

**Report of the Committee on Publications to The Executive
Committee of ASOR
Submitted by Kevin McGeough, Chair
November 2022**

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Report of the Chair (Kevin McGeough)

ASOR Publications are running smoothly. What are included are reports from the editors. I have no concerns with the operation of any of our publications at the current time. Some of the individual reports detail specific challenges facing specific publications at this time, but all of these, are to my mind, the kinds of problems that are to be expected from time to time. Our relationships with both University of Chicago Press and ISD remain excellent, and the work of both organizations continues to enhance our publication program. At this point I am still awaiting reports from the University of Chicago Press related to the journals and from the ASOR office related to our monograph sales.

We have completed our search for a new ANEToday editor and are pleased to report that Jessica Nitschke has been recommended (unanimously) for the position by both the COP Search Committee and COP as a whole. This recommendation will be brought to the Board at the Annual Meeting. While I am delighted that Jessica will be joining us, this is bittersweet as it means that this brings Alex Joffe's term as ANEToday editor to an end. As the inaugural editor of what has become an incredibly important part of ASOR's publication program, Alex must be given the most credit for its successes. With that, I wish to thank Alex for his service to COP and ASOR as a whole.

This year ASOR has also added the journal *Maarav* to its publication program. It will become one of ASOR's publications and, like the other journals, will be published through the University of Chicago Press. Simeon Chavel has been nominated as editor and Bruce Zuckerman has been nominated as Editor Emeritus. These recommendations from COP have been forwarded to the Board. Should these selections be affirmed by the Board, an editorial board for *Maarav* has been selected by the potential incoming editors.

Some of COP's projects that were intended to be started in the spring of 2022 were put on hold unexpectedly (such as our efforts to standardize ASOR's policies towards the publications of numismatics). This was due to a long faculty strike that I was part of that meant that I was cut off from access to email and other academic supports. Since none of these projects were time sensitive (other than the hiring of an editor for ANEToday), these delays will not impact ASOR's publications programs negatively.

Report 2022, *Bulletin of ASOR*

BASOR co-editors: S. Cohen, M. Kilani, J. Mynářová, R. Pruzsinszky

We would like to extend our thanks to *BASOR*'s fantastic copy editor, Ali Witsell, and the production team at University of Chicago Press for all their work in helping to produce the journal.

Below are the relevant statistics regarding publication and the other activities that we have accomplished in 2022.

- Statistics (1 November 2021 – 31 October 2022):
 - number of papers submitted: 41
 - number of papers accepted: 12
 - number of papers rejected: 18
 - number of papers out for revision: 10
 - total number of papers out for revision (all years): 23
 - book reviews submitted: 19
 - book reviews accepted: 19

- Publication of two volumes:
 - v 387 in spring 2022, and v 388 in fall 2022.
 - We are now publishing materials for which we have overseen the entire review process.

- Review Process:
 - We routinely solicit three reviews for every article.
 - We are still working to increase the pool of peer reviewers solicited by *BASOR*.
 - Additional reviewers from European institutions

- Book Reviews:
 - We have increased our review of non-English publications.

- New Editorial Board members:
 - We solicited three new members for the *BASOR* editorial board.
 - Patrick Michel, Université de Lausanne
 - Megan Perry, East Carolina University
 - Alexandra Ratzlaff, Brandeis University

- Three members will be rotating off the board
 - Jennie Ebeling, University of Evansville
 - Jennifer Ramsay, SUNY Brockport
 - James Osborne, University of Chicago
- We will be finding replacements for them in 2023. We propose to ask the following individuals:
 - Shlomit Bechar, University of Haifa
 - Nancy Highcock, British Museum
 - Yorke Rowan, University of Chicago
- Changes:
 - We have worked with ASOR leadership and University of Chicago Press to change the cover of BASOR. The first volume to appear with this cover is v. 388, fall 2022.
 - We continue to require that manuscript submissions have a strong analytical component.
- Social Media:
 - *BASOR* now has 925 followers on Facebook (as of 7 November 2022).
 - up from 545 followers last year (as of 26 October 2021)
- Future Plans:
 - Our goal is still to reach an article acceptance rate of 15-20%.
 - Our goal is to maintain no more than a one year backlog of articles in the publication queue.
 - In 2023, the BASOR co-editors will be chairing a new workshop session at ASOR entitled “So what? Finding Meaning in Near Eastern Studies.” The workshop is designed to address current issues regarding the place and role of the field, and publishing in the field, in current academia, and to discuss other related matters.
 - BASOR’s proposal to CAP to include living communities in ongoing archaeological work.

