

**Report of the Committee on Publications to The Executive
Committee of ASOR
Submitted by Kevin McGeough, Chair
November 2020**

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Report of the Chair (Kevin McGeough)

The central concern of this committee has been the support of the editors. Their reports make up the bulk of this report. A report from UCP will follow as a separate document. At present, I have no concerns with any of the publications and expect that they will continue to be successful in 2021.

Since the 2019 Annual Meeting, there have been two successful searches for new editors. The Publications Committee recommended as new BASOR editors: Susan Cohen, Regine Pruzsinszky, Jana Mynárová, and Marwan Kilani. For the *Archaeological Report Series*, the Publications Committee has recommended Jennie Ebeling. Work on the editorial transition for BASOR has been ongoing since January. The *ARS* transition will take place in the new year once the Board has had the opportunity to consider that recommendation.

The Publications Committee wants to acknowledge the hard work and thank Hanan Charaf, Eric Cline, and Chris Rollston for their service to ASOR as they step down from their editorial positions. We will miss them.

Over the summer, the Publications Committee convened two zoom meetings. The first meeting revolved around issues related to the monograph series. In that meeting, the Publications Committee voted unanimously to strike an editorial board to assist the Monographs Editors, and worked through terms of reference for the board. While the intention had been to fill the board this summer, that was delayed and action will be taken on this after the Annual Meeting. In that same meeting, the use of the Opportunity Fund was discussed. While the Publications Committee has no control over the use of this fund, we voted (unanimously) to recommend that the Board set aside these funds to create a subvention grant that authors wishing to publish in one of the ASOR book series may apply for.

The second meeting related to digital issues. The Publications Committee voted unanimously to approve the Policies on Digital Publications that had circulated previously, but referred it back to the sub-committee on digital publications for further editing. Once that is completed, the Publications Committee will send that document to CAP for consideration and feedback. During that meeting, we also discussed some issues related to digital publications and the strategic plan. After that meeting, a sub-committee presented recommendations on behalf of the Publications Committee to CCC.

In the past few months there have been some discussions regarding some joint ventures between different ASOR publications. A meeting between the incoming BASOR editors and the editor of LCP was set up and we hope to proceed with integrating LCP and BASOR in the coming year. A discussion between the monographs editors and the NEA editor has led to a decision to attempt to repackage NEA articles (and include new content) in a digital publication devoted to Tell Safi. This will function as a proof of concept for a larger initiative in which we work with UCP to find new ways to make our publications useful for members.

***BASOR* 2020 Report (Eric H. Cline and Christopher Rollston, Co-editors)**

We are pleased to report that eleven issues of *BASOR* have now appeared under our co-editorship – nos. 373-383 (May 2015-May 2020) – and that a twelfth issue, *BASOR* 384 (November 2020), will appear momentarily. With the publication of that final issue, we will have concluded our two terms as co-editors, having served for a total of six years. We have published a total of 121 articles in twelve issues, for an average of ten articles per issue, plus book reviews.

Overall, we have received 324 submissions since beginning our co-editorship. Of those, we accepted almost exactly half -- 160 manuscripts -- for publication, all after one or more rounds of suggested revisions. Nearly that same number -- 140 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 withdrawn for similar reasons, at our suggestion. An additional 17 manuscripts are currently in the hands of the author(s) with a “revise and resubmit” assignment and have not yet been returned, while seven more manuscripts are currently in the review process and are in the hands of peer reviewers at the moment. Thus, we currently have an accept/reject rate hovering at almost exactly 50%. As always, we continue to strive to maintain the high standards set by previous editors of the journal.

The online submission and review process for submitted manuscripts continues to work extremely well, as does the “publish before print” appearance when new articles are ready. In addition, the transition to publication by the University of Chicago Press went extremely smoothly, with everyone there being especially helpful, especially the IT people running their Editorial Manager system.

