## VOLUME 36.2, NOVEMBER 2021 : TEXT AND IMAGE

Call for Papers

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Text and image are strategies by which humans leave permanent, visual marks of themselves, long after they are gone. They communicate messages that transcend boundaries of space and time. At least since Aristotle, the difference between these two visual systems has been scrutinised. Western narratives, particularly those of the 19th and 20th centuries, have highlighted the dichotomy and increased the polarisation between the two, effectively constructing a hierarchy where the written prevails over the figurative. However, the presence of both alphabetic and pictographic scripts throughout human history complicates our ability to precisely delineate between 'text' and 'image'. More recent studies have sought to broaden the concept of writing and image-making, blurring the boundaries between the two visual systems, and analysing the cognitive power of these two practices and their effects upon one-another.

Broadly, we understand texts and images as communication systems, where the intrinsic ambiguity of 'reading' and 'seeing' creates culturally-specific phenomena that are both valued and manipulated by their makers and intended recipients. 'Literacy' itself is context-dependent, and is influenced by visual systems promoting multiple avenues of knowledge reception. ARC Vol. 36.2 seeks to provide a renewed discussion, complementing the earlier issues Vol. 19.1 'Art and Archaeology' and 3.2 'Archaeology and Texts', with the goal of provoking fresh perspectives in our engagement with this theme.

We welcome perspectives from archaeology, anthropology, history, and art history, to discuss how the production of text and image systems work to create social meaning and diversify cultural trajectories. Contributors should consider the role of materiality, context, and/or human cognition in problematizing current explanatory narratives, or in crafting new ones. We are interested in submissions which aim to dismantle image-script/script-image hierarchies prevalent throughout academic disciplines, in favour of those that emphasise the co-dependency of image and script within their archaeological or historical context. Suggested topics for exploration include, but are not limited to:

- Coexistence of text and image: how does the relationship between these visual systems change over time within societies?

- What have people chosen to communicate through writing and/or image? What are the mechanisms by which people constrain or promote this communication?

- What is the relationship between textual literacy and icono-literacy? Given the cognitive consequences of literacy, to what extent does reading and writing influence reception, particularly in the field of narrative?

- How does the materiality and archaeological context of text and images contribute to our understanding of past societies?

- How can we more accurately reconstruct and interpret past human relationships with these two mediums and how have modern research biases complicated our ability to do so?

Potential contributors should register interest early by submitting an abstract of c.250 words or contacting the editors directly at [**arc.textandimage@gmail.com**] to discuss their ideas by **14 February 2021**. Papers of no more than 4000 words should be submitted before **28 March 2021**, for publication in November 2021. More information about the *Archaeological Review from Cambridge* can be found online at http://arc.soc.srcf.net/contribute.html.