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From the Editors

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

FROM THE EDITORS

2014 HAS BEEN CHIEFLY DEDICATED TO and consumed by the aftermath of the 27th Papyrological Congress: the collection of papers for the Proceedings, their peer review, and finally the beginning of the editorial work, has taken most of our time. The rest has been devoted to numerous reports, chronicles, and accounts as well as to the publication of no less than three new *Supplements* to our *Journal*. With two of them, Artur Obłuski's study of the social changes in Nobadia and Giovanni Ruffini's publication of the hitherto unedited Old Nubian texts from Qasr Ibrim, we carry on with the documentation of research on the Middle Nile Valley in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. The former, although not exactly 'papyrological', is an important historical study combining, for the first time in Nubian studies, research on written sources and archaeology with elements of methodology proper to historical and economic geography. The latter, on the other hand, is purely 'papyrological', even though the language of the edited texts, one of the oldest African languages preserved in written form, is not traditionally counted among the 'languages of papyri'. With Ruffini's book Nubian studies gains new source material of prime importance in any attempt to understand the history, culture, and society of the Kingdom of Makuria. The third volume, Joseph Méléze Modrzejewski's study of law and custom in Greek and Roman Egypt, being a thoroughly reworked and updated version of his doctoral thesis once written under the supervision of Jean Gaudamet, pays tribute to juristic papyrology proper. It is probably the most accessible manual of the law of papyri nowadays. We are extremely happy and lucky to be able to publish again the work of a great scholar whose first steps in his scientific career started more than half a century ago with our *Journal*.

Scientific accountancy is entering our world with an unprecedented force. There are aspects of this phenomenon which are undoubtedly positive: transparent rules of publication, creation of scientific councils for journals and proceedings, etc. Yet, there are also traits which are not entirely unproblematic. Everyone enthusiastically agrees to the postulate of peer review. But how to make it effectively double-blind, as often postulated, in a rather small discipline like ours, where we normally know who researches which subject, remains an open question. Individual and journal Impact Factors and citation lists ever so often become *conditiones sine qua non* of funding of our efforts and career advancement. This is also a problem in a little scientific community which normally feeds on its own research, yet, as rather hermetic, is not so often brought to the pages of some highly popular general journals in the humanities (or even these devoted to ancient history), which are in turn listed in databases. It seems that we cannot fight this trend anymore; we may only try accommodating it by having our usual reviews listed and catalogued by the most popular citation indices. By doing so we will boost the number of our citations and so we shall, hopefully, be able to achieve higher rankings on these lists and a higher IF value. These have become important criteria for many national ministerial offices, which have begun to use these international indices rather than creating their own.

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Presenting you this 44th *Journal* we are glad to have it roughly balanced between various areas of the study of Egypt of the papyri: even if the majority of the papers concern Late Antiquity, there are also some devoted to Demotic documents and Ptolemaic times. We have also willingly accepted an article publishing some Arabic papyri with legal content, and thus this *Journal* yet again seems to be proof that rather than building barriers between various branches of papyrology we are able to build a wholesome picture.

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