

Report of the Committee on Publications
Submitted by Jeffrey A. Blakely, Vice-President
27 April 2011

Overview

Since the Annual Meeting in Atlanta much of the work in publications has been devoted to editing and publishing our journals and books, as it should be. We remain up to date in our journals (see attached reports of the editors), and review and editing of book series manuscripts have moved ahead. In Boston work continues to increase both memberships and subscriptions. Andy can detail those efforts, but in particular we need to highlight his successful negotiations with JSTOR for the distribution of our current journals starting next January. Continuing discussion with librarians has only reinforced my view that making this marketing and distribution choice was the best choice we can have made at this point in time.

At the present time Andy and Kevin in Boston and the journal editors are in discussion over changing the wording of our author's contract. This discussion was initiated because of both complications and restrictions faced when we seek the use of various illustrative materials under copyright to some large and prestigious institutions. The discussions have now expanded based on concerns about using images derived from recent and ongoing excavations.

In the attached report of Jim Weinstein you will note his concern over the lack of indemnification insurance covering the journal editors. His suggestion was to require that ASOR provide this insurance, either as part of a Bylaw or as a provision in the editors' contracts. Andy and I agreed that this should be included as a provision in future editors' contracts.

Most recently COP has been engaged in the renomination process for the editors of *NEA*, the Archaeological Report Series, and *The ASOR Annual*. As part of this process we asked the editors to provide a statement that describes their work, accomplishments, and problems over the past two and one half years, and then to provide a vision of where they wish to take their journal or series over the next three and a half years. Included in this statement was to be a discussion of any additional resources they thought they might require. The statements of Ann Killebrew, Kevin McGeough, and Joseph Greene accompany this report. In addition, these statements refer to two other documents that I prepared for CAP. One is my cash basis restatement of income and expenses for each book we have produced in our various book series over the past decade. The other is a summary of journal usage statistics covering all issues of all of our journals from the year they were first published through 2007. These statistics report usage during the year 2010. Both of these reports also accompany this report.

Action Items

There are four action items coming from COP. Two are fully independent, and two, while independent, are paired. The fully independent motions come first followed by the two that are paired:

1. COP moves that Kevin McGeough be reappointed as Editor of the Archaeological Report Series for a second term, covering the period 1 January 2012 through 31 December 2014.
2. COP moves that Joseph Greene be reappointed as Editor of the *ASOR Annual* for a second term, covering the period 1 January 2012 through 31 December 2014.

3. Since the name change from *Biblical Archaeologist* to *Near Eastern Archaeology* there has been no study or evaluation of the impacts, or even the advisability, of that change, and given the dramatic changes in publication and the development of the internet since that time, COP moves that after an evaluation of the impacts of that name change, both the current function and purpose of *NEA*, and both the potential future functions and purposes of *NEA* within ASOR, that recommendations regarding the future character and focus of *NEA* be implemented for the next editorial search and applied to the next editorship.
4. COP moves that Ann Killebrew be reappointed as Editor of *NEA* for a second term, covering the period 1 January 2012 through 31 December 2014.

Discussion Regarding *BASOR*

When I was first introduced to this field, Harry Thomas Frank and Herbert Gordon May, my first teachers, indicated that the standard for scholarship was *BASOR*. I believe this has been true for almost a century. In the years since I was first introduced *BASOR*'s production values have greatly improved and with the impeccable editing of Jim Weinstein I believe that *BASOR* stands as the leading journal in our field. The basic standards by which one would identify the leading journal in a field have remained constant since *BASOR* first appeared in 1919.

