

ASOR Committee on Publications
Report to the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees
November 18-19, 2005, Philadelphia, PA
Larry G. Herr, Chair

MOVE OF THE OFFICE

The most significant news from ASOR Publications is the move of the publications office from Atlanta to Boston and the resignations of the Atlanta staff related to the move. A previous study had shown that, although the short-term costs of a move would be high, the long-term results would be favorable to ASOR. With prospects of considerably more efficient office administration, significant financial savings, a unified office structure, and a more secure sense of accountability, the move made sense. The two Atlanta staff members received favorable offers of continued employment in Boston, but elected to stay in Atlanta where both received employment with SBL in the same building. Both Billie Jean Collins and Chris Madell have worked hard and productively for ASOR during 10 years of service for Billie Jean and seven years for Chris. We want to extend to them our sincere thanks and best wishes.

An Ad-hoc Committee on Publications was set up by the officers to study the new prospects for ASOR publications in Boston and to present recommendations to COP and the Board outlining what ASOR publications would look like and to formulate a job description(s) for publications staff member(s). We will try to send a copy of the recommendation early, but may pass them out at the meeting.

The essentials of ASOR publications are forging ahead in the new situation. *BASOR* remains virtually unchanged; the only difference is that the editor sends bills directly to Boston. *NEA* and *JCS* have retained the services of Billie Jean as Managing Editor on a contract basis with typesetting and design subcontracted to the same individuals as before. The editor of *NEA* has had to take a few more activities directly into her hands, but otherwise the process remains unchanged. There is no difference for *JCS*, with Billie Jean contracting as Associate Editor. Billie Jean is also being paid at an hourly rate to finish the books she has already begun, especially the Annual.

The most difficult problem is fulfillment, previously done by Chris Madell. Three years ago we purchased sophisticated fulfillment software and moved the subscription process in-house after having considerable problems with our former agent. The move to Boston forces us to transfer this process to other staff members who will have to be trained in the software. This will take weeks, rather than days. Presently, we are contracting with Katie Chaple to continue fulfillment duties until mid-January. She formerly helped Chris with the database in the Atlanta office. The move of this service to Boston may encounter glitches that we will do our best to overcome quickly, but we solicit your patience as we make a difficult transition.

SALES AND MARKETING

Our sales in FY05 saw a substantial boost from the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit in Mobile, Alabama with the sale of 7,500 copies of the Qumran issue of *NEA*. The Scrolls will be on exhibit in Charlotte, NC next year. The museum there has bought the remaining 500 copies of the reprint and ordered an additional 2500 copies. We expect that additional copies may be ordered as these sell out. We are presently in contact with the other museums where the exhibit will travel (Milwaukee, Seattle, and San Diego). We have placed an order for 20,000 reprints to sell in these venues. Each issue has a major advertisement for ASOR membership and *NEA* subscriptions on page 3 just inside the front cover. The Chair has taken on this project during the transition to the Boston office.

The sale of ASOR books and back issues of journals has been labeled “successful” by David Brown Book Company, our distributor.

SETTLEMENT WITH OUR FORMER FULFILLMENT PROVIDER

We have reached an out-of-court settlement with our former fulfillment provider for money embezzled from us. There were various instances where the head of the agency banked checks due to us and subsequently “refunded” the money or, sometimes, simply kept it. As researched by Chris Madell, the amount stolen totaled slightly more than \$46,000. Rather than endure a long and protracted court case, we agreed to an out-of-court settlement for \$46,000 and received a check that cleared. \$30,000 went into the Opportunity Fund, the investment account dedicated to Publications, to replace an amount we borrowed about two years ago. The rest went to publications operations.

We are deeply indebted to Matt Lyons, Matt Porter and Bernard Bonn of Dechert LLP who handled the case in Massachusetts, and Jim Joseph and Matt DeFrank of Arnold & Porter LLP who handled it initially and made the introduction to Dechert. Legal concerns prohibit us from giving the name of the embezzler or his company.

JOURNAL STATUS

Near Eastern Archaeology (submitted by Sandra Scham)

Issue 67/3 (September 2004)—Husbands, Wives and Lovers in the Biblical World. Published in September.

Issue 67/4 (December 2004)—New Approaches to the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East. The manuscript is being typeset.

Issue 68/1 (March 2005)—The Persian Period in the Southern Levant. The manuscript is in the final editing stage. This is the final article in the period pieces in NEA.

Issue 68/2 (68/3) [June (September) 2005]--Current Archaeology in Iran--I have received three articles, two of which have been reviewed, and have been promised four more. If we receive all of the promised articles, there may be enough for a double issue.

Issue 68/3 (68/4) [September (December) 2005]—Five articles are in the review process. They are one on Absalom's tomb by Joe Zias and Emile Peuch, one on Iron Age villages by Bob Miller, one on SE Turkey by Tim Matney and Ann Donkin, one on Roman Jordan by Andrew Smith and one on Ottoman Empire by Eveline Van der Steen.

Issue 68/4 (69/1) [December 2005 (March 2006)]—Outreach Issue—Current reviews of games, films and books for popular audiences. Short article on TV and the Archaeologist by Eric Cline, Archaeology and the movies by Kevin McKeough, Interview with Zahi Hawass (all of these have been submitted). There is an additional article by Tut Curator Kara Cooney on Egypt in the popular imagination to be submitted.

