

**Report of the Committee on Publications to The Executive
Committee of ASOR
Submitted by Kevin McGeough, Chair
November 2021**

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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 2022. This report is partially incomplete, waiting on some reports that are expected by the beginning of the virtual meeting and some motions that are expected after the COP Annual Meeting. Unfortunately, due to a number of issues, I am unable to attend the in-person meeting this year.

The most urgent issue is that there are two editorial terms that are coming to a conclusion. COP is holding an e-vote on two recommendations regarding those terms. While the results of those recommendations are not known as of the time of writing, they will be communicated to the President, Vice-president, and CEO before the Board meeting. The two editorial terms that are of issue are:

- 1) Stephanie Budin's first three-year term as editor of *NEA* will expire on January 1, 2021. She is eligible for one more three-year term as editor and the motion has been put forward to COP that her term be renewed for the second three-year term for which she is eligible.

- 2) Alex Joffe has reached the maximum number of terms as editor of *ANE Today* that is allowed. A motion has been put forward to COP that the Board extend his term for one year to allow us to conduct a robust search for a replacement, beginning in January. While *ANE Today* is in very good shape, with a queue of articles that will last well into 2023, this has become such a key publication for ASOR that we need to have time for a thorough search. I also have felt that the fall of 2021, with the extreme difficulties of hybrid teaching and other issues related to COVID-19, has not been the time to find people willing to take on extra work.

In other news to report, over the past year COP has been working on other issues through different sub-committees, work that will continue into 2022. For example, a sub-committee led by Charlotte Cable has undertaken an investigation based on a request made to COP at last year's annual meeting. That request was that ASOR add abstracts for its publications in the languages of the region in which the research took place (so, for example, research on Jordan would be accompanied by an Arabic-language abstract). While this request may seem simple, it brings with a number of conceptual and technical difficulties and so the working group is preparing a report, with recommendations, for COP. Other issues, the Board is likely familiar with, such as our policies surrounding digital data publication and our new funding opportunity to deal with monograph subventions. At the COP meeting in 2022, we will determine issues to work on in the following year and strike some more sub-groups as needed.

Report 2021, *Bulletin of ASOR*
***BASOR* co-editors: S. Cohen, M. Kilani, J. Mynářová, R. Pruzsinszky**

The current co-editors of *BASOR* started on 1 January 2021, following a six-month overlap with the previous co-editors, E. Cline and C. Rollefson. We would like to extend our thanks to both Eric and Chris for their willingness, helpfulness, and generosity to work with us to ensure a smooth transition in the editorial process. We would also like to thank *BASOR*'s copy editor, Ali Witsell. Her tireless work, attention to detail, extensive knowledge of the publication processes, and her willingness to share it with us and to help us liaise with the personnel at CUP made our first months as *BASOR* co-editors far more pleasant and far less difficult than they might otherwise have been. We look forward to continuing to work with her. Below are the relevant statistics regarding publication and the other activities that we have accomplished in the ten months since we took over as co-editors.

- Statistics (01/01/2021 – 10/18/2021):
 - number of papers submitted: 45 (26% acceptance rate)
 - number of papers accepted: 12
 - number of papers rejected: 26
 - number of papers out for revision: 9
 - book reviews submitted: 2
 - book reviews accepted: 6 (one from prior to January 2021)

- Publication of two volumes:
 - v 385 in spring 2021, and v 386 in fall 2021.
 - The contents of both volumes consisted of articles accepted and edited by previous co-editors.

- Review Process:
 - We now routinely solicit three reviews for every article.
 - We also have increased the pool of peer reviewers solicited by *BASOR*.
 - Additional reviewers from European institutions

- Book Reviews:
 - We have increased our review of non-English publications.
 - Books are now sent directly from the publishers to the reviewers, rather than first being sent to a *BASOR* co-editor.

- New Editorial Board members:
 - We solicited three new members for the *BASOR* editorial board.
 - M. Cifarelli, S. Bubel, I. Jones
 - We will be replacing three other members in 2022. We will be discussing this with the *BASOR* editorial board at ASOR 2021.

- Changes:
 - We have modified the call for contributions on the *BASOR* website, as follows:
 - We now require that new contributions have a strong analytical component.
 - We have shortened the maximum article length from 15,000 words to 12,000, inclusive of captions, tables, and bibliography.
 - We have modified and simplified the house standard for bibliography (in close cooperation with Ali Witsell).

