

ASOR Committee on Publications Meeting  
Westin Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX  
November 18, 2004

Present: Larry Herr, Chair, Douglas Clark, Billie Jean Collins, Michèle Daviau, Liz Friedman, Jo Ann Hackett, Ann Killebrew, Chris Madell, Piotr Michalowski, Sandra Scham, Nancy Serwint, Stuart Swiny, Andy Vaughn, Jim Weinstein.  
Absent: Joe Greene, Brian Schmidt

Larry Herr called the meeting to order at 6.35pm, declared a quorum and welcomed the committee.

Moved to approve the agenda (Jim), seconded (Sandra), passed unanimously.

Acceptance of the minutes: Larry detailed the two votes that had been taken since the Atlanta meeting, namely to raise the Institutional rates for journals for 2005 (BASOR \$120 to \$150, NEA \$75 to \$100 and JCS \$55 to \$75) and the appointment of Bill Dever as editor of the proposed textbook series. Moved to accept (Michèle), seconded (Nancy), passed unanimously.

Larry explained the changes in term for at-large Committee members to run from January 1 to December 31, rather than from one annual meeting to the next, and asked for a motion to accept these. Moved (Piotr), seconded (Ann), passed unanimously.

Two at-large members of the committee, Ann and Michèle, are leaving after their second term. Elizabeth Carter and Liz Friedman were proposed as new members. (Liz left the room.) After a brief discussion, their appointment was confirmed unanimously. (Liz reentered the room.)

Larry raised the question of the term of the BASOR editor. Jim Weinstein has already served a third term as sole editor and his term is up for renewal. (Jim Weinstein left the room.) Larry asked for a motion that Jim's term be extended for another three-year term through June 2007. Moved (Andy) seconded (Michèle). Brief discussion. Andy also asked for a note of appreciation for Jim's efforts. Approved unanimously. (Jim reentered the room and was told of the note of appreciation.)

COP Development Committee. Larry reported that Gloria London had resigned as Chair, and that there was no report. Larry asked for a motion that Ann Killebrew be elected the new Chair. (Ann left the room.) Moved (Andy), seconded (Sandra), passed unanimously. (Ann reentered the room.) There was some discussion as to how the committee would be chosen. It was agreed that the Chair would submit names for COP's approval, and that these should be current ASOR members.

#### Journal Reports

*BASOR*: Jim Weinstein referred to the handout giving details of issues 335 through 340. Ziony Zevit's second term on the Editorial Board ends on December 31. Jim moved that Bill Schniedewind of UCLA be appointed to the Board to replace Ziony. Jo Ann seconded, passed unanimously.

*NEA*: Sandra Scham referred to the handout giving details of forthcoming issues. Vol 66 #4 which has just been published is the last issue under Ted Lewis' editorship. There was some discussion of publication of articles that have already appeared in print in another language. Faust's article in this issue falls into this category. *BASOR*'s policy is not to publish such articles. Larry commended Billie Jean for the work she does on *NEA*.

*JCS*: Piotr reported that *JCS* 55, which had caused him to age several years, was about to appear. As one article from this issue had been bumped, *JCS* 56 is well advanced. Piotr also expressed the view that in light of current events, it might be good to have more Mesopotamian material in *NEA*, and thanked Billie Jean for her efforts with *JCS*.

Books:

Annual: Nancy Serwint reported on the Annual as per her handout. In addition to the voluminous *festschrift* for Eric Myers, there are two shorter submissions which could be combined to make one volume, as with *AASOR* 56, and three further enquiries.

Book Series: BJC for Brian Schmidt: There is one ms. in the queue.

Arch. Reports: The latest volume, The Tafila Busayra Archaeological Survey, was published last week.

Financial Reports: Billie Jean's animated presentation "Accrued Income for Dummies" was greeted with applause. The figures for FY04 are still under discussion with the auditors. We are predicting a small surplus for FY05. Cash flow is currently good, as anticipated, as the billings for 2005 went out early, and we are starting to see the benefit of the increased Institutional rates.

Academic Services: Chris reported that AS had been banking checks without forwarding the proceeds to ASOR. Leaving out interest, they effectively stole \$31,000 from us. We have a *pro bono* law firm in Boston who have managed to freeze some \$6,000 of AS' assets and will attempt to get judgment for the full amount owed.

Opportunity fund investment: Jim Weinstein outlined various scenarios, depending on how conservative we wish to be with what we have (c \$57,000). After some discussion it was agreed to propose to the ASOR Investment Committee that we adopt the moderately conservative approach Jim suggested. Chris asked for a note of appreciation for all the work Jim had done on this over the past year.

ASHP: Billie Jean reported on her meeting with David Hopkins, editor of the ASHP volume. Plans are underway for a Fall 2005 publication date.

Textbook Series: Bill Dever has been appointed editor. The editorial board of Billie Jean, Bill, Stuart Swiny, Martha Joukowsky and Giorgio Buccelatti will be having a conference call this evening.

Publishing unprovenanced materials: An ASOR ad-hoc committee has been formed that met earlier in the day and has put together a preliminary policy regarding publication of unprovenanced textual material from Iraq, as follows:

"Publication and presentation at ASOR meetings would be allowed if the following two criteria are both met before the study and publication occur:

1. The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage of Iraq [SBAH] gives its consent.
2. Materials to be published are returned to Iraq and are in the ownership and custody of the SBAH.

Note: Because of current conditions in Iraq, "return to Iraq" would include temporary placement of the material on loan with an academic research institution in the United States which is approved by the SBAH, does not acquire undocumented antiquities, and commits in writing to transfer such material to Iraq at any time upon request from the SBAH. Such material will be numbered and photographed and this information shall be transmitted to the SBAH before publication or presentation. Under no circumstances could such material be sold or title transferred to any institution outside of Iraq. The ASOR Baghdad Committee can make a determination as to when conditions in Iraq permit the immediate return of materials to Iraq and this provision for temporary placement in a US institution would then no longer be applicable.

3. In addition, the ASOR-sponsored publication and any future ASOR-sponsored publication of this material must include a reference to the fact that the published texts are unprovenanced. Additional facts that are known concerning the acquisition or appearance of the texts in the United States should also be included.

This was the subject of extended debate, also involving John Russell and Patty Gerstenblith. Two of the central issues were whether the SBAH might discriminate against certain of the academic institutions in the US, and whether the clause "does not acquire undocumented antiquities" should remain. After a lively discussion, a motion was made (proposed Andy, second Jo Ann) to exclude this. This was defeated 5 to 4. The Motion was then made for COP to indicate its approval of the policy to the ASOR Board, which was passed unanimously.

There followed a brief discussion as to the possibility of suspending printing of the newsletter and making it available on-line only, and transferring responsibility (including the cost) of the Program Book to CAMP. It was agreed that Billie Jean and Larry would work with CAMP on this issue.

As Ann's bedtime was obviously fast approaching, the meeting was adjourned at 9.08.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Madell