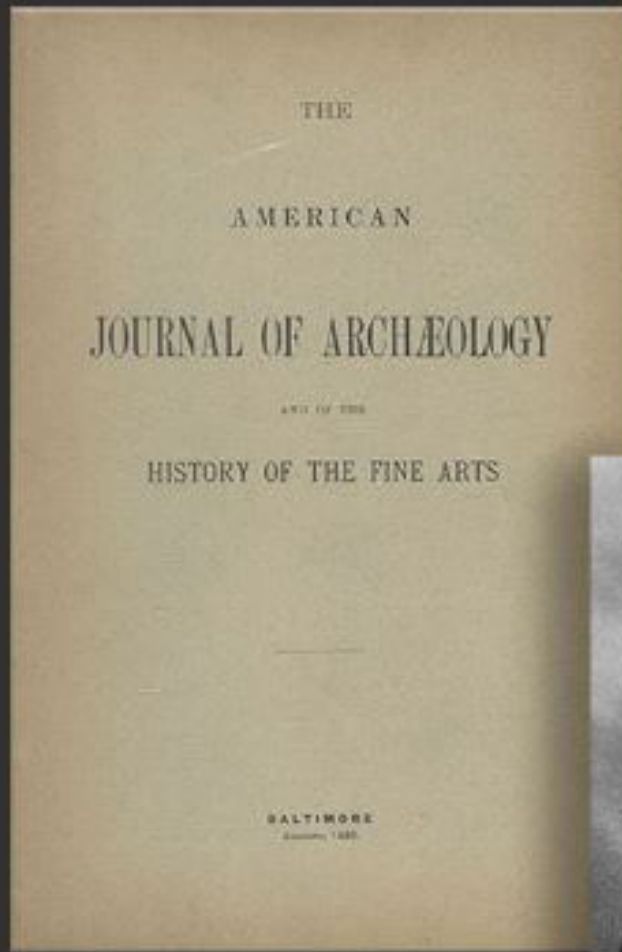




# The American Journal of Archaeology: A History



January 1885

## The First Issue

*The American Journal of Archaeology and of the History of the Fine Arts* is founded by Arthur Lincoln Frothingham, Jr., as the official periodical of the Archaeological Institute of America. Frothingham serves as Managing Editor, and Charles Eliot Norton is Advisory Editor. The Institute was established six years earlier, "for the purpose of promoting and directing archaeological investigation and research," and the journal is to be the primary vehicle where this work will "be brought to a focus and made accessible, in a convenient but scholarly form" (AJA 89.1 [1985]). The first issue totals 489 pages and shows a secondary title, *The American Journal of Archaeology for the Study of the Monuments of Antiquity and of the Middle Ages*. This is removed by the second issue.



C.C. Perkins, "The Siris Bronzes" *AJA* ser. 1, vol. 12-3 (1885) pl. 6.

April–October 1885

## The First Year

The fledgling journal generates great interest among both scholars and readers: No fewer than 15 U.S. and 23 European archaeologists contribute reports to the first volume, and the "Correspondence" section, which begins with the second issue and continues for 10 years, includes letters from archaeologists working around the world.

By the October 1885 issue, the *AJA* has secured 275 subscribers, who pay \$3.50 for the volume year.



W.H. Ward, "Unpublished or Imperfectly Published Hittite Monuments. I. The Façade at Ellatún-Bunar" *AJA* ser. 1, vol. 2:1 (1886) pl. 1.

1886

## Reports from the Field

The January 1886 issue exemplifies the internationalism of the early reporting, with "Excavations Upon the Akropolis at Athens," "The Monumental Tortoise Mounds of De-Coo-Dah"—a fact-finding mission for the "last prophet of the Elk Nation" in the American Northwest—and "Recent Archæological Discoveries in Persia" appearing side by side. In this last, Ernest Babelon writes, "For about three centuries numerous travellers have visited Persia and have signalized the important ruins which cover the southern provinces of the country; but no one, until now, had studied and classified scientifically the ancient monuments of Iran, or carried on methodical excavations on sites that promised to yield interesting discoveries" (*AJA* ser. 1, vol. 2:1 [1886]).



Walls of Sixth City cleared of vegetation (C.W. Blegen, "Excavations at Troy, 1932" AJA 35.4 [1932] fig. 19).

1893

## Troy/Hissarlik

Excavations at the supposed ancient site of Troy (modern Hissarlik), which began with Heinrich Schliemann in 1882, are first noted in AJA volume 8 (1893). The seven campaigns conducted by the University of Cincinnati are reported annually by Carl W. Blegen, beginning in 1932.

Scholarship on Troy appears in the AJA thereafter. See, for example:

"A Petrographic Examination of Potsherds from Ancient Troy" AJA [46.2](#) (1942).

"Notes on Trojan Chronology" AJA [52.1](#) (1948).

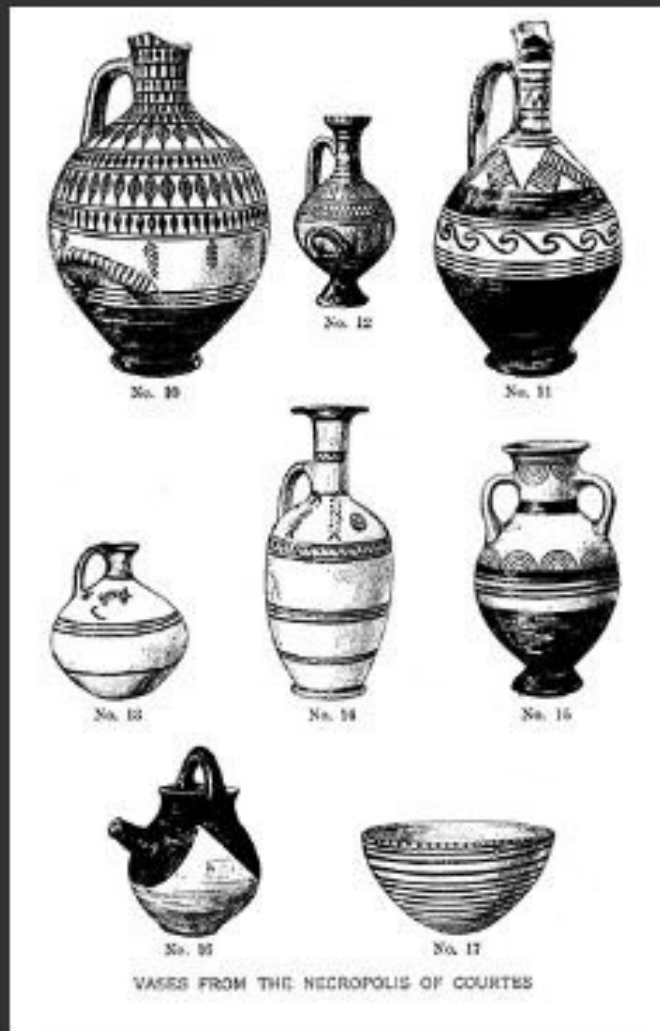
"A Hoard of Trojan and Sumerian Jewellery" AJA [74.4](#) (1970).

"Archaeology in Anatolia" AJA [93.1](#) (1989).

"Finding the Walls of Troy: Frank Calvert, Excavator" AJA [99.3](#) (1995).

"Troy VI: A Trading Center and Commercial City?" AJA [108.4](#) (2004).

"Late Bronze Age Troy: A Response to Frank Kolb" AJA [108.4](#) (2004).



L. Mariani, "Cretan Expedition XIII. The Vases of Erganos and Courtes" *AJA* 5.3 (1901) pl. 9.

1896

## Crete

At the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in 1893, the Council chooses Crete as an area of exploration for the Institute. The expeditions will be led by Federico Halbherr of the University of Rome, who excavated there in 1884–1886.

The first report on the Cretan expeditions appears in *AJA* volume 11 (1896). Further reports are published in May 1897, July 1897, 1898, July 1901, October 1901, and 1902.

January 1897

## The Second Series

*The American Journal of Archaeology and of the History of the Fine Arts* begins a second series as the *American Journal of Archaeology*, under the editorship of John Henry Wright, with Harold North Fowler, James R. Wheeler, and Allan Marquand as Associate Editors.

The aims of the restructured journal are to focus on the archaeological research being undertaken by the Institute and by the research centers it sponsors (the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the American School of Classical Studies in Rome) and to increase coverage of topics in New World archaeology.

The cover and title page echo the new arrangement: "The Journal of the Archaeological Institute of America" appears below the now-shortened journal name, as does the new Institute seal, which is inspired by fifth-century Athenian coins. Eighty years later, P. Sherman Sheftel writes in her centennial review of the Institute, "The original dies for the seal were used for some 50 years before it was discovered that the old owl had one leg shorter than the other. While this may have been due to an attempt at perspective, it was certainly not an authentic replica of an ancient Athenian coin. In 1946, Kenneth J. Conant, later president of the Institute, designed the new seal giving the owl two equal legs to stand on" (AJA [83.1](#) [1979]).

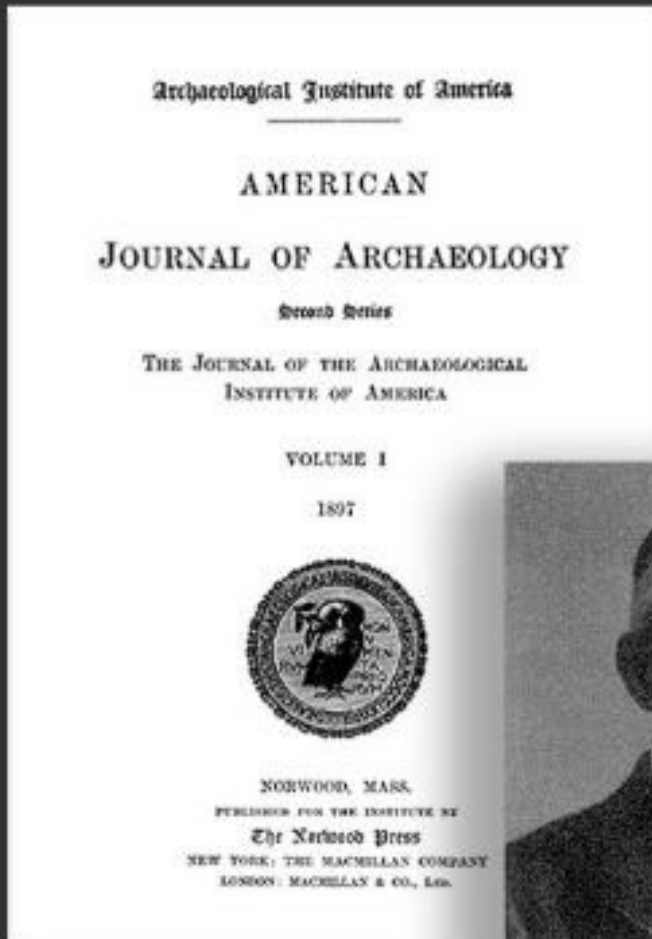




FIGURE 3. — VOTIVE RELIEF TO ASCLEPIUS.

