

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - JUNE 2003

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ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE
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This is the final Oriental Institute Newsletter of the academic year. The next issue is scheduled to appear on the first Monday of October 2003.

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UNITS
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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

Thanks to the generosity of the university's Networking Services and Information Technologies (NSIT) group the OI is now "wireless network capable", at least in part. The equipment which began to operate on May 8th allows wireless network connections throughout most of the second floor (except for a shadow cast by the elevator). This equipment was installed at NSIT's expense in order to provide wireless network connections in the public spaces of the OI: the Research Archives, the two second floor classrooms, and the Director's office are now done. In the near future we hope to get additional equipment installed in the basement, to handle the LaSalle Room, the Archaeology Lab, and perhaps the Museum Registration (and storage) areas.

So go add a wireless card to your laptop, and connect to the Internet minus the wires!!!

Scanning and data entry by Karen Terras and Alim Khan for the Iraq Museum Database Project continued throughout the month of May. Their tireless efforts to assist in the processing of hundreds of artifact photos and registration data are greatly appreciated.

The "Lost Treasures From Iraq" component of the Institute's website grew steadily throughout the month, as did the traffic it has generated on the Institute's web server. A normal week's web traffic on our server is around 600,000 "hits". During the week ending April 27, we had 1,026,494 "hits", and it continued in the week ending May 4, with 1,183,128 "hits". The week ending May 11 saw a total of 763,000 "hits".

I continued to move OI computers to the DHCP protocol for network access, with about 30 more computers to go.

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MUSEUM - EDUCATION / Carole Krucoff

Research in museum studies has shown that children of all backgrounds who visit museums with their families are highly likely to become the museum goers-and supporters-of the future. Over the past several years, Museum Education has been involved in major initiatives to attract and serve the family audience in the Chicago area.

In 1999-2002, a grant from the Polk Bros. Foundation supported an in-depth study with a group of neighborhood parents and children who worked with us to develop and test a variety of self-guided family activities for the Egyptian Gallery. The grant has enabled us to produce an interactive computer kiosk, a series of family activity cards, and a large, highly colorful, and informative label for the statue of King Tut. These self-guided museum learning experiences are now the springboard for family events we can present throughout the year.

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, Museum Education hosted "Happy Mummies Day," a new public program featuring the Egyptian Gallery learning experiences. More than 250 children and their families came to spend "Mummies Day" with us, enjoying all the self-guided activities and asking non-stop questions of the Docents stationed in the galleries. On Sunday, June 8, the family activities will be featured again, when we host a Family Day as part of the annual Hyde Park/University of Chicago Arts Fest.

Thanks to another generous grant from the Polk Bros. Foundation, we're working once again with a group of families, this time to develop and test self-guided activities for the new Mesopotamian Gallery.

They'll be the springboard for a whole new series of museum learning experiences that will begin with a Family Day we're planning for the opening of the gallery this fall. Stop by the Museum Education Office to learn more about it!

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

OIP 120: Excavations at Chogha Bonut, by Abbas Alizadeh, with contributions by Naomi Miller, Arlene Miller-Rosen, and Richard Redding. Final page proofs were submitted to and returned by the author. Page proofs were also sent to two of the three contributors, and we await word of any final changes. The third

contributor is not available. Items that remain to be completed: (1) Touch up artwork and prepare for printing. (2) Create index of toponyms.

OIC 29: Catalog of Demotic Texts in the Brooklyn Museum of Art, by George R. Hughes. Items that remain to be done: (1) An Egyptologist is reading the Egyptian for spelling and such. (2) Final formatting.

Neo-Babylonian Texts in the Oriental Institute Collection, by David B. Weisberg. All of our preliminary work has been completed (bibliography, abbreviations, scanning, page layout), and we are formatting final page proofs.

Land Survey around Tell es-Sweyhat, by Tony J. Wilkinson. All of the scanning and making of figures and plates and most of the bibliographic work is done. We expect to begin page layout soon.

