

Minutes of the Meeting of the ASOR Committee on Publications (COP)
ASOR Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2013
Charles E. Jones Presiding
Friday, November 22 2013
8:30-10:00am
Schaefer Room

In Attendance: Joe Greene, Sarah Kansa, Thomas Schneider, Bill Arnold, Inda Omerefendic (recording minutes), Larry Herr, Jim Weinstein, Susan Ackerman, Kevin McGeough, Chuck Jones, Piotr Michalowski, Andy Vaughn, Tim Harrison

Absent: Lynn Swartz Dodd

Call to order 8:35 am by Chuck Jones

MOTION: Approve minutes. Seconded, approved unanimously

Brief updates and acceptance of reports of Editors. Incorporating written reports by reference.

VERBAL REPORTS BY EDITORS:

Jim Weintin: The current issue of BASOR is being typeset, proofs next week, issue dec 10, expected to be out before Christmas time. The issue is overstuffed, somebody's article will be cut and held over till spring. Spring issue, all papers accepted, final revisions arte being made, already typeset. The fall issue 2014 will include a series of paper for Frank Cross memorial session at this week's SBL meeting. Hopefully authors will keep to page length, people from this fall's issue did not keep to page length, that's why I'm having trouble. 2014 is pretty much full but we will consider 1 or 2 additional papers. We've already started for 2015, by the time Eric Cline and Chris Rollston come in board, everything will already be accepted for 2015. Once the have been accepted by the Board Trustees, Eric and Chris will apprentice with us for six months - we want to offer them a chance to recommend viewers for 2015. We are not making any nomination for people to join editorial board, three nominations are possible we will wait till Eric and Chris are approved so they will choose. Chris will also have to be replaced because he's currently on the board. He'll resign. We'll get 4 nominations all together, Eric chaired the Editorial Board meeting yesterday morning so he could talk to board members, Larry and Jim had coffee and muffins and enjoyed the meeting. We all expect the transition to be smooth and

Larry herr: BASOR has received 19 papers since August. When notified that they won't get published until 2015, 3 withdrew, one has since sent it back. We've had 17 submissions, 15 have been rejected for various reasons, only 2, that's a very high rejection rate. I think we would have done this anyway. In some cases we recommend they send them to NEA which is a more appropriate venue. (Thomas: that's exactly what we need, they'll go into 2015).

Piotr Michalowski: The last issue of JCS was big hit. It was a big one, one-third longer than usual. As a result of last two issues we're doing very well. Until recently, I've had to struggle to fill each issue, but filling issue is no longer an issue – we're almost full for 2015 which is not good. I would actually like to have discussion to increase page count. I think it's too small.

JCS Supplements: Two volumes are in the works, one from ASOR's last meeting, I had hoped to get the volume out by this meeting but, couldn't get manuscripts in time, some wanted color, Andy said no, because it is too expensive. We've worked around that now, we have all the manuscripts, a lot of editing by editors has been done, I just spoke to Billie Jean Collins who will start typesetting next week. We are hoping to have it out for AOS meeting in March. It is a fantastic volume. We now we have a much better understanding of the site of Kültepe. The other volume in store was publication of texts confiscated by customs and damaged while in custody in New York on 9/11. Work on the volumes has been delayed but the author expects to submit a final manuscript early in the new year.

Billie Jean Collins has made a bid to take over publication of the JCS Supplements at Lockwood Press. She and Andy are negotiating. It is proposed that the ASOR imprint is still on it, but that she she takes all the risk. Much cheaper if she does it on her own, and will require no financial output from us from now on.

General discussion of this proposal was followed by:

MOTION: The Publications Committee supports the transfer the production and distribution of JCS Supplements to Lockwood Press, pending a successful negotiation of terms. Seconded, approved unanimously.

Andy, who arrived after this motion was passed, indicated that he is prepared to move forward with this proposal.

Piotr concluded with a request for an increase in the size of JCS from 180 pages to 225. He informed us that the Baghdad Committee was unanimous in its support for such an increase. Following a general discussion of the finances of JCS and the Baghdad committee, and the general trends in Assyriological publishing he proposed the following:

MOTION: The Publications Committee supports the increase of pages of JCS within budgetary limits, and requests the Editor and the Executive Director to investigate how this can be accomplished. Seconded, some further discussion, approved unanimously.