"Archaeological Discussions" AJA 11.2 (1907) fig. 3.

July 1897

## Archaeological News and Discussions

The second series introduces an "Archaeological News" section, which includes comprehensive summaries of recent excavations conducted across the globe by various scholars and institutions, and "Archaeological Discussions," which summarize original articles in recent periodicals. In 1933, the two sections are combined, and "Archaeological News and Discussions" runs through January 1946.





Palace of Knossos. Part of Grand Staircase and Hall of Colonnades (by A.J. Evans [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons).

1901

## Knossos

In "Archaeological News," the AJA announces the discovery of the palace at Knossos, Crete, "with its corridors, store-chambers, throne-room, east and west courts, marvellous frescoes, and library of clay tablets." The site of Knossos was discovered in 1878 by Minos Kalokairinos; excavations led by Sir Arthur Evans began in 1900 and continued for 35 years.

Research at Knossos is often published in the AJA; see, for example:

"The 'Adze' Tablets from Knossos" AJA 48.1 (1944).

"The Central Court as the Minoan Bull-Ring" AJA 61.3 (1957).

"A Review of the Throne Room at Knossos" AJA 67.4 (1963).

"The Structure of the Linear B Administration at Knossos" AJA 89.2 (1985).

"The 'Lost' Portico at Knossos: The Central Court Revisited" AJA 106.4 (2002).

"Roman Knossos: The Nature of a Globalized City" AJA 111.1 (2007).

"The Mycenaean Administration of Textile Production in the Palace of Knossos: Observations on the Lc(1) Textile Targets" AJA 115.4 (2011).



F.W. Kelsey, "The Stage Entrances of the Small Theatre at Pompeii" *AJA* 6.4 (1902) fig. 2.

1902

## Pompeii and Herculaneum

Francis W. Kelsey's "The Stage Entrances of the Small Theatre at Pompeii" (*AJA* [6.4](#) [1902]), the first full-length *AJA* article on work at Pompeii, appears in volume 6 of the second series. Excavations began at Herculaneum in 1738 and at Pompeii in 1748. Study at these two sites, which continues to the present, is frequently covered in the journal:

"Notes on the Eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D." *AJA* [22.3](#) (1918).

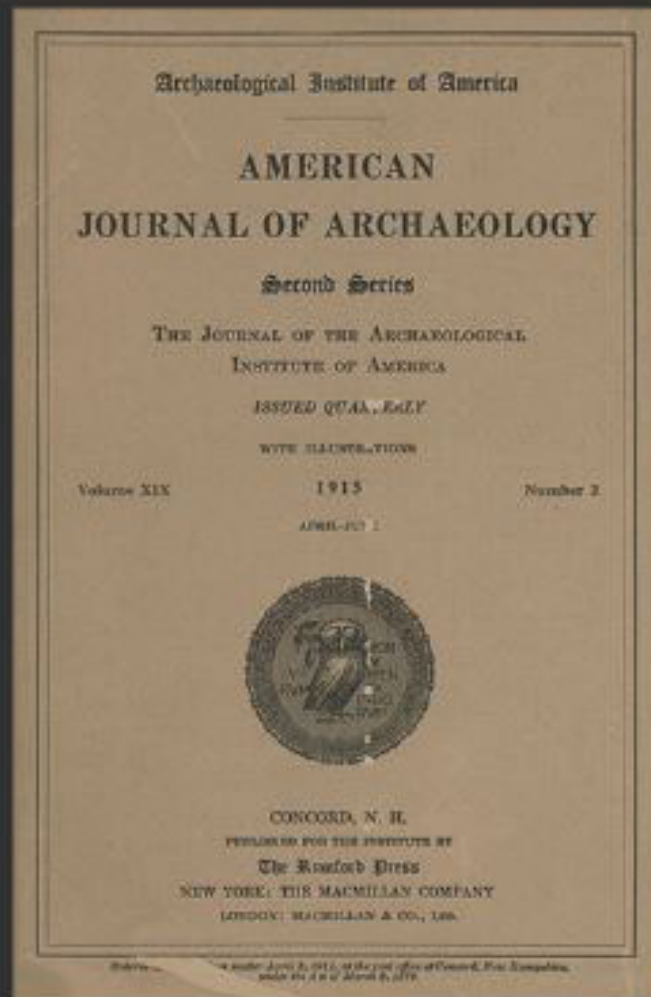
"Significance of the Serpents on Pompeian House Shrines" *AJA* [46.1](#) (1942).

"The Eruption of Vesuvius in A.D. 79: Reconstruction from Historical and Volcanological Evidence" *AJA* [86.1](#) (1982).

"The Sanctuary of Apollo at Pompeii: Reconsidering Chronologies and Excavation History" *AJA* [104.4](#) (2000).

"Pompeii Forum Project: Current Thinking on the Pompeii Forum" *AJA* [117.3](#) (2013).

"Stasis and Change in Roman Domestic Space: The Alae of Pompeii's Regio VI" *AJA* [119.1](#) (2015).



1906–1916

## Harold North Fowler: Editor-in-Chief

Fowler becomes the AJA's third Editor-in-Chief, taking over from John Henry Wright in July 1906. He was born in Westfield, Massachusetts, in 1859, and received an A.B. (1880) from Harvard University, a Ph.D. (1885) from Bonn, and a Litt.D. (1939) from Western Reserve University. From 1888 to 1929, Fowler was professor of Latin at Phillips Exeter Academy and of Greek at the University of Texas and Western Reserve University. He served as Annual Professor of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) (1903–1904) and was the Editor-in-Chief of the ASCSA publications on Corinth. He also served in many editorial capacities for the AJA before becoming Editor-in-Chief.

During his tenure, Fowler improves the quality of the journal's paper and image reproduction and unveils a new cover. He also oversees, in 1908, the publication of a comprehensive 283-page index of the first 10 volumes (1897–1906) of the second series.

AJA 53.1 (1949) is dedicated to Fowler on the occasion of his 90th birthday.



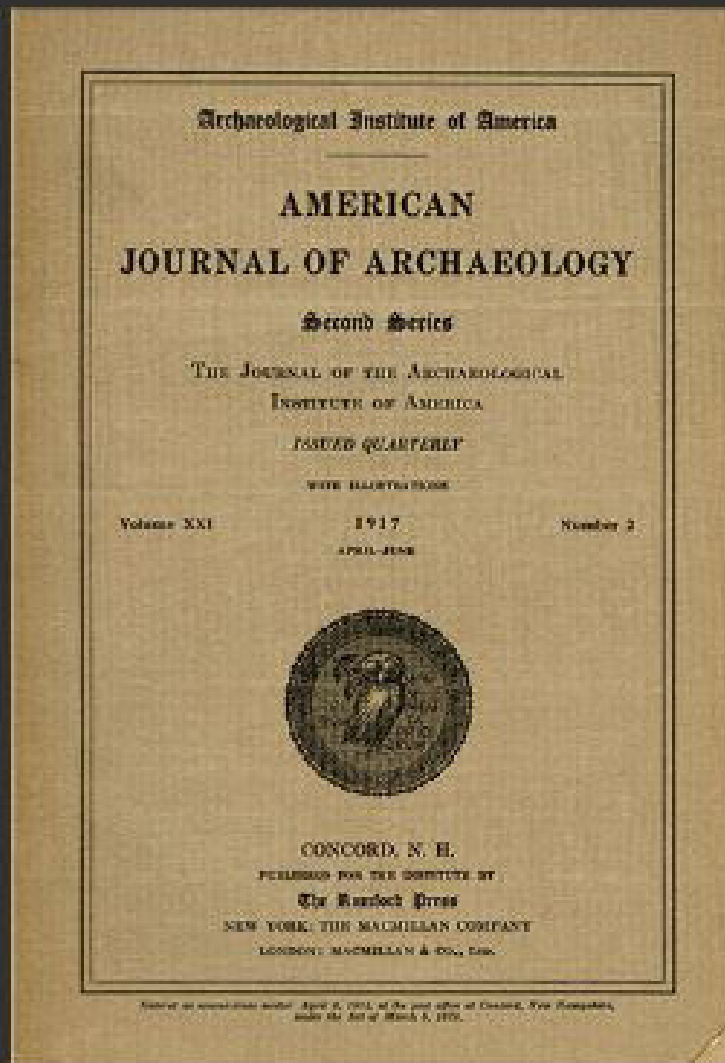
T.E. Lawrence and L. Woolley at Carchemish (1913) (public domain, via Wikimedia Commons).

1915–1917

## World War I Reports

In the “Archaeological News” sections in 1915 and 1916, the AJA reports on archaeologists who lost their lives in the war (AJA [19.3](#), [20.1](#), [20.3](#), [21.1](#)).

While scholarship in general is disrupted by the war, excavations continue wherever possible; it is announced, for example, that “in the summer of 1915 the French expeditionary force at the Dardanelles, while digging trenches on Gallipoli peninsula, opened a number of ancient tombs” (AJA [20.3](#)); it is also reported that during “excavations under fire” in Thrace (a region centered on the borders of modern-day Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey), a sixth- to second-century B.C.E. cemetery is found (AJA [21.1](#)).

