

**Report of the Committee on Publications To The Executive  
Committee of ASOR  
Submitted by Charles E. Jones, Chair  
11 November 2018**

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**Report of the Chair** (Charles Jones)

The central concerns of the Publications Committee have as always been in support of the editors. Their reports form the core of this document.

The Publications Committee met as usual at the Annual Meeting on 16 November 2017. The minutes of that meeting drawn from notes expertly taken by Inda Omerefendic have been prepared and will be posted on the ASOR website (<http://www.asor.org/committees/publications.html>) as soon as they have been approved.

At the 2017 meeting of the Publications Committee in Boston the following actions were taken:

The minutes of the 2016 meeting were approved.

A proposal that the Publications Committee undertake oversight of ANEToday and have its editor become an Editorial member of the Committee was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

The Committee agreed to move forward with the RFP for a publishing partner for ASOR's three journals.

Regular business of the Publications Committee take place over the course of the year by means of an archived mailing list: <https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/info/asor-cop> The traffic on the ASOR-COP list is preserved from November 2008 when it was established, to the present.

In November the Chair proposed that the Publications Committee change its practice to have nine non-editorial members, i.e. three classes of three members each, and that this be accomplished over time - adding an additional member each year for three years until we have the full complement. The committee agreed to this proposal and a call for nominations was issued through the ASOR offices.

In December the Executive Director circulated to and requested feedback from members of the Committee on, the confidential reports prepared by Mitch Allen on the proposals to the RFP made by six publishers.

In March the Executive Director circulated four confidential revised proposals from the finalist publishing partners. On 22 of March, following substantive comment from members of the Committee, the Executive Director announced that he and the President had selected the University of Chicago Press as ASOR's journal publishing partner.

In April Thomas Schneider proposed a slate of proposed members of the NEA Editorial Board.

In May Kevin McGeough's name was brought to the Chairs Nominations Committee of the Chairs Coordinating Council (CCC) in candidacy for the Chair of the Publications Committee. It was then recommended to the Executive Committee and will be acted upon by the Board in Denver.

On 29 June Thomas Schneider announced that as of September 1, 2018, he would be assuming the position of Associate Vice-President (International) at SUSTech – the Southern University of Science and Technology, in Shenzhen China, and his resignation as Editor of NEA at the end of 2018.

In August calls for nominations for the Editors of NEA and AASOR were issued to membership of ASOR. The Chair formed two Search Committees to review the candidates for these vacancies.

In September the Executive Director reported that the contract with the University of Chicago Press was finalized and passed along details of that contract pertinent to the work of the Editors.

In October the Committee approved a slate to fill the committee Class of 2020, retroactive to 1 January 2018: Patrick Alexander (to his second term), and new members Mara Horowitz (mara.horowitz@purchase.edu) and Jeff Howry (jhowry@fas.harvard.edu). The Board will act on this nomination in Denver

In October the search committee (Jones, McGeough, and Charaf) was unanimous in putting forth the name of Bill Caraher as the new editor for AASOR. The nomination was approved by the committee. The search committee (Jones, McGeough, and Cline) for the new editor for NEA announced plans to interview the two finalists.

All of the publications under the oversight of the Publications Committee continue to thrive and are up to date thanks to the diligent work of the editors and support staff: The three ASOR's journals, both active monograph series, ANEToday, and the Levantine Ceramic Project. Their reports appear below.

### **Editors' Reports**

***BASOR*** (Eric Cline, Chris Rollston)

We are pleased to report that seven issues of *BASOR* have now appeared under our co-editorship – nos. 373-379 (May 2015-May 2018) – and an eighth issue, *BASOR* 380 (November 2018), has just been shipped to the printer. It should appear in time to be on display at the 2018 ASOR annual meetings in mid-November.