Given the rapid and recent development of electronic media, it is my opinion that journal standards in our field will shift in the immediate future. We can already see aspects of this shift in the hard sciences and we can be informed by them. What we see is a paradigm shift where the static printed version soon will no longer be the journal version of record, but instead it will be a dynamic electronic version with its multi-faceted possibilities. I cannot imagine all of the characteristics that will develop, but the most likely is the immediate posting on-line of print ready articles. This can be months before the articles appear paginated and in print, but now they would be immediately available to our community of scholars. Today this is common in the hard sciences. JSTOR Current Scholarship Program already hotlinks references and data bases; this will be crucial. It is likely that *BASOR* may need to alter aspects of its format to facilitate such capabilities. Finally, there will probably be a revolution in illustration. It will be possible to abandon static photographs or diagrams and replace them with dynamic, manipulatable sections, flyovers, 3-D reconstructions, or diagrams. Undoubtedly other possibilities will soon develop about which I have no inkling.

Last November we made the first step in this direction by deciding to invest in the JSTOR Current Scholarship Program. This adds the electronic component and provides a marketing and distribution system that should increase demand for our journals. Also, last fall when we ratified Jim Weinstein for another term as editor we did so fully aware of items Jim felt were necessary for *BASOR* to remain the leading journal in the field. The first is color. Most of our peer journals (e.g., *Antiquity*, *AJA*, *Levant*, *PEQ*, *ZDPV*) have color, and some have full color. *BASOR* has lost good articles, even by ASOR members, to other journals because we do not offer more than minimal color. In this transitional period for the journal I believe we need to move to full color in order to maintain the stature of the journal. Obviously, on line this is not an issue.

Jim's second request was to change *BASOR* from a printed quarterly to a printed semi-annual. This might be a more debatable request since the journal would be appearing only half as often, but if in the near future we posted articles on JSTOR in a continuous manner it would not matter how often we went to print.

The third item is a request to seek and appoint a highly qualified editor who would assist Jim and also be Jim's presumptive successor. I believe we should start this search process soon and seek an experienced editor who also has experience in electronic publication. The immediate appointment of such a person, if found, would allow that individual to work with Jim for about two years to learn the technical aspects of this journal while at the same time researching and establishing the protocols for *BASOR*'s transition from being primarily a print journal to primarily an electronic journal. This should ensure a smooth transition as the journal moves into a new realm and allow *BASOR* to maintain its position as the discipline's leading journal. By leading this transition we would help define the future publishing standards for our field.

We began this transition by joining the JSTOR Current Scholarship Program this past winter and in doing so we have incurred significant expenses that should diminish over the next few years as front-end fees decline and circulation increases. I believe that ASOR should continue investing in its journals by switching *BASOR* to full color as soon as possible. I anticipate this would incur an additional expense of about \$10,000 for the first full year we make this move, but that it would decline some over the succeeding years as demand for the electronic version increases and the print version declines.

These are topics Jim and I are discussing and they are issues we will raise with COP and with the ASOR membership in the near future. In the fall we may request funds to move to color starting with the first issue in 2012 or soon thereafter. We may also suggest printing *BASOR* on a semi-annual basis. I am well aware that discretionary cash within ASOR's budget is limited, so I wanted to present the ideas in case Board members desire to send ideas and comments at the very start of the process. The time to start this discussion is now.

Appendix: Editors' Reports:

BASOR: Editor James M. Weinstein

Current Status:

BASOR 361 (February 2011): Issue came out in late March.

BASOR 362 (May 2011): Articles were being copyedited and typeset as of early April; book reviews for issue are already at page proof stage. This issue will contain three major articles as well as an In Memoriam contribution from Andy Vaughn for Anson Rainey.

BASOR 363 and 364 (August and November 2011): Article manuscripts in final revision/ updating or having their bibliographies checked.

Discussions are underway with two guest editors for a promising theme issue for publication in the journal in late 2012; discussions also have been initiated for a second possible theme issue -- for publication sometime in 2013.