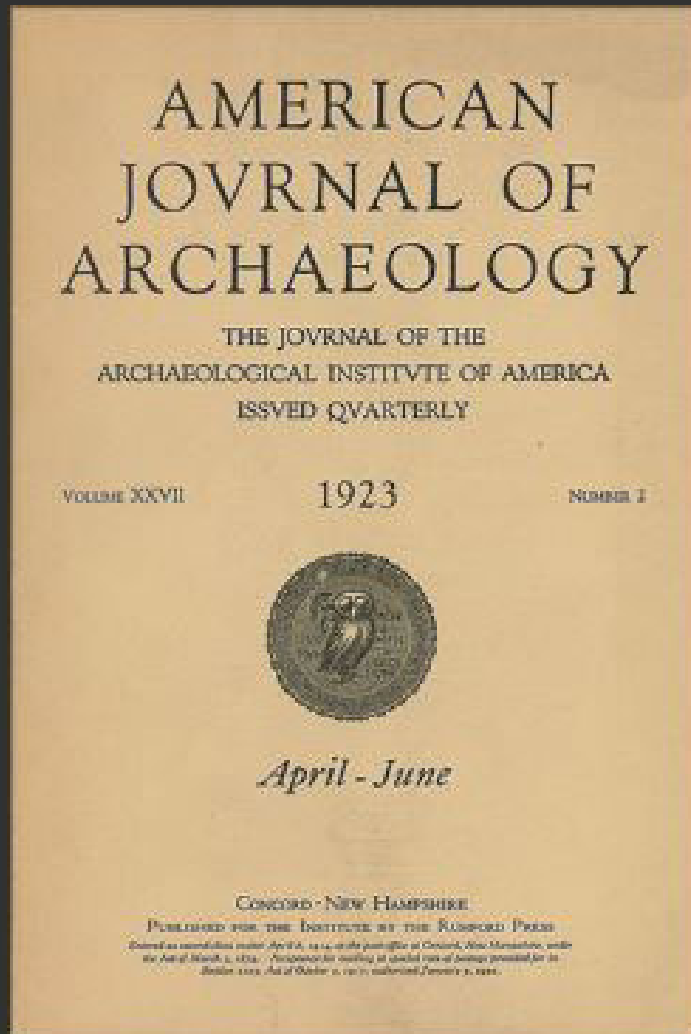


1917–1919

## James Morton Paton: Editor-in-Chief

Paton becomes the AJA's fourth Editor-in-Chief, taking over from Harold North Fowler in January 1917. He was born in New York City in 1863 and received an A.B. from New York University (1883), an A.B. from Harvard University (1884), and a Ph.D. from Bonn University (1894). Paton studied at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and was a Rogers fellow of Harvard (1892–1893). He was an instructor of Greek (1895–1897) and an associate professor (1895–1905) at Wesleyan University, and over the course of his career he would serve as a member of the Managing Committee of the School at Athens, the American Philological Association, and the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, among other organizations.

Paton was Managing Editor of the AJA from 1906 to 1908 and published several articles in its pages before becoming Editor-in-Chief, including "Report on Excavations Between Schenochori and Koutzopodi, Argolis, in 1893" (AJA ser. 1, vol. [8.3](#)) and "The Death of Thersites on an Apulian Amphora in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts" (AJA [12.4](#) [1908]). His relatively short term as Editor-in-Chief sees the journal through the lean years of World War I. To this end, he reduces the number of issues in each volume, chooses a more economical paper stock, and publishes fewer illustrations.



1920–1924

## William Nickerson Bates: Editor-in-Chief

Bates becomes the AJA's fifth Editor-in-Chief, taking over from James Morton Paton in July 1920. He was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1849, and received a B.A. (1890), an A.M. (1891), and a Ph.D. (1893) from Harvard University. From 1895 to 1939, Bates was a professor of Greek language and literature at the University of Pennsylvania and Annual Professor and director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. He served the Archaeological Institute of America for many years, and he was the AJA's Associate Editor and the editor of "Archaeological News" and "Archaeological Discussions" from 1908 until he took over as Editor-in-Chief.

At the beginning of Bates' tenure, the AJA has a print run of 2,250 copies. Production costs are much higher than before the war, however, and it soon becomes clear that the future of the journal is in jeopardy. In 1921, a fire breaks out at the printing press, destroying almost all of the back stock and adding to the struggle. Gracious donations of copies are mailed in to make up for some of the losses, but by 1923 the financial troubles are enough to warrant an official call by the Institute for an endowment for the AJA.

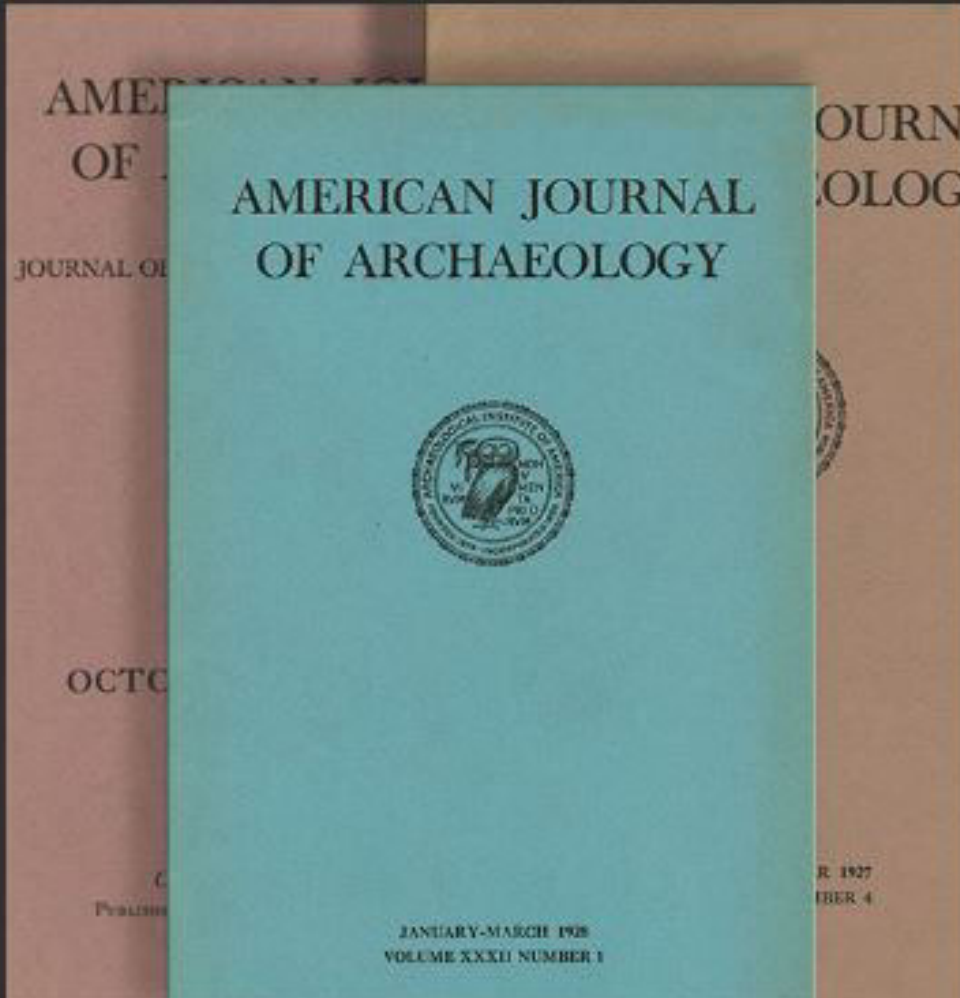
AJA [53.4](#) (1949) is dedicated to Bates in memoriam (1868–1949).

1923–1928

## Endowment Fund

A report presented at the Institute's 1923 Annual Meeting announces the importance of an endowment to ensure the high quality of the AJA: "The value of the journal would be vastly enhanced were money available to increase, to enlarge, and to better its illustrations; the addition of a department of Reviews, and of several pages of succinct current news is not only desirable but necessary. A more generous policy in regard to editorial honoraria and contributors' reprints awaits only an increase of income" (see AJA [28.1](#) [1924]).

A fundraising campaign duly begins in 1925 and runs through 1928. The Institute's numerous societies are given fundraising quotas, Institute memberships "in perpetuity" are created and invested directly in the endowment, and matching funds are pledged. While the \$200,000 goal is not reached, enough monies are raised to effect some of the proposed improvements.



1924–1931

## George W. Elderkin: Editor-in-Chief

Elderkin becomes the AJA's sixth Editor-in-Chief, taking over from William Nickerson Bates in July 1924. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1879, and received a B.A. from Dartmouth University (1902) and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University (1906). Elderkin studied at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (1906–1910) and was professor of art and archaeology at Princeton University (1921–1948). In 1932 and 1933, he directed excavations at Antioch-on-the-Orontes.

Elderkin, like Bates before him, takes measures to improve the AJA's financial situation. Among them, he aims to make the journal more attractive to potential donors by changing the color of the cover from the tan stock used under Bates to pink (later to brown and ultimately to bright blue), introducing a redesigned title page, and improving the paper quality for clearer illustrations. He also restricts the number of pages in each issue. During the early years of Elderkin's editorship, the Institute runs a campaign to raise funds for an AJA endowment.



1925

## Book Reviews

With help from endowment funds, a regular book reviews department is established, marking the first time since 1895 that book reviews will appear in the journal. The AJA commits to considering a wide variety of publications, and Kate McKnight Elderkin is appointed Associate Editor of the new department.

Book reviews continue to be an important part of the journal today and, beginning in 2012, are open access on the AJA website.

1932–1946

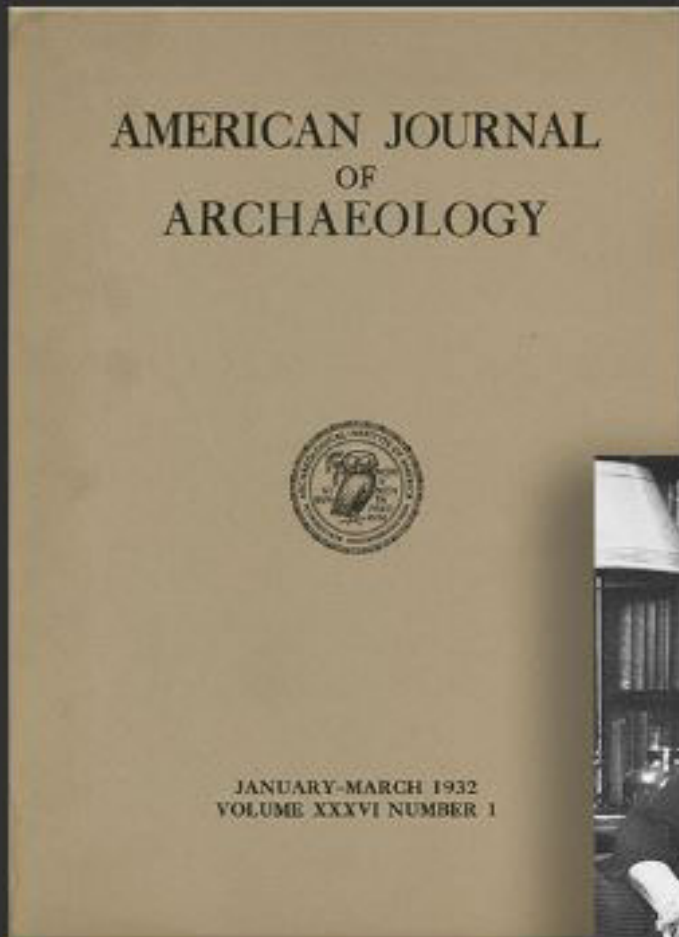
## Mary Hamilton Swindler: Editor-in-Chief

Swindler becomes the AJA's seventh Editor-in-Chief, taking over from George W. Elderkin in January 1932. She was born in Bloomington, Indiana, in 1884, and received a B.A. (1905) and an M.A. (1906) from Indiana University and a Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr College (1912). Swindler was professor of archaeology at Bryn Mawr, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She founded the Ella Riegel Memorial Museum for Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College.

