

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - APRIL 2004

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IN THE NEWS

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 FROM THE EDITOR
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This is the seventh OI Newsletter to appear by way of the automated mailing list:
<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/oi-newsletter>
 The archive of all fifty-seven 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
 Please send any other inquiries about the newsletter to the same address.

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 THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
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New Museum Director

I am delighted to announce that Dr. Geoff Emberling has accepted the position of Director of the Museum of the Oriental Institute. Geoff's experience, scholarship, and enthusiasm will be great assets for the OI. Geoff's official starting date will be May 26, 2004. I want to thank all of you for making the search for our new Museum Director a complete success. In particular, I'd like to thank David Schloen and the search committee for identifying such a strong group of finalists. The committee conducted a balanced, rigorous review that emphasized input from the entire OI community. Additionally, I want to thank all of the OI faculty and staff who took the time to participate in this

intensive review process; I also deeply appreciate your written evaluations, which played a crucial role in shaping both the committee's recommendations and my own decision. I am confident that our new museum director will provide us with the type of leadership we need to balance the academic and public face of this great institution.

CAMEL Remote Sensing Lab Director Search

Scott Branting will be onsite April 8th and 9th to interview for the CAMEL Lab Director position and to give a public lecture. He will be speaking at 2:00pm on April 9th in Breasted Hall. Please feel free to attend this open lecture and provide any comments to Mac Gibson, head of the CAMEL lab search committee. Additionally, there are individual half hour interview slots available for interested faculty and staff. Please contact Nicole Torres if you'd like to be added to the itinerary.

Zooarchaeology Research Space Construction

The construction of the new zooarchaeology research space in the archaeology common area is on schedule. Thanks for your patience while the construction crew completed the more noisier tasks for building the lab space. We do not expect anymore of the concrete work that led to the sound and dust problems the first few weeks. We apologize for any inconvenience this caused you. Please contact Nicole if you have any complaints or if you are in need of more information regarding this upgrade to the facility. We still expect it to be completed by the beginning of May.

Electrical Upgrade

You should have already received an email notification regarding the postponement of this summer's electrical upgrade within the OI. Facilities did not have the necessary funding to begin work this summer and will attempt to obtain funding for next summer.

Development Director Search

A number of candidates have been brought in for interviews and a few have shown great potential. These first round of interviews are being followed by a more comprehensive interview lunch/dinner with representatives from faculty, central development and visiting committee members. We are still on track to have this position filled by the end of April.

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UNITS
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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

This coming April marks the 10th anniversary of the OI website!!! So the following news is very fitting. The BIG news of March is that the switching of

the OI website from our own server to one administered by NSIT is in the last day or two. The website is now active on its new home, with its new URL: oi.uchicago.edu (the old url: www-oi.uchicago.edu stills works, it just points to the new server now)

It will take another couple of days for all the DNS servers throughout the world to recognize the machine switch and point all users to the new server. A more formal notice of this switch will follow in just a few days.

I have started to switch people from using our own babylon-orinst email server to using their university email account. Of course, everyone's computer presents different problems - but we are working our way through the building. Anyone currently using their university account MUST be using an encrypted email program to access their university account by April 14th. This fact has altered the schedule I had set up, as these past users must be set up with the proper software or they will not be able to access their email after April 14th. It's all great fun and games.

A major addition to the Iraq Museum database was completed by Clemens Reichel in March, and this enlarged database is now up on the OI website. It involved a change in the structure of the actual website, and changed the homepage address for the database itself to:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/dbfiles/Iraqdatabasehome.htm>

The homepage address for the project, though, remains:

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

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DEVELOPMENT

New Major Gifts

What better news from Development than to announce a set of new major gifts provided to the OI.

University of Chicago Trustee Joseph Neubauer and his wife Jeanette have generously pledged \$200,000 to support the 2005-2006 excavation and study seasons at Atchana/Alalakh. In total, they have now pledged \$400,000 to the Alalakh excavations. This is an extraordinary commitment that will allow Aslihan Yener and her colleagues to conduct long term excavations as part of their ten year research plan. We at the OI are all deeply grateful to the Neubauers for their generosity.