2022 Editor's Annual Report for *Near Eastern Archaeology*
Submitted by Stephanie Budin

Near Eastern Archaeology produced four issues in 2022, two regular (individual articles) issues and two Special Topics (Tel Rehov and Animals—due out in December). We are still having trouble achieving the UCP ideal of four 80-page issues per annum, but we have managed to stay within page count, if coming in slightly under this year owing to a shorter than expected December issue.

The Non-English Language Abstract initiative is officially cancelled. While we were able to get together the internal infrastructure for *NEA* (how to submit a secondary/tertiary abstract, where such abstracts would appear in the digital version), we were unable to get actual translators or proofreaders. The suggestion was to have the authors themselves provide translations, assuming they should have access to native speakers on their excavations or that they could pay for professional translators. As I believed this put an undue pressure on the socially awkward and the poor, I decided to terminate the initiative.

All out-going members of the *NEA* Editorial Board decided to take a second round of service, so there are no new members for 2023. One member did leave early—Kathryn Morgan—but we are still at full quorum. So, the Class of 2025 is Solange Ashby, Trudy Kawami, Yorke Rowan, and Louise Steel.

2023 is looking to be utterly chaotic (no other word for it). The main problem is that of Guest Edited Special Topics issues vs. regular issues. On the one hand, we are getting increasingly fewer submissions of individual manuscripts, regardless of outreach. On the other hand, we are receiving *many* offers for ST issues. However, that latter fact is currently being complicated by the fact that the two GEST issues originally planned for 2023 may or may not actually happen. The GEs for the scheduled March 2023 issue missed so many deadlines that they were pushed back to June. It remains unknown whether they will have anything for June either, although at the moment we are proceeding as if they will not. The scheduled GEST issue for September 2023 has already been pushed back from September 2022 and deals with Iran, which is now proving a difficult region to work with for political reasons. Additionally, the GE for this issue has already informed me that the original 10 articles have now been reduced to six, making for yet another shorter-than-ideal issue. Other than soliciting more individual manuscripts and preparing, inevitably, to offend someone down the line, I am not sure what to predict for 2023. We have sufficient articles for the March 2023 issue, so that is now covered. In the meanwhile, two additional GEST issues have already been planned—Levantine stamp seals and Spanish Assyriology (which has been in the works for a while now, before everything else exploded).

The matter of Special Topics issues is highlighting an additional problem. As noted above, the current UCP ideal is for *NEA* to have four 80-page issues per annum. This involves eight articles per issue. Previously, *NEA* typically produced issues of 64 pages, with only occasional issues of 96 pages. That is to say, *NEA* functioned for years producing six articles per issue with only the occasional outlier (often a GEST issue). The requirement is now a consistent eight articles per issue, and this is not currently proving feasible. We have started compensating by allowing longer articles, but this changes the nature of *NEA*. Would it be possible to speak with UCP about going back to the previous model?

One other, lesser concern is the growing tendency for articles to acquire increasingly large numbers of authors. A manuscript submitted with one or two author names suddenly has six or 12 when the revised version comes in after peer review. This is making it difficult to format the author bios and photographs at the end of articles. Any recommendations from the CoP on this (or anything else) would be appreciated.

As ever, I am truly grateful to and for Billie Jean Collins for her copy editing, Susanne Wilhelm for layout, Julia Hsieh for her work as assistant editor, and Rob Blixt for all the tech. support.

