



**ASOR Executive Committee Zoom Meeting  
August 19, 2025, 9:00-10:00 AM EDT**

**Present:** Emily Miller Bonney, Lynn Dodd, Jane DeRose Evans, Sheldon Fox, Kate Grossman, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Eric Meyers, Kiersten Neumann, Sarah Scott, Jason Ur, Andy Vaughn (non-voting)  
Guest: Marta Ostovich (non-voting)

**Background:**

ASOR President Sharon Herbert called a special Executive Committee meeting (via Zoom) to discuss what guidance to give the *BASOR* editors who had rejected an article concerning excavated material from EAST Jerusalem. The material in the article originated from an excavation that has a salvage permit from the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA). The editors informed the author that the article was rejected because the material was from contested territory and did not have a permit or permission from the appropriate Palestinian authority. The article author informed the *BASOR* editors that the article should be permitted under ASOR's policy because the excavation in question operated under salvage permits. The *BASOR* editors did not recognize the salvage permit from the IAA. The author(s) requested that the *BASOR* editors reconsider because of the salvage status of the excavation.

Meeting began at 9:03AM EDT.

Members of the EC discussed what governance issues were at stake, and they discussed who has the ultimate authority to interpret ASOR-wide policies—the ASOR Board or the *BASOR* editors?

Discussion then turned to who owns the journals and who has ultimate control of the journals. It was agreed that ASOR owns the journals, but the editors have editorial freedom over the content of the journals. ASOR and the ASOR Board have the ultimate say about ensuring that ASOR-wide policies are followed and upheld.

There was discussion about the following *BASOR* editorial policy:

“Regarding excavations in Jerusalem or the West Bank, *BASOR* will consider manuscripts for salvage work; but if a manuscript presents results from a regular

excavation, such manuscripts will not be considered, given the location and ASOR's policies."

Reference was also made to section E.7 of the ASOR code on Professional Conduct: "they [the editors] may consider for inclusion in ASOR publications and presentation venues research that has been undertaken in occupied territory and its contiguous waters as defined by customary international law when that research is required strictly to safeguard, record or preserve the archaeological heritage of the occupied territory, or when permission of the competent national authorities of the occupied territory has been obtained by the researcher."

Members of the EC shared that the Program Committee and other journal editors have similar guidelines and follow this policy (E.7). Discussion then continued about the difference between IAA salvage permits and excavation licenses. It was pointed out that the IAA makes a distinction between the two, and not all excavations in East Jerusalem have salvage permits. Some have research excavation licenses and excavators holding such research licenses do not submit their materials for publication or presentation in ASOR venues.

A majority of members of the EC concluded that the ASOR policy was clear, and that the article should be sent out for review. Other few members thought that the policy left room for interpretation by the editors. There was a majority view (though not unanimous) that the ASOR Board had the ultimate responsibility to interpret ASOR policy and not the *BASOR* editors.

EC members made various suggestions about how to move forward with guidance. After more than an hour, the following resolution was presented.

Lynn Dodd moved; Emily Bonney seconded:

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee strongly encourages the Editors reconsider ASOR's policy and practice have been to take the category of the permit as the definition of the work. If it is a salvage permit, then we ask that you send it forward for review."

Vote: 9 in favor

Opposed: 1 (Grossman)

Abstain: 1 (Jones)

Meeting ended at approximately 10:10.