Thomas Schneider: I'll try to be brief. I'm happy to report everything is going smoothly with NEA, despite a bumpy transition to a new typesetting regime in August. The production process is now set up so that issues are completed well ahead of deadlines, in time to allow us to be creative with solving problems - in the past we never had time, because we were working so close to deadlines. We are happy with submission rates of articles. Sometimes we get high profile contributions, and can select articles that do more than simply present new material. Debate issues for next year. (Jim: Guest editors from basor will contact them about papers.) Upcoming thematic issues are looking very exciting, but require some juggling of space. Because of the number of excellent articles being submitted it would be nice to have some flexibility to increase page count for certain issues. In the December we will introduce a new arrangement of book reviews, which will also be illustrated arrangement of book reviews and also illustrate them. The idea is to select for review a set of three or four volumes that pertain to the same topic.

Thomas' report was followed by general discussion of the desire for more pages in NEA; of open access possibilities, especially for book reviews; of the desire to increase the synergy between the journals (and book series) and the blogging and social media efforts. Susan suggested that, if we can make financial model work, one issue of NEA a year at 96 pages would be great, especially if it was a thematic issue appearing in the Fall. Thomas welcomed the suggestion.

Since Andy needed to leave the meeting early, it was suggested that any business requiring his presence be inserted here.

Jim asked what efforts ASOR was making to raise funds for publications. Andy mentioned an anonymous gift of \$5000 to support the BASOR page count increase. Andy discussed other efforts to raise funds. Notes that publications are always put forth as a central effort of ASOR. Andy also recapitulated the status and purpose of the Opportunity Fund and discussed the financing of book publication, which is very expensive.

Joe Green reported that there is not much to add to his written report. AASORs published this year are on display at the ISD table. You'll note cover is different - glossy with photographs. This was suggested by the

author. Susanne Wilhelm likes the solution, gives more flexibility for color images. This is a change that we hope will continue. Joe reported that advance sales seem to be good. He asked what sort of promotion of books ASOR and ISD do. Andy responded that in the past in past, we've encouraged ISD to do it, and we've done more. We should also be able to get Susanne to design for free pdf ads that we can use in email blasts, etc. Joe discussed the production of individuals article pdfs and distribution of those to authors, indicating that it is an ad hoc arrangement. There's no formal arrangement where the editors gets full pdf. Kevin and Joe will be in touch with Inda and Andy we can make that happen. Susanna will send the pdf to the book editors for distribution to authors.

Kevin McGeough reported that two volumes of ARS would have been ready for meetings, but the government shutdown delayed the issuing of the Library of Congress CIP data. Only real issue of concern is color plates. Since BASOR now has color, there is a general expectation of this as a baseline. We seem to be losing book manuscripts because of the hurdle of the \$5000 subvention, and the additional \$5000 subvention for color. Andy discussed the economics of color printing for books.

There was a general discussion of losing a CAARII publication because they were unwilling to pay the subvention, and about the need for a venue to publish collections of articles

Inda gave brief report on transition in Boston office after departure of Kevin Cooney.

Chuck introduced Sarah Kansa, a new member of COP. Mitch Allen couldn't be here. There will be two vacancies on the committee with Bill Arnold cycling off and, Susan becoming President. Chuck will not bring forward at this moment nominees, but welcomed recommendations to bring in new people for new perspectives on publications. Talked to Mitch on who could come in on a publishing perspective from commercial individual. It has been very helpful for Chuck and Andy and I think Tim in thinking about what it means to make money on publications.

Chuck reported that the Chairs Coordinating Council is a really useful new entity that allows chairs and committees to have a monthly conversation. We now have a much better idea of what we're all doing.

Chuck discussed the need to produce a revised version of the COP rules and procedures. The only rules document that seems to exist is about 20 years old and makes many assumptions (such as control of funds) which are no longer the case. We have to re-write the rules. I will pick that up again and maybe get

a subcommittee to do that. Tim and Susan discussed pertinent issues in the by-laws with respect to term limits and other requirements that need to be taken into consideration.

Chuck discussed the session on ethics and values of ASOR which had been held the day before. I think the issue of relationship of publications and ethics is reasonably understood, editors are responsible for applying codes of ethics. There appears to be an emerging distinction what our ethical responsibilities are in respect to law and our responsibilities as an organization. For the moment, most of the responsibility of ethics in publications lies in the hand of editors. Sarah asked if there are not guidelines or policies editors follow or are the decisions up to them? Piotr responded the existing guidelines or policies always require interpretation by editors, its up to your own judgment. Political and military situations are constantly shifting. Jim: I was dealing with issues while dealing with Syrian issue. Things were looted. There was a question of whether we could publish. I agreed to publish. There was general discussion of various instances where interpretation of the policy was required.

