

**Report of the Committee on Publications
To The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of ASOR
Submitted by Jeffrey A. Blakely, Vice-President
8 September 2009**

As in my last report, it is my intent to keep the body of this report short. The report is supplemented by an Appendix which is an analysis of systemic subscription renewal issues that Andy Vaughn wrote. Appendix II provides current status of each journal/series provided by the editor.

Status of Our Journals (for a detailed catalogue see Appendix II)

During the summer the editors of all three journals continued to make strides to get our journals on-time after many years of being behind. Two issues of *NEA* have appeared 72 (1) and 72 (2) so that *NEA* is now within a few weeks of being fully caught up. *BASOR* 355, August 2009, is at the printer, so *BASOR* is only a couple of weeks from being fully caught up. *JCS* 60 for 2008 appeared and *JCS* 61 for 2009 (which should appear about July 1) has been corrected and also should be appearing very soon. This does not mean that we are fully caught up, but it does mean that we are viewed by many as being caught up and running on time. It is important to consolidate these gains and run on time from now on. All of the journal editors and their assistants should be heartily congratulated for their hard work in this effort.

Subscription Renewals and Claims

In my last report I laid out some of the problems that have lead to a flood of claims and problems in timely renewal of subscriptions. Unfortunately there are other issues that have come to light. I asked Andy to describe these and his report is included as Appendix I.

Renewal issues undoubtedly have lost us subscriptions and the resulting mountain of claims resulting from late payment for on-going subscriptions have cost us an enormous amount staff time and supplies. I have asked Andy and Sara Deon to provide their best estimate of the total cost of this type of claim, and they suggest it has cost us about \$9000 for the first 8 months of this year simply to deal with the unnecessary claims. The true cost of the issues with subscription renewals is unknown. The only way to resolve these issues is to keep the journals running on time ... and finally we are about there. Unfortunately it will probably take a full calendar year of running on time, until the end of 2010, for this drain on our resources to end.

Permissions for Illustrations

In his report on *BASOR*, Jim Weinstein has raised a new issue related to the acquisition of appropriate permissions for the use of illustrations in both print and electronic formats. Please read his report with great care on this issue. Currently this issue is being discussed

within COP. I will be able to report on the current status of those discussions at the EC Meeting. It is possible that some action may be requested.

Jim Weinstein asks that the President of ASOR, with the approval of the EC, write to the director of the museum in question and urge the museum to modify its policy in the case of academic journals.

Electronic ASOR Publications

For the past few years the eventual need to have ASOR's current publications be made available for sale or distribution in an electronic format has been raised by the journal editors, various members of COP, ASOR members in general, and Trustees. [For example, see the report of Jim Weinstein in Appendix II on this point, or the final note in my spring report.] Over the past year a compelling force was identified when we began to lose journal subscribers because they only wanted the journals in electronic formats. In May and June there was a discussion within COP, also including Tammi as VP for Membership, over the need to make journals available to institutions in the electronic format. Such an obvious decision, however, pretty well means that members also need to be provided with the electronic option. How does one implement this? In June Andy began to work through this process in detail. I refer you to the Report of the Executive Director for the plans of implementation for electronic availability.

Oxford University Press

After a delay on our part in responding to Oxford University Press over the preparation of a second edition of *OEANE*, discussions again began in July. There was an exchange of emails and now we await their responses to a variety of questions.

Offprint pdf's to Authors

On some occasions there have been delays in getting pdf's of articles to authors. The office staff and the editors are working to solve these issues.

NEA Editorial Staff

During the summer Ben Porter felt the pressure of overwork and resigned as an Assistant Editor for *NEA*. Ann suggested to COP that Robert Schick be appointed assistant editor in his place. COP voted unanimously in favor of this appointment. It is my understanding that this appointment gets passed to the EC and then the Board for confirmation.

Christopher Conlan, a graduate student at Catholic University, contacted Ann and asked if he could volunteer to help with *NEA*. Ann thought that this would be a good addition to the team and Ann suggested that Christopher Conlan be appointed a volunteer editor of *NEA*. COP voted unanimously in favor of this appointment. It is less clear to me whether the EC and then the Board needs any action on this point.

