

OI NEWSLETTER - SECOND MONDAY - JANUARY 2004

FROM THE EDITOR

THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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IN THE NEWS

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 FROM THE EDITOR  
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This is the fourth OI Newsletter to appear by way of the automated mailing list:  
<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/oi-newsletter>  
 The archive of all fifty-four issues of the newsletter dating back to early 1998  
 is accessible only to members of the list. If you wish to have access to the  
 archive, please request your password from:  
[oinews@babylon-orinst.uchicago.edu](mailto:oinews@babylon-orinst.uchicago.edu)  
 Please send any other inquiries about the newsletter to the same address.

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 THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
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Happy Holidays  
 We hope you all had a wonderful holiday break and were able to spend time with  
 family and friends. All of you have probably noticed that any work you left  
 unfinished prior to the holiday break has magically remained right where you  
 left it. Hopefully everyone can ease their way back into work without too much  
 stress. As a famous politician once said, "There cannot be a stressful crisis  
 next week. My schedule is already full." Special thanks to all of you who  
 worked over the holidays. There are too many to thank but as we all know,  
 security functions, education programs and the Suq remain open for much of the  
 holidays so visitors can enjoy the museum. Thanks to everyone involved and we  
 hope that you were able to free up alternative time to recharge.

Loading Dock/Parking  
 We are cautiously optimistic that the Provost's office is seriously considering  
 our request to refurbish the loading dock area and expand the platform area to

include parking spaces on the east side of the building. Facilities Services representatives were on site this week to review the space and develop proposals for the upgrade and expansion. Their assessment needs to be submitted to the Provost by January 15th. The Provost office then reviews these plans for consideration in the 04/05 fiscal year capital plan. We have been lobbying hard for this project and are in frequent contact with the Provost and other key staff. We'll continue to keep you updated on it's progress.

#### Performance Evaluation Meetings

Thanks to all the staff who met with Gil and Steve to review performance plans for the upcoming six months. Due to the holiday break, all staff should receive a final copy of their evaluations based on these meetings by the end of next week. For those of you who would like to see the general form, it can be found on ADMINET at "[http://hr.uchicago.edu/forms/pdfs/emp\\_perf\\_eval.pdf](http://hr.uchicago.edu/forms/pdfs/emp_perf_eval.pdf)". There is also a Word version available for those who don't have adobe acrobat reader available on their machines.

#### Museum Director Search

The museum director search committee members have received all of the applications submitted as of December 31st. The committee will convene during the next few weeks to review applications and propose candidates for further consideration. Related to the museum director search is something that may not have been formally communicated to all. Ray Tindel has graciously agreed to serve as the interim museum director until a permanent replacement is found. Additionally, he is serving as a member of the search committee to help find the "right" candidate for this important position. A better interim director could not be found. Ray is always one of the first to arrive and one of the last to leave and his knowledge of the museum is unmatched. Many thanks to Ray for taking on this difficult role during the transition.

#### New Speaker Program Committee

A new Oriental Institute Speaker Program Committee for the 2003/2004 academic year (winter/spring term only) has been formed. The Committee's charter is to bring world-class researchers to the Oriental Institute to give presentations on topics of importance to Oriental Institute faculty and students. Dennis Campbell, Gabrielle Novacek, Hratch Papazian, and Jonathan Tenney have all agreed to be the committee's inaugural members and we look forward to a stimulating schedule of speakers.

#### New Program Planning Committee

A new Program Planning Committee has been formed to help coordinate the numerous events that are scheduled throughout the year at the OI. The committee meets once a month to discuss calendar management, upcoming events and general "brainstorming" on future programs or events to be held at the OI. The committee consists of staff who regularly plan or support events at the OI but anyone is invited to attend. Please email Nicole Torres ([nitorres@uchicago.edu](mailto:nitorres@uchicago.edu)) if you have suggestions for future events or if you'd like to know the date and time of an upcoming program planning meeting. Additionally, prior to each meeting, an email is sent to all OI faculty requesting info on any guest speaker they are attempting to schedule.

#### Electrical Upgrade

Thanks to everyone for your patience during last month's frequent electrical outages. As stated in an earlier newsletter, this upcoming summer may prove to be a very interesting time as the electrical wiring in each of the offices are



## 2004 Oriental Institute Gala: Romancing the Past

The gala will take place on May 20th, at the Drake Hotel. This year's recipient of the Breasted Award is Peggy Grant. Peggy has been a volunteer at the Oriental Institute for over thirty years and was seminal in the development of the Museum Education Program. President Randel will present the award to Peggy. The traditional silent auction will be held. Photographs from the archives, rugs from the Suq, and other objects that have been donated to the Oriental Institute throughout the year will be available. The evening will conclude with dancing to a live band.

