# Report of the Committee on Publications (COP) to The Executive Committee of ASOR

Submitted by Eric C. Kansa and Sarah W. Kansa, Co-Chairs

November 2025

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### **Report of the Co-Chairs**

### **New Committee Members**

In January of 2025, we welcomed two new members to the COP, Paul Flesher and Alexia Smith, who will join the Class of 2027.

### AI and ASOR Publications

In his 2024 COP Chair report, Kevin McGeough raised concerns about Al and publications. We have an update from Kari Roane (U. of Chicago Press), who reached out to us for discussion and then subsequently contacted each of the four journal editors in September 2025 about Al policies. She explained that the U. of Chicago Press are encouraging editors to establish editorial policies for their contributors, editors, and reviewers about the accepted use of this technology. She shared U. of Chicago Press's guidelines and examples of Al

policies from other journals they publish. We will discuss the examples and the adoption of an AI policy at the COP meeting in November 2025.

### **ASOR Office Services and Support for Monograph Series**

The editors for both the ASOR annual and the ASOR Archaeological Report Series (ARS) asked for additional support from the ASOR staff. The editors requested ASOR sponsored cloud-storage and project management support as well as greater coordination and clarity about financial information regarding subventions. Andy Vaughn and the ASOR staff responded positively and have provided the requested support.

### **ISD Support for ASOR Books**

Other than the major issue of the resignation of three BASOR editors (see below), ASOR's publication program is running smoothly. Our relationship with University of Chicago Press for the publication of our journals continues to be excellent. The editors have not expressed any concerns about working with UCP. As Kevin McGeough mentioned in his 2024 report, "the relationship with ISD in producing our two main monograph series is good, but we do face bottlenecks at times given that the press does not always have the labour capacity to devote to the production of the books". We've been in discussion with Andy Vaughn, Mitch Allen (contracted to advise ASOR on monograph contract negotiations) and the monograph series editors on ways to improve monograph series publishing. We discussed time and capacity issues, costs, options for print on demand, options for open access, and improving the marketing of ASOR publications.

### **New NEA Editor**

Christina Tsouparopoulou took over as *NEA* editor this past year. In addition to stepping in seamlessly to her editorship, on her own initiative she has also spearheaded a new mentoring scheme for early career scholars to help them publish in Near Eastern Archaeology or other ASOR journals. This is developed in collaboration with ASOR's Early Career Scholars (ECS) Committee, ASOR's Publications Committee, and ASOR journal editors and editorial boards, including Alison Acker Gruseke, Marta Ostovich, Seth Richardson, Christoph Bachhuber, Gary Arbino, and Trudy Kawami. Christina and colleagues forwarded a clear, well-developed proposal for the program to Andy Vaughn on October 13, 2025, and are awaiting his review, response, and hopefully approval to proceed.

### **BASOR Editor Resignations and Call for Editorial Independence**

On October 31, 2025, three of the four BASOR co-editors resigned over a disagreement with the ASOR leadership and Executive Committee about a desk rejection of a publication on materials from occupied / contested territories (in this case, East Jerusalem). The three co-editors who resigned were Susan Cohen, Jana Mynářová, and Regine Pruzsinszky. Marwan Kilani, the fourth co-editor of BASOR, remains, and is joined by Jason Ur as a temporary co-editor (see below).

The COP email list has several long threads that provide more context to the events and conversations that led to the co-editors' resignation. The main points we would like to include here are from an October 3, 2025, email from Susan, Jana, and Regine, which Eric forwarded to the COP listserv on October 9, 2025 (COP members have access to the listserv history and can find many more details and discussion there):

"While the Committee has repeatedly drawn attention to the BASOR guidelines that state "BASOR will consider for publication ...", we would note that "consider" is not synonymous with "will accept for review." After extensive discussion, the co-editors of BASOR remain unanimous in standing by our previous decision, outlined in our first email to the EC, dated 14 August; thus, having considered the article, we decline to accept it for review.

The Committee, and recently received correspondence, suggests that we have been irresponsible in our interpretation of the ASOR policies; yet, notably, all parties have agreed that these are extremely vague, which thus creates a situation in which interpretation becomes subjective. Even should all interpretation now be required to conform to that held by the Trustees and the EC, this decision should not be applied retroactively.

All previous communication and discussion on this matter (see the attached email chain) have stated unequivocally that editors had the privilege of making reasoned decisions based on their considered interpretation of these policies, and that these decisions were not subject to review or censure by ASOR. Again, if this is no longer the case, this change of policy ought not to be applied retroactively."

Unfortunately, after lengthy conversations and correspondences, a specially assigned sub-committee of ASOR's Executive Committee and BASOR's editorial team did not reach a consensus. As mentioned above, Susan, Regine,

and Jana offered their resignations, which ASOR's leadership accepted. Marwan Kilani chose to continue on the BASOR editorial team. We note that ASOR's leadership raised no doubts about the integrity, professionalism, and rigor demonstrated by the BASOR editorial team.

The Executive Committee asked the COP to hold a vote to have Jason Ur step in as interim co-editor for BASOR. We held a vote and on October 16 announced that the COP voted in favor of Jason Ur joining Marwan Kilani as an interim co-editor of BASOR for the remainder of the current term (calendar year 2026) or until such time as new editors are appointed. All votes were in favor except for 3 abstentions (no "nays"). As suggested by some COP members, we noted that this vote does not reflect our committee's approval of ASOR's intervention into editorial decision-making that made this appointment necessary.

As COP co-Chairs, we participated in many lengthy discussions on this matter. As we raised in a prior message to COP, we believe this episode underscores the need for ASOR to make much more clear and overt protections for editorial independence. We also believe that editors of ASOR publications need much more clear guidance about how they can exercise editorial independence in an environment with many and growing risks. Thus, we are prioritizing the issue of editorial independence moving forward.

We want to give our deep thanks to the entire BASOR editorial team. We believe they acted with great integrity, thoughtfulness, and careful consideration of both ASOR's written general professional conduct policies and the specific policies guiding BASOR. We are saddened and dismayed that ASOR's leadership felt compelled to intervene as it did on this matter. It will be a vitally important task for all of us on COP to find better ways to protect the independence and integrity of ASOR publications and the organization more generally.

# NEA 2025 REPORT

Near Eastern Archaeology had a productive year in 2025. I took over from Stephanie Budin at the beginning of January 2025 as editor of NEA. The March 2025 issue was already complete, and many articles for the June and September issues were under review. We published the March issue along with two special topic issues on Megiddo in June and September, and we are on track to publish the final issue of 2025 soon. Beyond the regular publishing schedule, we developed clear guidelines for handling AI use in submissions and peer reviews, introduced new peer reviewer guidelines based on COPE standards, and added an alt-text requirement for accessibility (this will be implemented in the March 2026 issue). We are also exploring ways to expand our outreach and author base through new ASOR initiatives. Of course, challenges remain, particularly attracting strong manuscripts and managing the increase in submissions using AI.

