



INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH



Overleaf: Sherd with Stags. Alişar Höyük, Turkey. Iron Age II, ca. 1000-700 BC. Syro-Anatolian Collection. A10266 (D. 19193)

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Richard H. Beal

Richard Beal spent his time revising the entries in the L volume (published in 1979) for inclusion on the electronic eCHD. This means looking for newly found or newly published references, new studies on the works we have already cited, adding new or differently understood meanings, adding dates to texts not previously dated, and rearranging the articles in accordance with the way we did things in later volumes. Some preliminary copy editing of the final fascicle of the letter Š has also been accomplished.

This year saw writing and rapid publication in *Archiv für Orientforschung* of a longish obituary for his Doktorvater, Professor Harry A. Hoffner, of the Oriental Institute. Professor Hoffner was the founding and longtime co-editor of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. Appearing in the same issue, but written six years earlier, is a review of Jörg Klinger's book *Die Hethiter*, which is a 128 page summary of our knowledge of the Hittites. A review of Andrew Knapp, *Royal Apologetic in the Ancient Near East* for the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* is in progress. Written and appearing this year was an article "Disabilities from Head to Foot in Hittite Civilization" for a volume *Disability in Antiquity*, edited by Christien Laes. Toward the end of the period he has been working on a lecture and illustrations on the origins of the Hittite, Anatolian studies, and cuneiform studies at the University of Chicago to be presented at the 10th International Congress of Hittitology to be hosted by the Chicago Hittite Dictionary and held at the Oriental Institute the last week of August 2017. Together with Oya Topçuoğlu, the CHD's senior lexicographic assistant and newly minted PhD, he is putting together a condensed version, which will form a temporary exhibit in conjunction with the congress. In February he and his wife, JoAnn Scurlock, organized a one day conference at St. Mary's University in Notre Dame, Indiana. The conference was entitled "What Difference Does Time Make" and was in honor of the 100th anniversary of the midwest branch of the American Oriental Society. We thus had participants from the various fields making up the American Oriental Society. We hope to publish the papers. Finally, he has been helping JoAnn Scurlock edit Akkadian medicinal plant texts as part of the European Union's Floriental project.

Robert D. Biggs

Robert Biggs continued to serve as co-editor of the series *Die babylonisch-assyrische Medizin in Texten und Untersuchungen* and spent part of the summer of 2016 fulfilling his responsibilities. He had an article published in a volume honoring Professor Nicholas Postgate, with whom he worked at the site of Abu Salabikh in 1976, a happy return to the excavation where he served as epigrapher with Donald Hansen in 1963 and 1965. Another article is to appear shortly in the McGuire Gibson *Festschrift*.

Fred M. Donner

Fred Donner was busy this year with his usual teaching and advising responsibilities, with serving on a number of promotion and tenure committees for the University of Chicago and other institutions, and reviewing about a dozen article or book manuscripts for various journals or publishers. He was also quite active giving lectures at various venues. In June 2016 he presented a lecture at the University of Tübingen, Germany, on an Arabic papyrus in the Oriental Institute's collection that may be the oldest extant Arabic letter and offers a tantalizing view of the earliest Islamic community in Arabia. In September he presented a talk on "Documentary Sources for the Early Islamic State" at a conference on documentary sources for the medieval Near East in Vienna, Austria. In November he presented "Where Did Arabic Come From...and Why?" to other faculty of the Oriental Institute at its quarterly "Connections" seminar, which became the nucleus for a longer paper, "Scripts and Scripture in Late Antiquity: An Overview," which he prepared for a conference on this theme in May (see below). In March he made a presentation to the Oriental Institute Docent Training Day on "Islam's Rise and Islamic Heritage," and in April he presented a lecture on "The Development of Arabic Epistolography" to the University's Late Antique Mediterranean Seminar.

Along with his OI colleague Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee, and several graduate students, Donner was the lead organizer of an international conference on "Scripts and Scripture: Writing and Religion in Arabia, ca. 500–700 CE," convened at the University May 18–19, 2017. The conundrum that was the focus of the conference is the fact that three traditions of writing that had flourished in the Arabian peninsula in antiquity — the south Arabian, ancient north Arabian, and Nabataean — each with a distinctive script, all had effectively died out by about 600 CE; yet shortly thereafter, in the early seventh century, there appeared the text of the Qur'an, Islam's sacred scripture, in a language (Arabic) that hitherto had not been a literary language, and in a distinctive new script. To consider aspects of this puzzle, the conference brought together fourteen scholars of Arabian epigraphy, Arabian religion, and early Qur'anic studies from the US, France, UK, the Netherlands, and Finland who engaged in robust discussion and whose written communications will be gathered together in a volume to be published in the Oriental Institute's LAMINE series (Late Antique and Medieval Islamic Near East), probably in late 2018 or 2019. The conference was possible because of generous support from many parties, notably Guity Nashat, the France Chicago Center, the Franke Institute for Humanities, the Divinity School, the Oriental Institute, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, and the Department of History — to all of whom we are profoundly grateful for making possible what turned out to be a very stimulating conference.

During the year, Donner completed and submitted for publication two articles: "Talking About Islam's Origins," to appear in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*; and "Arabic Faṭḥ as 'conquest' and its origin in Islamic tradition," for *Al-'Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā*, the *Journal of Middle East Medievalists* 24 (2016), pp. 1–14. The latter has already appeared in the online journal. Also appearing this year but submitted earlier were his article "A Typology of Eschatological Concepts," in Sebastian Günther, Todd Lawson, and Christian Mauder (eds.), *Roads to Paradise: Eschatology and Concepts of the Hereafter in Islam* (3 vols., Leiden: Brill, 2016), pp. 757–72; and his review of Michael Penn's book *When Christians First Met Muslims*, in the online *Review of Qur'anic Research* 3.1 (2017).

Finally, Donner was gratified to be honored by his colleagues in the organization Middle East Medievalists by being awarded MEM’s “Lifetime Achievement Award” at the 50th Annual MESA Conference in November 2016 in Boston.

François Gaudard

François Gaudard completed his twenty-third year as part of the Oriental Institute scholarly community. During the past academic year, his priorities were his two Oriental Institute projects, that is, the edition of the Oriental Institute Museum funerary shrouds from the Graeco-Roman period and the Mummy Label Database (MLD) (see Project Reports).

One of the interesting orthographical peculiarities Gaudard noticed while studying the OI shrouds is the fact that the toponym T3-rr “Ta-rer,” which is a designation of Dendera,¹ is always written as T3{wy}-rr, with the sign written twice instead of once: T3-rr. The most similar example of this unusual writing is attested as T3{wy}-rr, with the dung-beetle standing for the sign (see H. Gauthier, *Dictionnaire des noms géographiques contenus dans les textes hiéroglyphiques*, vol. 6, Cairo, 1929, p. 26, and S. Cauville et al., *Le Temple de Dendara. Les chapelles osiriennes: Index*, Bibliothèque d’Étude 119, Cairo, 1997, p. 603 [116,3]).

As a co-editor of the MLD and of the Death on the Nile Project, Gaudard, in order to locate missing mummy labels, contacted several institutions including the Ägyptisches Museum, Bonn; the Albertinum, Dresden; the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, Oxford; the Papyrus — und Ostrakonsammlung, Institut für Geschichtswissenschaft, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn; the British Museum, London; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Princeton University Art Museum; the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, University College, London; and the Universitäts Bibliothek, Freiburg. He also worked on the publication of additional mummy labels.

Among other things, Gaudard published an article discussing the possible immortality of Seth. Since this god has long been distinguished from other Egyptian gods by his differences, such as his excesses and lack of restraint, it is not surprising that, when it comes to the subject of death, he seems to be an exception to the rule in that he can apparently be depicted as immortal. Over the years, several Egyptologists have pointed out Seth’s ability to survive the various attempts to annihilate him. In this article, Gaudard not only discusses this question in light of previous scholarship, but also presents a rare, if not unique, example that could be taken as proof of a belief in the immortality of Seth during the Graeco-Roman period.

As in previous years, Gaudard served as an editorial consultant for Egyptology articles published in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (JNES), the *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities* (JSSEA), and the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* (JARCE).

One of Gaudard’s articles has been published this past year, and three others are in press:

- “The Camel as a Sethian Creature.” In *Essays for the Library of Seshat: Studies Presented to Janet H. Johnson on the Occasion of Her 70th Birthday*, edited by Robert K. Ritner, pp. 41–53. *Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization* 70. Chicago: The Oriental Institute (in press).

- “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago, Part I: OIM E4786,” to be published in a *Festschrift* honoring a colleague (in press).
- “A Greek-Demotic Mummy Label in the University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology,” to be published in a *Festschrift* honoring a colleague (in press).
- “On the Immortality of the God Seth.” In *Illuminating Osiris: Egyptological Studies in Honor of Mark Smith*, edited by Richard Jasnow and Ghislaine Widmer, pp. 93–98. Material and Visual Culture of Ancient Egypt 2. Atlanta: Lockwood Press, 2017.

Gaudard would also like to take this opportunity to honor the memory of his former mentor, Professor-Dr. Erhard Grzybek, whose passing, on November 19, 2016, saddened him deeply. In addition to being both a world-renown historian of antiquity and Egyptologist, who taught at the universities of Lausanne, Dijon, and Geneva, Erhard was a true gentleman and friend as well. He also served as the president and as the honorary president of the *Società Internazionale di Studi Neroniani*, the goal of which is to promote the study of the Roman Empire during the first century AD. His research interests covered a wide span, ranging from subjects as varied as the Macedonian and Ptolemaic calendars to the process of Jesus. One of his favorite topics was the study of the Hellenistic kingdoms. Gaudard fondly remembers taking his classes dealing, among other things, with the diadochi, the Seleucids, the Ptolemies, or the Phoenicians, during which, Erhard, without even looking at his notes a single time, so bewitched his audience that nobody realized two hours had passed by. That was also part of the magic of knowing him.

Note

¹ For T3-rr “Ta-rer” as a designation of Dendera, see, e.g., *Wb* V, p. 226/1; Fr. Daumas, *Dendara et le temple d’Hathor: Notice sommaire*, RAPH 29, 1969, p. 12; H. Kockelmann, *Edfu: Die Toponymen- und Kultnamenlisten zur Tempelanlage von Dendera nach den hieroglyphischen Inschriften von Edfu und Dendera, Die Inschriften des Tempels von Edfu, Begleitheft 3*, 2002, p. 52, 65–66.

McGuire Gibson

McGuire Gibson, besides working on Nippur publications, is in the final phase of a project he took on with Mark Altaweel to recover, translate, and publish reports by Iraqi archaeologists on manuscripts that had been lost or damaged in the looting of the Iraq Museum in 2003. The most important of those publications, Muzahim Hussein’s *Nimrud: The Queens’ Tombs*, appeared last year and is available in a full-color paper version or as a downloaded version from the Oriental Institute press. The last publication is on two excavations carried out in the Diyala region, which has been a focus of Oriental Institute excavation and survey since 1929. One of these excavations, carried out by Salah Rmeidh at Tell Asmar (ancient Eshnunna), exposed a large area of private houses close to some trenches that the Chicago team had made at the south end of the city. There are at least three levels of houses, from the Ur III to the late Isin-Larsa period (ca. 2100–1900 BC), and they parallel the findings of the Chicago expedition at the site, although the earlier work concentrated on the administrative area of the town.

These houses are larger than normal, often have family altars in the corners of courtyards or large rooms, and have yielded almost 2,000 objects, including 200 cuneiform tablets and important cylinder seals.

The other site to be reported in this final Iraqi volume is by Hussein Ali Hamza on his work at a site called Muqdadiya, right in the middle of a modern town on the main road from Baghdad to Iran. This site would have been part of the Eshnunna kingdom, and the finds can easily be linked to those from Eshnunna itself. Here, also, there were cuneiform tablets (one of which may give a hint as to the ancient name), cylinder seals, and hundreds of other objects.