The first two issues each contained 12 articles; since then we have settled on 10 articles plus book reviews in each issue, so that through *BASOR* 379 (May 2018) we have published a total of 74 articles in seven issues. However, this next issue (Nov 2018) includes two very long articles, so that there are only six articles in the issue, rather than ten, which means that we will end up having published a total of 80 articles in eight issues by the end of 2018, for an average of ten articles per issue. In addition, the May 2019 and Nov 2019 issues are already full with ten more articles accepted for each.

Overall, we have received nearly 200 submissions since beginning our co-editorship (197, to be precise). Of those, we have accepted approximately half -- 101 manuscripts -- for publication, all after one or more rounds of suggested revisions. In contrast, a total of 80 manuscripts were either rejected outright, sent back to their author(s) as unsuitable for publication in *BASOR* (with recommendations for a more suitable journal in some cases), or were withdrawn for similar reasons, at our suggestion. An additional seven manuscripts are currently in the hands of the author(s) with a “revise and resubmit” assignment and have not yet been returned, while nine more manuscripts are currently in the review process. We continue to strive to maintain the high standards set by the previous editors.

The online submission and review process for submitted manuscripts continues to work extremely well, as does the “publish before print” appearance on JSTOR when the new articles are ready. We have continued to post the articles in batches of three usually, with an announcement made in the *ASOR Newsletter*.

We would like to thank once again the members of our Editorial Board, all of the anonymous peer-reviewers, our wonderful copy-editors (Heather Heidrich and Carol Leyba), the staff at Eisenbrauns (especially Pam Nichols), and everyone in the Boston Office for their assistance in making all of this possible.

## **NEA (Thomas Schneider)**

In 2018, we published two regular issues (June and December; each 64 pp.) and two special issues (March and September). The March issue was the follow-up issue to December 2017, on the Tell eṣ-Şâfi/Gath Archaeological Project (with contributions focusing on the Iron Age; 96 pp.). The September issue, guest-edited by Sharon Steadman and Aaron Brody, was devoted to “Household Archaeology and Religion” (64 pp.). In 2017, for the 6th year in a row, Near Eastern Archaeology was ranked as a top archaeology journal (Q1) by Scimago’s ranking of academic journals:

<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=16400154764&tip=sid&clean=0> .

Given my new professional responsibilities, I decided in the summer of 2018 to resign from my editorship of NEA by December 31. I prepared and shared an overview of editorial responsibilities with COP and potential candidates for the editorship; I also suggested the use of ASOR editorial email addresses for the three ASOR journals to facilitate future changes in the editorship and allow ASOR staff access to the correspondence if needed. I am planning to collaborate with my successor to ensure a smooth transition in the editorship. I acknowledge with gratitude the excellent work that has been carried out in 2018 by NEA’s Managing Editor, Billie Jean Collins, Susanne Wilhelm at Lockwood Press, NEA’s Editorial Assistant (Julia Hsieh), Inda Omerefendic and the members of NEA’s editorial classes. As I am stepping down from my editorship, I would also like to thank all colleagues on COP and the leadership of ASOR very warmly for all their collegial support and friendship over the past seven years. It has been a deeply rewarding experience for me to serve ASOR as NEA editor, and I wish the journal, COP and ASOR all the best on their future paths!

## **JCS (Piotr Michalowski)**

The next JCS is full and it will easily be out on time. I look forward to meeting the UCP person at the meeting. The next supplement volume will be great -Gary Beckman’s *The Hittite Gilgamesh*. It is being reviewed, but I am sure there will be little to modify and it will go into production very soon. It is a very clean mss and I expect it to be out in a few month.

## **ASOR Annual (Kevin McGeough)**

### **Recently Published**

1. Title: Bayt Farhi and the Sephardic Palaces of Late Ottoman Damascus

Author/Editor: Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis

Color: Yes

Subvention: ca \$5000 offered (with additional subvention possible)

### **In press**

1. *Excavations at Tel Jezreel 1995-1996: Final Report on the Stratigraphy and Neolithic-Iron Age Pottery from Area A, I* by Gloria London and Charlotte Whiting.