- Internship:
 - Kristin Redding from Grinnell College worked Summer 2021 as an intern for both *BASOR* and *JNES*, under the direction of Managing Editors Ali Witsell (*BASOR*) and Seth Richardson (*JNES*).
 - Ms. Redding worked on basics of academic publication processes from submission through acceptance, and production processes, basic copyediting, and worked to convert bibliography in v. 386 to the new house style.

- Social Media:
 - *BASOR* is now on facebook, with 545 followers (as of 26 October).

- Outreach:
 - We will be presenting at the Junior Scholars Brown Bag luncheon on Thursday 18 November at ASOR 2021.

- Future Plans:
 - We would like to work with ASOR and CUP to change the cover design for *BASOR*.
 - We would like to reach an article acceptance rate of 15-20%.

2021 Editor's Annual Report for *Near Eastern Archaeology*
Stephanie L. Budin, Editor, *Near Eastern Archaeology*

The effects of COVID-19 have not yet hit *NEA*. We had three (soon to be four) issues this year as usual, one a Special Topics issue on Archaeogaming in March, two regular (i.e. not ST) issues for June and September, and a fourth regular issue is now at the printers for December. We came to exactly 320 pages per annum as requested by UCP.

The use of the new function on Editorial Manager of allowing authors to recommend and/or to oppose peer reviewers has worked well so far. There has only been one case of an opposed reviewer (whom we did not approach, obviously), and most suggested reviewers have been perfectly acceptable scholars in the field. Only one author recommended her dissertation director; we got two other reviewers for that one.

The one problem that emerged in need of future attention is ASOR's vs. UCP's policies on the publication of coins acquired on the market after 1972. One author used on-line digital images from an auction house of coins discussed in his article. While the coin *types* had been extensively published and catalogued in the appropriate *loci*, there was concern about the use of images from auction houses. Having brought the matter to Kevin McGeough, it was determined that the article did not constitute the *editio princeps* of the coins in question, but it was found that conflicting policies between the two publishing groups (ASOR and UCP) needed to be addressed.

The current project of interest is creating non-English language abstracts to accompany the standard English ones. While waiting to see what the committee on this project decides, I have found that many authors are capable and quite willing to provide abstracts in the language relevant to the article (that is, a Turkish-language abstract for excavations in Turkey, etc.). Discussion with Billie Jean Collins indicates that the easiest way to incorporate these extra abstracts would be on the digital versions exclusively (and thus not requiring changing the formatting of the print edition). I contacted Kari Roane at UCP to ask where the actual print editions go, and only about a dozen go to regions of linguistic relevance. As such, the digital route seems to be the best option, and we are planning a test run in March with at least two Turkish-language abstracts (already submitted) and a possible Greek abstract (for an article on Cyprus).

Looking ahead: This is where COVID whacked us. We are now in the COVID-19 doldrums. With an empty queue, I put out an SOS to the Editorial Board as well as posting on the agade listserv and EEF. I am delighted to say that the EB reacted beautifully, and we now have six articles in the queue for March, and another two, also slated for March, in revision.

On the flip side, the call for articles also resulted in two offers for Special Topics issues, which I accepted back when we had nothing. As a result, all 2022 issues except the March issue are devoted to Special Topics—Excavations at Tel Rehov guest edited by Amihai Mazar, Excavations in Iran by Iranians guest edited by Megan Cifarelli (already planned), and Ancient Animals guest edited by Lidar Sapir-Hen and Romina della Casa.

Regarding the Editorial Board, Megan Cifarelli, Shawna Dolansky, Jennie Ebeling, and Gregory Marouard are stepping down this year. Invitations to join the EB have already been accepted by Takayoshi Oshima (Bible and Assyriology), Lindsey Der (Anatolia, Prehistory, and animal-human relations), and Thais Rocha da Silva (Egyptology and domestic architecture). While I shall ask at the annual NEA EB Meetings (virtual again this year) if any of the above-mentioned members would like to stay on, I think at least first three are sufficiently over-worked as to throw something at me for even mentioning it.

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. This December issue has Julia writing the "Editor's Introduction" to introduce her to the *NEA* community.

