

## PRESERVING THE PAST ARCHAEOLOGY AND MODERN DEVELOPMENT AT ABYDOS, EGYPT

STEPHEN P. HARVEY

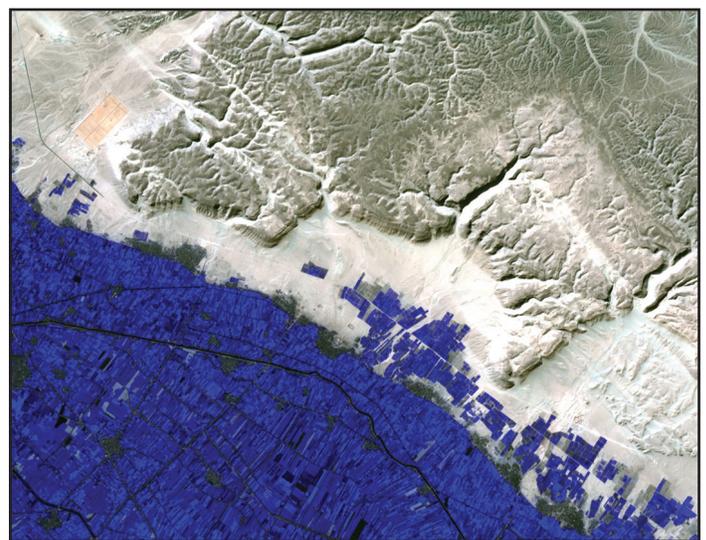
Despite the popular concept of archaeology as an academic discipline pursued at a leisurely pace, most archaeological fieldwork is conducted in a race against the forces of time and change. Development projects aimed at improving the quality of modern life are often at odds with the preservationist agendas of historians and archaeologists. For example, over the past decades, massive river dam projects in China, Turkey, and Egypt have enabled control over vital water resources. International teams have mounted impressive salvage operations to document ancient cities, towns, cemeteries, and sacred places before the turbulence of the rising waters obliterates those sites forever. However, the archaeological harvest can only ever reflect a sample of what has been lost. At archaeological projects worldwide, similar issues are raised on a smaller scale, which require archaeologists to negotiate a complex series of local issues and interactions. Fortunately, new technologies and initiatives are being developed that will enable archaeological heritage to be monitored effectively. They allow governments and scholars alike to document change over time in the recent impact on the archaeological landscape. At Abydos in southern Egypt, where I

have been working for just over fifteen years, first as a student and now as the director of the excavation of the monuments of King Ahmose (ca. 1550–1525 BC, the founder of Egypt's New Kingdom era), the threats to preservation of ancient remains are varied and complex. The threats to the monuments at Abydos serve as a good example of how delicate the balancing act of archaeological work can be — whether elsewhere in Africa, the Near East, or closer to home.

My recent research trip to Egypt from February 17 to March 18, 2004, acquainted me with impressive recent steps being taken by the Egyptian government, in collaboration with international teams of technicians and scholars, to prevent damage to Egypt's heritage at Abydos and elsewhere. Of course, initiatives to protect archaeological sites in Egypt are not new. In fact, the Oriental Institute's own Epigraphic Survey was founded in 1924 by James Henry Breasted in response to the threats that even then were apparent to Egypt's monuments. Chicago House, the home of the Epigraphic Survey, continues to be a major force in the preservation and study of the standing tombs and temples of ancient Thebes (modern Luxor). Re-



**Figure 1. Aerial view of Abydos, probably taken in the 1940s. Photograph courtesy US Department of Defense**



**Figure 2. ASTER satellite image of Abydos taken in 2001. Areas in blue are agricultural fields. Note the expansion of fields in desert areas, many of which threatened important archaeological remains. The planned highway through Abydos can be seen at top left. Image courtesy NASA Earth Observatory**



**Figure 3. Ali Witsell, University of Chicago graduate student, walking along the Abydos Road. Photograph by Stephen Harvey**

sponding in large part to new directives from Dr. Zahi Hawass, the Secretary-General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, all foreign archaeological projects in Egypt are now expected to consider how their research goals may also encompass site conservation and preservation, in addition to the more traditional interests of excavating and making new discoveries. Accordingly, a major focus of my visit was an unprecedented meeting on March 16 in Cairo with Dr. Hawass and many of the Egyptian, American, and German scholars who are presently engaged in archaeological work at Abydos. This was the first, but certainly not the last, opportunity for a critical dialogue about the uncertain future of a very ancient place.

