



Overleaf: Illuminated Gospel of evangelist Matthew written in Arabic with illustration of evangelist painted against a gold background facing the opening page of gospel. Ink, gold, and colors on paper with bindings. Ottoman, 1600s. Egypt or Syria. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Hans von Marwitz, 1960. 11.0 × 7.0 × 2.5 cm. OIM A31403 (photo D. 027334: Anna Ressman)

Richard H. Beal

Richard H. Beal spent his time updating, reference checking, and copy editing articles for the fourth fascicle of the Š volume and the beginning of the T volume of the Hittite Dictionary. He has also been transliterating into Roman script Hittite text fragments from the cuneiform of the hand copies produced by our German colleagues, then checking to see if anyone has worked on the fragment, and finally producing a Dictionary card to be duplicated and filed by our student assistants. He has also begun revising the entries in the L volume (published in 1979) for inclusion on the e-CHD. 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.

This year saw the publication of a review of Johan de Roos' "Hittite Votive Texts" in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 73. These are a record of vows made to deities by Hittite royalty, often in the course of a dream. They are recorded so that should the deity fulfill his/her promise, the human will not fail to give the deity what the human had promised the deity. These include requests for such things as military success, or the curing of an illness, or the extinguishing of a conflagration. Most curious is a vow made by the queen when in a dream she was cornered at the bathhouse by some young toughs and wished to escape. Also appearing at long last was "Hittite Reluctance to Go to War," which concerns Hittite attempts to avoid war through diplomatic means. This was a paper read at the 52nd Rencontre Assyriologique in Münster in 2006, the proceedings of which have now come out as volume 401 in the series *Alter Orient und Altes Testament*. This year also saw the death of Beal's Doktorvater, Oriental Institute professor of Hittitology and co-founder of the Hittite Dictionary, Harry A. Hoffner, Jr., healthy, vigorous, and productive until suddenly cut down at a still youthful eighty. Beal has written an obituary, which will appear in the next issue of *Archiv für Orientforschung*. He also wrote "Disabilities from Head to Foot in Hittite Civilization" for a volume on disabilities in antiquity, edited by Christien Laes, to be published by Routledge. Finally, his years of reference checking and proofreading came to fruition when his wife and OI/NELC alumna JoAnn Scurlock's massive *Sourcebook for Ancient Mesopotamian Medicine* appeared as number 36 in the series *Writings from the Ancient World* by the Society for Biblical Literature. This contains transliterations and translations of all types of Mesopotamian diagnostic and therapeutic texts.

Robert D. Biggs

Robert Biggs completed two articles, one for a Festschrift for his Oriental Institute colleague, McGuire Gibson, and the other for a volume honoring Nicholas Postgate, with whom he worked on the British excavations at Abu Šalabikh in 1976. He spent considerable time in

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

the winter months fulfilling his responsibilities as co-editor of the series *Die babylonisch-assyrische Medizin in Texten und Untersuchungen*.

Fred M. Donner

Fred M. Donner spent the academic year 2014–2015 on sabbatical, in the wonderfully supportive setting of the Stanford Humanities Center at Stanford University, where he was appointed Marta Sutton Weeks Fellow for the year. After five years as director of the University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, it was a delight to be able to return full-time to reading, research, and writing — the pace of new publications in every field, including early Islamic history and Qur'anic studies, seems to quicken each year, and he had some serious catching up to do in recent literature on these subjects. It was also great to be part of a vibrant group of about thirty Fellows, from Stanford and other institutions, who formed an intellectually stimulating and highly collegial cohort.

During the year Donner continued work on an Arabic papyrus in the Oriental Institute collection — E17861 — which he believes may be the earliest Arabic letter known. He arranged with Laura D'Alessandro of the OI Conservation department to have the document subjected to a second radiocarbon (C14) dating, at a different lab, since the results of a first test (made last year) appeared to be implausible; but the radiocarbon dating of papyri is, it is said, notoriously tricky. He is hoping for C14 confirmation of a date in the first half of the seventh century CE, which is the date-range to which all indications in the text seem to point. Donner gave public lectures on this document and its implications for early Islamic history at the University of Oregon (Feb. 20), and Carelton College (Feb. 27).

Donner also prepared two papers on the Qur'an, for presentation at conferences. The first, entitled "The Peoples of the Book and the Qur'an," was read at the annual meeting of the International Qur'anic Studies Association, held in conjunction with the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, California, in November. The second, "Islam, Muslimūn, und Dīn im Qur'ān," was presented as the keynote lecture at a conference on "Kritische Koranhermeneutik: Günter Lüling in Memoriam," held at the Friedrich-Alexander Universität in Erlangen, Germany, in June. Donner studied at the University of Erlangen many years ago (1970–1971) and at that time took classes with Günter Lüling, the author of numerous highly controversial works on the Qur'an, who passed away last summer (September 2014).



The proceedings of a conference organized several years ago by Donner and his colleague Antoine Borrut of the University of Maryland on "Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians in the Umayyad State" is now finally nearing publication. Donner and Borrut spent considerable time this year editing the various contributions and suggesting revisions to their authors. The completed manuscript is now on the verge of submission to the Oriental Institute, where it will form the initial volume in a new OI series, the Late Antique and Medieval Islamic Near East (LAMINE). Donner and Borrut have been busily soliciting further manuscripts (not a few from Chicago colleagues and recent graduates) to identify further volumes for the series.

Although on leave of absence, the usual duties associated with life in an active teaching department (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations) continued to need attention, and Donner wrote his usual long list of recommendations and saw five students on whose committees he served defend their dissertations (one a student not at Chicago, but at the

University of Texas, another at INALCO (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales) in Paris. He also did an external tenure/promotion review for the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and manuscript reviews for various publishers of six book manuscripts or proposals dealing with early Islamic history — also in line with the normal burden of such requests.

A year's leave at Stanford was great, but Donner is looking forward to being back in Chicago full time in 2015–2016, and to be working more actively with students again.

François Gaudard

During the past academic year, **François Gaudard** started a new project focusing on the publication of several Oriental Institute Museum funerary shrouds from the Graeco-Roman period. These shrouds were originally offered to the Haskell Oriental Museum of the University of Chicago by the Egypt Exploration Fund on November 15, 1898, together with 654 miscellaneous Egyptian objects from Flinders Petrie's excavations at Dendera, during the winter of 1897/1898. After having been stored in a drawer for decades, these shrouds will now come back to light and help illuminate the richness and variety of the Oriental Institute collection. According to a letter from Flinders Petrie to James Henry Breasted dated July 29, 1898, they were selected specifically for their inscriptions. What makes them distinctive is that they exhibit some good examples of cryptographic writings, also called sportive writings, characteristic of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. On this subject, Gaudard was pleased to make a noteworthy contribution to the study of Ptolemaic hieroglyphs. Indeed, his discoveries of the new sound value *imn* for the sign , and of the use of the group  as the phonogram *tyw*, have now been added to the newly published volume by Dieter Kurth, *Einführung ins Ptolemäische: Eine Grammatik mit Zeichenliste und Übungsstücken*, Teil 3: *Nachträge und Wörterlisten* (Hützel: Backe-Verlag, 2015), p. 20, note to page 323, no. 71, and p. 27, note to page 417, no. 29, where he refers to Gaudard's publication of funerary shroud OIM E4788 (= E42046) as the unique source of these two readings. For these readings, see François Gaudard, "Fragment of a Funerary Shroud (OIM E42046)," in *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond*, edited by Christopher Woods, with Emily Teeter and Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Publications 32 (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2010), pp. 176–77, no. 86; and François Gaudard, "Individual Research," in *The Oriental Institute 2010–2011 Annual Report*, edited by Gil Stein (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2011), pp. 142–43. Both were previously unrecorded in standard publications such as François Daumas et al., *Valeurs phonétiques des signes hiéroglyphiques d'époque gréco-romaine*, 4 volumes (Montpellier: Université de Montpellier, 1988–1995).

Moreover, Gaudard continued his work as a co-editor of the Mummy Label Database (MLD) (see separate report) and of the Death on the Nile Project, identifying and publishing more mummy labels from various collections worldwide.

On behalf of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD), he also held talks with Professor Frédéric Colin from the Université de Strasbourg, in order to initiate an exchange of high-resolution digital photographs of Demotic documents, which will be profitable to both institutions.

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

From August 31 to September 4, 2014, Gaudard attended the 12th International Congress for Demotic Studies, which took place in Würzburg, Germany, where he chaired the session *Ägypten im internationalen Kontext*.

On January 8, 2015, as a longtime collaborator of Professor Janet H. Johnson on the Chicago Demotic Dictionary, Gaudard was invited to deliver a speech in her honor to mark the announcement of her Festschrift, entitled *Essays for the Library of Seshat: Studies Presented to Janet H. Johnson on the Occasion of Her 70th Birthday*.

He also continued to serve as an editorial consultant for Egyptology articles published in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and the *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities*.

Three of Gaudard's articles have been published or submitted this past year:

- "A Demotic-Hieratic Mummy Label in the Museu de Montserrat." In *Mélanges offerts à Ola el-Aguizy*, edited by Fayza Haikal, pp. 159–68. Bibliothèque d'Étude 164. Cairo: Institut français d'archéologie orientale, 2015.
- "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. 39–51. *Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization* 70. Chicago: The Oriental Institute (in press).
- "On a Disputed Aspect of the God Seth," to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (forthcoming).

In addition, Gaudard spent part of the year revising his dissertation for publication, and he has been working on the following articles:

- "Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago," to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (in preparation).
- "A Greek-Demotic Mummy Label," for another Festschrift (in preparation).

Gaudard also furthered his research on several of his long-term publication projects mentioned in earlier *Annual Reports*.

McGuire Gibson

The news coming out of Iraq, Syria, and Yemen has been devastating to anyone who has invested time, effort, and funding in exposing the cultural heritage of these countries. Having excavated in all three countries, **McGuire Gibson** has a personal stake in trying to prevent or at least to gauge the destruction that we see on TV and the Internet. Knowing the great effort that Iraqis have expended on very good restorations of the Nimrud palace and Hatra, as well as the installation of the Mosul Museum, and knowing personally the Iraqi staff who oversaw that work, it is especially distressing to see it being destroyed. Gibson acts as an advisor to two groups in the U.S. who are recording the destruction that can be seen on satellite images. Several of his former students are engaged on these projects. During the year, he took part in meetings on the use of satellite imagery for such projects at the University of Arkansas and in Washington D.C. He also participated in a conference on Iraqi heritage at the University of Maryland. He has occasionally appeared on TV and given radio interviews

about the destruction of sites, but the interest has not been as intense as it was in 1991 and 2003, when the U.S. was more directly involved on the ground in Iraq.

The entire field of archaeology was saddened by the news of the death of Tony Wilkinson, who carried out innovative research and teaching at the Oriental Institute for a decade before returning to Britain. Wilkinson and Gibson conducted projects together in Yemen and Syria. In early January, Gibson represented the Oriental Institute at the memorial service for Wilkinson in Durham, England.

In terms of publication, Gibson continued to work with Karen Wilson, Richard Zettler, and Jean Evans to get the Nippur Inanna Temple manuscript submitted to the OI editorial office. He is also once again working on other Nippur publication backlog, having now finished the basic work on two publications that he has been editing for Iraqi colleagues for several years now. Muzahim Hussein's *Assyrian Queens' Tombs at Nimrud* is undergoing final polishing in the OI editorial office and should be out later this year. The combined reports of Salah Rmeidh and Hussein Ali Hamza on two sites they dug in the Diyala region as long ago as 1979 are now in a state that they can be submitted for publication to the OI editorial office. As with the Queen's Tombs, these reports were translated by Mark Altaweel, a former student who now teaches at University College London. Gibson edited and added commentary to all these reports. The importance of the two Diyala reports is that one is on Tell Asmar, ancient Eshnunna, which was one of the premier sites dug by the OI in the 1930s. The other site, Tell Muqdadiyah, is fairly close to Eshnunna and was under its rule. The two sites, then, complement the Institute's own work and add important evidence on the Diyala region.