Swindler's first issue introduces a larger page size to help offset still-rising costs. She also charges authors for galley changes and advertises binders for sale to house the larger journal. Circulation increases under Swindler, and financial pressure eases further through generous donations. Color plates and a new coated stock are thus introduced, and authors receive complimentary offprints of their articles.

Swindler also selects the first "Advisory Board of Associate Editors" and includes in each issue an "Editorial Comment" highlighting recent discussions and work of particular interest. A new "Archaeological Notes" section brings attention to work in fields that are not always well represented by full-length contributions.

AJA 50.2 (1946) is dedicated to Swindler "with gratitude and pride."  
AJA 54.4 (1950) is dedicated to her in honorarium. She is also remembered in AJA 71.2 (1967).





Bundesarchiv, Bild 1018-165-0432-17A / Heber, via Wikimedia Commons.

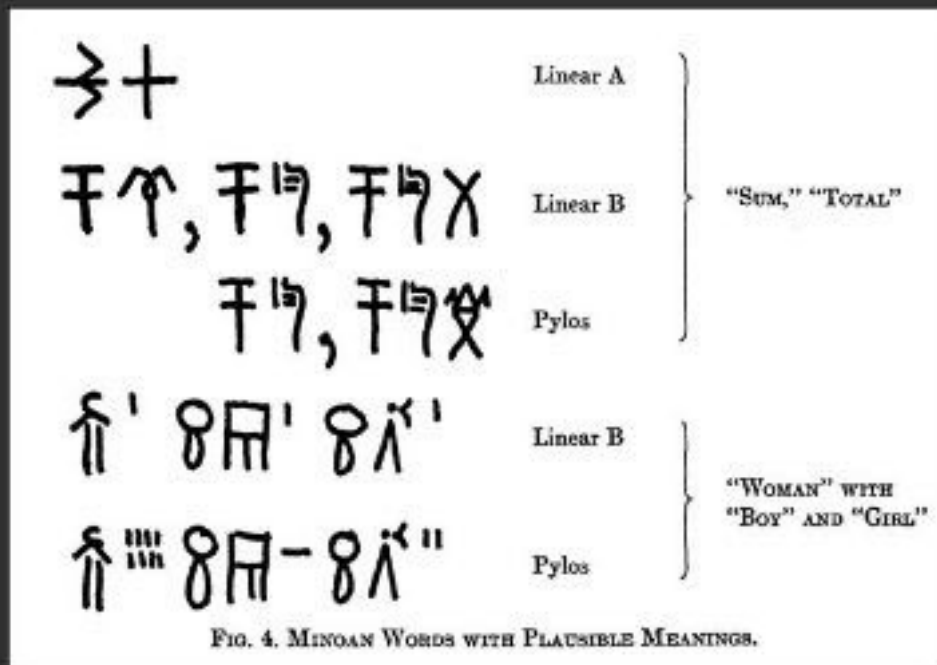
1942–1945

## World War II Announcements

In 1942, the AJA includes announcements for positions in critical war fields (lithographers and draftsmen), and in 1943 it publishes an advertisement for the Victory Book Campaign, requesting book donations for troops.

A notice on the “Conservation of Scholarly Journals” (AJA 46.4) draws attention to the paper shortage resulting from the war and the danger that scholarly journals will be collected for pulp. The government soon demands paper conservation, and accordingly the AJA reduces the number of published pages.

Reports on war damage and memorials for war victims appear in “Archaeological News and Discussions” in 1944 and 1945 (AJA 48.1, 49.1, 49.2, 49.4).



A.E. Kober, "The Minoan Scripts: Fact and Theory" *AJA* 52.1 (1948) fig. 4.

1945–1948

## Kober and Linear B

In a series of three articles, American classicist Alice Kober publishes significant advances toward the decipherment of the Bronze Age Minoan script known as Linear B:

"Evidence of Inflection in the 'Chariot' Tablets from Knossos" *AJA* 49.2 (1945).

"Inflection in Linear Class B: 1—Declension" *AJA* 50.2 (1946).

"The Minoan Scripts: Fact and Theory" *AJA* 52.1 (1948).

Kober identifies repeated groups of characters in the clay tablets found at Knossos as evidence that Linear B was an inflected language. But in 1950, before she can finish her analysis of the script, she falls ill and dies. Michael Ventris, building on her work, deciphers the script in 1952.



Calyx crater in Boston, from the Tyszkiewicz collection; Side A (J.D. Beazley, "Fragment of a Vase at Oxford and the Painter of the Tyszkiewicz Crater in Boston" *AJA* 20.2 [1916] fig. 2).

1945–1946

## J.D. Beazley

In [1945](#) and [1946](#), the *AJA* dedicates two issues to British classical archaeologist and art historian J.D. Beazley in honor of his 60th birthday.

Beazley, a world authority on Athenian figure-decorated vases, is a frequent contributor to the journal:

"Fragment of a Vase at Oxford and the Painter of the Tyszkiewicz Crater in Boston" *AJA* [20.2](#) (1916).

"An Askos by Macron" *AJA* [25.4](#) (1921).

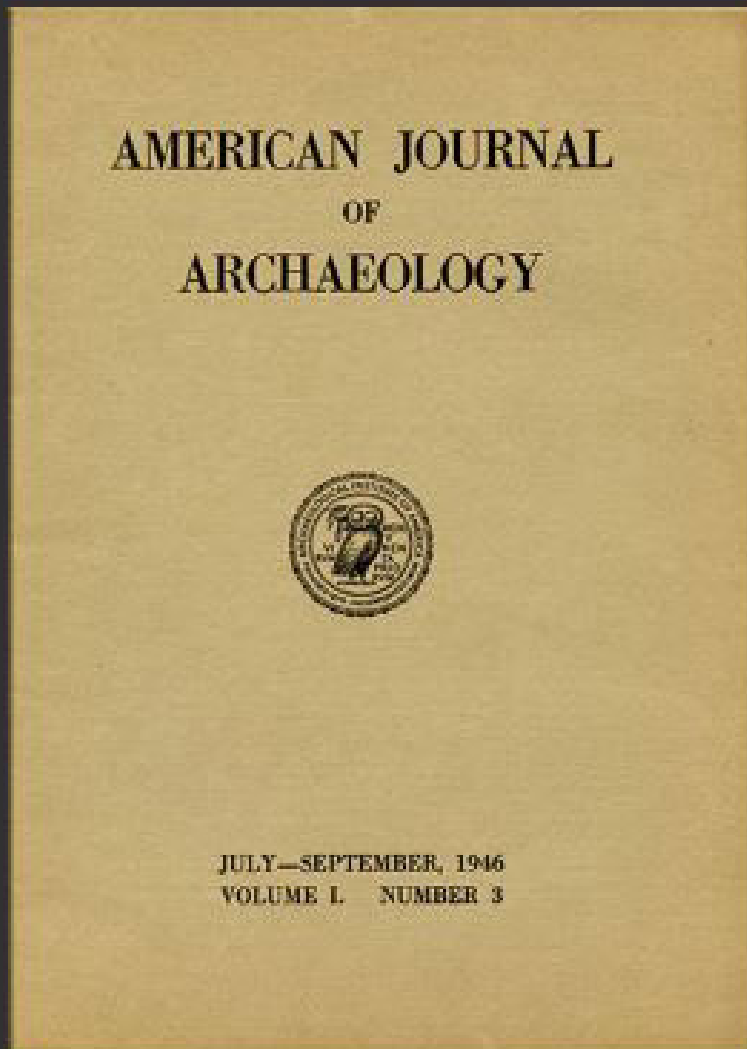
"Some Inscriptions on Vases" *AJA* [31.3](#) (1927).

"Panathenaica" *AJA* [47.4](#) (1943).

"A Paestan Vase" *AJA* [48.4](#) (1944).

"The New York 'Phlyax-Vase'" *AJA* [56.4](#) (1952).

"Some Fragments by the Panaitios Painter" *AJA* [66.3](#) (1962).



1946–1948

## John Franklin Daniel III: Editor-in-Chief

Daniel becomes the AJA's eighth Editor-in-Chief, taking over from Mary Hamilton Swindler in April 1946. He was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1910, and received an A.B. from the University of California (1932) and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania (1941). Daniel was made assistant curator in the Mediterranean Section of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania in 1940 and curator in 1946 and was a recognized expert in the field of Cypriot and Mycenaean studies. In 1948, he died unexpectedly.

Daniel's editorship, although tragically cut short, sees several changes. He restores the AJA to an almost-regular production schedule after wartime delays, and although a continuing paper shortage necessitates that the journal return to plain, uncoated stock, he compensates by including embedded drawings and retaining back pages of plates on coated stock. He also narrows the journal's focus to omit coverage of art from the Renaissance and later periods, writing in a May 1947 letter to Editorial Board member C. Bradford Welles that "we're not really a fine arts journal and can't hope to cover it adequately."

In 1948, the second and last year of his tenure, Daniel compiles a special issue on Homer.

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1948

# Special Issue: Homer

The AJA publishes a special issue devoted to Homer that covers many subjects still debated today, including the Dorian invasion and the linear scripts, and represents scholarly opinion as it stood before the 1952 decipherment of Linear B.

The 310-page issue is conceived under the editorship of John Franklin Daniel III, who dies shortly before it is published. A necrology for Daniel, written by Mary Hamilton Swindler, opens the issue.

See other AJA articles on Homer, as well as reviews of a museum exhibition and some books:

"The Deification of Homer by Archelaos" AJA 40.4 (1936).

"Homer and the Art of Writing: A Sketch of Opinion Between 1713 and 1939" AJA 52.1 (1948).

"The Comparative Study of Homer" AJA 54.3 (1950).

"Homer: Der Mythos von Troia in Dichtung und Kunst" AJA 113.1 (2009).

Rev. of *Kypros, the Bible and Homer*, by Max Ohnefash-Richter, AJA ser. 1, vol. 9.1 (1894).

Rev. of *Celebrating Homer's Landscapes: Troy and Ithaca Revisited*, by Carol G. Thomas, AJA 104.2 (2000).

