

Supplemental Report of the Committee on Publications
To The Executive Committee of ASOR
Submitted by Charles E. Jones, Acting Vice-President
11 November 2011

NEA Editor search committee

Three members of COP were invited by Jeff Blakely, VP and Chair of COP to serve on The NEA Editor search committee: Charles Jones, Chair, Susan Ackerman, Lynn Swartz Dodd). The committee carefully reviewed the materials submitted by the four applications for the Editorship of Near Eastern Archaeology. We identified two of them as worthy of very serious consideration. The Committee discussed them at length, and invited each for an interview by telephone. The Committee again discussed the candidates and on Mon, 7 Nov 2011 sent a recommendation for the consideration of COP. It read as follows:

We hereby put forward the name of Thomas Schneider to COP and to the Executive Committee of ASOR.

The committee was highly impressed with the materials he presented in application for the NEA Editorship, and pleased with the interview we had on the telephone.

Thomas Schneider is an ideal candidate for the position. He brings an impressive record of scholarship and editorial experience and expertise. He demonstrated himself to be a careful student of NEA -- especially what it has been in two broad periods from 1998-2005 and 2005-2011 -- and offered an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of both these iterations of the journal. Based on that assessment he articulated a clear vision of where he would like to position himself as editor, in particular highlighting efforts he would like to take to broaden the journal's scope.

He is an effective multi-lingual communicator with broad interests in teaching students of the ancient Near East and Egypt, but also broader undergraduate audiences and the general public. He has been an editor not only for a traditional journal and book series focusing on the culture and history of antiquity, but also for the digital encyclopedia that focuses on Egypt. Hence, he has experience editing content for an Internet-accessible resource that is used widely by both academics and students, who are core audiences for NEA.

We believe he would ably and collegially participate in a conversation within ASOR about transforming NEA into a partly or wholly digital product while maintaining professional standards and timely publication schedules. With appropriate support, he could be editor of NEA if it were substantially transformed in future into a digital publication and were recast somewhat for greater attractiveness to a broader audience.

We recommend him unanimously and without reservation and we seek the endorsement of COP.

COP has been discussing the recommendation by email. I expect that a motion will be forwarded to the EC and the Board following the COP meeting on Friday morning, November 18th.