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In 2020, **ABBAS ALIZADEH** had submitted a proposal titled “The Archaeology of Apprenticeship” to the Iran National Museum to study its immense collections of pottery from hundreds of sites in Iran. The idea for this project came to him during the eight months he spent organizing the storage areas of the National Museum in 2015–16, where he noticed varying degrees of inferiority in almost every individual collection of pottery, especially in the way painted patterns were executed. He assumed such instances must have been produced by young apprentices learning the trade, and he decided to test this idea (for a full report on this organization project, see the Spring 2016 issue of *News & Notes*).

In May 2022 Alizadeh traveled to Tehran to conduct his research. But a few days after his arrival, the secret police arrested him on charges of espionage for Israel, since he had participated in the excavations at Ashkelon in 1985–90. As a result, he was unable to conduct his research, and only after three months and with immense difficulty was he able to return to the United States. With working in Iran now out of the question, he is exploring other collections in the United States and United Kingdom to determine whether he will be able to test his ideas.

Alizadeh’s manuscript on the excavations at three urban settlements in lowland Susiana, southwestern Iran—Abu Fanduweh, Chogha Do Sar, and Beladiyah—is in production at ISAC Publications. These excavations were conducted in 2004–5 as part of the Iranian Prehistoric Project. They provide a complete sequence of the major types of fourth-millennium BCE ceramics for the three important stages of socio-economic and political development of the early state and urbanism in the region. At Abu Fanduweh workers uncovered a well-preserved, major monumental building of the Late Susa II (Late Uruk) period. They also discovered a large mudbrick platform, much like the famous Susa platform, but smaller. Like the one at Susa, this platform was also subjected to conflagration. Many 1 × 1 m test trenches around the periphery of these sites helped correct their size estimates reported by Gregory Johnson.

Alizadeh’s preparation of his other ISAC Publications manuscript—on the excavations of five prehistoric settlements in the plain of Persepolis (Tall-e Bakun A and B, Tall-e Jari A and B, and Tall-e Mushki)—is in its final stages of preparation and will soon be submitted to the ISAC publications committee. When published, the results of this 2004 fieldwork will provide the hitherto unavailable absolute radiocarbon dates for these key settlements in the region, as well as the stratified sequence of local pottery and evidence of subsistence economy from about 6800 to 4000 BCE.

In addition, Alizadeh’s manuscript for the ISAC Museum’s Persian Gallery guidebook is completed and now being finalized for publication.

ISAC’s excavation of the temple of the goddess Inanna at Nippur ended more than sixty years ago (with its eighth season in 1962–63), and though it has often been referred to in scholarly publications, it has remained unpublished. The excavation team members originally most responsible for the publication are all deceased. Responsibility for the publication has been assumed by younger scholars, none of whom participated in the excavation: Richard Zettler for architecture and stratigraphy, Karen Wilson for pottery, Jean Evans for sculpture, and **ROBERT BIGGS** for cuneiform texts. At the suggestion of the late Donald Hansen (the archaeologist during the final seasons of excavation of the Inanna Temple, who planned to

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publish the sculpture and glyptic as well as the pottery), Biggs volunteered for the task and began his work more than fifty years ago (in July 1972) with drawing the inscriptions on votive stone bowls in the Iraq Museum in Baghdad. He continued his efforts in subsequent years in Baghdad, Chicago, New York City, and New Haven. His basic drawings and transliterations were completed a number of years ago. Over the years, especially with the discovery of many thousands of mid-third-millennium texts at Ebla and other sites in Iraq and Syria, comparable material, especially for the reading and interpretation of personal names, increased considerably. In making final revisions to his manuscript, Biggs has welcomed the collaboration of a leading specialist in Sumerian, Prof. Walther Sallaberger of the University of Munich. With his help, the text is being updated to reflect the current understanding of the Sumerian inscriptions with updated bibliography. Biggs is thus fulfilling the obligation he accepted fifty years ago to shoulder some of the ISAC's institutional responsibility for publication of the Inanna Temple at Nippur.

JOHN BRINKMAN completed the dating and cataloging of thirty-six Middle Babylonian tablets of various types (legal, epistolary, administrative, mathematical, and scholarly, including lexical materials and a royal hymn) for the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. He also submitted a 1,350-page manuscript listing names of persons in documents from the Kassite dynasty to test the applicability of artificial-intelligence statistical analysis for large-scale prosopography (coordinated with colleagues at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom: Jonathan Tenney in the Department of Archaeology and a team in the Department of Computer Science); initial promising results include development of a clustering tool to sort out related groups of tablets as well as a date-predictive feature for texts with damaged or missing dates. In February, the website of the Electronic Babylonian Library was launched in Munich; its apparatus for dating the historical periods in Mesopotamia consists of Brinkman's newly revised and recalculated dynastic tables from the twenty-fourth century BC down to the mid-third century AD. These tables contain freshly recalibrated dates based on recent research on the alternating use of lunar and lunar-solar calendars as well as attested intercalary data for the Middle Assyrian and Middle Babylonian periods (ca. 1500–1000 BC). Progress was also made on the preparation for publication of the remaining unedited Khorsabad tablets in cooperation with Grant Frame (University of Pennsylvania), who is serving as coeditor for the projected volume.

FRANÇOIS GAUDARD completed his twenty-ninth year as a member of the ISAC scholarly community. During the past year, he continued to work on his various projects, including the edition of the ISAC Museum's Egyptian funerary shrouds from the Greco-Roman period, several of his other text edition projects, and his series of articles dedicated to the study of little-known aspects of the god Seth. Although the Oriental Institute has been renamed the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, "Oriental Institute" will be used in the titles of the last two articles in the funerary shroud series for the sake of consistency. The several articles on which Gaudard has been working include:

- "Seth the Gleaming One." To be published in *A Master of Secrets in the Chamber of Darkness: Egyptological Studies in Honor of Robert K. Ritner Presented on the Occasion of His 68th Birthday*, edited by Foy Scalf and Brian Muhs. Studies in Ancient Cultures. Chicago: Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures of the University of Chicago.
- "Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part III: Shroud OIM E4787." To be published in a Festschrift in honor of a colleague.

- “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part IV: Shroud OIM E4788 (= OIM E42046).” In preparation.
- “A Demotic Accounting Text from the Ptolemaic Period.” In preparation.

In addition, Gaudard attended two conferences (via Zoom): “Prescription to Prediction: The Ancient Sciences in Cross-Cultural Perspective,” held at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore (October 6–7, 2022), and “Looking Beyond the Text: Scribal Practices in Ancient Egypt,” held at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz (May 17–19, 2023).