Issue 69/1 or 69/2 [March or June 2006]—Cultural Property—Frauds and Fakes—Guest Editor Chris Rollston.

Long term, my assistant Camilla has solicited four articles on archaeology and warfare, Philistine ceramics, Persian borders, and Ashkelon and I have solicited articles from Bowersock, Trigger, Moain al-Tzadek (Palestinian Antiquities Authority) on Gaza and Willeke Wendrich on Egypt.

We are getting unsolicited manuscripts at the trickling rate of one every two months. One out of three, however, have been unfit for publication. There has been an improvement, however, in quality recently.

BASOR (submitted by James Weinstein)

BASOR 339 (August 2005): Came out the last week of October.

BASOR 340 (November 2005): First proofs for three articles became available in the first two weeks of November; fourth article sent in for typesetting in early November. Book reviews already in page proofs. Issue should go to printer in December, with first copies of the issue available by the end of January 2006.

BASOR 341 (February 2006): Articles for this issue were in final revision in late October and early November. Copyediting is scheduled to take place in November and early December, with all materials sent in to Eisenbrauns for typesetting by the end of December. Current plan is for the issue to be out in mid-to-late March 2006.

BASOR 342, 343, 344 (May, August, November 2006): All of these issues are now booked. The LBA articles will fill one issue, the epigraphy articles will require one (or possibly a double) issue, and individual papers will take up the third issue.

The departure of Billie Jean Collins and Chris Madell has not seriously impeded efforts to keep *BASOR* running, inasmuch as all editing and typesetting is outsourced or handled in Ithaca. The journal should be OK as long as Katie Chaple continues working in the Atlanta office.

Three members of the editorial board will be leaving our group on December 31: Martha Joukowsky, Carol Meyers, and Wally Aufrecht. The names of the individuals who will replace those three people will be submitted to the *BASOR* editorial board and COP at the annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Journal of Cuneiform Studies (submitted by Piotr Michalowski)
Vol. 57 (2005) is in final stages of editing.

BOOK STATUS

Cult Image and Divine Representation in the Ancient Near East, edited by Neal Walls. ASOR Books 10. Published Sept. 28, 2005.

AASOR 59. Part I: Results of the 2001 Kerak Plateau Early Bronze Age Survey. M. S. Chesson et al. Part II: Two Early Alphabetic Inscriptions from the Wadi el-Hol. J. C. Darnell et al. This is now at the printer.

Tel Tanninim: Excavations at Krokodeilopolis, 1996–1999, Robert R. Stieglitz. Archaeological Reports Series, 10. The manuscript is being typeset.

The Coins and the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Economy of Palestine, Jane DeRose Evans, Joint Expedition to Caesarea Maritima VI (ARS 11). Final manuscript submitted for production on 4/11/05. Pub. date early 2006.

AASOR 60–61. The Archaeology of Difference: Gender, Ethnicity, Class and the “Other” in Antiquity, Studies in Honor of Eric M. Meyers, eds. Douglas R. Edwards, and C. Thomas McCollough. Manuscript length -859 pages (33 articles). This volume is awaiting final submission by editors for production.

The Archaeological History of the Southern Levant, edited by David C. Hopkins. Billie Jean has withdrawn from the production of this book, which is a compilation of all the individual articles on the periods of Palestinian archaeology that have appeared in *NEA* over the past 10 years. We are presently deciding what to do with this volume. We could place them on the web or we could try to produce a volume. But many of the articles need updating.

ASOR AND JSTOR

All three ASOR journals are now available on JSTOR. JSTOR has also agreed to adopt the ASOR Annual and *BASOR* Supplements. We are embarking on the process of collecting the issues to send to them. The collection should be available by June 2006.

MISCELLANEOUS

SBL has tentatively approached us about joining it in its plans to make out-of-print titles available again on a print-on-demand basis. The SBL has decided to expand its efforts and investment in the POD reprint program by returning into print 50 to 100 out-of-print SBL titles a year until the vast majority of the SBL backlist is once again available.

COP BOARD

Stuart Swiny has resigned from COP in order to serve on the ASOR Awards Committee. No names have yet been submitted for a replacement. COP members with terms ending this calendar year are Larry Herr (Chair), Nancy Serwint (editor), Joe Greene (editor) and Jo Ann Hackett (at-large). All are in their first term and eligible to appointment for a second.

Larry G. Herr, Chair, first term ends 12/31/05
Ann E. Killebrew, COP development (no term limit)
Douglas R. Clark, Executive Director (ex-officio, no voting)
James Weinstein, *BASOR* editor, fifth term ends 6/30/07
Piotr Michalowski, *JCS* editor, no term
Sandra Scham, *NEA* editor, first term ends 12/31/06
Nancy Serwint, *AASOR* editor, first term ends 12/31/05
Brian Schmidt, *ASOR* books, first term ends 12/31/06
Joseph A. Greene, *ARS* editor, first term ends 12/31/05
Jo Ann Hackett, at-large, first term ends 12/31/05
Jonathan Tubb, at-large, second term ends 12/31/06
Andrew Vaughn, at-large, second term ends 12/31/06
Liz Friedman, at-large, first term ends 12/31/07
Elizabeth Carter, at-large, first term ends 12/31/07