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VOLUME LIII NUMBER 1

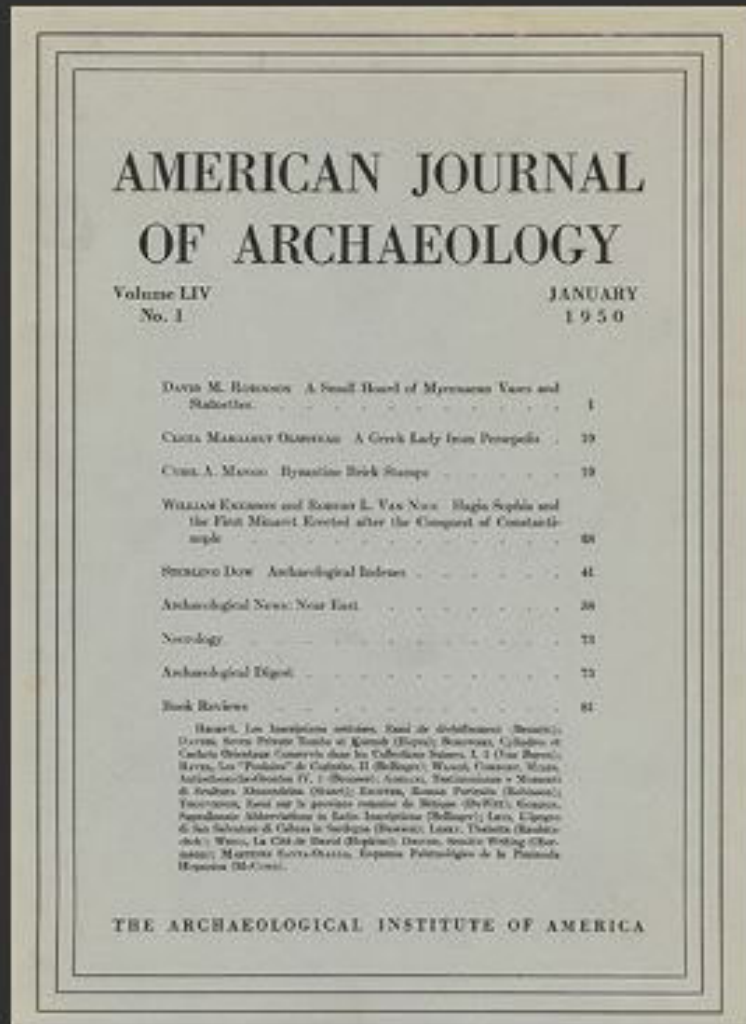
1949

## C. Bradford Welles: Interim Editor-in-Chief

Welles is appointed interim Editor-in-Chief upon the sudden death of John Franklin Daniel III in 1948. He was born in 1901 in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, and received a B.A. (1924) and a Ph.D. (1928) from Yale University. Welles was a historian, epigraphist, and papyrologist and spent much of his career at Yale, beginning with an assistant professorship in 1931. He was also a member of the Army Field Artillery Reserve and went on active duty in the spring of 1941. Among his many other endeavors, Welles worked with colleagues to produce an edition of the papyri from Dura, served a term as president of the American Philological Association, and founded the American Society of Papyrologists. He was also the editor of the AJA's "Archaeological News" and "Archaeological Digest" sections under Daniel.

In the few months of his term as Editor-in-Chief, Welles manages to send three issues to the press and supervise the last stages of a fourth.



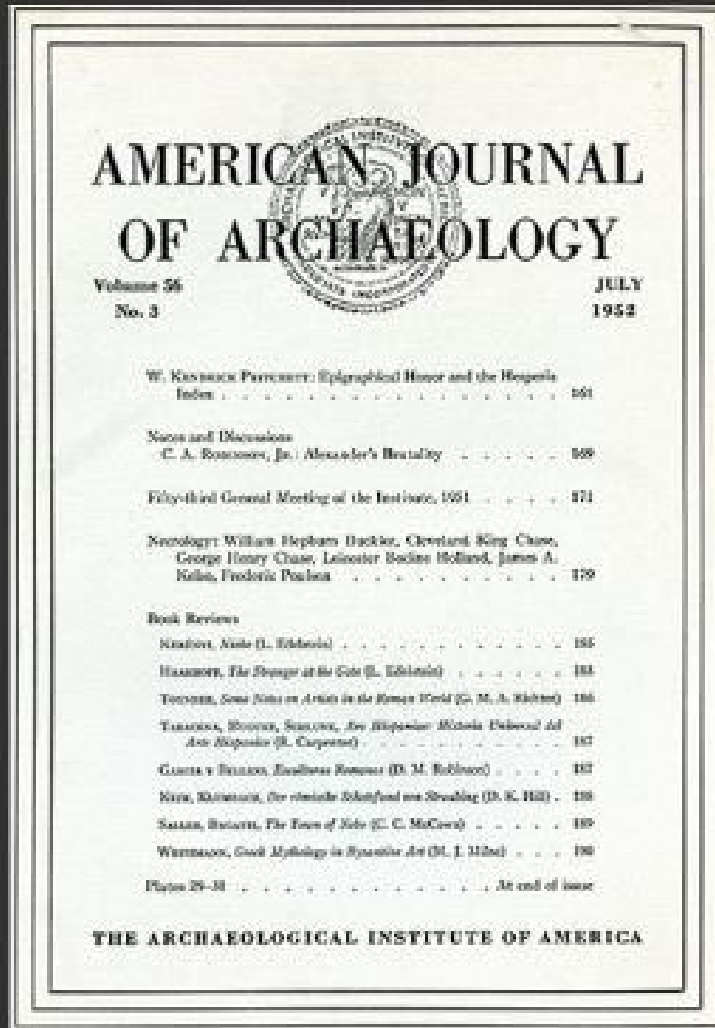


1949–1951

## Glanville Downey: Editor-in-Chief

Downey becomes the AJA's 10th Editor-in-Chief, taking over from C. Bradford Welles in April 1949. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1908, and received a B.A. (1931) and a Ph.D. (1934) from Princeton University. From 1935 to 1940, Downey served as a curator of Princeton's Epigraphical Museum. He then served as librarian at the School of Fine Arts at Yale University until 1942, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was recommended to the newly created Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives (MFAA) section and served as a "Monuments Man" in Sicily, reporting on and protecting cultural buildings and artifacts damaged by the war.

The AJA sees several changes under Downey's two-year editorship. The first issue of volume 54 (1950) has a redesigned cover showing the table of contents. The second issue shows the Institute seal behind the listings. The third issue includes the first "Notes for Contributors." The volume is also the first to be available on microfilm. Coated stock returns in 1951.

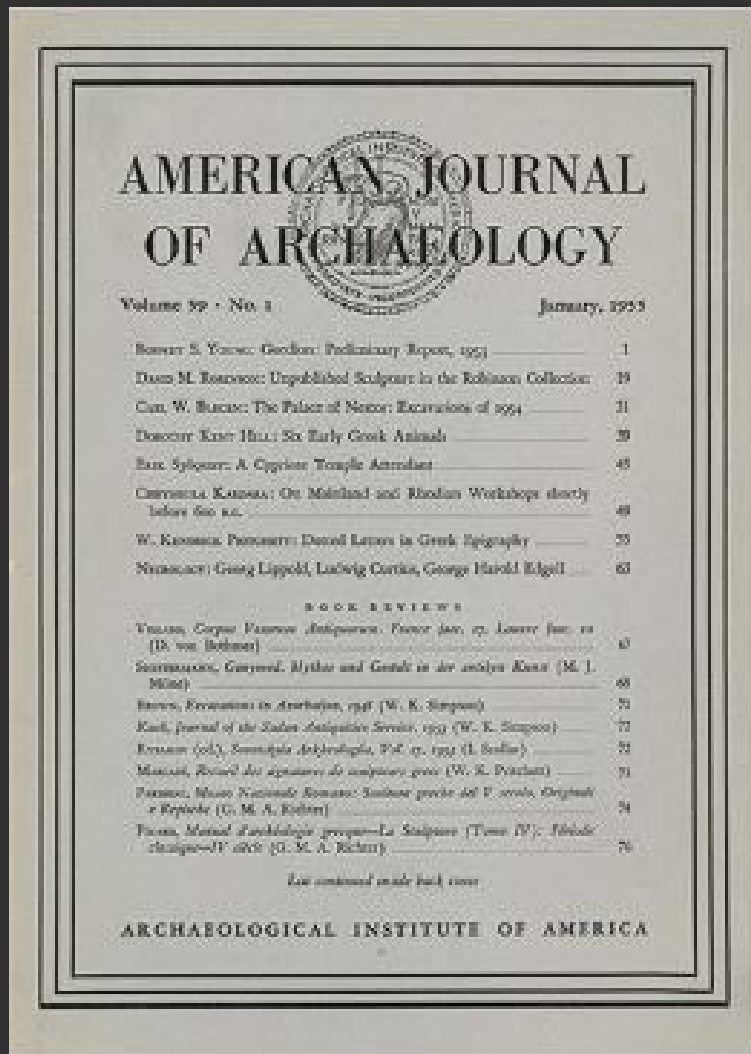


1952–1953

## Ashton Sanborn: Editor-in-Chief

Sanborn becomes the AJA's 11th Editor-in-Chief, taking over from Glanville Downey in April 1952. He was born in Rochester, New Hampshire, in 1882, and received a B.A. (1905) and an M.A. (1908) from Harvard University. From 1909 to 1912, Sanborn was a fellow at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and then he began a lifelong career at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where he was first an assistant to Lacey Davis Caskey in the Department of Classical Art. He was the museum librarian from 1923 to 1925 and its secretary and editor of publications from 1952 until his retirement, whereupon he took on the AJA editorship.

In 1953, Sanborn publishes "The Palace of Nestor Excavations at Pylos, 1952" (AJA [57.2](#)), the first in a series of regular reports from the site that run until 1966; the first "News Letter from Rome" (AJA [57.3](#); until 1967); and the first "News Letter from Greece" (AJA [57.4](#); until 1984).



1954–1973

## Richard Stillwell: Editor-in-Chief

Stillwell becomes the AJA's 12th Editor-in-Chief, taking over from Ashton Sanborn in January 1954. He was born in Lakewood, Connecticut, in 1899, and received a B.A. (1921) and an M.F.A. (1924) from Princeton University. Stillwell was Howard Crosby Butler Memorial Professor of the History of Architecture and Emeritus at Princeton University. He also devoted much of his career to the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and was an active contributor to the field of classical archaeology for more than half a century.

Several regular features are introduced during Stillwell's tenure:

Reports on the campaign at Gordium begin in 1955; the "Archaeology in Asia Minor" series appears in 1956; the Cyprus newsletter appears in 1967; and in 1968, the first installment of the themed section "Chronologies in Old World Archaeology" is published and runs until 1988.

In 1967, Stillwell oversees the publication of a comprehensive index of volumes 11–70 (1907–1966) and a themed issue on ancient art.

The fourth issue of the centennial volume (AJA 83.4 [1979]) is dedicated to Stillwell in recognition of his service.