Appendix I: Comments on the Topic of Subscription Renewals by A. Vaughn

At the beginning of the summer (in June) we decided to react to the lack of renewals in our journals (primarily NEA but also BASOR and JCS) by calling every institutional subscriber. Our institutional subscribers are divided into two groups: those that subscribe directly from ASOR and those that subscribe through an agency (such as EBSCO or Swets). We called both those institutional subscribers who were agency customers and those who were direct ASOR customers. We discovered several things in these calls: 1) some schools had dropped our journals because of the need to cut back in tough economic times; 2) some schools had a strong preference for an online subscription option (some even only subscribing if the online option were available); and 3) many of the agency customers had renewed already but we had not received notice. Other agency customers had been told not to renew because NEA was behind.

The result of our conversations with the #3 group was that the libraries contacted the agencies (especially EBSCO) directly and complained that their payment had not been sent to ASOR. Many of these customers did not receive the March issue of NEA because we had not received payment. EBSCO subsequently called ASOR and was rather upset that ASOR had contacted "their" customers-- the libraries. EBSCO had listed NEA as "late" because it was not current in January when they did their subscription drive. They had thus been withholding payment until they marked NEA as current and had a chance to process the payments. When we asked them for a time frame for processing the payments now that NEA was close to caught up, they said that 1) NEA was still late because the June issue was mailed in July; and 2) they would process the payments "as soon as they could given their schedule" (or something to that effect). We still have not received many of the payments, but EBSCO has marked NEA as up-to-date.

Ann Killebrew, Billie Jean Collins, and the other editors with NEA have made much progress in getting NEA up-to-date, and I cannot underestimate the importance of their achievements in this regard. We spent much time contacting customers this summer because the journal had been listed as late by EBSCO and Swets. If the last issue of NEA is mailed in mid-December, that will go a long way toward helping with additional expenses due to claims and contacting libraries. The additional expenses for claims is about the same as Jeff estimated at the spring board meeting. We have been grouping claims when we receive a renewal (that is, mailing out all of the copies of NEA and BASOR due together) when we receive a late renewal. We also have a more refined system in place. These steps have saved some money. On the other hand, we had increased expenses this summer with a subscription drive where we contacted every individual subscriber possible by phone. My estimate is that the increased costs are about the same as they were in the spring or slightly higher because of the membership drive. These costs will drop dramatically if we can keep NEA and BASOR up-to-date. I should also add that Piotr Michalowski and Billie Jean Collins are to be congratulated on getting JCS caught up again (JCS 2009 is near ready for press right now). The key for the agencies and other customers is for us to mail the journals so that it is received by the month on the cover-- that is, we need to mail the August issue by July 15th so that it is received by August 1st. This will take about 12 months to achieve, but in the meantime I

think that we can have the journals received in the month that is printed on the cover.

I want to emphasize that all of the editors are making great progress in this regard (getting the journals mailed in the month printed on the cover), and this goal was only presented to them in the past year (we previously did not know how important this was). I appreciate the efforts of all of the editors and our contractors.

Appendix II: Reports of the Editors

BASOR: Editor James M. Weinstein

Current Status:

BASOR 355 (August 2009): BASOR 355 was uploaded to Thomson-Shore on 4 September.

BASOR 356 (November 2009): Began work on bibliographies for articles in late August, will start copyediting process in September; book reviews in first proofs. This issue will focus on the important new stela of Kuttamuwa and the Oriental Institute excavations at Zincirli.

BASOR 357 (February 2010): Articles and book reviews set, will start work on issue in November.

BASOR 358 (May 2010): Manuscripts for issue currently out for review and/or initial revision.

BASOR 2011: Manuscripts currently in preparation for a theme issue to appear in 2011 (probably BASOR 361 or 362).

Two issues affecting BASOR need to be addressed by the Committee on Publications and the Executive Committee.