The urgency of my visit was in part due to a new Cairo-to-Aswan highway that was recently planned by the Egyptian government to run along the western edge of Nile cultivation, in the midst of the low desert. In the Nile Valley, the rapid expansion of population has brought with it a need for more land for housing and agriculture. Development needs have led to the creation

of a modern infrastructure featuring better roads, electrical power lines, cellular towers, and other vital services. What this has meant in the Abydos region is a tremendous change in the landscape, as we can judge by comparing early aerial photos (fig. 1) with recent satellite imagery (fig. 2). On satellite photographs, agricultural fields can be seen in the traditionally arid low desert of Abydos, something that has been of concern to us all even prior to the plans for the highway. While highway planners may have thought of the flat, low desert conditions as ideal for road construction, they perhaps had not been fully aware of the ancient predilection for placing cemeteries and other sacred monuments precisely in those zones that were deemed unfit for habitation and agriculture. Initial plans for a highway running through the low desert, the main sacred zone of ancient Abydos, would have witnessed the obstruction, and possibly destruction, of some of the most important archaeological sites of Egypt's pharaonic past. Most critically affected would have been the tombs of Egypt's earliest kings in the portion of the low desert at Abydos known by the Arabic name 'Umm el-Qa'ab, or "Mother of Pots," referring to the millions of small clay offering vessels left on this sacred spot by worshippers over the millennia. Through the vocal opposition of Dr. Hawass, the highway bisecting the monumental zone at Abydos seems now to have been diverted to the high desert, at a huge additional cost to the Egyptian government (fig. 3). As a by-product of the extraordinary effort by Hawass to preserve the important heritage at Abydos, important questions have been raised concerning the preservation of its archaeological site and the future development of tourism at the site.

My work at Abydos, which I hope to resume this fall, concentrates on a series of monuments and related structures built by King Ahmose at the southernmost part of the site, some six kilometers from the sacred precinct of Osiris. There (as elsewhere at Abydos) our colleague Tomasz Herbich has recently made use of remote sensing technologies such as magnetometry



**Figure 4. Modern burial pit dug through New Kingdom archaeological strata in the shadow of the Ahmose Pyramid at southern Abydos. Modern needs for cemetery space compete with archaeological site preservation. Photograph by Stephen Harvey**

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to document archaeological remains that are not immediately visible from the surface. While a tremendous boon to researchers, such geophysical techniques are also invaluable to the Egyptian government's attempts to document and inventory ancient remains. During 2002, we were elated to discover evidence of a huge rectangular enclosure wall surrounding an ancient pyramidal shrine of Ahmose's grandmother, Queen Tetisheri, as well as a first glimpse of large mudbrick structures in the vicinity of Ahmose's own pyramid, the last ever constructed by a king on Egyptian soil. These newly discovered features need to be archaeologically investigated in the near future before any additional damage to the site can occur. This very real and present threat was clear during an inspection tour of the Ahmose site, during which I was accompanied by University of Chicago graduate students Ali Witsell and Leslie Schramer, as well as by local security forces. In the immediate vicinity of areas that we

excavated in 2002, we were dismayed to witness the digging of a burial pit in preparation for the construction of a new tomb vault (fig. 4). Sadly resembling a standard excavation unit of ten by ten meters, this unauthorized digging was being carried out through 3,500 year-old strata of the monumental complex of King Ahmose. Spilling out of the sides of the pit we noticed immense volumes of New Kingdom ceramic beer jars and bread molds, important indicators of ancient temple economy (fig. 5). Located where a sprawling Muslim cemetery meets the monumental zone of Ahmose's pyramid, this new burial plot indicates a loss of archaeological data on an ancient sacred place at the same time as it reflects significant local religious needs. A century ago, local sensitivities were pushed to the bursting point near this very spot. British archaeologists excavating tombs of the priests of King Ahmose's cult alongside the tomb of a local sheikh were met by a posse of local men bearing clubs, which

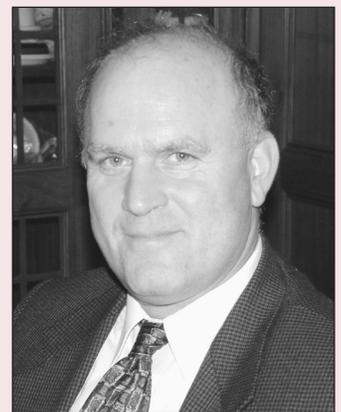
## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

