

JOURNAL OF NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

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The *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (*JNES*) rounded out its 138th year of publication with another complement of diverse and excellent research and writing: seventeen articles and thirty-five book reviews. *JNES* continues to attract and publish high-quality original research from around the globe. Authors from Qatar to Chicago, from Oklahoma to Israel sent us major articles on the role of public squares in ancient Ugarit, the concept of numeration in Sumer, Akhenaten and Nefertiti's morning toilette, the use of children as letter carriers in Late Antique Egypt, the function of bird song in the Gilgameš Epic, solutions to Middle Bronze Age chronology, the revenues generated by Ottoman law courts, and the use of magic in ancient Egyptian obstetrics. The *JNES* staff remained the same as during the previous year: James Osborne, editor and ancient book review editor; Fred Donner, modern book review editor; and Seth Richardson, managing editor. We also thank the production staff at the University of Chicago Press for helping get a handsome journal issue out every six months.

Bringing the quality of work that we insist on to our pages requires a long and exacting process of evaluation. Between July 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022, *JNES* received seventy-six manuscripts submitted as original studies, in addition to thirty-four invited book reviews. Of these seventy-six manuscripts, only five (6.6 percent) have to date been accepted for publication, though three remain under active review and another seven have been sent back to the authors for revision. Sixty-one manuscripts were rejected. Admittedly, our acceptance rate is usually about double this amount, so it seems to have been a particularly difficult year! We are, as always, grateful to the many reviewers from around the world who continue to make this evaluative process possible. Their (anonymous) work goes largely unrecognized, but we appreciate that they have contributed time and effort to the purpose of making the work we publish as good as it can be.