Excavations at Tell es-Sweyhat, by Thomas A. Holland. Most of the scanning for the plates is done, and the scanning for the figures will begin soon.

Graffiti on the Rooftop of Khonsu Temple in Karnak, by Helen Jacquet Gordon. The scanning was completed, some clean up of line art remains, and page layout is well underway.

Ali Witsell will work in the Publications Office during the summer.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

As reported by John Sanders above, as of May 8th the installation of a wireless access point in the Reading Room of the Research Archives is complete. Preliminary tests indicate that all of the Research Archives as well as most of the rest of the second floor and parts of the first and third floors of the Oriental Institute (and about half of the 5800 block of University Avenue across to Pick Hall) are covered by this single access point.

For further information on the Wireless network and for instructions on setting up your machine for wireless, see: <http://wireless.uchicago.edu/>

For information on some other activities of Research Archives staff, see the report of the IRAQ MUSEUM WORKING GROUP, below.

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PROJECTS

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

Despite events in Iraq, I am pleased to report that the Epigraphic Survey was able to keep to its normal schedule of field work, and on April 15, 2003, successfully completed its seventy-ninth, six-month field season in Luxor. At that time most of the staff started the journey back home while Egyptologist Tina Di Cerbo began the two-week long process of closing the facility and mothballing it for the five months we are away during the the summer. I spent a

few days in Cairo meeting with our fiends at the SCA and ARCE, turning in the paperwork for the end of the season and starting the paperwork for the 2003-2004 season which will begin in October. I also met with US Ambassador David Welch and briefed him about our projects, and how Iraq affected us all, particularly at the Oriental Institute.

As I've told many of you personally, the response in Egypt to the US invasion of Iraq was unanimously negative, but balanced. The discontent was focused squarely at our administration, and Americans in general were not blamed. This attitude was reinforced by the extensive media coverage in the Middle East of the massive demonstrations against the war in the US. (Thanks to all of you who participated!). I was also interested to note that most Egyptians, after expressing their unhappiness with the American presence in Iraq, added that it might not be such a bad thing if the US actually got rid of Saddam Hussein. And if the US then solved the Palestine problem, then everything would be forgiven. I found this opinion expressed everywhere. While we took additional security precautions and updated our emergency evacuation plan, at no time did we ever feel threatened in any way, and we felt comfortable enough to keep to our normal work schedule.

The 2002-2003 season ended up being an extraordinarily productive one, and noteworthy for a number of milestones in the field work. The epigraphic team continued its ongoing documentation work in the Medinet Habu small Amun temple of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III from October 15, 2002 to April 15, 2003. One new Egyptologist/epigrapher, Jen Kimpton, was trained on site this season, and she also supervised the Chicago House library. Penciling, inking, and collating of facsimile drawings took place in the Eighteenth Dynasty bark sanctuary and ambulatory, including the façade, for volume 2. The paint collation of the six interior chapels, the focus of volume 1, also continued; the front central sanctuary was completed, and paint collation was begun in the back central sanctuary. In all, 17 drawings from these two rooms were paint collated by the artists and epigraphers, then reviewed and passed by the director for publication. Staff photographer Yarko Kobylecky, assisted by photo archives assistant Ellie Smith and Photo Archivist Sue Lezon, photographed pre- and post-conservation sanctuary walls with 4x5 b&w and color transparency film in the two central sanctuaries for the volume 1 publication. Our plan calls for all of the material for this volume to be finished by the end of next season, and production of that volume to begin next summer, and we are very much on schedule.

A total of 39 new drawings for volumes 1 and 2 of the small Amun temple series were penciled at the wall by artists Tina Di Cerbo, Margaret De Jong, Susan Osgood, and Will Schenck, and 11 new drawings were inked. 11 additional drawings were collated by epigraphers J. Brett McClain, Harold Hays, Randy Shonkwiler, and Jen Kimpton at the wall, and the artists transferred corrections to 18 drawings which were checked and passed by the epigraphers. Director's checks were completed by me on 20 drawings which are now ready for publication.