### **EDITORIAL OPERATIONS AND MANUSCRIPT MANAGEMENT**

### SUBMISSION TRENDS AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY

As of November 2025, *NEA* received 31 new manuscripts - down slightly from 33 during the same period in 2024 (but we still have a month before the end of the year). This year's submissions show remarkable geographic diversity, with contributions from scholars across multiple continents. We received many submissions from Iran, followed by Israel and Turkey. Scholars from the UK contributed 2 manuscripts, and had single submissions from the US, Canada, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Palestine. The increase in submissions from Middle Eastern scholars is especially encouraging.

### ACCEPTANCE RATES AND EDITORIAL DECISIONS

Our acceptance and rejection rates have remained stable year-over-year, with acceptances at approximately 67-70% and rejection rates at 21-22%. One notable shift is that we are seeing major revisions required far more often than before. In 2024, only 8.3% of manuscripts needed major revisions, but in 2025 that jumped to 30%. At the same time, manuscripts needing moderate revisions dropped from 45.8% to 30%, and minor revisions declined slightly from 45.8% to 40%. The jump from 8.3% to 30% in major revisions suggests some manuscripts are coming in before they are fully ready, potentially reflecting an increase in AI tool usage. In response, we will need to strengthen our desk review process by working more closely with EB members to screen manuscripts, especially those outside my expertise. This should help ensure that manuscripts reaching peer reviewers meet a higher bar, saving reviewer time and improving outcomes for authors.

### **REVIEW AND TURNAROUND TIMES**

Average time from submission to first decision has remained relatively stable between 2024 and 2025, showing we have maintained efficiency. Manuscripts requiring major revisions average 53 days to decision (52 days in 2024). Those requiring minor revisions take around 31 days (up slightly from 28 days in 2024), and moderate revisions average 44 days (compared to 41 days in 2024). Rejection decisions took 48 days, up from 38 days in 2024, while rejections with recommendations average 45 days (42 days in 2024). Out of scope decisions remain immediate.

### PEER REVIEW PROCESS

### REVIEWER RECRUITMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Finding qualified reviewers, particularly in highly specialized subfields, remains difficult. Despite strong support from the Editorial Board, sometimes it takes extensive networking and multiple rounds of invitation. To support our reviewers and maintain strong peer review standards, we introduced new guidelines in 2025, based on COPE's Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers. This step became important as concerns about confidentiality and ethical practices in peer review have grown across academic publishing. The guidelines clearly outline reviewer responsibilities, including keeping submitted materials confidential, declaring conflicts of interest, providing constructive evidence-based feedback, completing reviews on time, and not using Al tools to evaluate manuscripts or write peer review reports. We are waiting for UCP to upload these guidelines to NEA's webpage, so reviewers can easily access them during the invitation and review process.

### RECOGNIZING REVIEWER CONTRIBUTIONS

We are looking for ways to recognize our peer reviewers' work. One possibility is the integration with ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID). Rob Blixt (from UCP) told me that Editorial Manager can be set up to let reviewers add their review activity directly to their ORCID record after completing a review. This would give reviewers a transparent, verifiable way to document their service. We would only be able to activate this for future submissions, and reviewers could choose whether to make their work for *NEA* public.

### **EDITORIAL BOARD UPDATES**

The NEA Editorial Board continues to provide essential expertise across diverse geographical regions and archaeological specializations. In 2025, we welcomed Dr. Christoph Bachhuber to the Board, which gives us stronger coverage of Anatolian archaeology. The Board has been crucial in identifying appropriate peer reviewers for specialized submissions, advising on ST issues, guiding the journal's direction, and promoting NEA in their networks. The terms of 4 Class of 2025 EB members (Solange Ashby, Trudy Kawami, Yorke Rowan, and Louise Steel) expire this year. They have been fantastic and very valuable contributors. I will contact them soon to ask if they wish to serve another term (if that is possible).

### AI TOOLS IN ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

A big challenge in 2025, across academic publishing in general and in *NEA* specifically, has been the sharp increase in Al-generated or Al-assisted mss submissions.

### **NEA AI EDITORIAL POLICY**

To address this, and meet new UCP requirements, *NEA* will implement a clear AI Editorial Policy in 2025. The goal is to encourage responsible AI use for language improvement while prohibiting AI-generated research, analysis, or data. Authors must disclose any AI tool usage beyond basic editing. What is allowed: Language editing and improving readability (with human oversight), grammar and clarity improvements, and translation assistance. What is prohibited: Drafting manuscripts or creating original scholarly content, generating bibliographic references (particularly important for *NEA*, since we require full first and last names), creating text, figures, images, or graphics, and using AI tools for research or analysis unless explicitly part of the research methodology and fully disclosed. Authors must cite all AI tool usage according to the Chicago Manual of Style, both for language editing and for research tools with AI integration. If we suspect a submission does not follow this policy, we will either return it for revision or reject it without peer review. Making this work means we need to be more vigilant during initial manuscript screening, develop better detection strategies, communicate clearly with authors and reviewers, and keep "educating" people about responsible AI use in scholarly publishing.

### PRODUCTION AND PUBLICATION

### PRODUCTION SCHEDULE AND WORKFLOW

*NEA* publishes quarterly: in March, June, September, and December. UCP continues to manage print and online production. UCP receives final PDFs from Billie Jean Collins with Lockwood Press, and processes them for print and online release, and has been meeting publication deadlines consistently. The March 2025 issue was delayed: it came during the editorial transition, and final files got to copyediting later than expected.

### 2025 Publication Performance

| Issue            | Final PDF Due | Final PDF Received | Issue Due to Post | Issue Posted | Status    |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|
| v88n3 (Sep 2025) | 8/11/2025     | 8/12/2025          | 8/25/2025         | 9/3/2025     | Published |
| v88n2 (Jun 2025) | 5/12/2025     | 5/16/2025          | 5/27/2025         | 6/6/2025     | Published |
| v88n1 (Mar 2025) | 2/12/2025     | 3/14/2025          | 2/26/2025         | 4/4/2025     | Published |
| v87n4 (Dec 2024) | 11/8/2024     | 11/14/2024         | 11/22/2024        | 12/3/2024    | Published |

Based on feedback from Billie Jean Collins, we added a new step in Editorial Manager in 2025: the "Accept Decision – Create Final Files" stage. This requires authors whose articles have been accepted to add all author information back to manuscripts, provide banner photos, submit author bios and photos, and make sure all supplementary materials are complete. This should cut down on delays at the copyediting stage and speed up production overall.

We are in relatively good shape for upcoming issues. The December 2025 issue (v88n4) is on track with 7 articles. For March 2026 (v89n1), we have 6 articles ready for production. An additional 9 articles are at various stages of review: 3 have completed review (1 minor, 2 major revisions), 2 await second reviews (1 trending minor, 1 major), 2

are in active review, and 2 present challenges - one may be rejected if authors decline to do the revisions, the other has one reject review pending confirmation. December 2026 (v89n4) is a ST issue so we do not expect any significant delays there. Overall, I trust we should be able to achieve June and September issues, but we might need stronger submissions from COP!