Gibson spent a lot of time this past year on search committees. The Oriental Institute went through the second year of an exhaustive search to hire three Assyriologists and a new search for an Anatolian archaeologist, and he served on both those committees. This entailed reading a lot of articles and books, listening to public presentations, and attending hours of committee meetings. Happily, the searches resulted in four hires.

Gibson continues to represent the University of Chicago on the boards of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS) and The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII). AIYS was forced to withdraw its American resident director from Sana'a more than a year ago, but the institute still functions under a Yemeni replacement. The headquarters, located in an older renovated building with a newly constructed annex in traditional Yemeni style, is still intact, but with the Saudis bombing the city of Sana'a, there is no telling whether or not it will escape untouched. TAARII has still not established a base in Baghdad, so there is no danger to a structure there.

Petra M. Goedegebuure

Petra M. Goedegebuure's monograph *The Hittite Demonstratives: Studies in Deixis, Topics and Focus* (Studien zu den Boghazköy-Texten 55; Harrassowitz, 610 pp.) was published in September 2014. She has now resumed working on her second book, with the preliminary title *The Anatolian Core Cases* (to be published in the Languages of the Ancient Near East series of Eisenbrauns). Compared to the dimensional cases (expressing position, goal, and origin), which all have been treated in monographs, the core cases have received surprisingly little attention, whether from a traditional or linguistic point of view. Petra's new project will fill

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

this gap in the linguistic description of not only Hittite but of all Indo-European Anatolian languages. One of the chapters deals with split-ergativity. The presence of split-ergativity in the Anatolian languages is currently one of the most debated topics of Anatolian syntax. The question is whether certain Hittite morphemes are genuine ergative case endings or markers of personification or individualization. What the proponents of each option have not fully taken into account is the chronological distribution of the relevant forms. Using a chronologically ordered corpus, Petra shows how the Hittite ergatives developed out of individualization markers. As a result, Hittite can no longer be used to reconstruct ergativity for Proto-Anatolian and certainly not for Proto-Indo-European. She has presented the results “The Rise of Split-Ergativity in Hittite” at several venues, including at the 225th annual meeting of the American Oriental Society (New Orleans).

Another area of Petra’s research is Luwian, a sister language of Hittite. Together with Vincent van Exel, she is revising an article that analyzes how the vesicularity of basalt influences the spatial distribution of Hieroglyphic Luwian signs. Sometimes the scribe avoided vesicular areas, but this has not been recognized in the text editions. Petra and Vincent are now proposing new readings for several Hieroglyphic Luwian texts (“The Medium Matters: The Impact of Basalt Quality on Writing (and Reading) Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscriptions,” accepted after revision for publication in the journal *Anatolian Studies*). Hieroglyphic Luwian signs were also the topic of two presentations, one delivered to the volunteers of the Oriental Institute (“Luwian Hieroglyphs: An Indigenous Anatolian Writing System,” February 2015), and one delivered at the 9th international congress of Hittitology (“The Hieroglyphic Luwian Signs *128 (AVIS ‘bird’) = wa and *30 = HAPA,” September 2014, Çorum, Turkey). Even though most Luwian signs can be read, there are still some undeciphered hieroglyphs that prevent a full understanding of the words and passages in which they occur. With the proposed readings for two such hieroglyphs, Petra could add four new lexemes to the Luwian lexicon. She is now preparing this presentation for publication.

Petra furthermore participated in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project, (see separate report).

This year Petra was invited to serve on the board of a new journal (*Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Languages*, Walter de Gruyter and De Gruyter Mouton) and the advisory board of the Hethitologie Portal Mainz. She also served on the Assyriology omnibus-search committee, the Anatolian archaeology search committee, and the annual postdoc committee of the Oriental Institute.

Gene Gragg

Gene Gragg’s work on the Afroasiatic (still, more appropriately, Cushitic-Omotiic) Morphological Archive project continues to pursue its three-fold objective:

1. development of a prototype tool for recording, querying, and manipulating morphological material in paradigm format;
2. presented in the form of a searchable archive of morphological information on some 40 Cushitic-Omotiic languages;

3. which, fleshed out with appropriate documentation and annotation provides the core of a comparative-historical morphology of this branch of the Afroasiatic language family – and eventually, with the collaboration of appropriate domain experts, beyond.

With usable tools in place, work this year has centered on an archive-wide proofreading of the encoded data, addition of bibliographic and basic geographic-demographic information to the searchable datastore, and development of a maximally consistent set of morphological property and value terms. Useful feedback resulted from presentation of the project at a morphology workshop in the linguistic department.

Information about the current state of the project, with instructions for consulting the data files on line and/or downloading the data files and installing a local datastore, can be found at <https://github.com/gbagg/aama-data/>. We are currently exploring ways to provide a capability for querying and manipulating the data online.

Jack Green

It was a busy year for exhibits and multiple projects in the Museum, which has had an undoubted impact on personal research outputs in the past year. Nevertheless, **Jack Green** produced a number of publications and gave several lectures. Work progressed on the Oriental Institute Museum's highlights book, which Jack is co-editing with Emily Teeter. We intend to have this volume in press this year now that photography is nearing completion.

Two *Oriental Institute News & Notes* articles appeared over the past year: "Behind the Scenes at the Oriental Institute Museum: Egyptian Coffin Conservation Project" (no. 224, pp. 14–15), and "Lending the Collections: From Ancient to Modern in New York" (no. 225, pp. 14–17). The latter article relates to an exhibition held at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, which included a number of objects and archival documents on loan from the Oriental Institute. A chapter co-authored with Jean M. Evans, entitled "Ground to Gallery: Discovery, Interpretation, and Display of Early Dynastic Sculpture from the Iraq Expedition of the Oriental Institute," was published in the exhibit catalog *From Ancient to Modern: Archaeology and Aesthetics*, edited by J. Chi and P. Azara (Princeton, 2015, pp. 162–93).

Green responded to Morag M. Kersel's forum article "Storage Wars: Solving the Archaeological Curation Crisis?" in the *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies* 3/1. Entitled "Building Capacity, Sharing Knowledge" (2015, pp. 63–71), the response focused on the role of archaeological collections within university museums and opportunities that they provide for scholarly engagement and the international sharing of collections, data, and expertise.

A chapter related to Green's PhD thesis and continued research on Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Southern Levant entitled "Objects, People, and Ritual Sequences: The Cemetery at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, Jordan" appeared in the conference proceedings *Contextualising Grave Inventories in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Peter Pfälzner, Herbert Niehr, Ernst Pernicka, Sarah Lange, and Tina Köster (Qatna Studien Supplementum 3. Wiesbaden, 2014, pp. 157–70).

In June, Green published a review of M. H. Feldman's book *Communities of Style* in *The Art Newspaper* (no. 296, p. 94). A more detailed review was submitted to the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Two catalog entries for Oriental Institute Museum objects, “Four-horned Altar” (cat. no. 72) and “Horse Frontlet with Master of Animals” (cat. no. 167) were published in the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s exhibit catalog *Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age*, edited by Joan Aruz, Sarah Graff, and Yelena Rakic (New Haven and London, 2014, pp. 182, 297–98).

Several conference papers and public talks were given over the past year including “Negotiating Ritual in the Jordan Valley during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages” at the American Schools of Oriental Research annual meeting in San Diego (November 20), “Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Near Eastern Art” for the Chicago Archaeological Society in Evanston (April 26). A paper entitled “Relocation and Reinterpretation: The Neo-Assyrian Reliefs from Khorsabad at the Oriental Institute Museum” was co-presented with Kiersten Neumann at the Theoretical Archaeology Group meeting at New York University (May 24). Green presented on “The Hisham’s Palace Site and Museum Project” as part of the “Digging Up Jericho” conference held at University College London (June 29–30).

Progress was made on the preparation (with Ros Henry) of a volume of letters and photographs of British Near Eastern archaeologist Olga Tufnell, including a research visit to access the archives of the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, in June 2015. Finally, long-term preparations continued on the Tell es-Sa‘idiyeh Cemetery Publication Project, including work on the beads and pottery chapters.

Emily Hammer

Emily Hammer joined the Oriental Institute in August 2014 as director of the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL). In her first year in Chicago, she took CAMEL in the new research-oriented directions described earlier in the *Annual Report* and continued her personal research on marginal landscapes and pastoral nomadism in Turkey and Azerbaijan. Two articles on her fieldwork appeared in September 2014. The first, “Local Landscape Organization of Mobile Pastoralists in Southeastern Turkey” (*Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 35), drew on archaeological survey data in order to analyze pastoral landscapes along the Tigris River over the last 600–700 years. This data provides the largest body of empirical evidence concerning pre-modern mobile pastoral land use in Mesopotamia. The article describes how certain features like cisterns structured the spatial organization of camping and herding areas. The second article, “Highland Fortress-Polities and Their Settlement Systems in the South Caucasus” (*Antiquity* 88) presents data from Emily’s first two seasons of survey in Naxçivan, Azerbaijan, which resulted in the identification of large settlement complexes surrounding Iron Age fortresses contemporary with the eastward expansion of Urartu. These complexes are important for understanding the timing and characteristics of the earliest urban centers and polities in South Caucasia. Emily also completed writing two new articles on 10,000 years of pastoralism in Anatolia (co-authored with Benjamin Arbuckle) and on water management by mobile pastoralists; both of these have been accepted in peer-reviewed venues and will appear next year. Along with Guillermo Algaze, she is working to publish final reports of salvage surveys that show major settlement pattern changes over 8,000 years along the Tigris River and its tributaries in Turkey. She is also currently in the process of writing several methodological articles with collaborators on new GIS methodologies and a new geological dating technique that she previously applied to cisterns in Turkey.

During the autumn and winter quarters, Emily taught a course sequence on landscape archaeology and GIS which drew students from the departments of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Anthropology, and Geography. These courses culminated in a poster session, where students had the opportunity to discuss their independent GIS projects with faculty, staff, and peers.

Emily presented conference papers at the American Schools of Oriental Research in November and at the Society for American Archaeology in April on topics related to her fieldwork in Azerbaijan and Turkey. In early April, she participated in an invited conference at SUNY Buffalo on “Water and Power in the Ancient World,” where she discussed how mobile pastoralists manage water. In late April, she gave an invited lecture at the Smithsonian Freer-Sackler Galleries entitled “Digital Technologies and Archaeology in the Modern Middle East.” This lecture was part of a public series related to the exhibit *Unearthing Arabia: The Archaeological Adventures of Wendell Phillips*, and highlighted continuity and changes in archaeological practice between 1950s Yemen and today.

At the time of writing, Emily finds herself again in Naxçıvan, Azerbaijan, continuing her National Science Foundation-funded survey of Bronze and Iron Age fortress-settlement complexes.

Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee

Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee was on maternity leave during the fall quarter of 2015. After she returned to the Oriental Institute in January 2016, she worked on several projects. One of Hasselbach-Andee’s continuing projects is the translation and, more importantly, revision, of Josef Tropper’s grammar of Classical Ethiopic (Geʿez), for which she intends to complete a first draft by the end of summer. Hasselbach-Andee has also started working on a new book project. This project consists of editing a *Companion of Ancient Near Eastern Languages* for Wiley Blackwell. This companion will contain descriptions of the writing systems and languages of the ancient Near East attested during the time period of cuneiform writing. The focus, however, is not purely on language description but also on sociolinguistic factors, such as the historical and political settings of the languages and language and literary contact. The volume will thus have a different scope than other books on ancient Near Eastern languages and be accessible to a wider readership. Besides these two book projects, Hasselbach-Andee has worked on several articles and book reviews. She has written and submitted an article on the “Classification of Akkadian within the Semitic Language Family” for a volume on Akkadian edited by Juan Pablo Vita. This article looks at Akkadian in the context of Semitic in general and describes its unique position as both the most ancient Semitic language in terms of chronology and certain morphological features such as the verbal system, and also as a very innovative language in terms of linguistic changes that Akkadian underwent after it branched off from its ancestor Proto-Semitic. Hasselbach-Andee is also finishing an article on the origin of the third-person markers on the suffix conjugation in Semitic, which argues that the common “person” markers of the third persons on this verbal form are not, as suggested by some scholars, derived from original pronouns, but constitute inflectional endings instead. This means the third-person markers have their origin in the nominal, not pronominal, system. In addition to these articles, Hasselbach-Andee has written and submit-

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

ted two book reviews, one on *Altakkadisches Elementarbuch*, by Francis Breyer (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2014), for the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, and the other on *La grammatica della lingua di Ebla*, by Amalia Catagnoti (Florence: Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità, 2012), for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. This year has further seen the publication of Hasselbach-Andee's article "Agreement and the Development of Gender in Semitic," which was published in two parts in *Zeitschrift der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 164 (2014, pp. 33–64, 319–44). Hasselbach-Andee further served on various committees for the Oriental Institute, including the Assyriology search committee, which suggested the hire of three Assyriologists, who all have now accepted their positions; the committee for the selection of the annual postdoctoral fellow, which equally selected an excellent young scholar who will join the Oriental Institute next year; and the Publications committee, which looks at publications submitted to the Oriental Institute editorial office.

Janet H. Johnson

In September, **Janet H. Johnson** gave a lecture entitled "The CDD [Chicago Demotic Dictionary] Is 'Done'. Where Do We Go from Here?" at the 12th international conference of Demotic studies (see also Chicago Demotic Dictionary project report). She also presented "Why Write a Dictionary?" for the MA Orientation course "Approaches to the Study of the Ancient Near East." She gave her paper entitled "Cleo(pat)ra as CEO: The Hostile Takeover of a 1st Millennium Multinational" for the 2015 conference Poles on the Nile sponsored by the University of Warsaw. She was in Warsaw to participate in the dissertation defense of a fine young student who had written an excellent dissertation on the representation of clothing in Late Period Egypt. Johnson also served as a panel chair and respondent for the 2015 Oriental Institute Postdoc symposium entitled "Structures of Power: Law and Gender across the Ancient Near East and Beyond."

She completed an article entitled "Compound Nouns, especially Abstracts, in Demotic" for a *Festschrift* for a colleague; her article on "The Range of Private Property Envisioned in Demotic Documents Pertaining to Marriage and Inheritance" appeared in the *Festschrift* for Egyptian colleague Ola el-Aguizy, which was published through the French Institute in Cairo.

She learned a great deal serving on the OI Museum Collections Research Grants Committee and the search committee to hire a specialist in "The Literatures of Modern Muslim Societies" in the context of the Mellon Islamic Studies Initiative. She was proud to have two students defend their dissertations and looks forward to several more finishing within the next year; she enjoyed meeting the newest cohort of Egyptology students while teaching the Introduction to Middle Egyptian course. She also enjoyed two Skype conversations with fifth-grade students at the Science and Art Academy in Des Plaines, Illinois, who were just finishing their "module" on ancient Egypt and had a very wide range of interests and questions.

W. Raymond Johnson

This year **W. Raymond Johnson** completed his thirty-seventh year working in Egypt, his thirty-sixth full year working for the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, and his eighteenth season as Chicago House Field Director. In May Ray was made an official member of the Akhenaten Museum (Minya) Committee by the Minister of Antiquities and Heritage (MAH) Dr. Mamdouh el-Damaty, and in July was appointed a member of the Scientific and Architectural Committee for the Study of the Ramesseum Pylon Restoration by the minister. Publications this year include: “A Relief Head of Amenhotep III in Leiden from the Tomb of Kheruef in Thebes (TT 192)” and “Horemheb’s Saqqara Tomb: A New Discovery,” in *Antiquities from Bologna and Leiden, Exhibition Catalog* (Bologna, forthcoming 2015); “An Amarna Royal Head at Hanover’s Museum August Kestner,” in *KMT: A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt* 26/3 (Fall 2015): 22–29; “A Recently Rediscovered Amarna Princess Head in Red Quartzite,” with Magdy Shaker, in *A Festschrift Offered to Zoltan Fabian on the Occasion of His 60th Birthday*, edited by Bori Németh (Károli Gáspár University, Budapest; forthcoming 2015); “The Abusir Tutankhamun Blocks: Origin and Context,” with Zahi Hawass, in *Studies Presented to Geoffrey Thorndike Martin*, edited by Jacobus van Dijk (forthcoming 2015). “An Indurated-Limestone Sphinx Fragment of Nefer-titi in the Luxor Temple Blockyard,” 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 (Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 70; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, forthcoming); “The Duck-Throttling Scene from Amarna: A New Metropolitan Museum of Art/Copenhagen Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek Amarna Talatat Join,” in *Joyful in Thebes: Studies Presented to Betsy Bryan* (2015); and “Further on Berlin Bust AM 20496,” in *KMT: A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt* 26/1 (Spring 2015): 57–58.

Charles E. Jones

As I set out to write this report, news that it is the first anniversary of the proclamation of the caliphate in Iraq and Syria peppers the media. The surprise appearance, astonishing success, and numbing brutality of this movement has dominated the thought of all of us who study antiquity and the Near East. The IraqCrisis mailing list (<https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/info/iraqcrisis>), established at the Oriental Institute a dozen years ago to communicate substantive information on cultural property damaged, destroyed, or lost from libraries, museums, and archaeological sites in Iraq during and after the war in April 2003, and on the worldwide response to the crisis, has come back to life. In a world where much of scholarly communication is now dominated by social media networks, emailing lists play a less central role than they did in 2003, but the more than eight hundred subscribers appear to find it a useful tool. List traffic is also syndicated to Twitter (@IraqCrisis), where there are 131 followers, and to Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/IraqCrisis/131622046891319>) where there are 332 connections. Those interested are invited to participate in any media they choose. As this year’s crisis has progressed the scope of IraqCrisis has expanded to include Syria and Yemen.

AWOL: The Ancient World Online (<http://ancientworldonline.blogspot.com/>) continues to grow as a central place providing access to open access and digitized scholarship on antiquity. The list of 7,468 subscribers to the daily digest has grown by 800 over the past year, and about 1,400 items have been added to AWOL — about four per day over the past year. The list of open-access journals in ancient studies (<http://ancientworldonline.blogspot.com/>)

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

com/2012/07/alphabetical-list-of-open-access.html) now holds 1,527 titles. I am pleased to report that AWOL and its sister project Access to Mideast and Islamic Resources (AMIR) (<http://amirmideast.blogspot.com/>) have been selected for long-term preservation by Columbia University's Web Resources Collection Program (Web Archiving) (https://library.columbia.edu/bts/web_resources_collection.html), which gives me a better sense of the security of the data collected by our projects. In December I was delighted to hear that AWOL had been given the Award for Outstanding Work in Digital Archaeology by the Archaeological Institute of America (<https://www.archaeological.org/awards/digitalarch>).

Walter Kaegi

Walter Kaegi published or prepared several items for publication. Cambridge University Press has now produced a long-promised paperback edition, with very minor corrections, of his 2010 book *Muslim Expansion and Byzantine Collapse in North Africa*. He published a chapter entitled "Byzantium in the Seventh Century" in the *Oxford Handbook of Maximus the Confessor*, edited by P. Allen and Bronwen Neil (2015, pp. 84–105). He corrected page proofs for a chapter "The Islamic Conquest and the Defense of Byzantine Africa: Campaigns and Conquests in Context, Reconsiderations," in press for publication in a collective volume for Dumbarton Oaks/Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies, entitled *North Africa under Byzantium and Early Islam, ca. 500-ca. 800*, edited by Susan T. Stevens and Jonathan P. Conant (Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, forthcoming).

He delivered a paper on January 15, 2015, entitled "Constantine I, Babylon, and Julian's Expedition to Mesopotamia Once More," Oriental Institute and University of Chicago Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium, held at the Oriental Institute. He is grateful for the indispensable technical assistance for this project provided by Emily Hammer, director of the Oriental Institute Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL), and equally important advice from McGuire Gibson. Kaegi is preparing this paper for eventual publication.

He continued to serve as co-chair, with Michael Allen (Classics) and Karin Krause (Divinity School) of the Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium. He also attended and participated in discussion in several other workshops, including the Ancient Studies Workshop, the Medieval Workshop, and Middle East/Islamic workshops.

He prepared a review of *Approaches to the Byzantine Family*, which the journal *Historian* will publish.

On November 7, 2014, he served as a speaker, delivering opening remarks, at the initial session entitled "A 40 Year Retrospective," at the Annual Meeting of the Byzantine Studies/Byzantine Studies Association North America (BSANA), at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

He presided as session chair at the Medieval Academy Annual Meeting, Notre Dame University, on March 13, 2015.

He continued to serve as editor of *Byzantinische Forschungen* and as a reporter of history bibliography for *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*.

He is preparing an article "Seventh-Century North Africa: Military and Political Convergences and Divergences," for the German Archaeological Society in Rome (DAIRom) collective volume, edited by R. Bockmann, Anna Leone, and Philipp von Rummel.

He intensively visited and studied the exhibition “Heaven and Earth: Art of Byzantium in Greek Collections” at the Getty Villa in Malibu, California, in summer 2014 (only 30% of this exposition was subsequently exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago although the smaller exhibit provided another opportunity to study some objects).

He read widely on comparative contemporary historical material (seventh–tenth century CE) from Tang Dynasty China. He is investigating several other historiographical problems and controversies in Byzantine and Near Eastern history, for publication.

He continued to consult with Social Sciences Division Technical Services for recovery of audiotapes of his course lectures on Byzantine Imperial History from the 1980s and 1990s.

He developed materials for a new seminar and colloquium course on the Late Antique Mediterranean, which he will teach in academic year 2015–2016.

Morag M. Kersel

The summer of 2014 marked the final season of the excavations at Marj Rabba in the lower Galilee of Israel. The small, intensive season focused on an area (see Marj Rabba report) with an intrepid team of four students and four staff, including Oriental Institute Visiting Committee member Andrea Dudek as the project registrar. **Morag Kersel** and co-director Yorke Rowan found the final season at Marj Rabba bittersweet — six seasons of great results but a difficult good-bye to the site. Moving forward the focus of 2014–2015 was working on the analyses of the material culture, figuring out the stratigraphy, and the creation of a series of maps, plans, and sections of the site. In the winter and spring quarters Morag and DePaul University anthropology student Maggie Baker received a DePaul Undergraduate Research Award to digitize the remaining site plans and to create a series of plans with the different phases of habitation at Marj Rabba.

In November 2014 Kersel and Rowan presented the results of this field season at the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research. Project participants Joyce Fountain, Gabrielle Borenstein, and Blair Heidkamp presented a poster entitled “The Final Season: Marj Rabba 2014,” which was the recipient of the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting Poster Award.

Articles by Kersel appeared in the *Journal of Social Archaeology* (“Fractured Oversight: The ABCs of Cultural Heritage in Palestine After the Oslo Accords”) and in the *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies* (“Storage Wars: Solving the Archaeological Curation Crisis?” and “An Issue of Ethics? Curation and the Obligations of Archaeology”), the result of the research carried out while a Council of American Overseas Research Center Fellow and an Associate Fellow at the W. F. Albright Institute for Archaeological Research, Jerusalem.

In March of 2015 the project entitled Landscapes of the Dead: Aerial and Pedestrian Site Monitoring at Fifa an Early Bronze Age I Cemetery On the Dead Sea Plain, Jordan, (part of the Follow the Pots Project) continued. The primary objective of this research is to assess (through aerial photography and a pedestrian survey) the Early Bronze Age (EBA, ca. 3500–2000 BCE) archaeological landscape at Fifa in order to better understand both the ancient and modern uses of a mortuary site. Kersel and colleague Austin C. Hill presented some preliminary results of this research at the annual meetings of the Society of American Archaeology, the Archaeological Institute of America, and at conferences on cultural heritage protection

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

in times of crisis in Arkansas and Chicago. As part of the Follow the Pots [www.followthepotsproject.org] project, Kersel continued to track Early Bronze Age grave goods from Jordan to the antiquities market in Israel and then on to collectors (museums, private individuals, and educational institutions) in Europe and North America, spending some time tracking tomb groups to various museums and educational institutions throughout North America.

