

EDITORS' FOREWORD

In early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly transformed the world, affecting all aspects of life. During this unprecedented time when communities all over the globe were in lockdown, museums were closed to visitors and staff alike for extended periods of time, sometimes repeatedly. With limited or non-existent access to libraries, archives, and even objects, the day-to-day work of curators and other museum professionals changed dramatically, and research became extremely difficult, if not impossible. This was reflected in the fact that the *CIPEG Journal: Ancient Egyptian & Sudanese Collections and Museums* received no scholarly research papers during this period.

Travel restrictions imposed during the pandemic similarly necessitated a change to CIPEG's annual meeting format. The 13-15 November 2020 and 5-7 November 2021 CIPEG annual meetings were held virtually, featuring report-style presentations on the year's annual theme ('Museums and COVID-19' and 'Egypt, Sudan, and Beyond'), rather than more traditional scientific papers. Due to these circumstances, the present volume of the *CIPEG Journal* contains peer-reviewed reports rather than the usual scholarly contributions. These case-studies not only provide insight into, but also document how, the pandemic affected work with Egyptian and Sudanese objects in museums during the years covered by this volume – 2020 and 2021.

Volume 6 also marks a transition for the *CIPEG Journal*: it is co-edited by Dr Ashley Arico, incoming Managing Editor, and Dr Caroline M. Rocheleau, founding Managing Editor. As the immediate impacts of the pandemic fade in most countries, we anticipate that with its next volume the journal will return to its original purpose of showcasing new research in the fields of museum Egyptology and Nubiology, including papers presented in-person at annual meetings and as part of CIPEG's newly established virtual professional outreach programmes.

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