

**Report of the Committee on Publications To The Executive  
Committee of ASOR  
Submitted by Charles E. Jones, Chair  
7 November 2017**

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**Report of the Chair** (Charles Jones)

The central concerns of the Publications Committee have as always been in support of the editors. Their reports form the core of this document.

The Publications Committee met as usual at the Annual Meeting on 17 November 2016. The minutes of that meeting drawn from notes expertly taken by Inda Omerefendic have been prepared and will be posted on the ASOR website (<http://www.asor.org/committees/publications.html>) as soon as they have been approved.

At the 2016 meeting of the Publications Committee in San Antonio the following actions were taken:

The minutes of the 2015 meeting were approved

Jennie Ebeling and Bill Caraher were eligible to serve a second term on the Committee, they were re-nominated and approved.

A motion to have the Levantine Ceramics Project under the oversight of the Publications Committee and have its editor become an Editorial member of the Committee was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Regular business of the Publications Committee take place over the course of the year my means of an archived mailing list: <https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/info/asor-cop> The traffic on the ASOR-COP list is preserved from November 2008 when it was established, to the present.

In January the BASOR Editors reported on the BASOR Editorial Board — Bethany Walker and Assaf Yasur-Landau have both agreed to stay on for a second term. Jane Cahill West was already on her second term, so she has stepped down and will be replaced by Rachel Hallote, of SUNY Purchase.

In February the Committee reviewed the new ASOR Style Guide [http://www.asor.org/hidden/style\\_guide.html](http://www.asor.org/hidden/style_guide.html)

Also in February the Committee reviewed the "Definition of "Initial Publication or Announcement" intended to clarify ASOR's policy on not serving as the initial place of publication or announcement of any object acquired by an individual or institution after April 24, 1972.

In March Eric Cline and Christopher Rollston indicated their willingness to serve a second term as co-Editors of BASOR. A motion was made to that the committee nominating them, it was seconded, and approved unanimously.

In June the Chair reported that following consultation with the President and Executive Director it has become clear that term limits do not apply to Editorial positions. Thomas Schneider has enthusiastically agreed to stand for a third and final three year term as the Editor of NEA. A motion to nominate him was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

In August, Committee member Bill Caraher presented a proposal for an innovative joint publishing project between The Digital Press at the University of North Dakota and ASOR Publications. "Over the last year, I've been working with Michael Toumazou, Derek Counts, and Erin Averett from the Athienou Archaeological Project (Cyprus). Since 2015, this team has used high-resolution, structured-light scanning to document the remarkable assemblage of Iron Age limestone and terracotta statues from the sanctuary. They have published the methods and goals of this work in articles in *Antiquity* and the *Journal of Archaeological Methods and Theory* and presented at ASOR, AIA, and SAA annual meetings. They are established experts in this method and their material." There was some discussion on the listserve, and the topic in on the Publications Committee agenda for the 2017 meeting in Boston.

In September the Chair reported that the President and Vice-President have requested that he serve one final year as Chair of the Publications Committee. He has agreed, pending the approval of this request by the EC and Board. The Committee responded positively to this news. Is formal action by the Publications Committee required?

Also in September, as the request of the Chair, the Executive Director offered a written rationale for the Publication RFP, written with the consulting assistance of Mitch Allen, which will be under discussion at the 2017 meeting of the Committee in Boston. The heart of the matter is that ASOR is facing a set of issues relating to publication. 1) We wanted to see if a publishing partner could help us meet our mission for publications (especially wide dissemination of our journals and better online access). 2) Handling our publications program (especially fulfillment of journals) takes up a fair amount of office space, and yet securing and paying for this office space now that we have lost our complimentary office space at Boston

University is a challenge. 3) Our institutional or library subscriptions have been decreasing (and JSTOR Current Scholarship Program [JSTOR CSP] has not been the answer we anticipated).

All of the publications under the oversight of the Publications Committee continue to thrive and are up to date thanks to the diligent work of the editors: The three ASOR's journals, both active monograph series, ANEToday, and the Levantine Ceramic Project. Their reports appear below.

### **Editors' Reports**

***BASOR*** (Eric Cline, Chris Rollston)

We are pleased to report that five issues of *BASOR* have now appeared under our co-editorship – nos. 373-377 (May 2015-May 2017) – and a sixth issue, *BASOR* 378 (November 2017), is scheduled to be shipped to the printer before the 2017 ASOR annual meetings begin in mid-November.