In the spring of 2015 Kersel, along with Gil Stein, was a panelist in the Music Box Theatre premiere of *Saving Mes Aynak*. Panelists and the audience discussed the threat of a Chinese mining company's actions to the archaeological site of Mes Aynak in Afghanistan. She also participated in a post-production discussion with the actors in *Inana* at the TimeLine Theatre in Chicago. *Inana* is a love story set against the backdrop of the impending invasion of Baghdad in 2003 by coalition forces. The story centers on an Iraqi museum curator who plots to save treasured antiquities from destruction — including the statue of ancient mother goddess Inana. The panel discussed the various threats to artifacts and sites in the Middle East.

Kersel recently worked with Oriental Institute chief curator Jack Green on developing a museum exhibit entitled *Heritage Under Threat*, showcasing the threatened landscape of Fifa. In 2015–2016 Kersel will be a visiting fellow with the *Past for Sale: New Approaches to the Study of Archaeological Looting*, at the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society at the University of Chicago.

Massimo Maiocchi

In the last year, **Massimo Maiocchi** kept working on the Writing in Early Mesopotamia project. The database at the core of this project has been expanded to include new texts and fragments, which have been encoded in order for users to perform morphological and grammatical queries. As Instructor at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, he taught introductory and advanced classes in Akkadian (Old Akkadian and Old Babylonian) and Eblaite. Massimo also took part in several conferences and workshops, where he offered papers on various topics related to early Mesopotamian writing and history. In October 2014, Massimo was invited to the workshop *Beyond the Meme*, organized by W. Wimsatt and A. Love at the Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science (Minneapolis). There, he presented a paper titled “Writing in Early Mesopotamia: The Historical Interplay of Technology, Cognition, and Environment,” in which he explored the connection between cuneiform writing and the environment in which it emerged. In November, Massimo was in Paris for the final conference of the series *Rôle Économique des Femmes en Mésopotamie Ancienne*, organized by C. Michel and B. Lion. The topic of his presentation was “Women and Production in Sargonid Adab,” and focused on social and economic history of the so-called first world empire. In the same month, Massimo also presented a paper at the conference *Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World's First Writing Systems*, organized in Chicago by C. Woods and E. Shaughnessy. His presentation was titled “Approaching the Earliest Cuneiform Texts: Sign Network Analysis of Late Fourth and Early Third Millennium BC Archives,” offering new data based on computational analysis of the earliest lexical lists from Mesopotamia. In June, Massimo took part in the second session of the *Signs of Writing* conference, held in Beijing and Shanghai, with a talk titled “Writing Cuneiform on Perishable Media,” discussing the textual evidence supporting the idea that cuneiform, besides clay,

might have been written quite frequently on wooden boards. All the papers presented in the last year are presently being finalized and are going to be published in the forthcoming proceedings of the individual conferences. In addition, in July Massimo worked on an article titled “Reading History through Lexicography: The Weavers of Sargonic Adab in Comparative Perspective,” to be published in a forthcoming volume of the series *Alter Orient und Altes Testament*, edited by A. Garcia Ventura.

Gregory Marouard

This year, again, **Gregory Marouard** devoted a large part of his time to archaeological fieldwork in order to bring to an end three of the projects that he had started a few years ago, before his arrival as a research associate at the Oriental Institute.

During summer 2014, he focused his research on the completion and redaction of several articles and on the processing of archaeological data from the last excavations of the Tell Edfu Project, conducted in 2012. He submitted in particular an article entitled “New Evidence for a Middle Kingdom Harbor Basin at Dahshur” for the peer-reviewed journal *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Abteilung Kairo* (no. 69, forthcoming).

From early October until the end of November 2014, Gregory supervised, as co-director together with Nadine Moeller, the latest campaign at Tell Edfu (see the *Tell Edfu* project report). He was in charge of Zone 2, focusing on the Old Kingdom settlement remains occupied between the early Fifth Dynasty to the early First Intermediate Period. Several deep trenches were dug to reach the natural bedrock, which also revealed possible remains from the Fourth Dynasty in this area. He continued the study of the Old Kingdom enclosure walls located in the same sector with the support of Oren Siegel (NELC graduate student).

Last autumn Gregory gave a joint paper at the HeRMA-IFAO international colloquium *Les mobiliers archéologiques dans leur contexte, de la Gaule à l’Orient Méditerranéen / Archaeological Artifacts in Context, from Gaul to the Eastern Mediterranean*, held at the University of Poitiers, France (October 27–29, 2014).

In December, Gregory conducted his first campaign at the temple of Dendara in Upper Egypt, as co-director of a new archaeological project of the Oriental Institute on the concession of the IFAO (French Archeological Institute in Cairo, directed by Dr. Pierre Zignani, CNRS) and in close collaboration with the Macquarie University in Sydney (represented by Dr. Yann Tristant, senior lecturer).

His goal in this new collaborative research program is to focus on the study of the enclosure walls and the settlement area in the internal and external parts of the Hathor sanctuary precinct, the sister site of Edfu, located 40 miles north of Luxor. During three weeks, he excavated several stratigraphic trenches; some situated less than 60 feet away from the main temple (rebuilt during the Roman period). Most



Greg preparing a photogrammetry with a kite at Dendara

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

of these operations led to the discovery of Old Kingdom settlement remains, some clearly dated to the late Third or early Fourth Dynasty (ca. 2650–2550 BC). For the first time, he also located Early Dynastic settlement remains from the First and Second Dynasties, possibly in relation with the synchronous graves discovered by C. Fisher in 1915–17 during the University of Pennsylvania excavations in the cemetery area. Gregory also supervised a trench on the northwestern corner of the Roman Mammisi in order to study its foundation system and to confirm the existence of an earlier enclosure wall in this area.

In January 2015, Gregory joined Yann Tristant (Macquarie University) for three weeks in the Wadi Araba in the northern Eastern Desert. This campaign marks the final season of this diachronic extensive survey engaged in this area since 2008. They focused on the southern part of the Wadi Araba, discovering several Coptic eremitic installations near the St. Antony monastery and two new Neolithic sites from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B period (PPNB). The use of satellite images led to the discovery a 25-foot-wide pathway that runs through the southern Wadi Araba from west to east over several dozens of kilometers. The ceramics found all along indicate clearly the beginning of the Fourth Dynasty and, the discovery of some sherds of the pottery production from the Wadi al-Jarf underlines that this ancient trail was certainly used to reach Khufu's port site on the Red Sea.

Between mid-March and the end of April, Gregory joined as senior archaeologist the annual mission at the Wadi al-Jarf (IFAO, MAEE, CNRS). He was in charge of the harbor area at the site, located along the coast and dating back to the early Fourth Dynasty (ca. 2600–2550 BC). This was the final season there, in order to complete the excavation of a large administrative storage building and adjacent installations. He also unearthed the emerged part of the pier on the seashore extending about 145 feet in length. With Dr. Pierre Tallet (director, University of Paris Sorbonne), he engaged the work on the first monograph about the archaeological results from the coastline occupations. Gregory has also continued his investigations on the pottery production at the main part of the site by excavating two new pottery kilns and unprecedented workshop installations.

In April, Gregory joined the harbor site at Ayn Sokhna on the Red Sea coast for a short study season, excavated by the IFAO since 2001. He completed the study of the Old and Middle Kingdom pottery and supervised the study of the macro-faunal remains (performed by Dr. Joséphine Lesur) from the excavation of the boatyard area (Kom 14) that he directed between 2006 and 2012. This was his final season on the site and he is now organizing the edition of a collective monograph on this area. He also submitted a final version of a chapter for the forthcoming third monograph on the archaeological results: *Ayn Sokhna III: le complexe de galeries-magasins. Rapport Archéologique*.

Gregory attended the 66th annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt (April 24–26, 2015), where he presented a paper about his recent work at Dendara: “Re-Excavating Dendara: Preliminary Results of the 2014 Oriental Institute-IFAO-Macquarie University Joint Mission.”

At the end of April, he also received the concession and the official permit to engage an extensive pottery and a geomagnetic survey at the site of Kom ed-Dahab, a large Hellenistic and Roman emporion settlement — an *ex-nihilo* harbor site — which he had recently discovered in the Lake Menzala area (eastern Delta) by using remote sensing on satellite images. Supported by the Oriental Institute, this program also received a significant grant from the Delta Survey Project of the Egypt Exploration Society, an institution that is now a partner of the project. Hopefully, the survey will be carried out for two or three weeks next September

2015. Gregory published a brief paper about this new site: “Kom el-Dahab Interpreted” in *Egyptian Archaeology* 45 (2014): 25–27.

In early May, he gave a lecture series in California about the recent discoveries at the Wadi el-Jarf for the Orange County ARCE chapter, the EEO Southern California chapter in Los Angeles, and the Northern California ARCE chapter at Berkeley.

Finally, from mid-May to the end of June 2015, as associate director and senior archeologist, Gregory conducted the excavation of the French mission at Buto (joint project of the University of Poitiers and the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo, DAIK), in the western Delta area. Gregory excavated this season an area about 8,000 square feet (sector P16) located immediately to the south of the Late Period enclosure wall of the temple of Wadjet where, in 2013, a geomagnetic survey revealed extensive archaeological remains. This excavation revealed here the foundations of several major mudbrick constructions from the middle to the late Ptolemaic period, and Gregory supervised the excavation of a dozen pottery kilns and workshop remains from the same period. For the first time since 1968, it can now be shown that some of these installations were clearly used for firing the famous fine production of Black Slip Ware dishes from Buto, which imitate Hellenistic productions imported from the Eastern Mediterranean such as the Pergamon or Antioch areas. This campaign was the last one of two successive four-year programs of the French Foreign Office (MAEE) and the final publication of eight years of excavations — since 2007 — will be engaged soon.

To celebrate the Festschrift of Janet H. Johnson, Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology, Gregory participated in the forthcoming volume dedicated to her incredible career with an article about the major Greco-Roman site of Philadelphia in the Fayum: “‘Completamente distrutte’, réévaluation archéologique de Philadelphie du Fayoum, Égypte.”

Subsequent to the OI-AAI international workshop *The Hyksos King Khayan: New Insights on the Chronology of the 13th and 15th Dynasties*, organized by Nadine Moeller and Irene Forstner-Müller in Vienna in July 2014, a joint article with Nadine Moeller is currently being finalized for the upcoming volume of conference proceedings: “The Context of the Khayan Sealings from Tell Edfu and Further Implications for the Second Intermediate Period in Upper Egypt.’”

Carol Meyer

With the last review of page proofs and the publication of *Bir Umm Fawakhir 3, Excavations 1999–2001*, Oriental Institute Publications 141, the last of the final reports on the site, work on this project should be finished. Or maybe not. Site preservation during the current gold rush in the Eastern Desert and the need for further dissemination of the results of the Bir Umm Fawakhir excavations are ongoing concerns.