We are currently working together with our successors, the incoming team of co-editors, who are Susan L. Cohen, Jana Mynářová, Marwan Kilani, and Regine Pruzsinszky. We are introducing them to the intricacies of the Editorial Manager online program for dealing with the submitted

manuscripts and tutoring them on other aspects of the position, so that they will be familiar and up-to-speed with everything by the time they take over on 1 January 2021.

We would like to thank once again our wonderful copyeditor, Ali Witsell, the members of our Editorial Board, all of the anonymous peer-reviewers, the staff at University of Chicago Press, and everyone in the ASOR Office for their assistance in making all of this possible. It is with a sense of sadness that we take our leave of this position, after having completed the maximum allowed limit of two terms, but we are certain that the journal will be in excellent hands with the next set of co-editors.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Cline and Christopher Rollston, *BASOR* Co-Editors

***Near Eastern Archaeology* Editor's Annual Report for 2020 – (Stephanie Budin)**

Near Eastern Archaeology produced 4 “short” (64-page) issues this year, including a double Special Topics issue on Çatalhöyük guest edited by Ian Hodder (issues 83.2 and 83.3). It was originally only supposed to be a single issue, but the number of articles was larger than expected, and as it is not feasible to publish a “long” issue for June (Hodder’s preferred date), the issue was functionally split into two. The other two issues are standard multi-topic. The September issue did get mailed later than anticipated, arriving in October (with no complaints), and the December issue should arrive in December although a tad later than usual as the ASOR Office asked us to hold off on mailings until an updated member’s list could be pulled together after the Annual Meetings.

There have been several changes of praxis for *NEA* in the past year. As noted in the last report, we have switched over to a double-blind peer-review system. So far this has worked well. A second, more recent change is that we have added a component to the EM uploading process whereby authors can suggest or oppose possible peer reviewers. The suggestions are a help to Julia Hsieh, and the “opposed” allow us to avoid those awkward scenarios where we accidentally send a technically anonymous paper to the author’s academic nemesis for evaluation (as happened once this year, and thus the change). So far, this has been a benefit.

The most significant change comes as a request on the part of UCP to change the length of the issues. Formerly there were “short” issues of 64 pages, and “long” issues of 96. Having determined that we are no longer folding up calf skins for journals, UCP has asked us to abandon the octavo system and instead to try to produce four annual issues of 80 pages each. The only foreseen potential problem is that this would require seven to eight articles per issues instead of the usual six. Time will determine if this is sustainable, but so far we do have enough articles in the queue to maintain this for at least part of 2021.

One more Special Topics issue is in the works for the March 2021 issue on ANE archaeology and video games, guest edited by Tine Rasselle. A few notions for future ST issues have been suggested, but nothing is definite as of yet.

It having been discovered that Julia Hsieh, *NEA*’s fabulous assistant editor, did not receive a hard copy of *NEA*, this has been resolved and she now receives a copy of every issue.

My overly optimistic belief that, eventually, people would realize that NEA no longer does book reviews STILL has not come to pass.

We are set to lose Alison Gruseke, Lesley A. Gregoricka, and Lorenzo d'Alfonso from the Editorial Board at the end of this year. I am open to suggestions for replacements.

As ever, I am truly grateful to and for Billie Jean Collins for her copy editing, Julia Hsieh for her work as assistant editor, and Rob Blixt for all the tech. support, especially with the above noted changes to EM.

Stephanie Lynn Budin, Editor
Near Eastern Archaeology

***Journal of Cuneiform Studies* Editor's Annual Report (Piotr Michalowski)**

It is an abundance of riches. Already in July the next issue was full, which has never happened before. This has created a problem because while I already have collected papers for 2022, that will fill up as well and I have had to warn people that we cannot publish their papers soon and they have sent them elsewhere. The word is out that we are full and it is getting hard for me to balance things.

What can you do? JCS is hot!

AASOR – Semi-Annual Report – November 2020 (William Caraher)

In Press

1. *Excavations at Tel Jezreel 1995-1996: The Stratigraphy and Neolithic-Iron Age Pottery from Area A.* by Gloria London and Charlotte Whiting.