### **Manuscript Accepted, Awaiting Revisions**

1. None

### **Manuscript Received, Awaiting Reviews**

1. *The Excavations of Iraq al-Amir, Volume II*, edited by Nancy Lapp, With contributions by Michael S. Zimmerman, Daniel Ulvoczky, Nicolas Hudson, Adam Hartman, and Nancy L. Lapp

### **Long Articles Received, Awaiting Reviews**

1. "Forty Years of Modern Human Impact on Ancient Sites in Lebanon, Based on Comparative Satellite Image Classification," by Stephen H. Savage

### **Proposals Accepted, Awaiting Manuscript**

1. Title: Taanach Volume and Iraq al-Amir Volume

Author/Editor: Nancy Lapp

Color: Undecided

Subvention: Undecided

### ***Archaeological Report Series (Hanan Charaf)***

#### **Summary**

- 1 monograph published in 2018.
- 1 manuscript accepted for publication but author is obtaining better quality photos.
- 1 manuscript was reviewed. Need changes before being accepted for publication.
- 1 manuscript under peer review.
- 2 CAARI Monographs proposals submitted in 2017. Accepted. Waiting for manuscripts.
- 2 book proposals submitted. Currently, under peer review.
- 1 manuscript withdrawn.

1. **ARS published in 2018**

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Title: *The Archaeological Survey of the Desert Roads between Berenike and the Nile Valley: Expeditions by the University of Michigan and the University of Delaware to the Eastern Desert of Egypt, 1988-2015.*

Authors: Steven E. Sidebotham and Jennifer Gates-Foster with Jean-Louis Rivard.

2. **ARS MSS accepted**

1) Title: *Idalion III. The Terrace of the East Acropolis, Mouti tou Arvili, and Special Studies.*

Author/editor: Pamela Gaber

Status: Contract signed by P. Gaber. Authors' agreements sent to ASOR office. Waiting for final manuscript submission after adding missing photos (last correspondence with Gaber dated to April 10, 2017).

Subvention: \$10,000 for printing and color illustrations.

Status as of November 2018: Author is obtaining better-quality pictures.

3. **ARS MSS peer reviewed. Changes recommended before final acceptance**

1) Title: *Taanach II: The Iron Age Stratigraphy.*

Authors: Mark Meehl and Nancy Lapp.

Status: MSS went through the peer reviewing process. Peer reviewers identified many areas of concern in the MSS. Report was sent to the author on August 21, 2018. The author agreed to make adequate changes to the MSS according to the peer reviewers' and my recommendations. Tentative date for submission of the new MSS: October 2019.

4. **ARS MSS under peer review**

2) Title: *Combined Caesarea expedition 1. The Temple Platform (Area TP), Neighboring Quarters (Areas TPS and Z), and the Inner Harbor Quays (Area I): Hellenistic Evidence, King Herod's Harbor Temple, Intermediate Occupation, and the Octagonal Harbor Church*

Authors: Kenneth G. Holum, Anna Iamim, Edna Dalali Amos, Audrey Shaffer, Jennifer A. Stabler, Yael D. Arnon, and Peter Gendelman; with a conclusion by Jodi Magness.

Status: MSS received on September 15, 2018. Under peer reviewing.

5. **ARS Proposals accepted.** Waiting for MSS submission

Listed in chronological order, from recent to oldest.

1) Title: *All Things Cypriot: Studies on Ancient Environment, Technology, and Society in Honor of Stuart Swiny*. [Added July 13, 2018]

Editors: Walter Crist and Zuzana Chovanec.  
CAARI Monograph.

2) Title: Title: *The final report of the Petra North Ridge Project (temporary title)*  
[Added November 28, 2017].

Editor: S. Thomas Parker.

3) Title: *Excavations at Kourion's Amathous Gate Cemetery* [Added November 23, 2017]

Editors: Michael Given.  
CAARI Monograph.

4) Title: *Environment, landscape and society: diachronic perspectives on settlement patterns in Cyprus* [Added March 3, 2017].