### READERSHIP AND ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

### **ONLINE USAGE STATISTICS**

*NEA*'s readership continues to grow. From January through September 2025, we averaged approximately 2,053 views per month (counting both HTML and PDF accesses), up 13.5% from the 1,808 monthly average in 2024.

### MOST ACCESSED ARTICLES

The most accessed articles in 2025 span different time periods and topics. The top article was J. Penrose Harland's 1942 piece "Sodom and Gomorrah: The Location of the Cities of the Plain" with 936 accesses, showing that archival content still draws heavy traffic. Recent scholarship also performs well: Juuso H. Nieminen and Peter J. Cobb's 2023 article on virtual reality in remote classrooms received 525 accesses, and Stephen C. Compton's 2024 piece on Sennacherib's siege camps had 253 accesses. Rounding out the top five were Jason Ur's 2017 article on archaeological work in Kurdistan (250 accesses) and Sarah Parcak's 2015 piece on looting in Egypt (240 accesses). Both archival scholarship and recent articles on DH and contemporary archaeological issues remain popular.

### GEOGRAPHIC REACH AND PRIMARY TRAFFIC SOURCES

*NEA*'s website traffic is global. From January 2023 through August 2024, our top 10 countries were: US (39%), Israel (5%), UK (5%), Germany (4%), China (4%), Turkey (3%), Iran (3%), Canada (3%), Spain (3%), Italy (3%), others (31%). Most of our traffic comes from Google (2,137 referrals), followed by ASOR (732), Google Scholar (310), and JSTOR (296).

### MARKETING AND OUTREACH

### **DIGITAL PROMOTION**

UCP handles our digital marketing through email campaigns (our eTOC list grew 16% to 405 subscribers), their "From the Archives" program that highlights older articles related to themes, including our *NEA* articles: "The West Semitic Alphabet in the Early Iron Age: A New Hypothesis" (Alphabets theme), "Colossal Cave Archaeology: Epigraphy, FORTRAN Code-Artifacts, and the Ur-Game" (DH theme), and "Near Eastern Archaeology in Historic Photographs" (Photography theme), and social media (Twitter/X and Facebook). In 2024, *NEA*'s visibility increased through social media mentions, Wikipedia citations, and select news coverage.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENCE**

*NEA* maintains visibility through UCP at over 20 scholarly conferences annually, including ASOR, AIA/SCS, SBL, and others, with both staffed and virtual exhibits. In 2023 and 2024, promotional materials (magnets, pens, carabiners), and a "Chicago Archaeology" brochure were distributed at conferences.

### PRINT MARKETING

*NEA* appears in UCP's journals catalog (sent to 3,000+ librarians and agents) and is cross-promoted in other archaeology and Near Eastern studies journals.

### MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

NEA articles often get picked up by news media. The most-cited articles in public media in the past year included: "Mastering the Seven-Headed Serpent," "The Trail of Sennacherib's Siege Camps," "Assassin's Creed Origins." Our special issue on "Spanish Archaeology in the Near East" got good attention and was featured in UCP's 2024 Media Digest, which goes out to journalists covering archaeological topics.

### **SPECIAL TOPICS ISSUES**

Special topics issues remain an important part of *NEA*'s publication program. Recent issues have attracted high-quality submissions and stayed on schedule. Recent special issues have included: Spanish Contributions to Near Eastern Archaeology (v87n3, 2024), Megiddo (v88n2-3, 2025), Levantine Stamp Seals (continued from December 2023)

into 2024), while December 2026 will be a ST issue on dogs. The EB discussed potential themes for future ST issues, especially my suggestion for textbook-style thematic issues designed for classroom use (e.g., "The Archaeology of Anatolia: From Prehistory to the Medieval Period"). We did receive a proposal for two ST issues on Indus seals, but we had to decline since the geographic scope falls outside *NEA*'s focus. The EB recommends continuing special topic issues but limiting how many we do each year. We also want to make sure we are attracting broader topics, as some special issues can get too specialized.

### **BUILDING THE AUTHOR COMMUNITY**

### CHALLENGES IN ATTRACTING SUBMISSIONS

*NEA* gets a decent number of submissions, but attracting strong manuscripts that work for our broad readership is an ongoing challenge. Some submissions, while excellent scholarship, are too specialized for *NEA*'s generalist audience and would be better suited to more specialized journals.

### INITIATIVES TO INCREASE QUALITY SUBMISSIONS

We have launched (or are exploring) several initiatives to build a stronger author community:

MENTORING PROGRAM FOR EARLY-CAREER SCHOLARS: This new program aims to help early-career scholars prepare mss for publication in ASOR journals. Participants would get personalized guidance on manuscript preparation, mentorship from me, EB members, and others from the CoP, and two rounds of feedback before they formally submit.

### INTEGRATION WITH ASOR INITIATIVES:

- Friends of ASOR Webinars: NEA authors are being invited to present their research in webinar format, scheduled for spring 2026. This gives authors a platform to discuss their work and promotes NEA articles to ASOR members.
- Podcast Initiative: We were invited to suggest NEA authors to participate in this initiative.

DIRECT SOLICITATION: EB members and I reach out directly to colleagues to invite submissions, especially for underrepresented geographical regions and time periods.

WORD LIMIT FLEXIBILITY: The EB is considering more flexibility in article length to accommodate longer treatments of important topics. The current target is 320 pages annually (approx. 8 articles per issue at 3,500-5,000 words each). Raising the upper word limit a bit, while keeping articles accessible and high quality, could help us attract manuscripts that need a bit more space.

### **PRIORITIES FOR 2026**

As we move into 2026, there are several areas where *NEA* needs to focus. All detection and management will remain a challenge, but we also want to support authors who use All tools appropriately for language improvement; this is something we will keep working on as the technology develops.

On the peer review side, by adding ORCID integration reviewers can get proper credit for their work. We also need to expand our reviewer pool, especially for more specialized topics, and keep improving our guidelines and support for reviewers. Bringing in more quality submissions means growing the early career mentoring program, using ASOR webinars and podcasts to get the word out about *NEA*, and continuing to reach out directly to potential authors.

We want to build on the growth we have seen in online readership by exploring digital humanities content and new methodologies while keeping up our social media engagement. ST issues have worked well, but we need to find themes that work for both research and teaching and make sure these don't crowd out regular submissions.

*NEA* has faced some challenges in 2025, but the journal remains committed to publishing excellent, accessible scholarship on Near Eastern archaeology for readers around the world. Our AI policies, stronger peer review, and author support programs put us in good shape moving forward, and our growing readership and integration with ASOR's other initiatives show that the journal continues to play an important role in the field. I am grateful for the support of the Editorial Board, UCP, Billie Jean Collins, ASOR, and COP.