-will be renamed; some issues related to permissions clearance

Manuscripts Received

3. Title: Archaeological Ethics in Practice

Editors: Sarah Lepinski and Sarah Kielt Costello

Color: Undecided

Proposals Accepted, Awaiting Manuscript

1. Title: The Amman Theatre Statue in Its Iron Age Contexts

Author: Joel S. Burnett with contributions by Romel Gharib and Don F. Parker

Color: No

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

Author/Editor: Michael Given

Color: Undecided

Subvention: Color requested and in search of subvention funding.

3. Title: Taanach Volume and Iraq al-Amir Volume
Author/Editor: Nancy Lapp
Color: Undecided

ASOR *Archaeological Report Series* Editor's Report (Hanan Charaf)

Summary listing only changes as of April 2020

1) Two manuscripts under contract:

-ARS 27: in press

-ARS 28: first proofs corrected.

2) One manuscript accepted for publication (M. Meehl. *Tell Taanach*). Author is implementing changes recommended by series editor and peer reviewers.

3) Six manuscript proposals reviewed and accepted. Waiting for manuscript submissions.

1- ARS submitted to ISD. In print

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- ARS submitted to ISD. First proofs corrected

ARS 28

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

Authors: Walter Crist and Zuzana Chovanec (eds.).

Subvention: \$5,000 for printing

3- Manuscripts accepted for publication with recommended changes

1) 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).

4- Manuscripts accepted for publication. Author is working on final recommended changes (delayed because of Covid-19)

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

Authors: Mark Meehl and Nancy Lapp.

Status as of April 2020: still awaiting final submission. Author made changes during summer 2020 and will continue after Fall semester ends in early December.

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

Listed in chronological order, from recent to oldest.

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

Editors: S. Thomas Parker. Proposal accepted: May 24, 2020.

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

3) 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

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

5) 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.

6) 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.

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

ASOR Books Report 2020

Book Sales from ISD

QUARTER	TOTAL SALES
FIRST QUARTER 2018 US SALES	\$445.60
FIRST QUARTER 2018 UK SALES	\$570.83
SECOND QUARTER 2018 US SALES	\$11,304.75
SECOND QUARTER 2018 UK SALES	\$1,088.56
THIRD QUARTER 2018 US SALES	\$1,328.79
THIRD QUARTER 2018 UK SALES	\$263.97
FOURTH QUARTER 2018 US SALES	\$1,280.45
FOURTH QUARTER 2018 UK SALES	\$684.01
FIRST QUARTER 2019 US SALES	\$3,326.70
FIRST QUARTER 2019 UK SALES	\$602.83
SECOND QUARTER 2019 US SALES	\$1,485.63
SECOND QUARTER 2019 UK SALES	\$1,187.02
THIRD QUARTER 2019 US SALES	\$459.58
THIRD QUARTER 2019 UK SALES	\$557.88
FOURTH QUARTER 2019 US SALES	\$946.58
FOURTH QUARTER 2019 UK SALES	\$335.48
FIRST QUARTER 2020 US SALES	\$6,888.44
FIRST QUARTER 2020 UK SALES	\$226.61
SECOND QUARTER 2020 US SALES	\$283.22

SECOND QUARTER 2020 UK SALES | \$115.97

2020 Book Marketing from ISD:

Mediterranean Archaeology Leaflet 2020

- *The Archaeological Survey of the Desert Roads between Berenike and the Nile Valley*. ARS 26.

AIA/SCA 2020 Annual Meeting, Washington DC

- *The Archaeological Survey of the Desert Roads between Berenike and the Nile Valley*. ARS 26.
- *The Excavations at Iraq Al-Amir*. AASOR 74.
- *The Mithraeum at Caesarea Maritima*. ARS 25.

Ancient Near East Leaflet 2020

- *Caesarea Maritima: Excavations in the Old City 1989-2003. Conducted by the University of Maryland and the University of Haifa*. ARS 27.
- *All Things Cypriot: Studies on Ancient Environment, Technology, and Society in Honor of Stuart Swiny*. ARS 28
- *Tel Jezreel Post-Excavation and Publication Project*. AASOR 73.
- *The Excavations at Iraq Al-Amir*. AASOR 74.