Gibson still serves on the boards of The Academic Research Institute in Iraq and the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. Despite the current situations in both countries, fellowships are still being given out for work by Americans outside the countries and to Iraqis and Yemenis for research done inside them. Activity is much reduced, of course, but the situation in Iraq is improving and there may be a flourishing of scholarly activity there. Meanwhile, in Sanaa, Yemen, the institute's buildings are still intact and have not yet been damaged by Saudi planes.

Petra M. Goedegebuure

Petra Goedegebuure continued her work on split-ergativity in an invited presentation for the seminar *Historical Linguistics* (Department of Linguistics), to support her second book (*The Anatolian Core Cases*, in progress). Whether or not split-ergativity is present in the Anatolian languages is currently one of the most debated topics of Anatolian syntax. Petra shows how the New Hittite ergatives developed out of individualization markers in Middle Hittite. Syntax was also the topic of a presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society in Los Angeles, March 2017 (“Left-Dislocation in Old Hittite”), where Petra discussed a hitherto overlooked construction that introduces contrastive topics, best translated as ‘but as for’. Linguistics of extinct languages heavily depends on sound philology, and this was again shown when Petra found a join between fragments of a tablet that allowed her to prove the existence of the ‘as for’ construction. This finding was accepted for publication in *N.A.B.U.* (“A New Join to a Hittite Festival of Thunder: KBo 31.183 + KBo 34.185 + KBo 20.61 [CTH 631]”). Petra is also preparing the talk for publication.

Petra's review of Annick Payne's *Iron Age Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscriptions* was published in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 76. As part of her research for the review, Petra could establish the meaning of three Luwian expressions that were hitherto not understood. One of them, a loan translation of the Akkadian geographical name *eber nāri* ‘Beyond-the-River’, was already discussed in the *Annual Report* of 2015–2016. Another word is *panuwā-*. Others translate this word either as ‘to make drink’ or ‘to grant a portion’, but Petra could show that both translations are grammatically impossible. Instead, we need to translate *panuwā-* as ‘to make plentiful, abundant’, and connect it with the Hittite word *panku* ‘totality’. The study will result in an article with the working title *Luwian Lexical Notes*.

Anatolia has always been simultaneously inhabited by different cultures speaking different languages; this was no different for the Hittite period. Petra provided the concluding remarks for the workshop *Talking to Others: Ancient Inscriptions in Multicultural or Multilingual Contexts* (three sessions in the winter quarter), organized by the Oriental Institute's Brian

Muhs and Richard Payne, and Alain Bresson from the Classics Department. She also showcased the research of the Oriental Institute’s Hittitologists on the topic in *News & Notes Quarterly Newsletter* 234 (“Hittite Anatolia: Cornucopia of Cultures in Contact”).

Petra furthermore participated in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project, (see Project Reports) and, together with the other members of the CHD and the graduate students of the graduate program Anatolian Studies, continued the preparations for the 10th International Congress of Hittitology, to be held in Chicago, August 28–September 1, 2017 (<http://ich10.uchicago.edu/>). Petra created the conference website and handled registration and accommodation, but also a respectable amount of correspondence. Together with the students she worked on the program and the book of abstracts.

Theo van den Hout and Petra talked about their work at a dinner meeting with the Young Professional Members Hittite Roundtable (Winter 2017, Oriental Institute).

Gene Gragg

Gene Gragg has completed and submitted a chapter “Semitic and Afroasiatic” for a revised edition of Robert Hetzron’s *The Semitic Languages* being prepared for Routledge by John Huehnergard. Work on this chapter has led to the preparation of considerably more Berber, Egyptian and Chadic material for eventual inclusion in AAMA (<http://aama.github.io>) — which would make the archive begin to live up a little more to what the acronym implies, “Afroasiatic Morphological Archive.”

What has been referred to as the “Morphology, Red in Tooth and Claw” project, or, more prosaically, “Inflection-Class Change: The Cushitic Suffix Conjugation Revisited,” explores how the rise and spread of this conjugation class can be interpreted as the “defining” Cushitic shared innovation within Afroasiatic, and tries to tackle some of the linguistic/cultural evolutionary implications of such an interpretation. A preliminary report on the project has been prepared (originally for presentation at the NACAL 45 meeting in Leiden), and an article version should be ready shortly.

Emily Hammer

Emily Hammer completed her third year as director of the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL). As in past years, much of her research efforts were directed towards projects detailed in CAMEL’s section of the *Annual Report*. CAMEL strives to encourage student research and team publications. To this end, Emily jointly authored four articles with CAMEL students and staff: a piece for the journal *Antiquity* with graduate student Anthony Lauricella on pre-Islamic fortresses of the Balkhab River Valley in northern Afghanistan; a piece for the journal *Near Eastern Archaeology*, again with Anthony Lauricella, on historical U2 spy plane imagery of desert kites in eastern Jordan; a piece for the *Journal of Field Archaeology* with Heritage Analyst Kathryn Franklin on remote survey of Spin Boldak in southeast Afghanistan; and a piece for the *Journal of Cultural Heritage* with Heritage Analyst Rebecca Seifried, Kathryn Franklin, and Anthony Lauricella on remote, diachronic assessments of the archaeological heritage and looting situation across Afghanistan.

Emily continued working on four personal projects concerning the history of pastoral land-use, southern Mesopotamian urbanism, political landscapes and land-use in Bronze and Iron Age Naxçıvan, Azerbaijan, and methods for using new sources of declassified aerial and satellite imagery. An extensive review article on the history of pastoralism in southwest Asia from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age (coauthored with Benjamin Arbuckle, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Archaeological Research*. In April and May, Emily traveled to southern Iraq for the first season of a new survey project she began at Ur, in collaboration with the excavations directed by Elizabeth Stone (Stony Brook University) and Abdulmir Al Hamdani. In four weeks of fieldwork, Emily and a team of Iraqi students from Nasariyah collected pottery and dug test pits at seventy sample sites spread across Ur's south mound and outlying areas. They also captured over 10,000 aerial images of the site using a UAV camera. This imagery is currently being processed to develop a high-resolution topographic model of the mounds and surrounding areas. The goals of this research are to elucidate the settlement size and some aspects of city organization at Ur. In mid-May, Emily traveled to the National Archives' Aerial Film section in Greenbelt, Maryland, to collect historical imagery of archaeological sites from two newly declassified sources: U2 spy planes (1958–1960) and the Hexagon satellite program (1971–1984). The imagery collected will be useful for several different ongoing projects, but also contributes to two articles that Emily and Jason Ur (Harvard University) are currently preparing on the use of U2 and Hexagon imagery for archaeological research. In June and July, Emily and an undergraduate student traveled to Naxçıvan to resume a magnetometry survey of hilltop fortresses begun last year (funded by a grant from The National Geographic Society). In collaboration with geophysics expert Jason Herrmann (Tübingen University), they are working to trace the subsurface remains of a huge wall that formerly surrounded two Iron Age fortresses and a lower town between them.

In the realm of teaching, Emily offered three courses during 2016–2017. Two of these courses, *Ancient Landscapes I and II*, are an introduction to GIS and landscape studies for archaeologists and historians. The second course guides students in creating their own spatial research project. Fourteen students in this second course presented the results of their GIS research projects to faculty and fellow students in a poster session held in mid-March. Emily co-taught a third course, *Archaeological Approaches to Settlement and Landscape Survey*, with Alice Yao in the Anthropology Department. This course was an introduction to method and theory for archaeological survey.

During the course of the year, Emily gave six public lectures, including one invited lecture and five conference presentations at the American Schools of Oriental Research and the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meetings.

On July 1, Emily left the Oriental Institute to take a new position as assistant professor in the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Department at the University of Pennsylvania. She will continue to work with CAMEL and the Afghan Heritage Mapping Project in the coming year in order to bring several ongoing projects to publication.

Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee

Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee was on academic leave during the fall and winter quarters in 2016, during which she worked on various projects. She continued her analysis of Akkadian in various articles that have all been submitted for publication by now, including two overview

articles on Akkadian grammar and, in one case, its socio-linguistic context for two separate volumes, one edited by herself for Blackwell Wiley (*A Companion to Ancient Near Eastern Languages*) and the other by her colleagues John Huehnergard and Na'ama Pat-El. The latter is intended to be a volume on Semitic languages specifically.

Hasselbach-Andee has further looked into the question whether or not Akkadian should be considered an “archaic” language, as it is often suggested based on its chronology, or rather an innovative language based on various innovative features it exhibits in its phonology, morphology, and syntax. Based on the evidence at her disposal, she concludes that Akkadian is both archaic and innovative at the same time. This article, “Archaism versus Innovation: The Hybrid Nature of Akkadian,” will appear in the conference volume of the *International Association of Comparative Semitics*, which met in Madrid in June 2016. In an article she wrote for another edited volume, she further investigated the issue of whether or not Semitic languages had an inherited morpheme to mark the dative case. Based on evidence from Akkadian, it has been suggested that such a morpheme existed, but Hasselbach-Andee’s investigation of Akkadian, Hebrew, Ugaritic, and comparative evidence from other Afro-Asiatic branches such as Cushitic and Omotic, suggests that the morpheme in question has no case function but rather reflects an adverbial ending. This article will be published under the title “Dative or No Dative: The Function of the Morpheme *-is in Semitic.”

Besides her work focusing on Akkadian, Hasselbach-Andee continued to expand her interests in socio-linguistics. She wrote an article on “Multilingualism and Diglossia in the Ancient Near East” for the *Companion to Ancient Near Eastern Languages* she is editing for Blackwell Wiley. The article deals with examples of multilingualism and the functional divisions of different languages in the ancient Near East and the methodological problems faced when trying to evaluate the linguistic situation of ancient speech communities for which we solely have evidence in writing. She presented a shorter version of this article that primarily focuses on the issue of diglossia at the yearly meeting of the North Atlantic Conference on Afro-Asiatic Linguistics in Leiden (Netherlands) in June 2017.

Besides these articles, Hasselbach-Andee continued to work on the translation and revision of Josef Tropper’s grammar of Classical Ethiopic, which will be concluded at the end of the summer, and the editing of the aforementioned *Companion to Ancient Near Eastern Languages* for Blackwell Wiley.

Janet H. Johnson

Jan Johnson enjoyed giving a lecture at the Egyptian Consulate here in Chicago last summer, speaking on “Women in Ancient Egypt: Legal Equality, Social Differentiation in a Duality Based Civilization.” She also gave talks on “Gender Studies from an Egyptian Perspective” for “Approaches to the Study of the Ancient Near East,” the introductory class for MA students in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) in the fall and “Gender in Ancient Egypt” for an undergraduate class on Gender in the ancient Near East offered by one of NELC’s graduate students in the winter. Also in the fall, she gave a talk on “Demotic Magical Handbooks” as part of a conference on “The Form, Utility, and Professional Technê of Practical Handbooks in the Ancient World” sponsored by the Neubauer Collegium here on campus. In the spring she gave a presentation within the training sessions for new Mu-

seum Docents, talking about Egyptian writing (especially on how Egyptian writing shows up in museums) and about the Chicago Demotic Dictionary Project (see Project Reports). She sponsored the one-quarter research stay of Reinert Skumsnes, a young Norwegian graduate student working on gender in New Kingdom Egypt, was proud to have three students receive their PhD degrees this year, and enjoyed her annual Skype discussions with students from Michelle Gueguen's fifth grade classes at the Science and Art Academy in Des Plaines, Illinois. Her article on "Compound Nouns, Especially Abstracts, in Demotic" appeared in the *Festschrift* for Mark Smith, her former student. She served on several OI and NELC search and promotion committees, which always provide the opportunity to become acquainted with the research of fine young scholars outside her own field of expertise.

