



INTRODUCTION

In December of 2016, the University of the Aegean's Department of Mediterranean Studies held a symposium in Rhodes on the topic of "Religion, Politics, and Culture in the Mediterranean from the 8th to the 6th Centuries BC." The conference was organized by the Aegean Egyptology group and Laboratory of the Ancient World of the Eastern Mediterranean and was directed by Panagiotis Kousoulis. The conference was further supported by the University of Bonn's Institute of Egyptology and the Department of History of the University of Thessaly. A great many other individuals and entities contributed to the conference's success, which are listed in the edited abstracts (currently found here: academia.edu/29825921/Aegyptiaca_Project_the_Symposium_University_of_the_Aegean_Rhodes_15_17_12_16_).

In 2017, the *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* offered to publish the proceedings of the conference. As sometimes happens, the effort to bring

the nineteen presentations to print advanced at a modest pace. Today, the journal is very pleased to finally publish a few of those works in this special volume. Particular thanks are due to Panagiotis Kousoulis for helping to wrangle these papers, among others that have found publication elsewhere in the interim. Given the time between composition and publication, the journal acknowledges that some of these papers may not have benefited from some very recent scholarship. Nonetheless, they all make meaningful contributions to our collective knowledge, and we are grateful to the authors for their patience.

The immense efforts of Carrie L. Sulosky Weaver to guide the review process and to edit these works in 2021 is the reason they are in print today.

—Pearce Paul Creasman
Editor