

PUBLICATIONS

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Four monographs were published during the 2023–24 report year (fig. 1):

- *Back to School in Babylonia*. Edited by Susanne Paulus with with Marta Díaz Herrera, Jane Gordon, Madeline Ouimet, Colton G. Siegmund, and Ryan D. Winters. ISAC Museum Publications 1. Published October 2023.
- *Pomp, Circumstance, and the Performance of Politics: Acting Politically Correct in the Ancient World*. Edited by Kathryn R. Morgan. ISAC Seminars 16. Published February 2024.
- *An Armenian Futūḥ Narrative: Lewond's Eighth-Century History of the Caliphate*. By Sergio La Porta and Alison M. Vacca. Late Antique and Medieval Islamic Near East (LAMINE) 4. Published March 2024.
- *Medinet Habu X: The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, Part II: The Façade, Pillars, and Architrave Inscriptions of the Thutmomid Peripteros*. By the Epigraphic Survey. ISAC Publications 1. Published June 2024.

Back to School in Babylonia—the catalog accompanying the special exhibition of the same name that opened in September 2023—was the first title to employ a newly designed layout for ISAC Museum monographs. Related to this exhibition and to the following special exhibition that opened in April 2024, *Pioneers of the Sky: Aerial Archaeology and the Black Desert*, the ISAC publications office also facilitated the production and printing of ISAC's first two children's activity books:

- *The Adventures of Inanaka and Tuni: Learning to Write in Ancient Babylonia*. By Jane Gordon and Susanne Paulus (text), Madeline Ouimet (illustrations), and Sarah M. Ware (layout and design). ISAC Miscellaneous Publications. Published September 2023.
- *Fly with Dana over the Past*. By Marie-Laure Chambrade and Kiersten Neumann (text) and Jérôme Agostini (illustrations), with the assistance of Marc Maillot and Thomas Boudier. ISAC Miscellaneous Publications. Published April 2024.

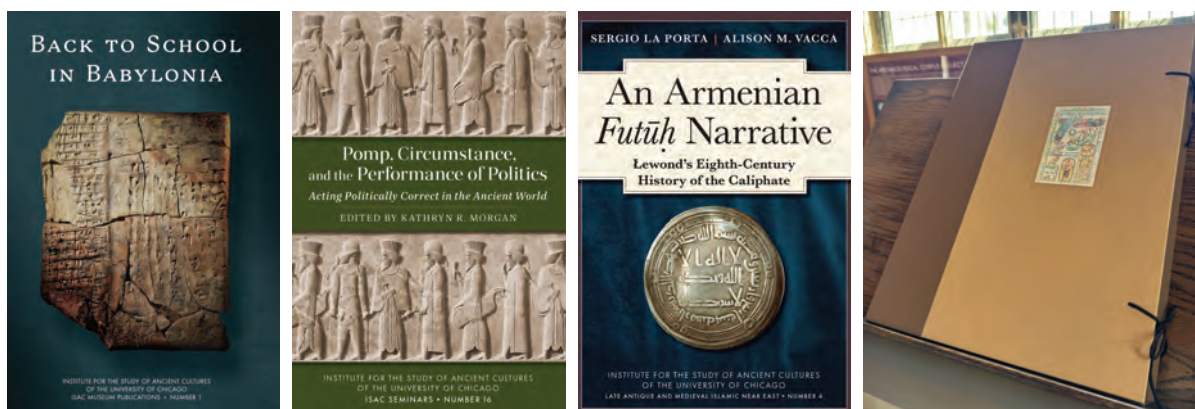


Figure 1. The four monographs published this year.

Upon its publication, one of the LAMINE series editors described *An Armenian Futūḥ Narrative* as “creating a new gold standard for editions/translations/commentary in the field.” It presents a diplomatic edition in Armenian and a new English translation of Lewond’s chronicle of eighth-century caliphal rule in Armenia. Detailed reading notes, in small type in the margin alongside the translation, aid readers who may be unfamiliar with the figures, places, and concepts mentioned; footnotes cite Armenian textual variants and parallels in biblical and other texts; extensive commentary provides detailed analysis; and three indexes offer a detailed and useful overview of the book’s contents.