As noted in last year’s *Annual Report*, however, much of Meyer’s current research is now devoted to research on glass, a seriously underutilized category of archaeological finds. All of the glass sherds from Donald Whitcomb’s excavations at Aqaba, Jordan, from the 1986 and 1987 seasons have now been analyzed, tabulated, several hundred drawn, and a dozen or so photographed. (Ancient, highly weathered glass sherds rarely photograph well.) The corpus was sorted into a preliminary typology that proved invaluable when Meyer joined the

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

University of Copenhagen's Ancient Aylah Project at Aqaba in November and December 2014 to study their glass. This resulted in the inclusion of all the 2014 glass finds and as much of the 2008, 2010, and 2011 finds as could be retrieved from storage. These data have now been incorporated into a revised glass typology that, together with the material from the 1988 excavations, will form the core of a hefty chapter on glass from Medieval Aqaba in the final report on the Oriental Institute and University of Copenhagen excavations. As of now, there are 6,360 entries on the two master database tables, and 743 drawings and several dozen photographs in keyed, related files. The chapter is intended to be a basic reference for other excavators; as of writing there are very few large, published Islamic glass corpora and none from this time span and region. This very basic, descriptive work is stage one. After that, the data can be used to address some rather interesting questions. One of the hallmarks of Islam is abstinence. How long did it take for the Byzantine wine goblets to be replaced by the very distinctive Islamic drinking cups? Among other early Islamic inventions, a new type of glass decoration, pincering from both sides with tongs, came into use and quickly became widespread in the East, but we have no idea where the invention started. A rich, emerald green, lead-rich glass came into use. It is very distinctive and elegant, but we do not know where it was made; both Iran and Raqqa in Syria have been suggested. The well-stratified glass finds from Aqaba and new analytic techniques may permit us to address such questions. Already one group of early Abbasid glass has been identified for specialized study and publication.

Finally, Meyer continued drafting for the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition publication on the Christian period at Serra East in Nubia (see Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition project report) and wrote the short section on the glass finds. The Serra East remains date to about the same time as the late occupation of Medieval Aqaba, ca. AD 1000–1200, but very few of the material remains are similar — except the glass.

Nadine Moeller

Just before leaving for fieldwork in Egypt, **Nadine Moeller** gave a lecture and seminar at the Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies, Cornell University. In the fall, Moeller co-directed the excavations at Tell Edfu together with Gregory Marouard (for details, see the Tell Edfu project report). After the work at Tell Edfu, she spent a week visiting monuments on the Theban west bank with the aim to take new photos and videos for teaching and for the textbook she is preparing on the New Kingdom empire (see below). In March, Moeller had been invited to give a lecture and seminar at Brown University within the framework of the Ancient Egypt / Future Tense series that was co-sponsored by the Department of Egyptology and Assyriology and the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World in addition to the ARCE New England chapter. Also in March, Moeller presented a Lunchtime Gallery Talk at the Oriental Institute Museum on “Models of Daily Life in Ancient Egypt.” At the beginning of April, she gave an evening lecture and taught a study day of four seminars at the North Texas ARCE chapter in Dallas, which was well received by a group of enthusiastic members. Moeller also attended the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), which was held in Houston this year. During the meeting she was elected to the Board of Governors.

At the end of May, Moeller presented on her ongoing research focusing on urbanism in ancient Egypt at the Connections Seminar organized by Ilan Peled and Felix Höflmayer which resulted in an interesting discussion with colleagues from the Oriental Institute. Also in May, she was awarded a fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) for her next book project entitled *The Archaeology of Urbanism in Ancient Egypt: The Settlements from the Second Intermediate Period to the End of the Third Intermediate Period*, which is the second volume on urban society in ancient Egypt and which will be the main focus of her upcoming sabbatical year. The first volume of *The Archaeology of Urbanism* is currently in press with Cambridge University Press and will be published at the end of summer 2015. Moeller is also currently preparing a textbook on the New Kingdom Empire, which will be published by Cognella Publishers. This book will be the main textbook for her College Core course in the Ancient Empires sequence. Following the workshop on the Hyksos ruler Khayan, which she had co-organized with Irene Forstner-Müller in July 2014 at the Austrian Archaeological Institute (ÖAI) in Vienna, the proceedings of this workshop are now being prepared for publication and will appear in a volume edited by Moeller and Forstner-Müller.

Brian Muhs

Brian Muhs received readers' reports on his book manuscript, *The Ancient Egyptian Economy, 3000-30 BCE*, in August 2014, and based on these Cambridge University Press issued a book contract in October. Brian made requested changes and submitted the revised manuscript in February 2015, a clearance review approved it in March, and the manuscript went into pre-production in May. In June Brian also completed an article on "Gender Relations and Inheritance in Legal Codes and Legal Practice in Ancient Egypt," based on the paper that he presented at the 12th Oriental Institute Postdoc Seminar, Structures of Power, Law and Gender across the Ancient Near East and Beyond, held March 6-7, 2015.

In addition, several articles that Brian submitted in previous years appeared, including an entry on "Egyptian Legal Texts," pp. 253-61, in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Law*, vol. 1, edited by Brent A. Strawn (Oxford: University Press, 2015); an edition of "Some Early Ptolemaic Tax Receipts from Cambridge University Library," pp. 303-09, in *Mélanges offerts à Ola el-Aguizy*, edited by Fayza Haikal (Bibliothèque d'Étude 164; Cairo: Institut français d'archéologie orientale, 2015); and an article on "Property Title, Domestic Architecture, and Household Lifecycles in Egypt," pp. 321-47, in *Household Studies in Complex Societies: (Micro) Archaeological and Textual Approaches*, edited by Miriam Muller (Oriental Institute Seminars 10; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2015), based on a paper that he presented in April 2013.

Brian also presented several other lectures, beside the one he gave for the 12th Oriental Institute Postdoc Seminar. He gave a paper on "The Institutional Models for Ptolemaic Banks and Granaries" at the 12th International Congress for Demotic Studies in Würzburg in September 2014; he gave a short presentation on "The Purposes of Writing and Documentation in Ancient Bureaucracies and Economies" for discussion at the Oriental Institute Connections Seminar in December; he talked about "Legal Pluralism and Forum Shopping in Ptolemaic Egypt" during the opening plenary session Negotiating Diversity at the Joint Meeting of the Midwest branches of the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Oriental Society, and the American Schools of Oriental Research, at Bourbonnais in February 2015; and he discussed

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

“Old Kingdom Estates and Towns: Properties or Tax Districts?” at the 66th annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt at Houston in April.

Brian gave a lecture and gallery tour as part of the Oriental Institute docent training program in June, and then he traveled to Paris and Prague to check readings of ostraca in the Louvre and the Naprstek Museum in preparation for his next book project on accounting in ancient Egypt and the Nag' el-Mesheikh ostraca.

Hratch Papazian

In September (and briefly also in December) of 2014, **Hratch Papazian** returned to south Abydos to continue his work at the site of the Old Kingdom step pyramid of Sinki, focusing exclusively on a site-preservation initiative across an extended area surrounding the monument. This course of action was necessitated by the urgency of halting the incursion of expanding agricultural and habitation zones that threatened the integrity of the archaeological area. The mission was successful in putting an end to all such unauthorized activity and, more encouragingly, in reclaiming land lost to encroachment in 2012, thus establishing a set perimeter around the concession and demarcating it as a protected zone. A viability study will now be conducted regarding conservation matters connected to the structure of the pyramid itself. With respect to other research activities, Papazian's article titled “The State of Egypt in the Eighth Dynasty” has appeared in the inaugural Harvard Egyptological Studies series. He has also submitted a contribution analyzing the use of converters in Old Egyptian to the forthcoming volume in honor of Janet Johnson. In February 2015, Papazian took part in a workshop entitled Administrative Archives in the Old Kingdom, organized jointly by the Sorbonne and the University of Geneva and held at the Collège de France in Paris, where he presented a paper on his ongoing research on the Old Kingdom Gebelein archive and also chaired one of the sessions.

Richard Payne

During the 2014–2015 academic year, **Richard Payne** enjoyed a sabbatical, thanks to the Neubauer Family Foundation. He focused primarily on the ongoing research and writing of a book on the role of Zoroastrianism in Iranian imperialism, tentatively entitled *Cosmological Politics: The Zoroastrian Institutions of Iranian Imperialism in Late Antiquity*. Scholars have long recognized the importance of the Zoroastrian religion to the formation and organization of an empire whose very name — Ērānšahr, or “Iran” — was drawn from the Avesta, emphasizing the ideological or propagandistic function of the religion as a source of political legitimacy for the kings of kings. *Cosmological Politics*, by contrast, argues the religion was a source not simply of imperial ideology, but also of imperial infrastructure, religious officials, fire temples as major landowning institutions, and a juridical framework. The book brings together Zoroastrian judicial texts, the literatures of provincial populations in Syriac and Armenian, the Iranian historiographical tradition, and archaeology to show how the infrastructural and ideological resources of Zoroastrianism augmented the power of the Iranian court, without weakening the positions of the aristocracy on which the kings of kings depended for their

military might. The result was the most extensive, longest lasting of ancient Near Eastern empires.

In the course of research and writing, Payne prepared and submitted two articles on topics ancillary to the book, on the territorial infrastructures of the empire and on the organization of sex and reproduction in Zoroastrian jurisprudence. He also completed an article on the emergence of a hybrid Irano-Turkic political culture in Iranian regions of Central Asia that the Huns and Turks conquered and transformed, entitled “The Making of Turan: The Fall and Transformation of the Iranian East.” Articles on East Syrian jurisprudence in the first Islamic century and on the state of Sasanian archaeology appeared in the journal *Iranian Studies* and the *Journal of Ancient History* respectively. The *Journal of Ancient History* formed a special issue entitled “The Archaeology of Sasanian Politics” that Payne prepared and co-edited together with Mehrnoush Soroush. With Myles Lavan and John Weiweiler, he continued to co-edit a book on ancient cosmopolitan practices and their role in empire formation that is now under contract with Oxford University Press. Payne also put the finishing touches on a book that appeared this summer: *A State of Mixture: Christians, Zoroastrians, and Iranian Political Culture in Late Antiquity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015).

On various topics arising from these projects, Payne gave lectures at the Humboldt Universität in Berlin, Princeton University, Duke University, and the Freie Universität in Berlin. He traveled to Kabul in May to offer workshops on the historical interpretation of Iranian, Hun, and Turk coins at the National Museum of Afghanistan, and was able to visit several sites relevant to his ongoing work on the transition from Iranian to Hun and Turk rule in the region. In an effort to build interest in the Iranian world in late antiquity, a field new to the Oriental Institute and the University, he organized a series of lectures that brought some of its leading scholars to Hyde Park.

Ilan Peled

Ilan Peled arrived at the Oriental Institute in September 2014 as a Postdoctoral Fellow, with the main goal to organize the eleventh annual Oriental Institute symposium. The first part of the 2014–2015 academic year was mainly dedicated to organizing all aspects of the conference, which took place in March 6–7, 2015. The conference, entitled Structures of Power: Law and Gender across the Ancient Near East and Beyond, brought together scholars of various historical disciplines, from all over the world, to discuss several topics pertaining to the intersection between law and gender relations in human history. Since then, Ilan has been editing the conference proceedings, to appear in 2016 as OIS 12. As of this writing about half the papers have been submitted. Other than organizing the conference and editing its volume, Ilan has published or submitted for publication several articles in peer-reviewed journals during this year. “*assinnu* and *kurgarrû* Revisited,” published in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, presented a new interpretation of the gender image of the *assinnu* and the *kurgarrû*, two members of the Ishtar cult, while “A New Manuscript of the Lament for Eridu,” published in the *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, presented a newly identified manuscript of the Sumerian composition known as the “Lament for Eridu” in transliteration and translation, followed by a brief philological commentary. Ilan further contributed an encyclopedia entry on “Religious Leaders in the Ancient Near East” to *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and*

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Gender Studies. Ilan further submitted two articles, to appear later in 2015: “Crime and Sexual Offense in Hatti,” to be published in a special issue of *Near Eastern Archaeology*, discusses the notion of sexual offense in Hatti as reflected through the collection of Hittite laws, and focuses on prohibitions of incest and kin relations. “Men in Question: Parallel Aspects of Ambiguous Masculinities in Mesopotamian and Biblical Sources” is a contribution to Aaron Demsky’s Festschrift, to appear in *MAARAV, A Journal for the Study of the Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures*, which surveys several aspects of the topic of male gender ambiguity in the ancient Near East, by focusing on cross-cultural parallels between Mesopotamia and ancient Israel. This paper treats three main points: the employment of eunuchs at royal courts, the meaning of the term “holder of spindle,” and the social attitude to homosexuality.