Perhaps I should now report that Billie Jean Collins, *NEA*'s managing editor and copyeditor, and Susanne Wilhelm, our layout designer, will continue their excellent work through the first two 2026 issues before concluding their time with the journal; I am deeply appreciative of their contributions so far. Planning for this transition will be a priority for early 2026.

Christina Tsouparopoulou Editor Near Eastern Archaeology 12 November 2025

### Report 2025, Bulletin of ASOR

BASOR co-editors: S. Cohen, M. Kilani, J. Mynářová, R. Pruzsinszky

Incoming co-editor: J. Ur

We would like to extend our thanks to BASOR's copy editor, Ali Witsell, and the production team at University of Chicago Press for all their work in helping to produce the journal.

Below are the relevant statistics regarding publication for 2025.

- Statistics (1 November 2024 31 October 2025):
  - o number of papers submitted: 43
  - o number of papers accepted: 24
  - o number of papers rejected: 17
  - o number of papers out for revision: 7
    - total number of papers out for revision (all years): 27
  - o book reviews published: 16
- Publication of two volumes:
  - o v393 in spring 2025, and v 394 in fall 2025.
- Social Media:
  - o BASOR now has 1734 followers on Facebook (as of 14 November 2025).
- Review Process:
  - We are continuing to increase the pool of peer reviewers solicited by BASOR.
- Other Items:

Susan Cohen, Regine Pruzsinszky, and Jana Mynářová resigned as co-editors on 7 October, effective 1st November 2025.

Megan Ciffarelli has resigned as member of the Editorial Board as a consequence of the resignation of the co-editors.

Annual report: *Maarav* Simeon Chavel, Editor 31 Oct 2025

This is *Maarav*'s third year as an ASOR journal. The issue coming out (or out by the time you read this) includes two articles from last year's backlog and two more submitted and processed this year. For next year, several articles are already accepted and several are under review (there are also several promised submissions), so that in its fourth *palu*, ASOR-*Maarav* might publish two separate issues for the first time. To date, *Maarav* has received 30 submissions and accepted 14 with still 2 under review, for an acceptance of just about 50%. Half of the declines have been desk-rejections. I believe *Maarav* is establishing a reputation for (1) welcoming a wide range of topics and approaches that perceptibly fall under its stated area of concentration, (2) for publishing varying lengths, from short to quite long (100 pages!), (3) for its commitment to quality, (4) for working well with authors to improve their submissions, (5) for speed to publication.

The 2025 issue has three articles totaling 184 pages. These cover a good range of topics, phenomena, and periods — inscriptions on altars, jars, busts, and tablets, and the formulations and textual history of magic spells and prophecies, in five different languages, from the Late Bronze Age, through the Iron and Hellenistic Ages.

Maarav is proud to share that Alice Mandell was awarded the 2025 Fredson Bowers Memorial Prize by the Society for Textual Scholarship, for her article "Word Craft in the Ancient Levant: Craft-Literacy as the Intersection of Specialized Knowledge," published in Maarav 27 (2023): 91–191. Alice Mandell is Assistant Professor and holds the William Foxwell Albright Chair in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Johns Hopkins University. And she serves on the editorial board of Maarav.

### Journal of Cuneiform Studies — Annual Report 2025 Submitted by Petra Goedegebuure, co-editor

### **General**

Last year we reported that eight manuscripts had been accepted for publication in <u>JCS 77 (2025)</u>. The published volume ultimately contained 10 articles. One of those articles, Jon Beltz's "Everyday Magic? Four Sumerian zi…pa<sub>3</sub> Incantations on Amulets," was awarded the <u>Best Article of an Early Career Scholar Prize 2025</u> of *The International Association for Assyriology*.

The editors meet on a weekly basis. *JCS* continues to work with Billie Jean Collins from Lockwood Press for the publication of the journal. The editors have made the following changes or are in the process of doing so:

- We have updated our style sheet together with Lockwood Press and established new deadlines for authors regarding the submission of revisions.
- We now also use the AIA/ASOR rules about not being the first place of publication for unprovenanced material.
- We are currently working on an AI policy.

Richardson participated in selecting the candidate for the Mesopotamian Fellowship. Next year one of the other editors will participate (we rotate).

### **Manuscripts**

Last year nine manuscripts without final decision were carried over, and there were 26 new submissions<sup>1</sup>. The acceptance rate at the time of reporting was 32%.

This year, 11 manuscripts without final decision were carried over from last year (2024). There were 26 new submissions. This year's report thus presents the status of 37 submissions (November 2025). 23 of those manuscripts have already had decisions made on them; with 5 papers accepted, our acceptance rate currently stands at 22%. Below follows a break-down of the status of the submissions, with editorial outcomes when applicable.

### Accept and accept with revision:

Five manuscripts have been accepted or accepted with minor revision for publication in *JCS* 78 (2026). Three of those have been accepted. We expect that several of the manuscripts that are new, under review, or under revision (total: 14) will also appear in *JCS* 78. We are monitoring the probable page count on a regular basis so as not to over-accept.

### Under revision: 6

Two articles are under major revision, four are under minor revision.

### Under review: 7

There are currently seven manuscripts under review.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> There were in fact 29 submissions, but they included four from the same author. We have now counted their submissions as one submission.

**New submissions:** 

1

There is currently one new submission. Editor and reviewers will be assigned in our next meeting.

**Desk-rejected:** 

5

The content of five manuscripts did not fall withing the scope of *JCS*.

Withdrawn:

2

Two manuscripts were withdrawn, one after it received the verdict of Major Revision.

Rejected after review:

11

Eleven manuscripts were rejected after receiving negative reviews.

### Annual of ASOR – Annual Report – November 2025

Submitted by William Caraher, editor

Published Manuscripts:

Title: Archaeological Ethics in Practice.

Editors: Sarah Lepinski and Sarah Kielt Costello

Title: Excavations at Tel Jezreel 1995–1996: The Stratigraphy and Neolithic–Iron Age Pottery

From Area A Vol. II. Editor: Charlotte Whiting

Color: No

Page proofs with author.

### Manuscripts Under Contract and In Production:

*Unsilencing the Archives* 

Author/Editor: Aaron Brody, Felicity Cobbing, Melissa Cradic, Helen Dixon, Samuel Pfister, and Jeff Zorn

### Manuscripts Expected:

Inclusive Archaeologies of Western and Central Asia: Essays in Honor of Karen Rubinson

Editors: Siavash Samei and Megan Cifarelli

Color: Undecided

In revision.

Judith McKenzie's The Re-Use of Sacred Spaces in the Levant from Late Antiquity to the

Medieval Period

Author/Editor: Andy Reyes and Ross Burns (Judith McKenzie †)

Color: Undecided Not yet submitted.

Hidden Voices, Sacred Stories: Examining Power, Gender, and Religion in the Biblical World in

Honor of Susan Ackerman

Editors: Kristine Henriksen Garroway, Kerry M. Sonia, Deirdre Fulton, and Margaret Cohen

Color: Undecided Not yet submitted.