The editor of ***BASOR*** requests that ASOR provide Indemnification Insurance to its journal editors—either through the society's bylaws or the editor's contract. This request is of special importance to the editor of ***BASOR***, inasmuch as he has been the subject of a lawsuit brought by an author who over the years has filed multiple lawsuits in the Israeli court system. As members of the Executive Committee are already aware, the exact details of the lawsuit and judgment are unknown to ASOR management and the editor since no papers were served to either when the lawsuit was initially filed, neither was present at the time of the court hearing (whenever that took place), and neither was provided a copy of the judgment rendered by a local Israeli magistrate. All that is known is that a \$10,000 judgment in favor of the plaintiff was issued against the editor and ASOR, and that at least some of the related paperwork was subsequently delivered to the Albright Institute (which the plaintiff and court mistakenly believed to be part of ASOR).

The editor does not know whether he can be served with legal papers and/or barred from leaving Israel without payment of the judgment. However, he will not travel to Israel without written assurance that ASOR will provide him with Indemnification protection against the possibility of personal liability for the proper performance of his duties as editor of ***BASOR***.

Near Eastern Archaeology: Editor Ann E. Killebrew

The following is a report and update on *Near Eastern Archaeology* submitted to Jeffrey Blakely, chair of COP, as part of the publications report submitted to the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees.

Since the November 2010 Annual Meeting, the following issues of *NEA* have appeared, are currently with the printers or are in the planning stage:

***NEA* 73/4: (Appeared Dec. 2010):**

Aijlan: Locating the Estate of Amr b. al-As
by Jeffrey A. Blakely

Gender Transformation in Death: A Case Study of Coffins from Ramesside Period Egypt
by Kathlyn M. Cooney

FIELDNOTES

The Golden Graves of Ancient Vani
by Christine M. Thompson

Out on the Tiles: Animal Footprints from the Roman Site of Kefar 'Othnay (Legio), Israel
by Guy Bar-Oz and Yotam Tepper

REVIEWS

Excavations at Sepphoris, Volume 1: University of South Florida Probes in the Citadel and Villa
(Douglas R. Edwards)

The Tourists Gaze, the Cretans Glance: Archaeology and Tourism on a Greek Island
(John K. Papadopoulos)

Islamic Art and Archaeology of Palestine
(Bethany J. Walker)

The Quest for the Historical Israel
(Robert A. Mullins)

The Archaeology of Ritual
(Yorke Rowan)

NEA 74/1: (Appeared March 2011):

Palace and Village, Paradise and Oblivion: Unraveling the Riddles of Ramat Rahel
by Oded Lipschits, Yuval Gadot, Benjamin Arubas, and Manfred Oeming

FORUM

The Iron Age Chronology Debate: Is the Gap Narrowing?
by Israel Finkelstein and Eli Piasetzky

FIELDNOTES

Tabular Scrapers: Function Revisited
by Theresa M. Barket and Colleen A. Bell

Homicide at Aktopraklik, A Prehistoric Village in Turkey
by Songul Alpaslan-Roodenberg

REVIEWS

Nelson Glueck: Biblical Archaeologist and President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
(Joe D. Seger)

Ancient Mesopotamia at the Dawn of Civilization: The Evolution of the Urban Landscape
(Carrie Hritz)

NEA 74/2: (Manuscripts with Bob Buller; Scheduled to Appear in June 2011):

This issue includes a feature article on Tel Kinrot (Kinneret). The identification of Beth Saida (response by R. Arav to S. Notley's NEA article and response by S. Notley) and a response by A. Mazar to I. Finkelstein's chronology article in the last issue of NEA; FieldNotes includes a new subsection that features ASOR-affiliated projects; two museum reviews also appear in FieldNotes; and book reviews. I have been in touch with Sten LaBianca, chair of CAP, and I plan to include a list of ASOR affiliated digs along with a short paragraph/"blurb" by Sten regarding CAP and ASOR affiliated projects.

