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## Journal of Human Evolution

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## Editorial

JHE 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: The Early Years of JHE

Journal of Human Evolution (JHE) was founded in 1972 by Brunetto Chiarelli of the Anthropological Institute at the University of Florence, Italy. He produced 14 volumes through the end of 1985, with a wide view of 'human evolution' including most of physical anthropology and some allied disciplines. He was assisted by his secretary, Miss Chiara Bullo, three 'Assistant Co-Editors' and an Editorial Board, who appear to have done little; the last two groups were replaced in volume 6 (1977) by an Advisory Board of about 10 senior colleagues and a Panel of Referees with three-year terms. Both Peter Andrews (P.A.) and Eric Delson (E.D.) were invited to serve on this panel. Eric Delson served as Guest Editor for two issues in 1977, for articles from a 1975 conference he organized on "Current Advances in Paleoprimatology" (at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting in Denver).

Journal of Human Evolution was (and still is) owned by Academic Press, then part of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. A disagreement with Chiarelli over reviewing practices among other problems led Academic Press to investigate how the editorial process was being run. The Press expressed concerns about the level of review of articles submitted to the journal, and when Chiarelli was approached over this, he rejected their concerns. As a result, Academic Press dismissed Chiarelli, unfortunately causing him great offence, particularly when they started looking for a new editor in late 1984. They approached P.A. in early 1985 and asked if he would take on the task. He asked E.D. if he would come on as Co-Editor, and together they worked to reorganize JHE. Building on the practice of journals such as *Evolution*, we recruited a new group of 26 Associate Editors (AEs) to coordinate manuscript review, combining three external reviews with their own comments for final decision by an Editor.

Journal of Human Evolution was refocused toward paleoanthropology as envisaged by F. Clark Howell and others to include human and nonhuman primate evolution (including behavior), Paleolithic archaeology, and geochronological, taphonomic, and faunal studies related to those topics. We agreed that it was important to integrate studies of primate and human fossils and evolution with studies of living primates, basing conclusions on the fossils from what is known of living species. In so doing, we hoped that ideas would flow the other way too, with behavior and ecology of living primates being informed by their evolutionary history. The same integration would also be applied to archaeology and fossil remains, where one feeds off the other to produce a broader perspective on human evolution; again, archaeological interpretations could gain much by being reconciled with evolutionary aspects of human biology. As advances in cognate fields developed, they were added to the range of topics welcomed at JHE: new geochronological methods, isotopic analyses of diet and paleoenvironment, genetic/genomic studies of fossils, and extant populations among others.

New manuscripts began to be received in December 1985, and after two issues of articles accepted by Chiarelli, the first issue under the new editorship appeared as volume 15, number 3, with a cover date of March 1986. Articles previously in review with Chiarelli were not passed on to the new Editors, leading to both shortages of new manuscripts and delays passing them through the review process. As a result, the March issue actually was published near the end of 1986, and with no backlog of submitted articles to draw on, publication dates were delayed. This anachronistic situation persisted for several years, and to preempt possible questions about priority, each article contained its month of publication (as well as dates of article submission and acceptance), through late 1988, when the September 1988 issue appeared that month.

It must be remembered that in the 1980s, there was neither email nor digital manuscripts. We received typescript on articles and illustrations mounted on boards with multiple photocopies for reviewers. Eric Delson did not have unlimited access to American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) mailing, given the cost involved, so he made weekly trips to the local post office to send out carefully wrapped packages to authors, reviewers, P.A., and Academic Press (whose New York office would forward to London). Peter Andrews was more fortunate in having the backing of both the Natural History Museum (NHM) for mail and the Academic Press offices in Camden for photocopying and hand-delivering manuscripts. E.D. and P.A. spoke by telephone monthly about progress; Academic Press paid for all costs. Eric Delson recruited his wife, Dr. Roberta Marx Delson, to aid with editorial functions for two years; in 1988, he was able to hire Jaymie Brauer (Ian Tattersall's assistant in the AMNH Anthropology Department) for this task. Peter Andrews hired Miranda Armour-Chelu, then a doctoral candidate in the NHM, to help with the reviewing of manuscripts in London.

Under the new leadership, many new initiatives were instituted. In 1987, Academic Press was persuaded to change to high-quality glossy paper to improve the reproduction of figures. Journal of Human Evolution increased its page count and moved from eight issues per year to two volumes of six issues each as of 1991. Special issues were a focus for several years, starting with the December 1986 issue (published September 1987) including contributions to a conference in honor of Desmond Clark (guest edited by J. W. K. Harris and J. Yellen); additional articles from that conference were published in a double issue for November/December 1987 (guest edited by J. W. K. Harris). Several special issues were planned for the first issue of the year, so that they could begin with page 1, and released simultaneously as soft-cover books (with a different cover but the same contents as the JHE issue): "Primate Phylogeny" (1987, from a meeting of the Willi Hennig Society); "The Primate Postcranial Skeleton" (1988); and "The Platyrrhine Fossil Record"

(1990). Another special issue on "The Miocene Hominoid Site at Pasalar, Turkey" (1990), was not published as a book because it appeared in vol. 19, issues 4–5, and began on page 335.

A special feature in each issue was originally entitled "Current Events" and designed to allow rapid publication of topical issues; this was changed subsequently to News and Views, retaining much the same emphasis on rapid publication of short descriptions of new fossils or other results, or comments on published material. Regular book reviews were still being printed at this time, but a new kind of book review was initiated in 1989; these 'lead reviews' were intended to be both in-depth and controversial.

There is general agreement in the anthropological community that JHE had an important impact on paleoanthropology, providing a targeted publication outlet for the first time. For a scientific journal with a relatively narrow range and restricted audience, being targeted at paleoanthropologists and primatologists, JHE has a high impact factor, which rose steadily and reached 3.895 in 2020. After the first difficult transition years, it has maintained a good record of quick publication and few delays. Within these areas, JHE has maintained a broad vision by regularly rotating editors with different specializations: E.D. stood down in 1990 to allow a new Editor (William Jungers) to come on board; and P.A. stood down in 1993 and brought in Leslie Aiello as Co-Editor, again to broaden the scope of the journal. This policy and the initiatives listed earlier have continued to the present day. The number of AEs has risen slowly, mainly owing to the inclusion of all former Editors (now termed Editors-in-Chief or EICs) as AEs, assigning them the same reviewing tasks as other AEs. In 2020, former EICs were given the title of Emeritus Editors, but most remained as AEs as well.

The future of JHE seems brighter than ever. There are still few competing outlets: the Journal of Paleolithic Archaeology was founded in 2018, and the online journal PaleoAnthropology, originally started by the Paleoanthropology Society in 2003, is now (2021) published jointly with the European Society for Human

Evolution (ESHE). These societies themselves owe some of their success to the spreading effect of JHE on global paleoanthropology. We are pleased by and proud of the impact of JHE and look forward to its continued success in its next 50 years.

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