The manufacturing of *Medinet Habu X* was a months-long, collaborative effort involving Epigraphic Survey staff, the ISAC publications office, and the team at M&G Graphics, the Chicago printer chosen to produce the volume. Materials were selected to match as closely as possible those used for the previous Epigraphic Survey volume (*Medinet Habu IX*, published in 2009), including the folio case’s cloth, buckram, embossing, and gold-foil stamping and the two types of paper used for the black-and-white and color plates inside. Of the volume’s 111 plates and plans, 87 are so large that they needed to be folded to fit inside the folio, many of them twice; the five largest plates, at 39 inches wide, necessitated that the Mohawk paper mill in upstate New York (which manufactures the Mohawk Superfine White paper used in the 2009 volume) provide extra-large rolls specifically for this publication. Most of the plates were printed digitally on M&G’s Fuji J-Press, allowing inspection of proofs in the ISAC publications office and by Epigraphic Survey photographer Sue Lezon at home. But the five largest plates were too big for the Fuji equipment and had to be printed offset, a process supervised during one full day at the M&G plant in February 2024. The outcome was a beautifully produced folio volume that matches its predecessors in quality—and an achievement that would not have been possible without M&G’s advice and tremendous patience as we made numerous adjustments to the contrast and color balance of the volume’s many photographs.

Also this year, the publications office produced the 2022–23 annual report and three issues (including two double issues) of the ISAC member magazine, *News & Notes*; copyedited and proofread the wall and case texts for the year’s two special exhibitions, as well as new case labels for the Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery; and made progress on the production of several titles that will be published in 2024–25.

Four book manuscripts were submitted during this report year for possible publication by ISAC. Two of them were accepted, along with three others submitted during the previous report year; the other two submissions received this year were still being peer-reviewed at the close of the report period.

As of June 30, 2024, the following fifteen manuscripts, which include the five manuscripts accepted this year, constituted the backlog of monographs in production. Two of them (*A Master of Secrets in the Chamber of Darkness* and *Chicago on the Nile*) were sent to the printer in June, toward the end of the report year, and were slated to publish during the summer; most of the others had been copyedited or were being edited, and a couple of them had been typeset and were being proofread.

- *Nippur VI: The Inanna Temple*. By Richard L. Zettler and Karen L. Wilson, with contributions by Robert D. Biggs, Jean M. Evans, McGuire Gibson, Richard C. Haines, Donald P. Hansen, James Knudstad, Walther Sallaberger, and John C. Sanders. ISAC Publications.
- *Center and Periphery: The Archaeology of Politics at Ešnunna from the Ur III Period to the Old Babylonian Period*. By Clemens Reichel. Studies in Ancient Cultures.
- *Excavations at Serra East, Part 8*. By Bruce Williams et al. Nubian Expedition.
- *Excavations at Serra East, Part 9*. By Bruce Williams et al. Nubian Expedition.
- *Lowland Susiana in the Fourth Millennium*. By Abbas Alizadeh. ISAC Publications.
- *Iraqi Excavations in the Diyala Region: New Excavations at Tell Asmar (Ancient Eshnunna), 2001–2002, and Excavations at Tell Muqdadiya, 1980*. By Hussein Ali Hamza and Salah

Rmayidh, with contributions by Daniel Mahoney, Alexandra Witsel, and Hervé Reculeau. Translated and initially edited by Mark Altaweel. Finally edited, with additional notes, by McGuire Gibson. ISAC Miscellaneous Publications.

- *Insights into Islamic Archaeology and Material Culture: A Conference in Jerusalem*. Edited by Katia Cytryn, Kristoffer Damgaard, and Donald Whitcomb. Studies in Ancient Cultures.
- *Ancient Iran in the ISAC Museum: From the Prehistoric to the Achaemenid Period*. By Abbas Alizadeh. ISAC Museum Publications.
- *A Master of Secrets in the Chamber of Darkness: Egyptological Studies in Honor of Robert K. Ritner*. Edited by Foy D. Scalf and Brian P. Muhs. Studies in Ancient Cultures.
- *The Capture of Jerusalem by the Persians in 614 CE by Strategius of Mar Saba*. By Sean Anthony and Stephen Shoemaker. Late Antique and Medieval Islamic Near East.
- *Outward Appearance versus Inward Significance: Addressing Identities through Attire in the Ancient World*. Edited by Aleksandra Hallmann. ISAC Seminars.
- *Hattannaš: A Festschrift in Honor of Theo van den Hout on the Occasion of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday*. Edited by Petra Goedegebuure and Joost Hazenbos, with the assistance of Emily Smith. Studies in Ancient Cultures.
- *Chicago on the Nile: A Century of Work by the Epigraphic Survey of the University of Chicago*. By Emily Teeter. ISAC Museum Publications.
- *Unpublished Bo-Fragments in Transliteration III (Bo 6087–Bo 6434)*. By Oğuz Soysal. Chicago Hittite Dictionary Supplements.
- *Unpublished Bo-Fragments in Transliteration IV (Bo 2689–Bo 5660)*. By Oğuz Soysal. Chicago Hittite Dictionary Supplements.