AASOR – Semi-Annual Report – November 2021
William Caraher, editor

Manuscripts in Revision:

1. Title: Archaeological Ethics in Practice
Editors: Sarah Lepinski and Sarah Kielt Costello
Color: Undecided

2. 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

Under Review:

1. Title: Excavations at Kourion’s Amathous Gate Cemetery (2 Volumes)
Author/Editor: Michael Given
Color: Yes.
Subvention: Color requested and in search of subvention funding.

Manuscript Received:

1. Taanach Volume.
Author/Editor: Nancy Lapp
Color: Undecided

This year has been a bit trying at the helm of the *Annual* with authors and reviewers alike struggling to come to terms with a COVID complicated world. As a result, we’ve been forced to adapt a bit. For example, the Amman Theater statue volume had a reviewer “ghost,” but received one very positive and thorough review. Rather than delay publication, I decided to let it go with a single review, but after the author had started revisions, the ghosting reviewer re-appeared! To allow that reviewer to make up for their unceremonious ghosting but to also allow the authors to complete their revisions, I asked her to perform a “final review” and gave her strict orders not to disappear.

The Kourion volume is 85% complete with 15% requiring another few weeks of field work. The report on the human remains is not complete at this time, but most of the cultural material has been studied and analyzed. Instead of holding up the entire 220,000+ word volume, I decided to send out the manuscript in its current state to two reviewers. Both would focus on the cultural material and one of the two reviewers has agreed to review the entire manuscript again when the human remains section is complete. When the human remains section is submitted, I’ll also send that section to an appropriate specialist for the more technical review of that material. Hopefully this complicated review handling will allow this very impressive (and massive) pair of volumes to move through the review process more efficiently.

Finally, I'm happy enough to report that Andy has agreed to make the Lepinski and Costello volume available in digital form for free.

Note from the previous editor (Kevin McGeough)

After some technical delays, I am pleased to report that *An Examination of the Stratigraphy and Neolithic-Iron Age Pottery from Tel Jezreel, Area A* (AASOR 73) by Charlotte Whiting and Gloria London has been sent to the printers with an expected publication date of January 2022.

ASOR Archaeological Report Series Report, November 2021
Jennie Ebeling, editor

Recent Publications

ASOR-ARS 28

April 2021

Chovanec, Zuzana and Walter Crist (eds). *All Things Cypriot: Studies on Ancient Environment, Technology, and Society in Honor of Stuart Swiny.*

ASOR-ARS 27

November 2020

Holum, Kenneth G. (ed). *Caesarea Maritima Excavations in the Old City 1989-2003 Conducted by the University of Maryland and the University of Haifa, Final Reports, Volume 1: The Temple Platform (Area TP), Neighboring Quarters (Area TPS and Z), and the Inner Harbor Quays (Area I): Hellenistic Evidence, King Herod's Harbor Temple, Intermediate Occupation, and the Octagonal Harbor Church.*

Manuscripts Received

Meehl, M.W. *Taanach II: The Iron Age Stratigraphy*. Author has made changes recommended by former series editor Hanan Charaf and peer reviewers and resubmitted the manuscript; author is currently making minor changes recommended by current series editor.

Gaber, P. *Idalion III. The Terrace of the East Acropolis, Mouti tou Arvili, and Special Studies*. (No change in status since November 2020). Contract signed by P. Gaber. Author's agreement 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).

Proposals Accepted after Peer Review; Awaiting Manuscripts

Listed in chronological order from most recent

- 1) Title: *The Zeitah Excavations: Reports on a Survey and Nine Seasons of Excavation at Tel Zayit* (four volumes).
Authors/Editors: Ron Tappy
Proposal Accepted: May 12, 2021
- 2) Title: *The Roman Aqaba Project Final Report Volume 2 – Excavation of Ancient Aila*.
Authors/Editors: S. Thomas Parker; Megan Perry now has responsibility for publication
Proposal Accepted: May 24, 2020
- 3) Title: *The Promontory Palace at Caesarea Maritima, Israel: Final Reports*.
Authors/Editors: Kathryn Gleason, Barbara Burrell, and Jimmy Schryver
Proposal Accepted: January 3, 2020
- 4) Title: *University of Michigan/University of Minnesota Excavations at Tel Kedesh of the Upper Galilee Volume I: The Hellenistic Archive*.
Authors/Editors: Sharon Herbert and Andrea Berlin
Proposal Accepted: December 22, 2019
- 5) Title: *Archaeological Investigations at Tell Qarqur, Syria: Settlement, Subsistence, and Social Change in the Northern Levant*.
Authors/Editors: Jesse Casana
Proposal Accepted: January 4, 2019
- 6) Title: *The Final Report of the Petra North Ridge Project*.
Authors/Editors: S. Thomas Parker; Megan Perry now has responsibility for publication.
Proposal Accepted: November 27, 2017
- 7) Title: *Environment, Landscape, and Society: Diachronic Perspectives on Settlement Patterns in Cyprus*. CAARI Monograph.
Authors/Editors: Andrew McCarty, Evi Margaritis, and Pamela Gaber
Proposal Accepted: March 3, 2017
- 8) Title: *Humayma Excavation Project, 3: The Roman Fort and Regional Watchtowers*.
Authors/Editors: John Oleson
Proposal Accepted: January 6, 2015
- 9) Title: *Koutsopetria 2, Cyprus*
Authors/Editors: Bill Caraher, et al.