Stephanie Lynn Budin, Editor
Near Eastern Archaeology

AASOR – Annual Report – November 2022
Submitted by William Caraher

Manuscripts under Contract

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

in Revision:

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

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.

Manuscripts Expected:

1. Taanach Volume.
Author/Editor: Nancy Lapp
Color: Undecided
2. Unsilencing the Archives
Author/Editor: Aaron Brody, Felicity Cobbing, Melissa Cradic, Helen Dixon, Samuel Pfister, and Jeff Zorn

Notes:

Joel S. Burnett should submit his final manuscript by the end of the summer 2022.

The Kourion volume should arrive for a second round of reviews by the end of the year. Our hope is that it moves through its second review very efficiently. This is all the more important because these volumes must appear in 2023 or they will need to be released Open Access in keeping with funding mandates.

Sarah Lepinski and Sarah Kielt Costello have said that their volume should be in my hands around the end of the year. I'm happy enough to report that Andy has agreed to make the Lepinski and Costello volume available in digital form for free.

Unsilencing the Archives edited by Aaron Broody et al. has received funding to appear open access.

ASOR *Archaeological Report Series* Report - November 2022 **Submitted by Jennie Ebeling**

Forthcoming (Contracts Signed)

ASOR-ARS 29

Meehl, M.W. *Taanach II: The Iron Age Stratigraphy*. Mark and I are going through the second proofs now. A review copy will be available at the ISD table at the book exhibit in Boston.

ASOR-ARS 30

Herbert, S. and A. Berlin, eds. *University of Michigan/University of Minnesota Excavations at Tel Kedesh of the Upper Galilee Volume I: The Hellenistic Archive*. Susanne at ISD has started working on it; we are still waiting on a few bits and pieces.

Manuscripts Received

Parker, S.T. and M.A. Perry, eds. *The Roman Aqaba Project Final Report Volume 2 – Excavation of Ancient Aila*. Megan is now responsible for this project. She received the reviewers' comments in June 2022 and is seeking subvention funds.

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. Contract signed in November 2021.
- 2) Title: *The Promontory Palace at Caesarea Maritima, Israel: Final Reports*.
Authors/Editors: Kathryn Gleason, Barbara Burrell, and Jimmy Schryver
Proposal Accepted: January 3, 2020
- 3) 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

- 4) 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
- 5) 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
- 6) Title: *Humayma Excavation Project, 3: The Roman Fort and Regional Watchtowers*.
Authors/Editors: John Oleson
Proposal Accepted: January 6, 2015
- 7) Title: *Koutsopetria 2, Cyprus*
Authors/Editors: Bill Caraher, et al.

The Ancient Near East Today, 2022 Report, 1 November 2022
Submitted by 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. Each monthly issue is generally anchored by at least one piece dealing with Biblical texts, archaeology, or history.

Changes in 2022

- A new editor, Jessica Nitschke, was selected and will take over on 1 January 2023,
- Follow up with authors regarding their social media postings was continued,
- More unsolicited pieces (n=11) were offered than in any other year,
- Continued positive feedback on the use of PDFs for teaching was received.

Editorial Metrics (as of 1 November or 1 December)

Total items published annually = 52.

Total items published March 2013-December 2022 = 554.

Total solicitations since November 2020 = 73.

Total solicitations/offered pieces since project inception in 2012 = 1072.

Average number of pieces in the publication queue = 20-25.

Reader Metrics (as of 1 October)

16,736 (16,084 last year) email recipients. Open rates range from 21-38% (average 34%, up from 32%) with an average click rate of 26.2% (27.7% last year).

Weekly links are seen by:

17,990 Facebook followers of ASOR (up from 17,672 last year). Facebook reach is down 2.5% from last year.

6,944 Twitter followers of ASOR (up from 6,339 last year).

1,103 Instagram followers of ASOR (up from 1,103 last year). Instagram profile visits are up 13.7%. Addition of linktree on profile to make clicking into article easier for users done in September 2022.