I gratefully acknowledge the production assistance this year of Connie Gundry Tappy and James Fraleigh (copyediting and proofreading), Kristin Goble and Susanne Wilhelm (typesetting), Josh Tulisiak and James Slate (cover designs), ISAC assistant editor Becca Cain (photo editing and *News & Notes* layout), and former ISAC editor and current independent contractor Leslie Schramer (*Nippur VI* project management).

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

The ISAC publications office continued to make PDFs of new publications freely available online as soon as the print editions were released. To access the complete catalog of ISAC titles, which includes annual reports and *News & Notes*, please visit isac.uchicago.edu/research/catalog-publications.

SALES

Since January 1, 2019, ISD has been the exclusive distributor of ISAC publications. Between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, ISD sold 1,254 print copies of ISAC publications—913 through its US warehouse and 341 through its agent in the United Kingdom—as well as 59 e-book copies to customers in the United States. In addition, select titles are sold in the ISAC Museum Shop.

Generally, newly published titles and special exhibition catalogs (both current and past) sell the most copies; table 1 shows this year's ten top sellers. ISAC's first-ever children's activity book, *The Adventures of Inanaka and Tunī*, was this year's best seller with 293 copies sold. In second place with 192 copies sold was *Back to School in Babylonia*, the catalog accompanying the ISAC special exhibition of the same name that ran from September 2023 to April 2024. *Book of the Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt*, edited by

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Table 1. Best-selling ISAC publications—July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

Title	Author(s)	Year published	Print copies sold	E-book copies sold	Total copies sold
<i>The Adventures of Inanaka and Tuni</i> (children’s activity book)	Jane Gordon, Susanne Paulus, Madeline Ouimet, and Sarah Ware	2023	293	N/A	293
<i>Back to School in Babylonia</i> (special exhibition catalog)	Susanne Paulus with Marta Díaz Herrera, Jane Gordon, Madeline Ouimet, Colton Siegmund, and Ryan Winters	2023	186	6	192
<i>Book of the Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt</i> (special exhibition catalog)	Foy Scalf (ed.)	2017	175	N/A	175
<i>Highlights of the Collections of the Oriental Institute Museum</i>	Jean Evans, Jack Green, and Emily Teeter	2017	135	N/A	135
<i>The Mechanics of Ancient Egyptian Magical Practice</i>	Robert K. Ritner	1993	107	N/A	107
<i>Mural Decoration in the Theban Necropolis</i>	Betsy M. Bryan and Peter F. Dorman (eds.)	2023	68	8	76
<i>Embroidering Identities: A Century of Palestinian Clothing</i> (special exhibition catalog)	Iman Saca	2006	65	N/A	65
<i>Seen Not Heard: Composition, Iconicity, and the Classifier Systems of Logosyllabic Scripts</i>	Ilona Zsolnay (ed.)	2023	40	10	50
<i>Where Kingship Descended from Heaven: Studies on Ancient Kish</i>	Karen L. Wilson and Deborah Bekken, eds.	2023	35	9	44
<i>The Second Cataract Fortress of Dorginarti</i>	Lisa A. Heidorn	2023	33	5	38

Foy Scalf, sold 175 copies; published in 2017, this special exhibition catalog enjoyed fresh attention this year because of a widely publicized exhibition on the Book of the Dead at the Getty Villa in Los Angeles. A gallery guide published in 2017, *Highlights of the Collections of the Oriental Institute Museum*, continued to sell well through the ISAC Museum Shop. In fifth place, Robert K. Ritner’s *The Mechanics of Ancient Egyptian Magical Practice*—a perennial top seller first published more than thirty years ago and reprinted many times since then—remained popular.

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Booksellers should contact ISD for all information on discounts. ISAC members receive a 20 percent discount on all titles; to receive the member discount, e-mail isac-membership@uchicago.edu and ask for the discount code.
