

Publications Committee Report – May 2020

Kevin McGeough, Publications Committee Chair

Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, ASOR Publications are running smoothly. What are included are reports from the journal and monograph editors. The *ANE Today* Editor (Alex Joffe) has reported to me that he has “a healthy queue, enough through October or even November, with lots more expected.” Otherwise, the editors’ reports are below my comments (pgs. 2-7).

The University of Chicago Press has reported that there are no delays expected for any of the ASOR journals and have created a press report page related to COVID-19: <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/coronavirus>. We are expecting there to be some sales declines for the monograph series based on the outbreak. Right now, I feel that the safest plan of action is to continue to make sure that the monographs are coming out at a consistent rate.

We have completed our search for a new BASOR editorial team and that will be an action item at the Board meeting. We had many excellent candidates to choose from. We feel that our selection brings considerable editorial and academic experience to the journal. The selection also reflects the growing diversity of ASOR’s membership as, if the Board votes in favor, we will have three women as BASOR editors, three editors who reside in Europe, one senior scholar, one junior scholar, and two scholars at the mid-senior level.

This year we will also need to search for a new editor for the *Archaeological Report Series* as Hanan Mullins will have finished her second three-year term. Hanan leaves the series in good shape and so once we find a new editor, the transition should be smooth.

The COVID-19 outbreak has demonstrated the importance of digital publication strategies. ASOR Publications has already been working on different strategies. As the *Levantine Ceramic Corpus* is part of our mandate, we already have one digital publication in operation, and we are working on ways to integrate the LCP with our other publications. This spring we should also see the publication of a joint 3-d publication with University of North Dakota Press (see the monographs reports). The committee has also been working on a set of digital publication principles, which are close to approval by our committee.

After the monograph reports, you will find some feedback from the Publications committee related to ASOR’s strategic plan, as had been requested (pg. 8).

NEA April 2020 Report from Stephanie Budin

Unlike the rest of 2020, things are going relatively well for *NEA*. Issue 83.1 came out on time with articles on Tell Burna by Chris McKinny et al., Niğde Kınık Höyük by Lorenzo d'Alfonso et al., a shipwreck at Ma'agan Mikhael B by Deborah Cvikel, cat domestication by Cluadio Ottoni and Wim Van Neer, children in the Lachish reliefs by Kristine Garroway, and Byzantine wine by Sára Lantos et al. The response so far has generally been positive.

Issue 83.2 (June) is currently with our copy editor Billie Jean Collins. It is a special topics issue on 25 years of excavation at Çatalhöyük, guest-edited by Ian Hodder. The guest-editor went a little overboard in inviting authors, and thus not all articles could fit into one issue, especially as the June issue may not be a double-long per my promise to Collins. As such, the Çatalhöyük ST "issue" was divided into two; what comes out in June is issue 1.

This is where things get a tad discombobulated. So far, none of the articles for the second issue have come in. Hodder said that these would come in over the course of April, so I am now in wait mode. However, COVID-19 may play a complicating factor on two fronts:

- It is possible that the authors cannot complete their articles if they are busy figuring out how to Zoom their classes while simultaneously not having library access.
- It is becoming increasingly difficult to find peer-reviewers. In the past month, not a single potential peer-reviewer has responded to any communications on Editorial Manager.

What this means is that we may not receive the articles in a timely fashion/at all. Even if we do, we may not be able to get them peer-reviewed in time, even though only one is needed for guest-edited issues. So, the next month will determine what happens in September.

IF everything goes as planned, and all the Çatalhöyük articles come in and can be reviewed in a reasonable amount of time, then Çatalhöyük ST issue 2 will be the September issue of *NEA*. If any of that breaks down anywhere, then we have several articles already ready to go in EM, and September will be a normal issue, and CH2 will wait until December.

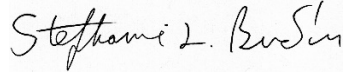
Looking forward, Tine Rassalle is guest-editing a Special Topics issue on archaeology and video games, double-long, for the March 2021 issue, assuming human civilization still exists. At this point, if the normal issue for either September/December is of standard length, then we also have a few more "in the can" ready to go for June 2021 as well. So, unless everything breaks down, we can't get the follow up from Hodder, and Rassalle disappears, *NEA* should be covered up through June 2021. Provided we can get peer reviewers who will speak to us.

In other news, the Editorial Board Class of 2022 is now well in place. Added to our list of experts are Trudy Kawami (Mesopotamian archaeology), Louise Steel

(Cypriot archaeology), Yorke Rowan (Biblical Archaeology), and Solange Ashby (Nubian civilization).

As ever, editorial assistant Julia Hsieh and copy editor Billie Jean Collins have been magnificent, efficient, and more helpful than I can express. I am truly grateful for them.

Stephanie L. Budin



***BASOR* April 2020 Report from Eric H. Cline and Christopher Rollston, Co-editors**

The tenth issue, *BASOR* 382 (November 2019), appeared in time for the annual meetings. Since then, the eleventh issue, *BASOR* 383 (May 2020), is now in the final stages of proofing and will be released on time in May. There will be nine articles in that issue, bringing our total to 110 articles in eleven issues.

We have received 20 additional manuscript submissions since November, bringing the total to 270 submissions since beginning our co-editorship. Of those, we have accepted 137, so that our accept/reject rate continues to hover around 50%.