### Proposal Under Review:

None.

# Other manuscripts:

Taanach Volume. Author/Editor: Nancy Lapp† Color: Undecided

### ASOR Archaeological Reports Series Annual Report November 2025 Jennie Ebeling, Series Editor

### Recent publication (1)

ASOR-ARS 32

Evans, Jane DeRose and Jennifer Tobin. *The U-Shaped Building at Caesarea Maritima: A Garden Attached to the Praetorium.* A copy will be available at the ISD desk at the ASOR AM.

### In production (1)

**ASOR-ARS 33** 

Parker, S. Thomas and Megan A. Perry, eds. *The Roman Aqaba Project Final Report Volume 2 – Excavation of Ancient Aila*.

Contract signed in August 2024. \$5,000 subvention for printing and b&w illustrations granted to Megan Perry from ASOR opportunity fund in 2024. Megan has the first proofs.

### Ready for production in order received; all shared with Susanne Wilhelm (6)

Gaber, Pamela, ed. *Idalion III. The Terrace of the East Acropolis, Mouti tou Arvili, and Special Studies*. Contract signed and \$10,000 subvention for printing and color illustrations paid to ASOR. Contract signed March 2015. **Manuscript received January 2024**.

London, Gloria with a forward by H.W. and S. Swiny. *Echoes from the Past: Traditional Cypriote Pottery. An Exhibition at the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute October 1995.* CAARI Monograph. Contract signed in June 2025 and \$5,000 subvention for printing and b&w illustrations granted to Stuart Swiny from ASOR opportunity fund in May 2025. **Manuscript received July 2025**.

Tappy, Ron. *The Zeitah Excavations Volume I Project Overview: Design, Strategy, and Tabulated Results.* Contract signed November 2021. **Manuscript received August 2025**.

Tappy, Ron. The Zeitah Excavations Volume II Stratigraphy and Architecture: Historical Development from the Iron Age IIA through the Late Ottoman Period. Contract signed November 2021. Manuscript received August 2025.

Tappy, Ron. *The Zeitah Excavations Volume III. Iron Age IIA-B-C: A Comprehensive Comparative Ceramic Analysis.* Contract signed November 2021. **Manuscript received August 2025**.

Tappy, Ron. The Zeitah Excavations Volume IV: Objects, Small Finds, and Specialized Studies and Post-Iron Age Pottery. Contract signed November 2021. Manuscript received August 2025.

### Manuscript received but not yet under contract (1)

Gaber, Pamela and Evi Margaritis, eds. *Environment, Landscape, and Society: Diachronic Perspectives on Settlement Patterns in Cyprus.* CAARI Monograph. Manuscript received October 25, 2024; one updated chapter received in October 2025.

### Proposals accepted after peer review; awaiting manuscripts (9)

Listed in chronological order from most recent.

Caraher, William, Nancy Serwint, R. Scott Moore, and Tina Najberg, eds. *Polis I: History of Princeton Excavations and the Late Roman material from the E.F1 Area.* Proposal accepted July 23, 2024.

Caraher, William, Nancy Serwint, R. Scott Moore, and Tina Najberg, eds. *Polis II: City of Work: Hellenistic and Roman Workshops in the area of E.F2.* Proposal accepted July 23, 2024.

Stone, Peter. J. University of Michigan and University of Minnesota Excavations at Tel Kedesh IV. Pottery and Lamps from the Persian-Hellenistic Administrative Building (PHAB). Proposal accepted May 29, 2024.

Berlin, Andrea M. and Sharon C. Herbert. *University of Michigan and University of Minnesota Excavations at Tel Kedesh II. The Persian-Hellenistic Administrative Building (PHAB): Stratigraphy and Architecture, Context and History.* Proposal accepted April 15, 2024.

Berlin, Andrea M. University of Michigan and University of Minnesota Excavations at Tel Kedesh III. Objects and Finds from the Persian-Hellenistic Administrative Building (PHAB). Proposal accepted April 15, 2024.

Gleason, Kathryn, Barbara Burrell, and Jimmy Schryver. *The Promontory Palace at Caesarea Maritima, Israel: Final Reports.* Proposal accepted January 3, 2020.

Casana, Jesse. *Archaeological Investigations at Tell Qarqur, Syria: Settlement, Subsistence, and Social Change in the Northern Levant.* Proposal accepted January 4, 2019.

Parker, S. Thomas and Megan A. Perry, eds. *The Final Report of the Petra North Ridge Project*. Perry now responsible for publication. Proposal accepted November 27, 2017.

Caraher, William et al. Koutsopetria 2, Cyprus.

### The Ancient Near East Today 2025 Report

### Submitted by Jessica Nitschke (Editor), 13 Nov 2025

ANE Today published 25 original articles in 2025 and sent out 26 newsletters (some are yet to appear). ANE Today has two parts: the web platform and a newsletter. I will report on these separately and then comment on some general issues.

### ANE Today Web platform - http://anetoday.org

As reported last year, ASOR launched anetoday.org as a standalone website in October of 2024, serving as the platform for publication of ANE Today articles. We now have a full year of data to provide insights into the traffic, user engagement, and performance.

### Traffic and Engagement (site overall, including ~250 articles)

| Period                     | Page Views | Active Users | Engagement<br>Rate | Average Engagment Time |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Nov 1, 2024 - Oct 31, 2025 | 139k       | 84k          | 42%                | 1m29s                  |
|                            |            |              |                    |                        |
| October 2024               | 8.3k       | 5.3k         | 42%                | 1m23s                  |
| October 2025               | 16k        | 9.6k         | 42%                | 1m26                   |

engagement rate = number of visitors who spend more than 10 seconds on the site or they visit 2 or more pages. user = an individual who interacts with the site, identified by unique identifier like browser cookie or a User ID

As per above, the total number of page views for the 12 month period ending October 31 was ~139,000. Monthly page views have essentially doubled month-on-month compared to the same time last year (~8300 vs. ~16,000); the number of users has gone up by 80% in the same time. Engagement is consistent and healthy.

Top 5 sources of Traffic Acquisition for the last 3 months (Aug, Sept, Oct, in total)

|    | Source             | Medium   | Sessions      | Engagement<br>Rate |
|----|--------------------|----------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1  | google search      | organic  | 15524 (42.4%) | 49%                |
| 2  | direct             | -        | 9212 (25.2%)  | 26%                |
| .3 | substack           | email    | 7170 (19%)    | 40%                |
| .4 | bing               | organic  | 669 (1.83%)   | 50%                |
| 5  | asor.org           | referral | 490 (1.34%)   | 62%                |
| .6 | <u>chatgpt.com</u> | -        | 472 (1.29%)   | 43%                |

The top sources of traffic in Aug-Oct 2025 for ANE Today were Google search (42.4%), followed by direct access via a link (25.2%, e.g. Agade mailing list, course syllabi), followed by the Substack newsletter (19%).