Books in Production:

- Archaeological Reports Series 27: *Caesarea Maritima: Excavations in the Old City 1989-2003. Conducted by the University of Maryland and the University of Haifa*. Kenneth Holum, ed. (being printed)
- Archaeological Reports Series 28: *All Things Cypriot: Studies on Ancient Environment, Technology, and Society in Honor of Stuart Swiny*. Zuzana Chovanec and Walter Crist, eds.
- Annual of ASOR 73: *Tel Jezreel Post-Excavation and Publication Project*. Gloria London and Charlotte Whiting, eds.

Books Printed in 2020:

- Annual of ASOR 74: *The Excavations at Iraq Al-Amir, Vol. 2: Additional Studies of the Site and its Finds*. Nancy Lapp, ed.

The Ancient Near East Today, 2020 report (Alex Joffe, Editor)

General

ANEToday is ASOR's free, non-scholarly, web-based platform, designed as a outreach, fundraising, and educational vehicle through the Friends of ASOR initiative, which captures subscribers data for later use. Items are pushed out weekly by email and are posted on the website and distributed via social media. With few exceptions, each monthly issue is anchored by at least one piece dealing with Biblical texts, archaeology, or history.

Changes in 2020

All articles now include a downloadable, formatted PDF. A "want to know more?" section was added at the bottom of each article with links to two other ANE Today articles and keeps readers on the website.

Since May 276 emails have been added using the FOA pop-up button at the bottom of every article.

Positive feedback has been received on the use of PDFs for teaching.

Sharing articles on ASOR's Instagram account started in mid-2020.

All ASOR webinar participants are signed up for Friends of ASOR and ANEToday.

ANEToday is being used for publishers and other organizations as marketing exchange.

Metrics

Total items published through November 2019 = 48.

Total items published since 2013 = 448.

Total solicitations since November 2018 = 101.

Total solicitations since 2012 = 891.

As of 27 October there were:

15,660 email recipients. Open rates range from 28-34% (average 31.1%) with an average click rate of 26%.

Weekly links are seen by:

16,987 Facebook followers of ASOR.

5,842 Twitter followers.

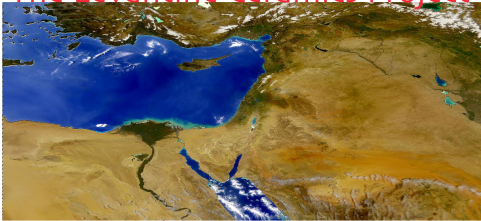
740 Instagram followers.

330 LinkedIn followers.

Recommendations

Advertise content and the platform via Google and Instagram Ads, promoted Tweets and similar online methods.

The Levantine Ceramics Project



www.levantineceramics.org

Levantine Ceramics Project 2020 Annual Report ASOR Committee on Publications

Global pandemic notwithstanding, the [LCP](#) has had another busy year. We completed a major round of software development from February-April, and are completing a second, shorter round even as I write. I created a new position of [LCP](#) Editor for Petrography, and was fortunate to be able to appoint Dr. Paula Waiman-Barak. This fall we hired a part-time Editorial Intern, Grady Gillett, who has been a huge asset in terms of submission assistance and outreach. Finally, as every year, the number of contributors and amount of information on the site has risen substantially.

Site Improvements

Search: This was – finally – the year that we upgraded Search. Search had become badly outdated, simply by virtue of the many improvements and additions that we have made to the [LCP](#) since we began in 2011. Fixing it was a priority because it has become the initial gateway into the site especially for students and younger researchers. Search is now caught up to all of the [LCP](#)'s new abilities and resources. It provides a 'one-stop shop' for queries on wares, petro-fabrics, kilns, vessels, and petrographic thin-sections, and also features a series of filters by country, region, site, period, date, and contributor.