Editors: Andrew McCarthy, Evi Margaritis, and Pamela Gaber.  
CAARI Monograph.

5) Title: *Humayma Excavation Project, 3: The Roman Fort and Regional Watchtowers* (J. Oleson): John Oleson wrote on November 28, 2016 that the manuscript submission will be delayed due to delay in submitting a chapter from one of the authors. No original projected submission date was given.

6) Title: *Embodying Dilmun: The Peter B. Cornwall expedition to Eastern Saudi Arabia and Bahrain* (Ben Porter and Alexis Boutin). Porter wrote on January 12, 2015 that the museum where the collection is housed was under renovation since 2010 and will only open its doors again at the end of 2015. He foresees submission of the MSS by 2019.

7) Title: *Koutsopetria 2, Cyprus* (Bill Caraher, *et al.*).

8) Title: *Tell er-Ras* (Vivian Bull). Jane Evans is the contact person.

9) Title: *Akko, Israel* (Aaron Brody).

10) Title: *Wawiyat, Israel* (Beth Alpert Nakhai and JP Dessel).

6. **ARS Proposals submitted.** Waiting peer reviewers' reports

1) Title: *The Promontory Palace at Caesarea Maritima, Israel: Final Reports*.  
Editors: Kathryn Gleason, Barbara Burrell, and Jimmy Schryver.  
Proposal submitted: October 4, 2018.

2) Title: *Archaeological Investigations at Tell Qarqur, Syria: Settlement, subsistence, and social change in the northern Levant*.  
Editor: Jesse Casana.  
Proposal submitted: August 23, 2018

7. **ARS INQUIRIES**. Awaiting proposals

Listed in chronological order, from recent to oldest.

1) Title: No title yet but deals with surveys in the Suleymaniye region, Iraq (Jessica Giraud). [ADDED APRIL 2016]

2) Title: *Sidon: The Middle Bronze Age Levels* (Claude Doumet-Serhal) [ADDED JULY 2015]

3) Title: *Khirbet el-Qom: Final Report on the 1971 Salvage Excavations* (Ryan Defonzo) [ADDED JANUARY 2015]

4) Title: *Athienou, Cyprus* (Michael Toumazou and Derek Counts) [ADDED NOVEMBER 2008]

8. **ARS WITHDRAWALS**.

1) Title: *Tell Fadous-Kfarabida I: the Site and its Environment*.

Author: H. Genz with contributions by P. Breuer, C. Çakırlar, K. Deckers, F. Höflmayer, R. Pedersen, K. Pustovoytov, S. Riehl and M. Vanhecke).

MSS withdrawn on August 27, 2018 by author citing publishing and printing costs.

***Levantine Ceramics Project (Andrea Berlin)***





## Levantine Ceramics Project 2018 Annual Report ASOR Committee on Publications

The LCP has been busy over the past year. We built a new map layer; made a number of engineering improvements to site navigation and display; built a companion site for chemical composition data; began a new working partnership with the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA); held four workshops and made plans for three more in the coming year; and seen an increase in the number of contributors and amount of information on the site.

**Maps:** This is an exciting addition to the LCP toolkit. It is now possible to see every item on the LCP shown on a map. On display pages the map button appears at the top (next to the citation generator and comparison buttons); on browse pages an icon appears in the Action Links column. Once on a map page, it's possible to see a wide array of related data. For example, when viewing a vessel, you can ask to see other vessels of that same shape, other vessels in that same ware, other vessels of that date, etc. If viewing a ware, you can ask where vessels of that ware appear, where kilns producing that ware are, etc. There are also filter boxes that allow the user to refine the results as displayed on the map.

