

ASOR COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS
REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APRIL 29-30, BOSTON, MA
LARRY G. HERR, CHAIR
BILLIE JEAN COLLINS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL STATUS

Near Eastern Archaeology (submitted by Sandra Scham)

67/2 (June 2004), in proofs. pub. date 5/16/05; Theme: Food & Drink.

67/3 (Sep 2004), includes four articles on various aspects of domestic life. Layout is underway. Pub date June 2005.

67/4 (Dec 2004), includes articles on Caesarea, Anatolia, technological advances in archaeology. Editing is nearly complete. Pub date Sep 2005.

68/1 (Mar 2005), Lead article: Palestine in the Persian period. Permissions are being sought for images. Pub date Nov 2005.

Articles for all issues of volume 68 (2005) are in the process of peer review or being revised.

Book reviews with which to supplement the articles are now plentiful thanks to Justin Lev-Tov. Arti-Facts are a little more difficult to come by, but the editor is working with the Arti-Facts editor to increase the queue of short manuscripts.

Bulletin of ASOR (submitted by James Weinstein)

BASOR 337 (February 2005): Corrected first proofs returned to Eisenbrauns on 4/11; issue should be ready to go to printer about 4/29.

BASOR 338 (May 2005): First proofs for entire issue should be ready on 4/28; expect to send issue to printer at end of May. If all goes well (which at best is a 50-50 possibility), first copies of this issue may be available the last day or two in June, in which case BASOR will have shipped 5 issues during FY2005 (May, August, and November 2004; February and May 2005) and the journal will once again be entirely up-to-date.

BASOR 339 (August 2005): Copyediting of manuscripts for this issue began in late April.

BASOR 340 (November 2005): Late Bronze Age theme issue: several papers already accepted, waiting for one more to be submitted for review.

BASOR 341 or 342 (February or May 2006): Epigraphy theme issue: several manuscripts already submitted, peer review process began in late April.

Journal of Cuneiform Studies (submitted by Piotr Michalowski)

Vol. 56 (2004) is at Eisenbrauns for final corrections. Pub. date is June 2005.

Vol. 57 (2005) is being edited. The issue is full and we hope to have it out by the end of the calendar year, thus catching JCS up fully.

JCS editor Piotr Michalowski and DP Billie Jean Collins are currently putting together a grant proposal to the NEH for it's initiative "Recovering Iraq's Past." The grant will be used to study, preserve and publish in JCS any tablets or other artifacts confiscated by US customs and returned to Iraqi custody.

BOOK STATUS

- The Tafila-Busayra Archaeological Survey 1999–2001, West-Central Jordan*, Burton MacDonald, et al. Archaeological Reports Series, 9. Published Nov 2004.
- A Comprehensive Index to Biblical Archaeologist Volumes 51–60 (1988–1997)*. Our first experiment with print-on-demand. Published Jan 2005.
- Cult Image and Divine Representation in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Neal Walls. ASOR Books, 10. June 2005. Manuscript is being typeset.
- Tel Tanninim: Excavations at Krokodeilopolis, 1996–1999*, Robert R. Stieglitz. Archaeological Reports Series, 10. Manuscript is being copyedited. Pub. date July 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. Awaiting final submission by editor for production. Pub. date August 2005.
- AASOR 60–61. *The Archaeology of Difference: Gender, Ethnicity, Class and the “Other” in Antiquity, Studies in Honor of Eric M. Meyers*, Douglas R. Edwards, and C. Thomas McCollough, eds. Manuscript length - 859 pages (33 articles). Awaiting final submission by editors for production. Pub. date Nov. 2005.
- 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.

UNPROVENANCED TEXTS

Discussion continues to take place regarding unprovenanced Northwest Semitic inscriptions. There is a strong consensus that our publications raise the diligence with which we exclude such inscriptions from discussion (let alone first publication), unless they appear in papers discussing the antiquities market. This does not apply to cuneiform texts unless the recently adopted policy does not apply.

ASOR AND JSTOR

Recent Newsletter issues have announced our new partnership with JSTOR, the not-for-profit digital archive, to provide searchable online back issues of the three ASOR journals, the *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, *Near Eastern Archaeology*, and the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*. JCS has now been released in JSTOR. The back issues of the journal, from Volume 1, Issue 1, published in 1947, up until the most recent three years, are now available in the archive. All content (including articles, reviews, front and back matter, and the index and table of contents) have been digitized as full-text PDF files and can be searched, browsed, downloaded, and printed through the JSTOR website.

To access the back issues of the *JCS*, please visit www.jstor.org. Please note that only ASOR members who are at institutions that participate in JSTOR's Arts & Sciences Complement Collection are currently able to view the back issues through the JSTOR website.