W. Raymond Johnson

This year **Ray Johnson** completed his thirty-ninth year working in Egypt, his thirty-eighth full year working for the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, and his twentieth season as Chicago House Field Director. On June 7, 2017, Ray was pleased to give an Oriental Institute Membership Lecture in Breasted Hall entitled *The Epigraphic Survey at 93: Changing the Face of Archaeology with New Digital Technologies at Chicago House, Luxor, Egypt*, now accessible for viewing online at: <https://youtu.be/T-pDr7hGUKg>.

Ray participated in the four-day Luxor conference Sekhmet Omnipresent sponsored by Hourig Sourouzian and Betsy Bryan from March 23 to 26 and presented a paper entitled *Sekhmet of Gold at Amenhotep III's Luxor Temple*. In that study he proposed that the granodiorite deity sculptures commissioned by Amenhotep III for the Luxor Temple sanctuary — including a special series of standing Sekhmet statues — were intentionally left rough-surfaced for the application of gesso and gilding, a hitherto unrecognized and extraordinary treatment for Amenhotep III period statuary.

Ray published more preliminary results of his Amarna Talatat Project this summer with "A Pastoral Scene from El Amarna Reconstructed" in *KMT* magazine, issue 28, no. 3 (fall 2017). This group of five Amarna talatat blocks directly join to form a bucolic scene of herdsmen tending goats and cattle outside the walls of a palace and gives us a rare glimpse into the lives of the non-nobility at Amarna. Additional publications that appeared this past year include his article "The Abusir Tutakhamun Blocks: Origin and Context," in *Another Mouthful of Dust. Egyptological Studies in Honour of Geoffrey Thorndike Martin*, edited by Jaap van Dijk, where Ray relates three Tutankhamen period inscribed slabs discovered by Zahi Hawass with a relief in the OI Museum (OI 10591), all of which join an inscribed wall in the Saqqara tomb of Horemheb that depicted a palace Window of Appearances. This winter Ray was inspired to begin writing his first book on the Amarna period entitled *Amenhotep III, Akhenaten, and the Founding of Amarna*.

Walter Kaegi

Walter Kaegi was invited to give the keynote address at Eberhard Karls Universitaet Tuebingen on June 16, 2017, on the Battle of Yarmuk entitled, "Retrospective Reflections on Military Operations at Yarmuk and Vicinity." With the assistance of Sami Sweiss and Camel Lab, he

developed and organized satellite photos of terrain of Battle of Yarmuk (636 CE) and vicinity. Emily Hammer provided advice.

Walter prepared his last courses on Byzantine Empire History (Empire 330–610, 610–1025) prior to imminent retirement on September 30, 2017. He revised and corrected his 2013 paper “Seventh-Century Africa: Military and Political Convergences and Divergences” for the German Archaeological Institute Rome (DAIRom). He also attended the International Congress of Byzantine Studies at Belgrade, Serbia and participated in session discussions during August 2016.

Walter prepared a testimonial for the career of the late Georgetown University professor of Arabic Irfan Shahid, who died November 9, 2016. He also prepared a comparative study of seventh-century Byzantine and Tang Dynasty historical trends and institutions. He developed the study of Arnold J. Toynbee the Byzantine Historian and served as co-director for the University of Chicago Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium.

Winter quarter 2017, Walter sponsored a NonCredit Divisional Student (NDVS) from University of Rouen, France. Additionally, he investigated records of the career of late Professor Halil Inalcik and prepared materials for Turkish television interview about Inalcik’s career here at University of Chicago. Besides, he investigated and began to re-organize Kaegi’s old research files, notes, and travel records (including Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Anatolia) from 1962 to present.

Morag M. Kersel

During the 2016–2017 academic year **Morag Kersel** was re-appointed as a Visiting Fellow with *The Past for Sale: New Approaches to the Study of Archaeological Looting* at the Neubauer Collegium at the University of Chicago. In collaboration with Fiona Greenland and DePaul undergraduate Brittany Moore, Morag worked with the Neubauer, the Oriental Institute, and the McCormick Theological Seminary to mount the exhibit “The Past Sold: Case Studies in the Movement of Archaeological Objects” the capstone event of The Past for Sale project. Over three years The Past for Sale brought together archaeologists, anthropologists, art historians, social scientists, public policy experts, and legal scholars in the hope of finding amicable solutions to one of the most intractable problems facing those who care about culture: how to stem the worldwide epidemic of looting of archaeological sites. The exhibit encapsulated many of the issues raised during the three years of research and study at the Neubauer Collegium.

There is ongoing debate over the legal or illegal movement of archaeological materials and the Neubauer collaborative exhibit examined the positive and negative transfer of artifacts. The general themes of the display presented the effects of movement on local people, landscapes, national identities, and international policy. Panels and didactic materials addressed how to assess movement through economic modeling (MANTIS — Modeling the Antiquities Trade in Iraq and Syria) and using Unpiloted Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to monitor change over time at an Early Bronze Age IA (ca. 3600–3200 BCE) cemetery site in Jordan.

The third element of the exhibit highlighted an innovative and somewhat controversial 1970s initiative of the Department of Antiquities (DOA) in Jordan and the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR). Systematic excavations in the 1960s at the Early Bronze Age (ca. 3600–2000 BCE) site of Bab adh-Dhra’ on the Dead Sea Plain in Jordan recovered thousands



Figure 1. Josh Tulisiak helping to interpret and install pots from Tomb Groups A 72NW and A 44 (photo: Morag Kersel)

of ceramic pots from various tombs, all requiring basic conservation and storage. The Early Bronze Age pot quandary led the Jordanian DOA and ASOR (the excavation sponsors) to come up with a scheme to distribute artifact tomb groups to educational institutions for purposes of study, display, and student-based learning. Archival records of the transactions and ethnographic interviews provide a fascinating glimpse into the unusual dispersal of this corpus of material. The Oriental Institute and the McCormick Theological Seminary are two of the twenty-four institutions that received tomb groups and both were

generous in loaning pots and associated archival materials for display. With the assistance of Jean Evans, Morag worked closely with Helen McDonald, Laura D’Alessandro, and Josh Tulisiak to interpret and to install pots from Tomb Groups A 72NW and A 44. Morag and Fiona Greenland documented the exhibit in the spring (2017) issue of the *Oriental Institute News & Notes*.

Grégory Marouard

Last November 2016, **Grégory Marouard** was appointed as a Titular Research Associate in Egyptian Archaeology, with a special focus on settlement and harbor archaeology.

During last summer 2016, Grégory focused his research on the completion of an important paper on the excavation that he has conducted since 2011 at the Wadi al-Jarf, the harbor of king Khufu on the Red Sea coast (CNRS, IFAO, MAE project). Co-authored with Pierre Tallet (University Paris-Sorbonne), this article entitled “The Harbor Facilities of King Khufu on the Red Sea Shore: The Wadi al-Jarf / Tell Ras Budran System” has been published in the last issue of the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* (JARCE 52, 2016, pp. 135–77).

His contribution to the third monograph of the IFAO excavations at Ayn Sokhna appeared in the volume *Ayn Sokhna III. Le complexe des galeries-magasins, rapport archéologique*, FIFAO 74, 2016.

A short overview of the survey conducted in 2015 at the Roman harbor at Kom ed-Dahab was also published, “From Space to Ground: Aerial Images and Geomagnetic Survey at Kom ed-Dahab” (Mensaleh Lake, Egyptian Eastern Delta’, *News & Notes* 231 (2016): 16–21).

In September 2016 Grégory attended the “State of the Field in Egypt” conference organized at the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, Brown University. He spoke on the “Breaking Geographic Boundaries” session on the question of “Excavating and Surveying the Coast and Marshes of Egypt in the Year 2010: Two New Examples of Harbors at Wadi al-Jarf (Red Sea) and Kom ed-Dahab (Mezaleh Lake).”

From early October until mid-November 2016, Grégory supervised, as co-director together with Nadine Moeller, the latest season at Tell Edfu (see Tell Edfu Project Report). He

was specifically in charge of Zone 2, focusing on the Old Kingdom settlement remains. He focused the investigation there on the very first phases of occupation, which can be dated now to the second part of the Fifth Dynasty.

From mid-November 2016 until the end of January 2017, Grégory conducted his third campaign at Dendara in Upper Egypt. This project, which focuses on the archaeology of the ancient town of Iunet, is conducted on the French Archeological Institute (IFAO) archaeological concession in close collaboration with the IFAO team directed by Pierre Zignani (CNRS). He conducted two consecutive missions (cf. Dendara Settlement Report) which focused on the extra-mural remains of an extensive residential neighborhood (First Intermediate Period to Early Middle Kingdom) and, in the intra-mural area, on the early phases of the settlement (Naqada IIC–D, Naqada IIIC–D, and Old Kingdom) next to the temples of Hathor and Isis.

Early January 2017, Nadine Moeller and Grégory Marouard gave a joint OI Members' Lecture at Breasted Hall, "The Two Sister-Sites of Tell Edfu and Dendara," that focused on the recent results of their respective projects in Upper Egypt.

In April, Grégory attended the biennial conference on the current state of research in the Nile Delta area, organized by the Egypt Exploration Society in Alexandria, Egypt. He presented a poster entitled "Kom ed-Dahab — An Emporion from the early Roman period in the Menzaleh Lake," that focuses on the OI survey that he has conducted at Kom ed-Dahab in 2015.

He joined after that the seventh season of excavations at the Wadi al-Jarf. As a Senior Archaeologist, he supervised the fieldwork operation on Zone 5, characterized by a large workmen barracks installation, the largest building from the Pharaonic period ever discovered on the Red Coast. This fieldwork was conducted congruently with Grégory personal research on those very characteristic facilities, used during the Fourth Dynasty in order to accommo-

date craft and food activities and to provide housing spaces for workers' teams engaged in the large-scale projects of this period, particularly in the mining expeditions contexts or on the pyramids construction sites.

Still in April, Grégory gave a lecture on his recent excavations results at Dendara at the Annual Meeting of the ARCE, in Kansas City.

He devoted the rest of spring and early summer preparing various fieldwork reports and several articles. He submitted a synthesis of the recent discovery of Predynastic and Early Dynastic contexts at Dendara in a short article entitled "Dendara at Its Origins: New Evidence for a Predynastic and Early Dynastic Settlement Site in Upper Egypt," which was accepted for publication for the next fall issue of the ASOR journal, *Near Eastern Archaeology* (NEA 80/3).

He also submitted for the fall 2017 issue of the *Oriental Institute News & Notes*, a short notice on the use of drone and photogram-



Figure 2. Grégory Marouard using a drone DJI Phantom 4 at Dendara (photo: Nadine Moeller)

metry technologies applied to urban archeology at Dendara in an article entitled “Dendara from Another Perspective: The Use of New Technologies on the Field in Egypt” (*News & Notes* 235).

Early July 2017, he attended the seventh Old Kingdom Art and Archaeology conference in Milan, Italy, and gave a joint lecture with Nadine Moeller on “Two Sister-Sites at the Beginning of the Old Kingdom: Recent Results on the Settlement Excavations at Tell Edfu and Dendara.”