Since he has arrived, Ilan has presented three lectures at the University of Chicago: “Writing Cultural (Mis)conceptions: Hittite Borrowing of Mesopotamian Third Gender Terminology” (at the Ancient Societies Workshop, Department of Classics), “A New Fragment of the “Lament for Eridu” and Its Relation to Mesopotamian Third Gender” (at the Oriental Institute) and “Gender and Sex Crimes in the Ancient Near East: Law and Custom” (at the 11th annual Oriental Institute Postdoc Seminar). Ilan has also been revising his first monograph, on Mesopotamian “third gender,” in preparing it for publication. This monograph is a heavily revised version of Ilan’s PhD dissertation. Ilan also began writing his second monograph, on law and custom in Mesopotamia. In between all the above, Ilan has been editing several unpublished cuneiform tablets from the OI collection, mainly of Sumerian literary compositions.

Robert K. Ritner

During the last academic year, **Robert Ritner** served as participant and discussant at the Khayan Workshop in Vienna (July 4–5), an exploration of Hyksos Egypt organized by Nadine Moeller and Irene Forstner-Müller. For a similar theme of Ages of Chaos: Demystifying Ancient Egypt’s Intermediate Periods, he gave two invited presentations for the 40th annual symposium of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities in Toronto, speaking on “The Ahmose Tempest Stela” and “Libyan-era Egypt” (November 15). In association with Chicago’s Humanities Day, Ritner provided an introductory public talk “A Game of Thrones and Coffins: The Death and Resurrection of Osiris,” before a ballet performance of *Osiris and Isis* in the Institute’s gallery, for which he also compiled, translated, and recorded thirty-one pivotal Egyptian religious texts spoken at intervals during the performance (October 17). At the 66th convention of the American Research Center in Egypt, held for the first time in his home city of Houston, Ritner provided more in-depth analysis of Osiris and his worship: “Becoming Osiris: A Response to ‘Osiris NN or Osiris of NN.’” For docent training at the Oriental Institute, he offered a two-hour lecture and gallery tour surveying “11 Dynasties of Egyptian History: The Origins of the New Kingdom through the Third Intermediate Period. Dynasty 16 to Dynasty 26, ca. 1665 BC to 589 BC” (June 15).

Ritner’s publications on the Joseph Smith Papyri and derived Mormon scripture continue to generate serious attention. In late summer, an official essay posted by the LDS church (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) prompted Ritner to offer in August “A Response to ‘Translation and Historicity of the Book of Abraham,’” in which he detailed the precise methods used by Smith to compose the disputed text. Surviving manuscripts

prove conclusively that Smith inaccurately “translated” individual Egyptian hieratic signs as lengthy narratives so that over half of his new scripture was invented from only two incomplete Egyptian lines. Ritner’s online publication on the Oriental Institute website (<https://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/oi.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/Translation%20and%20Historicity%20of%20the%20Book%20of%20Abraham.pdf>) has been copied by several “mirror sites” including that of his publisher Signature Books (<http://signaturebooks.com/2014/08/a-response-to-translation-and-historicity-of-the-book-of-abraham-by-dr-robert-ritner/>). Ritner’s work on the Mormon materials and this online essay in particular have in turn produced a website with more than fifty testimonials thanking him for research that has “a direct and positive effect”: “you may never know how much impact your honest scholarship has had on my life and the lives of many just like me” (http://www.reddit.com/r/exmormon/comments/2exr8l/can_we_get_a_big_public_thank_you_for_dr_robert/).

At the beginning of the New Year (January 8), he organized a Festschrift presentation for his Egyptological colleague Janet H. Johnson, with a pre-publication copy of *Essays for the Library of Seshat: Studies Presented to Janet H. Johnson on the Occasion of Her 70th Birthday*, which he edited for the Oriental Institute Press. Through the assistance of Brittany Mullins, the program began in Breasted Hall with a “Welcome and Introduction” by Ritner, then “Remarks” by Nadine Moeller, Brian Muhs, François Gaudard, and Terry Friedman, followed by a video by W. Raymond Johnson and the Chicago House Team, the program “Closing” by Gil Stein, and a reception in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.

Ritner continued to serve as Egyptological reviewer for the University of Pennsylvania Press and the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. When not writing, lecturing, and reviewing, Ritner taught four courses on Coptic grammar and texts, Egyptian medical texts (Old Egyptian through Coptic), and Ptolemaic and Roman hieroglyphic texts. He also served as chair of the Admissions Committee for the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

Yorke Rowan

The past year saw the sixth season of excavations at Marj Rabba, bringing to a close the initial phase of the Galilee Prehistory Project (see *Marj Rabba* report). Work on publication of Marj Rabba has begun, while planning for the next phase of the Galilee Prehistory Project is underway. With Chad Hill and Morag Kersel, **Yorke Rowan** published a popular article “Aerial Photographs: Recording the Past, the Present, and the Invisible at Marj Rabba, Israel” in *Near Eastern Archaeology* (77/3: 182–86). As part of the ongoing survey and excavation research program of the Eastern Badia Archaeological Project, Yorke returned to complete the excavation of W-80, a Late Neolithic structure at Wisad Pools in the Black Desert of eastern Jordan (see *Eastern Badia Archaeological Project* report). A number of articles related to the Black Desert research program appeared, most notably “Revelations in the ‘Land of Conjecture’: New Late Prehistoric Discoveries at Maitland’s Mesa and Wisad Pools. The Eastern Badia Archaeological Project, Jordan” appearing in the *Journal of Field Archaeology* (40/2: 175–88) with Yorke as lead author. Other journal articles related to this project included “The Late Neolithic Colonization of the Eastern Badia of Jordan” in *Levant* (46/2: 285–301), co-authored with G. Rollefson and A. Wasse; two chapters related to the project appeared in *Jordan’s Prehistory: Past and Future Research* (Amman, pp. 295), and another appeared in *Proceedings of the 8th International Congress*

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

of the, *Archaeology of the Ancient Near East*, 30 April–4 May, 2012, University of Warsaw, Vol. 2. Rowan co-authored with A. C. Hill “Pecking at Basalt: Photogrammetric Documentation of Petroglyphs in the Black Desert, Jordan,” which appeared in a festschrift for Gary Rollefson titled *Settlement, Survey, and Stone: Essays on Near Eastern Prehistory in Honour of Gary Rollefson* (Berlin: Ex Oriente, pp. 209–17).

During January and February, he spent time in Jerusalem studying the flint from Marj Rabba. Returning in early March, he stopped in Berlin to deliver a lecture titled “New Discoveries in the Black Desert of Jordan: Late Prehistoric Occupation at Wisad Pools and Maitland’s Mesa” at the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut. Earlier in the year, at the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meetings in San Diego, he delivered papers on both the Marj Rabba and Eastern Badia Archaeological Project. With A. C. Hill, M. Price, and M. Kersel, he presented “Special Consumption Deposits and Feasting at the Chalcolithic Site of Marj Rabba, Israel,” a paper focused on evidence for a feasting deposit. With G. Rollefson, A. Wasse, and M. Kersel, he presented “Late Neolithic Complexity in Jordan’s Black Desert.” Also in November, as the Annual Helen Diller Family Lecturer for Archaeological Discoveries in Israel, he delivered a lecture “New Rituals, New Religion? Death’s Dominion during the Copper Age of the Southern Levant” at the Legion of Honor Museum, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. In March 2015, he delivered a similar talk for the Machteld Mellink Lecture in Near Eastern Archaeology for the Westchester American Institute of Archaeology Society. Yorke also gave talks locally, for the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, and at Wheaton College.

Foy Scalf

Academic year 2014–2015 was another extremely busy, but also very rewarding year for **Foy Scalf** with top priority devoted to the responsibilities of managing the Research Archives and ushering the Integrated Database into a new grant phase. Despite these burdens, Foy was able to make additional contributions by teaching, lecturing, and publishing. Foy taught four classes over the year. In winter quarter, he led four eager NELC students through an Introduction to Old Egyptian. A group of continuing education students from Foy’s autumn class on Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Museum Goers were so thrilled with Egyptian that they demanded a second class on Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Beginners in the winter. In the spring, he taught an online version of the beginning hieroglyphs class to over twenty students from the US and abroad. He also appeared as a guest lecturer for NELC’s Approaches to the Study of the Ancient Near East course for incoming graduate students.

Over two days in March, Foy served as an Egyptology consultant on an interdisciplinary advisory board of scholars in the history of science as part of the Adler Planetarium’s Digital Skies project. The project seeks to use digitized material from the Adler’s extensive archives to produce a series of digital tools for public education, including sky maps from ancient civilizations. In March, he participated with several Oriental Institute colleagues in a well-attended and productive panel on How to Build a Long-Term Text in the Ancient Near East at the 225th annual meeting of the American Oriental Society. Preliminary versions of several of the conference papers, including Foy’s “From the Beginning to the End: How to Generate and Transmit Funerary Texts in Ancient Egypt,” will be published in a special issue

of the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions*. Revised and expanded versions of all the papers from the panel with additional contributions are planned for a volume in the coming year.

Foy wrote thirteen dictionary entries for *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, due to be published in 2015. His chapter on “Magic” mentioned in last year’s report for the *Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-Biblical Antiquity* is now in press. He wrote an article studying a group of embalmers’ bowls with Demotic inscriptions, one of which is in the Oriental Institute, for the Festschrift for Janet Johnson. An article on “Demotic and Hieratic Scholia in Funerary Papyri and Their Implications for the Manufacturing Process” is currently undergoing peer review for the *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities*. His article on a corpus of Demotic votive texts from the Oriental Institute dedicated to Thoth, the ibis, mentioned in previous reports finally appeared as “Resurrecting an Ibis Cult: A Collection of Demotic Votive Texts from the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago” in *Mélanges offerts à Ola el-Aguizy* (Bibliothèque d’Étude 164; Cairo: Institut français d’archéologie orientale, 2015). He is also preparing a book proposal for a revised and expanded version of his dissertation on Demotic funerary literature. After copious delay, *Demotistische Literaturübersicht* 34 was completed by the collaborators (Friedhelm Hoffmann, Franziska Naether, Foy Scalf, and Ghislaine Widmer) and is now in press for the next issue of *Enchoria*. Finally, the Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online (OIDOO) project, founded by Foy and Jackie Jay, was migrated to the OCHRE platform during the last two years. The data is currently being updated to prepare for a re-launch in its new and more sophisticated home.

Oğuz Soysal

Oğuz Soysal continued his job with the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD) Project. Much of his time was spent preparing additions and corrections to the early CHD volumes starting from the letter L.

As personal study Soysal published in 2014–2015 three articles: “Tiergefäß. A. II. Philologisch. Bei den Hethitern” in *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* 14 (2014), pp. 2–4; “A New Join to the Mita-Text (Bo 8742) and a Duplicate of the Zannanza-Affair (Bo 8757)” in *Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires*, 2014 no. 4 (2014), pp. 145–48; and “Einige Beispiele mit abweichender Position und Funktion des Zeichens L. 312 ‘VIR’ in den hieroglyphischen Siegelinschriften” in *Saeculum: Gedenkschrift für Heinrich Otten anlässlich seines 100. Geburtstags* (2015), pp. 269–78.

Furthermore, three articles for European/Turkish Festschrifts and eight contributions for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*, as well as a review article to be submitted to the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* have been prepared and are awaiting publication.

In addition, Soysal continued in 2014–2015 a project involved with the unpublished Hittite texts bearing the siglum “Bo”. As part of his duties in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project, he prepared transliterations of 170 cuneiform fragments from the range between Bo 9536 and Bo 9736. The pictures, transliterations, and other textual treatments of the entire material are now available in the monograph entitled *Unpublished Bo-Fragments in Transliteration I (Bo 9536–Bo 9736)*, which was published in May 2015 as Chicago Hittite Dictionary Supplements 2.