McGUIRE GIBSON, now a professor emeritus, is still engaged in preparing reports of various digs conducted from the 1970s onward. During the past year, he reworked his chapters on the stratigraphy of the Y Trench at Kish and on the Field Museum of Natural History’s seal collection, mainly from Kish, published in spring 2023 in *Where Kingship Descended from Heaven: Studies on Ancient Kish*, edited by Karen L. Wilson and Deborah Bekken. Currently, Gibson is back at work on *Umm al-Hafriyat: An Industrial Town in Akkad* (with Richard L. Zettler, James A. Armstrong, and Robert D. Biggs), a manuscript in an advanced state of completion. When it is finished, he intends to return to the report on Area WG at Nippur, which comprises a sequence of buildings from the Parthian to the Early Islamic periods (ca. 100–900 AD). This operation lies southeast of a building exposed by the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) team in the 1890s and called the Villa with a Court of Columns. When Gibson began as director of the Nippur excavation in 1973, with him was Carl Haines, Nippur’s director in the 1950s. They both assumed the Villa was evidenced only by slight remains of round columns located at the bottom of a huge hole left by the UPenn team. This hole was designated Area WA and became the site of a major excavation that exposed part of a series of large temples, built one above the other through hundreds of years. It showed evidence of being dedicated to Gula, goddess of medicine, but further excavation may prove that she shares this temple with Ninurta, her consort and a major god in the Nippur pantheon. The stack of temples thus far exposed comprises only the latest five versions (Ur III to Neo-Babylonian, ca. 2,200–549 BC) of an institution that probably originated in the fourth millennium BC.

The assumption that Area WA was the location of the Villa with a Court of Columns proved to be wrong. The error was caused by the fact that neither Gibson nor Haines had actually ever seen the remains of the Villa because a gigantic sea of dunes moved and covered most of Nippur sometime after 1920, when a group from the University of Chicago took photos of it. The dunes were very much in place by 1948, when Haines first arrived at the site. Beginning in the late 1970s, the dune belt began to diminish slowly, and by the 1980s it had become much smaller. As a result, most of Nippur was free of dunes except for some very big ones, including one that stubbornly rested on a high point at the southeast edge of Area WA. By 1987, however, even that dune had disappeared, partly falling down into Area WA but also having been blown away. At this point the Villa became evident high up on the mound where the dune had been. On a higher, unexcavated place southeast of the Villa, where UPenn had established its camp in its first season of work in 1889, the team opened a new area, WG, to examine the last periods of the city’s occupation. This operation exposed building levels dated to the Parthian, Sasanian, and Early Islamic periods. The work here demonstrated, among other things, that the Villa had to be dated to the Parthian period rather than to the earlier Seleucid period, as some scholars had proposed. A few years ago, Abbas Alizadeh flew a drone over all of Nippur, and the Villa and Area WG show up very nicely on those images, while Area WA is less visible, being partially filled by dune and a small forest of tamarisk bushes. The supposed earlier versions of the Gula (and Ninurta?) temple may tempt future directors to tackle the difficulties of working in the area, just

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as the Inanna temple in the 1960s induced Haines to examine the development of that institution through nineteen phases of construction.

Gibson still serves on the boards of The Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TARII) and the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, both of which he founded. He has donated his scholarly books to TARII, and they now reside in the organization's facility in Baghdad.

PETRA GOEDEGEBUURE's research mainly focused on Hieroglyphic Luwian; her two articles accepted for publication are titled "The One and Only Great King Hartapu and the Western Muška" and "'Poldering' in 'Beyond-the-River': Revisiting the End of the Çineköy Inscription." The first article is controversial. Goedegebuure argues that a Luwian inscription previously dated to the twelfth or eleventh century BCE belongs to the eighth century and that this inscription and another one, Türkmenkarahöyük 1, refer to the same event: the gaining of control over the territory of the Muška, or the Phrygians. In the second article Goedegebuure argues that a major feat of King Waraiku of Hiyawa (Cilicia, Turkey)—the creation of new land—did not take place in Cilicia itself but in Gurgum, a polity immediately east of Cilicia. The core argument supporting this view is the reanalysis of the expression ("FLUMEN")*sa-pa+ra/i-* "the river Sabri" (in Cilicia) as a compound noun ("FLUMEN")*sa pa+ra/i-* "Beyond-the-River (the Trans-Euphrates)."

Goedegebuure submitted for publication another Luwian lexical study, "Of Luwian Cities, Hittite Great Kings, and Anatolian Oaks: The Luwian Word for URBS (L.225) 'City' and Related Roots." Here too she provides a new meaning for a lexeme. A word always read as **a-la-mi-n°-* "name" turns out to mean "city." Thus far "city" was attested only as URBS-*mi-n°-* with full reading unknown. She now reads the sequence as /allamminna-/ and proposes a base verb /allai-/ "strengthen." Because /allamminna-/ literally means "settlement having fortifications," Goedegebuure argues that the symbol for "city" represents a merlon (see drawing and photo). The verb /allai-/ "strengthen" is also attested in Hittite in a passage that was not well understood but now makes perfect sense. Instead of the translation "To apply plaster (to) the wall, though, [(it shall be)] 2³ *alla-³* (*thick³* /



The Luwian symbol for URBS "city."



Tower-shaped funerary stela from Maras. Photo © Hittite Monuments. <https://www.hittitemonuments.com/maras/maras14.htm>.

hib³)” (KBo 57.10+ ii 16’–18’), Goedegebuure suggests “Now, the fortification wall must be strengthened (*allān*) by applying plaster twice.”

Goedegebuure’s articles “Labarna” and “Hattic” were published in the *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, and her “Magic in Hittite Society: For Kings, Queens, and Commoners Alike” was published in the Winter 2023 issue of *News & Notes*. At the University of Chicago she served as director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies’ ancient track and on nine committees. She was honored to be invited to provide an external evaluation of the long-term German research project *Das Corpus der hethitischen Festräume* at the Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur (Mainz). She also peer-reviewed several articles and project proposals.

During the Epigraphic Survey’s 2022–23 field season, **ALEKSANDRA HALLMANN** undertook a visual, iconographic, and technical analysis of two Kushite monuments at Medinet Habu: the chapel of Amenirdis and the gate of Taharqa. From October 25 to November 12, 2022, she worked with conservation consultants Stephen Rickerby and Lisa Shekede to conduct the technical investigation of both monuments (see photos). This project was funded by Hallmann’s grant “Iconographic Program of the Chapels of Osiris in Karnak: Kushite Chapel of Osiris Neb-ankh” (Harmonia 8: UMO 2016/22/M/HS3/00354), awarded by the National Science Centre of Poland and based at the Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw).

The primary purpose of this investigation was to gain an understanding of the original materials and decoration techniques in Twenty-Fifth Dynasty monuments, part of a larger project to increase the scope of available technical information about the monuments of this understudied period, and specifically to continue investigations made in previous seasons at the Kushite chapel of Osiris Neb-ankh in Karnak. The two monuments at Medinet Habu were selected as comparanda, since they are similar in date to the Karnak chapel, which was built during the reign of Taharqa and the tenure of Shepenwepet II as God’s Wife of Amun. The geographical juxtaposition of this selection of monuments, on the west and east banks of the Nile, permits comparison of the differences in decoration techniques between two monumental centers that probably employed different crews of stonemasons, craftsmen, and artists. In the future, this research



Stephen Rickerby and Aleksandra Hallmann examining reliefs inside the tomb chapel of Amenirdis. Photo by Lisa Shekede.



Stephen Rickerby, Aleksandra Hallmann, and Lisa Shekede analyzing enhanced digital images of painted reliefs from the Taharqa gate. Photo by Johannes Weninger.