LaSalle Bank has provided a generous donation of \$150,000 to help fund the museum reinstallation. Tom Heagy, the OI's Visiting Committee Chair, was instrumental in securing this funding for the OI.

The Salus Mundi Foundation provided a \$100,000 gift to the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. Theo van den Hout was instrumental in seeking this funding and interacting with foundation representatives. The gift will be used as seed money for an endowment that will sustain the CHD for the next 50 years.

Kitty Picken has provided \$40,000 as part of a \$200,000 pledge toward the reinstallation of the Nubian gallery. This funding will allow us to continue our momentum in opening each of the galleries on schedule.

Even though these gifts are impressive in size, we also rely greatly on the generosity of those individuals and institutions who support the OI with smaller gifts. We continue to receive funding from the annual pledge drive. These amounts range from \$20 to \$1,000. We hope to provide a final update on the annual appeal in the next newsletter.

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MUSEUM CONSERVATION / Laura D'Alessandro

As everyone undoubtedly knows, the conservation of the objects for the east gallery installation is moving forward briskly. In addition to the heavy load of "portable" objects - those that can be lifted easily by one person and fit onto a lab bench - there are also 7 Assyrian reliefs and approximately a dozen oversized sculptures from Tell Tayinat in the new installation. These represent a challenge for both conservation and exhibition staff as their conservation, mounting and display needs are more complex.

In February, the conservation lab hosted the University of Chicago Laboratory School's high school forensic science class. As a return favor, conservation staff were invited to attend a class on arson investigation evidence, led by a retired Illinois fire chief.

In March, Laura again served as a panelist for the IMLS Conservation Project Support grant review process in Washington, D.C.

Also in March, Sarah Barack, our Postgraduate Getty/Luther I. Replogle Conservation intern, presented a lecture on the Biodeterioration of Outdoor Stone to three freshman and sophomore biology classes at Lincoln Park High School. She is working with one of the biology teachers to create both post-talk activities and potential science fair projects for the students.

Sarah has also begun her Getty internship research project, which will focus on the sampling and identification of several pigments present on the Khorsabad stone reliefs. Although it seems as though Sarah has just begun her 12-month internship here, she has already been awarded her next fellowship. She will be starting in the fall as an Andrew W. Mellon Conservation Fellow at the Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where she will be investigating medieval stained glass.

In April, Vanessa, Alison and Sarah will be conducting a workshop on material sample preparation for Aslihan Yener's class: the Archaeology of Technology & Instrumental Analysis in Archaeology.

In May, the conservation laboratory will be hosting the local conservation group CACG (Chicago Area Conservation Group) to bring members up to date on recent work in the lab.

In June, Vanessa, Alison and Sarah will be presenting a poster at the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) annual conference entitled: "Brick by Brick:

Piecing together an 8th century B.C. facade from Iraq" detailing the historical content and conservation treatment of the glazed bricks from the Sin Temple at Khorsabad.

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MUSEUM EDUCATION / Carole Krucoff

Professional Development for Teachers

Last fall Museum Education received a grant from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation to develop and present "Ancient Mesopotamia: Meeting Chicago Public School Mandates," a teacher training seminar on campus and online in conjunction with the new Mesopotamian Gallery. Currently in the planning stage, this seminar will serve 35 elementary and high school teachers and curriculum coordinators who will reach a combined audience of 3,500 students annually. This is the 6th year that the Fry Foundation has funded Oriental Institute teacher training programming on the various cultures of the ancient Near East, providing \$150,000 in support that has helped us reach a total of 210 Chicago Public School teachers who have directly served close to 20,000 students

This past week, the University's Office of Community and Government Affairs asked us to report to them the various ways grant-funded support helps us make an impact on teaching and learning in the Chicago Public Schools. We informed them of the projects the Fry Foundation has helped us undertake and in doing so we realized one more thing -- how cost effective the foundation's investment has been, since its funding has enabled us to foster enriched study of the ancient Near East for so many young people at the cost of only \$7.50 per student.