The Ancient Near East Today, 2021 report

Alex Joffe, Editor

ANEToday is ASOR's free, non-scholarly, web-based platform, designed as an 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. Each monthly issue is generally anchored by at least one piece dealing with Biblical texts, archaeology, or history.

Changes in 2021

- A pop up button for Friends of ASOR was added the ANEToday page to encourage membership,
- Outreach to FB groups was initiated to further disseminate ANEToday in this now dominant platform,
- Follow up with authors regarding their social media postings was expanded,
- Continued positive feedback on the use of PDFs for teaching was received.

Editorial Metrics (as of 1 November)

Total items published annually = 52.

Total items published since 2013 = 499.

Total solicitations since November 2020 = 110.

Total solicitations/offered pieces since project inception in 2012 = 1001.

Average number of pieces in the publication queue = 25-30.

Reader Metrics (as of 1 October)

16,084 (15,660 last year) email recipients. Open rates range from 27-37% (average 32%) with an average click rate of 27.7% (26% last year).

Weekly links are seen by:

- 17,672 Facebook followers of ASOR. Post engagement up 318%, with the highest likes, reactions, and link clicks going to ANE Today articles (as opposed to other ASOR posts).
- 6,339 Twitter followers of ASOR. Steady increases in followers, but more fluctuation in engagement. ANE Today articles always have the highest engagement
- 1,103 Instagram followers of ASOR. Post engagement up 182%.

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 2021 Annual Report ASOR Committee on Publications

Global pandemic notwithstanding, the [LCP](#) has had another busy year. We completed one small round of development in February, and are in the midst of another round as I write. Under the direction of Dr. Paula Waiman-Barak, the Ceramic Petrography Lab at Tel Aviv University is training students in the undergraduate and graduate archaeology programs to add data to the site. This year's Editorial Intern, Qi Zheng, has overseen a major effort to add all of the material from a massive project in Syria, which will make over 1000 years' worth of ceramics from the poorly understood region of the Hauran accessible. Finally, as every year, the number of contributors and amount of information on the site has risen substantially.

Site Improvements

The major software improvement this year is the development of an application programming interface (API). By enabling other software applications to communicate and share data with the [LCP](#), and vice versa, the API will enable linkages with outside laboratory and excavation databases as well as other applications such as mapping sites. The API will also make it possible for mobile, at-large developers to imagine new ways to query and use the [LCP](#), and develop their own new analytical tools. The API is intended to facilitate a desideratum of long-standing, namely bulk vessel upload. Currently every piece of information on the [LCP](#) has been individually entered. The API will enable group transfer of data, which will simplify submission of large quantities of excavation pottery.

Numbers

We gained 110 new contributors this year, along with additional information in every category on the site (except wares, on which see below):