These are exciting times for the Museum of the Oriental Institute and for our incoming Museum Director, Dr. Geoff Emberling (see interview with Geoff in this issue). The Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery and the Yelda Khorsabad Court have opened to an enthusiastic reception by both our members and the broader museum-going public. We are actively working on the installation of the three linked galleries in our East Wing — the reliefs from the Khorsabad private Royal quarters, the *Herbolsheimer Syro-Anatolian Gallery*, and the *Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery*. The East Wing will be completed in November of this year and will open to the public in January 2005. Next in line will be the Nubian Gallery, the last remaining permanent exhibit space in our long-term renovation program. The detailed planing for Nubia will begin in earnest over the course of the summer. Within two years, our gallery reinstallation will finally be completed.

It will be a very different museum. The full set of permanent exhibition galleries will be greater than the sum of its parts, and it will enable us to fulfill the education and outreach part of our institutional mission as never before. Museum visitors will be able to move seamlessly from Mesopotamia across Syro-Anatolia into Israel, and thence to Egypt and Nubia. They will be able to see the ways in which great civilizations shared fundamental commonalities like kingship, temples, and urbanism, while differing in the ways these institutions were adapted by each culture. By giving our visitors the opportunity to compare Near Eastern cultures, they will gain an entirely new perspective on these civilizations. For example, we want our visitors to note that Mesopotamians understood rulers such as the Assyrian King Sargon II to be all-powerful but still human, while Egyptians viewed their Pharaoh Tutankhamun as an omnipotent monarch who had both human and divine attributes. In a similar vein, we hope our museum patrons will see the connections between neighboring Near Eastern civilizations, especially the ways in which they borrowed symbols of power and religion from each other, while always transforming those powerful icons — such as the winged sun disk or the sphinx — into meanings specific to each local culture. The wonderfully creative programs of our Museum Education section and dedication of our docents are integral to this effort. Each conversation with Geoff Emberling, Carole Krucoff, Head of Museum education, and Volunteer Coordinators Cathy Dueñas and Terry Friedman results in new ideas for the use of the gallery exhibits to present the cultures of the ancient Near East in new and creative ways.

Finally, Geoff and his colleagues are instituting a series of special temporary exhibits to complement our permanent galleries. We envision three different types of presentations: special exhibits highlighting the innovative research of the Oriental Institute scholars, exhibits that present aspects of ancient Near Eastern civilizations that are not fully covered in our permanent collections, and exhibits of rarely seen objects from our Museum storerooms. Three such projects are already in development for the Holleb Special Exhibits Gallery, and more are planned.

This is an ambitious undertaking, but if we do our work properly, visitors to the Museum of the Oriental Institute will see something new, different, and illuminating about the Near Eastern past with every visit.



*Gil J. Stein*

Gil J. Stein

rightly brought their work to an abrupt halt. In contrast with our forebears, our expedition recognizes the need for continuity in local tradition; therefore we can only regret the loss of an opportunity to excavate scientifically in this area and take the opportunity to educate our friends in nearby communities on the presence of archaeological material in this area. We were also able to see the traces of unauthorized looting activity in several locations within my archaeological concession, illustrating that our scientific interest in an archaeological zone is often followed by local curiosity (fig. 6). A mixed blessing of this de-



**Figure 5. Modern burial pit at south Abydos, with an extensive amount of New Kingdom pottery visible in the section. Photograph by Stephen Harvey**

structive activity is the discovery of new material by looters — we will attempt to at least document the location and extent of such looting during the next season of work.

As the legendary burial place of the god Osiris, and the location of the tombs of Egypt's kings of Dynasties 0–2 (ca. 3200–2680 BC), Abydos was revered in antiquity as a sacred place. Ancient texts tell us that strong penalties were paid by those who chose not to respect the boundaries of the “Sacred Land,” the portion of the Abydos desert set apart for the ritual processions of Osiris' holy bark. Anyone constructing an unauthorized shrine or tomb in this zone was threatened with death by burning, according to the texts of stelae erected at the borders of the processional route during the Thirteenth Dynasty (ca. 1700 BC). Despite these dire warnings, ancient visitors and residents constructed elaborate memorials near the sacred paths between Osiris' temple at north Abydos and the grave of Osiris at 'Umm el-Qa'ab. The result is an astoundingly rich archaeological heritage encompassing the entire range of pharaonic Egyptian civilization, ranging from settlements and cemeteries of Egypt's late Neolithic Naqada culture, through every phase of dynastic history, and down to tombs and shrines of Roman date. Recent surveys are revealing the startlingly long duration of human activity at Abydos. Work in the high desert plateaus surrounding the pharaonic cemeteries carried out by Harold Dibble