Inner end of Phrygian gateway at south side, showing rough inner (east) face of "Dam Wall" and accumulated deposit under it (R.S. Young, "Gordion: Preliminary Report, 1953" *AJA* 59.1 [1955] fig. 34).

1955

## Gordion

The first preliminary report on work at Gordion, Turkey, the ancient capital of Phrygia, appears in January 1955. Additional reports appear in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, and 1968.

See more recent *AJA* articles about Gordion:

"The Gordion Excavation Seasons of 1969–1973 and Subsequent Research" *AJA* 94.3 (1990).

"Agricultural Strategies and Political Economy in Ancient Anatolia" *AJA* 116.3 (2012).

"Tortoise-Shell Lyres from Phrygian Gordion" *AJA* 120.4 (2016).

"Fieldwork at Phrygian Gordion, 2013–2015" *AJA* 121.1 (2017).



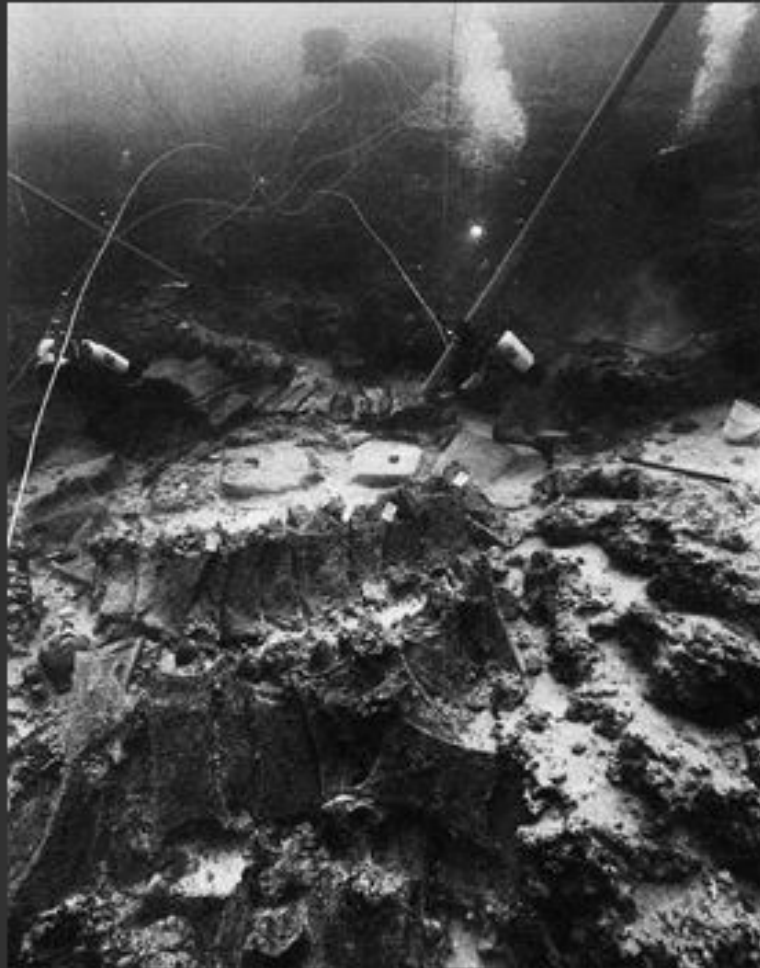
Cittadella hill and the northeast plateau (E. Sjöqvist, "Excavations at Serra Orlando (Morgantina) Preliminary Report II" AJA 62.2 [1958] fig. 1).

1958

## Morgantina

Kenan Erim publishes a synopsis of his Ph.D. dissertation in which he identifies Serra Orlando, Sicily, as the ancient city Morgantina. He bases his argument on passages from Livy and coins bearing the Latin legend "Hispanorum."

In subsequent years, excavators from various institutions will undertake work at Morgantina, and many reports and articles on the ancient site will appear in the AJA in 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1970, 1974, and 1979.



Upper half of wreck seen from east (C. Pulak, "The Bronze Age Shipwreck at Ulu Burun, Turkey: 1985 Campaign" *AJA* 92:1 [1988] fig. 1).

1960

## Maritime Archaeology

In 1960, archaeologists excavate the Cape Gelidonya shipwreck off the coast of Turkey. The Bronze Age vessel, dating to ca. 1200 B.C.E., is the first ancient shipwreck excavation completed on the seabed. A preliminary report by George F. Bass appears in the *AJA* in [1961](#).

In 1984, the 14th-century B.C.E. Uluburun shipwreck is excavated near Kaş in southern Turkey. The cargo contained one of the largest assemblages of Late Bronze Age artifacts found in the Mediterranean, with luxury goods from the Baltic, Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Near East. Work at the site is documented in the *AJA* in [1986](#), [1988](#), and [1989](#); an open access article on the ship's voyage is published in [2006](#).

See more articles on maritime archaeology in the *AJA*:

"Iron Age Shipwrecks in Deep Water off Ashkelon, Israel" *AJA* [106.2](#) (2002).

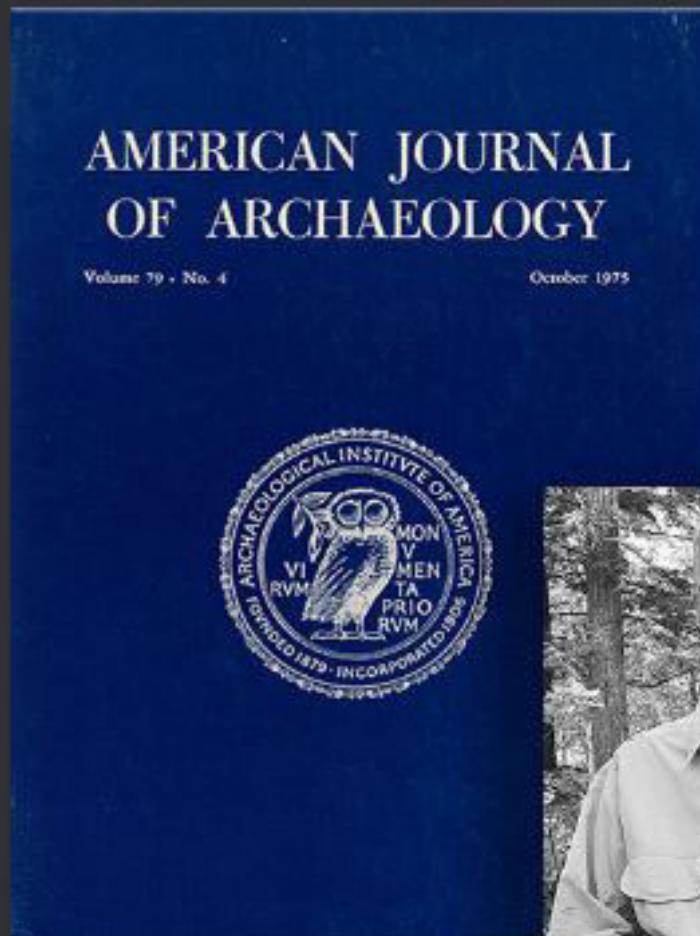
"Nautical and Maritime Archaeology: 2006 and 2007 Seasons" *AJA* [112.2](#) (2008).

"Mare Nostrum? Ethics and Archaeology in Mediterranean Waters" *AJA* [115.2](#) (2011).

"Ilyrian Coastal Exploration Program (2007–2009): The Roman and Late Roman Finds and Their Contexts" *AJA* [116.3](#) (2012).

"Africa in the Roman Empire: Connectivity, the Economy, and Artificial Port Structures" *AJA* [118.4](#) (2014).

"A Preliminary Report on a Coastal and Underwater Survey in the Area of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia" *AJA* [119.1](#) (2015).



1974–1977

## Jerome J. Pollitt: Editor-in-Chief

Pollitt becomes the AJA's 13th Editor-in-Chief, taking over from Richard Stillwell in January 1974. He is currently professor emeritus at [Yale University](http://www.yale.edu).

In his 1974 [editorial](#), Pollitt discusses the AJA's emphasis on classical archaeology and addresses the question of whether the journal should expand its scope. He writes that after repeated inquiry he has found that "scholars working in other fields of archaeology already have periodicals which serve their needs just as AJA serves the Classical field." Noting that there are problems of interpretation and developments in technique that affect archaeology as a whole, he concludes, "the Editor feels justified in retaining AJA's traditional Classical emphasis but will seek to avoid an unthinking Classical exclusiveness." To that end Pollitt announces a new series of general survey articles to be called "Reports on the Current State of the Field." Some will cover archaeological research outside classics that will keep classical archaeologists current on "developments, problems, and prospects in other areas." One such report, "New World Prehistory: 1974," is published in AJA [78.4](#) (1978).



1978–1985

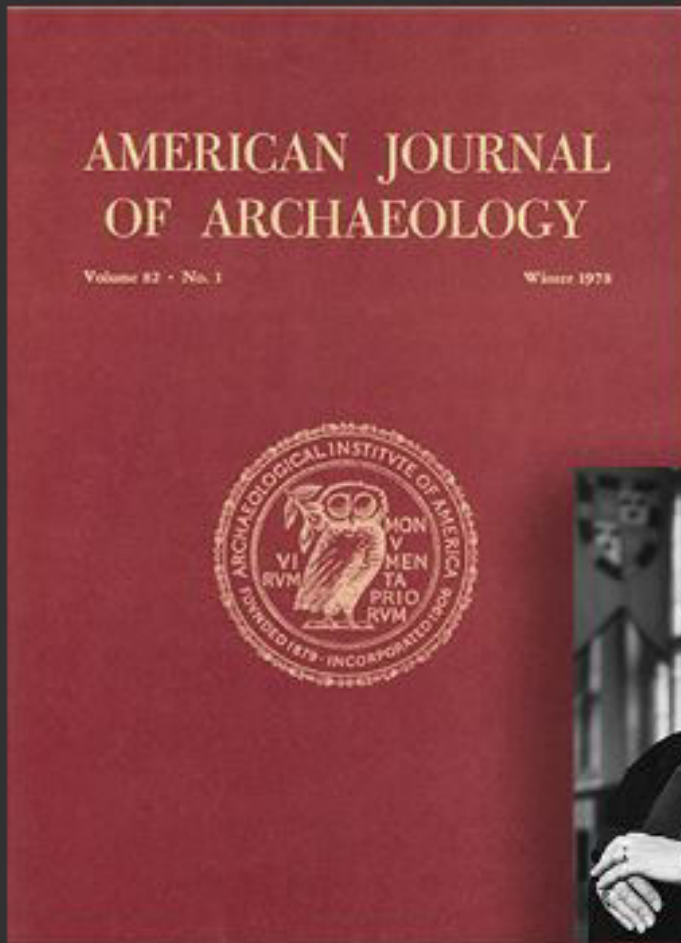
## Brunilde S. Ridgway: Editor-in-Chief

Ridgway becomes the AJA's 14th Editor-in-Chief, taking over from Jerome Pollitt in January 1978. Her biography is available on [AJA Online](#).