Carol Meyer

In 1995 **Carol Meyer** began research on the massive corpus of glass from the early Islamic fortified town at Aqaba, Jordan, excavated by Donald Whitcomb of the Oriental Institute and Kristoffer Damgaard of the University of Copenhagen, but she dropped it in order to pursue other projects. This was fortunate. In the intervening decades, databases (in particular, ones capable of operating on personal computers), became available. Very large corpora cannot be handled efficiently with file cards, much less with handwritten notes. Even with current technology, it is a multi-year effort to sort and tabulate the glass, draw selected pieces, and create a working typology, while also addressing questions about dating, technology, or trade. To date, the glass from the 1986, 1987, 1988, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2014 seasons, and three-quarters of the 1989 season have been processed, amounting to 7,729 entries for 12,002 sherds, over 1,100 digitally inked drawings, and 59 photographs. The 1992, 1993, and 1995 seasons remain. First results include publication of a group of Abbasid glass in the next issue of *Journal of Glass Studies*, including a tally of the colors of glass employed, a far more accurate count than an impressionistic evaluation of what is common or rare (fig. 3). The full corpus will be published as a monograph in the projected Aylah Excavation Series. In addition, Meyer proofed the English and French versions of her paper “Bi’r Umm Fawâkhir: Gold Mining in Byzantine Times in the Eastern Desert” to appear in an online publication by the Collège de France this year.

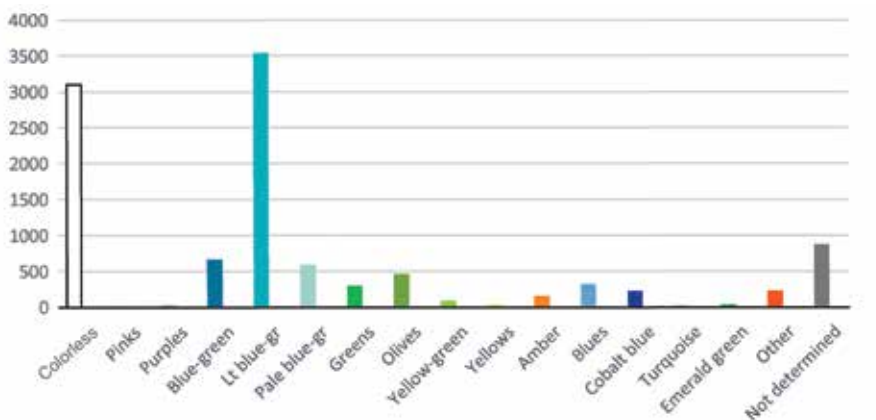


Figure 3. Color distribution by count of sherds (N = 10,761). Oriental Institute seasons 1986, 1987, 1988; Aylah Archaeological Project 2008, 2010, 2011, 2014

Nadine Moeller

From October until December 2016 **Nadine Moeller** directed the fieldwork at Tell Edfu, together with Grégory Marouard, and participated in the third season of excavations at the ancient city of Dendara, led by Grégory Marouard, which is welcomed on the concession of the French Archaeological Institute in Cairo (IFAO). At the beginning of the Winter Quarter, Moeller gave a joint OI Members' lecture about the recent fieldwork and discoveries at Tell Edfu and Dendara. She was also quite busy with several administrative tasks in the winter, internally for the OI but also in the external capacity as Board Member of ARCE. In the latter case, she was part of the committee for the Executive Director search for ARCE which involved several short trips to Washington, DC. In February, Moeller was elected to chair the OI Directorship Review Advisory Committee to the Provost, together with Janet Johnson, Petra Goedegebuure, and James Osborne with the task to review the renewal of the current OI director. On February 23, she had been invited to give a lecture at the Classical Arts Society, at the Art Institute, with the title "The Ahmose Tempest Stela — an Ancient Egyptian Account of a Natural Catastrophe. Chronological Implications and the Archaeological Evidence." In March, she did an ARCE lecture tour in California and presented on the same topic at three ARCE Chapters (Orange County, EEO at Los Angeles and Berkeley). She then took part in the ARCE Annual Meeting in Kansas City in April, where she presented the recent results from the excavations at Tell Edfu. After the Annual Meeting, she hosted two European colleagues, Pierre Tallet (University Paris IV / La Sorbonne) and Dimitri Laboury (FRS-FNRS Senior Research Associate at the University of Liège) in Chicago, who both offered workshops to the current graduate students as well as OI faculty and staff.

In terms of her own research, Moeller completed the edition of the proceedings of the workshop on the Hyksos ruler Khayan last summer, in collaboration with Irene Forstner-Müller, which has now been reviewed and accepted for publication. This volume presents the recent discoveries at three important sites in Egypt, in the north at the Hyksos capital Avaris located at Tell el-Dab'a in the Eastern Nile Delta, and in the south at Abydos and Tell Edfu, which can be considered new pieces to the puzzle for the reconstruction of the political, economic, and cultural developments characterizing the Second Intermediate Period (ca. 1750–1550 BCE). The aim of this publication is to present the archaeological discoveries in detail in order to re-evaluate the current understanding of the history of the Second Intermediate Period. Moeller also continued to write her second book project on the New Kingdom empire under contract with Cognella Academic Publishers.

Brian Muhs

Brian Muhs' third monograph, *The Ancient Egyptian Economy, 3000–30 BCE*, appeared with Cambridge University Press in July 2016. An article, "More Papyri from the Archive of Panas Son of Espmetis," *Enchoria, Zeitschrift für Demotistik und Koptologie* 34 (2014/2015): 89–103, appeared in September, based on a paper that he presented in September 2011. He also wrote an article, "Money, Coinage, and the Ancient Egyptian Economy," for *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 233 (Spring 2017), pp. 4–9.

Brian presented several papers, including "Choice Constraints in Ancient Egyptian Taxation," at the workshop, The Mechanics of Extraction: Comparing Principles of Taxation and

Tax Compliance in the Ancient World, at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University on September 30–October 1, 2016; “Crime and Punishment in the Ptolemaic Fayum: Evidence from a group of Demotic ostraca in Ann Arbor,” at the conference, Le Fayoum: Archéologie, Histoire, Religion, at Campus CNRS in Montpellier France on October 26–28, 2016; and “The Nag’ el-Mesheikh Ostraca and the ‘Liquidity Crisis’ in the Egyptian countryside in the final years of Ptolemy IV,” at the Eastern Mediterranean Seminar Papyri and History, at the University of Chicago on April 14–15, 2017.

Brian co-presented two lectures with Tasha Vorderstrasse, namely “A Funerary Association at Antioch: Contextualizing the Mnemosyne Mosaic,” at the American Schools of Oriental Research 2016 Annual Meeting in San Antonio on November 16–19, 2016; and “The State’s Role in Monetary Circulation in Achaemenid and Hellenistic Egypt and Bactria,” at the Ancient Societies Workshop at the University of Chicago on February 7, 2017. He also co-presented a paper with Jacqueline Jay on “Demotic Ostraca from Early Ptolemaic Thebes in Context” at the 68th Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, Kansas City, Missouri on April 21–23, 2017.

Brian moderated one session at the conference Down to the Hour: Perspectives on Short time in the Ancient Mediterranean, co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute at the Franke Institute for the Humanities, at the University of Chicago on February 24–25, 2017; and another session at the Oriental Institute seminar Seen Not Heard: Composition, Iconicity, and the Classifier Systems of Logosyllabic Scripts, at the Oriental Institute, at the University of Chicago on March 2–3, 2017.

Kiersten Neumann

Kiersten Neumann’s research continues to delve deeper into the realm of sensory experience with respect to the visual and material culture of the ancient Near East. A recent peer-reviewed publication, “Gods Among Men: Fashioning the Divine Image in Assyria,” in *What Shall I Say of Clothes? Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to the Study of Dress in Antiquity*, demonstrates how the gods’ dress and the performance of dressing the gods conferred divine identity and social status during the Neo-Assyrian period. These materials acted as a cue for appropriate behavior in the context of ritualized practice and contributed to the establishment of hierarchies that were fundamental to the ideology of the royal court. In progress is a publication on the Nabu temples of the Neo-Assyrian period. The structures’ physical and visual properties, placement within the citadel landscape, and activities staged within demonstrate that these temples had the potential to evoke in a singular way the specialized divinely ordained wisdom particular to the *ummânu* (scholarly professionals and master craftsmen). Smaller studies of this nature have helped Kiersten finalize a proposal for her book project on the Neo-Assyrian temple. This study argues that embodied sensory experience, such as that related to the temple, was a primary contributor to processes of ritualization in Assyria. An understanding of the senses beyond the hierarchical five-sense framework rooted in Western philosophy is adopted, as is a contextual approach that is mindful of the entire sensory landscape. Additionally, Kiersten continued to publish on objects from the Oriental Institute collections, including *News & Notes* artifact highlights on a stamped brick from the

Ramesseum, a stone pendant from Persepolis, a molded juglet from Istakhr, and a seal cutter's practice piece from Mesopotamia.

In October, Kiersten traveled to Iran as a second host for the Oriental Institute's Ancient Land of Persia travel program, led by Gil Stein. In addition to seeing archaeological sites that Kiersten has long dreamed of visiting, including Persepolis, Susa, and Chogha Zanbil, the tour introduced Kiersten to more recent wonders of Iran — the cities of Esfahan and Shiraz, and Yazd's Zoroastrian Towers of Silence. Inspired by this trip and her experience curating the special exhibition, *Persepolis: Images of an Empire*, Kiersten is preparing a paper for the 2017 ASOR Annual Meeting on tactile representation and interactions of the Apadana reliefs at Persepolis.

During the course of the year, Kiersten gave fifteen public lectures, including four invited lectures, four conference presentations, and seven community/campus talks. She participated in two international conferences focused on sensory experience: *Sounding Sensory Profiles in Antiquity: On the Role of the Senses in the World of Ancient Israel and the Ancient Near East*, Universität Wien; and, *Sensing Divinity: Incense, Religion and the Ancient Sensorium*, British School at Rome and the École française de Rome. In February, Kiersten returned to her alma mater to deliver the Assyrian Heritage Lecture, hosted by the University of California, Berkeley and the Assyrian American Association of San Jose, entitled "Feeding the Gods in the Neo-Assyrian Temple." While in Berkeley, she led a meeting of the Akkadian Reading Group on the summary texts of Tiglath-pileser III related to his western campaigns. In March, she delivered the keynote address, entitled "The Legacy of an Assyrian King," at the King Ashurnasirpal Dinner Gala of the Assyrian Aid Society of America Chicago Chapter. Lastly, she chaired the successful inaugural run of the Senses and Sensibility in the Near East session at the 2016 ASOR Annual Meeting, where she also continued as co-organizer of the Art Historical Approaches to the Near East session.

James Osborne

James Osborne devoted much of this academic year to completing a number of writing projects. The first of these includes two articles on his intensive survey of the 16 ha lower town of the site of Tell Tayinat. Tayinat, of course, features prominently in the Oriental Institute Museum's Syro-Anatolian gallery, having been the site of a major OI excavation during the 1930s. Those excavations concentrated primarily on the monumental acropolis of the site, unearthing the impressive monumental remains that are currently on display. Mostly left unexamined at the time, however, was the large lower town where most of the city's non-elite inhabitants would have lived. James spent two field seasons conducting an intensive high-resolution survey of this component of the site as part of the Tayinat Lower Town Project. Last summer was devoted to processing and analyzing data and writing up the results. This has led to two significant publications: a synthetic comparative article published this year in the journal *Antiquity*, and a more formal site report that will appear in the fall in the journal *Anatolica*.

Besides these articles based on his fieldwork, James continued writing on one of his favorite subjects, monumentality in the past and present. One article that came out this year was a survey of the various methodologies archaeologists have used to understand monuments

made by two of the ancient Near East's most famous states: the Hittite and Neo-Assyrian empires. This article appeared in a volume titled *Mercury's Wings: Exploring Modes of Communication in the Ancient World*. James also published a more unconventional article in the *Journal of Social Archaeology*, one discussing the hostile treatment of monuments by comparing Iron Age statues with a Civil War monument of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson in modern-day Baltimore, Maryland.

James was pleased to collaborate with ceramic specialist Steven Karacic on a study of the clay sources used to make Cypriot and Cypriot-style pottery excavated in the Amuq Valley by the OI in the 1930s. This endeavor was particularly rewarding because it involved the use of the OI's own portable X-Ray Fluorescence machine and the generous help of Laura D'Alessandro and Alison Whyte in the conservation lab. The findings were published in the science journal *PLoS ONE*.