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will be extended to other Kushite monuments or additions to earlier structures within the Medinet Habu and Karnak temple complexes.

A core objective was not only to identify and characterize component materials as far as possible but also to elucidate the sequencing of procedures involved in the creation and decoration of the monuments and compare them with those observed at Karnak. Since both the Amenirdis chapel and the Taharqa gate have undergone significant aging and environmental exposure, determining these original techniques is challenging. Our investigation was based on findings made in previous years that resulted from detailed visual observation and iconographic analysis. To avoid invasive sampling, the agreed approach was to obtain as much information through noninvasive investigative procedures and by employing an incremental research methodology. For the field research, investigative procedures included detailed visual observation and imaging; in situ normal and ultraviolet-light microscopy at magnifications of 60×–200× to identify pigments and pigment combinations and to characterize materials and their application techniques; and multispectral imaging, including visible-induced luminescence (VIL) imaging carried out at various incident light wavelengths to provide complementary information on paint materials that are not readily visible to the naked eye, as well as image enhancement via DStretch software to elucidate features such as preliminary sketches and grid lines.

A significant general finding was that the interior decoration of the Amenirdis chapel was apparently left unfinished. While the incised relief was brought to a high degree of completion, painting seems not to have been started. Although the age and exposure of Egyptian monuments can often eradicate evidence of original painting, usually some trace evidence remains, such as that detectable on the decorated walls of the Amenirdis chapel courtyard. Inside the chapel, however, no paint traces are detectable on any wall surface, and the abundant vestiges of layout lines and sketches suggest they were never concealed by subsequent painting.

Since the Taharqa gate was more exposed to the outdoor environment, it preserves only traces of red, yellow, white, and blue paint, perhaps originally complemented by green and black. Although pigment analysis was not carried out, microscopic and optical investigations indicate that the red and yellow pigments are iron oxides. The white is now mainly present as a background layer. Known whites in the Egyptian palette include calcite, gypsum, and huntite, which were employed singly or in varying combinations. The deterioration of the white on the blocks suggests that gypsum is a predominant component, but other materials cannot be ruled out. VIL analysis confirmed that the blue used is Egyptian blue.

REBECCA HASSELBACH-ANDEE published a volume on the languages and writings of pre-Islamic Arabia coedited with Fred Donner. The volume, *Scripts and Scripture: Writing and Religion in Arabia circa 500–700 CE* (Oriental Institute, 2022) is based on a conference held at the University of Chicago in 2017 and includes contributions by leading scholars of pre-Islamic and early Islamic Arabia.

In addition, Hasselbach-Andee worked on her research project that examines language contact in the mid-third millennium BCE, specifically the contact between Mesopotamia and the Syrian site of Ebla. It is well known that Mesopotamia and Ebla were part of the same vivid trade network. In addition, there is evidence for cultural and scholarly exchanges between the two areas. The people of Ebla, for example, adopted Mesopotamian cuneiform to write their economic records, as well as their international and internal correspondence (“international” meaning recipients beyond the immediate influence of the city of Ebla itself). The language used by Eblaite scribes is clearly related to Akkadian, and it is generally assumed that it reflects the native language of the city. Why people in western Syria would speak an East Semitic language that has not clearly been shown to be native to any areas beyond Mesopotamia proper has not been sufficiently explained, however. Hasselbach-Andee is working on the connections between Mesopotamia and Ebla to try

to determine the origin of the language attested in the written sources of Ebla. This long-term project will result in another book, since it must consider all parts of Eblaite grammar in addition to political, social, and economic factors that motivated the contact between Syria and Mesopotamia at the time.

Besides this project, Hasselbach-Andee started a smaller one that investigates the origin of the feminine marker *-(a)t* in Semitic; the original function of this marker seems to have parallels to those of the feminine marker of Proto-Indo-European. In her study, she attempts to find general principles that govern the development of certain derivational morphemes into gender markers. The results of this study will be presented at a conference in Heidelberg in September 2023.

Lastly, Hasselbach-Andee continued to serve on ISAC's publications committee in addition to her usual commitments of teaching and advising students.

JAN JOHNSON divided her time this academic year, as in most years, among teaching, supervising master's and doctoral students, and pursuing her own research. She taught ancient Egyptian language courses ranging from Old Egyptian (the earliest preserved stage of the language) through Introduction to Middle Egyptian and Middle Egyptian Texts (highlighting the "classical" stage) to Demotic Texts (the late stage of the language, written in a very cursive script, with which she has worked the most). As usual, she enjoyed seeing students "catch on" and enjoy reading the documents and stories of the ancient Egyptians for themselves. She also enjoyed supervising master's theses (including one on the fascinating carved-ivory tusks highlighting mythological scenes and frequently associated with childbirth) and doctoral dissertations. The PhD students with whom she worked the most this year were studying topics such as the Egyptian vocabulary for the various bones in the human head (Ariel Singer) and New Kingdom diplomatics—New Kingdom Egyptian interactions with the major states of West Asia (Rebecca Wang, who defended her dissertation in spring 2023).

Johnson's personal research included the ongoing preparation of entries for her forthcoming *Women in Ancient Egypt: A Sourcebook*, to be published by the Society for Biblical Literature in the series Writings from the Ancient World. In addition, she published several shorter papers, including "Was Shedsukhonsu's Wife Overbearing or Was She the Owner of the Field?" in *Weseretkau "Mighty of Kas": Papers in Memory of Cathleen A. Keller*, edited by Deanna Kiser-Go and Carol A. Redmount (Lockwood, 2023); "Some Egyptian-Greek Language/Script Interactions as Reflected in Magical," coauthored with Ariel Singer, in *One Who Loves Knowledge: Studies in Honor of Richard Jasnow*, edited by Betsy Bryan, Mark Smith, Christina Di Cerbo, Marina Escolano-Poveda, and Jill S. Wallers (Lockwood, 2022); "Her Son," in *In the House of Heqanakht: Text and Context in Ancient Egypt; Studies in Honor of James P. Allen*, edited by M. Victoria Almansa-Villatoro, Silvia Stubnova-Nigrelli, and Mark Lehner (Brill, 2022); and "Women in Demotic (Documentary) Texts," in *Women in Ancient Egypt: Revisiting Power, Agency, and Autonomy*, edited by Mariam F. Ayad (American University in Cairo Press, 2022).

In late May, Johnson and her husband, Don Whitcomb, thoroughly enjoyed the retirement party thrown in their honor by ISAC, with colleagues from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and several other units of the University of Chicago. They were delighted to see so many colleagues and students, especially former ones, and to have a chance to talk about "the good old days" and the exciting current days. Despite "retiring," Johnson intends to be in her office regularly for the next year, while she works on completing her *Sourcebook*, and she looks forward to seeing all who drop by.

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This year saw the publication of **MORAG KERSEL**'s *Variant Scholarship: Ancient Texts in Modern Contexts*, which she coedited with J. M. Rasmussen and N. J. Brodie (Sidestone, 2023). Chapters in this open-access volume raise important questions about how and even whether the academy should engage with unprovenanced textual materials (those with little or no information about their archaeological findspot, story of origin, or history of ownership). Case studies in *Variant Scholarship* focus on the ethical, methodological, and theoretical quandaries facing scholars when working with ancient texts in modern contexts.