ASOR's other journals, *Near Eastern Archaeology* and the *Bulletin of ASOR*, are scheduled to be released in JSTOR this summer. Once all three journals are available in JSTOR, we will be implementing a program to provide members with direct access to the three ASOR journals' back issues, even if they are not at an institution that participates in JSTOR. ASOR members at the

professional (including student/retired), life, or sustaining levels will have the opportunity to sign up for this program when it becomes available.

We anticipated conservatively that having the journals in JSTOR will bring in royalty income of about \$10,000 per year. Thus this represents a significant new source of revenue.

ACADEMIC SERVICES UPDATE (submitted by Chris Madell)

We had a hearing on April 6 before a judge in Boston at 11.00 am on April 6th. At 9.30 that morning, ASOR's *pro bono* counsel was contacted by an attorney who Jim Henderson had just retained. Henderson claimed to have been on death's doorstep but, as our attorney commented wryly, appeared to have summoned the strength to make it to Columbus Avenue. We were served with a list of checks that Henderson alleged he had paid ASOR to cover the amounts we are suing him for. On examination, these turn out to have been checks he used to repay the other \$38,000 that he had misappropriated, not the \$31,000 we are claiming. Henderson was given 14 days to rebut our accusations. Our counsel spoke with Henderson's subsequently to explain our case and it would appear that Henderson's attorney is more inclined to believe us than him. He has apparently indicated that if we can demonstrate our assertions to his satisfaction, he will advise Henderson to settle as he (the attorney) cannot lie for him in court. We now at least have a way of communicating with Henderson, who had not answered any letters in nearly a year.

SALES AND MARKETING

Through the first nine months of the fiscal year, book and journal sales generated almost \$32,000 in revenue. This is excellent given that we have not had an Annual appear yet this year.

Our sales for the third quarter have seen a substantial boost from the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit now in Mobile, Alabama. Anticipating some 200,000 visitors, the Exploreum Museum asked if we would reprint the *NEA* issue on Qumran and has sold 7,000 copies. This generated an additional net profit of \$14,000 and we still have 1000 copies on hand at a unit cost of 80c. The Scrolls will be on exhibit in North Carolina next year so with luck we can repeat the exercise.

Circulation figures for *NEA*, *JCS* and *BASOR* are detailed in a handout to provided at this meeting.

Sandra Scham has generously dedicated her fee for an article in *Archaeology* magazine to cover the costs of an ad for *NEA* in that journal (running in two recent issues). The ad, which appears at the end of this report, has generated several new individual subscriptions.

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR ELECTRONIC-ONLY NEWSLETTER

The following proposal will come up for discussion within, and a vote by, COP and the Executive Committee in November in Philadelphia:

Effective with the Spring 2006 issue, COP proposes to suspend print publication of the ASOR Newsletter and switch to an electronic-only one. The electronic Newsletter will follow the model used by the AIA for their e-Report and by the SBL for their Review of Biblical

Literature. We will send an email to members with a report that includes links to various parts of the ASOR web site, including an events calendar, ASOR news, obituaries, etc.

Currently 81 institutions subscribe to the Newsletter. That represents \$2835 in revenues that we will no longer receive. However, that portion of the membership dues currently allocated to the printed Newsletter (\$5800) will be redirected to producing the e-Newsletter. This will be sufficient to pay someone for 30 hours per month at \$15 an hour to generate the report as well as to enhance and maintain those sections of the web site that link to the report. In addition, this individual will be assigned the task of maintaining the publications web pages generally.

Side Benefits:

- The electronic Newsletter will direct readers to the ASOR web site where they may access other areas that they do not normally visit, for example, the pages on Iraq.
- The web site will be maintained at a much more regular pace by someone who is directly responsible for this.
- The individual contracted to maintain the e-Newsletter and web pages will also be charged with the task of improving *NEA's* on-line presence. Additional money has been set aside in the FY06 budget for *NEA* web development. Combining these tasks will be more cost effective.

Timing:

The Boston office has been discussing upgrading the ASOR web site. It is important that the electronic Newsletter be in mind when the pages are revamped so that the new pages are set up to take absorb the elements of the Newsletter.

APPENDICES

COP Board

Stuart Swiny has resigned from COP in order to serve on the ASOR Awards Committee. A replacement is currently being sought.

Larry G. Herr, Chair, first term ends 12/31/05

Ann E. Killebrew, COP development (no term limit)

ex officio

Billie Jean Collins, Director of Publications and Newsletter editor

Douglas R. Clark, Executive Director

editors

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

at-large members

Stuart Swiny, first term ends 12/31/05

Jo Ann Hackett, first term ends 12/31/05

Jonathan Tubb, second term ends 12/31/06

Andrew Vaughn, second term ends 12/31/06

Liz Friedman, first term ends 12/31/07

Elizabeth Carter, first term ends 12/31/07


NEA Promotion

The following ad appeared in two recent issues of *Archaeology* magazine:

Near Eastern Archaeology
offering a new vision of the ancient world for the 21st century

NFA brings to life the ancient world from Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean with vibrant images and authoritative analyses.

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