From the Editors: Fulfilling Our Mission?

With the publication of volume 13 of *Journal of Greek Linguistics* (JGL) last fall, the journal completed its fifth year, spanning 2009–2013 and volumes 9–13, in our new instantiation under Brill Publishers. In switching to Brill from our previous publisher, we have opened up the journal in a couple of ways. The first is simply a matter of presentation, as we now appear in two issues a year, with a total of some 350 pages. This is not an insignificant change from volumes 1–8, which had only one issue per year and averaged 233 pages, for it means that more content focused on Greek linguistics can be provided in a given year. But more important is the second way in which we have opened up the journal, namely as to the specifics of that content. That is, JGL was founded in 2000, with a mission statement that said we would “publish papers on any aspect of Greek Linguistics”, but we nonetheless expressed a preference for papers dealing with “the more recent stages of the language, especially contemporary (Modern) Greek”. Starting with volume 9 (2009), in our new guise, we have explicitly welcomed papers pertaining to all eras of Greek, with no preference for one stage over another.1 That 2009 volume contained articles on Ancient Greek, without any overt looking ahead temporally towards related developments in later stages, as some of the articles in previous issues had, and now we have even had a special thematic issue devoted entirely to Ancient Greek Linguistics, issue 12.1 (2012).

By way of seeing how well we have been fulfilling our mission to cover the full chronological range of the Greek language, we have taken stock of what we have published over the past five years. All in all, looking just at research articles, i.e. our regular articles, the occasional short article, and one discussion note that was research oriented, there have been 47 items in the 9 issues from 2009 to 2013. Of those, 29.5 have been on Modern Greek, 16.5 on Ancient Greek, and one on Medieval Greek.2 Given that there are more journal outlets for linguistic

1 Here is how we put it in our “From the Editors” piece introducing our resumption of publication in 2009: “As made clear in our statement of Aim and Scope (see the inside front cover), we are broadening our scope somewhat to take in more articles and notes that have a primary focus on earlier stages of the language” (p. 2).

2 Admittedly, some papers could be classified as pertaining to different stages, given that they cover a range of time periods; those were counted as going with the earlier stage they touched
publications on Ancient Greek than on Modern Greek per se, the roughly 2 : 1 ratio (actually, 1.8 : 1) between Modern Greek and Ancient Greek articles in our pages seems reasonable, and the small number of Medieval papers can be attributed to the fact that we get so few submissions that are wholly or primarily on Medieval Greek. The breakdown of how we classified our articles is appended at the end of this piece.

Of course, a journal can only publish what it receives, so perhaps a more telling index of how we are fulfilling our mission would be a survey of our submissions, as that would indicate how readers judge the scope and mission of the journal. We have not compiled those statistics, so we defer that perspective on the question for a later issue. Nonetheless, speaking impressionistically, we can say that the view that emerges from the articles accords reasonably well with what the submissions would show.

In the end, what we can publish depends on what you, as our readers, feel is appropriate to send to the journal for our consideration. But it should be clear from what we have published these past five years that we are indeed, as our statement of our scope indicates, open to submissions on any stage in the history of Greek. So, keep ‘em coming, please!

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3 However, it should be noted that one of the papers in this issue is about Medieval Greek and Medieval Greek alone.

4 Although we have not done a full survey on where our authors come from, we would like to see more submissions from scholars in Greece, as the natural constituency for the journal and the place where the most work on Greek linguistics is taking place.