

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

As we finally put the 37th issue of *Lithics* to bed we look back with some pride at what has been accomplished. As the foremost journal dedicated to lithic studies, we have produced over 30 years' worth of scholarly publications. We are also pleased that we are able to maintain our open access. For this, we thank the Lithic Studies Society (our parent organisation) whose members fund our publication expenses.

This issue has a range of papers on different subjects. In the first, Walker and Lee highlight a clear potential connection between hand-axe size and the ease of use of larger Lower Palaeolithic hand-axes through an experimental dataset. Next, Taylor provides a thoughtful article exploring the concept of pilgrimage and sacred landscapes in Neolithic Cumbria by combining GIS analyses with extensive ground-truthing. Leder provides a much needed *chaîne opératoire* study of core reduction strategies of the Initial Upper Palaeolithic layers from Ksar Akil and Abou Halka in Lebanon arguing that reduction sequences are driven by raw-material volumes rather than by producing standardised forms. Blundell argues an interesting holistic approach to the study of archaic hominin landscapes by suggesting that Palaeolithic archaeological sites may remain hidden within Clay-with-flints.

This issue also pays tribute to two giants of the *Lithics* community who passed away this year.

Alan Saville and Stephen Aldhouse-Green played important roles in the early days of *Lithics* and both remained contributors to the Journal for many years.

Finally, this is my last issue as Editor of *Lithics*. As usual, I want to thank all those who make *Lithics* possible—our authors (of articles and reviews), peer reviewers, editorial team, copy editors, web developer and, of course, our readers without whom we would not have a reason to exist. I would also like to thank the board of the Lithic Studies Society and the editorial staff for having made my job such a pleasure. I would also like to welcome Dr Frederick Foulds as the new editor of *Lithics*. I have known Freddie for a number of years and we are certainly fortunate to have him as our next editor. I have no doubt that the stewardship of *Lithics* is in good hands. I wish Dr Foulds much success during his tenure.

As always, we are looking for quality content relating to stone technology. If you have an article in mind, I encourage you to submit an abstract so that you might take advantage of the excellent editorial staff's support. As an author, I know that I certainly will!

I hope you will enjoy *Lithics* 37. Happy reading!

Wei Chu

Cover: Dallow Farm hand-axe from the British Museum, London. (Photograph © Peter Hoare)