In November 2022, Kersel participated in an ISAC panel discussion on “Celebrating *Black Panther*: Discussing Museums and Cultures.” This well-attended event included a screening of the film *Black Panther* and a lively Q&A with the audience. In summer 2023, she conducted an intensive pedestrian survey as a part of ISAC’s National Science Foundation–funded project Kites in Context, codirected by ISAC research professor Yorke Rowan, in the Black Desert of eastern Jordan. Pedestrian survey is a surface examination methodology in which archaeologists walk across an area in an organized grid pattern (a “transect”) and record environmental conditions, details about the landscape, surface features of archaeological significance (“POIs,” or points of interest), and counts of artifacts along the transects. Typically, surveys provide evidence of human activity that may be archaeologically significant and potentially aid in decision-making related to future areas of excavation. Over the course of four weeks, Kersel recorded more than fifty structures and collected hundreds of artifacts during the intensive survey (see photo).

Closer to home, she and DePaul University undergraduate Jack Tessman published the results of a research project related to label writing for the Balbo Monument on the Chicago Lakefront Trail (see photo). In “What Future for Forgotten Monuments?” they ask why the city of Chicago has a nearly two-millennia-old column from the Roman port of Ostia, gifted by Benito Mussolini, on the Lakefront Trail near Burnham Harbor. There is no sign or marker apart from the faded original inscription, which is almost unreadable behind a chain-link fence. They argue that an explanatory sign encouraging inquiry and engagement would contextualize this forgotten monument in the city’s landscape.



Petroglyph recorded on a survey transect. Photo by Morag Kersel.



The Balbo Monument. Photo by Morag Kersel.

JANA MATUSZAK joined the University of Chicago in January 2023 as assistant professor of Sumerology. During her first two academic quarters here, she mainly focused on teaching elementary and advanced Sumerian, while also developing a new core course on the first Mesopotamian empires. As of spring quarter, she assumed the administration of the Oppenheim Fund, which provides research stipends for master's and doctoral students in Assyriology.

In the short break between quarters, Matuszak presented a paper on new insights into early Sumerian mythology, based on an unpublished Early Dynastic tablet from Nippur, at the 4th International Scientific Conference of Mesopotamian Archaeology held at the University of Al-Qadisiyah in Iraq. The accompanying trips to the archaeological sites of Nippur, Babylon, and Kish, as well as to the Iraq Museum in Baghdad, were much-anticipated highlights for Matuszak. She looks forward to expanding existing collaborations with colleagues at the universities of Al-Qadisiyah and Baghdad, as well as with colleagues working for the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage and the Iraq Museum.

Shortly after the conference, she presented a paper on Old Babylonian Sumerian literary creations as a means of understanding the legacy of the third millennium BCE at an international workshop, "Approaches to Cuneiform Literature," which she organized together with Mark Weeden at University College London.

Back in Chicago, she devoted the remainder of the year to submitting a chapter titled "A Woman's Place Is in the House? Perspectives on Women's Mobility from Sumerian Literature" for *Mobility in Antiquity: Rethinking the Ancient World through Movement*, edited by S. Ferruh Adalı, B. Gray, S. Hakenbeck, E. Isayev, E. Jewell, T. Kaçar, L. Mazurek, and J. Mokrišova (Routledge), and she continued her work as co-editor of the journal *Altorientalische Forschungen*, responsible for submissions of articles on Assyriological and Sumerological topics. In April 2023, Matuszak's "Humour in Sumerian Didactic Literature" was published in *The Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient Near East: Proceedings of the 64th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale and the 12th Melammu Symposium, University of Innsbruck, July 16–20, 2018*, edited by R. Rollinger, I. Madreiter, M. Lang, and C. Pappi (Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 2023).

AUGUSTA McMAHON returned to ISAC and the University of Chicago in September 2022 after twenty-seven years in England at the University of Cambridge. She brings her research focus on ancient urbanism—developed in fieldwork projects at Tell Brak, Syria, and Tell al-Hiba (ancient Lagash), southern Iraq—to the renewed excavations at Nippur, planned for early 2024. McMahon presented the background to the new Nippur project at the 4th International Scientific Conference of Mesopotamian Archaeology (University of Al-Qadisiyah, Iraq) in March 2023 and at the ISAC Sumner Memorial Lecture in May 2023.

McMahon's main publications in 2022–23 presented excavations and magnetometry survey data at Tell al-Hiba, an important city in southern Mesopotamia mainly occupied in the third-millennium BCE Early Dynastic period. The archaeological project renewed at this site in 2019–22 was a collaboration between the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Cambridge. The rapid expansion of al-Hiba, and its equally rapid contraction, meant that much of the Early Dynastic city plan, including streets, neighborhoods, and individual houses, was visible at the surface in specific climatic conditions. Satellite and drone imagery and magnetometry allowed a preliminary investigation of city quarters, streets, and intracity water channels, while excavations revealed details of Early Dynastic houses and pottery kilns. These results have an important impact on reconstructions of the growth and diversity of the world's earliest cities. McMahon's publications on the site include:

- "The Structure and Hydrology of the Early Dynastic City of Lagash (Tell Al-Hiba) from Satellite and Aerial Images," coauthored with E. Hammer and E. Stone (*Iraq* 84 [2022]: 103–27); and

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- “Dense Urbanism and Economic Multi-Centrism at Third Millennium BC Lagash, South Iraq,” coauthored with H. Pittman, Z. al-Rawi, D. Ashby, K. Burge, R. Goodman, E. Hammer, and S. Pizzimenti (*Antiquity* 97 [2023]: 596–615).

In April 2023, McMahon was invited to present on the Late Chalcolithic (fourth millennium BCE) mass graves at Brak in a panel on ancient state violence at the Society for American Archaeology’s annual conference, which took place in Portland, Oregon. These mass graves resulted from violent internal events probably driven by social stresses inherent in early urbanism, especially increases in inequality and power differentials.

McMahon continues to coedit the journal *Iraq* (British Institute for the Study of Iraq). She joined The Academic Institute for Research in Iraq (TARII) as a board member and, from July 1, 2023, as vice president. She has supported the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Homeland Security Investigations in assessing possibly looted and illegally imported Mesopotamian objects. And she contributed to the University of Chicago’s “Big Brains” podcast, episode 103, which focused on the past work of ISAC (<https://news.uchicago.edu/origins-civilization-and-future-archaeology-day-tomorrow-began>).