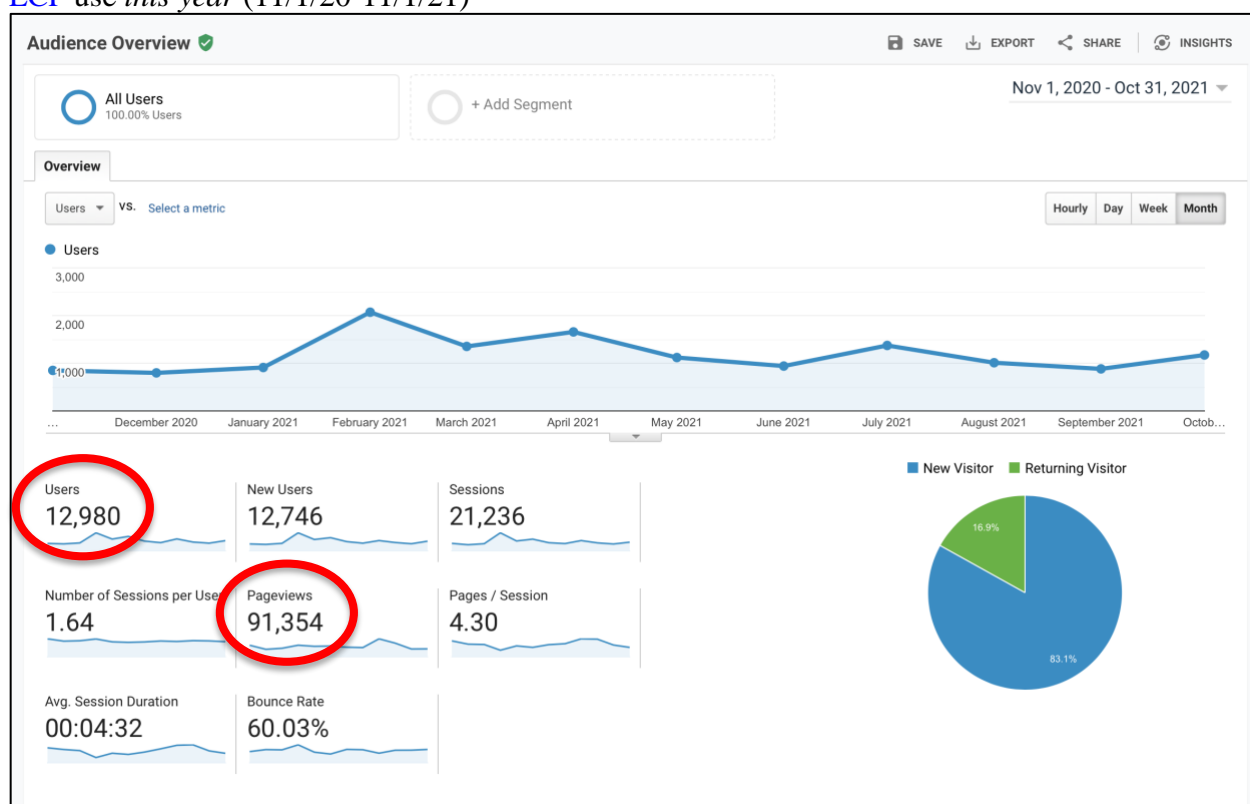
category	as of Nov. 1, 2016	as of Nov. 1, 2017	as of Nov. 1, 2018	as of Nov. 1, 2019	as of Nov. 1, 2020	as of Nov. 1, 2021	<i>increase in the last year:</i>
Contributors	194	236	280	346	456	533	77
Ceramic wares	314	371	400	442	483	476	<u>7 fewer*</u>
Petro-fabrics	58	71	76	93	101	104	3
Vessels	6067	6604	9131	10,000	12,093	13,794	1701
Petrographic samples	5037	5125	5268	5303	5458	5716	258
Kilns	12	20	25	30	40	52	12

* Why do we have *fewer* wares than last year? Because researchers or editors sometimes see that a ware has been added to the **LCP** which is identical to one already on the site. In those situations we contact all the contributors and invite them to a conversation. Usually that results in a decision to collapse two entries into one, and to associate all of the relevant vessels with a single ware. This is a good thing! It means that the **LCP** has facilitated collaborative scholarly discussion leading to improved understandings. Progress!