Light Table:

Light Table is the third analytical tool that we have built for the [LCP](#) (Comparisons and Maps being the first two). With Light Table, users can select images – drawings, photographs, break photos, thin-sections, along with their essential identifying text – and arrange them on 'boards.' Users can make multiple boards, move images among the boards, save them, add scales, remove or add text – and also create .pdfs for export. Use of Light Table is limited to registered [LCP](#) contributors; an [LCP](#) watermark appears on all Light Table images that do not belong to that specific contributor. This feature means that users cannot create publication-ready .pdfs with images that are not theirs. Light Table is a combination pin-up board, study tool, and aide to creating figures and plates for use in lectures and publications.

Editorial Staff

LCP Editor for Petrography

Petrography has been a crucial component of the [LCP](#) since inception. The [LCP](#) is the world's largest on-line repository for petrographic thin-sections, and is the only resource in the world in which thin-sections are directly linked to information and images of the vessels from which they come, along with other relevant data such as associated wares and petro-fabrics. Currently on the [LCP](#) there are over 5000 thin-sections, linked to over 100 petro-fabrics, all mappable in time and space. With the surge in both quantity and quality of information, it has become clear that in order to maintain effective editorial oversight, the [LCP](#) needed a stand-alone Editor for Petrography. In February 2020, we were lucky to find the perfect person: Dr. Paula Waiman-Barak.

Paula is an archaeologist and specialist in ceramic petrography, with a focus on human-environmental interactions, long-term resource patterning, and the effects of place, both geological and geographical. She has directed and contributed to projects in Israel, Cyprus, Crete, Greece, and Turkey, a geographic range that makes her especially well-suited to oversee the wide scope of petrographic data on the [LCP](#).

In conjunction with this new appointment, and in collaboration with the [LCP](#), the Institute of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University appointed Paula head of a newly established Laboratory for Ceramic Petrography. In this role, Paula conducts research on material provenance and ceramic technologies, trains students, and oversees the publication of all laboratory results on the [LCP](#).



Right: Paula Waiman-Barak, in the new [LCP](#)-TAU Petrography Laboratory.
Left: students discussing a petrographic thin-section prior to submission to the [LCP](#).

Editorial Intern

In September 2020, we hired our first Editorial Intern: Grady Gillett. Grady has a BA from Boston University, where he majored in Archaeology; throughout his senior year he was a student volunteer on the [LCP](#), where he learned the ins and outs of the site along with lots of information about ceramics and petrography. Grady's chief project for this year is to reach out to all site directors of CAP-affiliated projects, to offer help in submitting material from their excavations to the [LCP](#). He has contacted 62 project directors, received a slew of favorable responses, and has been working diligently to help make a wide range of excavated pottery accessible on the [LCP](#).

Workshops

We had three workshops planned for 2020, but as with all travel-related activities, we were obliged to cancel them. We hope that in the coming year or two, we will again be able to meet with colleagues, share information and ideas, and enjoy the pleasures of in-person collaborative research.

The workshops that had been planned were:

- April 29th-30th, 2020: Bilkent University, Ankara: Ophiolitic Clays and Petro-fabrics of Southern Anatolia and Cyprus
- May 6th, 2020: AIAR, Jerusalem: Wares & Ware Families of the Early Bronze Age
- May 29th-30th, 2020: Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA), Bodrum: Ceramics of Western Anatolia through the ages: Troad, Ionia, Lydia & Caria

