

ASOR Committee on Publications  
Report to the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees  
May 2-3, 2003, Boston, MA  
Larry G. Herr, Chair  
Billie Jean Collins, Publications Director

**NEA Editor**

The major thrust of activity for COP over the last month has been the search for a new editor of *NEA* following the resignation of Ted Lewis. As announced, Ted resigned because of increased expectations for publication and thesis advisement for his new position at The Johns Hopkins University. This resignation was not sought by anyone at ASOR, COP, or the Office of Publications. Ted was doing a superlative job and his loss to our group of ASOR editors is a serious blow.

However, we have begun a search process, advertising on the ASOR e-list. We received six applicants by March 21, our cut-off date and, after sharing the list and their documentation (CVs and a statement about what they want *NEA* to be and how they would go about doing it) with three advisors, including *NEA*'s Managing editor, Billie Jean Collins, and the editors of ASOR's other two journals, Jim Weinstein and Piotr Michalowski, we have narrowed the list to three names. We have gathered information and recommendations from references as well as other people we know and are conducting interviews with the candidates during these meetings. Within a couple of days we will submit the name of the frontrunner to COP for a vote of recommendation to the Board of Trustees for the next editor.

**Electronic Publishing**

This is a section you will begin to see often in our reports as we evolve into the Electronic Age. COP conducted an e-mail vote to allow authors to put personal book reviews published in *BASOR*, *NEA*, and *JCS* on their personal or other websites as soon as the reviews are published. We also allowed authors to put personal articles published in *BASOR*, *NEA*, and *JCS* on their personal or other websites one year after the article is published. In exchange for ASOR granting an author this permission, the author must post the following statement at the end of each review or article posted to a website: (c) [publication date] American Schools of Oriental Research. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of the American Schools of Oriental Research.

ASOR's journals are already available electronically through a number of commercial vendors; details are on the web <http://www.asor.org/pubs/eAsor.html>. Proquest (formerly UMI), with whom we have a long-standing arrangement to produce microfiches of the journals and the ASOR Annual, have advised us that the journals will be archived digitally as part of their Digital Vault program. In addition, we have approached JSTOR with a view to becoming one of their participating publishers. Our more recent books are also available electronically through Ebrary.

**Daily Star**

Rami Khouri, the editor of the *Daily Star*, a newspaper published in Beirut and elsewhere in the Middle East with the *International Herald Tribune*, has invited ASOR members to submit archaeological news items to him for publication. This will be done together with *NEA*. Most of you have seen his announcement on the ASOR list and in the recent *Newsletter*. The COP Chair has taken on the organization of this opportunity for ASOR until we can appoint a more formal

liaison. Although the Daily Star will send each contributor an honorarium of \$150, our people will not automatically think of this possibility as an outlet for their research. We would like to recommend that CAP incorporate a Press Release as one of the conditions for CAP approval of both excavation and publication projects.

### **Agreement with Emory**

Rudy Dornemann is working with Emory University to formalize ASOR's relationship with Emory University, including putting into place a procedure for staff performance evaluations. This is the last step in bringing the publications operation in line with ASOR's Procedures Manual.

### **Journal Status**

*NEA* continues to appear behind schedule. Two issues are currently in production and our goal to have them appear by the end of June. Manuscripts for additional issues are being submitted regularly. Most of the papers for the first of Herr's guest-edited issues have been received and are out to reviewers or already received from the reviewers. The Petra issue is already well under way. Current issues of *NEA* are being distributed at ASOR-sponsored lectures and are being grabbed up with considerable enthusiasm.

*JCS*. The current issue of *JCS* (vol. 54 for 2002) is in proofs. It will appear in June. the 2003 issue is full and is being edited.

*BASOR* continues to come out on time. Jim Weinstein runs a very efficient journal. There is not a large backlog of articles and he continues to expand the book review section. He keeps after authors to produce high quality articles and is developing a large database on bibliographic entries from which to check manuscript bibliographies. This will allow him to avoid constant trips to libraries.

### **Book Status**

Two volumes of the Annual (56 and 57) have appeared in the 3rd quarter. These include the preliminary report of the Qarqur Excavation by Rudy Dornemann and a collection of articles on Anatolian Archaeology.

The report on Sotira Kaminoudhia will appear in the 4th quarter in the Archaeological Reports Series. Only the index remains to be completed.

Slanski's volume on Kassite *kudurrus* will also appear in the 4th quarter in the ASOR Books series.

Due to the heavy volume of work in the Publications office, the third volume of the series *Archaeological Sources for the History of Palestine* (Byzantine-Islamic periods) has been postponed to the first quarter of FY04.

Many manuscripts are either under discussion or have been submitted in proposal form and are under review or soon to be undergoing review. Nancy Serwint is currently negotiating for three potential manuscripts for the Annual. Based on the current queue of manuscripts, only three volumes are planned for FY04, as follows:

*Archaeological Sources for the History of Palestine*, Vol. III, edited by David C. Hopkins

This 3 volume set will begin with the third volume, the Byzantine through Islamic periods. It is scheduled to appear in the 1st quarter. It will be formatted by our NEA compositor/designer, Monica McLeod.