Egyptologist Tina Di Cerbo compiled a database this season of all the known graffiti in the Medinet Habu precinct, including over 1450 individual entries with negative numbers, locations, and descriptions. This was a process begun by the Epigraphic Survey more than seventy years ago, but never completed. William Edgerton's publication, *Medinet Habu Graffiti Facsimiles* (OIP 36: Chicago, 1937), and Heinz Thissen's *Die demotischen Graffiti von Medinet Habu: Zeugnisse zu Tempel und Kult im Ptolemaïschen Ägypten* (Demotische Studien 10;

Sommerhausen, 1989) present a very small sample of this material, although luckily much more of it was actually photographed in the past. Tina is matching graffiti to photographs, identifying new ones, plotting the locations on key plans, and continuing the facsimile documentation of the material for eventual publication. In addition, Tina compiled another illustrated database for use as a paleographical reference by the artists and epigraphers based on scanned finished drawings for volumes 1 and 2 of the small Amun temple. The electronic paleography includes hieroglyphic signs (by Gardiner number), examples of cartouches, human and divine figures, and iconographic elements printed out for use on-site at the temple.

This season marked the seventh year of a grant approved by the Supreme Council of Antiquities from the Egyptian Antiquities Project of the American Research Center for documentation and conservation of the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu. As in past years, this season the conservation work focused on the rooftop over the Eighteenth Dynasty temple and inside the painted chapels. Senior conservator Lotfi Hassan and conservators Adel Aziz Andraws, Nahed Samir, and Lamia Hadidy completed the cleaning of the painted reliefs in the two middle sanctuary chambers with excellent results. On the west wall of the front sanctuary, left side (MHB 32) a small sandstone fragment preserving the king's hand grasping ankh signs was re-affixed to its original position on the wall. Artist Margaret DeJong added that detail to the facsimile drawing, after which it went through the normal collation process. This season stone cutter Dany Roy completed the restoration and stabilization of the small Amun temple sanctuary roof, one of the major goals of the grant project. He completed the grouting of the entire Eighteenth Dynasty temple roof area and the restoration of missing roof blocks over the bark sanctuary and ambulatory. In all, 35 new sandstone slabs (covering approximately 5 square meters in total surface) were laid over the bark sanctuary this season, and 16 original sandstone blocks were dismantled and reinstalled. In addition he installed three new stainless steel drainspouts which now direct rainwater off the roof, two off the south side and one off the north. Dany stabilized the westernmost roof block over the bark sanctuary by reinforcing it with five stainless steel dowels set in araldite. Dany also stabilized a roof block in the back central sanctuary with four stainless steel dowels set in araldite. In the front central sanctuary Dany laid two last floor slabs, which completes the new flooring for that chamber. In the back central sanctuary he carved and placed two sandstone wall patches in the bottom eastern section of the south wall. In the northwesternmost sanctuary, the 'naos room,' Dany laid two new floor blocks, both 8 cm thick. He also carved a new sandstone threshold slab for the new entryway to the sanctuary area with an emplacement for the new doorway which will be installed next season. Dany also designed and began the installation of the aluminum framing of the new skylight over the first chamber, which will be completed next fall.

This season marked the end of the grant approved by the Supreme Council of Antiquities from the Egyptian Antiquities Project of the American Research Center, for the protection and consolidation of deteriorating decorated sandstone wall fragments at Luxor Temple. Stone conservators John Stewart and Hiroko Kariya are presently finishing the final report for the six seasons of treatment funded by the grant, which will be submitted this summer. Because of the Iraq war, field conservator Hiroko had to postpone her return to Luxor to monitor the condition of the treated material until next fall. With the assistance of a Robert Wilson matching grant and the World Monuments Fund, the Epigraphic Survey successfully completed the second year of a two-year program to raise all of the decorated stone wall fragments in the Luxor Temple precinct