Ridgway opens her tenure with a new journal cover and announces several proposed changes in her first editorial: The "News Letters" from Greece and Cyprus will be reduced in length, and excavation reports will be more concise. Author addresses will be added to the end of articles, and while the journal will continue to print announcements of scholarly interest, it will no longer publish advertisements. In her January 1982 editorial, she announces that the issue is the first to be produced using a computer.

Ridgway also launches regularly occurring "News Letters" from North Africa, the Levant, and Anatolia, and the first annual review of Americanist archaeology appears in 1979. In addition, she introduces the occasional issue devoted to a single topic: mosaics (1979), vase painting (1981), sculpture (1982), and Aegean studies (1985).

In Ridgway's last year as Editor-in-Chief, the AJA has a circulation of 4,300, with subscribers in 53 countries.



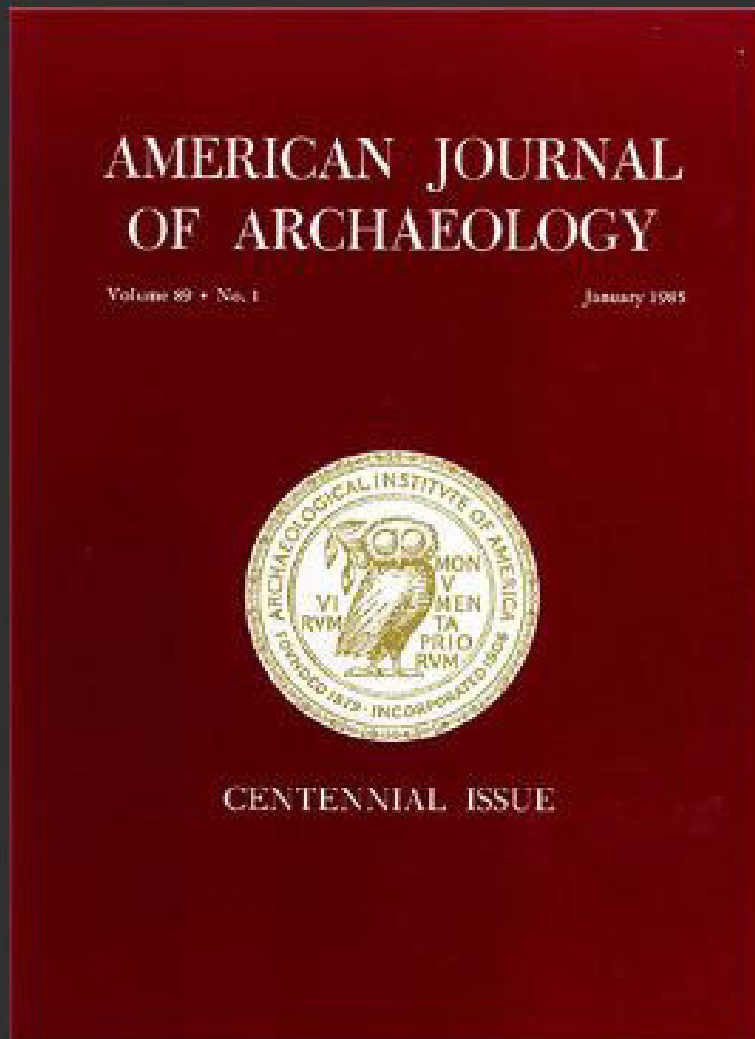


1978

## Publication of Recently Acquired Antiquities

In an editorial statement, the AJA announces that it will not accept articles on objects in private or public collections purchased after 30 December 1973 unless its existence is documented before that date or it was legally exported from the country of origin. This follows a resolution adopted by the Council of the Archaeological Institute of America.

An editorial in 1982 further clarifies the Institute's and the AJA's policy on publication of recently acquired antiquities, noting that it is an editorial decision of the AJA, not a mandate of the Institute.



1985

## AJA Centennial

The AJA celebrates its centennial with a special issue supported by a grant from the Getty Foundation.

In commemorating the anniversary, Editor-in-Chief Ridgway notes in her editorial that “we should review the extent to which the journal is serving the purposes for which it was created, and how it has reflected changes in the discipline of archaeology in its pages.”

An archival history opens the issue. The articles that follow cover topics ranging “from Persepolis to the Parthenon, from Paestum to the extraordinary sculpture found at Porcun (ancient Obulco) in Spain.” They also feature “mosaics, gold tablets, ships, Coptic looms and late Roman silver,” as well as the latest research on prehistoric Cyprus, the identifications of objects from Tutankhamun’s tomb, and the current debate between classical and “new” archaeology (AJA 89.1 [1985]).

1986–1998

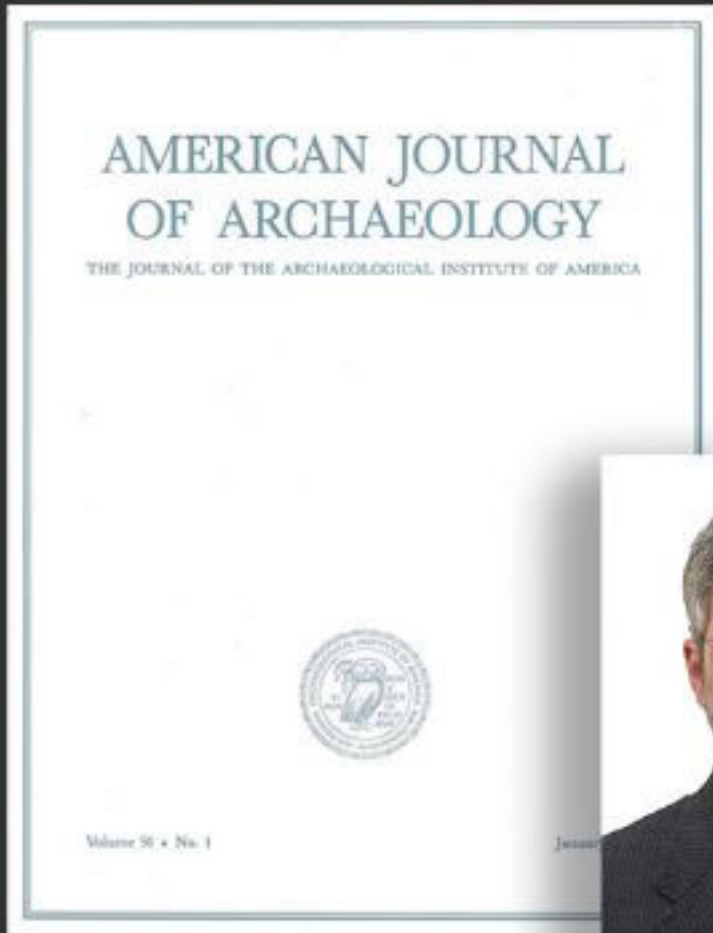
## Fred S. Kleiner: Editor-in-Chief

Kleiner becomes the AJA's 15th Editor-in-Chief, taking over from Brunilde S. Ridgway in January 1986. He is currently professor of art history and archaeology; Etruscan and Roman art at [Boston University](#).

Kleiner launches "Field Reports" to deliver news of important new finds, and he continues the tradition of publishing "Newsletters" from the field, introducing dispatches from [Iraq](#), [Jordan](#), [Syria](#), and [Cyprus](#) and reintroducing the newsletter from [Israel](#).

He also oversees, in 1992, the publication of the first of seven annual reviews of [Aegean prehistory](#), later collected in *Aegean Prehistory: A Review* (T. Cullen, ed. [Boston 2001]).

In addition, Kleiner introduces a new cover and improves the production value of the journal. The AJA is now printed on a fine 70-pound glare- and acid-free paper that meets standards for preservation and permits high-quality reproduction of photographs. The separate plates section is eliminated, and all figures, whether drawings, photographs, or maps, are integrated into the text. The page size is increased slightly from 7.75 x 10.75 inches to the standard 8.5 x 11 inches.





Aerial view of the excavation area (R. Boshn, D.M. Master, and R. Le Blanc, "The Basilica, Bouleuterion, and Civic Center of Ashkelon" AJA 120.2 [2016] fig. 7).

1988

## Field Reports

"Field Reports" are designated as a distinct content type and labeled as such in the table of contents, beginning with "The Bronze Age Shipwreck at Ulu Burun, Turkey: 1985 Campaign" (AJA [92.1](#)). (The 1986 campaign is published in [1989](#).)

These reports are a regular feature throughout the 1990s and 2000s. Seasons at Aphrodisias in Caria, for example, are covered in three consecutive issues between 1996 and 1998 (AJA [100.1](#), [101.1](#), [102.2](#)), and the Sardis campaigns are covered in [1998](#) and [2000](#). They continue to the present, and many are open access. See:

"New Excavations of the Early Nomadic Burial Ground at Filippovka (Southern Ural Region, Russia)" AJA [114.1](#) (2010).

"The Basilica, Bouleuterion, and Civic Center of Ashkelon" AJA [120.2](#) (2016).

"The Sanctuary of Artemis at Sardis: Preliminary Report, 2002–2012" AJA [120.3](#) (2016).



1989

## Society for the American Journal of Archaeology

The Society for the *American Journal of Archaeology* forms to expand the size and scope of the journal. In the ensuing years, contributions from Society members will help underwrite the creation and maintenance of the AJA website, the availability of an electronic subscription option, and the publication of open access content.

To learn more and to read comments from Society members, see [www.ajaonline.org/society](http://www.ajaonline.org/society).



Khirbat ash-Sheik 'Isa trench IX, showing recently discovered mosaic floor and marble columns (Supplemental image for "Archaeology in Jordan, 2014 and 2015 Seasons" AJA 120.4 [2016]).

1990

## Newsletters

New regions of investigation are published in officially titled "Newsletters" beginning in 1990: reports from Iraq, Sardinia, the Black Sea coast, and Albania each appear once; reports from Syria, Cyprus, Bulgaria, and Egypt appear in multiple issues. The Jordan newsletter, first published in 1991, continues through 2016 and often includes open access supplementary content in the form of image galleries.

Also in 1991, an "Archaeology in Israel" newsletter appears for the first time since 1955. And "Archaeology in Asia Minor," which also first appeared in 1955 and became "Archaeology in Anatolia" in 1985, becomes "Archaeology in Turkey" beginning in 1994.




1999–2004

## R. Bruce Hitchner: Editor-in-Chief

Hitchner becomes the AJA's 16th Editor-in-Chief, taking over from Fred S. Kleiner in January 1999. He is currently professor of classics and international relations at [Tufts University](http://www.tufts.edu).