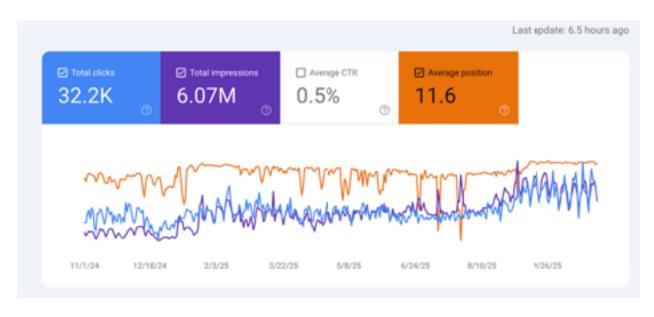
<u>Top 10 articles Nov 1 2024 - October 31 2025</u>

|    | page   | views | average engagement time |
|----|--|-------|-------------------------|
| .1 | home page  | 6310  | 27s                     |
| 2  | Study of Disability in Ancient Egypt and Beyond (2025) see note 1  | 4981  | 1m05                    |
| .3 | Ten Fascinating Discoveries (2024)   | 3759  | 1m06                    |
| .4 | Breaking the Code: Ancient Iran's Linear Elamite Script Deciphered (2022)                                | 3521  | 58s                     |
| .5 | The Art of Conservative Rebellion: A Short introduction to the First Sealand Dynasty (2021) (see note 2) | 2864  | 6s                      |
| .6 | What is a God in the Ancient Near East? (2025)   | 2847  | 2m14                    |
| 7  | Samsi, "Queen of the Arabs" (2024)   | 2662  | 1m36                    |
| 8  | What is a God in the Hebrew Bible? part I (2025)   | 2503  | 2m32                    |
| 9  | The Ishtar Gate of Babylon (2023)  | 2470  | 49s                     |
| 10 | Moses' Other Names: A Clue to the Biblical Exodus During Egypt's Civil War? (2025)                       | 2332  | 2m33                    |

*Note 1:* "Study of Disability" was featured as part of Google's "Discover" feature, in which Google provides personalized content to users, which accounts for much of its high number of views.

*Note 2:* The high number of views for #5 is an anomaly, as can be seen from the very low average engagement time. The views spiked in the 2 weeks after Charlie Kirk's assassination when the key words "conservative rebellion" were trending.

### **Google Search Performance**



Our performance in google search remained mostly flat from February until September, when it started to improve. This can be attributed to problems with the site's performance - Google punishes poor performing sites in its search ranking. Nearly all of the *ANE Today* website pages fail Google's "core web vitals" (namely, the pages have been loading slowly). IT staff in the ASOR office worked on this a lot in August and September, and page load speed has noticeably improved. The results can be seen in the stats:

| Month               | total clicks | total impressions | Average Position in Search Rankings |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jul 1 - Jul 31 2025 | 2.3K         | 562K              | 18.2                                |
| Aug 1 - Aug 31 2025 | 2.72K        | 626K              | 11.8                                |
| Sep 1 - Sep 30 2025 | 3.86k        | 849K              | 8.9                                 |
| Oct 1 - Oct 31 2025 | 3.99K        | 787K              | 7.3                                 |

Our search ranking improved dramatically following fixes to the website. However, more work still needs to be done. The site still fails overall in Google's core web vitals, even though performance in individual metrics has improved.

**Back Catalog:** Review of images in past articles for copyright violations and poor quality is ongoing, but has proceeded slowly this past year due to lack of time/manpower. This will be accelerated in the next 3 months, with a goal of having all of the back catalog up by mid 2026.

### <u>ANE Today Newsletter (https://ancientneareasttoday.substack.com/)</u>

**Move to Substack:** In January 2025, thanks to the efforts of Rachel Bernstein (Communications/FoA) and Moni Islam (ASOR Front Desk), we moved the ANE Today newsletter from Informz to Substack. The reasons for this move was the clunkiness of the Informz user interface and lack of responsive design. Substack has been a vast improvement for both readers and staff.

**Subscribers**: ANE Today Newsletter shares a mailing list with Friends of ASOR. In addition to ANE Today, subscribers receive notifications about FoA offerings, including webinars and tours. According to Substack, ANE Today has subscribers from 136 countries.

The current number of subscribers is **40,065** (as of Nov 10), as per the Substack dashboard. This is a substantial increase over the ~17100 we began with in January. The source of this growth is as follows:

- 1. **Via ANE Today** (organic growth; opt-in, i.e. with consent): since January 2025, we have gained <u>1919 new subscribers</u> via Substack and the *ANE Today* website
- 2. **Via Friends of ASOR** (imported by the ASOR office): ~20,000 new subscribers were manually added by the ASOR office; I was told this email addresses were obtained via agreements with other institutions (especially Israel Institute of Archaeology), which shared their mailing list with ASOR.

It should be noted that after the ~20,000 email addresses were imported to Substack, our successful delivery rate dropped from ~95-97% to 81%, where it has remained steady. This suggests that there are ~8000 dead email addresses in the imported list, and therefore the <u>real number of current subscribers is likely closer to 32,000</u>. I have recommended that the ASOR office purge the list.

### **Statistics:**

- ANE Today newsletters have been viewed ~399,000 times for the period from Jan 1 Nov 10, 2025.
- Average number of views per newsletter was 21470 for the month of October 2025
- Average **open rate** In Sep/Oct was **30%**, down from **40%** in February/March the drop off is visible following the importing of 20,000 external emails. Open rates tend to drop as subscriber numbers increase, and opt-in subscribers tend to be more engaged than opt-out subscribers.

### **ANE Today Newsletter Reader Survey:**

Another Publication (9)

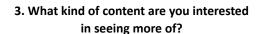
social media (1)

We have run a reader survey since January, accessed from within the newsletter. We had 88 respondents. Here are the results:

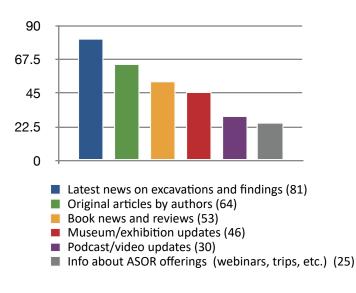
# ANE Today? 60 45 30 15 0 ASOR (60) A friend/colleague (10)

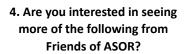
1. How did you find out about

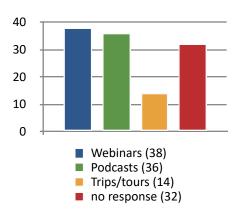
# 2. Which of the following best describes you? 50 37.5 25 12.5 0 Academic/Researcher (46) Enthusiast (42) Teacher (K-12, including retired) (6) Student (4)



Internet Search (8)







We also asked, "What time periods and/or regions are you most interested in?" and "Are there any particular topics you would like us to cover?" Participants could write anything; not surprisingly, there was a wide range of topics, periods, and regions mentioned, with many indicating "all" or any part of the Near East.