up off the wet ground onto protective, damp-coursed platforms designated by category. This season 216 meters of damp-coursed storage and treatment mastabas were constructed in ordered, numbered rows around the temple precinct south of the Abul Haggag mosque on the east; directly east of the Colonnade Hall; and west of the Ramesside first court by the Roman gateway. 6311 decorated wall fragments (not counting the thousands of uninscribed blocks) were raised from the ground onto the new, damp-coursed platforms for storage, conservation, and analysis, including 3000 Akhenaten talatat blocks. In the west area, nine new mastaba platforms were constructed between the Roman gate and the fragments of the partly reassembled Ramesses II granodiorite colossus, with ample space intentionally left around the colossus for any future restoration work.

This season over a hundred decorated fragments were isolated for reassembly in the blockyard east of the Amenhotep III sun court, including square Hathor pillars inscribed for Ramesses III, a Kushite doorway, and several Ptolemaic gateway sections, one group inscribed for Ptolemy VIII. All were photographed by staff photographer Yarko Kobylecky assisted by Ellie Smith. Preliminary analysis of this material indicates that it was quarried in the medieval period from the Temple of Mut, two and a half kilometers to the north! The bases of the Hathor pillars and the Ptolemy VIII gate, for instance, still survive in situ. While it has long been known that Karnak had been partly quarried for building stone in the medieval period - the talatat blocks for instance found at Luxor Temple were quarried from Horemheb's Karnak pylons where they had been reused after Akhenaten's death - the pinpointing of Mut Temple as another, major source for building stone has not been made until now, and is a very exciting discovery. Much of the fragmentary wall material in the Luxor Temple blockyard was quarried from Luxor Temple itself, and many groups from all sections of the temple can be reassembled and eventually put back on the temple walls, restoring beautiful, long-vanished wall scenes and architectural details. There is tremendous potential for the material from Karnak eventually to be returned to its original site, once it has been documented, analyzed and reassembled in the Luxor Temple blockyard. And if the bases of the original walls cannot be determined or do not survive, the fragment groups will be reconstructed in the Luxor Temple blockyard, which has been designed to function as an open-air museum for reassembled groups.

The priority for the last two seasons in Luxor Temple has been the protective storage of the fragmentary wall material stored around the temple, essential for its long-term preservation. Now that this has largely been accomplished (except for one area in the northeast which we will finish next season), during the next field season the Epigraphic Survey will begin the process of dismantling fragment rows in the east stacked long ago, which are all mixed up, with the bulk of the decorated surfaces inaccessible. Our goal is to sort and store them by category, to document each one and consolidate them when necessary, and to reassemble all reconstructible groups. As we do so we will learn more about where the material came from, and to where we will eventually return it. This is a project which will definitely grow more interesting with every passing year!

At the end of this season 80 meters of fiberglass-covered aluminum framing were installed over selected wall fragment treatment and storage platforms in the Luxor Temple eastern blockyard areas for additional protection of deteriorating wall fragments. Almost a thousand decaying fragments are now housed on these protected 'hospital' platforms and await future consolidation. During the last three seasons Chicago House has sponsored a study of the structural

stability of the Luxor Temple monument in light of changed environmental conditions which are adversely affecting the ancient monuments all over Egypt. The steady rise of salt-laden groundwater is a particular problem. This study has been generously supported for the last two seasons by our Robert Wilson matching grant and the World Monuments Fund. From December 3 – 12, 2002, structural engineer Conor Power continued his monitoring of the temple structure. He reported to us that no additional cracks have opened up during the last year, nor has there been any discernable movement in the pylons recorded in the two crack monitors ("calibrated telltales") we placed on the south wall of the East Pylon and its upper west side door opening, even at season's end.