The first two issues each contained 12 articles; since then we have settled on 10 articles plus book reviews in each issue, so that by the time *BASOR* 378 appears in November, we will have published a total of 64 articles in six issues. In addition, the May 2018 issue is already full with 10 more articles and the November 2018 issue already has five accepted articles.

Overall, we have received 158 submissions since beginning our co-editorship. Of those, we have accepted 81 manuscripts for publication, all after one or more rounds of suggested revisions; 47 manuscripts were either rejected outright or sent back to their author(s) as unsuitable for publication in *BASOR* (with recommendations for a more suitable journal in some cases); 14 manuscripts are currently in the hands of the author(s) with a “revise and resubmit” assignation and have not yet been returned; and 16 manuscripts are currently in the review process. We continue to strive to maintain the high standards set by the previous editors.

The online submission and review process for submitted manuscripts continues to work extremely well, as does the “publish before print” appearance on JSTOR when the new articles are ready. We have continued to post the articles in batches of three usually, with an announcement made in the *ASOR Newsletter*.

We would like to thank once again the members of our Editorial Board, all of the anonymous peer-reviewers, our wonderful copy-editors (Heather Heidrich and Carol Leyba), the staff at Eisenbrauns (especially Pam Nichols and Andy Kerr), and everyone in the Boston Office for their assistance in making all of this possible.

***NEA*** (Thomas Schneider)

2017 marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Biblical Archaeologist*/Near Eastern Archaeology. On this occasion, Bill Dever very generously offered to reflect on the journal's history within the changing disciplinary landscape of Biblical and Near Eastern Archaeology in an article specifically written for the September issue ("From the Bible to the Levant and Beyond"). In this year, we published two regular issues of 64 pp. (March and September), one special issue of 96 pp. in June (*Repopulating the Badia*, guest-edited by Yorke Rowan) and for the very first time, a double-length (128 pp.) special issue on Tell es-Safi/Gath (December, guest-edited by Aren Maeir). I am also glad to report that for the fifth year in a row (2012–2016), NEA is ranked as a top archaeology journal (Q1): <http://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=16400154764&tip=sid&clean=0> .

I acknowledge with gratitude the excellent work that has been carried out by NEA's Managing Editor, Billie Jean Collins, and Susanne Wilhelm at Lockwood Press, NEA's Editorial Assistant (Julia Hsieh), Inda Omerefendic and the members of NEA's editorial classes.

### **JCS** (Piotr Michalowski)

JCS is doing well—I have almost enough for this year's issue and can edit it a bit earlier this year, but in any case, it will again be out right on time.

As far as the supplement series is concerned, after many delays caused by dealing with a very difficult author who, in addition, can only work when school is not in session (he teaches at a private school), the volume of Ur III texts has been not only accepted in final version, but has just been copy edited. It will definitely be out this calendar year.

### **ASOR Annual** (Kevin McGeough)

#### **Recently Published**

1. Title: Late Bronze Cemetery And Prehistoric Soundings at Kataret es-Samra (Jordan), 1985.

Author/Editor: Albert Leonard, Jr.

Color: No

Subvention: No

2. Title: Bayt Farhi and the Sephardic Palaces of Late Ottoman Damascus

Author/Editor: Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis

Color: Yes

Subvention: ca \$5000 offered (with additional subvention possible)

#### **Manuscript Accepted, Awaiting Revisions**

1. None

## **Proposals Accepted, Awaiting Manuscript**

1. Title: Taanach Volume and Iraq al-Amir Volume  
Author/Editor: Nancy Lapp  
Color: Undecided  
Subvention: Undecided

### *Archaeological Report Series* (Hanan Charaf)

#### **Summary**

1 published monograph in 2017.  
1 manuscript sent to ISD for typesetting. Projected publication: July-2018.  
1 manuscript accepted for publication but author is obtaining better quality photos.  
2 manuscripts under peer review.  
2 CAARI Monographs proposals submitted in 2017. Accepted. Waiting for manuscripts.

#### **1. ARS published in 2017**

##### ARS 25

Title: *The Mithraeum at Caesarea Maritima*. Authors/editors: Robert Jehu Bull and Jane DeRose Evans.  
Date of publishing: June 2017.

