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FROM THE EDITOR

Over the last two years, *JSSEA* has undergone a number of changes. Some of these were communicated in the Editorial to issue 37 (2010), the last volume edited by John Gee, who resigned from the post of Editor-in-Chief due to time constraints. The Editorial Board, Trustees, and – I am sure – members of the SSEA would like to thank him for many years of dedicated service to our Society and wish him all the best for his future academic endeavors.

Some points raised in that last Editorial, and a few others, warrant further comment:

1) Formatting and Printing the JSSEA

Since our journal is produced entirely by academics and volunteers, typesetting has proved extremely time-consuming and has led to major delays in production and publication. As of the current issue, 38 (2011-12), we have adopted a template into which all contributions are entered. As of issue 40 (2013-14), authors will be required to type or paste their submissions directly into this template, which is available for download at http://www.thessea.org/journal_submissions.php. As previously, authors are held to follow our *Guidelines for Contributors*, published at the end of this journal and on the cited website. Please note that these guidelines have been slightly amended from previous versions. With the exception of Thomas Schneider's contribution in this volume, the fonts used are Adobe Garamond Pro, and Transliteration Italic (MS core font:V2.00) – the latter can be downloaded for free on the cited website. In the current issue, Hieroglyphs have been rendered primarily as image files within the text. Starting with JSSEA 39, however, Hieroglyphic text will be standardized using Glyph for Windows or HorNET's Vector Office.

2) Peer Review

It is the conviction of the current editor and board that peer review is an indispensable, even if not infallible, factor in ensuring high academic standards. It has also become – at least in the North American context – a sine qua non for young scholars seeking to bolster their CVs when applying for grants and jobs. What is more, the referees' comments often furnish helpful additional materials and theoretical insights for author and editor. *JSSEA* will remain peer reviewed.

3) Journal Issue Number

As of this volume, we have adopted a new numbering system: *JSSEA* 37 (2010) is followed by *JSSEA* 38 (2011-12) and *JSSEA* 39 (2012-13). The new system follows our fiscal and membership years, rather than referencing a calendar year. We hope that this change will make it clear to our members which journal number they will receive with payment of membership.

This last point also relates to the question of when JSSEA appears or should appear: We normally aim to publish at the latest by the end of each issue's second named year, i.e. JSSEA 39 should be published by the end of 2013, with contributions to be submitted in the course of the preceding Winter and Spring. Our final deadline is usually 31st March. In recent years, we have, due to the outlined changes in staff, format, and production-procedures, lagged behind somewhat, but we are on course to catching up. A variable that cannot always be controlled is the response time of peer-reviewers, who are after all taking on the task of commenting on the submitted articles on top of their very busy schedules.

4) Book Reviews

Recently, there has been some discussion about the appropriate level of criticism that might be conveyed in a review. Our *Book Reviews Committee* is committed to ensuring that a scholarly discussion of new academic works takes place that neither descends into insubstantial generalities, nor into angry personal vendettas. An apparent recent exception to this rule represents an oversight resulting from time-pressures shortly before publication of the issue in question.

We believe that, in volume 38, we have produced an important issue that brings together scholars from six different countries on topics ranging from Egyptian jokes to gender issues in battle representations. It is our hope that readers will enjoy it.

We would like to thank everybody who has been involved in the editing, production, and dissemination of this volume, and in particular William (Liam) Cooney, who took on the arduous task of formatting it (again and again) until the current result was achieved.

On behalf of the Editorial Board,

Katja Goebs