As this year is coming to an end, it’s the perfect time to reflect on the things we have achieved for the bulletin and to set new targets for next year.

This year, we have successfully transformed the bulletin from the print and electronic version to an online one. Posts are shorter and thus easier to digest, which are tailored for our busy lifestyle. Also, the posts are uploaded to the online bulletin as they come in, which means you can follow the most up-to-date development of different topics of archaeological sciences at all times. I would highly recommend you to check out our online bulletin if you still haven’t had a chance to do so, and here’s the link to it: http://socarchsci.blogspot.com

We have also broadened the scope of the bulletin by adding new topics. An example of the new topic is archaeological pigment, which is covered by Roxanne Radpour, our newly appointed associate editor in archaeological pigment. You can read more about Roxanne’s interesting piece on shellfish pigment Tyripn purple in this issue. To continue with this effort, we have appointed three new associate editors, who are responsible for covering research in zooarchaeology, lithic and network analysis, and archaeobotany. You can read more about their research profile and aspiration for the bulletin in this issue.

I cannot emphasise enough that we are only able to make these new, exciting changes because we have a strong editorial team that is committed to promote archaeological science to a broader audience. You can see such dedication in our associate editor in archaeological ceramics, Charles Kolb, who has never failed to contribute to every single issue of the bulletin. Thank you very much, Charlie! In this issue, he has reviewed the ceramic related sessions at the past meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Another shout out should be given to our associate editor in maritime archaeology, Nicolas Ciarlo, who has never ceased to surprise us with the treasures from the undersea. This time, he has taken us to the ongoing research in Algercicas, Spain.

We have also included in this issue the calendar of the upcoming conferences that is put together by our Vice President for Social Media and Outreach, Andrew Zipkin. In case you couldn’t quite decide which conferences to go to in the new year, you can read the reviews of some of the conferences, from the European Meeting on Ancient Ceramics to the International Congress of Archaeological Sciences in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East and the Ceramic Petrology Group annual meeting, that happened this year in this issue.

Thank you very much for your patience and support throughout the transition period. As always, we do value your opinion, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to let us know what you think of the new bulletin. Happy Holidays to everyone, and see you again in the New Year!
In accordance to our effort to transform the format and content of the bulletin – which we have been working on slowly but surely – we are bringing in new faces to report on the state-of-the-art research, conference reviews, book reviews of a broad spectrum of topics. I proudly present to you – our new associate editors:

Laerke Recht, associate editor, zooarchaeology

Evi Margaritis, associate editor, archaeobotany

You can know more about their research background and profile, as well as aspirations to become the associate editor of the bulletin here:

http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2019/12/meet-our-new-editors.html

A recent review of shellfish purple by Karapanagiotis (2019), also known as Tyrian purple, has produced a comprehensive look at the composition, archaeological/historical use and scientific characterization of the rarest dye pigment utilized in human history. Shellfish purple, in use since the 18th century BCE, was popularized by Phoenicians around the 9th-7th century BCE, but fell out of production at the end of the Byzantine empire, due to the conquest by Ottomans of Constantinople and the decree by Pope Paul II to opt for kermes in the dyeing of ecclesiastical robes. If you want to learn more about the new review and technological insights of the shellfish purple, please click on the following link:


MARK GOLITKO, ASSOCIATE EDITOR, LITHIC STUDIES AND NETWORK ANALYSIS

ARCHEOLOGICAL PIGMENTS
ROXANNE RADPOUR, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
The American Anthropological Association’s (AAA) 118th Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) in Vancouver British Columbia, Canada, 20-24 November 2019. The theme for the joint meeting was “Changing Climates: Struggle, Collaboration, and Justice / Changer d’air: Lutte, collaboration et justice.” Only ten presentations concerned ceramic materials of which two were posters (AAA assigns them to what they call “Gallery Sessions”) while six oral presentations with a discussant were in a single panel, and the last two volunteered papers (on residue analysis and petrography, respectively) were in separate sessions devoted to regional archaeology.