Hitchner writes in his 2000 [editorial](#) that the AJA must “become ever more responsive to all that its mandate encompasses, publishing articles, field reports, newsletters, and reviews that reflect the vast changes in the scope, diversity, and complexity of the study of the art and archaeology of western Eurasia and northern Africa of the past half-century.” He encourages authors to submit articles that “break new ground, challenge conventional thinking, present new finds, and, most importantly, advance our knowledge and understanding of the ancient world.” In this, too, he states that the AJA will accept occasional articles that extend beyond the stated geographic and chronological scope of the journal. As part of these efforts, a revised and updated editorial policy and instructions for contributors are published in the issue.

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# AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

THE JOURNAL OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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**Ruth Westgate** on regional styles in Hellenistic mosaic. [»](#)

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**K.A. Yenner, C. Edens, T. Harrison, J. Verstraete, and T.J. Wilkinson** on the Amuq Valley regional project. [»](#)

**R.R.R. Smith and Christopher Ratté** on archaeological research at Aphrodisias in Caria. [»](#)

## From the Archives



From AJA's inaugural issue in January 1885 (AJA 1:1), **Charles Eliot Norton** on the first American classical archaeologist, and a survey of archaeological news from Asia, Africa, and Europe compiled by **Thomas W. Ludlow**. [»](#)

April 1999

## AJA Website

The AJA website is created to complement and support the journal. It includes article titles and abstracts from the current and recent issues, guidelines for contributors, subscription information, and a list of the current editorial advisory board members and the Editor-in-Chief. The website goes through many iterations in the ensuing years.





August 1999

## Copyright Clearance Center

The AJA partners with Copyright Clearance Center to standardize the licensing of its content so that it can be easily accessed, used, and shared worldwide without jeopardizing the journal's copyright or the rights of its authors.



2000

## AJA Outlook

AJA Outlook, the AJA's new advertising supplement, is launched. It is to be mailed with every issue with an aim to "provide information regarding publications, conferences, seminars, fellowships, publications, and other notices of interest" to journal readers.

AJA Outlook is redesigned and renamed Outlook in 2015.



Nimrud, Northwest Palace. Cracked foot of the lamassu on the left side of the doorway E (F. Schipper and M. Weigl) (F.T. Schipper, "The Protection and Preservation of Iraq's Archaeological Heritage, Spring 1991–2003" *AJA* 109.2 [2005] fig. 8).

2001

## Destruction of Cultural Heritage

In 2001, the *AJA* publishes "The Afghan Cultural Heritage Crisis: UNESCO's Response to the Destruction of Statues in Afghanistan" (*AJA* [105.3](#)). In the following years, threats to cultural heritage and site looting are often explored:

"The Protection and Preservation of Iraq's Archaeological Heritage, Spring 1991–2003" *AJA* [109.2](#) (2005).

"The Casualties of War: The Truth About the Iraq Museum" *AJA* [109.3](#) (2005).

"The Illicit Antiquities Scandal: What It Has Done to Classical Archaeology Collections" *AJA* [111.3](#) (2007).

"Legal Threats to Cultural Exchange of Archaeological Materials" *AJA* [113.3](#) (2009).

"Learning from the Iraq Museum" *AJA* [114.4](#) (2010).

"Mare Nostrum? Ethics and Archaeology in Mediterranean Waters" *AJA* [115.2](#) (2011).

"Archaeological Site Looting in 'Glocal' Perspective: Nature, Scope, and Frequency" *AJA* [117.1](#) (2013).

Books on the topic are also regularly reviewed.

In [2016](#), the *AJA* remembers the late Khaled al-As'ad, former director of the antiquities and the museum of Palmyra.



2002

## JSTOR

In May 2002, the AJA joins JSTOR's Archival Journals Collection to preserve and make its back issues digitally available.

The archival collection contains the back issues of more than 1,500 scholarly journals across 50 disciplines that span 500 years.



2004–2013

## Naomi J. Norman: Editor-in-Chief

Norman becomes the AJA's 17th Editor-in-Chief, taking over from R. Bruce Hitchner in October 2004. She is currently associate vice president for instruction at the University of Georgia and director of the university's Reacting to the Past program.

Norman is instrumental in guiding the AJA to embrace technology and in giving the journal a visible digital presence. During her tenure, book reviews are moved to the AJA website as open access publications, and open access supplementary content—photographs, drawings, tables, charts, and appendices to complement print-published articles—appears. Open access "Forums," to "serve as a venue for publishing articles and responses on controversial, popular, or neglected topics to stimulate dialogue and the exchange of ideas," are also launched (AJA [108.4](#) [2004]). A commenting feature on the website encourages discussion of both the book reviews and the "Forums."

Norman also institutes, in 2005, the publication of museum exhibition reviews (and open access exhibition reviews a year later). In 2007, she commissions "State of the Discipline" articles, which are retrospective and prospective assessments of history, current trends, and future avenues of research in archaeology.

2004

# Publication of Recently Acquired Antiquities: Revised

The Archaeological Institute of America revises its 1978 editorial policy on the publication of recently acquired antiquities. AJA Editor-in-Chief Norman discusses the change in policy in her April 2005 [editorial](#).

2005–2009

## AJA Back Issue Project

Beginning in July 2005, the AJA donates more than 10,000 back issues of the journal to 130 libraries and institutions around the world who are not able to subscribe or whose facilities have been damaged by war, politics, or devastating acts of nature. Editor-in-Chief Norman discusses the project in her January 2009 [editorial](#).



October 2005

# AJA Website Redesign

The AJA launches a newly designed, dynamic, and interactive website that includes article titles and abstracts from the current and upcoming issues; online-only, open access book and museum exhibition reviews; guidelines for contributors; information about the Society for the AJA; and subscription and back issue purchase information.



The screenshot shows the AJA Open Access page. At the top left is the AJA ONLINE logo. Below it is a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Subscribe, Support the AJA, Archive, AJA Open Access (highlighted), Author Guide, and Learning Resources. The main content area is titled 'AJA Open Access' and 'Online-Only Published Content'. It includes a paragraph explaining the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial license (CC BY-NC) and lists various content types available online, such as Book Reviews, Book Reviews (2016-present), Review articles (2006-present), Museum Reviews (2006-present), Metadata (2011-present), Annual Indexes (2012-present), and Supplementary Content (2006-present). A section titled 'Print-Published Content Available Online' lists Periodicals (2001-present), AJA Awards (2000-2010), and Annual Indexes (1987-2011). On the right side, there is a search bar and a button for 'EXPLORE AJA ON JSTOR'.

2006

# AJA Open Access

In January, the AJA begins publishing on its website open access book and museum exhibition reviews and supplementary content—photographs, drawings, tables, charts, and appendices—to accompany print-published articles. It also makes selected print content available as open access.



Apulian red-figure volute krater by the Underworld Painter. Atlanta, Carlos Museum, Emory University, inv. no. 1994.1 (courtesy J. Gaunt) (J.H. Oakley, "Greek Vase Painting" *AJA* 113.4 [2009] fig. 18).

January 2007

## State of the Discipline

The AJA publishes "Osteological Research in Classical Archaeology" (*AJA* 111.3), the first in a series of comprehensive reviews of the state of the discipline that echo the "Reports on the Current State of the Field" introduced in 1974.

"State of the Discipline" articles are synthetic assessments of the history, current trends, and future avenues of research in a variety of fields in archaeology. Later examples include "Greek Vase Painting" (*AJA* 113.4 [2009]) and "Greek Architecture" (*AJA* 115.4 [2011]). All are [open access](#).



2007–2008

## Digital Initiatives

In 2007, the AJA launches its electronic submission and peer review platform; joins Crossref to make content easy to find, link, cite, and access; and rolls out the AJA e-Update.

In 2008, the journal begins offering electronic subscriptions, makes single articles available for purchase as PDFs, and partners with the digital archiving service Portico.

January 2009

## Journal Donations

The AJA partners with the Global Libraries Program of the World Archaeological Congress in its effort to develop and support archaeological libraries of economically disadvantaged institutions, and with the Journal Donation Project, whose mission is to build libraries in institutions of higher learning in countries that for political and/or economic reasons are unable to do so on their own.



June 2009

## Print Preservation

The AJA begins its ongoing project to rehouse and archive its print-published issues. The archive currently holds almost 2,000 copies dating from 1885 to the present.

2010–2012

## New Features, Expanded Access

Beginning in January 2010, book reviews are published exclusively as open access on the AJA website. In April, the website design is refreshed, and new features, such as “Learning Resources,” are added. The AJA also launches its Facebook page.

Beginning in 2012, the annual index is similarly published online-only and open access. Single issues become available for purchase as PDFs, and the AJA joins JSTOR’s Register and Read service to allow free, read-online access to all its content, and JSTOR’s JPASS program, which provides unlimited reading access and limited downloading of articles for a modest fee.



2013

## Digital Preservation

The AJA partners with [CLOCKSS](#) and [LOCKSS](#) to preserve the increasing amount of content published on the AJA website and to complement the journal's partnership with [Portico](#), which was established in September 2008.



2014–2016

## Sheila Dillon: Editor-in-Chief

Dillon becomes the AJA's 18th Editor-in-Chief, taking over from Naomi Norman in January 2014. She is currently professor of art history and classical studies and chair of the Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies at [Duke University](http://www.duke.edu).

Dillon's inaugural issue debuts a new cover: a light blue, sustainably harvested, varnished stock with a redesigned journal title and a photograph detail of a site that is the subject of an article in the issue. The plan is to showcase on the cover a different image of a site or artifact in all forthcoming issues.

In her first [editorial](#), Dillon encourages younger scholars to submit to the journal and expands on the AJA's open access policy by reintroducing, as open access, "Archaeological Notes" (originally launched in 1933 by Editor-in-Chief Mary Hamilton Swindler) and continuing the "Forums" of previous Editor-in-Chief Naomi Norman.





2014–2015

## Brand Rebuild

In January 2014, the AJA introduces a refreshed, responsive website, rebranding it AJA Online.

In January 2015, there begins a subtle interior redesign of the journal's print layout, with the changes rolled out throughout the volume year. The AJA's advertising supplement—renamed simply "Outlook"—and journal promotional materials are also refreshed.



2016

# AJA Electronic Archive

The [AJA Archive](#) is launched on AJA Online, where readers can access more than 130 years of AJA content, from the first volume published in 1885 to the present.



2017

## Jane B. Carter: Editor-in-Chief

Carter becomes the AJA's 19th Editor-in-Chief, taking over from Sheila Dillon in January 2017. She is associate professor emerita and former chair of the Department of Classical Studies at [Tulane University](http://www.tulane.edu).