Susan suggested that the ethics discussion will have gone to another stage by next year. We might even have written material from the ad hoc committee.

Chuck asked if there was any new business?

Joe reported that Kevin and Joe are retiring from respective terms, and asked what will be the process of which new editors are recruited?

Chuck responded: I am talking with various people about this so we need to have nominees for those people in place next year. If you have ideas for candidates who have expressed interest and have energy to prepare books, bring their names to us.

Tim reported that this would be his last COP meeting. He had never sat on COP before, it has been a very educational experience. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to learn.

Tim also expressed his personal appreciation for the work done by Jim as Editor of BASOR

A formal **motion** of appreciation and respect for Jim was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

A **motion** of support for the nomination of Chris Rollston and Eric Cline as the new editors of BASOR was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn 10:15, Chuck Jones, seconded, approved unanimously.

Supplement: Summary of the discussion and actions taken by COP by email since the 2013 Annual Meeting (based on the archive of ASOR--COP list traffic archived at <https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/info/asor--cop>]

December 18-20:

Proposal of candidates for COP, Class of 2016:

Jennie Ebeling

<http://faculty.evansville.edu/je55/>

and

Bill Caraher

<http://www.und.nodak.edu/instruct/wcaraher/HomePage.html>

Unanimously approved

January 13-14:

Motion to support the BASOR editorial transition

Motion:

The ASOR Committee on Publication approves the following actions and appointments

1. Eric Cline and Chris Rollston appointed as associate editors of BASOR.
2. Chris Rollston to resign from the BASOR editorial board. (He is a member of the 2013-2016 class.)
3. Assaf Yasur-Landau (Univ of Haifa) appointed to serve out the final three years of Chris's term in the class of 2013-2016. (This would be a "provisional" appointment until the May meetings.)
4. Appoint the following three individuals to become the class of 2014-2017 on the editorial board. (These would also be "provisional" appointments until the May meetings.)

Amanda Podany, CSU Pomona

Mark Chavalas, Univ of Wisconsin, LaCrosse

Michael Hoff, Univ of Nebraska at Lincoln

Unanimously approved

February 20-24:

Discussion and feedback on the roles and job description for a "Publications and Fulfillment Manager"

March 18:

Notice to the Committee that Boston had received the signed and executed copy of the agreement with Lockwood Press today for the JCS Supp. Series.

May 1:

Distribution of the COP Spring report

May 6:

Notice that the Board happily confirmed all the COP motions: both for new COP members and for the *BASOR* associate editor and editorial board appointments. It was also announced to the Board that, based on the discussions in COP, Membership and Outreach, and the CCC, a decision had been reached to discontinue the print newsletter.

June 2:

Distribution of "ASOR Books – Policies and Procedures Draft Document (June 1, 2014)" by Joe Greene and Kevin McGeough

July 23-24:

Motion: The Publications Committee supports and approves the appointment of Rob Homsher and Melissa Cradic as *BASOR* Book Review Co-Editors for a renewable three year term, to begin immediately (pending the approval of the Executive Committee and the Board).

Discussed online and approved unanimously

September 4-12:

Discussion of the draft ASOR Guidelines on Professional Conduct

September 15-October 6:

Discussion of moving book reviews to an online only environment

October 8

Eric Cline, Joe Greene, Chris Rollston, and Thomas Schneider agreed to serve with Chuck Jones on the committee to review applications and make recommendations for the positions of Editors of the Annual and the Archaeological Report Series.

October 16-21:

Motion: The Publications Committee moves that Thomas Schneider be appointed for a second three-year term as Editor of *Near Eastern Archaeology* starting 1 January 2015.

Discussed online and approved unanimously.

November

The recommendation by the search committee that Kevin McGeough be appointed as the Editor of the ASOR Annual, and that Hannan Mullins be appointed as the Editor of the Archaeological Report Series was unanimously approved.

Sidnie White Crawford has agreed to serve a second term on the Committee. Mitch Allen has come to the end of his second term. We are seeking a candidate to replace him.