of the University of Pennsylvania and Shannon McPherron of George Washington University reveal that Abydos is also a major source for the Paleolithic history of the region, extending back as far as 250,000 years ago. On the relatively more recent end of the spectrum, Coptic monks in the early centuries of our era left inscriptions and sometimes entire cells carved into earlier monuments. In the case of the Shunet ez-Zebib, the Second Dynasty cultic enclosure built by King Khasekhemwy (ca. 2680 BC), monks carved cells out of the massive sheltering mudbrick walls, undermining their stability in the process. Since this pharaoh was the predecessor of Djoser, builder of the Step Pyramid complex at Saqqara, the mudbrick walls of the Shunet ez-Zebib have special value for architectural history, and its preservation has become a priority. David O'Connor of the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University has been co-director of the joint American expedition at Abydos since 1967 together with William Kelly Simpson of Yale University. He is currently leading the preservation effort on the Shunet ez-Zebib, in conjunction with Matthew Adams of the University of Pennsylvania. Working with specialists in the preservation of mudbrick architecture, these scholars are ensuring the future of one of the largest and most impressive brick monuments to have survived from early antiquity.

Fortunately, the new focus on the largely thankless task of preservation does not mean that new discoveries cease to be made. March 2004 saw the announcement in the New York



**Figure 6. Rock-cut circular shaft revealed by illegal looting activity in the complex of King Ahmose at south Abydos. Photograph by Stephen Harvey**

Times of the discoveries by O'Connor and Adams of two new royal enclosures in brick from the very dawn of Egypt's unified kingdom ca. 3100 BC, predating the Shunet ez-Zebib by centuries. Their work also revealed further evidence of the poignant practice (abandoned early in the development of Egypt's civilization) of the human sacrifice of members of the pharaoh's court who were then buried alongside the pharaoh's monument. Even this research, significant as it is for the understanding of the birth of royal traditions in Egypt, walks a tightrope between

local interests and archaeological preservation, as the site is partially covered by a local Coptic (Egyptian Christian) cemetery serving the nearby community of Deir es-Sitt Damiana. Then as now, agricultural land in the fertile river floodplain was a precious commodity, and Muslim and Christian cemeteries accordingly still tend to be situated in the low desert, cheek to jowl with (and sometimes on top of and amongst) ancient remains. Fortunately, cooperation between the Pennsylvania-Yale-Institute of Fine Arts expedition, members of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and local church officials resulted in a mutually



**Figure 7. New mosque constructed at the edge of the Abydos Pyramid complex. Ali Witsell and local residents stand above New Kingdom remains. Photograph by Stephen Harvey**

satisfying solution: the creation of a barrier protecting the ancient ruins from encroachment, at the same time as it protects the modern burial ground from inappropriate intrusion. As I learned from several visits to see Mark Lehner's impressive ongoing work in the shadow of the Giza pyramids, a massive concrete wall now divides the archaeological zone of Giza from the village of Nazlet es-Semaan. Increasingly, the building of protective walls between archaeological sites and the towns and villages that surround them is a strategy adopted by the Egyptian government in the desire to keep archaeological patrimony from further harm. Many drastic measures are now considered by the government of Egypt in their active campaign against the ravages of theft, neglect, and traffic at Giza, Luxor, and elsewhere, including the removal of houses and even the relocation of entire villages.

The most impressive thing I learned from my return to Egypt did not come from visits to the archaeological sites. Rather, my greatest excitement and pleasure was a tour of the new facilities of the Egyptian Antiquities Information System (EAIS) facility located in the Zamalek (central Cairo) offices of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA). An international team of specialists is pooling their efforts to produce a series of computer databases and maps that will reflect the location, size, known characteristics, and legal status of every archaeological

