

**Report of the Committee on Publications
To The Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees of ASOR
Submitted by Jeffrey A. Blakely, Vice-President
11 November 2008**

In the six months since the May Trustee Meeting in Philadelphia there has been progress in many aspects of publications. The credit for these successes in publications rests with the good work of our editors and with our Interim Vice-President of Publications, Joe Greene, who oversaw much of this work during the summer. My report will be divided into three parts: current status, issues facing COP, and action items coming from COP. There is also an appendix, the complete reports of the various editors of ASOR publications.

Current Status:

BASOR, edited by James M. Weinstein.

BASOR 351 (August 2008): Came out in late October.

BASOR 352 (November 2008): Final article for issue submitted to Eisenbrauns for typesetting on 11/8/08; remainder of issue already in typesetting or first proofs. Issue about 5 weeks behind schedule.

BASOR 353 (February 2009): Will begin copyediting of articles for issue in early December. Book reviews for this issue already at page proof stage. Hope to have journal back on schedule as of this issue.

BASOR 354 (May 2009): Issue already filled.

BASOR 355 (August 2009): Expect issue to be filled by end of December or January.

NEA, edited by Ann E. Killebrew

NEA 71 (1-2) (March-June 2008): Came out in mid-September 2008.

NEA 71 (3) (September 2008): Scheduled to appear during the meetings.

NEA 71 (4) (December 2008): Currently in copyediting and layout; scheduled to appear in January 2009

NEA 72 (1) (March 2009): Articles in hand and being edited; scheduled to appear March 2009

JCS, edited by Piotr Michalowski

JCS 60 (2008): Scheduled to appear in Spring 2009

ASOR Annual, series editor Nancy Serwint

AASOR 63, *Views from Phlamoudhi, Cyprus*, edited by Joanna Smith appeared October 2008

AASOR 64, *Reflections of Empire: Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives on the Pottery of the Ottoman Levant and Beyond*, edited by Bethany Walker.

Contract signed, manuscript currently undergoing revision, scheduled to appear in Summer 2009.

ASOR Archaeological Reports Series, series editor Joseph A. Greene
Shechem IV: The Persian-Hellenistic Pottery of Shechem/Tell Balât'ah, by Nancy.

Contract signed, manuscript currently in production, scheduled to appear in December 2008

The Joint Expedition to Caesarea Maritima Excavation Reports, Volume IX

Field O: "Synagogue" Site, by Marylinda Govaars, Marie Spiro and L. Michael Whiteby. Contract signed, manuscript edited, and production to begin once the Shechem volume is complete. Scheduled to appear in Winter 2009.

JCS Supplement Series, series editor Piotr Michalowski

On the Third Dynasty of Ur: Studies in Honor of Marcel Sigrist, edited by Piotr Michalowski appeared in November 2008.

Issues Facing Publications:

This is the end of the editorial terms of Nancy Serwint, editor of the *ASOR Annual*, and of Joseph A. Greene, editor of the Archaeological Report Series. Each has spent six years editing their series on behalf of ASOR. The Committee on Publications and ASOR owe these individuals their most hearty thanks and deep appreciation for their time and efforts these past years. As of 1 January 2009 Joseph A. Greene will become editor of the *ASOR Annual* and Kevin M. McGeough will become editor of the Archaeological Report Series, each serving an initial three-year term. We expect a smooth transition.

In the past year great progress has been made in getting our journals caught up. We are almost there. At the current time *NEA* is about four weeks behind, *BASOR* about four weeks behind, and *JCS* about four months behind. It is expected that both *NEA* and *BASOR* will be on time by March, 2009.

During this past year a cost test was conducted to determine the marginal costs of potential upgrades (e.g., color and more pages) to *BASOR*. The costs are not yet fully tabulated, but these numbers will be used in the budgeting process for *BASOR* next year. The Executive Director has prepared a report detailing these expenses. As more data come in this report will be updated and be placed on file in the Boston Office.

With *NEA* now being close to caught up, we have been able to bill our subscribing individuals and institutions for future issues. What we are experiencing is a drop in such subscriptions. Undoubtedly part of this is institutions not wanting to pay for the same journal twice in one fiscal year, but the drop may also reflect some aspect of a shift in college libraries from paper to electronic subscriptions to journals. It may also be a continuing impact of the name change from *BA* to *NEA*. COP will be discussing this in Boston.