ANE Today articles continue to be the majority of the top-10 most visited articles on the ASOR website for any given week throughout the year.

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 2022 Annual Report ASOR Committee on Publications

The [LCP](#) has had another busy year. We completed two large development rounds in February-March, and are in the midst of another round as I write. The Ceramic Petrography Laboratory at Tel Aviv University continues to train undergraduate and graduate students, who have been steadily adding new analytical information to the site, under the direction of Dr. Paula Waiman-Barak. [LCP](#) Editorial Interns Qi Zheng and Kameron Kashani have added new sites, wares, and vessels from Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan (summarized below). As of this fall, we welcomed a new advisory board, who will help us plan for the site's future sustainability and development. Finally, as every year, the number of contributors and amount of information on the site has risen substantially.

Site Improvements

In the winter we overhauled the [LCP](#)'s user-interface, updating the format, color scheme, and all page layouts to bring the overall look in line with ASOR's home page. We also built an interactive map, which now appears on the home page and allows anybody to immediately search by any category: vessels, wares, petrographic samples, kilns/workshops, etc.

On this site	
Wares/Ware Families	491
Petro-fabrics	430
Vessels	14834
Petrographic samples	4002
Kilns/workshops	95
Master Bibliography	1662
Sites	836
Contributors	234

LCP Development is made possible by:

The LCP is a project of:

SEARCH THE LCP

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The new [LCP](#) landing page, with the interactive map immediately visible. The upper image bar rotates among four different images, showing casserole production in present-day Turkey (above), loading Ballas water jars onto a truck in present-day Egypt, excavating Hellenistic-period store jars in Israel, and Middle Bronze Age juglets from Syria.

We are currently building a new feature, dubbed Print-to-Publication. This will enable the creation of books incorporating any information currently on the site. Only an LCP administrator will be able to activate this feature – but it will be apparent as an option, to enable people to request their own specially designed versions. Print-to-Publication expands on Light Table, which we built a few years ago. Light Table enables a user to select and make plates of individual vessels, along with their associated information, illustrations, break photos, and petrographic thin-sections. Print-to-Publication will enable the selection of other pages – ware/ware family, kiln/workshop, petro-fabric, and site. One key advantage is that books can be produced in either paper or digital format; and of course both versions will have links to the original pages, so that additions, updates, and edits can be easily incorporated into future versions.

Mock-up of an LCP ware page with Print-to-Publication buttons.