site in Egypt. Working north to south, and currently focused on Egypt's Delta, the EAIS represents a collaboration between various Egyptian ministries and the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. While making effective use of remote sensing data, carefully researched land registries, legal documents, archaeological reports, and reflecting careful on-the-ground reconnaissance, the EAIS project represents the best way forward for the future of Egypt's archaeological heritage, in combination with vigilant legislation and site management. I am pleased to report that efforts that I have made in the past year to document satellite imagery of Abydos, together with graduate student Joshua Trampier and the helpful staff and students of the Oriental Institute's Center for the Archaeology of the Middle Eastern Landscape (CAMEL) laboratory, have now been added to the efforts to document threats to the archaeological areas at Abydos. This need is particularly pressing, since the Egyptian government seeks ways to promote the protection and accessibility of the important remains of Abydos, possibly through a visitor's center and other tourist-friendly structures near the Nineteenth Dynasty temples of kings Seti I and Ramesses II. In combination with our continued fieldwork at Abydos, we hope that the kind of productive collaboration exemplified by the EAIS project will enable us to meet the joint goals of research and preservation, both on known monuments and on those archaeological features yet to be discovered. Though our task is an urgent, and at times frustrating one, a sentiment no doubt shared by all archaeologists dealing with similar pressures, it is extremely encouraging to be able to report on new answers to very old problems.

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### TONY J. WILKINSON RECEIVES SAA BOOK AWARD

**Tony J. Wilkinson**, Research Associate, is the recipient of one of the two 2004 SAA Book Awards by the Society for American Archaeology for his book "Archaeological Landscapes of the Near East." Much of this book is based on his research conducted while he was Director of the Center for Archaeology of the Middle Eastern Landscape. Gil J. Stein describes this book as "an extraordinary synthesis of landscape archaeology, and (it) richly deserves this honor!"

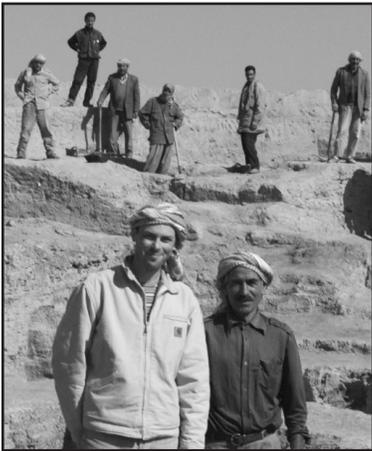
## THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE WELCOMES NEW MUSEUM DIRECTOR GEOFF EMBERLING

*OI:* Congratulations on your appointment as Museum Director. What drew you to the Oriental Institute (OI)?

*GE:* How could I not be drawn to the OI? It has a long and rich history of archaeological and historical work on the ancient Near East and continues to be at the center of American research in these areas. My own fieldwork has focused on urban archaeology, and the large-scale excavation projects that the OI has been known for and continues to support fit those interests very well. The people here are wonderful — I even enjoyed my job interview!

*OI:* What are your research interests?

*GE:* For the past six years I have been field director of excavations at Tell Brak in north-eastern Syria, which our research has shown was one of the first big cities in northern Mesopotamia — it grew to become an urban center in about 3600 BC, about the same time that cities in Sumer first began to grow in size, and it was also a rival of Ebla and Mari during the third millennium BC. I will have a last season at the site this spring and will turn to publishing the results over the next few years, but I hope it will be possible for me to begin another field project in the next 5–10 years.



**Oriental Institute Museum Director Geoff Emberling (left) at Tell Brak with excavator Humeidi Abed (right). Photograph courtesy Geoff Emberling**

So I have most recently been interested in the first cities and states of the fourth and third millennium BC in Mesopotamia. My dissertation, which I finished at the University of Michigan in 1995, was about the role of ethnicity in those early Mesopotamian societies and focused on analysis of painted ceramics and burials along the foothills of the Zagros Mountains. Maybe I should even mention that my undergraduate thesis at Harvard was about so-called “Intercultural Style” stone vessels that were carved in elaborate designs in southern Iran and in the Gulf and traded across Mesopotamia. You can see some of these carved stone vessels on display in the Oriental Institute’s Mesopotamian Gallery.

*OI:* How does your background help your work in the Museum?

*GE:* After I finished my Ph.D., I taught for a year at the Carsten Niebuhr Institute of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Copenhagen and then worked for three years as Assistant Curator in the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. During the time I was at the Met,

the department completely reinstalled its entire permanent collection. It was great training for me since I was involved in every aspect of the new exhibit.

*OI:* What projects would you like to undertake as Museum Director?