Besides these publication efforts, James was involved with a number of events around the Oriental Institute, including giving a talk to the wonderful OI volunteers, another to the OI's dedicated Visiting Committee, a Members Lecture to the broader OI community, and a Connections Seminar talk to the OI faculty. These complemented more conventional conference presentations, including the Annual Meetings of the American Schools of Oriental Research and the American Institute of Archaeology.

Hratch Papazian

Hratch Papazian's primary research activities during this past year have centered around the Old Kingdom Gebelein papyri. He has recently submitted an article for publication entitled "Life and Labor in the Twin Towns: the View from Old Kingdom Gebelein," which lays out the framework for the research on those texts, in addition to discussing several matters pertaining to social identity and the nature of the ancient site and its constituents. He also continues to maintain an active interest in the Old Kingdom step pyramid of Sinki in south Abydos, where he is conducting evaluations for conservation and site preservation purposes. In January 2017 Papazian was elected a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council Peer Review College (Academic and International Colleges) for a four-year term.

Susanne Paulus

Susanne Paulus devoted her second year at the Oriental Institute primarily to studying the legal and economic history of the Middle Babylonian period. To prepare for her next book, *Comparative Studies in Kassite Archives — A Legal, Economic, and Social History of Babylonia (1350–1150 BCE)*, she translated an additional sixty texts, most of which were excavated from Nippur, and recorded all the transactions of roughly 1,200 individuals in a comprehensive database that helps to establish archival relationships and enables the analysis of complex administrative, legal, and economic processes. She presented the first results of her study at the 62nd Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (Philadelphia) in a paper titled "Redistribution Revisited — Administration of Kassite Nippur." The paper was given as part of a workshop that she organized together with Timothy Clayden (Oxford). In this workshop, ten

leading scholars of Kassite studies from Europe and the US presented their latest findings in Middle Babylonian archaeology, linguistics, and culture. The proceedings of this workshop are currently in preparation.

In connection with this project, Susanne also studied the use of different currencies and other forms of payment alongside the role of gold in the Middle Babylonian economy. She presented the results of her research in three invited lectures, the first one at the Symposium of the Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies (Toronto), the second one at the symposium Society and Administration in Mesopotamia During the Kassite Period (Leiden), and the third one at the Ancient Societies Workshop (Chicago).

During the year, she completed two articles, “Turn! Turn! Turn! — Kassite Legal Terminology in Administrative Context” and “The Old Babylonian-Kassite Transition — Three phases of Kassite royal policy.” She also published two articles, “Außergerichtliche (?) Maßnahmen in mittelbabylonischer Zeit” and “The Babylonian Kudurru-inscriptions — treated with special regard to legal and social historical implications”; the first is a legal-historical study of out-of-court dispute resolutions during the Middle Babylonian period, while the second summarizes the results of her doctoral research on land donations.

During the course of her research, Susanne also developed an interest in Mesopotamian inscriptions labeled as ancient forgeries. Using methods from diplomatic studies and comparative material from various medieval periods, she reevaluated well-known controversial documents, including the Agum inscription and the Cruciform Monument. The results of this project were presented at the American Oriental Society (Los Angeles) and will be published in an article titled “Fraud, Forgery, and Fiction: Is there Still Hope for Agum(-kakrime)?”

Finally, to help with public outreach, she wrote an article titled “Kudurrus — Guardians of Property” for *Oriental Institute News & Notes*. She additionally published a post on the blog The Ancient Near East Today on the cuneiform script. Together with Atorina Zomaya from Assyrian Kitchen, she started the Ancient Cooking Class, which brings together reconstructed Mesopotamian recipes with Assyriological knowledge about food and cooking in Mesopotamia.

Richard Payne

During the 2016–2017 academic year, **Richard Payne** continued primarily to make progress on a book manuscript, currently entitled *The First Iranians: Religion and Empire in Late Antiquity*. In conjunction with the project on the animating role of the Zoroastrian religion in Iranian imperialism, he completed several articles ancillary to the book. He revised and published “Territorializing Iran in Late Antiquity: Autocracy, Aristocracy, and the Infrastructure of Empire” in *Ancient States and Infrastructural Power* (Philadelphia, 2017), which explores the political implications of infrastructural development, in particular the increasingly coercive power of the court vis-à-vis the aristocracy in the fifth and sixth centuries CE. “Les polemiques syro-orientales contre le Zoroastrisme et leur contexte politique,” a study of the politics of polemic that sees texts stridently hostile toward religious others as indices — paradoxically — of social and political integration rather than conflict, appeared in *Les controverses religieuses en syriaque* (Paris, 2016). An article on the mechanics of taxation in the Iranian empire explores the religious, ideological framing of fiscality, arguing that theories of social reciprocity rooted in Zoroastrian cosmological thought disseminated by the court were intended to elicit the

compliance of an aristocracy: “Taxation, Aristocratic Autonomy, and Theories of Reciprocity” will appear in the *Mechanics of Extraction* (New York, 2018). His article on the importance of long distance Silk Road trade to state finances finally appeared in Chinese translation in *Between Empires: Rupture, Transmission, and Transformation* (Shanghai, 2017). He completed additional articles that will appear in German and Spanish translations, respectively: “El imperio de los iranos: La creación de una clase dominante y sus bases económicas en la antigüedad tardía” in *Capital, deuda y desigualdad. Distribuciones de la riqueza en el Mediterráneo Antiguo* (Buenos Aires, 2017); and “Die Christianisierung des Stūrīh: Recht, Fortpflanzung und Elitenbildung im Sasanidischen Reich” in *Spätantike Rechtssysteme im Wandel: Rezeption, Transformation und Rekontextualisierung von Rechtsbegriffen* (Berlin, 2017). Apart from such book-related projects, he initiated new lines of research on the impacts of Hun nomadic imperialists on the political structures and culture of the Caucasus in late antiquity and on the appropriation of second and third century Greek romantic literature — especially its pornographic modes of representation — by Christian hagiographers writing in Syriac in the Iranian world in the sixth and early seventh centuries.

Richard organized two major conferences, in Berlin and Chicago respectively, on topics at the intersection of archaeology and history and the Middle East and Central Asia that will both result in edited volumes. *The Huns between Central Asia, the Near East, and Europe: The Archaeology of Nomadic Imperialism*, co-organized with Philipp von Rummel, offered a comprehensive reappraisal of the history of the Huns on the basis of recent archaeology, notably in Russian-speaking scholarly communities, thanks to the support of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut in Berlin. *The Limits of Empire in Ancient Afghanistan: Rule and Resistance and the Hindu Kush*, co-organized with Gil Stein, compared how successive imperial regimes attempted to govern within the complex political ecology of highland Afghanistan, thanks to the support of the Oriental Institute and the Franke Institute for the Humanities. He also organized three workshops/mini-conferences in conjunction with the *Imperial Interstices: The Agents of Eurasian Interaction in Late Antiquity* project, together with three other faculty organizers, at the Neubauer Collegium. In addition, he served as the faculty coordinator for the Ancient Societies Workshop and the Multilingual Inscriptions Workshop, working to bring a dynamic range of speakers to campus within the fields of ancient history and archaeology.

Richard presented his work at New York University, Yale University, Oxford University, Barnard College/Columbia University, the University of California at Berkeley, the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as well as at workshops on campus.

Hervé Reculeau

During the 2016–2017 academic year, Assistant Professor of Assyriology **Hervé Reculeau** continued to research how environmental change affected the Bronze Age societies of Upper Mesopotamia. He discussed the topic at the University of Chicago’s Annual Humanities Day (November 2016), in his lecture “Coping with Climate Change in Mesopotamia,” where he addressed the ways several ancient Near Eastern societies managed or failed to overcome episodes of prolonged droughts and the subsequent modifications in their agricultural production. He also looked at how weather dictated the seasonality of long-distance communica-

tions in Bronze and Iron Age Upper Mesopotamia, in a book chapter entitled “De l’influence des conditions météorologiques sur les communications en Haute Mésopotamie,” which is set to appear in the volume *Unterwegs in Obermesopotamien. Rekonstruktion der Historischen Geographie mithilfe von Naturraum und Routen* (HIGEMES I), edited by A. Otto et al., Gladbeck: Peter Werner.

Hervé also gave a lecture at the Oriental Institute’s Connection Seminar (February 2017), where he presented some “Elements for a History of Technology in Mesopotamia: The Case of Valley Irrigation in Mari.” This was part of an ongoing research on irrigation and water management in the kingdom of Mari (Syria), partly based on unpublished material that he is editing. This study, which will provide a comprehensive analysis of irrigation technology on the Middle Euphrates valley in the early second millennium BCE, has made substantial progress during the past academic year, and will be published in 2018 in the form of a monograph bearing the (slightly revised) title *Florilegium Marianum XVI. L’agriculture irriguée à Mari: Essai d’histoire des techniques* (Mémoires de NABU 21), Paris: Sepoa. Another aspect of Hervé’s research on Mesopotamian agriculture this year involved an exploration of the puzzling issue of quantification in Ancient Economic History, with a paper called “On some Metrological Issues Affecting Yield Estimates in Second Millennium BCE Upper Mesopotamia.” It suggests new ways for establishing reliable conversions of numerical data found in cuneiform records into modern surface and capacity units. This allows to study ancient Mesopotamian agriculture in a comparative perspective, by looking at its productivity. The paper will be published in the 2018 issue of the *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 70).

Hervé also presented the Old Babylonian tablets from Tell Muqdadiya (in the Diyala Valley of Iraq) at the 227th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society in Los Angeles, California (March 2017), and saw the publication of the following articles: “Claiming Land and People: Conceptions of Power in Syria and Upper Mesopotamia during the 2nd Millennium BCE,” in *Raum-Ordnung. Raum und soziopolitische Ordnungen im Altertum*, edited by S. Schmidt-Hofner, Cl. Ambos, and P. Eich, pp. 175–214. Akademiekonferenzen 18. Heidelberg: Winter; a Review of “Dercksen, J.G. (ed.), *Anatolia and the Jazira during the Old-Assyrian Period*, Old Assyrian Archives, Studies, Volume 3 (= OAAS 3), PIHANS 111, Leiden, 2008.” *AfO* 53: 177–82; and “Farming in Ancient Mesopotamia (And How the Oriental Institute Helped Us Understand It),” *Oriental Institute News & Notes*, 232 (Winter 2017): pp. 4–13.

Seth Richardson

In addition to his work as Managing Editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (see separate report), **Seth Richardson** published a number of articles and co-edited works during the past year. First and foremost was a comparative history book co-edited with Clifford Ando entitled *Ancient States and Infrastructural Power: Europe, Asia, and America* (Philadelphia, 2017), about how early states built their power from an initial position of weakness (Richardson’s essay there is called “Before Things Worked”). He also co-edited a special issue of (and wrote the introduction to) the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History* (2/2) on the subject of scholarship and inquiry, which included essays by Theo van den Hout and Dennis Pardee.

Six of Richardson’s articles also appeared in the past year, including: “Obedient Bellies,” on hunger and food security in Babylonia (*Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Ori-*

ent 59/5, 2016); “The Many Falls of Babylon and the Shape of Forgetting,” on late traditions about the collapse of that city’s First Dynasty, in *Envisioning the Past through Memories*, ed. D. Nadali (London, 2016); “Insurgency and Terror in Early Mesopotamia,” in *The Brill Companion to Insurgency and Terrorism in the Ancient World*, edited by L. Brice and T. Howe (Leiden, 2016); “Building Confidence: Assyria’s Nascent Cosmopolis,” on the development of Assyrian imperial elite group identity, in *Imperial Cosmopolitanisms*, edited by R. Payne et al. (Oxford, 2016); “Goodbye, Princess: Iltani and the DUMU.MUNUS LUGAL,” a reinterpretation of the existence of a supposed Babylonian princess (*Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 69, 2017); and “Messaging and the Gods in Mesopotamia: Signals and Systematics,” in *Mercury’s Wings: Exploring Modes of Communication in the Ancient World*, edited by R. Talbert and F. Naiden (Oxford, 2017).