The development of maps required that we make “site” its own category for both submission and display. **Site** now works just as references do: before you can select one within an entry, it must already be on (or added to) the LCP. This means that site on the LCP now have their own display pages, with the following information:

- a two-part site name (previously site names were a single entity). This allows more clarity and flexibility especially for large, multi-component sites, e.g., Paphos, Theatre or Luxor/Thebes West, Temple of Millions of Years of Amenhotep II.
- alternate names & spellings. This makes it possible for the LCP to find a site when a different spelling is entered, e.g., Kh. instead of Khirbet.
- country/region (according to the LCP's already-defined maps);
- latitude and longitude;
- links to other websites, including [DAAHL](#) (the Digital Atlas of the Holy Land), [Pleiades](#), [TM Geo](#) (Trismegistos), [DARMC](#) (Digital Atlas of Roman and Medieval Civilizations), and [OSM](#) (OpenStreet Map).

**Chemical Composition Data:** Thanks to Joe Weinstein, the LCP now has a companion website for chemical composition data: <https://levantineceramicschemicaldata.wordpress.com>. This is a stand-alone site, to which we have added a link on the LCP home page. Currently this site has links to

the LBNL databases on tDAR as well as to several databases from the University of Manchester along with a few of the MURR databases that have previously been published online. Joe has been reaching out to individual researchers as well as the heads of various INAA laboratories to ask about adding links to their data sets. We anticipate this growing into a robust additional resource.

**IAA Collaboration:** In May 2018 I met with three senior IAA archaeologists - Yoav Zionit, Avshalom Karasik, and Yehiel Zelinger - to discuss how the LCP could become a default repository for ceramics excavated under IAA auspices. The IAA has developed a system to make a 3-D photo scan of a vessel or sherd and generate a scale drawing. In the last two years they have compiled an enormous dataset of upwards of 50,000 images. They would like to “give” us all of these images, to make them readily accessible and usable by researchers.

This is an amazing opportunity, but it comes with significant challenges. The primary issue is that the IAA’s 3-D photo/drawing unit records only vessel registration number and site name, but no other information. The LCP, on the other hand, asks for an array of other data; it is the ability to search, display, and combine these related metadata that makes the LCP such a powerful research tool. After several discussions, we have developed a working plan, as follows. The IAA will select five archaeologists who have sites representing a range of time periods, from Bronze Age through Medieval, with significant amounts of pottery worth having on the LCP: floor deposits with whole vessels illustrative of major forms and types; a range of fabrics and wares; and linked petrographic analysis. They will give them each a week this December to add these vessels and all their related data to the LCP, with a goal of adding about 500 new items in all. Meanwhile, the LCP will build a bulk upload system for images. This will allow the IAA archaeologists to then add all the related images to their vessel submissions in one fell swoop. In December we’ll assess the entire process and discuss next steps. The goal is to systematically add a full array of data for about 10,000 vessels over the next two years.

**Workshops:** Between December 2016 and September 2017, we held four very productive workshops:

- February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, AIAR, Jerusalem: Petro-fabrics of northern Israel.
- April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, AIAR, Jerusalem: Petro-fabrics of southern Israel and the Jordan Valley.
- May 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Ege University, Izmir: Ceramic Wares of Turkey from the Archaic to the Roman eras (7<sup>th</sup> c. BCE – 6<sup>th</sup> c. CE).
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Warsaw, in conjunction with the University of Warsaw’s Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology: The LCP and Pottery of Nubia/Sudan.

For programs and summaries, go to <https://workshops.levantineceramics.org/workshops-2018/>

**Numbers:** We gained 44 new contributors this year, along with additional information in every category of information on the site:

category	as of Nov. 1, 2016	as of Nov. 1, 2017	as of Nov. 1, 2018	<i>increase in the last year:</i>
Contributors	194	236	<b>280</b>	<b>44</b>
Ceramic wares	314	371	<b>400</b>	<b>29</b>
Petro-fabrics	58	71	<b>76</b>	<b>5</b>
Vessels	6067	6604	<b>9131</b>	<b>2527</b>
Petrographic samples	5037	5125	<b>5268</b>	<b>143</b>
Kilns	12	20	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>

**What's next?** We have three workshops planned for spring 2019:

- May 31st, 2019, Leiden. Lead Organizers: Dennis Braekmans and Margreet Steiner, under the auspices of the Rijksmuseum: Petro-fabrics and petrography of the Dead Sea region.
- late June 2019 (precise date TBD), CAARI. Lead Organizers: Joanna Smith and Lindy Crewe: Ceramic Wares and Petrography of Cyprus in the Classical eras.
- July 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Nieborów Palace, Warsaw, in conjunction with the University of Warsaw's Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology: Ceramic Wares of Egypt in the Ptolemaic, Roman, and Byzantine eras.