*GE:* The Oriental Institute storerooms are a vast and invaluable resource. There are over 125,000 register entries here, the vast majority obtained by excavation, and a significant portion remains to be published. By contrast, the Ancient Near East department at the Metropolitan Museum, which of course has a very different kind of collection, has something like 6,000 objects.

We will have to continue to digitize the collection, which is an enormous task, actually a set of enormous tasks. We have a database that works for internal use, but the register cards on which it is based were compiled over the past 75 years and so reflect changing views of the periods, dates, materials, and stylistic attributions of the objects. Just to update this catalog is a huge job, but we would also like to add digital photos of the objects and to make the whole thing accessible on the web. There is also important work to be done in digitizing the archives and photographs. This work would be very important for making the collection more accessible to scholars, to encourage further research on these objects, but also for the public.

On the public side of the museum, we will continue the reinstallation project, which will end with the opening of the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery. I am also very excited by the activities of the museum’s Education Department, which will continue to find new and creative ways to reach out to our many potential audiences. While their work has been wonderful, and the department can barely fit into its offices, I think the museum can reach a significantly larger audience on behalf of the work of the entire Oriental Institute.

*OI:* What can we expect when the next museum space, the East Wing, opens to the public?

*GE:* The East Wing will present the Assyrian Empire and Syro-Anatolia, focusing on Oriental Institute excavations at Alişar Höyük, the Amuq Plain in Turkey, and Megiddo in Israel. Visitors will be able to explore, among other things, the rise of empires across the Near East in the late second and early first millennium BC. The faculty curators are doing an outstanding job and the entire reinstallation team is working very well together. The new galleries, like the rest of the museum, will reflect the excellence and dedication of all team members. The East Wing will open in January 2005.

You can learn more about Tell Brak at the website:

[http://www.learningsites.com/Brak/Tell-Brak\\_home.html](http://www.learningsites.com/Brak/Tell-Brak_home.html)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JUNE

- 16 Wednesday** **Armageddon Revealed**  
Gabrielle Novacek  
Adult Education Course  
Wednesdays, June 16–August 4  
7:00–9:00 PM  
Oriental Institute  
See page 10 for additional information
- 17 Thursday** **Ancient Arabs**  
Joey Corbett  
Adult Education Course  
Thursdays, June 17–August 5  
7:00–9:00 PM  
Oriental Institute  
See page 11 for additional information
- 19 Saturday** **Going Forth by Day**  
Harold Hays  
Adult Education Course  
Saturdays, June 19–July 31  
10:00 AM–12:00 NOON  
Oriental Institute  
See page 10 for additional information
- 20 Sunday** **Movie: Egypt's Golden Empire I.**  
1:30 PM  
See page 9 for additional information
- 21 Monday** **Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist**  
Summer Day Camp for Children  
Monday, June 21–Friday, June 25  
9:00 AM–1:00 PM  
Lill Street Art Center  
See page 13 for additional information
- 22 Tuesday** **Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist (cont.)**
- 23 Wednesday** **Armageddon Revealed (cont.)**  
**Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist (cont.)**
- 24 Thursday** **Ancient Arabs (cont.)**  
**Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist (cont.)**
- 25 Friday** **World of the Pharaohs**  
Lunch Time in Another Time  
Gallery Tour  
12:15 PM  
See page 13 for additional information  
**Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist (cont.)**
- 26 Saturday** **Going Forth by Day (cont.)**

- 27 Sunday** **Movie: Egypt's Golden Empire II.**  
1:30 PM  
See page 9 for additional information

### JULY

- 7 Wednesday** **Armageddon Revealed (cont.)**
- 8 Thursday** **Ancient Arabs (cont.)**
- 10 Saturday** **Going Forth by Day (cont.)**
- 11 Sunday** **Movie: As It Was in the Beginning**  
1:30 PM  
See page 9 for additional information
- 12 Monday** **This History, Our History**  
Teacher's Seminar  
July 12–30, Monday–Friday  
1:30–4:30 PM  
See page 11 for additional information
- 13 Tuesday** **This History, Our History (cont.)**
- 14 Wednesday** **Armageddon Revealed (cont.)**  
**This History, Our History (cont.)**
- 15 Thursday** **Ancient Arabs (cont.)**  
**This History, Our History (cont.)**
- 16 Friday** **This History, Our History (cont.)**
- 17 Saturday** **Going Forth by Day (cont.)**
- 18 Sunday** **Movie: Chronicles and Kings**  
1:30 PM  
See page 9 for additional information
- 19 Monday** **This History, Our History (cont.)**
- 20 Tuesday** **This History, Our History (cont.)**
- 21 Wednesday** **Armageddon Revealed (cont.)**  
**This History, Our History (cont.)**
- 22 Thursday** **Ancient Arabs (cont.)**  
**This History, Our History (cont.)**
- 23 Friday** **Where Civilization Began**  
Lunch Time in Another Time  
Gallery Tour  
12:15 PM  
See page 13 for additional information  
**This History, Our History (cont.)**