Richardson also was an invited speaker this year in: Prague (at Charles University, on Assyriology and the Humanities); Berlin (at the Freie Universität, on ancient concepts of space); Boston (at a Harvard Divinity School/Max Planck Institute workshop on Mesopotamian ideas about animals); Leiden (at NINO, on prosopographic studies); University of Mainz (on the role of talking animals in Sumerian and Akkadian literature); Paris (at Chicago’s Paris Center, on the problem of “uncertain” omens); and New York (at ISAW, on a paradigm shift in Assyrian ideas about distant lands). He also gave papers at the Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society in Los Angeles on Babylonian slavery and at the Philadelphia Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale on divine emblems and law. He is looking forward this year to completing papers on historical problems of slavery, geography, ideological concepts of “forever,” and studies of Old Babylonian cuneiform documents.

Robert K. Ritner

Robert Ritner’s published articles during the year include: “Oriental Institute Museum Notes 16: Two Egyptian Clepsydrae OIM E16875 and A7125,” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 75/2; “Pantheistic Figures in Ancient Egypt,” published in R. Jasnow and G. Widmer, eds., *Illuminating Osiris: Egyptological Studies in Honor of Mark Smith*, and; “The Libyan Mahasun Tribe,” published in *Göttinger Miszellen* 250. Six additional articles and a *Festschrift* volume are in press awaiting publication, including ten entries for Jean Evans, et al., eds., *Highlights of the Collections*, by the Oriental Institute Museum.

During the academic year he provided a series of lectures on theology, Egyptian divination, timekeeping, and themes of the “mummy’s curse” in film. As invited keynote speaker for the International Conference on Conceptualizing the Divine: Revelations, Internalizations and Identifications with the Divine in the Greek, Near Eastern and African Worlds, he presented the only African component, “‘I know the god who is in people’: The Dynamics of Human and Divine Interactions in Ancient Egypt” at North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa (April 20).

Ritner began the year with the Oriental Institute series Film, Faculty and Food (July 25), during which he presented “‘The Mummy’ and the Mummy’s Curse,” detailing the Egyptological background and the prop history of the 1932 Boris Karloff classic as well as that of other mummy-themed movies such as *Charlie Chan in Egypt* (1935). For the former film he detailed such features as the plot’s dependence on the Demotic tale of Setna Khamuas and the ultimate destruction of the 1932 oracular Osiris statue in the Flash Gordon serials. For the Chan

adventure, he deciphered the film's attempts at hieroglyphic curses and revealed the explicit sources of the 1930s compositions. The presentation was accompanied by a showing of the seminal Karloff film.

For the Annual Symposium of the University of Pennsylvania Center for Ancient Studies (November 11), he spoke on "Private Divination and Public Oracles in Ancient Egypt," a lecture that he was asked to repeat for the North Texas Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt in Dallas (March 25), and for Oriental Institute Museum Docent Training (June 19, accompanied by a relevant gallery tour). For the Franke Institute symposium *Down to the Hour: Perspectives on Short Time in the Ancient Mediterranean*, Ritner presented the results of his investigation on "Two Egyptian Water Clocks in the Oriental Institute's Collection" (February 24). These conclusions he would repeat in three successive gallery lectures on astronomy and time measurement for the Oriental Institute Breasted Society and the Webster Institute Members of the Adler Planetarium during *A Night of Astronomy, Astrology, and Magic* at the Oriental Institute (April 13).

On November 16, he was filmed by Blink Films of London on behalf of the Smithsonian Channel for a second documentary on his work with Nadine Moeller on the Ahmose Tempest Stela and the eruption of Thera. Ritner was elected to the Board of Governors of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) in 2017.

Yorke Rowan

Yorke Rowan continued to direct two field projects, the Galilee Prehistory Project (GPP, Israel) and the Eastern Badia Archaeological Project (EBAP, Jordan). In October 2016 Yorke proposed a thematic issue of *Near Eastern Archaeology* to the journal editor, Thomas Schneider, based on the numerous field projects currently conducting research in the eastern desert of Jordan. In June 2017 the guest-edited issue titled "Repopulating the Badia" appeared, including articles such as "Droning on in the Badia: UAVs and Site Documentation at Wadi al-Qattafi," by Yorke and OI Research Associate Austin "Chad" Hill, and "The Late Neolithic Presence in the Black Desert" co-authored with Yorke, Gary Rollefson, Alexander Wasse, Austin "Chad" Hill, and Morag M. Kersel. Also part of EBAP, Yorke co-authored "Investigations of a Late Neolithic Structure at Mesa 7, Wadi al-Qattafi, Black Desert 2015," which appeared in *Neo-Lithics* 1/16: 3–12. Yorke also co-authored short summaries on Wadi al-Qattafi and Wisad Pools, which were published in the *American Journal of Archaeology* 120.4: 634–37. In March Yorke presented "Repopulating the 'Land of Conjecture': The Late Prehistoric Presence in the Black Desert, Jordan" at the Landscape of Survival — The Archaeology and Epigraphy of Jordan's North-Eastern Desert conference at the University of Leiden. Yorke was also co-author of conference papers, including "Drones in the Desert: Unpiloted Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Survey in the Black Desert, Jordan" with A. C. Hill at the Annual Meetings for the Society for American Archaeology in Vancouver (March 2017), "Early Holocene Desertification of Eastern Jordan" presented at the Open Science Meeting of Past Global Changes in Zaragoza, Spain (May 2017), and "Investigations of Prehistoric Exploitation in Jordan's Black Desert" at the 13th International Congress on the History and Archaeology of Jordan in Amman (May 24, 2016). Yorke's review article "Gods and Scholars: Archaeologies of the Religion in the Near East" discussing *Defining the Sacred: Approaches to the Archaeology of Religion* (N. Laneri, 2015) and *Religion at Work in a Neolithic*

Society: Vital Matters (I. Hodder, 2016) was published in *Antiquity* (90.353: 1387–89). In addition to working on the monograph for the excavations at Marj Rabba, Yorke and colleagues published “Gazelles, Liminality and Chalcolithic Ritual: A Case Study from Marj Rabba” in the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 376: 7–27, from which the journal editors selected an image for the cover. Finally, working with Emily Teeter and the preparators Josh Tulisiak, Erin Bliss, and Kathleen Cescon, Yorke put together a visual exhibit *Drones over the Desert: Archaeology and Aerial Photography* at the Oriental Institute, which opened in the Oriental Institute’s Lower Level outside of the LaSalle Banks Room.

Foy Scalf

Foy Scalf spent the majority of the 2016–2017 year preparing for the upcoming special exhibit *Book of the Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt*. This work included final object selection, close work with the museum team on exhibition design, inviting contributors, editing contributions, and type-setting the catalog in InDesign. Thirteen scholars have written chapters summarizing for a popular audience technical work in their area of expertise covering all aspects of the *Book of the Dead*: birth and development, production and use, magic and theology, and death and rediscovery. The international background of the contributors reflects the importance of European projects in *Book of the Dead* studies, but the Oriental Institute catalog will constitute one of the most significant American contributions to the field since the work of T. George Allen over forty years ago.

In addition to work on the exhibit, Foy had the opportunity to teach two classes this year. Nearly thirty students braved a sixteen-week hybrid course on “Intensive Advanced Middle Egyptian Grammar” taught for the Oriental Institute adult education program. Students covered nearly an academic year’s worth of material in that short time and have now begun reading Egyptian texts through an informal monthly meetup group. Further strengthening the collaboration with Dominican University, who has been sending students to the Research Archives on their practicums for the last few years, Foy taught a hybrid course on the *History of the Text: Early Books and Manuscripts up to the Age of the Printing Press*. The course combined classroom discussion, online coursework, and site visits to provide a well-rounded, immersive experience for graduate students in the library sciences. Site visits to the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago Special Collections Research Center, and the Newberry Library highlighted the vast resources the city of Chicago has to offer for the history of the book.

Foy made a number of contributions to various scholarly projects throughout the year. A paper presented at ASOR in November (kindly read by Emily Cole) has been submitted as an article to the panel proceedings slated for publication in *Maarav*. “The Pragmatics of Interment: How the Placement of Funerary Papyri Embodied the Divine in Roman Egypt” details how ancient Egyptians used funerary papyri within the burial context. In certain cases, the papyri themselves served as symbolic substitutes for the goddesses Isis and Nephthys. Final edits were made to “The Papyrus of the Treasury Scribe Iry-Iry A New Ramesside Source for a Memphite Hymn to Osiris and the Book of Caves (BD 168),” which is scheduled for publication in the December issue of *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*. An article on Demotic and Hieratic scholia appeared in the November issue of *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiqui-*

ties (2015–2016). Foy also collaborated with Robert Ritner on a Demotic magical papyrus from the Michigan collection, which will be published in the near future.

From July 2016 to June 2017, Foy gave nearly twenty talks, many at institutions in Chicago or the surrounding suburbs on behalf of the Oriental Institute Community Scholars program.

Gil J. Stein

In summer 2016, **Gil Stein** continued to co-direct (with Abbas Alizadeh) the Oriental Institute's excavations at the site of Surezha on the Erbil Plain in the Kurdistan Region of north-eastern Iraq. This project marks the first OI excavation in Iraq since the Gulf War of 1991. The Surezha excavation results are presented in a separate section of this report.

As principal investigator of the Oriental Institute's Partnership with the National Museum of Afghanistan (see separate report) Gil made three trips to Afghanistan in 2016–2017 to assess project progress, coordinate with the National Museum director, and to work with Field Director Alejandro Gallego Lopez and the Kabul team of registrars, conservators, and consultants. We are now about 99.5% finished with the inventory database of the holdings of the Museum. Gil is also the PI for two additional grants — the "Afghan Heritage Mapping Project" (AHMP) and the "National Museum of Afghanistan Outreach-Mobile Museum" project.

Gil continued the working with Belinda Monahan on the publication of the Late Chalcolithic Uruk and local Jazira Late Chalcolithic ceramics from his 1992–1997 excavations at the fourth millennium BC Uruk Mesopotamian colony site of Hacinebi.

Gil presented four academic papers during the 2016–17 academic year. On January 23, 2017, he presented the paper "In the Shadow of the Taliban. Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Afghanistan" at the University of Arizona. On April 28, 2017, Gil presented "University of Chicago Oriental Institute: Department of State Sponsored Projects for Heritage Preservation and Capacity-Building in Afghanistan 2012–2017" at the US Department of State, Washington, DC. On May 3, 2017, Gil presented a joint paper (Gil Stein, Alejandro Gallego Lopez, and Michael Fisher) "Assessing the Losses: Integrating Data Sources to Develop a Preliminary List of Objects Missing from the National Museum of Afghanistan" at the conference Antiquities as Global Contraband, Part of the Past for Sale Project at the Neubauer Collegium at the University of Chicago. On July 7, 2017, Gil presented the paper "Iran and the Eastern Iranian World: Shared Economic, Political, and Cultural Landscapes" in the conference Iran's Archaeological Heritage: Ancient Civilizations in the Focus of Current Research, co-sponsored by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the Bundeskunsthalle Museum in Bonn, Germany.

