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.


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).