

## **EDITORIAL**

Greetings Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to JAC volume 3 for year 2025. As we move forward you'll notice a couple of changes. Steve Gullberg is now editor-in-chief; William F. Romain is managing editor. We are also pleased to welcome Erica Ellingson, Giulio Magli, Frank Prendergast, Wayne Horowitz, and Fabio Silva to the JAC editorial board!

### **Presence on Social Media**

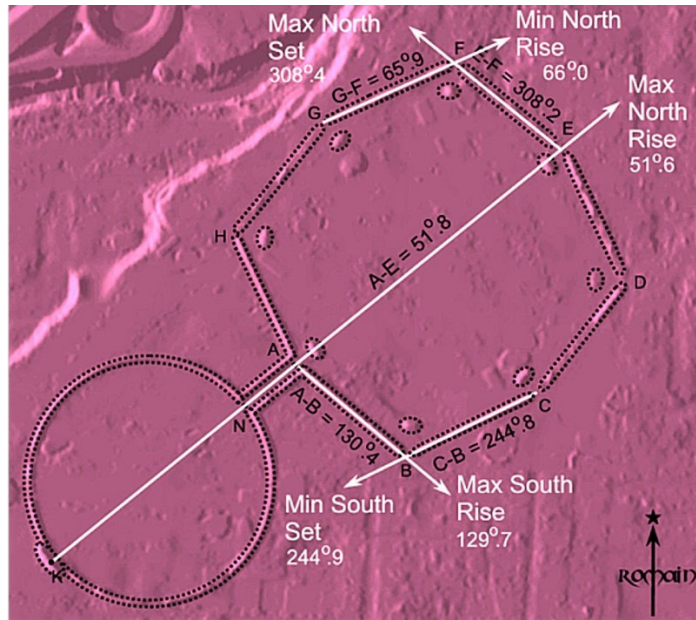
The Journal now has a presence on social media – i.e., on Facebook. Everyone is encouraged to join the Facebook group and post items of interest. Here's the web address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/579940041299624>

### **Major Standstill Season**

As you know, 2025 falls within the moon's major standstill season. The next season will be 18+ years, so this might be a good time to visit your favorite lunar-aligned site to witness the event. There are a couple of days in 2025 that should provide good viewing opportunities. For more on ideal viewing dates see Ellingson and Silva's recent article "The Major Lunar Standstill Season is Here" at: <https://doi.org/10.1558/jsa.28181>.

### **Newark Earthworks Open**

Coincidentally, the Newark Earthworks site in Ohio, USA opens to the public on January 1, 2025. The Newark Earthworks is the largest and most sophisticated geometric earthworks complex in the world. The complex was recently inscribed as a World Heritage site (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1689/>). The site has multiple lunar and solar alignments. The figure below shows a lidar image of the Octagon and Circle with several of the posited lunar sightlines plotted. (Major axis alignment to moon's max north rise discovered by John Eddy; other alignments by Ray Hively and Robert Horn. Image by W. Romain)



What makes the January 1, 2025 date special is that for more than one hundred years, the Octagon and Circle has been mostly closed to the public as it has been occupied by a private country club and golf course. After a lengthy court battle and settlement, the country club lease has been terminated. Visitors are now free to visit and explore. For details about opening day, see: <https://www.ohiohistory.org/octagonsettlement/>.

### IAU Commission C5 Cultural Astronomy

We are pleased to report that in August 2024, the International Astronomical Union Executive Committee elevated the status of the Working Group Astronomy in Culture to the level of a full commission. Steven Gullberg is president of the new commission. Commission C5 Cultural Astronomy now joins the other IAU commissions and is charged with contributions of: Archeoastronomy, Ethnoastronomy, Contemporary Cultural Astronomy, Cultural Astronomy of Developing Nations, Cultural Astronomy for Education, Cultural Astronomy for Outreach, Cultural Astronomy for Development, and Indigenous Sensitivities at Culturally Sensitive Sites. For more on this development see: [https://www.iau.org/science/scientific\\_bodies/commissions/C5/](https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/commissions/C5/).

### Upcoming Conferences

#### Oxford XIII

Several important conferences are scheduled for 2025. One of the most exciting will be the Oxford XIII / IAU Symposium 399 to be held in July, in Melbourne, Australia. Title of the symposium is *Indigenous Astronomy in the Space Age*. The “Oxford” conferences are sponsored by ISAAC (International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture). ISAAC is also the sponsor of the *Journal of Astronomy in Culture*.

The Oxford XIII symposium will be both an in-person and virtual event. It will take place during Australia's NAIDOC Week 2025. This week celebrates the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their culture. Lead symposium organizers are: Duane Hamacher, Jarita Holbrook, and Gerhard Wiesenfelt. For more information see: <https://www.archaeoastronomy.org/iaus399>.



#### *SEAC (European Society for Astronomy in Culture) Conference*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> SEAC conference is scheduled for August, 2025 in Hamburg, Germany. Conference topic is: *Timekeeping, Navigation, Surveying – Cultural Astronomy and Instruments*. For more information about this conference see:

<https://seactest.archeoastronomy.org/content/conferences/next-conference.html>.

#### *13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena*

The theme for this conference is *Celestial Connections Across Time and Space*. The conference will take place 8-13 June, 2025 at the Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK. Keynote speakers include: Clive Ruggles, Tom Ray, and Susan Jocelyn Bell Burnell. (Jocelyn Bell was a 24-yr old graduate student when she discovered the first evidence of pulsars.) Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/ael/Research/ConferencesandSymposia/INSAP2025/>

#### **New Books**

Readers will want to watch for a new volume hopefully released by the time you read this. The book is titled: *From the Ground to the Sky: Ten Years of Skyscape Archaeology*. Edited by Fabio Silva and Liz Henty, the volume “commemorates the

tenth anniversary of *Skyscape Archaeology* by assembling a series of papers (collected from the volumes of the *Journal of Skyscape Archaeology*) that demonstrate the theoretical and methodological breadth, as well as the socio-cultural depth of interpretation, that define this new wave of archaeoastronomy.” For more about this highly anticipated volume including table of contents see: <https://www.equinoxpub.com/home/ground-sky/>.

Recently published by Steven Gullberg and Milton Rojas Gamarra is *Inca Cosmovision: The Astronomical Legacy of an Andean Empire*. Published with Springer, *Inca Cosmovision* explores the cosmic worldview of the Incas from the perspective of oral traditions passed from one generation to the next among the Incas’ living descendants. Replete with original paintings and field research photos, you will learn about Inca astronomy and culture in a way that you perhaps have never encountered.

A revised third edition of Guilio Magli’s book, also by Springer, *Archaeoastronomy: Introduction to the Science of Stars and Stones* is expected to be released by the end of January 2025. As many of you know, Guilio’s investigations have taken him around the world. This volume highlights many of his discoveries.

### **Papers Needed**

Please keep in mind that the success of our Journal is dependent on participation by members of the archaeoastronomy community. If you have a paper that might be of interest, send it along. Remember, we are an open access online journal with no publication fees, and we publish on an ongoing basis. Papers are sent out for peer review. However, we also stress the importance of timely reviews.

On behalf of all of us at the *Journal of Astronomy in Culture*, we wish you a safe, healthy, and productive year.

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