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## EDITORIAL

Many members and subscribers will have despaired of ever seeing another copy of NAGNEWS. Most of you will know why there has been this long silence. In January, 1979, fire swept through the archaeological premises of the Department of Adult Education, and amongst the casualties was much of the newly produced Volume II part I of NAGNEWS. Most of 1979 was spent rebuilding and getting back to normal, but here we are, like the Phoenix, emerging bigger and better than ever, and hopefully able to look forward to a brighter and uninterrupted future.

Northern Archaeology has grown out of NAGNEWS, the Newsletter of the Northumberland Archaeological Group. In this, articles of interest to northern archaeology have been printed, albeit in makeshift fashion and with the sweat and blood of a stalwart band of helpers. An increase in the quality and quantity of contributions offered, and a corresponding growth in circulation, has led us to believe that the use of professional printing will be advantageous and a viable proposition.

Our aim is to offer all those interested in northern archaeology an easily accessible platform both for new ideas and new data. By having two issues a year it should be possible to provide a forum for current problems in archaeology which otherwise would be longer in surfacing if they used the more traditional channels of publication. We shall have no excuse if we are not both topical and informative.

The articles in this issue cover a wide range of subjects from a possible Neolithic giant to the continuing debate on astro-archaeology. This is precisely the broad spectrum we wish to maintain, and in future issues we will be publishing material of even more diverse periods, topics and viewpoints.

Initially our aims and presentation must be modest, but we believe this publication will fill a pressing need in giving prompt exposure of developments in the archaeology of the North (and we are deliberately leaving the definition of that area vague!). The support of our readership is crucial and we hope that members will be active in responding to the new format. We shall be glad to receive any comments on content or presentation, and if the response is sufficient we would anticipate publishing some of these comments where relevant. We should also like to hear from any potential contributors.

Finally we would like to offer our thanks to all those members of N.A.G. whose help in the past and whose continuing interest has made this publication possible.

Sheena Crawford.

Peter Topping.

All correspondence should be addressed to : The Editors, Northern Archaeology, c/o N.A.G., Department of Adult Education, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.

We gratefully acknowledge the use of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland's illustrations of sites in the Inner Hebrides.