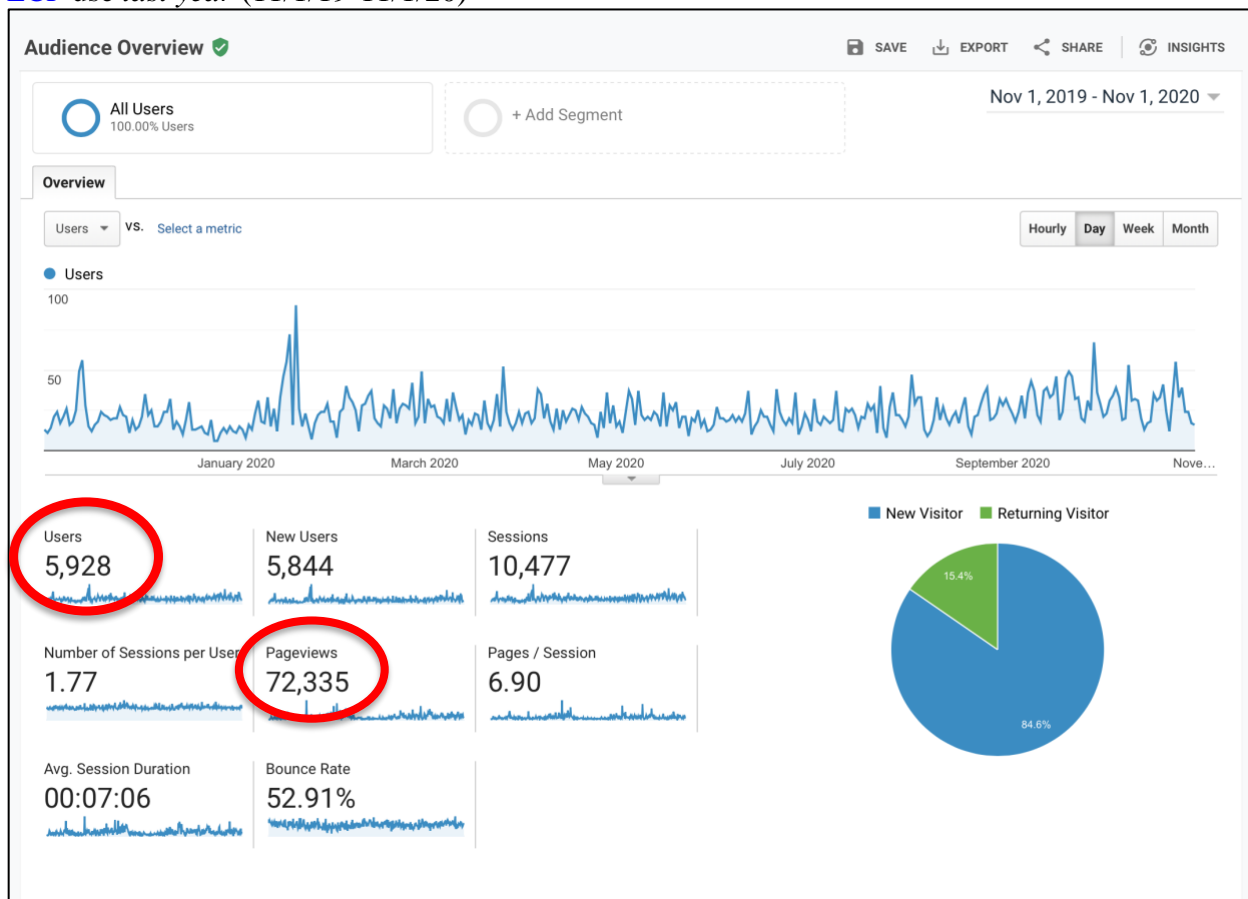
Big Numbers (aka Site Analytics)

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 (11/1/20-10/31/21) and the 12 months prior (11/1/19-11/1/20).

LCP use *this year* (11/1/20-11/1/21)



LCP use *last year* (11/1/19-11/1/20)