#### **2. ARS MSS with ISD in 2017**

##### ARS 26

Title: *The Archaeological Survey of the Desert Roads between Berenike and the Nile Valley: Expeditions by the University of Michigan and the University of Delaware to the Eastern Desert of Egypt, 1988-2015*. Authors: Steven E. Sidebotham and Jennifer Gates-Foster with Jean-Louis Rivard.

Subvention: \$5,000

The final version of the manuscript (after peer review) was submitted September 28, 2017. I will go over it before sending it to ISD.  
Projected date to sending it to ISD: end of November 2017.

#### **3. ARS MSS accepted**

1) Title: *Idalion III. The Terrace of the East Acropolis, Mouti tou Arvili, and Special Studies*.  
Author/editor: Pamela Gaber

Status: Contract signed by P. Gaber. Authors' agreements sent to ASOR office. Waiting for final manuscript submission after adding missing photos (last correspondence with Gaber dated to April 10, 2017).

Subvention: \$10,000 for printing and color illustrations.

#### 4. **ARS MSS under peer review**

1) Title: *Taanach II: The Iron Age Stratigraphy*.

Authors: Mark Meehl and Nancy Lapp.

Status: Manuscript sent October 2017. I will be identifying peer reviewers to send the mss to in the coming few weeks.

2) Title: *Tell Fadous-Kfarabida I: the Site and its Environment*.

Author: H. Genz with contributions by P. Breuer, C. Çakırlar, K. Deckers, F. Höflmayer, R. Pedersen, K. Pustovoytov, S. Riehl and M. Vanhecke). MSS went through the peer-reviewing process. Peer reviewers identified many areas of concern in the MSS. On October 14, 2016, I met with H. Genz to discuss those areas. Genz agreed to make adequate changes to the MSS according to the peer-reviewers' and my recommendations. New MSS will go through another round of peer-reviewing. No update since October 2016.

#### 5. **ARS Proposals accepted**. Waiting for MSS submission

Listed in chronological order, from recent to oldest.

1) Title: *Stuart Swiny Festschrift* (temporary title).

Editors: Walter Crist and Zuzana Chovanec.

CAARI Monograph.

2) Title: *Environment, landscape and society: diachronic perspectives on settlement patterns in Cyprus*.

Editors: Andrew McCarthy and Evi Margaritis.

CAARI Monograph.

3) Title: *Humayma Excavation Project, 3: The Roman Fort and Regional Watchtowers* (J. Oleson): John Oleson wrote on November 28, 2016 that the manuscript submission will be delayed due to delay in submitting a chapter from one of the authors. No original projected submission date was given.

4) Title: *Embodying Dilmun: The Peter B. Cornwall expedition to Eastern Saudi Arabia and Bahrain* (Ben Porter and Alexis Boutin). Porter wrote on January 12, 2015 that the museum where the collection is housed was under renovation since 2010 and will only open its doors again at the end of 2015. He foresees submission of the MSS by 2019.

5) Title: *Combined Caesarea expedition I* (Ken Holum, *et al.*). No update after the unfortunate death of Holum.

6) Title: *Koutsopetria 2, Cyprus* (Bill Caraher, *et al.*).

7) Title: *Tell er-Ras* (Vivian Bull). Jane Evans is the contact person.

8) Title: *Caesarea Promontory, Israel* (Kathryn Gleason).

9) Title: *Akko, Israel* (Aaron Brody).

10) Title: *Wawiyat, Israel* (Beth Alpert Nakhai and JP Dessel).

#### 6. **ARS INQUIRIES.** Awaiting proposals

Listed in chronological order, from recent to oldest.

1) Title: No title yet but deals with surveys in the Suleymaniyeh region, Iraq (Jessica Giraud). [ADDED APRIL 2016]

2) Title: *Sidon: The Middle Bronze Age Levels* (Claude Doumet-Serhal) [ADDED JULY 2015]

3) Title: *Khirbet el-Qom: Final Report on the 1971 Salvage Excavations* (Ryan Defonzo) [ADDED JANUARY 2015]

4) Title: *Athienou, Cyprus* (Michael Toumazou and Derek Counts) [ADDED NOVEMBER 2008]

#### **Levantine Ceramics Project** (Andrea Berlin)



#### **Levantine Ceramics Project 2017 Annual Report ASOR Committee on Publications**

The LCP has been busy over the past year. We added a new feature – notifications; made a short video about the project; organized four workshops and made plans for four more in the next year; and seen an increase in the number of contributors and amount of information on the site.