If you have objects that you would like to contribute to the auction please contact Emily Teeter at 2-1062. If you would like to attend the Gala please contact Debora Donato at 4-9775.

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### PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

New Book for Sale - 40% Discount from January 7 to February 6, 2004.  
Excavations at the Prehistoric Mound of Chogha Bonut, Khuzestan, Iran: Seasons 1976/77, 1977/78, and 1996.  
Abbas Alizadeh.

Oriental Institute Publications 120.

Retail Price: \$95.00; Sale Price: \$57.00 + 8.75% Sales Tax = \$61.99.

Offer Valid for Oriental Institute Faculty, Staff, and Students.

Available from the Suq. Please Note that Only Cash or Checks Are Accepted.

Two OIPs -- the fourth and fifth for 2003 -- were sent to press in December, OIP 122 (David Weisberg's Neo-Babylonian Texts in the Oriental Institute Collection) and OIP 123 (Helen Jacquet-Gordon's Khonsu Temple, Volume 3: The Graffiti on the Khonsu Temple Roof at Karnak: A Manifestation of Personal Piety). Both should be available sometime between mid-February and early March.

Nicole Torres will edit the spring issue of News & Notes, assisted by Emily Teeter who is gathering its content, while Rebecca Laharia is on maternity leave.

Work continues on the remaining volumes in the backlog (listed in order of the amount of work completed):

OIC 29 (George Hughes's Catalog of Demotic Texts in the Brooklyn Museum) needs only a little more work.

OIP 124 (Tony Wilkinson's Tell es-Sweyhat, Volume 1: Land Use Studies) is nearly complete, and we hope to send final page proofs to the author in early February.

OIAS 1. Islamic Archaeology Seminar. Edited by Don Whitcomb. The artwork and bibliographies of four of the six articles have been prepared.

OIP ????. Demotic Texts in the Oriental Institute Collection: Tax Receipts By Brian Muhs. As you recall, we had to convert all of the transliteration fonts.

We sent the author a preliminary set of page proofs so he could check our font conversion, and we also asked him to fill in some bibliographic information that we could not verify. The page proofs were returned to us, and the few corrections have been entered. At present, the photographs and line drawings of the ostraca are being sized and positioned on the plates, then it's onward to finish the formatting of the text and to create the preliminary pages.

OIP 125 (Tom Holland's Tell es-Sweyhat, Volume 2: Site Excavation Report). The bibliography, figures, and plates were returned to the author, and work now focuses on the tables.

OIP ??? Megiddo, Volume 3: Final Report on the Stratum VI Excavations. By Timothy Harrison. The bibliography, figures, plates, and about one-half of the text formatting have been completed (note: the photographs on twenty of the plates need to be replaced).

OIP ??? Tall-e Bakun. By Abbas Alizadeh. Most of the bibliography, scanning, and cleanup has been completed and work continues thereon. The oversize artwork was reduced by camera so it fits on our scanner.

OIP ??? Nippur, Volume 5. By Augusta McMahon. The oversize artwork was reduced by camera so it fits on our scanner.

OIP ??? Amuq Valley Regional Projects, Volume 1. Edited by Aslihan Yener. Work continues with the project assistants towards the submission of the artwork.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

We are pleased to announce the availability of a new mailing list that will serve to inform the public of developments at ETANA: Electronic Tools and Ancient Near Eastern Archives, and of additions to Abzu, ETANA's guide to the ancient Near East on-line. Instructions for adding your address to the list can be found at:  
<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/ETANA-Abzu-news>

The ETANA project seeks to serve as a model of how a discipline-specific content site in ancient Near Eastern Studies can be constructed to become the dominant site for that discipline. ETANA will take a leadership role in developing standards specific to this discipline, test altruistic funding models, utilize OpenArchive metadata standards and create discipline-specific harvest engines to work with these metadata. ETANA will create a structure whereby scholarship can be accessible from data capture to finished scholarship on a single site. It will host data capture and access, core texts and born-digital publications in an environment of rights management, appropriate levels of peer review, and archival permanence. ETANA encompasses the primary portal in ancient Near Eastern Studies: Abzu, and the multiple rich image databases being created in the discipline.