1. It is become increasingly difficult and very time-consuming to get acceptable permission statements from various sources for the use of images in online distribution of the journal (e.g., in JSTOR). The principal reason is that certain commercial and non-commercial sources of images are insisting that while their images can be scanned at 300 dpi, they may only be displayed on-screen at 72 dpi. Such a restriction would compel BASOR to do one of three things (assuming that no acceptable substitutes for the images could be found).

1. Reject a manuscript containing images from such sources.
2. Have the online version of the article show illustrations at inconsistent resolutions; i.e., images from some sources would have to appear at low resolution.
3. Have the online version black out the images that would otherwise be shown at low resolution.

None of these options are appealing. Unfortunately, there are many images for which there is effectively only one source (especially images of objects in museum collections), so it's quickly becoming impossible to avoid the problem.

BASOR currently has a manuscript in final revision that cannot be accepted because the author and I have been unable to get a satisfactory permission statement from a

museum illustration source for two images. That source continues to insist on the 72 dpi restriction. I have spent an enormous amount of time in the past several months communicating with Jeffrey Hovis at JSTOR and the author, and especially in negotiating with the museum source -- probably more than 20 hours during the June-August period alone -- but there is still no resolution of the problem. Since the illustrations in question are critical to the paper, I have had to put the manuscript on indefinite hold. (A similar situation existed for a while with a manuscript currently in revision for the November issue of BASOR. The authors were unable to secure a satisfactory permission statement from a commercial licensor in New York because of the 72 dpi restriction; I have resolved that situation simply by instructing the author not to use the images in question inasmuch as they are not critical to the publication.)

The above is an example of a recurring problem that BASOR and other technical archaeological journals are having to face these days. The editor of a major American archaeological journal recently informed me that a commercial operation tried to impose a five-year limitation on the online display of an image after which the image would have to be removed from online display. The problem was successfully resolved only when the editor's staff was able to secure a usable illustration from another source. The journal's editor (as well as a British journal editor I recently consulted) has not yet had to deal with the 72 dpi problem. (As for the five-year online display limitation, that matter also came up at BASOR earlier this year, but I was able to negotiate it out of a permission statement.)

The image display problem BASOR is having with the museum source is one that will soon affect a great many academic journals and requires a decision on how ASOR wants to handle the matter. The situation is especially difficult to work through inasmuch as the museum source does not grant an image permission until after a journal has accepted a manuscript, at which point the author and editor discover that the entire peer review, manuscript revision, and final review process may have been a waste of time!

I need to know how COP and the EC wish to deal with this serious problem. Since the matter relates to ASOR's agreement with JSTOR and other online services, ASOR must provide immediate as well as long-term guidance. For the time-being, it would be most helpful if the president of ASOR, with the approval of the EC, would write to the director of the museum in question and urge the museum to modify its policy in the case of academic journals. (The editor of BASOR has been able to get a commercial distributor of images in New York City to state that its 72 dpi policy will not be applicable to the display of illustrations by JSTOR.)

For the record: All of these online display restrictions have involved illustrations coming directly or indirectly (the latter through a museum's authorized commercial distributor) from non-academic museums.

2. Online subscriptions are becoming absolutely essential to retaining contributors to BASOR. Other journals offering online subscriptions allow authors to publish their illustrations in color in the online version while maintaining the hardcopy version largely (or entirely) as a black-and-white publication. Some journals also permit authors to include extra amounts of data in the online version. We must offer an online subscription to BASOR and let authors publish color illustrations and perhaps extra data in the online copy (and permit at least occasional color illustrations in the hardcopy), and we should announce before the November annual meeting that online subscriptions will be available by a set date. Some archaeologists have not submitted manuscripts to BASOR after I informed them that we could not publish their illustrations in color (at least not unless they provided a full or partial subsidy to cover the cost).

The subject of online subscriptions to ASOR journals has been brought up for discussion at various times in the recent past. The ED, VP of COP, ASOR journal editors, and trustees need to make online subscriptions a reality as soon as possible.

