

## Report of the Committee on Publications

To The Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees of ASOR

Submitted by Jeffrey A. Blakely, Vice-President

1 April 2010

### Activity Since the Annual Meeting

For the past year COP has focused much of its attention on issues relating to the pre-press, production, and printing of ASOR's books and journals. Bids were sought for almost every aspect of production. In the end substantial savings have been achieved in the production of all journals and books. This was accomplished through open discussions with the editors regarding their needs and then hard negotiating with a variety of vendors, all by our Executive Director Andy Vaughn. These savings will be key factors in maintaining ASOR's financial well being for the next few years.

Our contractual relationship with Atypon to place our current journals online became operational in January. Now all ASOR members and subscribers can choose an electronic option. We are monitoring the impact of this new option on membership and subscriptions. It is my personal opinion that ASOR will have to modify its fee structure, if not the meaning and expectations of membership, in part based on how electronic dissemination changes the dissemination of our publications. In addition, Andy Vaughn and the journal editors have been working to update author contracts so that they better reflect the reality of electronic publication.

At most times over the past years and decades ASOR's journals have been running behind. As has been noted at past EC and Trustee meetings, this has had a wide variety of negative impacts on ASOR. If you examine the Editors' Reports Appendix you will note that while we remain a bit behind, ASOR's journals are in their best position in terms of timeliness that we have seen in many years. *NEA* is just a few weeks late, *BASOR* is about seven weeks late, and *JCS* is set to appear on time this summer. It seems likely that on 30 June 2010, the end of our fiscal year, that none of the journals will be sufficiently late to have any impact on our financial statements. I greatly appreciate the hard work of the editors, their teams, the publications staff in Boston, and our executive director in reaching this point.

*BASOR* Editor James Weinstein has noted, however, that we may encounter some additional delay with the August and November issues of *BASOR*. Our new production agreement with Eisenbrauns requires us to submit all files in a custom unicode font. Few have seen this new font and it is still unclear how easy or hard it will be for the authors to use the font and then how much work it will take our editors to fix the files if the authors have any problems with it. I have used this new font in a beta version and have found it easy to use, but if one has a long section of text with many diacritical issues it may be slow to input since it will not match any existing keyboards or macros.

Eric Meyers was in contact with Damon Zucca of Oxford University Press in January. At that time we were informed that OUP did not wish to proceed with a second edition of OEANE, at least in the format we had been discussing. At the present time we view this project as terminated. I note that another publisher has expressed an interest in the larger encyclopedia idea but that we are not pursuing this possibility at the present time.

Finally, Tim Harrison, Andy Vaughn, the editors and COP have discussed the idea of seeking a new Publications position based in the Boston office. This would be in accord with ideas laid out in the Proposed Strategic Plan.

### Upcoming Issues

At the present time the terms of our editors are half way through their three-year terms (except for the editor of *JCS*; that position having no designated term length). Therefore, at the end of 2010, COP needs to organize its search to nominate new editors or to renominate the current editors. COP is supposed to pass the new editorial names to the EC and the ASOR Trustees at the Spring Meeting of 2011.

I believe that if we seek to change an aspect of a journal or book series in a significant manner that this change should be addressed before we seek a new editorial term so that a potential editor can make an informed decision if they seek to edit the journal/series in its newly revised form. Toward that end, I plan to initiate discussion within COP on three issues related to our publications and our editors. Each of these three issues fit within the actions suggested by the Proposed Strategic Plan.

First, given that our journals and *AASOR* are now electronic we have the question of whether *AASOR* should be viewed by us as a journal and prepared in that manner and on a set schedule. Some members of COP strongly advocate for this position. If we were to go in this direction then we also must consider how such a change would impact the Annual's mission and content.

Second, given current technology the nature of a final archaeological report is changing. There is a strong movement to place data permanently on the web so that it is accessible electronically in a form that can be manipulated. If one does this then the actual report can be much shorter and be largely argument, discussion, and conclusions. Should the ARS go in this direction and require or assume that reports be prepared in this manner?

Third, for four years Ann Killebrew has advocated that *NEA* be an electronic or web-based journal. In 2006 the EC was strongly opposed to this view seeing a need for both print and electronic. As of 1/1/2010 the current issues of *NEA* are available both electronically and in print. With Ann now the editor of *NEA* I believe that COP should entertain this discussion if Ann seeks it before COP begins any deliberations on the next editorial cycle. From my own perspective I tried to initiate a discussion within COP on the bigger question of what mission *NEA* should fill for ASOR, but no one else wanted to undertake such a discussion.

**Appendix: Editors' Reports**

James M. Weinstein, Editor: Status of **BASOR**:

**BASOR** 357 (February 2010): [status edited by JAB, appeared 5 April 2010].

**BASOR** 358 (May 2010): Articles being copyedited in March, book reviews already in proofs, issue should be out in late June.

