

## ASOR Cultural Heritage Committee Annual Report 2024

Over the past year, the Cultural Heritage Committee has broadened its activities, due to external pressures on the organization. We are heartened to see the response on the part of the Board and ASOR membership, as the Board voted to hire an assistant for Andy Vaughn and Will Raynolds (CHI) specifically to research and write up grants for cultural heritage activities in the countries in which ASOR has noted in its strategic plan that are of importance to the organization. Members of the CHC who have specialties in the administering of grants and specialized knowledge of the area being targeted have been actively involved in advising Andy on the feasibility of the proposals and offering help at the early stages of the grant-writing process. Similarly, the members of the Committee are encouraged by the number of cultural heritage sessions and talks that are being organized and presented by non-CHC ASOR members at the annual meeting.

1. For the 2024 Annual Meeting, the CHC developed a workshop on the issue of repatriation; this was done in light of the interest in the panel presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
2. Members of the CHC were on the job search committee for the Cultural Heritage Program Manager, a search that drew a number of strong applications and was successfully concluded. Members of the CHC met with Darren Ashby to introduce themselves and to hear from him about the intended scope and nature of his duties as the CHPM.
3. The members of the committee recruited fellow ASOR archaeologists to write to the Cultural Property Advisory Committee in support of renewals or first-time applications for MoUs to combat looting by preventing importation of specified archaeological materials for: Algeria; Lebanon. Jane also wrote letters on behalf of ASOR, noting especially the issue of coins, as coin collectors are prolific texters to CPAC.
4. Andy Vaughn gave updates to the CHC on Cultural Heritage Initiatives.
5. The CHC discussed the Publications Committee proposal on digital publications (at the request of the Publications Committee), sending forward to them discussion points on the proposal.
6. We also discussed the findings of the ad-hoc committee on ASOR's public stance on contested territories. Our discussion was developed into a 'white paper' that was shared with President Sharon Herbert.
7. At the request of Andy Vaughn and Will Raynolds, the CHC explored the idea that ASOR provide affiliation for conservation or civil organization projects that are not excavations and thus do not fall into the purview of CAP (Jane also consulted with the Chair of CAP about this). We put forward a motion to bring to the Executive Committee and Board establishing such a procedure.

This coming year will be another formative year for the committee, as five members are cycling off the committee, having served 2 consecutive three-year terms. This number includes founding members of the committee and the current chair. Thankfully, there is a great deal of interest among ASOR membership and the Committee will be fully staffed again in January.

Respectfully submitted for the last time as chair,

Jane DeRose Evans