Last, but not least, I am very pleased to announce a major milestone in the digital duplication and backup program of the Chicago House Photo Archives. The digital scanning of all of the large format negatives in our Luxor archive (17,099 of them) was finished in April, resulting in 242 CDs which are now back in the US (another set remains in Luxor). These CDs, a digital duplicate of the Chicago House archive, will be transferred to Chicago in batches this summer and permanently housed in the Oriental Institute Museum Archives; the first batch will arrive later this month. Photo Archivist Sue Lezon is currently finishing the careful checking of each image and the converting of each scanned images into thumbnails for our new, illustrated Chicago House Photo Archives database, the first version of which will also be turned over to the Oriental Institute this summer, another happy milestone. In these uncertain times, this new technology has allowed us the assurance that priceless and unique information formerly accessible only in Luxor is now also available here. The scanned images and database will now allow the OI Museum Archives to assess exactly what negatives are solely to be found in Luxor, and what are in Chicago. Our long-term, ultimate goal is to make sure that hard copy duplicates of all of the negatives in Luxor are also in Chicago; the database and digital images will greatly facilitate that effort. In addition, 430 CDs of our 35mm archive are also back in the US and will also be transferred to Chicago once they have been checked and added to the new Chicago House 35 mm database. The scanning of that part of the archive is still incomplete and will continue next season.

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY PHOTO ARCHIVES / Sue Lezon

[From Photo Archivist Sue Lezon's report for the 2002-2003 season]

The scanning of the Chicago House large format negatives was completed during the 2002-2003 season. The database was updated by Ellie Smith to reflect this remarkable accomplishment. All of the images were written to CD at the Franco-Egyptian Center, and the scanned images were checked for accuracy in Luxor. Only negatives too fragile to scan were omitted. These will be included at a later date when we scan prints of the negatives in Luxor. All of the CDs are now in the USA, which has been our goal from the start of this project. In light of the unsettled political situation in the Middle East, it is comforting to know that our images can be accessed from the states if we are unable to get to Luxor at some point in the future.

During the summer of 2003, I will continue to optimize the images for inclusion in the database. Sixty CDs (out of 242) await this process. (approx 3,500

images) Then the optimized images will be written to CDs and reference-filed to the database.

Chicago House Large Format Negs Scanned	= 242 CDs
Chicago House 35mm Negs Scanned	= 430 CDs
Chicago House Special Collection	= 10 CDs
Chicago House 23 Series Negatives	= 4 CDs
Chicago House Lost Egypt	= 3 CDs
Jacquet Archives 6 x 6 Negatives	= 27 CDs

Total Number of CH Photo Archive CDs in USA – 717 CDs

Chicago House large format negatives have been scanned at approximately 340 DPI and saved as Photoshop or TIFF files. These formats do not compress pixels and therefore detail is not sacrificed in the saved digital image. The scanned images range in size from 8 MB – 50 MB, depending on the original format and medium of the negative – (B&W or Color Transparency). All scanned images are checked against the original negatives for scanning accuracy. Any errors are corrected initially when the scans are optimized for the database. At this time image improvement occurs in Photoshop, if necessary. Many of our negatives from the early part of the 20th century were poorly exposed and/or badly processed and the quality of the scan reflects their state. Photoshop allows for detailed enhancements that permit the image to be more easily 'read' and understood. The size of the image is then reduced to approximately 3 x 4" with a resolution of about 100 K per image. These reduced images will be written to a separate CD and referenced into the Chicago House Photographic Database. Upon completion of final optimization, 17,099 images from our photo archive will be available for viewing in thumbnail form in our Database. The thumbnails are not meant to replace the larger scanned images or original photographs, but will allow quick visual searches through the database. Each record in the database contains a reference to a CD# that can then be looked at to view the uncompressed, larger version of the image. The original CD with the uncompressed images will be rewritten to correct errors if necessary. Upon completion of image checking and optimization, one set of the entire collection of CDs will be kept in the OI archive. A duplicate set will be kept in the Epigraphic Survey's headquarters in Luxor. All of the original negatives will continue to be housed in Luxor, as well.