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

After an agreement with the Museum of Ancient Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara, Soysal continued in 2014–2015 to take digital pictures and transliterate another group of tablets (Bo 8695–Bo 9535) considered to be published in the second volume of *Unpublished Bo-Fragments in Transliteration* in co-operation with Ms. Başak Yıldız.

Gil J. Stein

In the summer of 2014, **Gil J. Stein** continued with his excavations at the site of Surezha on the Plain of Erbil (the ancient Assyrian city of Arbela) in the Kurdistan region of northeastern Iraq. This project marks the first Oriental Institute archaeological excavation in Iraq since the Gulf War of 1991. Unfortunately, excavations had to be curtailed after just two days, and the crew evacuated, due to the unsettled security conditions on the Erbil plain after the self-declared Islamic State (also known as Da'ish, ISIL, and ISIS) captured the nearby city of Mosul in northern Iraq.

As Principal Investigator of the Oriental Institute's Partnership with the National Museum of Afghanistan (see report in this volume), Gil made three trips to Afghanistan in 2014–2015 to assess project progress, coordinate with the National Museum staff, and to work with Field Director Mike Fisher and the Kabul team of registrars, conservators, and consultants. Mike and his team are now about 95% finished with their inventory database of the holdings of the National Museum. Gil was one of the organizers of an international conference on the preservation of Afghan Cultural Heritage, held from November 9 to 11, 2014, at the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University (ACKU).

Gil continued with working with Dr. Belinda Monahan on the final publication of the late Chalcolithic ceramics from his 1992–97 excavations at the fourth millennium BCE Uruk Mesopotamian colony site of Hacinebi.

Gil presented five academic papers during the 2014–15 academic year:

- “International Legal Frameworks to Protect the Archaeological Heritage of Afghanistan” at the conference “Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Afghanistan” at ACKU (November 11, 2014)
- “The Archaeology of Kurdistan at the Crossroads — Current Developments and Future Prospects (Discussant's Comments)” at the full-day session on “The Archaeology of Kurdistan” held at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Diego (November 22, 2014)
- “The National Museum of Afghanistan and the Oriental Institute: Lessons Learned for Building a Sustainable Partnership” (joint presentation with Laura D'Alessandro) at the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (January 10, 2015)
- “Context, Knowledge, and Value(s) for Archaeological Objects” at Archaeological Looting: Realities and Possibilities for New Policy Approaches, a conference associated with *The Past for Sale: New Approaches to the Study of Archaeological Looting* at the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, University of Chicago (February 27, 2015)
- “The War-Ravaged Archaeological Heritage of Afghanistan: Assessment, Mitigation, and Preservation” at *The Cultural Heritage Crisis in the Middle East*, a conference held at the King Fahd Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Arkansas (March 6, 2015)

Gil had two publications in the past academic year: Gil J. Stein, Abbas Alizadeh, Loghman Ahmazadeh, John Alden, Henrike Backhaus, Barbara Coutouraud, Hamid Fahimi, Sam Harris, Kate Lieber, Mehdi Omidfar, and Max Price, “Preliminary Report on the First Season of Excavations at the Chalcolithic site of Surezha in the Erbil Governate Kurdistan Region, Iraq, 2013,” *Iranian Archaeology* 4: 32–41 (2015); and Gil J. Stein, “Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Afghanistan — International Conference in Kabul, November 2014” *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 225 (Spring 2015): 10–13.

Gil was awarded two grants in 2014–15: a \$100,000 planning grant from the Carnegie Corporation to help develop the Chicago Center for Archaeological Heritage Preservation, and a grant of \$942,000 from the US State Department to support the Afghan Heritage Mapping Project.

Matthew W. Stolper

Matthew W. Stolper’s research in connection with the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project is described elsewhere in this *Annual Report*. His other recent publications also deal with Achaemenid texts and history. Some of them look back on his earliest research efforts.

A note on “A Murašû Tablet Sold at Sotheby’s, New York, December, 2014,” in *NABU* 2015 (2)/53, adds another document to the archive at the center of Stolper’s 1974 dissertation. Only a few months after the Murašû Archive was discovered at Nippur in 1893, the tablet was given to E. W. Clark, one of the supporters of early excavations at Nippur and of Assyriology at the University of Pennsylvania, and it has remained out of sight in private hands ever since.

An article on “Three Personal Reflections on Elias Bickerman,” responding to Pierre Briant’s 2011 Rostovtzeff Lecture at Yale, appeared in *Writing History in Time of War: Michael Rostovtzeff, Elias J. Bickerman and the ‘Hellenization of Asia’: From Alexander the Great to World War II*, edited by J. G. Manning (*Oriens et Occidens* 24. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2015, pp. 45–61). It recalls Bickerman’s interest in Stolper’s dissertation in connection with his own work on Judean exiles in Achaemenid Babylonia. It also highlights Bickerman’s uncannily perspicacious use of one of the first published Persepolis Fortification texts (Fort. 06764, published by George G. Cameron in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 1 [1942]: 214–18), as early as 1946.

A review of the French and English versions of a volume on the palace of Darius at Susa edited by the late Jean Perrot (*Le palais de Darius à Suse*, Paris 2010; *The Palace of Darius at Susa*, London 2013), in *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 72 (2015): 518–32, is tinged, as the



The Saklatvala tomb at Woodlawn Cemetery, New York City

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

reviewed volumes are, with a hint of memoir. It considers work done when the archaeologists and epigraphers who worked under Perrot's supervision between 1969 and 1989, Stolper's contemporaries, were in the first flush of their scholarly maturity and ambition.

A note on "An Old Persian Cuneiform Inscription on a Tomb in the Woodlawn Cemetery, New York City," for the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, is co-authored with Rüdiger Schmitt, who literally wrote the book on modern Old Persian texts composed as forgeries, amusements, and commemorations. The inscription, brought to our attention by Helen Rosner, is a deft combination of attested Old Persian elements and philologically accurate coinages based on Avestan. It commemorates the family of Phirozshaw D. Saklatvala, a prominent member of the then tiny Parsi community of New York and a benefactor of Iranian studies; it may have been composed by A. V. Williams Jackson, then professor emeritus of Indo-Iranian languages at Columbia University, who was closely connected to Parsi communities in India and New York and acquainted with Saklatvala.

Emily Teeter

Emily Teeter continues to work on objects in our Egyptian collection, concentrating on the stelae from Medinet Habu and an enigmatic embalming cache.

She spoke in the Oriental Institute's Dining with the Dead symposium. More popular talks included popular religion in Toronto, Breasted and the Chicago collections at the Contemporary Club, "Egypt: the Center of the World" at the Seattle Art Museum, statue cults at the Denver Museum of Natural History, and "What the Treasures of King Tut Tell us about Ancient Egypt" at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. She participated in a panel on mummies at the Art Institute with Michael Vannier and Mary Greuel.

Consulting projects included working with Terry Wilfong (University of Michigan) to survey the Egyptian collection of the St Louis Art Museum (curator Lisa Çakmak) and to advise on plans for their new permanent gallery. Emily also has been working with the Field Museum on their show "Mummies: Images of the Afterlife" that will travel to several museums in the United States before returning to Chicago in early 2018. She has also been working on a project for the Art Institute of Chicago to check the identification and date of Egyptian objects before they are put online. Two graduate students in Egyptology, Rozenn Bailleul-LeSeur and Kierra Foley, were able to join the team. The group works collaboratively, dividing each section of material among them so the each has to deal with shabtis, ceramics, statuary, etc., then meeting to compare notes and discuss issues of dating and identification. Even early in the project, they were able to make significant improvements to the data that will make it much easier and functional for researchers to use the collection online.

Publications for the year included articles "A Coffin Dispersed: Case Study of 21st Dynasty Coffin Fragments" (with Branislav Anđelković, University of Belgrade), in *Issues in Ethnology and Anthropology* n.s. 10/1 (Belgrade), and "A Stela of Khaemtir and Qenherkhepshef (Chicago OIM E14315)," in the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 50 (published in honor of Professor Janet Johnson). A chapter "Religion and Ritual" appeared in *A Companion to Ancient Egyptian Art*, edited by Melinda Hartwig (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015). Emily also published "Collecting for Chicago: James Henry Breasted and the Chicago Egyptian Collections,"

in *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 226, and an article on our Cosmopolitan City exhibit in the CIPEG (International Committee for Egyptology) newsletter.

Meetings included a CIPEG conference in August in Copenhagen, where Emily gave a paper on Medinet Habu material, and she continued to Oxford for a conference on the conservation of Egyptian objects.

Emily was re-elected as vice president of the American Research Center in Egypt, and she continues to be active in the Chicago chapter of ARCE. She continues to serve on the board of CIPEG. In the fall, she acted as a lecturer on a cruise from Athens to Dubai. When the ship developed engine problems, Emily and her co-lecturer were forced to dig deep into their laptops for topics to keep the passengers amused.

Theo van den Hout

On July 1, 2015, **Theo van den Hout** concluded his last year as chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. It was an extremely busy year with five searches that fortunately all came to a successful conclusion. Effective July 1, 2015, he holds the Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professorship of Western Civilization.

In the course of the past year Theo submitted the entries “Wache, Wächter” (watch, guard, sentinel) and “Walwazidi” (a personal name) to the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*. He also submitted three articles, one to the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, co-authored with Virginia Rimmer Herrmann and Ahmet Beyazlar, with the edition of a new Hieroglyphic Luwian inscription in the context of David Schloen’s excavations at Zincirli; one on the scholarly circles at the Hittite court and their social position in Hittite society for a volume to be edited by Seth Richardson; and one for a volume in honor of a colleague on “The Art of Writing: Remarks on the When and How of Hittite Cuneiform.” He continued work on a new volume of Hittite cuneiform fragments to be published this year as *Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköy* 68.

Theo gave several lectures: “L. 326/SCRIBA: A Re-Evaluation of His Status” at the 9th International Congress of Hittitology in Çorum (Turkey) in September; “Ready to Write: The Case of Second Millennium Hittite Anatolia” at the conference organized by Chris Woods and Ed Shaughnessy entitled *Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World’s First Writing Systems*, Neubauer Collegium Conference, here at the University of Chicago in November; “The Sumerogram GIŠ.ĪUR: Its Meaning and Uses as Both a Sumerogram and Determinative,” at a workshop on Hethitische Logogramme at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, likewise in November; and “A is for Anatolia: Aspects of Writing and Literacy in Hittite Anatolia (2000–1200 BC),” at the second *Signs of Writing* conference held in Beijing and Shanghai in June.

The following publications have appeared in print since July 2014: “‘Jong, maar ... belangrijk’ Korte Geschiedenis van de Nederlandse Hethitologie,” in *Waar de geschiedenis begon. Nederlandse onderzoekers in de ban van spijkerschrift, hiërogliefen en aardewerk. Uitgave naar aanleiding van het 75-jarig bestaan van het Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 1939–2014*, O. E. Kaper and J. G. Dercksen, eds. (Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 2014), pp. 63–72 (a short history of Dutch Hittitology); “Zu einer Stratigraphie der hethitischen Totenrituale,” in *Saeculum: Gedenkschrift für Heinrich Otten anlässlich seines 100. Geburtstags*, A. Müller-Karpe, E. Rieken, and W. Sommerfeld, eds. (*Studien zu den Boğazköy-Texten* 58. Wiesbaden:

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Harrassowitz, 2015), pp. 301–06; “Greek and Carian,” in *Encyclopedia of Ancient Greek Language and Linguistics*, G. K. Giannakis, ed. (Leiden and Boston: Brill), pp. 40–43 (print publication of an earlier digital one); and three entries in *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* 14: “Tod. B. Bei den Hethitern” (pp. 75–79), “Tutḫalija IV.” (pp. 227–33), and “Ulmi-Teššub” (pp. 310–11).

