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## EDITORIAL

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To launch a new journal is never an easy task. Given the wealth of digital journals on Antiquity available today, what is the point of creating another one? This question, along with many others, will have occurred to anyone who has ever entertained the notion of becoming a journal editor.

The case of *Karanos* is no different in this regard. For over a year now, the editorial board has been puzzling over such questions until, finally, we decided to start work on *Karanos*. The reason for putting our doubts aside is a simple one: to date, there is no journal in existence that focuses exclusively on the field of the *Ancient Macedonian Studies*. This is indeed a powerful argument for launching *Karanos*, as there is a gap that needs to be filled. It also explains the international flavour of *Karanos*: although based in Spain, as part of the catalogue of journals published by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, the aim is for it to be international in scope, for which reason its main language is English, while accepting papers for publication that are written in French, Italian or Modern Greek, as well as in Spanish and, of course, English.

It is true that the historical notion of Macedonia could be regarded as too specific to make up a journal's whole area of study. The kingdom of Macedonia was a geographic and political entity with its own socio-cultural peculiarities that continued to function in an area of the Balkans (whose size varied over time) for several centuries in the first millennium B.C. However, the *Ancient Macedonian Studies* are assumed to transcend the limits of the historical entity known as Macedonia, encompassing each of the various historical, archaeological and cultural features of Ancient Macedonia, whether these pertain directly to the Argead Kingdom or to any of its subsequent manifestations in the context of the Hellenistic kingdoms, as the Roman province of Macedonia. Therefore, *Karanos* has a place for historical and cultural studies and epigraphic, numismatic, and archaeological analyses, when these are of a certain standard and could have a notable impact on historical research within the journal's area of focus. In fact, the journal starts out with the aim of proving that the *Ancient Macedonian Studies* involve rather more than just the figure of Alexander the Great and that, ultimately, he himself can only be understood within the Macedonian context. Besides its editors, *Karanos* is backed by a top-flight group of international researchers from various disciplines, whose guidance and support have helped to make its appearance possible.

Regarding the structure of *Karanos*, which will appear once a year, it has four clearly defined sections. The first of these is the "Papers" section, devoted to original studies or discussions on topics within the scope of the journal which make a contribution to our field of study. The second, called "Flashbacks", recovers studies that have already been published but are not readily accessible, or which continue to be of interest and considerable value to today's researchers. For its third section, *Karanos* opts for interviews, under the title "Main Voices in Ancient Macedonian Studies". It will provide the academic community with an opportunity to benefit from the experience of leading researchers in our field: as told in their own voices in a congenial, personal

tone. In this first issue, we have the honour of interviewing William Greenwalt, whose studies on the religious aspects of Macedonia, among others, have inspired several generations of researchers. Lastly, *Karanos* includes a brief section for reviewing relatively recent studies that are of interest or could have a notable impact on our field.

One main feature of *Karanos*, in a time of consciousness and the aim of change, is related to our policy about referees. In order to support a Gender-friendly peer-review policy, avoiding preponderances of male reviewers, *Karanos* uses to keep Gender equality concerning the referee's election of each paper. This is our little contribution to allow female researchers to be included in equality within the *Ancient Macedonian Studies*.

As births are always special moments – even in the case of journals – we have decided to turn this first inaugural issue of *Karanos* into a tribute to the great A. B. Bosworth. His influence and, to a certain extent, his guidance, have been crucial to the work of all historians specialising in *Ancient Macedonian Studies* over the last few decades. The editorial board would like to thank Elizabeth Baynham for her backing. From the very beginning she has supported our plans to pay tribute to Bosworth and she has contributed to this issue with a brief biographical sketch of him. Also taking part in the tribute are such authors as Ogden, Palagia, Müller, Djurselv and Sierra, who, in this way, are also lending their support to the launch of the journal *Karanos*, which embarks on its journey as from the following pages. Let me also remember the members of the staff at the Autonomous University of Barcelona Press, especially to Pep Sanso, who helps us with every doubt, and the people of the Department of Sciences of the Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Finally, we would like to thank you, as a reader, for your interest, and we hope your experience will be pleasant, fruitful and inspiring.

Turning back to the beginning, to launch a new journal can be a hard task to face up to, and in my opinion it can be an impossible challenge, but luckily we counted with an extra support, that of our families and friends. And every challenge seems easier with a little help from your family and friends. I have to thank here my own family, especially to my partner Mireia Bosch Mateu and our sons, for their generosity, love and care. I know the other members of the Editorial Board feel the same. Even more, any Editorial at every journal is, actually, a clue of the love and support of families along the world for researchers to be brave, to engage new journals and projects, to try to change a lot of things. Thus, I cross my fingers, like any other Bogart at *Rick's* and say to myself: "Here is looking at you, kid!". *Aquesta va per tu*.

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