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IRAQ MUSEUM WORKING GROUP

The home-page of the project is at:
<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/iraq.html>

Statement by the Oriental Institute's Iraq Museum Working Group concerning the Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Museums, Libraries, and Archaeological Sites:

We, the undersigned, condemn the looting of Iraq's archaeological museums, the destruction of its libraries, and the damage done to its archeological and historical monuments and sites during and after the invasion of Iraq in March and April of this year. These losses are devastating not only to Iraq's sense of its own history and identity, but also to human heritage as a whole.

In the face of this unprecedented destruction, we demand immediate action from the authorities currently in control of Iraq to protect Iraq's archaeological and cultural heritage and to fully implement all requirements set out by the "Hague Convention on the protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict".

Assessments of the scope of the damage to archaeological and historical sites, museums, and libraries in Iraq have to be organized by internationally recognized cultural institutions such as UNESCO. Such efforts should accept assistance from any scholar who is willing to participate, regardless of his nationality. Cooperative international response to these conditions is imperative in view of the magnitude of the task and to reassure the world community that these actions are impartial and free of political manipulation by any party. Cooperation and exchange of information between participating scholars must not be impeded by agencies of any government.

We express our willingness to cooperate with international efforts to recover looted Iraqi antiquities, manuscripts, books and other cultural properties, and to assist our Iraqi colleagues. Many of us have appropriate experience and knowledge, are eager to contribute, and are especially eager to reaffirm the bonds of international scholarship. We offer our assistance and participation to legitimate international efforts to assess and repair the damage to Iraqi cultural property.

Chicago, May 26, 2003

Iraq Museum Working Group:

Charles E. Jones (Research Associate and Librarian, Oriental Institute)
Prof. Nicholas Kouchoukos (Archaeology, Department of Anthropology)
Dr. Clemens Reichel (Research Associate, Oriental Institute)
John Sanders (Senior Research Associate and Head of Computer Laboratory, Oriental Institute)
Prof. Matthew Stolper (Assyriology, Oriental Institute; Chairman of the Committee on the Ancient Mediterranean World)

The Working Group welcomes the signatures of members of the faculty and staff of the University of Chicago who wish to endorse the statement. Please see the lists at:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/statement.html>

Following is a short report on activities underway by the Iraq Museum Working Group

At the moment we are working on a three-pronged effort

Image-base
Bibliography
Communications medium

1) Image-base: At present this resource is available at:
<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/iraq.html>

It includes a slide show of images of objects, and a classified collection of high-quality images. We have secured permission from the proprietors to use all of these images, and a larger corpus is in preparation - Much of this corpus may in fact be on-line by the time this newsletter appears. Many additional images (along with their associated metadata) are available, and many more have been offered. We are discussing the design of a real database back-end to organize this material and web-based front-end to allow productive access to the collection. <http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/Iraqdatabasehome.htm>
Clemens Reichel <cdreiche@midway.uchicago.edu> is the coordinator of the image-base effort.

2) Bibliography: "Preliminary Bibliography of Books Documenting the Contents of The Iraq Museum, The National Library and Archives, and the Ms Collection of The Ministry Of Religious Endowments - all in Baghdad - as Well as of other Damaged or Destroyed Collections in Baghdad or Elsewhere in Iraq Including Mosul, Basrah, Suleimaniyeh, Etc.
The current version is always available at:
http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/iraq_bibliography.html