Tasha Vorderstrasse

In 2014–2015, **Tasha Vorderstrasse** was co-curator of the Oriental Institute Museum exhibition *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo*. She also co-edited the exhibition catalog, writing or co-writing most of the catalog entries, in addition to three chapters: “Childhood at Fustat: Archaeological and Textual Sources,” “Linguistic Diversity at Fustat,” and (with Michael Wechsler) “Oriental Institute Cairo Genizah Fragments.” She is also the curator of the Oriental Institute mini-exhibition *Cairo in Chicago*, about the “Street in Cairo” that was a part of the Chicago World’s Columbian Exposition in 1893. She has also given numerous lectures and tours based on these exhibitions. An article, co-written with Oriental Institute Associate Conservator Alison Whyte, on two tableaux that were ultimately not used in the *Cosmopolitan City* exhibition was published in *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 226.

Tasha participated in two excavations during 2014–2015. She continued her work in Armenia with Kathryn Franklin at Ambroyi Village, Armenia (see separate report). The excavation season was longer than the first season, consisting of six weeks, and excavations took place in three areas. This work resulted in an article in *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 225, and a lecture on both seasons was co-presented with Kate Franklin at the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, in San Diego, California. She also visited the Komana excavations near the city of Tokat in Turkey to work on the medieval pottery at the site.

In September 2014 and May 2015 Tasha led two Oriental Institute tours to Georgia and Armenia. She also made a research trip in June 2015 to work on the Islamic material from the Qoueiq (Syria) Survey now in the Louvre Museum. This will be part of a forthcoming book that will be co-written by Tasha and Asa Eger.

Besides her lectures on the exhibitions, she gave the following talks: “The Noble Families of Armenia and the Creation of Historical Memory: The Artsrunis in Vaspurakan,” Armenian Circle, University of Chicago, March 2015; “Chinese Sources for Balkh,” Balkh Art and Cultural Heritage conference, University of Oxford, January 2015; and “Multiculturalism and Islamic Material Culture,” Bard College Graduate Center, January 2015.

In addition to the publications associated with the exhibitions, the following articles appeared: “Reconstructing House and Archives in Early Islamic Jēme,” in *Household Studies in Complex Societies: (Micro) Archaeological and Textual Approaches*, edited by Miriam Müller, pp. 409–36 (Oriental Institute Seminars 10; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2015); “Byzantine and Early Islamic Coinage at Excavations in Jericho,” in *Coinage and History in the Seventh Century Near East 4: Proceedings of the 14th Seventh Century Syria Numismatic Round Table Held at the Hive, Worcester, on 28th and 29th September 2013*, edited A. Oddy, I. Schulze, and W. Schulze, pp. 37–51 (Exeter: Short Run Press); “Continued Excavation at Ambroyi, Armenia,” by Kathryn Franklin, Tasha Vorderstrasse, and Frina Babayan, *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 225 (2015): 18–20; “An Overview of the Medieval Pottery from the Antiochene Region Excavated by Mécérian,”

Mélanges de Université de Saint-Joseph 65 (2013–2014): 437–54; “The Archaeology of the Ottoman Empire and Its Aftermath in the Middle East,” *Near Eastern Archaeology* 77/4 (2014): 292–98; “Terms for Vessels in Arabic and Coptic Documentary Texts and Their Archaeological and Ethnographic Correlates,” in *Documents and History of the Early Islamic World*, edited by A. Schubert and P. Sijpesteijn (Leiden: Brill, 2015), pp. 195–234.

John Z. Wee

John Z. Wee is author of the following articles and essays in 2015: “Phenomena in Writing: Creating and Interpreting Variants of the Diagnostic Series Sa-gig” (Science, Technology, and Medicine in Ancient Cultures series, De Gruyter) and “Discovery of the Zodiac Man in Cuneiform” (*Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 67: 217–33). An essay on “Virtual Moons Over Babylonia: The Calendar Text System, Its Micro-Zodiac of 13, and the Making of Medical Zodiology” is forthcoming in *The Circulation of Astronomical Knowledge in the Ancient World*, edited by J. M. Steele (Time, Astronomy, and Calendars series, Brill). An article on “A Late Babylonian Astral Commentary on Marduk’s Address to the Demons” is under review at the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

John is currently editing papers from his interdisciplinary symposium on “Body and Metaphor in Ancient Medicine” (May 1–3, 2014) at the Oriental Institute. The edited volume will be published as *The Comparable Body: Imagination and Analogy in Ancient Anatomy and Physiology* (Studies in Ancient Medicine series, Brill).

In the past year, John presented the following lectures and conference papers: “Mathematical Models for the Micro-Zodiac” and “A Choice of Microcosms: Dodekatemoria Models and the Calendar Text System” as an invited seminar and lecture on General Mathematical Practices in the Astral Sciences and Their Relation to / Contrast with Mathematical Sources by the Mathematical Sciences in the Ancient World (SAW) Project at the Université Paris Diderot (October 15 and 17, 2014); “The Roots of Commentary: From the Ancient Near East to Alexandria to Rabbinic Palestine” as an invited lecture sponsored by the Liss Lectures in Judaica Fund at the University of Notre Dame (January 28, 2015); “Straight from the Ummânu’s Mouth: Serialization, Classification, and Cuneiform Text Commentary” at a session on How to Build a Long-Term Text in the Ancient Near East at the 225th meeting of the American Oriental Society (New Orleans, March 13–16, 2015); and “Houses of Secret and the Meanings of Planetary Exaltations” at a session on The Heavenly Bodies in Image and Text at the 61st Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (Geneva and Bern, June 22–26, 2015). An article on “A Late Babylonian Astral Commentary on Marduk’s Address to the Demons” has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. In addition, John is preparing to present a paper at a workshop for the project on Pre-Medieval Commentaries in Medicine and Mathematical Sciences at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin, August 25–27, 2016).

Donald Whitcomb

Don Whitcomb returned from the Jericho Mafjar Project 2014 with “remote sensing” data (as reported last year). He also brought back hundreds of high-quality images of the mosaics of Mafjar, photographed in 2010, just before his visit and negotiation for the new excavations. In 2012 Ḥamdān Tāhā had suggested that they produce a book together on the mosaics and he gave him a preliminary manuscript. So his summer was spent organizing a presentation of these mosaics and re-writing the accompanying text, keeping close to Ḥamdān’s original. The final text and plates were given to the publisher in Ramallah in mid-October. They had a beautiful volume presented by Ḥamdān on the occasion of his retirement at the end of October. The book, *The Mosaics of Khirbet el-Mafjar: Hisham’s Palace*, cannot have distribution outside of Palestine, so we have produced a second edition at the Oriental Institute, in collaboration with the Palestinian Authority, for wider distribution and online availability.

While Don was in Jericho for Ḥamdān’s retirement symposium in October, he made return trip to Aqaba (which felt almost like a pilgrimage). He had not visited the scene of his ten-year-long excavations in some twenty years! Needless to say, Aqaba is no longer the quiet little town he knew and enjoyed; just the opposite, it has become large and bustling. The excavations, located in the center of the city, are very well preserved and are now expanded with the new Danish excavations. Kristoffer Damgaard began serious work on the site in 2008 and has since conducted a new series of excavations, with the capable assistance of Michael Jennings (who performs the same functions at Mafjar). This time there was a special treat, beyond the fine Danish hospitality, to watch Kris and Michael flying their drone over the site and recording their trenches. In retrospect, this was clearly a plot by Michael to convince him to bring one of these noisy machines to Palestine (see the Jericho Mafjar Project report). Next year Kristoffer and Don plan to sit here in the Institute and combine their excavations into a final report on the early Islamic port of Ayla (Aqaba).

This renewal of his interest in Aqaba took a surprising turn in that he was invited to London for a conference on Aksum, Himyar, and the Red Sea. It turned out that he was the only archaeologist (with the partial exception of Christian Robin) and so he spoke on the pre-Islamic and Islamic trade patterns in the Red Sea. This seems to have gathered some attention because he



Don at Istakhr, 1966



Don and student in Bushire

was invited to speak on the Umayyad Red Sea at the Leeds International Medieval Congress in July (but that is for next year's report).

Much of the winter was taken with meetings and plans for the new Oriental Institute exhibition, *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo*. But in truth, he spent the time looking over the capable shoulders of two former students who were the curators, Tasha Vorderstrasse and Tanya Treptow. The exhibit opened with the deserved acknowledgment for them and a fine lecture series. Don gathered a little reflected credit in presenting the exhibit at the ARCE (American Research Center in Egypt) annual meeting. The last lecture on Fustat (the medieval name for Cairo) at the Oriental Institute was his "From Fustat to Cairo: The Many Meanings of 'Old Cairo,'" which was a pleasant summary of the urban evolution of Cairo.

Don was able to return to urban development in Iran at a conference in Harvard on Cities in Medieval Iran. He reviewed what is known about Sasanian cities and changes with the coming of Islam, entitled: "From Shahrستان to Medina, Revisited." Finally, Iran came to be recollected in a very different fashion. At the end of May there was a reunion of Peace Corps volunteers who had served in Iran. He had been a teacher in the high schools of Bushire (now Bushehr) on the Persian Gulf and spent his free time taking students to survey sites and then checking out sites such as Istakhr. It is hard to imagine this was almost fifty years ago; but Istakhr and many archaeological sites remain to be investigated in Iran.

Karen L. Wilson

Karen L. Wilson is pleased to report that *Nippur 6: The Inanna Temple* has been accepted by the Oriental Institute editorial office and will appear in the Oriental Institute Publications series. *Nippur 6* will be the final publication of the Oriental Institute excavation of the Inanna Temple at the site of Nippur, Iraq, 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.

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 began work this past year on the Oriental Institute excavations at Tell Abu Šalabikh, a site that lies approximately 12 miles northwest of Nippur. 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

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

records and the pottery, seals and sealings, and other objects found still remain to be studied and published.

Christopher Woods

Christopher Woods devoted much of this past year to continuing work on several long-term projects, completing several publications, presenting papers at several international conferences, and implementing the Writing in Early Mesopotamia as well as the Signs of Writing projects. This year also saw the completion of our three-year search process to rebuild our Assyriology program, which resulted in the hiring of Susanne Paulus, Hervé Reculeau, and John Wee, all of whom join the faculty this year.

As described elsewhere (see under *Project Reports*), the Writing in Early Mesopotamia project has focused on implementing a database that will facilitate the study of Sumerian writing by capturing and categorizing orthographic variation, and allowing for complex queries. Our work has also centered upon collecting, inputting, and morphologically parsing texts for inclusion in the database. This year has also seen the launch of our Neubauer Collegium project, Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World's First Writing Systems (in collaboration with Edward Shaughnessy, of the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations). Signs of Writing is a three-year research project designed to investigate, from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective, the cultural and social contexts and structural properties of the world's oldest writing. Particular emphasis is 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 and the psycho-linguistic processes by which humans first made language visible. The first of our three annual conferences took place last November 8th–9th; a second conference took place in China on June 25th–30th, 2015, and was hosted jointly by the Chicago Center in Beijing and Fudan University in Shanghai. Organized broadly around the linguistic, social, and cultural contexts of early writing, the conferences will bring together specialists in various early writing systems and cover a range of topics, including the origins and structures of writing systems, the relationship between speech and writing, reading and cognition, the adaptation of writing systems and bilingualism, scribal transmission and education, literacy, the materiality and archaeological contexts of writing, and the rise of written genres.

Chris presented at two Signs of Writing conferences this year, speaking on “Re-evaluating the Role of the Rebus Principle in Early Cuneiform” at the Chicago meeting, and on “Contingency Tables and Economic Forecasting in the Earliest Texts from Mesopotamia” at Shanghai. At the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale meeting in Warsaw in July, Chris spoke on “Economic Planning at Uruk in the Fourth Millennium.” Progress has been made this year on another overdue, long-term project, volume 18 in the series Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon, which is devoted to the lexical series Igituh, Idu, Lanu, and the Group Vocabularies; the volume should be completed this year. Chris is on leave this year, but will continue to edit the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and to oversee the Oriental Institute's Postdoctoral Scholar program.