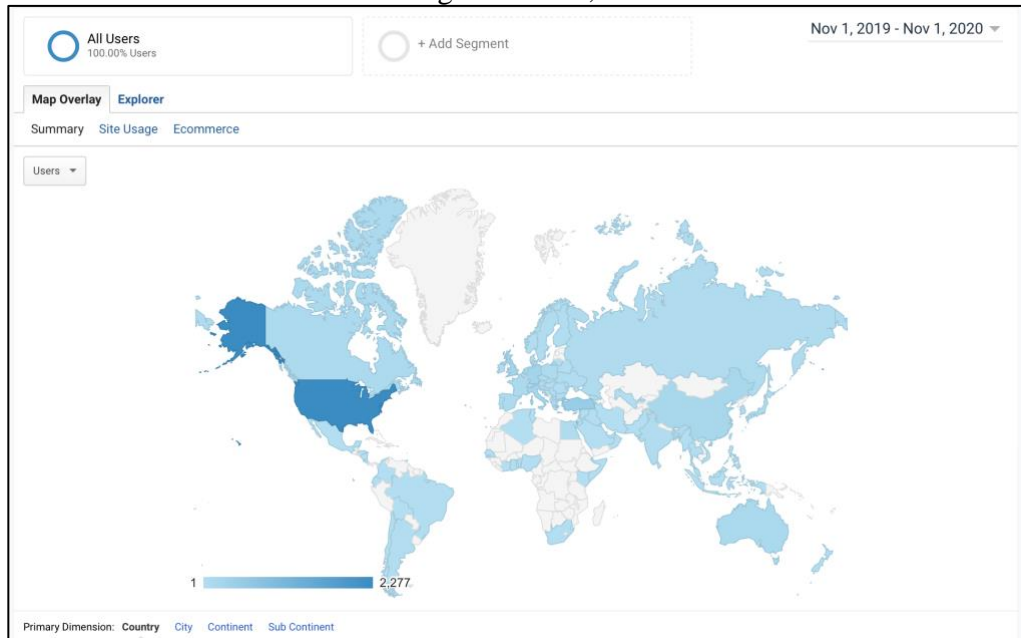
Numbers to note:

	11/1/18- 11/1/19	11/1/19- 11/1/20	11/1/20- 10/31/21	<i>increase in the last year:</i>
Page Views	52,975	72,335	91,354	19,019
New Users	4,452	5,844	12,746	6,902
Users	4,511	5,928	12,980	7,052
Sessions	8,536	10,477	21,236	10,759

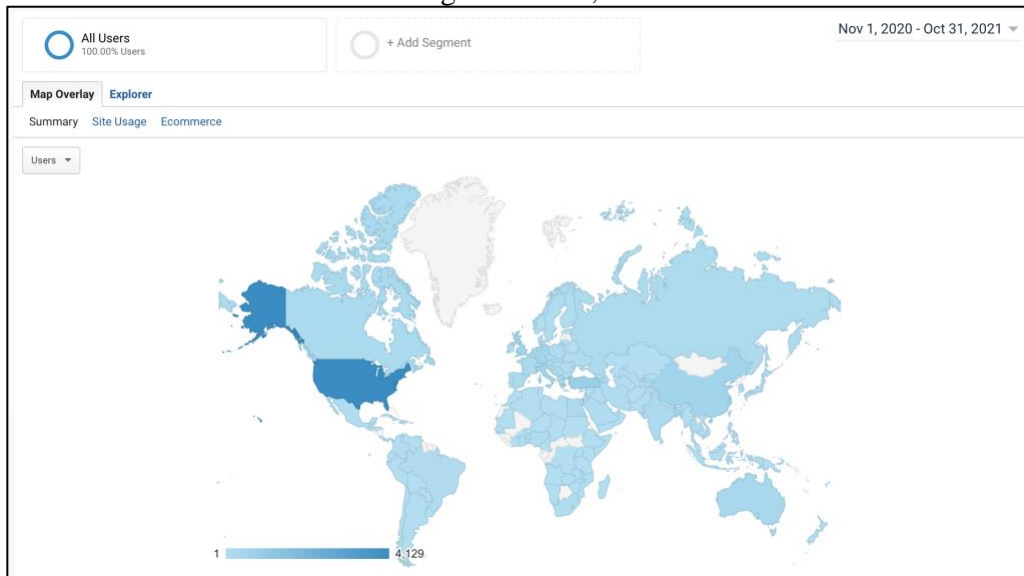
In the past year, both the number of users and the number of sessions recorded on the [LCP](#) *doubled*, and the number of page views rose almost 20%. Most impressive is the leap from just under 6000 users last year to almost 13,000 this year.

This year's map shows a widening footprint as well, as a comparison with the map from last year shows – although still nobody using the [LCP](#) in Greenland or Antarctica:

The LCP's global reach, 2019-2020:



The LCP's global reach, 2020-2021:



As for specific usage by country, the two tables below summarize our top ten from 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. As it is doing in so many other measurable indices, China is gaining ground in number of LCP users as well.