Version 21 of the bibliography went on-line May 28, 2003 - t includes 195 titles

This version of the bibliography includes 10,850 IM numbers of published objects. Note that many of these volumes include publications of objects in the collections of the Iraq Museum but which either did not have IM numbers assigned at the time of publication (or ever), or for which the IM numbers are not indicated in the publication. In one of the next versions I will include an index sorted by IM number. I am also nearly finished with a bibliography of the articles published in Sumer. Complete already for volumes 1 (1945) - 45 (1987-1988), I will have the remaining volumes entered shortly (i.e. volumes 46 (1989) - 49 (1997-1998). The final volume arrived last week (?!?) and is one of only five copies known in captivity. So far there are 1330 articles in the Sumer database. This database will include an index of IM numbers of objects published there. The next steps will include an index of al-Maskukat [the numismatic journal of the Iraqi Department of Antiquities and Heritage]. Charles Jones <cejo@midway.uchicago.edu> is the coordinator of the bibliographical effort. He is also a member of the Middle East Librarians Association [MELA] Committee on Iraqi Libraries, which is coordinating response to the crisis in the US as well as with other national and international Library organizations. The statement of Aims & Concerns drafted by the MELA Committee on Iraqi Libraries was presented at the international conference of MELCOM [Middle East Librarians Committee] at it's meeting in Beirut during the last week of May, where it received the unanimous support of the organization

3) Communications medium:

IraqCrisis: A moderated list for communicating substantive information on cultural property damaged, destroyed or lost from Libraries and Museums in Iraq during and after the war in April 2003, and on the worldwide response to the crisis.

La liste d'abonnés à "IraqCrisis" est fournie et variée, venant de très nombreux pays. Toutes les interventions sont les bienvenues, qu'elles soient rédigées en français, en allemand, en anglais, en arabe, ou en toute autre langue requise pour diffuser une information sur le sujet considéré.

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CAROL MEYER

I spent most of my "free" time in May revamping my file cards and records of stone artifacts in the Iraq National Museum. I carried out part of my dissertation research there in 1977, namely, a study of stone artifacts from Tell Agrab, Asmar, Ishchali, Khafajah, and Nippur. None of the objects was on display at that time; all came from the magazines which were modern, spacious, well-lit, and well-maintained. Back in Chicago, the data needed for statistical analysis were entered on Fortran coding forms and then onto a tape for processing; the commands were on punch cards. Several years ago I wrote a program to copy the tape data down to floppies, the UC computer center hung the tape, and we ran the program - blind. (Note: digital data only last about ten years and then must be ported or lost.) Some of the data were corrupted because the tape hadn't been rotated regularly, but the main file was useable. Claudia Suter in turn used some of those data for the Diyala publication project. Since the Fortran records were only 72 bytes long and highly compressed, the tape and floppy files by no means included all the data collected; information such as locus, length, width, thickness, diameter, color, translucence or not, specific gravity, illustrations, and most comments could not be entered on the old tape. Also, SPSS could not sort alphanumerically, so as many fields as possible had to be numerically coded: "55" is a cylinder seal, and "100" is hematite, "60" is Old Babylonian, and so forth. Therefore I went back to the best floppy record, copied it into a readable format, stripped out the Oriental Institute and University Museum data and left only the Iraq Museum information, sorted it according to artifact type from amulets to whetstones and then sorted it again according to my reference number. One IM number may actually encompass several artifacts, so they were listed as "IM42534.01" for the carnelian beads and "IM42534.02" for a stamp seal with a string, or the like, but the reference numbers are unique. Then I added some minor updates and Claudia's emendations and started scanning. Some highly standardized items such as weights or beads were simply described as "long barrel" or "bead type 6" after Woolley's Ur bead typology. Published items, mainly cylinder seals, were illustrated with Xeroxes on the backs of the file cards. Everything else was sketched and all but the most fine-grained drawings were inked. The black-and-white drawings could therefore be scanned easily, data such as the reference number, color, and dimensions could be added to the scans, and the images saved fairly compactly on CDs. The scans are linked to the master list of artifacts by the reference number. The final tally was 439 records, or about 400 IM numbers, and 232 images. While the data could be further elaborated by entering them on a database and adding hypertext and links, the immediate question is what the records can be used for. While I would love to nail a "dealer" trying to fence an amulet or stamp seal, I suspect the data would be useful mainly to the Iraq Museum itself in its efforts to clean up the horrendous devastation inflicted on its collections and records. For sure there is one immediate application: it let me work off a little of the sheer outrage.

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MARTHA ROTH

In May, I travelled to the east coast where I delivered lectures at Yale