Family Programs

During February and March, Museum Education served more than 500 children and parents during two free family festivals. The first, which took place at the Oriental Institute, featured a screening of "The Prince of Egypt" on the big screen in Breasted Hall, followed by docent-led tours and hands-on activities in the Egyptian Gallery. For the next program we joined with the Smart Museum of Art and the Hyde Park Art Center for a festival of arts activities in conjunction with "Illuminations: Sculpture With Light," a special exhibit on view at the Smart Museum. Our activity-creating and then performing with shadow puppets like those from Turkey-was created and presented by an artist/puppeteer from Chicago's celebrated Redmoon Theater. These programs were supported with funding from the Regents Park/University of Chicago Fine Arts Partnership.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

New Book for Sale in the Suq at a 40% Discount from April 1 to April 30. Your cost is \$117.45 (includes tax).

Temple of Khonsu, Volume 3. The Graffiti on the Khonsu Temple Roof at Karnak: A
Manifestation of Personal Piety
Helen Jacquet-Gordon
Oriental Institute Publications 123
Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2003
Pp. xxiv + 120; 5 figures, 126 plates
Casebound, 12 x 16 inches
ISBN 1-885923-26-0
\$180

After April 30, the volume can be purchased from: The David Brown Book Company,
PO Box 511, Oakville, CT 06779; Tel: (+1) 860-945-9329, Toll Free: 1-800-791-
9354; Fax: (+1) 860-945-9468; Email: david.brown.bk.co@snet.net; Website:
www.oxbowbooks.com

Work continued on Tony Wilkinson's Swayhat 1 (land use), Tom Holland's Swayhat 2
(archaeology), Brian Muhs's Demotic Ostraca (text editions), Tim Harrison's
Megiddo 3 (archaeology), and Abbas Alizadeh's Tall-e Bakun (archaeology)
manuscripts. A purchase order was applied for to reprint eight volumes of the
CAD. The files for the letter G of the CDD were received and printed in
preparation for posting on the web; the letters N and H/3 will soon follow, as
well as an updated Problems file. We received advanced word that CHD S/2 may be
submitted to the Publications Office during the summer of 2004. Several
inquiries were answered regarding the festschrifts for Profs. Biggs and Gragg.
And, work will soon begin on the summer issue of News & Notes.

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PROJECTS
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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

As I write this the Epigraphic Survey is in the final week of its Luxor
fieldwork for the 2003/2004 season and will close its doors for the summer on
April 15. The Chicago House library is already closed, all activities at the
temple sites will cease on April 10, and at that time the Medinet Habu sanctuary
will be cleaned, locked, and sealed for the summer. This is always a
bittersweet time, but it is especially so now, as this has been one of our most
productive seasons ever, on both sides of the river. And the weather gods have
been kind. While for the last two weeks we have had temperatures in the upper
nineties Fahrenheit, at the moment we are enjoying a delicious cool spell, which
is making our final work much, much easier.

Many milestones have been reached since I wrote last. During the last two
months our conservators at Medinet Habu (Lotfi Hassan, Adel Azziz, and Nahed
Samir) finished the cleaning of the final two rooms of the sanctuary: the 'naos
room' and 'king's chamber,' after which Margaret De Jong, Brett McClain, and I
finished the final collation and on site review of all of the drawings of the
painted reliefs in those rooms. Tina Di Cerbo finished the drawings of the
graffiti in the sanctuaries, including several more found in the cleaning
process, and she and I reviewed all 47 of them at the wall in March (26 in the
'naos room' alone). Once all of the drawings were cleared for publication,
photographer Yarko Kobylecky assisted by Ellie Smith did the last of the color

and b&w photography for the season in both sanctuaries. Last week Brett and I went over the final drawings of the sanctuary façade, scene by scene, on site, and Margaret finished the final refinements to those drawings on Saturday. Yesterday (Sunday) Yarko finished the photography of the last of the drawings in 8x10 format for backup and publication work, and they are being packed up for transferring to Chicago, with the collation sheets and photography, at the season's end. 'Medinet Habu IX: The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple Part 1: the Sanctuary' is ready to roll! Production of this inaugural epigraphic volume in our Medinet Habu small Amun temples series (the first of four) will begin this summer, and will feature almost 200 plates, about twenty of them in color. The conservation work will be published later in the ARCE / EAP series as part of the EAP grant package which has supported the cleaning and epigraphy during the last few years, for which we are most grateful.

