

American Excavations in the Tophet at Carthage, 1925–2025

We invite the American Society of Overseas Research to join invited institutions, in the U.S. and abroad (see note below), in organizing an exhibition marking two anniversaries of American archaeological excavations at Carthage in the Precinct of Ba'al and Tinnit (the so-called *tophet*): the 100th anniversary of the University of Michigan excavations led by Professor F. W. Kelsey (1925), and the 50th anniversary of the ASOR Punic Project excavations led by Professor L. E. Stager (1975-1979). Dr. G. Ernest Wright, Parkman Professor of Divinity at Harvard (1960–1974) and previous president of ASOR, launched the ASOR Punic Project in Carthage and, although he died before excavations began, his successors at ASOR and the Society as a whole supported the ongoing field project. We hope therefore for ASOR's continued support as we move to publication and exhibition of the results and repatriation of the finds. We are not appealing to ASOR for direct or immediate financial sponsorship as much as asking that the Society use its good offices to support us as we secure necessary funding and seek requisite museum venues in order to realize this exhibit.

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NOTE: Artifacts from the ASOR Punic Project in the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East (Harvard University) will form the core of the exhibition, supplemented by artifacts and archival documents from the Bentley Historical Library and Kelsey Museum (University of Michigan), the J. B. Chabot Archives (Université catholique de Louvain), and the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford University). Most importantly, the Institut National de Patrimoine–Tunisie (Bardo Museum and Musée National de Carthage) has offered support for loaning artifacts and for the repatriation of ASOR artifacts. As for venues, the HMANE/Harvard Art Museums, the Kelsey Museum and ISAW (NYU) have offered preliminary support as primary venues, but we are also approaching the Joukowsky Institute (Brown University), the Oriental Institute Museum (University of Chicago), the Costsen Institute (UCLA), the Pacific School of Religion (UCBerkeley), and the Cincinnati Art Museum (in cooperation with the Hebrew Union College).