CAROL MEYER suffered a compression fracture in November 2022, and her recovery from spinal damage, surgery, and complications, plus her limited mobility, restricted her research time for too many months. That said, she did complete her chapter “Gold Ore Processing at Hosh el-Geruf” for the ISAC Nubian Expedition volume on Hosh el-Geruf, Fourth Cataract, Sudan. Hosh el-Geruf was not a gold-mining site but a gold-processing site in the Old Kush II and III periods (ca. 2050–1500 BCE) and perhaps the Napatan period as well (ca. 750–300 BCE). Chunks of quartz stained by metallic ores or showing dendritic gold were hauled to Hosh el-Geruf from elsewhere for crushing, fine grinding, and washing to obtain gold dust, to the benefit of whoever was organizing the work. Meyer also completed a number of pottery drawings for the Hosh el-Geruf volume, but mainly she started writing chapter 1, “Introduction and Background,” of *Islamic Glass from Aqaba*, the final report on the more than 15,000 glass fragments recovered in eleven seasons of excavation at Aqaba, ancient Ayla. Umayyad (ca. 650–750) glass of the Syro-Palestinian region is relatively well studied, but that of the Abbasid (ca. 750–969) and Fatimid (ca. 969–1125) periods is anything but, so separating the glass into periods is a major focus of the book. Glass has the potential to be as good a dating tool as pottery, even though it receives far less attention.

Several of **BRIAN MUHS**’s publications appeared in 2022–23. They included “Egypt and the Mediterranean in the Early Iron Age,” in *The Connected Iron Age: Interregional Networks in the Eastern Mediterranean, 900–600 BCE*, edited by James Osborne and Jonathan Hall (University of Chicago Press, 2022); “Two Early Ptolemaic Demotic Receipts for the Burial Tax and Theban Ostraca Archives,” in *Ripple in Still Water When There Is No Pebble Tossed: Festschrift in Honour of Cary J. Martin*, edited by Adrienn Almásy-Martin, Michel Chauveau, Koen Donker van Heel, and Kim Ryholt (Golden House Press, 2023); “Eight Inscribed Stones, the First Chariot Driver of His Majesty, and Tell el-Muqdam in the Ramesside Period,” in *Weseretkau “Mighty of Kas”: Papers in Memory of Cathleen A. Keller*, edited by Deanna Kiser-Go and Carol A. Redmount (Lockwood, 2023); and a review of *The Epigraphy of Ptolemaic Egypt*, edited by Alan Bowman and Charles Crowther (Oxford University Press, 2020), in the spring–summer 2022 issue of *Religion and Literature*.

Muhs submitted two articles for publication: “New Kingdom Hieratic Manuscripts in the Oriental Institute Museum (Chicago),” with Foy D. Scaif, to appear in *New Kingdom Hieratic Collections* (Presses Universitaires de Liège); and a review of *The Origins of Money in the Iron Age Mediterranean World*, by Elon D. Heymans (Cambridge University Press, 2021), to appear in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

Muhs also presented two academic papers with Tasha Vorderstrasse: “The Katimala Inscription Re-visited” in November 2022 at the annual meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research, held in Boston; and “Late Napatan Ruling Queens” in April 2023 at the 74th annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Minneapolis.

In addition to her responsibilities as ISAC Museum curator, **KIERSTEN NEUMANN** continued her research on Assyrian and Achaemenid material culture, museum practice, and collecting histories, which altogether resulted in several original articles, invited talks, and fruitful collaborations.

Neumann submitted several chapters for publication. “Ancient Visual Sources of Religion: Figuring the Divine to Wash Away Evil,” to appear in the *Bloomsbury Handbook of Ancient Near Eastern Religions*, draws on a paper she delivered at the 13th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, held in Copenhagen, and takes as a case study the restored water basin of Sennacherib from the temple of Aššur now in the Vorderasiatisches Museum (see photo). “‘Aššur, accept! Aššur, listen!’ Connecting Arabia and Assyria through Aromatics and Olfaction,” to appear in the *Proceedings of the 55th Seminar for Arabian Studies*, results from a keynote talk she delivered at the seminar in connection with a special session on scents of Arabia. “Global, Colonial, Local: Deconstructing Perspectives of Persepolis in the ISAC Museum Archives” will appear in the *Unsilencing the Archives* publication project in the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) book series.

Neumann published a review of Ludovico Portuese’s *Life at Court: Ideology and Audience in the Late Assyrian Palace* in the April 2023 issue of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and contributed to the Winter 2023 issue of ISAC’s *News & Notes* the short article “Behind the Scenes: The Assyrian Offering Table at the OI Museum” on this ritualized furnishing from Dur-Sharrukin along with more than a dozen other known



Restored water basin from the temple of Aššur. Photo © Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Vorderasiatisches Museum / Olaf M. Teßmer.

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examples. She continued research for her book project on the Neo-Assyrian temple and all its iterations across Assyria.

In November 2022, Neumann presented “Connecting Collections and Community: Chicago’s OI Museum” at ASOR’s annual meeting, held in Boston; she also continued to serve on ASOR’s program committee, now as cochair, and to chair the ASOR standing session “Cultural Heritage: Preservation, Presentation, and Management” (2021–23). In May 2023, alongside ISAC/Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations alumna Katharyn Hanson, Neumann was invited to speak in the Walters Art Museum’s Boshell Lecture Series, “Modern Deconstructions and Reconstructions of Ancient Nimrud,” in Baltimore. Neumann presented on the work of Iraqi American artist Michael Rakowitz with a focus on the project *The invisible enemy should not exist* and the reappearance of panel G-13 from the Northwest Palace at Kalhu, on display in the ISAC Museum’s Assyrian galleries. In June Neumann delivered a talk titled “Beyond Impressions: Cylinder Seals of the Neo-Assyrian Period as Experiential Object” in the International Association for Archaeological Research in Western & Central Asia’s “Art History and Visual Studies” series, with thanks to organizer Paul Collins for the invitation.

Neumann taught her undergraduate/graduate course, “From Ground to Gallery: Visual Culture of the Ancient Near East,” in the University of Chicago’s Department of Art History in winter 2023. She also advised master’s student Christopher Wilson on his thesis, “A Classical Collection: Interpreting the Past and Questioning the Present”—a proposal for an exhibition exploring discrete aspects of ancient Greek life through Greek ceramics in the classical collection at the University of Chicago’s Smart Museum of Art. Lastly, Neumann continues to collaborate on international museum and art projects and exhibitions.

JAMES OSBORNE was on research leave for the entirety of the 2022–23 academic year thanks to a generous fellowship from the University of Chicago’s Franke Institute for the Humanities. Thus freed from teaching responsibilities, as one of a group of Franke fellows drawn from across the university’s Division of the Humanities he participated in biweekly workshops in which fellows shared and critiqued one another’s work. Since most participating scholars have little background in the other fellows’ fields of research, this workshop provided them with an excellent opportunity to consider their individual work in creative and unexpected ways, and especially from a more macroscopic perspective than is usually afforded by one’s closest colleagues in the same discipline. Osborne is grateful to all the Franke fellows, and particularly to Franke Institute director Prof. Richard Neer, for creating a wonderful intellectual environment.

During his leave, Osborne worked on several publication projects. One that came to fruition is a volume he coedited with Prof. Jonathan Hall in the Department of Classics titled *The Connected Iron Age: Interregional Networks in the Eastern Mediterranean, 900–600 BCE* (University of Chicago Press, 2022). Together with his primary fieldwork collaborator, Michele Massa (Bilkent University, Ankara), Osborne submitted lengthy manuscripts to the *American Journal of Archaeology* and *Ancient Near Eastern Studies*, both of which were accepted for publication and should appear in 2024.