NEA: Editor Ann E. Killebrew

Current Status: 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 ASOR Annual Meetings, the following issues of *NEA* have appeared, are currently with the printers, or are with Billie Jean Collins:

NEA 71/4 (64 page issue April 2009):

Feature Articles:

Tell Abu al-Kharaz: A Bead in the Jordan Valley The Millennial Rise and Fall of Its Societies (P. Fischer)

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. Abdulmir)

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

FieldNotes:

Art and Empire at the MFA (J. Chung)

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

Rainey Interview (S. Gitin and S. Scham)

Book Reviews:

Trade and Travel (K. Lewis)
An Archaeological Search for Jesus (G. Fassbeck)
The Cesnola Collection (L. Steel)
A History of Pottery and Potters (J. Blakely)
Mesopotamia: The Invention of the City (B. Parker)

NEA 72/1 (64 page issue – appeared June 2009):**Feature Article:**

Apollonia-Arsuf: Between Past and Future (K. Galor, O. Tal et al.)

Forum Section:

The Qumran Digital Model: An Argument for Archaeological Reconstruction in Virtual Reality (R. Cargill)
Responses (by J. Magness and R. Cargill)

FieldNotes:

Alalakh Krater (A. Yener)
Beyond Babylon: Art, Trade, and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium B.C. An Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (A. Karmel Thomason)
Pompeii and the Roman Villa: Art and Culture around the Bay of Naples. An Exhibit at the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. (E. Friedland)
Maresha Inscriptions Provide Context for a Royal Stele in the Israel Museum (I. Stern)
Jabal Harun – note and book advertisement

NEA 72/2 (48 page issue – appeared July 2009):**Feature Article:**

From the Stone Age to the Middle Ages: Digging up Tall al-Umayri (L. Herr and D. Clark)

FieldNotes:

New Iron Age Copper-Mine Fields Discovered in Southern Jordan: Erez Ben-Yosef, Thomas E. Levy and Mohammad Najjar
Whose Tail Did Nefermaat's Hunting Dog Bite? (Nicolas Manlius)

Reviews:

Crossing the Rift: Resources, Routes, Settlement Patterns and Interaction in Wadi Arabah (Hannah Friedman)
Biblical Peoples and Ethnicity: An Archaeological Study of Egyptians, Canaanites, Philistines, and Early Israel 1300-1100 B.C.E. (Avraham Faust)
Can There be a Philosophy of Archaeology: Processual Archaeology and the Philosophy of Science (Michael Brian Schiffer)

A Companion to the Ancient Near East (Gabriel H. Pizzorno)

NEA 72/3 (64 page issue – should appear in late September/early October 2009 – slightly delayed due to problems with Joe Zias’ manuscript and response)

Feature Article:

The Archaeology of Border Communities: Renewed Excavations at Tel Beth-Shemesh, Part 1: The Iron Age (Shlomo Bunimovitz and Zvi Lederman)

Forum

The Tzuba Cave of John the Baptist: John the Baptist or Lazarus, the Patron Saint of Leprosy? (Joe Zias with responses by Shimon Gibson and Adrian J. Boas)

FieldNotes

The Fertile Goddess at the Brooklyn Museum of Art: Excavating the Western Feminist Art Movement and Recontextualizing New Heritages (Uzma Z. Rizvi and Murtaza Vali)

The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt: An Exhibition at the Oriental Institute Museum, University of Chicago (Jean Li)

Book Reviews (depending on available space):

The Bible Unearthed: The Making of a Religion (Tristan J. Barako)

Mosaics as History: the Near East from Late Antiquity to Islam (Jane deRose Evans)

Bible, Map, and Spade: The American Palestine Exploration Society, Frederick Jones Bliss, and the Forgotten Story of Early American Biblical Archaeology (Jeffrey A. Blakely)

Homeric Seafaring (Yaacov Kahanov)

The Petra Siq: Nabataean Hydrology Uncovered (John Peter Oleson)

NEA issues in preparation:

NEA 72/4 (in process of being assembled)

Tentatively scheduled for NEA 72/4 (Special issue on the Neo-Hittites: Guest editor: Tim Harrison)

