

Editorial

The present volume of the *Bioarchaeology of the Near East* (BNE) contains selected papers presented at the “Bioarchaeology in the ancient Near East” session which was a part of the 8th International Congress on the Archaeology of Ancient Near East (ICAANE) held in Warsaw (April 30 – May 4, 2012). Among 32 podium presentations and a number of posters associated with bioarchaeology, all three areas of bioarchaeological research, i.e. archaeozoology, archaeobotanics and human osteology were roughly equally covered, and the geographical scope of the papers ranged from Egypt and the Levant to Central Asia. The meeting was therefore a good opportunity to exchange ideas and results of research among people who work on different topics in different areas.

Following the tradition of earlier congresses, the 8th ICAANE papers will be available in printed volumes published by Harrassowitz Verlag. However, their length is strictly limited and usually a few years lapse between the congress and the publication of its proceedings. For these reasons we decided to offer an alternative venue for authors who prefer to publish a lengthier version of their papers in within a shorter time frame. Four papers were accepted by BNE and are included in the present volume. At least seven papers have been submitted to the regular ICAANE proceedings and it is possible that the final results of some other research projects presented at the 8th ICAANE will be published in future volumes of BNE or elsewhere.

The 8th ICAANE in Warsaw was co-organised by the Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology and the Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw. Many thanks go to the head of the Local Organising Committee, Piotr Bieliński, and to other LOC members, especially Zuzanna Wygnańska and Rafał Koliński for their support in establishing the session on bioarchaeology, and for permission to publish selected papers in the present volume. The session “Bioarchaeology in the ancient Near East” was coordinated by Kirsi Lorentz (The Cyprus Institute) and Arkadiusz Sołtysiak (University of Warsaw, Poland) and it was a continuation of the workshop “Human remains in the ancient Near East: Advances, problems and potential” which had been organised during the 7th ICAANE in London (2010) by Kirsi Lorentz. Special thanks are due to Theya Molleson (Natural History Museum, London) who gave the introductory lecture to the session.

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Editor