Message from the Editor

James A. Harrell

With this issue I begin my tenure as editor of the ASMOSIA Newsletter. My intention is to put out two issues per year, in late spring and late fall, and in every second spring issue (beginning with this one) include a listing of the membership. Among the regular features, beginning in the next issue, will be lists of new publications and future conferences that are in some way related to the study of stones in antiquity. I will depend on members to supply this information and so please feel free to send it to me at any time at james.harrell@utoledo.edu.

ASMOSIA Web Site

The ASMOSIA website now has a new home and manager. V. Max Brown, of the University of Toledo, has agreed to take on the task. The new address or URL is http://www.eeescience.utoledo.edu/ASMOSIA/ The web site still needs a lot of work and so there will be many changes made in the coming months. Please send your suggestions for these changes to Max at vernon.brown@utoledo.edu. One of the sections that he is especially interested in expanding is the one with links to other web sites dealing with the varieties, sources and uses of archaeological stone. If you know of any such sites or have one of your own please send the URL to Max.

ASMOSIA V Proceedings


ASMOSIA VII Conference

The location of next ASMOSIA meeting, in early fall 2002, was originally set for Southampton, UK, but problems with procuring a suitable meeting facility has resulted in a change in location. Yannis Maniatis, ASMOSIA's President, has now
offered to organize the ASMOSIA VII conference. The plan is to hold it in Greece, either in Thessaloniki or on the Island of Thassos, with a field trip to the marble quarries on Thassos. The arrangements will be finalized in another month or two with a first call for papers going out this fall. As the plans develop they will be posted on the ASMOSIA web site.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report
James A. Harrell

A list of current and past ASMOSIA members is appended to this newsletter. The information provided is the most recent available, but bear in mind that the updating of individual entries typically occurs whenever someone sends me their dues payment. The address and other information for each person is, thus, only as current as the most recently paid dues.

The membership list includes 269 names. Of this number only 62% paid any dues during the last five years, and of the rest, 21% paid dues in 2000 or 2001, 18% last paid in 1999 or 1998, and 23% last paid in 1997 or 1996. Based on this history of payments it is impossible to say just how many members ASMOSIA has. Certainly there are many people who consider themselves as loyal members but for various reasons do not pay their dues. For people outside of the USA., I suspect the principal reason is that it is too expensive (due to high conversion fees) to send a bank check made out in US dollars. The problem is the same for ASMOSIA when it receives dues paid in a foreign currency. It costs too much (more than the dues itself) to convert it to US dollars. As an alternative to a bank check, our European members should consider sending me their dues using actual US currency (but wrapped in several folds of paper to hide it) or, much better, a money order payable to "ASMOSIA" in US dollars from either American Express, Cook's or a post office. To further minimize the hassles, members could pay for two or more years at a time (at $10.00 US per year). It will also help if, in the future, ASMOSIA does a better job of collecting dues at its conferences.

For the 168 people who have paid ASMOSIA dues at some point during the past five years, here is the membership breakdown by nationality: USA (40.5%); Italy (16.1%); Greece (9.0%); United Kingdom (7.9%); France (7.2%); Germany (5.5%); Switzerland (2.4%); Norway (1.8%); Australia, Austria, Denmark, Israel and Portugal (each 1.2%); and Belgium, Cyprus, Malta, Japan, Romania and Turkey (each 0.6%).

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