

JOURNAL OF NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

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JNES comes out twice a year, in October and April. The journal covers an enormous territory of scholarship—from the Neolithic to the Ottoman period—from North Africa to the far edges of the Iranian plateau—covering history, archaeology, linguistics, and literature. A sampling of the delights in each issue should give a sense of the lively discussions this wide range of topics permits.

The October issue featured first the chronological reconstruction of a previously poorly understood revolt in Egypt against Petubastis IV, circa 522–518 BC (Uzume Wijnsma, University of Leiden). Helga Anetshofer (University of Chicago) gave us an illuminating study of late medieval and early modern Ottoman talismanic shirts, decorated with Qur’anic scripture, sacred symbols, and magical squares, worn by warriors going into battle. Another article explored the late Babylonian interest in the authors of ancient texts, given to us by Sophus Helle of Aarhus University. Other articles analyzed Hittite oil omens, the limits of Assyrian royal power, credit structures and foreclosure procedures in Late Bronze Age Arraphē, cuneiform astronomy at Late Babylonian Uruk, the importation of slave labor in the Sargonic period, and indefinite Hittite pronouns—from scholars in Tel Aviv, Helsinki, Minneapolis, Leiden, Jerusalem, Munich, and Moscow.

The April issue published a new inscription of the Assyrian king Sargon II found at Karkemish, which reveals that Sargon originally planned to build a royal palace there (Gianni Marchesi, University of Bologna). Chicago alumnus Joseph Lam (now at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) provided a penetrating analysis of multiple, mixed, and complex metaphors in Ugaritic literature, situating them within discussions of current literary theory. And we had the contribution of an edition of a fragmentary Syriac-Arabic dream-request text, and an analysis of its connection to Jewish Aramaic and other magical traditions (Michael Zellmann-Rohrer, University of Oxford). The other contributions included studies of innovative sculptural techniques on colossal statues of Akhenaten; the historiography of the figure of Hiram of Tyre; the connections between Neo-Assyrian “language ideology” and the account of Genesis 11:1–9; the linguistic connection between Armenian, Persian, and Akkadian names for mint; and “pseudo-scripts” in Mesopotamian magic bowls—from scholars in Virginia, Tel Aviv, Colorado, Armenia, and Groningen.

The journal can be justly proud of its topical, historical, and disciplinary breadth, as well as its scholarly depth. What continues to make this possible is that Chicago’s journal draws together scholarship from all over the world—that the broad ancient and medieval worlds that *JNES* illuminates are matched only by the diverse array of international scholars who construct the pages of every issue.

This year also marked a change in some of the editorial board of *JNES*: after more than a decade at the helm, Christopher Woods is retiring as editor, with James Osborne now taking over that role. James continues as the ancient book-review editor, while Fred Donner has assumed the role of modern book-review editor. Seth Richardson continues in his position as managing editor.
