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The Brilliance of the Iranian Journal of Archaeological Studies (IJAS) in the International and National Arena

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I am delighted and honoured to present this issue of the Iranian Journal of Archaeological Studies to you, our esteemed readers. In this note, I will introduce the valuable achievements and diverse articles of this issue.

Part One: Valuable Achievements of the Journal

After 14 years of tireless efforts by the editorial board and contributors, we are proud to announce that the Iranian Journal of Archaeological Studies has been indexed in the Scopus citation database. This success is the result of our continuous commitment and efforts to improve the quality of articles and internationalize the journal. As the first English-language archaeology journal in the country, our journal has always emphasized controlling the quality of articles, and the delayed indexing in Scopus is a testament to this claim. Although Scopus approved the journal's indexing at the end of 2024, it has indexed our articles from 2020, which indicates the attention of the esteemed Scopus reviewers to the high quality of the journal's articles.

In addition, two other important events occurred for the journal at the end of 2024.

-First, the Iranian Journal of Archaeological Studies was selected as the top journal and was honoured with a Award Certificate and Memorial Ceremony Trophy at the provincial ceremony to honour top researchers (Figure. 1). In addition, Ms. Nahid Moradgholi, the esteemed expert of the journal and a doctoral student in archaeology, was selected as the top expert of the university's publications department.

-Second, our journal was selected as the top national journal by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) (Figure. 2), and its Award Certificate and Memorial Ceremony Trophy were presented to the journal's editor-in-chief by the Honourable Minister of MSRT at the ceremony to honour the country's top researchers at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran (Figure. 3).

Hereby, I sincerely thank all the members of the editorial board, reviewers, and article authors who have always supported the journal. In addition, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Fariba Mosapour Negari, the executive editor of the journal, who has always strived to improve the quality of the journal. Finally, we extend our utmost thanks and appreciation to the esteemed university administrators, including Dr. Nour mohammad Yaqhoubi, the esteemed Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology of the University, Dr. Hossein Zohdi, the esteemed Head of the University Publications Department, and Dr. Alireza Norouzi, the esteemed University Indexing Consultant, all of whom have supported us with the backing of the esteemed University President, Dr. Gholamreza Rezaei. Internationalizing a journal in a region far from the centre is a difficult task that was achieved only with the solidarity and tireless efforts of the aforementioned colleagues, and an honour was recorded in the history of the University of Sistan and Baluchestan. The Iranian Journal of Archaeological Studies, published by the university's Archaeological Sciences Research Centre (ASRC), is the second international journal in the university's history.

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Figure. 1: *The Iranian Journal of Archaeological Studies team after receiving the award for Best Provincial Journal. From left: Mehdi Mortazavi (Editor-in-Chief), Fariba Mosapour Negari (Executive Editor), Nahid Moradgholi (Managing Editor).*



Figure. 2: *Moment of pride: Mehdi Mortazavi (Editor-in-Chief) receives the National Best Journal Award from the Minister of Science, Research and Technology at the ceremony honouring the country's top researchers, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran.*



Figure. 3: *Mehdi Mortazavi (Editor-in-Chief) and Fariba Mosapour Negari (Executive Editor) in front of the International Conference Centre of Shahid Beheshti University after receiving the Best International Journal Award at the National Festival honouring the country's top researchers.*

Part Two: Introduction of Articles in this Issue

In this issue of the journal, diverse and valuable articles in the field of archaeology have been published, which we briefly introduce:

-"Charles Cournault's Call for a 'Persian Museum' at the Louvre" by Daniel Thomas Potts (2024: 5-10), examines the efforts of a 19th-century French artist to transfer the antiquities of Persepolis to the Louvre Museum.

-"Silk Road between Iran, Central Asia and Western China" by Bruno Genito (2024:11-32), examines the role of the Silk Road in cultural and commercial exchanges between East and West, and criticizes unrealistic narratives of this road.

-"FT-IR Spectroscopic Analysis of Neolithic Pottery from Kashmir Valley, India - A Study of Firing Process and Mineral Composition" by Abdul Adil Paray (2024: 33-44), examines the firing technology and mineral composition of Neolithic pottery in the Kashmir Valley.

-"Technological Changes in Pottery Production during the Third Millennium BCE: A Case Study of Tol-e Qaleh in the Kur Basin, Fars, Iran" by Fazlollah Habibi, Ruhollah Shirazi, and Alireza Sardari (2024: 45-56), examines the technological developments of pottery at Tol-e Qaleh in the Kur Basin.

-"A Study of Bronze Age Storage and Warehouse Architecture at Tappeh Graziani, Sistan, Iran" by HosseinAli Kavosh and Zohreh Oveisi-Keikha (2024: 57-66), examines the architecture of warehouses and the storage system at Tappeh Graziani in the Bronze Age.

-"Takht-e Rostam, A Coastal Camp in the Southeast of the Caspian Sea during Late MIS3: A Preliminary Report of Archaeological Excavation" by Hosein Ramzanpur, Masoomeh Moradian, Saman Soortiji, Hamideh Amini, and Morteza Fattahi (2024: 67-76), introduces a Paleolithic site on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

-"A Preliminary Study of Kushk-i Sa'idabad-i Tabriz: The Ilkhanid Midway Settlement in Northwest of Iran" by Shahin Garakani Dashteh and Mohammad Mortezaei (2024: 77-92), examines an Ilkhanid midway settlement on the Tabriz-Ujan route.

-"Newfound Petroglyphs of Qonaq Qiran, Ardabil, NW Iran" by Zahra Almasipeyman, Hassan Derakhshi, Hamidreza Ghorbani, and Hossein Alizadeh (2024: 93-102), introduces newly discovered petroglyphs in Ardabil.

-"Comprehensive Review of the Book 'Political Archaeology of the Middle East'" by Ahmad Chaychi Amirkhiz (2024:103-106), reviews a book on the political archaeology of the Middle East.

Analysis of Articles in this Issue

-Geographical Diversity: The articles in this issue have significant geographical diversity and cover regions from Iran, India, Central Asia, and France.

-Thematic Diversity: The topics of the articles are also diverse and include Palaeolithic studies, the Bronze Age, the Ilkhanid period, petroglyphs, pottery technology, the Silk Road, and book reviews.

-Global Collaboration: This issue showcases the journal's international reach, with authors from diverse universities and research centres in Iran (Asia), the USA (North America), Italy (Europe), and India (Asia), demonstrating our commitment to fostering worldwide academic partnerships.

-Interdisciplinary Studies: Some articles in this issue, such as the one on Neolithic pottery in the Kashmir Valley, have used an interdisciplinary approach (archaeometry).

-Temporal Continuity: The articles in this issue cover the period from the Palaeolithic to the Ilkhanid period, which indicates the breadth of archaeological studies in this journal.

Analysis of Author Distribution

The authors contributing to this issue showcase a robust international presence, reflecting the journal's commitment to global collaboration. A contribution from an author affiliated with New York University in the United States focuses on a topic related to France, adding to the international scope of this issue. Additionally, a number of authors from India have contributed studies focusing on the Indian subcontinent, highlighting regional research. There are also authors affiliated with institutions in Italy, contributing to the study of the Silk Road, demonstrating the journal's reach into European scholarship. This diverse distribution of authors underscores the journal's dedication to fostering international collaboration and showcasing research from various regions around the world.

We hope that this issue of the journal will be of interest and use to researchers and enthusiasts in the field of archaeology.

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