These writing projects stemmed from Osborne and Massa’s fieldwork, which in the summer of 2022 consisted primarily of geophysical exploration at the large, multiperiod mound of Türkmen-Karahöyük in Turkey’s Konya Plain. Partnering with Jesse Casana’s Spatial Archaeometry Lab at Dartmouth, they performed a large-scale magnetometry survey of the site’s outer town. Disappointingly, this work disproved their earlier interpretations of a large lower town. However, it did document significant occupation in a series of satellite mounds that were later used as a burial ground in antiquity. The exact nature of the settlement history of the site will be explored in future planned excavation seasons, hopefully to begin in summer 2024.

HERVÉ RECULEAU devoted most of 2022–23 to teaching, mentoring, and academic service. His ongoing collaborations included participating in the workshop “Le corpus de textes d’archives paléobabyloniens et la base de données Archibab: Vers un nouvel outil de recherche lexicographique” (Collège de France, Paris, for the Franco-Russian project Laying the Groundwork for a Corpus-Based Dictionary of Old Babylonian) and coauthoring, for the Computational Research on the Ancient Near East project, a paper read by Lynn Welton (University of Toronto) at the 13th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, hosted by the University of Copenhagen.

Reculeau also gave a series of lectures on his ongoing research at the annual meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research, held in Boston, for the workshop “The Transition from the Neo-Assyrian to the Neo-Babylonian Periods”; the conference “The Spirit of Scholarship: The Roman Catholic Background of Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical Studies and Its Legacy” at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem; the James Lecture workshop titled “Writing the History of Middle Bronze Anatolia: Sources, Perspectives, Periodization, State Formation, and Historiography,” given at Northwestern University; and the 233rd annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in Los Angeles, where he gave a plenary-session talk titled “How Climate Change Impacted the History of First Millennium BCE Mesopotamia—and How It Likely Did Not.”

Reculeau also wrote pieces and gave presentations for a broader audience, with his chapter “Old Babylonian Nippur in Its Environmental and Historical Settings” for the catalog of ISAC’s forthcoming special exhibition *Back to School in Babylonia*, edited by Prof. Susanne Paulus; the framing article for a special, 2023 edition of the French journal *L’Histoire* on Mesopotamia (“La Mésopotamie a-t-elle existé?” *L’Histoire Collection* 99: 3–12); and a talk at the Rencontres Recherche et Création organized by the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche and the Festival d’Avignon (“A l’origine des villes: Repenser la ‘révolution urbaine’ en Mésopotamie”).

Toponymy, etymology, chronography, ghosts, and liver omens: these were some of the topics on **SETH RICHARDSON**’s mind in 2022–23. He wrote up work on the profound etymological meaninglessness of Sumerian and Akkadian words for “slave.” He puzzled over why the majority of geographical names in Mesopotamian texts were infrequently mentioned and poorly known. He investigated the connections between local, residential mobility and supraregional migration in antiquity.

Richardson had five articles published this year. In “Hard Times for Sippar Women,” he documented ancient cases of hungry and homeless women. These days, when gender studies focus so much on representation and power, there is too little attention paid to the basic and widespread issue of socioeconomic inequality. “Thy Neighbor’s Ghost,” part of a colloquium about a book on funerary cult in the Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near East, inventoried some of the ways the biblical authors appropriated bits and pieces of what they knew about the Mesopotamian cult for the dead to depict it as “necromancy.” A third article, “In Mantic and Hostile Lands,” tracked the ways divination practices in an age of fortresses mimicked the belligerent landscapes into which they peered—where the livers from which the diviners read omens doubled as “maps” of a countryside full of hidden enemies. A similar topic from a political-science point of view was the subject of “Raiders, Neighbors, and Night-time,” which took on the question of ancient standards of what counted as “war” and “peace” and argued that concepts of “security” and “insecurity” were more culturally salient. Fifth and finally, a survey article on “Mesopotamian Slavery” appeared in June 2023, with attention to entry into, experiences of, and exit from slave status in the Babylonian world. He also completed work on a book coauthored with Juan-Carlos Moreno García comparing the organization of power in Egypt and Mesopotamia. Richardson continues work on a book on the Babylonian state in the seventeenth century BCE and has eight more articles in press, with an additional three under review.

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Richardson gave five lectures this year—in person in Prague (twice) and Graz, and remotely in Toulouse and Missoula. He looks forward to giving upcoming papers at the Leiden Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale on the Tell Muḥammad texts; in Würzburg at a workshop on Old Babylonian historiography; in Munich for an invited lecture on Babylonian slavery; and in Chicago at the American Society of Overseas Research annual meeting in November. Another happy and busy year!

During 2022–23, **YORKE ROWAN** was a National Endowment for the Humanities scholar at the American Center of Research in Amman for his study “In Small Things Remembered: Late Neolithic Material Culture of the Black Desert, Jordan,” an analysis of small items from the excavations of Wisad Pools and Wadi al-Qattafi. During that time, he presented (with A. C. Hill) “Kites in Context: Hunting Traps, Desert Landscapes, and Territorial Control” and (with M.-L. Chambrade and F. Bertocello) “At the Margin: Proposal for Applying Spatial Archaeology to the Study of the ‘Conquest’ of the Near Eastern Arid Steppes in the Late Neolithic” at the 42^e Rencontres Internationales d’Archéologie et d’Histoire de Nice Côte D’Azur, France. Upon returning from Amman, Rowan welcomed to ISAC Dr. Marie-Laure Chambrade, a Marie Curie postdoctoral fellow studying the margins of the Neolithic period across Syria and Jordan.

Based on the inaugural season of the Kites in Context (KiC) project, Rowan and the KiC team submitted “Kites in the Desert: Placing Ancient Animal Traps in Context” to the journal *Neo-Lithics*. The team also presented results of the first season in “Kites in Context: Prehistoric Black Desert Hunting Traps” at the American Society of Overseas Research annual meeting in Boston. Based on research collaboration with environmental scientists, Rowan published “Local-Scale Environmental Gradients in ‘Snail-Shell’ Stable Isotopes from Holocene Jordanian Archaeological Sites” in the March 2023 issue of *The Holocene*. Finally, Rowan and the KiC team completed the second season of KiC investigations in the Black Desert and submitted a photo essay for peer review to the *Journal of Field Archaeology*.

FOY SCALF continued working with archivist Anne Flannery and archival intern Ling Chan to process, organize, and catalog the papers and slides of Robert Ritner, who passed away in 2021. By the time this report appears, the Festschrift for Robert Ritner, which Scalf coedited with Brian Muhs, will be with ISAC Publications to appear in the series Studies in Ancient Cultures. It includes contributions by twenty-seven of Ritner’s close colleagues. Scalf wrote an “In Memoriam” for Ritner that will appear in *Enchoria* 37. The Autumn 2022 issue of *News & Notes* further highlighted Ritner’s work, where one of his seminal articles was republished along with an article by Scalf focused on Ritner’s long-standing project to study the Horus on the Crocodiles stelae.