We have enough manuscripts accepted to fill the Nov 2021 issue, which will be the last for which we serve as co-editors. Copy-editing of those manuscripts is well underway and should be completed sometime in the next few months, in time for the August deadline to get everything to University of Chicago Press.

We do not anticipate any COVID-related problems on our end. We do not know if one can say the same for the University of Chicago Press, though we are not aware of any imminent additional closures that might affect the printing and distribution of the May 2020 issue.

JCS 2020 Report from Piotr Michalowski

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Monographs

Joint Digital Volume (with Digital Press of University of North Dakota)

1. Visualizing Votive Practice: Exploring Limestone and Terracotta Sculpture from Athienou-Malloura through 3D Models

Derek B. Counts, Erin Walcek Averett, Kevin J. Garstki, and Michael K. Toumazou

With contributions by Clay M. Cofer and Katherine Iselin

-going to the copy-editor in May and will be ready for the Annual Meeting

The Annual

Published:

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

Delayed (but in proof stage):

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.

-will be renamed; some issues related to permissions clearance

Proposals Accepted, Awaiting Manuscript

1. Title: Excavations at Kourion's Amathous Gate Cemetery

Author/Editor: Michael Given

Color: Undecided

Subvention: Color requested and in search of subvention funding.

-manuscript expected later this year and no expected delays

2. Title: Archaeological Ethics in Practice

Editors: Sarah Lepinski and Sarah Kiert Costello

Color: Undecided

Subvention: Undecided

-editors have given an extension to authors because of COVID-19.

Archaeological Report Series

Summary listing only changes as of November 2019

1 manuscript under contract; first proofs sent out for corrections.
2 manuscripts accepted for publication. Authors are implementing changes recommended by series editor and peer reviewers.
2 manuscript proposals reviewed and accepted. Waiting for manuscript submissions.
1 manuscript proposal under peer review.

1- **ARS submitted to ISD. First proofs sent out for corrections**

ARS 27

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.

Subvention: \$5,000 for printing.

2- **Manuscripts accepted for publication with recommended changes**

1) Title: *All Things Cypriot: Studies on Ancient Environment, Technology, and Society in Honor of Stuart Swiny.*

Editors: Walter Crist and Zuzana Chovanec.

Status: Editors are still making recommended changes. Expected submission of final manuscript: May 2020.

Subvention: \$5,000 for printing.

2) Accepted in 2017. 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 photos. Bill Caraher is working on the manuscript.

Subvention: \$10,000 for printing and color illustrations (paid to ASOR).

3- **Manuscripts peer reviewed. Changes to be implemented before final acceptance**

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

Authors: Mark Meehl and Nancy Lapp.

Status as of November 2019: 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. Still awaiting final submission.

4- **Proposals accepted after peer reviewing**. Waiting for MSS submission.

Listed in chronological order, from recent to oldest.

1) Title: *The Promontory Palace at Caesarea Maritima, Israel: Final Reports*.
Editors: Kathryn Gleason, Barbara Burrell, and Jimmy Schryver.
Proposal accepted: January 3, 2020.

2) Title: *University of Michigan/University of Minnesota Excavations at Tel Kedesh of the Upper Galilee Volume I: The Hellenistic Archive*.
Editors: Sharon Herbert and Andrea Berlin.
Proposal accepted: December 22, 2019

2) Title: *Archaeological Investigations at Tell Qarqur, Syria: Settlement, subsistence, and social change in the northern Levant*.
Editor: Jesse Casana.
Proposal accepted: January 4, 2019.

3) Title: Title: *The final report of the Petra North Ridge Project* (temporary title)
[Added November 28, 2017].
Editor: S. Thomas Parker.
Proposal accepted: November 27, 2017

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.
Proposal accepted: March 3, 2017

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

5- **Proposals submitted**. Waiting peer reviewers' reports

1) Title: The Roman Aqaba Project Final Report Volume 2– Excavation of Ancient Aila.
Editors: S. Thomas Parker.

Publications Committee Feedback Related to the Strategic Plan

As requested, I am supplying some feedback from the Publications Committee related to the strategic plan. As some of the members of the Board were privy to the online discussions, they can report back on the comments from individual member as useful.

-There was no coherent answer from Publications regarding the possible name change of ASOR.

-There was no consistent feeling about whether or not we should continue to attempt to expand the geographical and temporal boundaries of ASOR's interests. If expansion does remain part of the strategic plan, we will need to determine if that should apply to BASOR and NEA as well or if too broad of a scope will muddy the goals and impacts of the journals.

-Digital forms of publications need to be a key part of ASOR moving forward and should be an area identified in the strategic plan

-This should not simply involve "glamorous" types of digital publications. As one member explained: "The language focuses exclusively on presentation and not more substantive issues of reproducibility, ethical responsibilities for stewardship of archaeological documentation, and new research opportunities / challenges afforded by the integration and reuse of published and archived archaeological datasets. A "fly through" may look very cool and give the impression of cutting edge slickness, but will do little to advance data literacy or understanding."

THUS, we would like to play a part in the crafting of the language related to digital publications in the strategic plan.

-Increasing Open Access seems to be a priority for the committee. One individual commented that qualifying this with a statement about "Economic feasibility" will make it impossible. Regardless, it is clear that Publications, and ASOR as a whole, needs to come up with a statement on Open Access. I'm not sure if that needs to be mentioned in the strategic plan or not.