Numbers

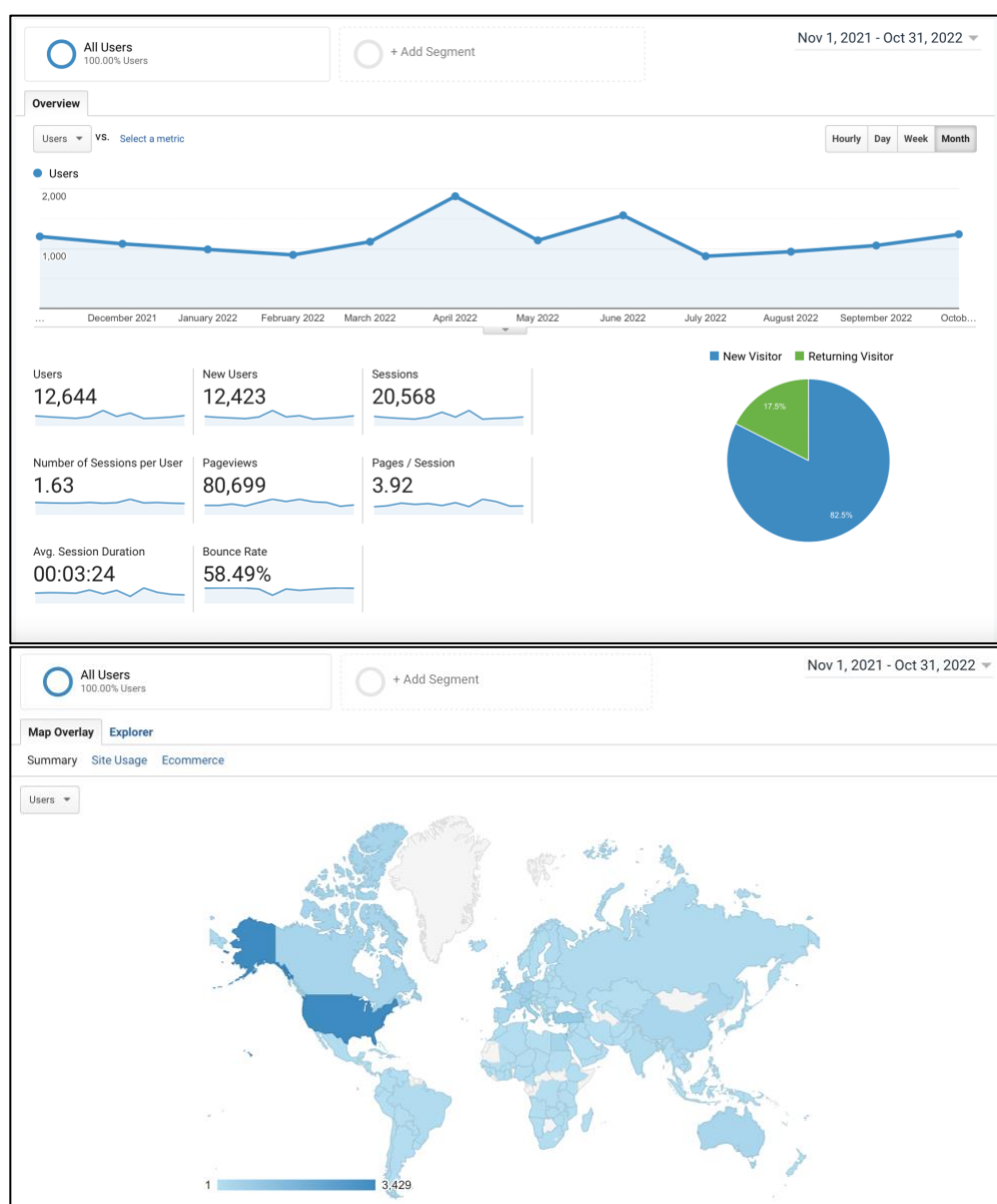
We gained new information in every category, with the biggest jump coming in the number of vessels:

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	as of Nov. 1, 2022	<i>increase in the last year:</i>
Contributors	194	236	280	346	456	533	594	61

Vessels	6067	6604	9131	10,000	12,093	13,794	16,834	3,040
Petrographic samples	5037	5125	5268	5303	5458	5716	6002	286
Wares	314	371	400	442	483	476	491	15
Petro-fabrics	58	71	76	93	101	104	109	5
Kiln/Workshops	12	20	25	30	40	52	56	4

Big Numbers (aka Site Analytics)

Thanks to Google Analytics, we can track [LCP](#) use in real time and over time. We continue to have robust participation world-wide (but still no users in Greenland ...)



New Editorial Advisory Board

This summer we bid a grateful farewell to the long-serving members of our Editorial Advisory Board, who had signed on way back in 2014 and served faithfully for many years. I extended invitations to eight scholars and colleagues with the aim of creating more robust linkages with ASOR and those committees whose interests align with the [LCP](#) (COP and CAP), and also with foreign schools that are especially engaged in active fieldwork in the countries represented on the site. The new board members are:

- Matthew J. Adams (former AIAR Director)
- Bill Caraher (COP member, AASOR Editor)
- Lynn Swartz Dodd (ASOR Board and Chair of Development)
- Steve Falconer (CAP Chair)
- Jen Gates-Foster, UNC-Chapel Hill (AIAR Board)
- Paul V. M. Flesher (ASOR Board)
- Kevin McGeough (COP Chair)
- Micaela Sinibaldi (Polish Center of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw)

Together we hope to address a series of challenges and opportunities:

- Develop ideas and steps for closer integration of the LCP and ASOR
- Act as conduits to ASOR excavators to encourage their participation
- Generate ideas for outreach to foreign projects and excavators
- Advise on various issues related to site design, technical maintenance, and data stability
- Advise on allocation of funds for software development

[LCP Workshops are back!](#)

Thanks to the energy, organization, and enthusiasm of Micaela Sinibaldi and Ian Jones, the [LCP's](#) Jordan editors, we had our first-ever workshop in Jordan, hosted on Aug. 6th, at ACOR. Micaela and Ian welcomed about 20 participants, who gave presentations on ceramic wares ranging from the Iron Age to Ottoman times. For the 1st mill. BCE, Kent Bramlett and Monique Roddy discussed [Iron Age Cream Ware](#) from Balu'a, and Debra Foran presented [Hellenistic cooking pots from Khirbet al-Mukhayyat](#). For the 1st mill. CE, Craig Harvey presented Roman-period ceramic building material from Humayma ([Humayma Praetorium Room J Ware](#)) and Raffaella Pappalardo introduced Byzantine to Abbasid Wares from Jarash. Moving up into the 2nd mill., Micaela and Ian shared their research on various Medieval and Ottoman Southern Levantine wares, including [Handmade Geometric Painted Ware](#), [Handmade Cooking Ware](#), [Handmade Unpainted Ware](#), [Mamluk-Ottoman Glazed Cooking Ware](#), and [Medieval Southern Levantine wheel-made unglazed wares](#). Participants also were able to personally examine and discuss the ceramic building materials from Humayma, as they are stored at ACOR.

The day ended with discussion on how to maintain momentum and planning for next steps. The goal is to make such workshops an annual event, and to encourage [LCP](#) submission in tandem with, and linked to, print publications. Both would better serve students and scholars, especially in light of the ever-growing demand for access to online data, and in particular ceramic data.

Editorial Interns

We've been lucky this year to have two terrific editorial interns: Qi Zheng and Kameron Kashani. This is Qi's third year working on LCP projects; in past years she took on [Tell Tweini](#), Syria (<https://www.levantineceramics.org/sites/1754-tell-tweini>), adding 266 vessels and from there moved

on to 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.)*, from which she added over 1000 vessels. This year she began by focusing on two sites in Turkey: [Gordion](#) and [Patara](#). She added 222 vessels to the Gordion page from R. Gül Gürtekin-Demir's book *Lydian Painted pottery Abroad: The Gordion Excavations 1950-1973*, which brings the total number from that site to 537, most of them illustrated with color photographs. From Patara's Tepecik settlement, we now have 37 vessels, again most illustrated with color photographs, thanks to the cooperation of its excavator Erkan Dündar. Currently, Qi is working on the site of [Jerash/Gerasa](#), in Jordan, from which she will soon be adding over 500 vessels and five new ware groups, along with the addition of the amazing, long-lived but not widely known Gerasa Hippodrome Byzantine-era workshop. Go Qi!

Kameron has tackled a range of tricky projects, from Late Bronze Age Egyptian and [Egyptianizing](#) wares and vessels, including 122 vessels [Aphek](#), [Ashkelon](#), [Beth She'an](#), [Megiddo](#), [Tel Mor](#), and [Tel Sera](#), to 124 Lydian and [Anatolian Lydian-style wares](#) and vessels from [Alaşehir](#), [Gordion](#), [Daskyleion](#), and [Sardis](#).

Both Qi and Kameron have made excellent use of the [LCP's Bulk Upload](#) feature, which allows fast, accurate submission of vessels, images, various associations (wares, petro-fabrics, kiln/workshops), etc. from an excel spread sheet. When we built [Bulk Upload](#), we imagined it helping to facilitate submission of material from excavation projects who maintain their own proprietary data systems – but it has turned out to be a huge boon to our own editorial interns. Now that they are so adept, we can offer their services as guides to excavation directors who would like to learn how to use this feature. Spread the word!

Respectfully submitted,



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