It has been a number of years since ASOR sought bids for printing all of its journals and books. It is the belief of the Executive Director and the Vice-President for Publications that we should be seeking such bids over the next few months, preferably before the next

budgeting cycle. The Executive Director, Vice-President for Publications, and journal editors of ASOR plan to meet with at least one potential bidder in Boston.

The Vice-President for Publications has struck an ad hoc committee within COP to practice prophecy and to suggest a variety of ideas regarding how ASOR might move publications into the vanguard of the electronic age. These ideas will be reported to COP for discussion and a recommendation. Based on those discussions a report will be prepared for discussion by the EC and the Board.

The Executive Director recently attended a conference in Detroit. One topic discussed was “libel tourism.” The Executive Director will be presenting these issues to COP in Boston. COP will be discussing how ASOR can be better prepared to defend itself against potential libel suits.

Eric Meyers, Tim Harrison, Andy Vaughn, and Jeff Blakely have been in contact with Oxford University Press about updating *OEANE*. I suggest that any discussion of this topic be led by Eric Meyers.

The Vice-President for Publications has begun the process of reorganizing COP. The first issue being addressed is identifying and assigning all tasks that need to be completed in order to publish each of ASOR’s publications. With a better understanding of these tasks the job descriptions for those working on publications can be modified to reflect reality. Discussions between the President and the Vice-President for Publications suggested that the reorganization plan for COP be presented to the EC and Board as one integrated document and not as a series of piecemeal changes.

The current financial downturn has cut into the reserves in the Opportunity Fund. The financial report of the Opportunity Fund is included in the Treasurer’s Report. In addition, COP will probably discuss improving the scheduling on publications that need subventions so that large shifts in the balances of the Opportunity Fund are minimized.

COP also has planned to discuss unifying the standards for illustrations in all ASOR publications.

Action Items:

Item 1. COP moves that Mitch Allen be confirmed to serve a second three-year term as a COP member of the Class of 2011.

Item 2. COP moves that Christopher Rollston, Jane Cahill West, and Bill Schniedewind be confirmed to serve a four-year term on the *BASOR* Editorial Board, 2009-2012.

Item 3: COP moves that Gabriele Fassbeck and Jennie Ebeling be confirmed to serve as Assistant Editors of *NEA*.

Appendix.

BASOR, Edited by James W. Weinstein

BASOR 351 (August 2008): Came out in late October (4-5 weeks later than planned).

BASOR 352 (November 2008): Final article for issue submitted to Eisenbrauns for typesetting on 11/8/08; remainder of issue already in typesetting or first proofs. Issue about 5 weeks behind schedule.

BASOR 353 (February 2009): Will begin copyediting of articles for issue in early December. Book reviews for this issue already at page proof stage. Hope to have journal back on schedule as of this issue.

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I am currently searching for a new library assistant to check bibliographies for the journal; my most recent helper at Cornell has stepped down to spend more time on his academic studies. Several candidates from other universities have already applied for the position.

ASOR Archaeological Reports Series
Series Editor, Joseph A. Greene

ARS MSS IN PRODUCTION

-Shechem Persian-Hellenistic, West Bank (N. Lapp) [TO APPEAR BY END 2008]

-Caesarea Synagogue, Israel (M. Govaars) [TO APPEAR START OF 2009]

ARS MSS ACCEPTED, AWAITING REVISION

-Iskander, Jordan (S. Richard)

ARS MSS NOW UNDER REVIEW

-Ayl-Ras en Naqab Archaeological Survey (ARNAS) (B. MacDonald)

ARS PROPOSALS ACCEPTED, AWAITING MSS [MS promised-by date, if available]

There are several accepted ARS proposals (all final excavation reports) for which I am awaiting the finished MSS.

-Caesarea Promontory, Israel (K. Gleason) [NOT YET RECEIVED]

-Humayma, Jordan (J. Oleson) [PROMISED BY END OF 2008]

-Idalion, Cyprus (P. Gaber) [NOT YET RECEIVED]

-Phlamoudhi-Melissa, Cyprus (J. Smith) [NOTE: This is the final excavation report for one of two sites excavated in the 1970s by Edith Porada,

-Roman Aqaba, Jordan (T. Parker) [PROMISED BY END OF 2008]

-Wawiyat, Israel (B. Nakhai and J. P. Dessel) [NOT YET RECEIVED]

ARS INQUIRIES, AWAITING PROPOSALS

-Shechem Iron Age (J. Holladay)

-Tell er-Ras (R. J. Bull)

ARS PORPOSAL WITHDRAWN, BUT WITH PLANS TO RESUBMIT

-Cadir Hoyuk, Turkey (S. Steadman)

ARS MSS REJECTED, NO REVISIONS YET PROMISED

-Tell Taanach, West Bank (M. Meehl)

-Wadi Tumilat Survey, Egypt (C. Redmount)*

* Rejected before I became ARS editor in January 2003; I do not think the Wadi Tumilat MS will be resubmitted in the foreseeable future.