Scalf’s article “The Funerary Literature Related to the Book of the Dead” appeared in *The Oxford Handbook of the Egyptian Book of the Dead*. With Brian Muhs, he submitted an article surveying the New Kingdom hieratic collections in the ISAC Museum collection. With Sara Cole and Judith Barr, he submitted an article on the New Kingdom hieratic manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum. Both articles are set to appear in the Aegyptiaca Leodiensia series. With Beth Wang, Scalf is revising their conference paper on the Critical Editions for Digital Analysis and Research (CEDAR) Book of the Dead project for publication in the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*. Scalf is submitting a revised version of another conference paper on Book of the Dead spells 51–52 to the *Birmingham Egyptology Journal*, in which he examines Egyptian religious literature through the lens of assemblage theory.

On April 21, 2023, Scalf and Wang presented a paper analyzing the transmission of Book of the Dead spell 2 across more than 2,000 years of manuscript witnesses at the 74th annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Minneapolis. Their research and collaboration were the result of phase two of the CEDAR project, funded by the University of Chicago's Neubauer Collegium for the 2022–23 academic year, which provided resources for studying ancient Egyptian religious literature in the OCHRE (Online Cultural and Historical Research Environment) database platform. They presented additional aspects of this project during the CEDAR symposium at the Neubauer on May 22, 2023. The methodology from this project carried over to Scalf's talk titled "Assemblage Theory and Remix Culture," a study of Book of the Dead spells 51–52, for the annual Birmingham Egyptology Symposium on May 25.

For the sixth year in a row, Scalf offered his course on the history of the book for the School of Information Studies at Dominican University (River Forest, Illinois), for which he received the College of Applied Social Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award for Part-Time Faculty in 2022. Scalf teamed up with Tasha Vorderstrasse, Zoë Eisenman, and Fred Beuttler—a collaboration between ISAC and the University of Chicago's Graham School—to teach "Cracking Codes," an adult education course offered to provide historical and cultural context for the decipherment of ancient scripts in the nineteenth century. Inspiration for the course came from the bicentennial anniversary of the decipherment of Egyptian in September 1822 by Jean-François Champollion. Relatedly, Scalf was a quoted contributor for the Live Science article "Why Does the Rosetta Stone Have Three Kinds of Writing?" (July 25, 2022), by Charles Q. Choi. Throughout the year, the Rosetta Stone continued to be a theme as Scalf gave ISAC Community Scholars presentations on Egyptian decipherment and building the pyramids for The Admiral at the Lake and The Clare senior communities, the Glencoe Public Library, Minooka Community High School, and the Wilmette Public Library.

MEHRNOUSH SOROUSH joined the faculty of ISAC in July 2022. She spent her first year getting to know the University of Chicago and ISAC community, resources, and processes, in addition to teaching new courses and directing the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL) laboratory (see more details in the CAMEL report). In fall 2023, Soroush offered a new undergraduate course about the Achaemenid Empire, which students received enthusiastically. In fall and winter 2023, she revised and taught an existing two-quarter course on ancient landscapes that introduces students to the theories and methods of landscape archaeology research.

Soroush submitted two articles for review. The first, "A Remote Sensing Perspective on the Sasanian Hydraulic Projects: Re-examining the Irrigation Discourse," was prepared for the proceedings of a symposium organized by the Smithsonian Museum in fall 2022, where she was invited to present. The article argues that some Sasanian hydraulic projects may have served functions other than irrigation, such as textile production. The second article, "Mapping Ancient Subterranean Hydraulic Systems: Low-Cost Seismic Geophysical Methods for the Detection of Buried Qanats," coauthored with Jordan Brown and James Rector (a graduate student and professor, respectively, at the University of California, Berkeley), reports on a field experiment carried out in summer 2022 to test whether vibration sensors in iPhone 12 and 13 devices can detect variations in the way sound waves penetrate compact soil versus hollow tunnels of underground water systems. In spring 2023, Soroush applied for and received a seed grant from the University of Chicago's Institute for the Formation of Knowledge to repeat this experiment with professional geophysical equipment in August 2023.

Soroush's fieldwork is undertaken under the Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey (EPAS) led by Harvard University. As assistant director of EPAS, Soroush studies long-term patterns of human–water interaction in the region. Soroush was granted funding from the University of Chicago's Women's Board to embark

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on a three-year study of the medieval-period ceramics while training a group of Iraqi female professionals. The goal is to facilitate research on the understudied history of the medieval period while creating career development opportunities for women who face cultural barriers that prevent them from participating in field research.

In spring 2023, Soroush joined the affiliated faculty of the University of Chicago's Committee on Environment, Geography, and Urbanization, where she engages with social scientists, architects, and urban planners on bringing the stories of the past into conversation with modern social and environmental concerns.

In 2022–23, **GIL STEIN** presented four conference papers and invited lectures—two deriving from his excavations at the prehistoric site of Surezha in Iraqi Kurdistan and Tell Zeidan in Syria, and two reporting on cultural heritage preservation efforts in Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Iraq.

As the principal investigator for three US State Department–sponsored cultural heritage grants in Afghanistan, Stein worked remotely with ISAC's international staff in Europe for the final year of these grants, which ended on December 31, 2022. As part of this work, he produced a short documentary film, *Hadda: Rescuing Early Buddhist Art in Afghanistan*, which is freely accessible at <https://www.youtube.com/@C3HP>. In 2022 he was awarded a new, \$250,000 grant from the US State Department's Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation for the project "Conservation and Restoration of the Langar Ota Timurid Mosque, Qashqadaryo Province, Uzbekistan."

In October 2022, Stein organized and implemented the first of two workshops in the multiyear training program grant in Uzbekistan called "CHED" (Cultural Heritage and Economic Development). The first workshop in this capacity-building program brought together heritage specialists, museum professionals, and Ministry of Culture staff from the post-Soviet Central Asian republics to learn strategies for preserving heritage sites while at the same time promoting economic development. The workshops focus on two key strategies for site preservation—inscription as UNESCO World Heritage sites or their development as national archaeological parks.

In tandem with his cultural heritage work, Stein published one book and three articles/book chapters in 2022:

- *A History of Afghanistan in 100 Objects: Treasures from the National Museum of Afghanistan* (with Alejandro Gallego-Lopez and Mohammad Fahim Rahimi) (e-publication in English and Dari editions). London: Scala Arts and Heritage. <https://isac.uchicago.edu/research/projects/preservation-cultural-heritage-afghanistan>.
 - "Cultural Heritage Preservation Projects in Afghanistan and Central Asia." In *Oriental Institute Annual Report 2021–2022*, 17–24. Chicago: Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.
 - "Performative Destruction: Da'esh (ISIS) Ideology and the War on Heritage in Iraq." In *Cultural Heritage and Mass Atrocities: Human and Security Costs*, edited by James Cuno and Thomas G. Weiss, 168–85. Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute.
 - "Archaeobotanical and Dung Spherulite Evidence for Ubaid and Late Chalcolithic Fuel, Farming, and Feasting at Surezha, Iraqi Kurdistan." (with Lucas Proctor and Alexia Smith). *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports* 43: 103449. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352409X22001122>.
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EMILY TEETER spent most of the year working on a history of Chicago House for its centennial in fall 2024. In November, she spent a week in Luxor conferring with archivists Emmanuelle and Alain Arnaudiès, and she continues to scour the ISAC Archives thanks to Anne Flannery. Relatives of former Luxor staff have recently contributed memories, memorabilia, and photos, among them the Krewson, Weideman, and Young families (descendants of Harold Nelson) and David Woolman, the son of Laurence and Janet Woolman (architect and designer, respectively), who worked at Luxor, Saqqara, and Megiddo. In a related project, the transcription, translation, and commentary for Uvo Hölscher's excavation diaries (*Tagebücher*) were delivered to Anne Flannery for formatting and release as a digital publication. Teeter worked with Anne Schumacher and Barbara Schubeler Jillson on the project to make this information more widely available.