In terms of new development, the most important goal for 2019 is to build stable URLs along with "edit history" pages. The 'edit history' page will automatically keep track of who changes what, and when - and will also provide a brief rationale for the changes (to be filled in by the contributor when making the changes). Stable URLs will ensure that all LCP references, whether in print or on-line, remain viable because pages will automatically re-direct. These two enhancements will help ensure the LCP's continued stability and usability in the years ahead.

In closing, I renew my request that all ASOR journals and monographs include a strongly worded request in their publication acceptances that authors also submit their ceramic data to the LCP. This would include information on vessels, wares, and kilns, petrographic analyses, and images - drawings, photographs, and thin-sections. It would be most useful if submission could occur in advance of copy-editing so that LCP links can be included in the final print and on-line versions. This would allow people browsing the LCP to learn of pertinent research, as well as enhancing the scholarly utility of these publications. This request is most pertinent for BASOR, AASOR, and NEA. I would happily work with the editors to craft appropriate language to add to their submission and acceptance guidelines.

## ***The Ancient Near East Today (Alex Joffe)***

### General

ANEToday is ASOR's non-scholarly, web-based platform, designed as a monthly outreach, fundraising, and educational vehicle through the Friends of ASOR initiative. Items are pushed out by email and are posted on the website and on social media.

With few exceptions, each issue is anchored by at least one piece dealing with Biblical texts, archaeology or history.

### Changes in 2018

1. ANEToday is now separate from the ASOR blog, which is dormant.
2. Pieces continue to be republished (either in edited form or in full) from academic sources such as the British Museum blog and others such as the Huffington Post. Authors, websites and publishers have been grateful for the opportunity to appear in ANEToday and more such synergies are expected.
3. A report is sent to the ANEToday advisory committee at the beginning of each month reviewing operations and listing new pieces received.
4. ANEToday has extended a standing invitation to ASOR's Cultural Heritage Initiative for contributions. One has now been forthcoming. We continue to feature cultural heritage issues through other contributions, including features, image galleries, and link sets.
5. At the November 2017 ASOR meeting I was given a three year term as editor.

### **Metrics**

2018: 48 pieces published through November.

Total since 2013: 346 pieces published through November.

As of 10 October there were 15,109 subscribers. The open rate was 4,355 (~29%). 1,022 (23%) of those actually clicked something.

Facebook: 16,036 people see the articles.

Twitter: 4,445 followers.

LinkedIn: 273 connections.

### **Recommendations**

1. The mobile version of ANEToday should be made fully functional and properly marketed.
2. Advertising via Google Ads and other social media platforms should be undertaken, particularly in light of the new ANEToday website.
3. An enhanced presence on Instagram and other social media should be undertaken, particularly in light of the separation between ANEToday and the blog.
4. Chinese and Spanish language editions should be explored. These are potentially large markets.
5. Support should be sought for purpose made short videos and new podcasts.
6. Continued revisions to the back end of the content management system are necessary to improve functionality and to prevent pieces from being hijacked by casino websites. Additional work is necessary to revise links from old to new web pages.

### **A note from the Chair.**

2018 will be my tenth consecutive meeting of the Publications Committee, the last seven of them as the Chair. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with the Members of the Committee, the Editors, and the staff and governance of ASOR. Together we have transformed both the processes and cultures under which the committee operates, and the published output of ASOR. I believe the Publications Program is in excellent health, and I am pleased with the Editorial strength and the incoming leadership of the Committee. My thanks to you all for the opportunity to serve.