without compensating reviewers, whose role is critically important throughout the entire process. Although reviewers in IANSA similarly provide their insights for free, IANSA's services to authors are provided without cost, and readers can access articles freely to promote high-quality research in a framework of fairness and accessibility to everyone.

Also, this year, under the auspices of the IANSA journal, the traditional Conference of Environmental Archaeology (CEA) was held in Hradec Králové, this time on the topic of Environment and Culture (Figure 1). This 18th meeting of CEA, organised by the University of Hradec Králové and the Museum of Eastern Bohemia, was a successful event gathering scholars, researchers and students from different countries, working across fields of archaeology, geology, botany, zoology, ethnography, ecology, history and other disciplines, thus fostering truly interdisciplinary discussions involving diverse perspectives. Further debates continued in a relaxed atmosphere during the excursion (Figure 2) and social meetings during dinner (Figure 3). Here, we take this opportunity to announce that the next international meeting of the CEA conference (www.iansae.eu/cea) will take place between 5th and 7th February 2025 at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia. This CEA will concentrate on the Archaeology of Resources and invite contributions that explore how past societies utilised, managed, and interacted with natural resources, focusing on agricultural practices, animal husbandry, raw material exploitation, trade networks, and environmental impact.

In this issue, we are delighted to present a diverse array of research articles that reflect the interdisciplinary nature of archaeological science. Three of them communicate different scientific approaches to dealing with skeletal remains. An article by Petra Rajić Šikanjič and collaborators offers an insight into childhood stress and disease through osteological analysis of cremated remains from Croatian


**Figure 1.** The progress of the IANSA journal was presented by O. Mlejnek during the CEA conference in Hradec Králové. Photo by J. Salova.

and Austrian cemeteries. Miriam Nývltová Fišáková, Pavel Drnovský, and Erika Průchová investigate an 18th-century burial ground in Semonice, Bohemia, using strontium isotope analysis to determine the origins of the deceased. Another 17th–18th–century cemetery was investigated during the restoration of the Zápoľský Chapel in Spišský Štvrtok, Slovakia. In this anthropological study, Eva Petrejčíková and colleagues focus on and discuss various pathological conditions and anatomical variations of skeletal remains belonging to members of the Minorite Order and citizens of the village Spišský Štvrtok.

The other two articles in the current issue are dedicated to archaeobotanical research. Manfred Rösch, Elena Marinova and Barbara Zach, in their study, explore the history of agricultural practices and food consumption in the Roman provinces of Upper Germania and Raetia using both charred plant macrofossils and pollen data. The combined approach allowed authors to assess the diversity of food plants according to site types as well as to examine the intensity of agriculture and types of land use. The comprehensive study by Julia Salova, Lonid Vyazov and Jaromír Beneš then compiled data from over 800,000 plant macroremains from 321 archaeological sites across Eastern Europe's forest and forest-steppe zones. Based on their spatiotemporal distribution, the authors reveal complex patterns of cereal cultivation influenced by climatic and historical factors.

The issue concludes with the Backstory written by Kateřina Pachnerová Brabcová and collaborators, presenting

**Figure 2.** During the excursion, the CEA participants visited the Bastion I. of the Josefov Fortress and the prehistoric Archaeopark Všestary. Photo by H. Synková.

**Figure 3.** The evening gathering of CEA attendants in the brewery restaurant Pivovarské Domy. Photo by J. Salova.

the Czech Radiocarbon Laboratory (CRL), established in 2004, which has evolved from utilising large-sample radiometric methods to employing advanced Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) since 2018. This transformation has significantly enhanced CRL's capacity for precise dating of microsamples, enabling research across a wide range of historical periods and addressing diverse contemporary challenges.

Dear readers, we hope you will find this issue of IANSA inspiring, reflecting the journal's commitment to advancing interdisciplinary archaeological science. Together, let us continue to foster interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of archaeology, ensuring that knowledge remains accessible to all. We cordially invite you to submit your contributions to the forthcoming CEA conference as well as to our journal.