Find out more about the sessions related to ceramic studies in the following link:

http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2019/09/previous-meeting-on-topics-related-to.html

Since 2016, the International Doctoral School in Sea Studies at the University of Cadiz (EIDEMAR-UCA), Spain, has offered two degree programs: a MA Program in Nautical and Underwater Archaeology, and a PhD Program in Maritime History and Archaeology. Several European and Latin-American students have conducted archaeometric research within this scenario. Thus far, studies cover a wide range of archaeological remains from ancient and modern shipwrecks, chiefly located in Andalusian waters. Strong collaboration with other national and international institutions allowed deepening into subjects of both local and regional interest.

If you want to find out more about the outcome of this exciting project, follow the link below:

http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2019/10/maritime-archaeology-ongoing.html

Cargo of copper ingots recorded and recovered during fieldwork activities at the Arapal site (2017): (a) a partial view of the cargo, located in situ; (b) ingot no. 64; and (c) sample selected for SEM-EDS analysis (Photos courtesy of University of Cadiz).

The Society for Archaeological Sciences had recently sponsored two sessions that focused on the application of chemistry in art and archaeology at the SciX 2019 Conference, which took place between the 13th and 18th October, 2019 in Palm Springs, California. The session was organised by our very own Andrew Zipkin together with Mary Kate Donais.

Find out more about the abstract of the papers presented at the session here:

EMAC 2019 was organised and hosted by the University of Barcelona and ran from the 16-18th September. The conference as a whole, was an enjoyable experience and provided an excellent opportunity to hear about the latest ventures in the analysis of archaeological ceramics and meet with colleagues for lively discussion and debate.

If you want to read more about Carlotta’s experience in the EMAC, following the link below:


Last November (12-14/11/2019) the 2nd International Congress on Archaeological Sciences in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, or ICAS-EMME 2 for short, took place at the premises of the Cyprus Institute in Nicosia, Cyprus. This congress was co-organized by the Science and Technology in Archaeology and Culture Research Center, (STARC) of the Cyprus Institute together with the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus (ARU) and the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI) and brought together researchers and scholars from the EMME region and beyond.

Check out the conference by following the link below:

http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2019/12/conference-review-international.html


ARTEMIOS OIKONOMOU, Associate Editor
The annual meeting of the Ceramic Petrology Group (CPG) was organised by the Fitch Laboratory, The British School at Athens, on the 8th and 9th November 2019. The two-day meeting comprised 14 oral presentations, six poster presentations, a lab tour, and a microscope section. What made this meeting particularly special is its rather relaxed and friendly environment, which had encouraged Masters and PhD students to present their research and generate constructive feedback to their ongoing research.

If you want to find out more the meeting and how to get involved in the upcoming meeting in the following link:

http://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2019/12/conference-review-ceramic-petrology.html

Find out what Daniel thought of the summer school and how to register for the next summer school here:


This year SAS has resumed publishing a calendar of conferences, workshops, and other events relevant to the international archaeological science community.

Published twice per year, the calendar aggregates information about publicly announced events happening all over the world in one place. We scour society websites, social media, and e-mail listservs for reputable events not associated with predatory conference organizers (e.g. https://www.facebook.com/SocArchSci/posts/1969069953372475). Did we miss an upcoming conference, symposium, or workshop? Did you notice details that are incorrect or have a complaint?

E-mail the event name, date, location, and a brief description with contact, submission, and registration information to sasgensecretary@gmail.com or make a comment on the blog post.

The link to the calendar of the upcoming conferences in the next few months is below:


More review of the Cyprus Institute Archaeological Science Summer School
Daniel Fuks, Guest Editor

In case you are already fed up with the cold winter, here's a beam of sunshine for you. We've got another testimony of the Archaeological Science Summer School in Cyprus from Daniel Fuks.

(Photo courtesy of the STARC, The Cyprus Institute)