Numbers

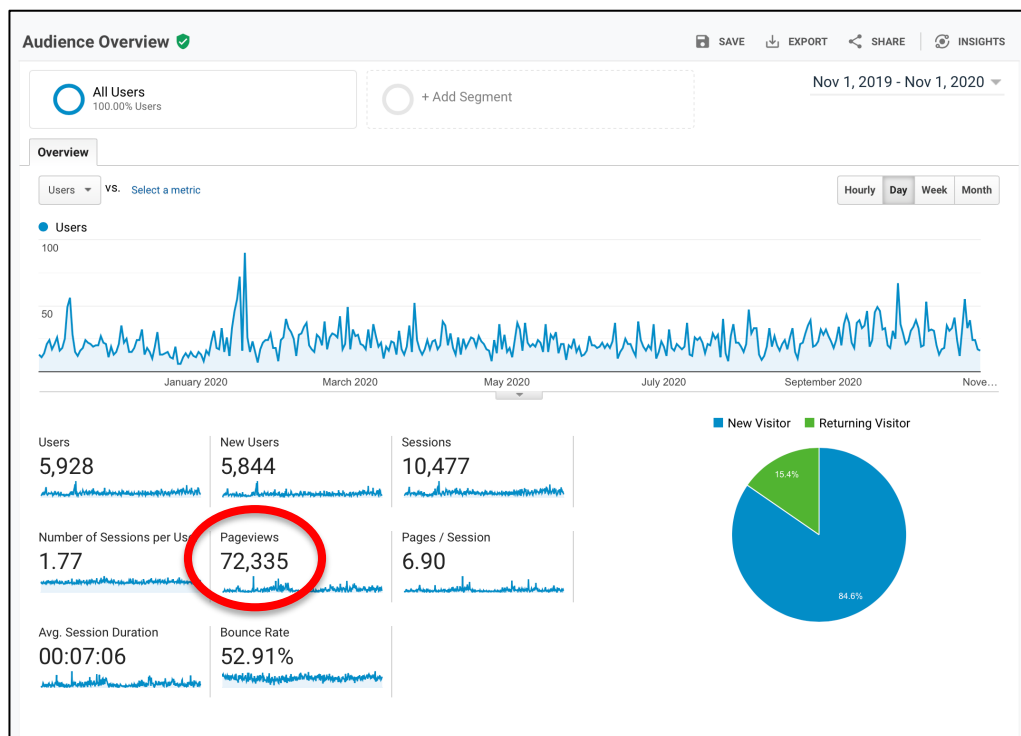
We gained 110 new contributors this year, along with additional information in every category of information on the site:

category	as of Nov. 1, 2016	as of Nov. 1, 2017	as of Nov. 1, 2018	as of Nov. 1, 2019	as of Nov. 1, 2020	<i>increase in the last year:</i>
Contributors	194	236	280	346	456	110
Ceramic wares	314	371	400	442	483	41
Petro-fabrics	58	71	76	93	101	8
Vessels	6067	6604	9131	10,000	12,093	2,093
Petrographic samples	5037	5125	5268	5303	5458	155
Kilns	12	20	25	30	40	10

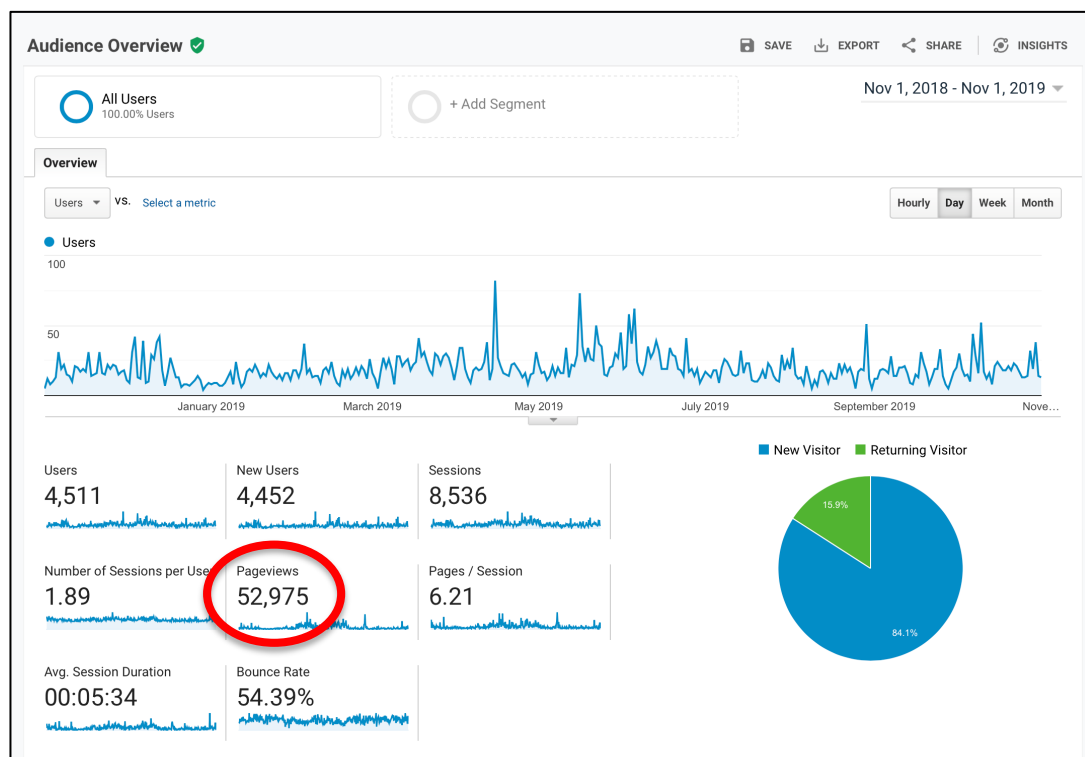
Big Numbers (aka Site Analytics)