**BASOR** 359 (August 2010): Articles being revised by authors, book reviews already typeset.

**BASOR** 360 (November 2010): Manuscripts out for review.

Piotr Michalowski, Editor: Status of **JCS** and **JCS** Supplement Series

**JCS** Vol. 62 has been edited and is being typeset by Billie-Jean Collins; I have received the first batch of articles from her, made some comments, and she will be making changes and sending proofs to authors any day. The second supplementary volume, by Seth Richardson on Late Old Babylonian texts, has been read by two reviewers and he is making changes. We should have it in a month so that it can be typeset after **JCS**. Half the volume consists of plates that have been prepared "camera ready," or whatever the electronic equivalent is, so that only c. 90 pp. have to be typeset. This will cut down on expenses.

Ann E. Killebrew, Editor: Status of **NEA**

[by JAB, March 2010 issue is scheduled to appear week of 13 April 2010]

Kevin M. McGeough, Editor: *Archaeological Report Series*

1. ARS MSS in press

-ARS 14: Iskandar, Jordan (S. Richard) – galleys have been returned – going to press ASAP

-ARS 15: Humayma, Jordan (J. Oleson) – in production at DBBC

-ARS 16: Ayl-Ras en Naqab Archaeological Survey (ARNAS) (B. MacDonald) – in “line” for production at DBBC

2. ARS MSS ACCEPTED, AWAITING REVISION

-none

3. ARS MSS NOW UNDER REVIEW

-none

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

-Idalion, Cyprus (P. Gaber) [PROMISED BY September, 2009]

-Akko, Israel (A. Brody) [This was a proposal that was initially accepted but then ‘pulled’ by the author. The author has decided to proceed with publication in ARS and so the proposal has been ‘re-activated’ based on prior review].

I have not yet had contact with these authors:

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

-Phlamoudhi-Melissa, Cyprus (J. Smith) [PROMISED BY END OF 2008, NOT YET RECEIVED]

-Roman Aqaba, Jordan (T. Parker) [PROMISED BY JUNE 2009]

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

5. ARS proposals under review

-“Embodying Dilmun: Embodying Dilmun: The Peter B. Cornwall expedition to Eastern Saudi Arabia and Bahrain” – Ben Porter and Alexis Boutin

6. ARS INQUIRIES, AWAITING PROPOSALS

-Shechem Iron Age (J. Holiday)

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

-Caesarea Mithraeum (A. Ratzlaff)

-Athienou, Cyprus (M. Toumazou, D. Counts) [ADDED NOVEMBER 2008]

-Phlamoudhi-Vounari (M. Horowitz)

-Dhibon (Morton Excavations), Jordan (Bruce Routledge)

#### 6.5 ARS QUERIES, UNDECIDED ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL SUBMIT

-Kourion's Amathous Gate Cemetery (Michael Given)

-Cyprus Conference Proceedings for CAARI Monograph Series (Thomas Davis) [just a query, awaiting conference group decision]

-Tell en-Nasbeh (EB I), Israel (Catherine Foster)

#### 7. ARS PORPOSAL WITHDRAWN, BUT WITH PLANS TO RESUBMIT

-Cadir Hoyuk, Turkey (S. Steadman)

Joseph A Greene, Editor: *AASOR*

1. Title: Reflections of Empire: Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives on the Pottery of the Ottoman Levant and Beyond  
Author/Editor: Bethany Walker (ed.)  
Status: Published in October 2009 as *AASOR* 64.
2. Title: New Perspectives on the Iron Age Archaeology of Edom, southern Jordan  
Interim Studies of the Surveys, Excavations and Research of the Edom Lowlands Regional Archaeology Project (ELRAP) 2006-2008  
Author/Editor: Thomas E. Levy (ed.)  
Status: Proposal Accepted, MS promised mid March 2010
3. Title: Crossroads and Boundaries: The Archaeology of Past and Present in the Malloura Valley, Cyprus  
Author/Editor: Michael Toumazou, Nick Kardulias, Derek Counts (eds.)  
Status: Proposal Accepted, manuscript sent to reviewers March 16, 2010
4. Title: Excavations at Tel Zahara, Israel  
Author/Editor: Susan Cohen (ed.)  
Status: Proposal accepted, MS promised "spring 2010"
5. Title: Photographs of the American Palestine Exploration Society Taken by Tancrede Dumas  
Author/Editor: Rachel Hallote (ed.)  
Status: Proposal accepted, MS invited for submission
6. Title: Nelson Glueck's 1937 Excavations at Khirbet et-Tannur  
Author/Editor: Judith McKenzie

Status: Inquiry for publication received, no proposal received yet.

7. Title: Food and Foodways in the Ancient Near East

Author/Editor: Oded Borowski, Al Leonard (eds.)

Status: Inquiry for publication received by previous editor, no proposal received yet.

8. Title: Ties that Bind..., Ties that Unwind

Author/Editor: Ed Maher (ed.)

Status: Inquiry for publication received current editor, no proposal received yet.