And speaking of publications, last week we were delighted to receive the first volumes of OIP 123, Temple of Khonsu Volume 3, 'The Graffiti on the Khonsu Temple Roof at Karnak: A Manifestation of Personal Piety' by Helen Jacquet-Gordon. Now a whole stratum of Egyptian priests, who had no other monuments, take their place in immortality among the great ones. They would be very, very pleased. (So would the naked Coptic dancing girls who are also up there!). We now have a copy in the CH library, and are distributing copies to the local authorities here. I will be presenting another ten copies to the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo, per regulations, at the end of the season. Warmest congratulations to Helen, the OI Publications Office, the Getty Publications Program, and to all who helped make this publication possible.

In addition to the successful completion of the wall cleaning and documentation of volume 1 at Medinet Habu, Dany Roy finished the installation of a new aluminum and frosted glass skylight over the 'dyad chamber' roof. Next season Dany will continue stone wall and floor patching around the 18th Dynasty temple where needed. Lotfi and his conservation team will continue to clean the star-painted ceilings in the sanctuary chambers and will extend their cleaning and infilling into the bark sanctuary and ambulatory. I should mention that our colleague Adel Azziz has just been made SCA Director of Conservation for all of Upper Egypt, which means we will now have the pleasure of working with him at Luxor Temple as well.

At Luxor Temple we finished construction of the last two-hundred meters of new, damp-coursed mastaba platforms in March (northern and southern areas), and Dany and his workmen are lifting the last of the dozens of large blocks and column sections from the southern area up onto the last one this week. That area is now totally transformed. We added sailcloth siding to the aluminum framing of the five 'hospital' mastabas in the eastern blockyard, and added sailcloth flaps secured with velcro to the siding of the two treatment mastabas in the main blockyard for easier access. Stone conservator Hiroko Kariya treated 117 deteriorating wall fragments with Wacker-OH (ethyl silicate), as well as sections of two large Amenhotep III blocks from the southern end of the blockyard. Digital recording and monitoring of 347 severely deteriorating fragments was undertaken by Hiroko assisted by Nan Ray, and a priority list for treatment was put together in consultation with me, based on iconographic importance. Harold Hays and Nan worked on a new database for the tracking, identification, and treatment of the fragmentary material. Yarko and Ellie are currently finishing the onsite photography of selected fragment groups for analysis, including corpora of Thutmosis III, Kushite, and Ptolemaic blocks,

partly recorded last season, all of which reconstruct into major wall and gate sections. Emily Napolitano has been painstakingly painting identification numbers on each fragment as they are documented, and she has created maps of all of the fragment mastabas in each blockyard area for tracking and monitoring purposes. I am very pleased to report that the Luxor Temple blockyard protection, conservation and documentation work, funded this year and next by the World Monuments Fund, is months ahead of schedule, and I can truthfully say that the bulk of the fragmentary inscribed and architectural material around the Luxor Temple precinct is now protected. There is much still to do, but we have made great progress in our short-term goals.

The crew will be departing on the 15th and 16th, after which Tina Di Cerbo will close up the house for the summer. We all hate to leave; it's been an exciting, productive, and joyous season. But it's also been a LONG six months. Well, we have much to do this summer, and it will be good to be home. But I will admit that I am already looking forward to getting back here!

All best wishes to everyone back home from all of us here in Luxor. See you all very soon.

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IRAQ WORKING GROUP / Chuck Jones

The Iraq Working Group of the Oriental Institute presents an illustrated talk:

Nabil al-Tikriti
"The Post-War State of Iraqi Manuscript Collections"

Wednesday April 7th, Noon (bring a sack lunch if you wish), LaSalle Bank Room

Nabil al-Tikriti is a doctoral candidate in the NELC and is familiar with Iraqi manuscript collections from research trips before the war. His report on his visit to Baghdad in May 2003 provided the first assessment since the end of the war of the state of libraries and manuscript collections in Iraq and of the nature and extent of damage to these institutions and their holdings:
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/docs/nat.html>

There will be two major uploads to the Iraq Working Group Web presence in the next few days: An updated version the database and a large suite of photographs of archaeological sites in southern Iraq taken this past winter.

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INDIVIDUALS
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NANCY DRAY - DAVID TESTEN

Nancy L. Dray and David Testen