Gil had three publications in the past academic year:

- 2016 — Gil Stein. "The Oriental Institute Partnership with the National Museum of Afghanistan 2015–2016 Report." *Oriental Institute Annual Report 2015–2016*. pp. 130–35. University of Chicago Oriental Institute Publications.
- 2016 — Lamy Khalidi, Bernard Gratuze, Gil Stein, Augusta McMahon, Salam Al-Quntar, Robert Carter, Richard Cuttler, Philipp Drechsler, Elizabeth Healey, Marie-Louise Inizan, Damase Mouralis, Ernst Pernicka, Anne-Kyria Robin. "The Growth of Early Social Networks: New Geochemical Results of Obsidian from the Ubaid to Chalcolithic Period in Syria, Iraq and the Gulf" *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 9: 743–57.

- 2017 — Amy K. Styring, M. Charle, F. Fantone, M. M. Hald, A. McMahon, R. H. Meadow, G. K. Nicholls, A. K. Patel, M. C. Pitre, A. Smith, A. Sołtysiak, G. Stein, J. A. Weber, H. Weiss, A. Bogaard. “New Isotope Evidence for Agricultural Extensification Reveals How the World’s First Cities Were Fed” *Nature Plants* 3, 17076 www.nature.com/natureplants.

Emily Teeter

Outside and in addition to her routine museum work, **Emily Teeter** continues to conduct research on stelae in our collection from Medinet Habu. Continuing work that she has been doing for years, Emily also submitted a detailed essay on the history of the Art Institute’s Egyptian collection to the Department of Ancient and Byzantine Art, part of a larger project to document the collection. Under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Field Museum and the Oriental Institute, she was invited to join the curatorial team for a show “Ancient Mediterranean Cultures in Contact” that opens at the Field Museum on October 20, 2017. The show will feature a few objects from our collection as well as from the Art Institute. Emily also assisted the St. Louis Art Museum with text and labels for their new Egyptian gallery.

Publications included an article in *News & Notes* (co-authored with Conservator Alison Whyte) about a Late Period mummy shroud in our collection. Her essay “Earthly and Mythical Mothers in Ancient Egypt” appeared in *Motherhood in the Ancient World*, edited by Dana Cooper and Claire Phelan.

Teeter continues to serve on the boards of the American Research Center in Egypt, the Society of Biblical Literature’s Writings of the Ancient World, and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). She attended meetings of CAORC and ARCE and also ICOM and CIPEG in Italy, giving a paper at CIPEG on the history of the links between curators at the Oriental Institute, the Field Museum, and the Art Institute. Among her many lectures, she spoke to the International Women’s Association on the rise of consumerism in ancient Egypt, the South Suburban Archaeology Society, and ARCE chapters in Washington DC and Philadelphia. She continued to assist the Egyptian Consulate in Chicago with their cultural outreach efforts. She also gave an adult education course here at the Oriental Institute on technology in ancient Egypt that was enlivened by accurate replicas of ancient tools made by docent Laurence Lissak as well as by his insights into how the tools were made and used. The final session was a very noisy high spirited hands-on session where the tools were used.

Teeter led a Smithsonian tour to Egypt in February 2017, and individual travel for the year consisted of visits to the UK and Malta.

Theo van den Hout

Enjoying his sabbatical as a Guggenheim Fellow, **Theo van den Hout** divided his time between the Chicago Hittite Dictionary and related activities (CHD, see Project Reports), and the manuscript for his book on literacy *Doing Things with Tablets. Writing and Reading in Hittite Anatolia*. The title refers to the Hittite expression “to do something with/on a tablet,” that is, “to write.” He finished a preliminary version and sent it off to a few readers. His hope is

to incorporate their suggestions and critiques this coming fall and winter and to be able to submit a final manuscript to Cambridge University Press early in 2018. Theo also wrote two entries for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*: “Ziege” (goat) and “Zypern. Nach den heth. Quellen” (Cyprus in Hittite sources).

Three articles appeared in print since July of 2016: “In Royal Circles: The Nature of Hittite Scholarship,” *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History* 2015 (2016), 203–227; “A Brief Note on the Syntax of Writing in Hittite” in *Audias fabulas veteres. Anatolian Studies in Honor of Jana Součková-Siegelová*, edited by S. Velhartická, pp. 426–37 (Leiden: Brill); “Schreiben wie Seeher. The Art of Writing: Remarks on the When and How of Hittite Cuneiform,” in *Innovation versus Beharrung. Was macht den Unterschied des hethitischen Reiches im Anatolien des 2. Jahrtausends v. Chr.? Internationaler Workshop zu Ehren von Jürgen Seeher, Istanbul, 23–24. Mai 2014*, edited by Andreas Schachner, pp. 39–47 *Byzas* 23 (Istanbul: Ege Yayınları).

Two entries were published in the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*: “Waškuwatašši” (a deity) and “Weihgabe. B. Bei den Hethitern” (votive gift, together with James Burgin). The journal *Archiv für Orientforschung* 53 (2015) 504–05, published Theo’s obituary of Philo H. J. Houwink ten Cate, his former teacher and advisor. A brief biography of Hans Güterbock appeared in R. S. Bagnall et al., *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History* (John Wiley & Sons), 2pp. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9781444338386.wbeah30404/pdf>.

On November 3, Theo delivered the 10th Annual Leon Levy Lecture at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World in New York, entitled “A People Without a Name or Who Were the Hittites?” Further lectures were “Hittite Hacking or How to Avoid Seal Fraud,” on October 15, Humanities Day at the University of Chicago, and “Gold and Greed. Facts and Legends on Midas and the Ancient Phrygians” for the docents of the Oriental Institute on February 13.

Tasha Vorderstrasse

Thanks to the generosity of the Aldis V. Liventhals and Malda S. Liventhals, **Tasha Vorderstrasse** was able to work extensively on the Islamic collection from December 2016 to May 2017. This included documenting the Qajar period photographs of Antoin Sevruguin and other parts of the Iranian collection, as well as working on the materials from Arabia, Turkey, Iraq, and Palestine. She also worked on registering and photographing pottery from the Islamic collection. She presented on the incantation bowls from Mesopotamia at the joint Breasted Society and Webster Society event: “Astrology and Incantation Bowls”; at the Armenian Circle of the University of Chicago: “Antoin Sevruguin: An Armenian Photographer in Qajar Iran;” at the Egyptian consulate: “A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo,” and at the Oriental Institute Lunchtime Gallery Talk: “The Invention of Coinage and its Subsequent Use in the Achaemenid Persian Empire.” She also continued her work at Princeton Art Museum on the Antioch excavations, visiting for several days to work on the pottery from the site in their collection. She also continued work on the MANTIS project (see separate report).

Tasha taught an Oriental Institute adult education class on the site of Dura Europos, entitled: “Dura Europos: Life on the Roman Empire’s Edge and Its Discovery,” and led a short two-day “Dura Europos Discovery Tour” to Yale University in New Haven in order to see the Dura Europos collection. This included a visit to the Dura Europos exhibition at Yale University Art Museum, hands-on presentation of Dura Europos coins at Yale University Art Museum,

hands-on presentation of Dura Europos papyri and parchment at Beinecke Library, and a tour of Yale Babylonian Collection.

Tasha presented several times on the work that she and Asa Eger of the University of North Carolina Greensboro are doing on the Qoueiq area of north Syria. This included an invited lecture at the Louvre in September 2016: “Patterns of Medieval Occupation in North Syria: Evidence from the Qoueiq Survey Material in the Louvre Museum,” a presentation at the ASOR 2016 Annual Meeting with Asa Eger, “Between Byzantium, the Crusaders, and the Islamic World: Medieval Settlement in the Qoueiq Valley”; and at the State of Islamic Heritage Conference in 2017: “The Tangible and Intangible Heritage of the Qoueiq Region in North Syria.” At the ASOR 2016 Annual Meeting she also co-presented with Brian Muhs, “A Funerary Association at Antioch: Contextualizing the Mnemosyne Mosaic.” She also presented at the Ancient Societies Workshop with Brian Muhs, “The State’s Role in Monetary Circulation in Hellenistic Egypt and Bactria”; at the “Limits of Empire in Afghanistan” conference, “The Limits of the Kushan Empire in the Tarim Basin”; and for the Chicago Archaeological Society, Chicago, “University of Chicago Excavations at Ambroyi, Armenia: 2013–2014.” Further, Bruce Williams presented her lecture at “Nubian Art in a Byzantine, Ethiopian, and Coptic Context” in Warsaw: “The Art of the Manuscript Illumination in Medieval Nubia.”

John Z. Wee

John Wee is author of the following academic articles and essays in 2016–2017: “Pan-astro-nomical Hermeneutics and the Arts of the Lamentation Priest,” *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und Vorderasiatische Archäologie* 107/2: 78–101; “Earthquake and Epilepsy: The Body Geologic in the Hippocratic Treatise *On the Sacred Disease*,” in *The Comparable Body*, edited by J. Z. Wee (Studies in Ancient Medicine, Brill). Forthcoming are his Brill monographs *Knowledge and Rhetoric in Medical Commentary and Mesopotamian Commentaries on the Diagnostic Handbook Sa-gig*; the edited volume *The Comparable Body* (Studies in Ancient Medicine, Brill); as well as the essays “Five Birds, Twelve Rooms, and the Seleucid Game of Twenty Squares,” in *Magic and Medicine in Mesopotamia*, edited by S. Panayotov, et al. (Brill); and “Medicine and Healing, Ancient Near East,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, Vol. 16 (de Gruyter).

In the past year, John presented the following lectures and conference papers: “Pan-astro-nomical Hermeneutics and the Arts of the Lamentation Priest” at the Workshop on *Pre-Medieval Commentaries in Medicine and Mathematical Sciences* at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin, August 25–27, 2016); “On Mesopotamian Planets and Star Maps,” at the Wednesday Lunch Series for Faculty at the Franke Institute for the Humanities (University of Chicago, October 12, 2016); “Knowledge and Inquiry in the Mesopotamian Diagnostic Handbook,” at the Conference on *The Form, Utility, and Professional Technê of Practical Handbooks in the Ancient World*, Magical Knowledge Project sponsored by the Neubauer Collegium (University of Chicago, November 12, 2016); “Sundering the Beast: From the Babylonian Micro-Zodiac to Dodekatemoria in Greco-Roman Late Antiquity,” at the Workshop on *Scale in Ancient Astrology* (Durham University, December 9–10, 2016); Cornerstone Lecture on “A (Very) Brief History of Ancient Astronomy” and mini-lectures on “Discovery of the Zodiac Man” and “Herodotus and the Ever-present Past” for Renaissance Weekend (Santa Fe, February 16–20, 2017); “Mathematical Astronomy from Babylonia to Chicago,” at *A Night of Astronomy, Astrology, and Magic at the*

Oriental Institute, sponsored by the James Henry Breasted Society and the Adler Planetarium's Webster Institute for the History of Astronomy (Chicago, April 13, 2017); as well as chair the session on *Mesopotamian Timekeeping and Its Relationship to Greco-Roman Practices* at the Conference on *Down to the Hour: Perspectives on Short Time in the Ancient Mediterranean* (University of Chicago, February 24–25, 2017).

In addition, he is preparing papers for these upcoming presentations: "The Royal Game of Ur from Ancient Mesopotamia," at the 39th Annual Humanities Day at the University of Chicago (October 21, 2017); "Scholasticism and Technical Writing in Late Babylonian Medical Education," at the Meeting of the History of Science Society (Toronto, November 9–12, 2017); and "Stone Ducks: Weights and Measures in Ancient Mesopotamia," for the Oriental Institute Lunchtime Gallery Talk (University of Chicago, December 7, 2017).

Donald Whitcomb

As was mentioned in the last *Annual Report*, **Donald Whitcomb's** health problems interrupted routine and special activities. Foremost was the 10th meeting of ICAANE (the International Congress of the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East), in which Islamic Archaeology is a recognized aspect (with over thirty papers offered). Don intended to present a paper on Sasanian cities, but failing that, finished a study for a volume on Iranian cities. At perhaps the other extreme, Tasha and Don finished a draft of a study of glazed ceramics in Nubia, a chapter in Bruce Williams' next volume.