**Notifications:** This summer we added a notifications feature to the site in order to make it easy to learn when information has been added or changed. Contributors can

enable notifications via their contributor profile, and decide on frequency, mode, and type of notifications, as follows:

- Frequency: choose to receive notifications instantly, daily, weekly, or monthly.
- Mode: choose to receive notifications via email and/or an alert on the site when signed in.
- Type: choose to be notified about everything new and updated on the site, or to limit notifications to specific countries, dates, and/or periods

It is also possible to stop notifications instantly via a single button from the settings page.

**Video:** In spring 2017 we made a brief video about the LCP. I wrote the script and hired a recent graduate of BU's College of Communications; we filmed the video in several spaces of BU's Department of Archaeology. You can find it on the LCP home page (and YouTube, where it has 454 views so far):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHEzSgUFyss>

**Workshops:** Between December 2016 and September 2017, we held four very productive workshops:

- December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem: Petro-fabrics of the Southern Levant: Soils, Clays, and Marls. For the program go to <https://levantineceramics.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/aiar-program-12-29-16.pdf>.
- December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem: Wares and Shapes of the Persian Period in Israel. For the program go to <https://levantineceramics.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/aiar-program-12-30-16.pdf>.
- May 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Danish Institute of Archaeology, Athens: Pottery of Cyprus from the Archaic to the Byzantine Periods. For a summary of this workshop's accomplishments, go to <https://levantineceramics.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/lcp-cyprus-workshop-program-summary-opt.pdf>
- September 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, Cairo: Petrographic Analyses of Egyptian ceramics. For the program go to <https://levantineceramics.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/lcp-egyptian-petrography-program-2.pdf>. A full summary is currently in preparation.

**Numbers:** We gained 42 new contributors this year, along with additional information in every category of information on the site:

| category     | as of<br>Nov. 1,<br>2016 | as of<br>Nov. 1,<br>2017 | <i>increase of</i> |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Contributors | 194                      | 236                      | 42                 |



|                      |      |      |            |
|----------------------|------|------|------------|
| Ceramic wares        | 314  | 371  | <b>57</b>  |
| Petro-fabrics        | 58   | 71   | <b>13</b>  |
| Vessels              | 6067 | 6604 | <b>537</b> |
| Petrographic samples | 5037 | 5125 | <b>88</b>  |
| Kilns                | 12   | 20   | <b>8</b>   |

### What's next?

We have four workshops planned for winter/spring 2018:

- February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem: Petro-fabrics of northern Israel
- April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem: Petro-fabrics of southern Israel and the Jordan Valley
- May 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Ege University, Izmir: Ceramic Wares of Turkey from the Archaic to the Roman eras (7<sup>th</sup> c. BCE – 6<sup>th</sup> c. CE)
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Nieborów Palace, Warsaw, in conjunction with the University of Warsaw's Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology: Ceramic Wares of Egypt in the Ptolemaic, Roman, and Byzantine eras

In August 2017 the LCP received a generous donation from Joseph Weinstein, a scientist who has been working for many years on the petrography and chemistry of ceramics from Qumran and elsewhere in the southern Jordan Valley. Joe offered to underwrite the preparation of photographs and full descriptions of archival slides of petrographic samples from Kathleen Kenyon's excavations at Jericho (Tell es-Sultan) and Jerusalem. The slides were originally prepared by Henri Franken and his assistants, and are now kept in the archives of the Laboratory for Ceramic Studies in Leiden. The petrographic analyses were previously published by Franken, but without photographs. Joe contacted Dennis Braekmans, formerly of the laboratory in Leiden and now of Cranfield University (UK). Dennis remains a guest researcher at Leiden, and he agreed to take on the job of preparing the images and their full descriptions for submission to the LCP. The plan is to upload all this new material by December 2017. It is this project that inspired the organization of the April workshop devoted to petro-fabrics of southern Israel and the Jordan Valley, which both Joe and Dennis will attend.

Finally, in summer 2018 we will also begin work on the second part of our project agreement with the Austrian FWF, to build an interactive map layer for LCP data. Stay tuned!

### *The Ancient Near East Today* (Alex Joffe)

#### General

ANEToday is ASOR's non-scholarly, web-based platform, designed as a monthly outreach, fundraising, and educational vehicle through the Friends of ASOR initiative. Items are pushed out by email and are posted on the website.

With few exceptions, each issue is anchored by at least one piece dealing with Biblical texts, archaeology or history.