Thanks to Google Analytics, we can track [LCP](#) use in real time and over time. The graphs below show site usage in the last 12 months (11/1/19-11/1/20) and the 12 months prior (11/1/18-11/1/19).

[LCP](#) use *this year* (11/1/19-11/1/20)



LCP use *last year* (11/1/18-11/1/19)

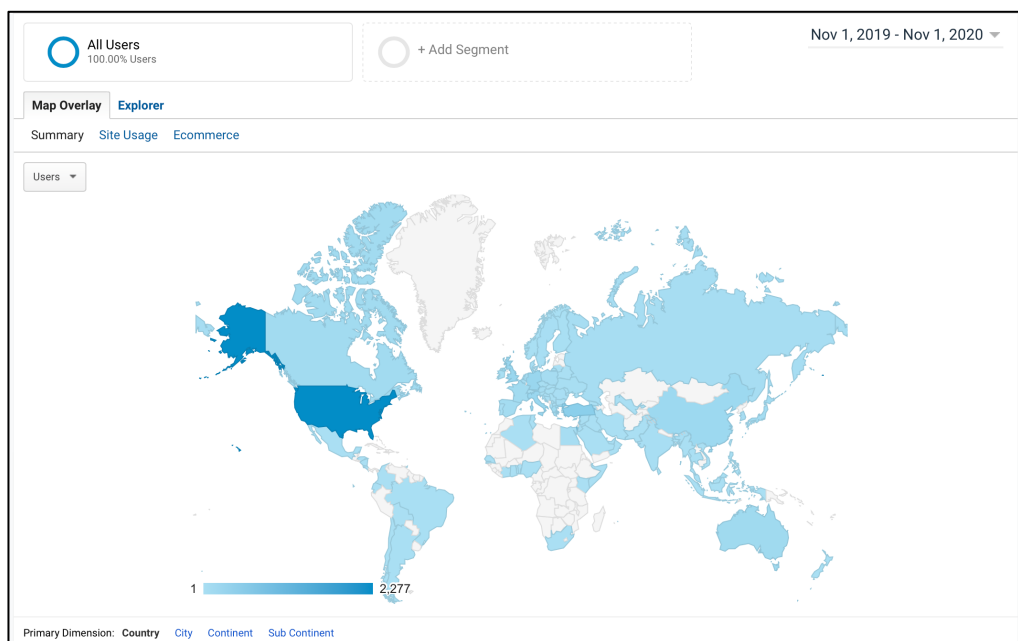


Numbers to note:

	11/1/18-11/1/19	11/1/19-11/1/20	<i>increase in the last year:</i>
Page Views	52,975	72,335	19,360
New Users	4,452	5,844	1,392
Users	4,511	5,928	1,417
Sessions	8,536	10,477	1,941
Session duration	5:34	7:06	2:12

In the past year alone, the LCP received almost 20,000 more page views than in the year before, and over 1000 new users. These users spent a serious amount of time on the site – over seven minutes/session – a span that reflects real engagement and the site’s fundamental usefulness.

