

# JOURNAL OF NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

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The *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (JNES) published issues 76/2 and 77/1 this past year, covering subjects ranging from Achaemenid Elamite administrative tablets to early Islamic sanctuary systems, from Babylonian astronomical schemes to calculate the motion of Jupiter to a new reading for inscriptions in the Dome of the Rock. In all, eighteen original studies appeared along with twenty-five book reviews. The 2017 circulation remains above 1,100 subscriptions, with another quarter of a million visits to articles online. The University of Chicago Press continues to feature the journal at meetings of the American Historical Association (AHA), American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), and Society of American Archivists (SAA) conferences, among others. As part of the Chicago Emerging Nations Initiative (CENI), access to the journal remains available online for free in seventy-five nations where average per-capita income is less than \$3,000 per year, including six nations where the Oriental Institute has ongoing field research.

The most-viewed article of 2017 was Joel Blecher's "Revision in the Manuscript Age: New Evidence of Early Versions of Ibn Ḥajar's *Fatḥ al-bārī*" (April 2017), which the author also treated in a more popular forum with a related piece in *The Atlantic* ("A Newly Discovered Manuscript and Its Lesson on Islam," June 28, 2017, available online). Tracy Spurrier's article on the tomb of an Assyrian queen ("Finding Hama: On the Identification of a Forgotten Queen Buried in the Nimrud Tombs," April 2017) was also featured in the July 8, 2017, edition of *USA Today*.

At this writing, JNES 77/2 is being proofed for October publication, including articles on unfree labor in third-millennium Babylonia, mortgage practices in second millennium Nuzi, and royal literature in first millennium Assyria (among many others). The editorial staff remains the same as the previous year: Christopher Woods, editor; Seth Richardson, managing editor; Ahmed El Shamsy and James Osborne book review editors (modern and ancient, respectively).

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