Scholarship is enhanced by technological innovations that facilitate communication and expedite the efficient sharing of research and ideas. No less

than other disciplines, the study of the ancient Near East promises to be enriched significantly by the development of a singular, far-reaching resource for research that will be widely accessible to professionals and amateurs alike. To that end, ETANA brings together a consortium of universities and academic societies in order to develop and maintain a comprehensive, unified Internet site for the study of the ancient Near East.

The Research Archives is one of the founding partners in ETANA:

American Oriental Society | American Schools of Oriental Research | Case Western Reserve University | Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State | Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago | Society of Biblical Literature | Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University | Vanderbilt University | Virginia Polytechnic and State University

Support for ETANA has been provided by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (8/00 to 2/02, 6/01 to 8/02) and the National Science Foundation (Continuing grant IIS-0325579).

Another new resource in December is "Iraq Bibliographies" These bibliographies have been compiled in response to the cultural heritage crisis in Iraq during and after the war in Spring 2003:  
<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/IraqBibs.html>

All the on-line publications of the Research Archives are listed at:  
[http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/Research\\_Arch.html](http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/Research_Arch.html)

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PROJECTS  
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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

I apologize at the outset for the brevity of this report, but the last two months have been mind-numbingly busy (but also extremely productive, I am happy to say). I have just returned from Giza with OI Director Gil Stein, wife Elise Levin, and daughters Abigail (5) and Hannah (3) where we visited Mark Lehner and his crew as they resumed work for their 2003-2004 season south of the Wall of the Crow. We arrived in the middle of a rainstorm and freezing kamsin winds which made the visit even more memorable (their excavations are truly sensational), and joined the crew for lunch afterward at the villa. Gil and family are in the final days of their two-week trip to Egypt, and they are now fully briefed on the OI's facility and programs in Luxor on both sides of the river. On January 9th Chicago House hosted a reception and dinner in their honor which allowed them to meet many of our Egyptian and foreign colleagues working in the area as well. We saved Cairo for the end of their trip, and visited US Ambassador and Mrs. Welch yesterday for lunch, as well as ARCE. Today before Giza we visited Saqqara and Memphis, where I showed them the ruins of the Oriental Institute's Saqqara Expedition Headquarters which was obliged to close after WWII for lack of funds, a terrible, terrible waste.

Tomorrow we hit the Egyptian Museum and medieval Cairo. I promise a full report on our work activities next month when things calm down a bit here. In the meantime know that all is well with us, and that we are very much on

schedule at MH and way ahead of schedule at Luxor Temple. Please accept our sincerest best wishes for a very happy New Year 2004!

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INDIVIDUALS  
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WALTER KAEGI

Walter Kaegi completed a review of Kelly DeVries, Cumulative Bibliography of Medieval Military History and Technology for an on-line review of military history: DeReMilitari K. DeVries, A Cumulative Bibliography of Medieval and Early Modern Military History and Technology, for De Re Militari (online) [http://www.deremilitari.org/RESOURCES/REVIEWS/devries\\_cb.htm](http://www.deremilitari.org/RESOURCES/REVIEWS/devries_cb.htm)

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CHUCK JONES

An article submitted for the publication of last summer's conference in Teheran, written by Jones and Matt Stolper, was delivered to the editor in mid-December "A SURVEY OF SCATTERED ACHAEMENID ELAMITE ADMINISTRATIVE TABLETS"

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REBECCA LAHARIA

Rebecca delivered a baby girl about 9 AM this morning. Congratulations!

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CLEMENS REICHEL

Since I have been missing the deadline for the newsletter repeatedly, allow me to sum up what happened in the past three to four months:

Diyala Project: The data transfer from FoxPro to an Oracle-based database is about 2/3 done at this point. As always, I have to thank my volunteer George Sundell for his tireless work on building the new backend of this database. My involvement with other projects was one major reason that has slowed us down in 2003, but other issues also provided challenges that needed to be solved. Some data can be transferred almost word for word out of the pre-existing tables; in other cases, a complete restructuring is necessary. Providing that no further glitches happen, we should be done with the data transfer by July or August.

I am currently seeking new sources of funding to put the project on a more financially solid basis, which hopefully will enable us to hire student assistants in the near future.

Iraq Museum Project: The website "Lost Treasures of Iraq" (<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/iraq.html>) is up and running. The last update of the object database on the web (