Wonder where all these users are located? The maps and table below tell the story. The LCP is used by people from every country colored on the map – which means that Antarctica is the only continent on the planet without somebody using the LCP:



As for the breakdown of countries, here's our top ten of this past year. Fun fact: this is the first year that China has entered the top ten list!

Country ?	Acquisition			Behavior		
	Users ? ↓	New Users ?	Sessions ?	Bounce Rate ?	Pages / Session ?	Avg. Session Duration ?
	5,928 % of Total: 100.00% (5,928)	5,848 % of Total: 100.07% (5,844)	10,477 % of Total: 100.00% (10,477)	52.91% Avg for View: 52.91% (0.00%)	6.90 Avg for View: 6.90 (0.00%)	00:07:06 Avg for View: 00:07:06 (0.00%)
1. 🇺🇸 United States	2,277 (38.13%)	2,250 (38.47%)	3,769 (35.97%)	56.04%	8.11	00:08:43
2. 🇮🇱 Israel	613 (10.27%)	596 (10.19%)	2,177 (20.78%)	31.42%	12.11	00:12:22
3. 🇹🇷 Turkey	424 (7.10%)	409 (6.99%)	768 (7.33%)	56.12%	4.17	00:03:59
4. 🇬🇧 United Kingdom	241 (4.04%)	240 (4.10%)	291 (2.78%)	74.57%	2.10	00:01:14
5. 🇩🇪 Germany	237 (3.97%)	232 (3.97%)	360 (3.44%)	52.78%	3.74	00:03:38
6. 🇮🇹 Italy	226 (3.78%)	218 (3.73%)	372 (3.55%)	56.45%	3.76	00:04:12
7. 🇨🇳 China	176 (2.95%)	176 (3.01%)	176 (1.68%)	88.07%	1.18	00:00:04
8. 🇦🇺 Australia	135 (2.26%)	134 (2.29%)	188 (1.79%)	64.36%	3.13	00:02:18
9. 🇨🇦 Canada	116 (1.94%)	117 (2.00%)	159 (1.52%)	61.64%	3.74	00:02:18
10. 🇫🇷 France	114 (1.91%)	107 (1.83%)	162 (1.55%)	56.17%	3.21	00:03:13

Site Spotlight: Tell Tweini, Syria

While the explosion of information on the LCP is truly dramatic, some additions are especially valuable. Here I highlight one: [Tell Tweini](https://www.levantineceramics.org/sites/1754-tell-tweini), Syria (<https://www.levantineceramics.org/sites/1754-tell-tweini>). Tell Tweini was a large-scale joint excavation project begun by the University of Leuven in

1999. Work continued until 2007, brought to an abrupt end because of the tragedy of the Syrian Civil War. In 2019 a partial final report was published that included meticulous studies of some of the key ceramic assemblages, including an enormous communal tomb of the MB IIB/C eras and a wide array of Cypriot vessels of both the Middle-Late Bronze Age and the Iron Age. The expedition directors and authors sent us the individual reports plus beautiful, high-quality photographs and drawings of all the pottery. Thanks to the devoted work of Qi Zheng, BU MA candidate and [LCP](#) volunteer, all of this information is now on the site. The pottery from Tell Tweini, and especially the Cypriot imports, reflects the strong social and economic links between sites in the eastern Mediterranean, and reminds us that the Levant was, fundamentally, a zone of connectivity through which people and ideas could and did readily move.

As then, so too in years to come, we hope that the peoples of this region will again be able to benefit from the essential linking character that defines the Levant.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea M. Berlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Andrea M. Berlin
James R. Wiseman Chair in Classical Archaeology, Boston University
Founder and editor, [Levantine Ceramics Project](#)