The Temple of the Storm-God in Aleppo During the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages. (K. Kohlmeyer, 12 pp; approx. 5,000 words; he has provided 24 images for us to choose from)

New Excavations at Zincirli--Ancient Sam'al. (D. Schloen, 30 pp; 10,000 words; 30+ images; David is in the process of producing a more abbreviated version of his paper)

Sea Peoples, Neo-Hittites and Aramaeans in the ‘Land of Palastin’: Renewed Investigations at Tell Tayinat on the Plain of Antioch. (T. Harrison, 15 pp; 5,000 words; 15-20 images to choose from)

Cilicia, Aleppo and the Amuq: New Evidence on the Late Bronze-Iron Age Transition. (D. Hawkins, 6 pp. single-spaced; approx. 4-5,000 words; mss. is in typescript, not yet in an electronic format; 1-2 images).

NEA 73/1: (Currently being worked on):

Suggested Feature Article: Tel Kinnorot with several shorter articles already edited and ready to go to BJ.

NEA 73/2: (Currently being worked on):

First issue devoted to the archaeology of Lebanon.

Due to the healthy backlog of manuscripts, I anticipate that most, if not all, of the upcoming issues will be 64 pages in length.

I would like to thank Jennie Ebeling, Gabriele Fassbeck, and Justin Lev-Tov, assistant editors of *NEA*, and to outgoing assistant editor Ben Porter for their excellent work and contributions to *NEA*. I also take this opportunity to welcome Robert Schick, to our team of assistant editors, and Christopher Conlan, who will join Heather Heidrich as an editorial assistant. We continue to update the *NEA* website and we are planning to expand the scope of the website to include recent archaeological discoveries and outreach initiatives with other ASOR committees.

One issue continues to be challenging: Pdf files are not being sent to authors in a timely manner. This is a very straightforward matter but for some reason Pdf files are problematic. I request that this issue is addressed and the problem resolved.

As already noted in my Spring 2009 report, I anticipate that NEA will be full caught up at the end of 2009.

JCS: Editor Piotr Michalowski

Eisenbrauns has just finished all the corrections to proofs of JCS 61 and we will go over those right away; then it goes to press. Depending on Thom-S's turnaround, it should be out soon. I am already collecting material for 62, so that one will be out on time as well. For the next issue I would like to solicit bids from both Th-S and Edwards Bros, who printed it for many years and did an excellent job. For now two bids should be enough.

ASOR Annual: Editor Joseph A. Greene

Current Status:

1. Title: Reflections of Empire: Archaeological and Ethnographic

Perspectives on the Pottery of the Ottoman Levant and Beyond
Author/Editor: Bethany Walker (ed.)
Status: In production, to be 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 September 2009
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 by previous editor, MS promised "fall 2009"
4. Title: Excavations at Tel Zahara, Israel
Author/Editor: Susan Cohen (ed.)
Status: Proposal accepted, MS promised "early 2010"
5. Title: Photographs of the American Palestine Exploration Society
Taken by Tancrede Dumas
Author/Editor: Rachel Hallote (ed.)
Status: Proposal under review
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, no proposal received yet.
8. Title: Ties that Bind..., Ties that Unwind
Author/Editor: Ed Maher
Status: Inquiry for publication received, no proposal received yet.

Archaeological Report Series: Editor Kevin McGeough

Current Status:

1. ARS MSS in press
-Iskandar, Jordan (S. Richard)
2. ARS MSS ACCEPTED, AWAITING REVISION
-Ayl-Ras en Naqab Archaeological Survey (ARNAS) (B. MacDonald)

3. ARS MSS NOW UNDER REVIEW

-Humayma, Jordan (J. Oleson)

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 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)

5.5 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)

-Bahrain Bioarchaeology Project (Tombs in the Hearst Museum Collection) (Ben Porter)

6. ARS PORPOSAL WITHDRAWN, BUT WITH PLANS TO RESUBMIT

-Cadir Hoyuk, Turkey (S. Steadman)