Report – ASOR *Annual*
N. Serwint, Series Editor

Joanna Smith

Views from Phlamoudhi, Cyprus

Published as ASOR *Annual*, Vol. 63

Bethany Walker

*Reflections of Empire: Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives
on the Pottery of the Ottoman Levant and Beyond*

7 chapters, 7 contributors, ~ 200 pages

Contract signed; manuscript currently undergoing revision

Michael Toumazou
Nick Kardulias
Derek Counts

*Crossroads and Boundaries: The Archaeology of Past and Present in the
Malloura Valley, Cyprus*

8 chapters, 27 sub-chapters, 24 contributors

**Proposal received
Pending receipt of manuscript**

Oded Borowski
Al Leonard

Food and Foodways in the Ancient Near East

Inquiry for publication received
**Editors are culling contributions
Pending receipt of proposal
Pending receipt of manuscript**

Eddie Maher

Ties that Bind....Ties that Unwind

Inquiry for publication received

NEA, Edited by Ann E. Killebrew

Beginning with NEA 71/3, I assumed duties as editor of NEA. The assistant editors include Gabriele Fassbeck, Justin Lev-Tov and Benjamin Porter. Billie Jean Collins continues to serve as the Managing Editor.

NEA 71/3, a 48 page issue, is currently with Cadmus and should reach subscribers by the end of November. Included in the issue are:

Feature Article:

Between the Carmel and the Sea: Tel Dor's Iron Age Reconsidered (Ayelet Gilboa and Ilan Sharon)

Forum: Archaeologists and the Media:

TV and the Near Eastern Archaeologist (Eric H. Cline)

Still Not Ready for Primetime (Neil Asher Silberman)

TV Archaeology is Valuable Storytelling (Cornelius Holtorf)

Archaeology and the Media: A Review (Ann E. Killebrew)

FieldNotes:

Babylon: Myth and Truth, an Exhibit at the Pergamon Museum (Paul Delnero)

Shuqayra al-Gharbiyya: A New Islamic Compound in Central Jordan (Younis M. Shdaifat and Zakariya N. Ben Badham)

Reviews:

The Looting of the Iraq Museum, Baghdad: The Lost Legacy of Ancient Mesopotamia (reviewer: Reinhard Bernbeck)

From Slave to Pharaoh: The Black Experience of Ancient Egypt (reviewer: Stuart Tyson Smith)

NEA volume 71/4 will be a 64 page issue. It has been sent to Billie Jean Collins for copyediting and preliminary layout. The manuscripts that are scheduled to appear (depending on length after second copy editing and layout) include:

Feature articles:

Jordan's Stonehenge: The Endangered Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age Site at Al-Murayghât —Hajr al-Mansûb (S. Savage)

Testing the Function of Early Bronze Age I Dolmens: A GIS Investigation (A. al-Shorman)

The Archaeology of Warfare: Local Chiefdoms and Settlement Systems in the Jenin Region During the Ottoman Period (H. Salem)

Forum:

Recovering the Past: Protecting and Recording our Archaeological Heritage in Southern Iraq (A. Abdulamir)

A Focus on the Demand Side of the Antiquities Equation (M. Kersel)

FieldNotes:

MFA review: Art and Empire at the MFA

Leaping bull (A. Yenner)

Rainey Interview

Reading Ancient Moabite Pigments with Laser Ablation ICP-MS: A New Archaeometric Technique for Near Eastern Archaeology (B. Porter)

Book Reviews:

Trade and Travel

An Archaeological Search for Jesus

The Cesnola collection

A History of Pottery and Potters

Mesopotamia: The Invention of the City

NEA volume 71/4 should be sent to subscribers in January 2009

I am slowly working through the backlog of, at times problematic, manuscripts and have a large number of high quality manuscripts that come in weekly. My policy will be to intersperse the problematic manuscripts that were accepted by previous editors with more recent and high quality submissions to keep the interest level and quality of NEA as high as possible during the transition between editors and obligations made to contributors by previous editors. We are beginning to work on a special (possible double issue) on the Neo-Hittites. I anticipate that NEA will be completely up to date beginning with 72/1.