NEA 74/3: (In Preparation – includes feature article on Persian – Roman period Tel Dor)

Special thanks are due to the Assistant editors - Jennie Ebeling, Justin Lev-Tov, Gabriele Fassbeck and Robert Schick - for their excellent contributions and Christopher Conlan and Heather Heidrich for their help as editorial assistants. Bob Buller continues to be a pleasure to work with – and *NEA* never looked better! We continue to expand the scope of the on-line version of *NEA* - Dig-it-al (webmaster: Jennie Ebeling) - to include recent archaeological discoveries, poems and other less conventional essays on archaeology. We recently added a special section on teaching archaeology to undergraduates – there are some **fabulous articles including several essays and an iMovie** that were presented at the 2010 ASOR Annual Meeting session chaired by Eric Cline and Ellen Bedell.

JCS: Editor Piotr Michalowski

No information provided. **JCS** 63 is scheduled to appear before 1 July 2011. A second volume in the JCS Supplement Series appeared in February, *Texts from the Late Old Babylonian Period*, edited by Michalowski.

Archaeological Report Series: Editor Kevin McGeough

1. ARS MSS in press
-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 AWAITING FOR FURTHER REVISION BASED ON REVIEWS
-Idalion, Cyprus (P. Gaber)
3. ARS MSS NOW UNDER REVIEW
-none
4. ARS PROPOSALS ACCEPTED, AWAITING MSS

- “Humayma Excavation Project, 2: The Nabataean Campground and Necropolis, Byzantine Churches, and Early Islamic Domestic Structures.” (J. Oleson)
- CAARI Conference - “Cyprus and the Balance of Empires: From Justinian I to the Couer de Lion” (Charles Stewart)
- Caesarea Promontory, Israel (K. Gleason)
- “Embodying Dilmun: Embodying Dilmun: The Peter B. Cornwall expedition to Eastern Saudi Arabia and Bahrain” – Ben Porter and Alexis Boutin
- 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].
- Wawiyat, Israel (B. Nakhai and J. P. Dessel)

I have not yet had contact with these authors:

- Phlamoudhi-Melissa, Cyprus (J. Smith) [PROMISED BY END OF 2008, NOT YET RECEIVED]
- Roman Aqaba, Jordan (T. Parker) [PROMISED BY JUNE 2009]

5. ARS PROPOSALS UNDER REVIEW

- The Roman Marble Sculptures from the Sanctuary of Pan at Caesarea Philippi/Paneas (Israel) (E. Friedland)

6. ARS INQUIRIES, AWAITING PROPOSALS

- Tell Taanek EBA ceramics (Mark Ziese)
- 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)
- Tell en-Nasbeh (EB I), Israel (Catherine Foster)

7. ARS PORPOSAL WITHDRAWN, BUT WITH PLANS TO RESUBMIT

- Cadir Hoyuk, Turkey (S. Steadman)

ASOR Annual: Editor Joseph A. Greene

Status of AASOR

1. 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: Revised MS received January 2011, submitted for production
 Color: Full color, \$5K subvention promised to cover costs
 Scheduled as ***AASOR 65***
2. Title: Photographs of the American Palestine Exploration Society
 Taken by Tancrede Dumas

Author/Editor: Rachel Hallote (ed.)

Status: Proposal accepted, MS received March 2011, sent for review to outside readers

Color: Not needed

Likely to appear as *AASOR* 66 if accepted for publication

3. 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 now promised "Spring 2011," not yet received
Color: Full color, \$5K subvention promised to cover costs
Likely to appear as *AASOR* 67 if accepted for publication

4. Title: Excavations at Tel Zahara, Israel
Author/Editor: Susan Cohen (ed.)
Status: Proposal accepted, MS received March 2011, sent for review to outside readers
Color: Not requested

5. Title: Nelson Glueck's 1937 Excavations at Khirbet et-Tannur
Author/Editor: Judith McKenzie
Status: Inquiry for publication received, no proposal received yet.
Color: Not requested

6. 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.
Color: Not requested

Note: Nos. 4 and 5, depending on individual MS lengths and when MSS are received, could be combined in a single Annual for 2013.