### **Monetization of ANE Today**

ANE Today is currently funded out of the ASOR budget and is the only one of ASOR's publications that is free. The ASOR office has expressed a desire to monetize ANE Today (both the newsletter and the web platform) in order to cover its costs. Monetizing ANE Today should not be done lightly, as it can potentially change the relationship with not only its readers but also its contributors, as the latter are not employees but researchers who donate their time and intellectual property. ANE Today is a unique publication in terms of its model, content, and mission; there is no comparable publication (that I know of) in either the non-profit or commercial sector.

Various stakeholders have suggested a number of possible paths for monetization and/or generating revenue to cover costs: advertorials, affiliate advertising, ads for related products/services (e.g. books, travel), fundraising campaigns (e.g. Wikipedia), seeking private donors, and a registration wall (forcing users to sign up for Friends of ASOR). These all have pros and cons that need to be assessed. I believe that any decisions about monetization of *ANE Today* should be considered carefully and overseen by the Publications Committee. In particular, there are three questions that need to be clarified:

- 1. Should ANE Today be monetized at all, given the mission of ANE Today and ASOR and the institution's priorities as listed in the Strategic Plan 2029?
- 2. If yes, what types of monetization would be appropriate AND effective, given the profile of the *ANE Today* website and newsletter?
- 3. What would be the process for developing a business plan and who would be responsible for oversight of sponsorship & ads?

Gathering input from the Editorial Advisory Committee and the ASOR Office, I am currently drafting an updated version of the *ANE Today* mission statement as well as a draft document addressing points 1-3. Once these are completed, I would like to submit it to the Publications Committee (or perhaps a subcommittee) for feedback and discussion.

### **Other Matters**

- An open call for additional members of the Editorial Advisory Committee was made in order to expand and
  regularize the process for this committee. The current committee will be reviewing the applications at the 2025
  Annual Meeting.
- With the assistance of FoA ambassador Elise Friedland, we have launched an initiative to create and curate content specifically for **educational** purposes. To this end, we are holding a holding a roundtable at the Annual Meeting to discuss the use of ANE Today in the classroom.
- We have continued collaboration with the **FoA webinars**, which continues to be mutually beneficial in encouraging engagement.

### **Priorities for 2026**

- Clarify the Mission Statement of ANE Today and drafting monetization/sponsorship guidelines.
- Finish reviewing the backlog of articles (2013-2019) and post them.
- Increase traffic on the ANE Today website from 16k to 50k visits per month and improve the Average Google Search Ranking from 7.3 to 3. Strategies will include:
  - Building partnerships with other organizations and websites (e.g. universities, worldhistory.org) in order to increase back links from reputable pages, etc.
  - Working with ASOR IT to continue improving website performance
- Adapt content in line with readers' interests, e.g. including more field-report style articles.
- Develop Educational Resources.



### Levantine Ceramics Project 2025 Annual Report ASOR Committee on Publications

The LCP has had an extraordinary year. We completed a large round of software development last winter in which we built several new features (e.g.., it is now possible to add vessel images directly within vessel submission) and improved existing ones (e.g., it is now possible to select multiple manufacturing techniques for a single vessel). I begin every annual report this way, to underscore that the LCP is a work in progress, open to improvement, correction, and expansion. I am always happy to share details of software upgrades with whomever is interested – so please ask! In this report, I summarize other sorts of take-aways and updates from the past year.

### LCP Handbooks launch!

<u>LCP</u> Handbooks have arrived. Number 1, <u>The LCP Handbook to the Late Roman Amphora 1 (LRA 1)</u>, by Veronica Iacomi and Grady Gillett, is now out in both hard copy and as an open-access e-book; you can download your copy <u>here</u>. We anticipate submission of the manuscript for Number 2, *The LCP Handbook to Eastern Sigillata A (ESA)*, by Nicole Constantine and Brigitte Keslinke, by Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, with publication expected in August 2026.

<u>The LCP Handbook to the Late Roman Amphora 1 (LRA 1)</u> offers a panoptic view of one of the most representative material avatars of the late Roman and Byzantine world. For four hundred years (fourth—seventh centuries), the LRA1 served as both agent and symbol of its deeply entwined, far-flung economic network. The handbook offers an up-to-date overview and user-friendly identification guide to known production sites, petrographic data, and current information on distribution, which stretches from Scotland and Wales to Yemen and India.

### Now expanding beyond the Levant

The "L" in LCP stands for "Levantine," the long eastern Mediterranean coastline from the Dardanelles to Egypt and its immediately adjacent lands. This stretch of the globe has served as a connecting corridor for people and goods throughout human history, an essential hinge point on planet Earth. The LCP is built to investigate the Levant's social, cultural, and economic history via pottery, the artifact that best gives us direct access to people in the past, because it helps us see, analyze, and follow their activities, tastes, and movements.

Now, 15 years in, the <u>LCP</u> has busted out beyond the Levant, thanks to that world traveler, the LRA 1 amphora. Our geographic range now extends from Scotland and Wales to Yemen and India, and includes every country across Europe and North Africa. We have already begun hearing from young researchers working outside our traditional confines, asking if they can add material to the <u>LCP</u>. To all, we say: yes! The <u>LCP</u> is a platform built to grow. Let the expansion begin!

### Speaking of "L" ...

The <u>LCP</u>'s geographic expansion has some implications for our logo. I've been playing around with new logo ideas. Two possibilities are below. I invite comments and suggestions!

The Levantine Ceramics Project







levantineceramics.org

### Numbers

We gained new information in almost every category, with a particularly big increase in vessels.

| category             | as of<br>Nov. 1,<br>2019 | as of<br>Nov. 1,<br>2020 | as of<br>Nov. 1,<br>2021 | as of<br>Nov. 1,<br>2022 | as of<br>Nov. 1,<br>2023 | As of<br>Nov. 1,<br>2024 | As of<br>Nov. 1,<br>2025 | increase<br>in the<br>past year: |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Contributors         | 346                      | 456                      | 533                      | 594                      | 640                      | 688                      | 773                      | 85                               |
| Vessels              | 10,000                   | 12,093                   | 13,794                   | 16,834                   | 17,734                   | 19,852                   | 23,209                   | 3357                             |
| Petrographic samples | 5303                     | 5458                     | 5716                     | 6002                     | 6081                     | 6194                     | 6399                     | 205                              |
| Wares                | 442                      | 483                      | 476                      | 491                      | 500                      | 504                      | 520                      | 16                               |
| Petro-fabrics        | 93                       | 101                      | 104                      | 109                      | 115                      | 115                      | 119                      | 4                                |
| Kiln/Workshops       | 30                       | 40                       | 52                       | 56                       | 72                       | 80                       | 87                       | 7                                |
| Sites*               | 584                      | 613                      |                          |                          |                          | 1238                     | 1500                     | 262                              |

<sup>\*</sup> This is the first year I've tracked number of sites. Figures from prior years come from screen shots I took for presentations given at LCP workshops.