Emily continues to serve as the editor of the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*. She did final revisions on a catalog of the Egyptian collection of the Art Institute of Chicago that will appear as an online publication with coauthor Ashley F. Arico. In commemoration of the centennial of the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun, Teeter authored two articles published in the Autumn 2022 and Winter 2023 issues of *News & Notes* about the Institute and Tut.

In April and May 2023, Teeter, with Kevin Cahail of the University of Pennsylvania, consulted with Tim Gardom Associates on the master plan for the redesign of the Egyptian and African galleries at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History.

Teeter evaluated submissions to several academic journals, and she spoke on Egyptian art at the North Texas chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE). In October she participated in an ARCE-sponsored mentoring program, being paired with Mrs. al-Shaimaa Mandor, an inspector for the Sphinx Avenue in Luxor. Teeter was fortunate to be able to meet with her several times in Luxor.

Teeter led the Institute's tour of Egypt in fall 2022 and others for the Smithsonian and ARCE in 2023. She also attended the ARCE annual meeting in Minneapolis. She was reelected to the board of the International Committee for Egyptology of the International Council of Museums, and she continues to serve on the board of the Society of Biblical Literature's Writings of the Ancient World series.

SOFÍA TORALLAS TOVAR made considerable progress on two editorial projects. The first is the Transmission of Magical Knowledge, a collaborative project funded by the Neubauer Collegium of the University of Chicago for which she is the coprincipal investigator. The project saw two volumes, coedited by Torallas Tovar and Christopher A. Faraone, published this year: *Greek and Egyptian Magical Formularies: Text and Translation* (California Classical Studies, 2022)—volume 1 of the new edition, translation, and commentary of the magical handbooks on papyrus—and *The Greco-Egyptian Magical Formularies: Libraries, Books, and Individual Recipes* (University of Michigan Press, 2022)—a collection of essays on book production resulting from deep study of the papyri. Torallas Tovar and Faraone are currently working on volume 2 of *Greek and Egyptian Magical Formularies*, scheduled to appear at the end of the year, and on *New Approaches to the Great Paris Magical Codex* (De Gruyter), also a collection of essays. They believe the attention paid to book format and book production in this project provides not only a new edition of the magical papyri but also a new understanding of the circulation of knowledge in the ancient world. For a full description of the project, see the 2021–22 annual report.

Torallas Tovar's second editorial project is an individual one. A papyrus roll from the Abbey of Montserrat, Spain, contains a Coptic translation of the letter of the patriarch Athanasius to Dracontius, contemporary with the original Greek text. The roll not only features a text previously unknown in Coptic but also provides a window into the materiality of communication in the early Egyptian church. As Torallas Tovar was almost ready to submit the manuscript to the publisher (Mohr Siebeck), her colleague Alin Suciu

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(Göttingen Akademie) surprised her with his discovery of further fragments of the same roll in the Chester Beatty collection in Dublin. She is currently integrating these fragments into the edition and hopes this year to submit the final manuscript, *Athanasius' Epistle to Dracontius: A 4th-Century Coptic Translation in a Papyrus Roll* (P.Monts.Roca inv. 14).

In addition to his ongoing interim directorship of ISAC, **THEO VAN DEN HOUT** taught three classes, one in each quarter of the academic year. He submitted the manuscript of a popular article for the Dutch journal *Phoenix*—“Alle dagen feest? Religieuze evenementen in het Hettietische Rijk”—and a contribution to a Festschrift for a colleague—“Another Storm God ‘Jumping’ on His Vehicle? Remarks on the Sketch on KUB 20.76.” In 2022, his review article coauthored with Peter Raulwing—“The Worlds of Franz M. Th. de Liagre Böhl (1882–1976)” —of *Bijbel en Babel: Frans de Liagre Böhl, 1882–1976*, by Herman de Liagre Böhl (Prometheus, 2021), appeared in *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 79.

TASHA VORDERSTRASSE, manager of ISAC’s continuing education program, facilitated and taught multiple adult education classes and teacher workshops and provided University of Chicago and Laboratory School tours (see Public Programming—Adult Education in this annual report).

In 2022, Vorderstrasse cochaired the Archaeology of Islamic Society session at the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) annual meeting in Boston, a session that had an unprecedented three sections. In addition, she gave several presentations: “Connecting East Africa to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean,” a virtual and in-person talk for ASOR in October and November; “The Representation of Identity in 19th-Century Tiflis,” a paper for the Virtual Roundtable of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies conference in October; and a talk with Brian Muhs—“The Katimala Inscription Revisited”—at ASOR’s annual meeting in November. In April 2023 she gave a second talk with Muhs—“Late Napatan Ruling Queens”—at the 74th annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Minneapolis.

Vorderstrasse submitted “Identity Based on Coptic Textile Terminology in Late Antique Egypt” to the proceedings volume for the ISAC postdoctoral seminar “Outward Appearance vs. Inward Significance,” as well as “Centering Nubian Queens in the Ancient World: Histories, Historiographies and (Mis)interpretations” for the volume *Queens in Antiquity and the Present: Speculative Visions and Critical Histories*, to be published by Bloomsbury Academic. Vorderstrasse published “Coin Circulation in Carthage and Its Hinterland” in *Coinage and History in the Seventh Century Near East 7*, edited by Tony Goodwin (Archetype, 2023). And her article “Explaining the Meaning of the Words ‘Orient’ and ‘Oriental’” was posted on the ISAC website when the name of the Institute changed in April 2023; a print version of this article also appeared in the Spring/Summer 2023 issue of *News & Notes*.

KAREN L. WILSON is currently reviewing proofs of *Nippur VI: The Inanna Temple*, which was accepted for publication by ISAC Publications and will appear in the Nippur series, edited by McGuire Gibson. The volume—coauthored by Wilson, Richard L. Zettler, Jean M. Evans, and Robert D. Biggs, with contributions by R. C. Haines and Donald P. Hansen—will be the final publication of ISAC’s excavation of the Inanna Temple at the site of Nippur during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The ISAC publications office is currently editing and laying out the volume(s).

Wilson also continued to serve as the Kish project coordinator and research associate at Chicago's Field Museum, conducting research on the work of the Field Museum–Oxford University Joint Expedition to Kish in 1923–32. In May the results of a portion of this project were published as *Where Kingship Descended from Heaven: Studies on Ancient Kish* (ISAC, 2023). The volume emerged from 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 stuccos from the sites of Kish and Jamdat Nasr.
