

Foreword

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It is with great pride that I write this foreword welcoming readers to the first edition of this new student journal.

The title *Curious Things* is inspired by Early Modern curiosity cabinets, which held prestigious collections of rare and bizarre objects. But this journal is about more than just the odd and special: By publishing original student research across disciplines occupied with material culture studies, the journal captures a spirit of curiosity and inquiry that is essential to breaking new ground in science. Material culture, bridging the study of the deep human past with our very present, is a field of study where new angles and perspectives hold immense possibilities. This is why student research and ideas are important.

The curious makes you stop and think, puzzles you, or tickles your imagination. The curious may not only be found in the rare and spectacular but hides in our everyday world. To study the material world around us, objects, sites, landscapes, environments, is to study the human condition. These are not just “things”, but traces of people’s intentional and unintentional behavior reflecting aspects such as memory, labor, imagination and feeling. As the texts in this first volume show, we can gain a new understanding of a work of art, a piece of pottery or an ancient boat by addressing how they are reworked, exhibited, reconstructed or researched.

What I particularly celebrate about presenting this first issue is the long work and dedication by the founders, who have now succeeded in bringing this journal into the world. The Curious Things initiative creates an opportunity for students from many scholarly backgrounds to publish their work and contribute their important work to the field.

I look forward to seeing how *Curious Things* evolves, and I hope it becomes a long-lasting forum for sharing and discussing all things curious.

