

JOURNAL OF NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

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The *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (JNES) published eighteen major articles and nineteen book reviews in annual year 2016–2017 (volumes 75/2 and 76/1). Our articles covered topics as diverse as ancient gaming boards carved in rockfaces at Petra, the role of sound in ancient divination, and the ongoing effort to document the looting of the Mosul Museum in Iraq. Among works by Chicago authors, JNES has featured Robert Ritner’s analysis of two Egyptian water-clocks (*clepsydrae*) in the Oriental Institute Museum collection, Ahmed El Shamsy’s essay on an early Islamic papyrus about procedures for prayer, and Tasha Vorderstrasse and Kathryn Franklin’s study of the form and function of villages in medieval Armenia.

The journal continues to enjoy a substantial page expansion (twenty-five more pages), increased subscriptions and online viewing (+9.3%), and an almost three-fold increase in impact-factor ratings according to the ResearchGate and Scimago indexes, all while improving profitability (against the trend for journals, +4%) and selectivity in publication (with an acceptance rate now at only 11.2%). Editorial policies have also improved time-to-decision for submitting authors from about six to three months over the past five years, and time-to-publication from over twenty-four months to twelve. Double-blind review was introduced in 2013.

JNES is looking forward in the coming year to publishing exciting discoveries in Babylonian astronomy, early Islamic *ḥadith*-sayings, and new Sumerian literary works, among others. Interested readers are encouraged to visit the journal at: <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/jnes/current>.
