

Vienna, 22.12.2020

Dear colleague

At the end of a challenging year 2020, I would like to send my best wishes for a better New Year!

Let me take this opportunity to inform you about recent developments regarding our Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology. The presidency of the Austrian Academy of Sciences decided to merge the three former independent institutes OREA, ÖAI and IKAnt into the new Austrian Archaeological Institute from 1.1.2021 onwards. This fusion into a large new institute will bring along opportunities and challenges, but first and foremost will allow the continuation of our research focus embedded into a broader institutional framework with additional facilities related to archaeological sciences, heritage sciences and digital archaeology. The successful establishment of OREA's research within the last eight years forms the essential foundation for its continuation in the new Austrian Archaeological Institute by means of groups, archaeological fieldwork, research focus as well as publication series and journals. As the department for Prehistory & Western Asian/Northeast African Archaeology in the new institute we will continue our broad focus from early prehistory to the Iron Age without any geographical limitations in combination with archaeology of W-Asia and NE-Africa.

Before starting the new Archaeological Institute, it seems worthwhile to look back and summarize some of the highlights from this intensive and scientifically productive period of OREA. Therefore, this special issue of our Annual Report is additionally aiming to give an overview of the scientific achievements of the 8-year history of OREA as well as offering the complete bibliography of our publications.

In the name of our entire team, I warmly thank you for your interest, support or collaboration in the recent years that we are looking forward to continue in the future!

Let me conclude by wishing you a healthy year 2021!

With kind regards,



Prof. Dr. Barbara Horejs
Director Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology
(Scientific Director of the new Austrian Archaeological Institute)