### **LCP** Workshops

This year we held two workshops. The first, on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, was at the <u>Badé Museum of Biblical Archaeology</u>, part of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkely, California. Overseeing the day was Aaron Brody, Robert and Kathryn Riddell Professor of Bible and Archaeology and Director of the Badè Museum, <u>LCP</u> Assistant Editor Nicole Constantine, and myself. We were joined by three graduate students from the University of California-Berkely: Alice Ziegler, Isabella Blanton, and Layla Fistos. The goal was to begin adding some of the hundreds of vessels from the school's excavations of Tell en-Nasbeh, which were brought to the museum and remain stored there, and to

get a selection representing all periods of occupation. We organized a steady rotation of choosing items from their drawers in the storeroom, taking photos, noting and submitting information, and double-checking for accuracy. By mid-day we had *almost* met our goal: 22 vessels, representing the Early Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Neo-Babylonian era, and Roman period (we're still missing vessels from the Middle Bronze Age, and the Persian, Hellenistic, and Byzantine periods). Still, we made a great start, as you can see by going to the <u>LCP</u> page for <u>Tell en-Nasbeh</u>.

Our second workshop took place on October 5<sup>th</sup>, at the University of Münster in Germany. For this we joined forces with Professor Katharina Schmidt, who graciously invited us to add an additional day to her conference on <u>The Archaeology of Iron Age Jordan</u> for <u>LCP</u> workshop. It was a great success: 13 scholars spent a full day discussing the range and character of Jordan's Iron Age ceramic groups and decorative techniques – and also succeeded in adding about 90 new vessels to the <u>LCP</u>.

### A new **LCP** initiative and position

This summer Nicole Constantine, the LCP's Assistant Editor, and I dreamt up a new initiative and position: LCP Coordinator for Museum Collections. Happily, our dream candidate agreed to take this on: Brigitte Keslinke, the LCP's first intern back when she was a BU undergraduate, and now an advanced PhD candidate at UPenn. In her new role Brigitte will be reaching out to archaeology museums around North America with collections of pottery from excavations, in order to organize "data day" workshops to begin adding material to the site. We held our first LCP "data day" on Saturday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, at the University of Pennsylvania. It was super successful: a group of UPenn and Bryn Mawr graduate students added 129 vessels excavated by the University's archaeologists at Kition and Lapithos. This is fantastic material, being primarily whole vessels from tombs dating to the Late Cypriot and early Iron Ages. Brigitte is planning more "data days" over the next several months, with the goal of getting upwards of 1000 vessels from Cyprus on to the LCP by this spring.

A flyer promoting this program is below. If you work at a school with a collection of archaeological ceramics, please reach out to Brigitte (<u>brke@sas.upenn.edu</u>)!

Museum
Workshop
Program

# **Objectives**

- Systematically add provenanced archaeological ceramics in museum collections to the LCP.
- Use museum collections to fill gaps in the LCP's dataset.
- Increase visibility and utility of museum collections for archaeologists, especially those conducting active fieldwork.
- Engage museum professionals and students in open-access scholarship.

### **About the LCP**

The Levantine Ceramics
Project (LCP) is an openaccess resource for the study
of Levantine pottery - and its
societies, cultures, and
economies - from the
Neolithic era (c. 5500 B.C.E.)
until today.





22808 VESSELS



1007

Feel free to contact the LCP's Coordinator for Museum Collections (Brigitte Keslinke, brke@sas.upenn.edu) with any questions.





Above I talked about the "L" in <u>LCP</u>. With the appearance of the first <u>LCP</u> Handbook, the launch of Museum "Data Days," the continuation of workshops, and the tremendous increase in numbers and usage, we continue to channel the "P" in our name. The <u>LCP</u> is a *project*, one in which we work together to make pottery from a vast array of time and space readily available to students and scholars in order to facilitate study of people in the distant and not-so-distant past. In that process, the <u>LCP</u> is bringing people together today, virtually and in person, to pool knowledge and further discovery, insight, and understanding.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea M. Berlin,

James R. Wiseman Chair in Classical Archaeology, Boston University

Audula Giller

Founder and editor, Levantine Ceramics Project

### **Book Sales Report through 9/30/25**

Q1

- US: 150 books sold, \$10,256.06: \$7,827.98 (ASOR), \$2,428.07 (ISD)
- UK: 14 books sold, £605.07: 363.04 (ASOR)

### Q2

- US: 50 books sold, \$2,798.20: \$1,818.83 (ASOR), \$979.37 (ISD)
- UK: 13 books sold, £587.77: 352.66 (ASOR)

### Q3

- US: 27 books sold, \$1,051.33: \$692.63 (ASOR), \$358.70 (ISD)
- UK: 23 books sold, £880.48: 528.29 (ASOR)

Total Sales for 2025 through September:

US \$14,105.59: **\$10,339.44 (ASOR), 227 books** UK: £2,073.32: **1,243.98 (ASOR), 50 books** 

Recent publications, subventions, and costs:

2024 ARS 31: Humayma, John Peter Oleson (2 volumes)

\$5,000 subvention

\$2,790.00 pre-press work

\$4,905.00 pre-press work

\$13,627.00 Sheridan invoice (vol. 1)

\$16,061.00 Sheridan invoice (vol. 2)

-\$32,383

2024 AASOR 78: Ethics in Archaeological Practice, Sarah Costello & Sara Lepinski

\$1,800.00 pre-press work

\$2,032.63 Integrated Systems invoice (switch to print-on-demand, digital printing)

-\$3,832.63

### Forthcoming:

ARS32 *U-Shaped Building at Caesarea Maritima*, Jane DeRose Evans and Jennifer Tobin

\$8,500 subvention

\$1,170.00 pre-press work

\$1,260.00 pre-press work

\$6,070

ARS33 *The Roman Aqaba Project Final Report*, S. Thomas Parker and Megan Perry \$5,000 subvention \$4,545.00 pre-press work

\$455

AASOR79 *The Excavations at Tel Jezreel 1990-1995: Stratigraphy and Finds* (2 volumes) \$2,295.00 pre-press work

### 2024 data

### Q1

- US: 25 books sold, \$985.97: \$645.33 (ASOR), \$340.64 (ISD)
- UK: 17 books sold, £402.40: 268.27 (ASOR)

### Q2

- US: 112 books sold, \$6,668.33: \$5,213.71 (ASOR), \$1,454.61 (ISD)
- UK: 6 books sold, £152.26: 101.50 (ASOR)

### Q3

- US: 240 books sold, \$14,734.07: \$11,450.96 (ASOR), \$3,283.11 (ISD)
- UK: 17 books sold, £409.51: 273.00 (ASOR)

### Q4

- US: 42 books, \$2,236.41: \$1,477.29 (ASOR), \$759.12 (ISD
- UK: 16 books, £769.86: 461.92 (ASOR)

### Totals:

US: \$24,624.78: **\$18,786.75 (ASOR), 419 books** UK: £1,734.03: **£ 1,104.69 (ASOR), 56 books**