### **Changes in 2017**

1. As of 2017 individual features (along with news and other links) are pushed out weekly rather than once a month. This has been a successful change and implementation has not affected work flow.
2. As of summer 2017 ANEToday is also featured on the new ASOR home page. The ANEToday home page and pages for individual features are unchanged. These need to be updated (see below).
3. As of 2017 each month's features are available as a downloadable ebook. These are very popular and have led to new subscriptions. There have also been thematic ebooks on the Philistines and other topics that have proven popular.
4. More pieces are being republished (either in edited form or in full) from other sources such as the Oxford University Press blog. Authors, websites and publishers have been grateful for the opportunity to appear in ANEToday and more such synergies are expected.
5. In September 2017 an advisory committee was formed to align ANEToday with the oversight practices of other ASOR publications. The committee consists of:

Norma Franklin  
Sue Laden  
Chris Tuttle  
Steve Dana

The responsibilities of the committee are:

1. To examine lists of submissions consisting of names of authors, provisional titles, and brief summaries, in order to oversee content;
2. To read the occasional manuscript should it appear controversial or problematic;
3. To suggest authors and, with prior consultation with the editor, to solicit authors directly;
4. To convene at the annual meeting to review matters.

Andy Vaughn and Susan Ackerman are ex officio members of the committee.

The committee is contacted once a month with an updated list of items in the queue. We plan to have a brief meeting in Boston to discuss matters.

6. ANEToday has extended a standing invitation to ASOR's Cultural Heritage Initiative for contributions. None have been forthcoming. We continue to feature cultural heritage issues through other contributions, including features, image galleries, and link sets.

7. Unfortunately, ANEToday remains identified with and located on the ASOR Blog. This should be changed (see below).

### **Metrics**

1. As of November 2017 there will have been 56 issues of ANEToday with a total of 297 feature articles.

2. As of 18 October 2017 ANEToday has 14,866 subscribers (up from ca. 12,000 subscribers in 2016). Of those 18 October subscribers, 4793 opened the mailing, 1339 clicked on an item, and ca. 700 opened the feature. News and other items got 1-4% of the clicks.

3. From 1 November 2016 to 18 October 2017 there have been 110 solicitations for contributions (66 said yes, 4 said may or try later, and 15 did not reply). Fifty-six items were received (a few of which had been solicited up to two years ago). Since the inception of the project there have been over 600 solicitations.

4. In general response rates are improving and most authors appear pleased for the opportunity to appear in ANEToday. Anecdotally, more scholars appear to have heard of the platform.

5. From November 2016 to November 2017 59 features will have been published. As of 18 October there are 23 items in the publication queue. This is a substantial improvement over previous years.

6. The ANEToday editor is contracted for 60 hours of work per month. Approximately 40 hours are spent on acquisitions (searching for material, contacting authors, etc.) and the remainder on editorial work (editing manuscripts, dealing with images, etc.).

7. The ASOR media staff member spends approximately one half a day per week setting up each mailing and monitoring associated social media. One full day per month is spent setting up the ebook. Two staff members spend approximately two hours per week troubleshooting articles.

### **Future Needs and Recommendations**

1. Substantial revisions to the back end of the content management system are necessary to improve functionality and to modify templates. The content management system is already jury-rigged and further changes must be contracted to Informz. This should be done with a view to comprehensive restructuring, not simply fixes to individual features.
2. A full separation of ANEToday from the ASOR Blog should be undertaken. ANEToday is not a blog but something closer to an e-zine or e-newsletter. A separate set of domain names should be acquired and existing web pages should be relabeled for ANEToday. A rebranding campaign should be undertaken. The ASOR Blog should be rethought, perhaps as a curated platform for very short invited comments by ASOR leaders, or eliminated.
3. A comprehensive redesign for the ANEToday home page and feature pages should be undertaken. Again, this should include new domain names to separate ANEToday from the ASOR Blog and links should be updated accordingly.
4. The mobile version of ANEToday must be made fully functional and properly marketed.
5. Advertising via Google Ads and other social media platforms should be undertaken, particularly in light of rebranding.
6. An enhanced presence on Instagram and other social media should be undertaken, particularly in light of rebranding.
7. Chinese and Spanish language editions should be explored. These are potentially large markets.
8. Support should be sought for purpose made short videos and new podcasts.
9. The editor's salary should be raised to reflect the true scope of responsibilities.