2019-2020

Country	Acquisition		
	Users	New Users	Sessions
	5,928 % of Total: 100.00% (5,928)	5,848 % of Total: 100.07% (5,844)	10,477 % of Total: 100.00% (10,477)
1. United States	2,277 (38.13%)	2,250 (38.47%)	3,769 (35.97%)
2. Israel	613 (10.27%)	596 (10.19%)	2,177 (20.78%)
3. Turkey	424 (7.10%)	409 (6.99%)	768 (7.33%)
4. United Kingdom	241 (4.04%)	240 (4.10%)	291 (2.78%)
5. Germany	237 (3.97%)	232 (3.97%)	360 (3.44%)
6. Italy	226 (3.78%)	218 (3.73%)	372 (3.55%)
7. China	176 (2.95%)	176 (3.01%)	176 (1.68%)
8. Australia	135 (2.26%)	134 (2.29%)	188 (1.79%)
9. Canada	116 (1.94%)	117 (2.00%)	159 (1.52%)
10. France	114 (1.91%)	107 (1.83%)	162 (1.55%)

2020-2021

Country	Acquisition		
	Users	New Users	Sessions
	12,980 % of Total: 100.00% (12,980)	12,754 % of Total: 100.06% (12,746)	21,236 % of Total: 100.00% (21,236)
1. United States	4,129 (31.88%)	4,092 (32.08%)	6,414 (30.20%)
2. Israel	1,169 (9.03%)	1,132 (8.88%)	3,285 (15.47%)
3. Turkey	727 (5.61%)	709 (5.56%)	1,257 (5.92%)
4. Italy	514 (3.97%)	500 (3.92%)	809 (3.81%)
5. China	503 (3.88%)	501 (3.93%)	797 (3.75%)
6. United Kingdom	500 (3.86%)	493 (3.87%)	644 (3.03%)
7. Germany	456 (3.52%)	443 (3.47%)	674 (3.17%)
8. Australia	302 (2.33%)	301 (2.36%)	439 (2.07%)
9. Greece	265 (2.05%)	257 (2.02%)	482 (2.27%)
10. France	251 (1.94%)	243 (1.91%)	458 (2.16%)

In the works: 1000 years of Hauran history, through a ceramic lens

Hard borders, civil wars, intractable terrain – these are facts on the ground across the landscapes of the Levant. Swaths of territory that are today invisible or inaccessible were zones of habitation and connection in the past. The [LCP](#) helps us see what was, and situate past realities in a wider world via pottery. This year, thanks to the devoted work of [LCP](#) Editorial Intern Qi Zheng, the history of the Hauran region of southern Syria from 1200 BCE-200 CE will become visible, via over 1000 vessels from 50+ sites from the Lajā' survey (2003–2009), the Qarrāsa excavations (2008–2011), and data from the French Archaeological Mission to Southern Syria. All of this material comes from Jérôme Rohmer's monumental 2020 publication *Hauran VI. D'Aram à Rome. La Syrie du Sud de l'âge du Fer à l'annexion romaine (XII^e siècle av. J.-C. – I^{er} siècle apr. J.C.)*. Jérôme enthusiastically gave permission to add it all to the [LCP](#) in order to make this material more widely accessible to students and scholars. We hope this will help people see and study the Levant as it was: a zone of connectivity through which people and ideas were always moving.

On the horizon: Print-to-publication, Site redesign, and a new map-based entry portal

In the coming year we hope to develop a new print-to-publication feature to allow the creation of custom handbooks and field-guides. Last year's development of Light Table, which enables the selection and arrangement of figures and text, able to be saved and printed in a .pdf format, laid the groundwork for this feature. We envision this to be a service to instructors and field researchers, as well as a modest funding stream for ASOR.

In conjunction with the print-publication feature, we have also embarked on a user-interface re-design intended to emphasize the affiliation with ASOR. For the initial re-envisioning work, we thank Jared Koller, ASOR's Information and Website Manager. The redesign will replace the [LCP](#)'s current teal logo with ASOR's color palette as well as reorganize the visual formatting. In the coming year we also hope to develop a new map-based entry portal, which will turn the home page into a vehicle for open-ended search and discovery. The preliminary home page mock-ups below give a sense of what is to come:

LCP Submit Search Browse Resources About Light Table Sign in Register ASOR Home

Slideshow Here

The LCP is an open-access, growing resource designed to foster the investigation of Levantine societies, cultures, and economies via pottery. Contribute data and help build the future of ceramic research.

Interactive Map Here

© 2012 - 2021 Levantine Ceramics Project | Privacy Policy | Terms of service | ASOR Home Built by Preia | Digital Humanities specialists

The other banner slides are:





Respectfully submitted,

Andrea M. Berlin

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