*100 Years of American Archaeology in the Levant: Proceedings of the American Schools of Oriental Research Centennial Celebration, Washington, DC, April 2000*, edited by Douglas Clark and Victor Matthews

Herr has taken on the editing of the Proceedings of the Washington, DC Centennial celebration, edited by Doug Clark and Vic Matthews. There are approximately 20 papers in the manuscript that describe American archaeology in the Holy Land over the past 100 years. No subvention is available and the volume will probably have to be set in-house. If accepted, this volume could be ready to go to press in the fall providing the schedule allows.

*A Stratigraphic analysis of the Unpublished Early Iron Age Materials Tell Ta'annek in Light of Recent Jezreel Valley Excavations*, by Mark Meehl

The manuscript is being reviewed for the Archaeological Reports Series. The author has requested that he be allowed to submit camera-ready copy rather than provide a subvention.

### **Sales and Marketing**

In the third quarter we grossed a record \$34,000 in book sales, thanks to two volumes of the Annual appearing in this quarter. The previous record was \$22,000 set the prior quarter.

#### Rowecom

Rowecom, one of the larger library subscription agencies, filed for bankruptcy earlier this year. They had collected library subscription money for 2003 but had not remitted it to the journal publishers. To avoid losing subscriptions, we will probably opt to "grace" (provide free) subscriptions for 2003 to those of our customers who are affected. We estimate that this will result in a loss of some \$10,000 in anticipated revenue. However as \$5000 of this is for NEA and \$5000 for BASOR, \$7,500 of revenue (half of BASOR and all of NEA) would have been deferred to FY 2004 anyway, so on an accrual basis this will only have affected our bottom line for FY03 by some \$2,500

### **Fulfillment**

The transition to handling our own membership and subscriptions has been difficult. We did finally receive the data from Academic Services, but as yet have had no success with (C) Systems in converting the data into the iMIS database in a usable form. This has resulted in a considerably increased workload for the Publications Office as we are currently handling renewals and new subscriptions/memberships in Excel, all of which will have to be re-entered in iMIS. Until the database is usable, we will not be able to send out the Spring Newsletter, or the Spring renewals, nor will we be able to provide deferred revenue figures for the 3rd quarter. Of these, the most critical of course is the Spring renewals. We should expect a slow down in our cash flow in the fourth quarter. It will not affect our revenue bottom line overall however, as the renewal notices will go out eventually, and the revenue belongs mostly to FY04. This is however no worse a situation than when we moved to Academic Services, when for upwards of three months we had no cash flow from renewals.

## **Travel Tours**

Our Spring boat tour along the coast of Turkey has had to be canceled. Between war and disease, few people are traveling. Hopefully future trips will find greater success. We will likely reschedule the boat trip for next year, which will allow us to recycle the promotional materials that we have spent so much money on this year. The Fall trip will be to the museums of Europe, with Jonathan Tubb as the ASOR lecturer. We have discussed with Julene Miller moving this trip to the Winter to allow us to come up with a better marketing plan. A “Sea Peoples” tour around the eastern Mediterranean is also planned for the future.

## **Publications Budget**

### Current situation

Currently (as of mid-April) the Publications cash accounts total approx. \$80,000. If we are not able to produce both anticipated issues of NEA before June 30, we will have to defer revenue on another issue (another ca. \$26,000). We already deferred revenue on one issue in the 2nd quarter (this is in addition to the 3 issues already in deferred in a prior year).

### Projections for FY04

A fuller budget report will be provided at the meeting. Only a few preliminary comments are possible at this point.

Without current circulation figures (which we cannot obtain until the iMIS database is operating), we are for the moment relying on last year’s numbers to calculate our revenue projections for FY04. As best as we can figure, there has been no significant change in the numbers in the past year, expect possibly in a positive direction. We do, however, have to deduct \$7,500 in subscription revenue due to the Rowecom situation.

The main difference in this year’s budget compared with last year is in book production. We anticipate only three titles appearing in FY04. The disadvantage of this is that it means less revenue from book sales. But the advantage is that as we catch up on NEA production, cash flow will be an issue. By producing fewer books, we ensure more cash in the coffers to pay for NEA issues. In addition, fewer books will mean that the Publications staff is less overworked and will be able to catch up on other tasks.

Another difference is that we are projecting only six issues of NEA (we would need to produce eight issues to catch up fully). This means less expense, but also less revenue.

There are a number of things we could do to improve the fiscal picture for next year. We could 1) produce more books; 2) catch up on NEA more than anticipated (we get to release revenues for each issue that comes out); 3) have very successful travel tours; 4) hold off writing off any deferred book expenses for another year.