Don continues to teach some courses; in the fall was the Introduction to Islamic Archaeology, which is always a pleasant review of the entire field and what has happened in the last couple of years. In the spring, Don tried a new seminar on Islamic Trade, which brought a healthy mix of archaeologists and historians, each "group" trying to understand the other's field. In addition, two student-originated conferences asked for Don's participation: first was the MEHAT (Middle East History and Theory) meeting on Islamic archaeology and landscapes; second was a conference organized by Gwendolyn Kristy on the State of Islamic Heritage, an important discussion of looting and damage to Middle Eastern sites.

Don's attention is naturally still drawn to the need for articles on the Mafjar excavations. The first article was a summation of the mosques on the site, some five in all over the few centuries of its occupation. This led to a panel at the ASOR meetings on Mafjar presenting new ideas about the site and its discoveries. Consequentially, an offer was evoked to put the ideas into an article for *Near Eastern Archaeology* called "New Excavations and Hypotheses," with sections by Michael Jennings, Andrew Creekmore, and Ignacio Arce (and a happy museum discovery by Tasha Vorderstrasse).

The year produced appearance of almost forgotten articles that had languished in process of publication. The oldest was a study of *qusur* (Umayyad estates) as periodic palaces, that is, the seasonal habitations of peripatetic Caliphs as they checked on their lands and officials. Another was a long-held dream of discussing the archaeology of Mu'awiya, an early caliph who is famed for many innovations changing Islam from a "Believer movement" toward an Islamic state (at least if one may follow Fred Donner's new hypothesis).

Returning to the study of Iran, Don had an opportunity to discuss the complicated story of Arthur Upham Pope, who photographed Persian architecture and collected (and was a dealer

in) Persian art. He was a lifelong friend of Erich Schmidt, the great archaeologist who worked at Persepolis for the Oriental Institute. This story of early archaeology in Iran has a personal note for Don, in that he worked for Pope in 1969 in Shiraz. At that time, he was more interested in the Persian Gulf; he was happy to return to the subject to describe a “sequence of Iranian ports” for a special issue of the *International Journal of the Society of Iranian Archaeologists*.

Don believes that an archaeologist must always be concerned with his artifacts, most particularly pottery. There was to be a special issue of the *Journal of Islamic Archaeology* on the problem of “grenades.” The editor approached Don because most of the articles supported this identification — that these heavy round jars with a tiny hole at the top were actually weapons, medieval grenades filled with “Greek fire” or naphtha. Don finds this explanation nonsense and suggested they were fire-starter flasks. This is an old idea of aeolipiles, that is, when filled with water and placed next to a fire, they produced steam that would “brighten” or enhance the fire. He was encouraged with the discovery of these “grenades” beside every fireplace at Mafjar, and many other Islamic sites.

More recently, Don reviewed Gideon Avni’s new book, *The Byzantine-Islamic Transition in Palestine*, which was useful preparation for a conference in Providence, Rhode Island, called “Marking the Sacred: The Temple Mount / Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem.” This was a gathering of many of the same Israeli and other archaeologists as at a similar meeting at Brown University in 2006. This time historians and scholars of religion attended; happily, the archeologists kept things lively. Don attempted, hopefully with more clarity, to show that the early Islamic occupation on and around the Haram al-Sharif held all the elements of an Islamic city. This Muslim occupation was set next to the Christian community and included the return of the Jewish community!

This year included change on an even more personal note. Don and Jan decided to give up the farm in Portage, the scene of more than a few picnics for the OI. They purchased a small bungalow in Hobart, Indiana, where they intend to have future, though regrettably smaller picnics.

Karen L. Wilson

Karen Wilson is pleased that *Nippur VI: The Inanna Temple* has been accepted by the Oriental Institute Press and will appear in the Oriental Institute Publications series. *Nippur VI* will be the final publication of the Oriental Institute excavation of the Inanna Temple at the site of Nippur during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The authors of the volume are Richard L. Zettler, Karen L. Wilson, Jean M. Evans, and Robert D. Biggs, with contributions by R. C. Haines and Donald P. Hansen. The series editor is McGuire Gibson. The Oriental Institute Publications Office is currently editing and formatting the volume(s).

This past year, Karen also continued to serve as Kish Project Coordinator and Research Associate at the Field Museum, preparing aspects of the publication of the work of the Joint Field Museum and Oxford University Expedition to Kish in 1923–1932. She is extremely pleased that the Oriental Institute Publications Committee has agreed to publish the manuscript as a volume in the Oriental Institute Publications series. The volume presents the results of a symposium conducted in November 2008 that focused on current research and updated excavations at the site. Chapters cover studies of the human remains, textual evidence, lithics,

animal figurines, seals and stucco, as well as a catalog of the Field Museum holdings from Kish and Jamdat Nasr.

Karen worked this past year on the Oriental Institute excavations at Tell Abu Salabikh, a site that lies approximately twelve miles northwest of Nippur, Iraq. Two brief soundings by members of the Nippur Expedition took place during six weeks in the spring of 1963 and two weeks in the winter of 1965. Over 500 tablets discovered in two adjacent buildings at the site were published by Robert D. Biggs in *Inscriptions from Tell Abū Šalābīkh* (Oriental Institute Publications 99. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1974). However, the field records and the pottery, seals and sealings, and other objects found, still remain to be studied and published.

Christopher Woods

Chris Woods devoted much of this past year to continuing work on long-term projects, completing several publications, and presenting papers at various conferences. Chris served on the advisory search committees for the dean of the Humanities Division and director of the Laboratory Schools, as well as on several others including the Oriental Institute, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and University committees. He continued his editorship of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and oversaw the Oriental Institute's Post-doctoral Scholars Program.

This year's research projects included finalizing a draft of *Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon* (Volume 18): *Igituh, Idu, Lanu, and the Group Vocabularies*, to be published by the Pontifical Biblical Institute. Chris also completed several articles concerned with early cuneiform writing and numeracy and he began a monograph on this topic, provisionally entitled "The Origins and Development of Writing in Ancient Mesopotamia: A History, 3500–2000 BCE." This year also saw the last of Chris' Signs of Writing conferences, which took place July 25–27, 2016, with two days at the University's Paris Center and a third at the Sorbonne (co-hosted by the École Pratique des Hautes Études and the University of Basel). Funded by the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World's First Writing Systems (in collaboration with Edward Shaughnessy, East Asian Languages and Civilization) was a three-year research project designed to investigate, from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives, the cultural and social contexts and structural properties of the world's oldest writing systems. Particular emphasis was placed on the four primary writing systems from Mesopotamia, China, Egypt, and Mesoamerica, looking at the similarities and differences in the archaeological and paleographic records across regions as well as the psycho-linguistic processes by which humans first made language visible. The first of our three annual conferences took place in Chicago on November 8–9, 2014; a second conference took place in China on June 25–30, 2015, and was hosted jointly by the Chicago Center in Beijing and Fudan University in Shanghai.

Chris presented at the Signs of Writing conference in Paris, speaking on "Determinatives in Sumerian Writing from the Perspective of Noun Classifier Systems." At the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale meeting in Philadelphia, also in July, Chris spoke in a session honoring Oriental Institute Professor Emeritus Miguel Civil on "In the Mind's Eye: Possible Mental Abacus Calculations in Mesopotamia." Chris gave two invited lectures this year: the

inaugural Abraham Sachs Lecture in Assyriology at Brown University, where he spoke on “Big Numbers in Babylonia: An Early Abacus in Comparative Perspective;” and in Columbia University’s Program in World Philology Lecture Series, where he presented on “Philology and Linguistic Awareness at the Dawn of Writing.” Finally, at this year’s Annual Oriental Institute Symposium, *Seen Not Heard — Composition, Iconicity, and the Classifier Systems of Logosyllabic Scripts*, Chris spoke on “The Semantic Basis of Sumerian Writing.”

Ilona Zsolnay

Ilona Zsolnay was extremely pleased to join the Oriental Institute as its thirteenth Symposium Postdoctoral Fellow, for 2016–2018. She arrived in September of last year, hailing from the Babylonian Section of the Penn Museum, University of Pennsylvania, where she had been in residence for the previous seven years. There she served primarily as project manager for the Philadelphia extension of CDLI (<http://cdli.ucla.edu/collections/penn/penn.html>) and as lecturer in Akkadian.

Zsolnay spent the summer of 2016 completing and publishing various projects. Most significant of these was the release of her edited anthology, *Being a Man: Negotiating Ancient Constructs of Masculinity* (New York: Routledge, 2016) (<https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138189362>). The volume comprises the proceedings of a Mellon-funded conference that Zsolnay organized at Penn. Just before her arrival at the OI she attended to the final stages of the volume’s publication, which included creating a usable and useful index and proofreading the contributions, including her joint chapter with the late Joan Goodnick Westenholz, “Categorizing Men and Masculinity in Sumer.” Zsolnay held the first physical copy of the book at her OI desk and is proud to announce that in April of this year, *Being a Man* received an excellent review in the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (<http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2017/2017-04-32.html>). The reviewer agreed that recognizing constructs of masculinity is crucial for accurately comprehending societal organization and concluded that the volume is a much-needed addition to the field of ancient Near Eastern studies. Also last summer, Zsolnay approved the final proofs for her forthcoming article “Analyzing Constructs: A Selection of Perils, Pitfalls, and Progressions in Interrogating Ancient Near Eastern Gender” and was honored to attend the conference *Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World’s First Writing Systems III*, Paris, July 25–27, 2016, the third meeting of Chris Woods’s Neubauer Collegium interdisciplinary project devoted to early writing systems.

In fall 2016 Zsolnay stepped in as facilitator of the OI Connections Seminar, while Stephanie Rost was on maternity leave, and began preparations for *Seen Not Heard: Composition, Iconicity, and the Classifier Systems of Logosyllabic Scripts*. Her busy fall semester also included an informative primer on the impressive OCHRE database by Sandra Schloen and Miller C. Prosser and attendance at several talks at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

Seen Not Heard took place March 1–2, 2017, in Breasted Hall at the Oriental Institute. The conference was exceedingly well attended, attracting scholars from manifold University of Chicago departments, and brought together a celebrated roster of international presenters. For a synopsis of this conference, see Zsolnay’s article in *News & Notes* 234, pp. 10–13 (<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/news-notes-quarterly-newsletter>).

Just after *Seen Not Heard* wrapped up, in spring 2017, Zsolnay presented “Chaos Versus Precision: ĜIŠĤUR, ĜARZA, ME, and the Whims of the Gods,” at the AOS Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, and chaired the session Ancient Near East V: Literature. In her presentation, she interrogated the visually different logograms ĜARZA (PA.AN) and ĜARZA₂ (PA.LUGAL), which may each be used to indicate the Sumerian word ĝarza, and contextualized their attestations. In 2017, Zsolnay was also invited to peer review an article for *Akkadica* and write a review of *The Role of Women in Work and Society in the Ancient Near East* (edited by Brigitte Lion and Cécile Michel) for the journal *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* (WZKM).

Although Zsolnay’s writing and editing responsibilities for the *Seen Not Heard* proceedings have already begun in earnest, she continues to work on an edition of CBS15209 (Civil’s Išme-Dagan N). This v-tablet contains a heretofore unedited hymn to the god Nergal that has received little attention. Based on tablet form, it has been suggested that it, together with IŠD C, K, and X, form an Išme-Dagan cycle. However, although all contain similar terminology, their syntax, subject matter, and style are quite different. In her presentation at the American Oriental Society Annual Meeting in 2014, “Nergal Revisited: An Analysis of CBS15209 aka Išme-Dagan N,” Zsolnay presented these initial findings and continues to edit the tablet and investigate its relation to other productions attributed to this Isin king.