<b>24 Saturday</b>	<b>Going Forth by Day (cont.)</b>	<b>14 Saturday</b>	<b>Stars of the Pharaohs</b> Robert K. Ritner Field Trip to the Adler Planetarium 10:00 AM–4:00 PM See page 12 for additional information
<b>25 Sunday</b>	<b>Movie: Mightier than the Sword</b> 1:30 PM See page 9 for additional information	<b>15 Sunday</b>	<b>Movie: Out of the Fiery Furnace: From Stone to Bronze</b> 1:30 PM See page 9 for additional information
<b>26 Monday</b>	<b>This History, Our History (cont.)</b>	<b>22 Sunday</b>	<b>Movie: Out of the Fiery Furnace: From Swords to Ploughshares</b> 1:30 PM See page 9 for additional information
<b>27 Tuesday</b>	<b>This History, Our History (cont.)</b>	<b>29 Sunday</b>	<b>Movie: Cleopatra: Destiny's Queen</b> 1:30 PM See page 9 for additional information
<b>28 Wednesday</b>	<b>Armageddon Revealed (cont.)</b>		
	<b>This History, Our History (cont.)</b>		
<b>29 Thursday</b>	<b>Ancient Arabs (cont.)</b>		
	<b>This History, Our History (cont.)</b>		
<b>30 Friday</b>	<b>This History, Our History (cont.)</b>		
<b>31 Saturday</b>	<b>Going Forth by Day (cont.)</b>		

## AUGUST

<b>1 Sunday</b>	<b>Movie: Mount Nemrud: Throne of the Gods</b> 1:30 PM See page 9 for additional information
<b>2 Monday</b>	<b>Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist</b> Summer Day Camp for Children Monday, August 2–Friday, August 6 9:00 AM–1:00 PM Lill Street Art Center See page 12 for additional information
<b>3 Tuesday</b>	<b>Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist (cont.)</b>
<b>4 Wednesday</b>	<b>Armageddon Revealed (cont.)</b> <b>Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist (cont.)</b>
<b>5 Thursday</b>	<b>Ancient Arabs (cont.)</b> <b>Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist (cont.)</b>
<b>6 Friday</b>	<b>Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist (cont.)</b>
<b>8 Sunday</b>	<b>Movie: Mesopotamia: I have Conquered the River</b> 1:30 PM See page 9 for additional information
<b>13 Friday</b>	<b>Glory and Grandeur: The Ancient Persian Empire</b> Lunch Time in Another Time Gallery Tour 12:15 PM See page 13 for additional information

## SEPTEMBER

<b>5 Sunday</b>	<b>Movie: The Great Adventure</b> 1:30 PM See page 9 for additional information
<b>8 Wednesday</b>	<b>Mesopotamia: The Cradle of Civilization</b> Geoffrey Emberling and McGuire Gibson An Elderhostel Day of Discovery 10:00 AM–2:30 PM See page 12 for additional information
<b>10 Friday</b>	<b>Mesopotamia: The Cradle of Civilization</b>
<b>12 Sunday</b>	<b>Movie: Wonderful Things</b> 1:30 PM See page 9 for additional information
<b>14 Tuesday</b>	<b>Mesopotamia: The Cradle of Civilization</b>
<b>17 Friday</b>	<b>Mesopotamia: The Cradle of Civilization</b>
<b>19 Sunday</b>	<b>Movie: The Pharaoh Awakes</b> 1:30 PM See page 9 for additional information
<b>26 Sunday</b>	<b>Movie: Heads in the Sand</b> 1:30 PM See page 9 for additional information

**ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

## SUNDAY FILMS

Join us in air-conditioned Breasted Hall for the best in documentary films on ancient Near Eastern history, art, and archaeology. Film showings begin at 1:30 PM and last approximately 30–50 minutes. Following the films, docents will be available in the galleries to answer your questions. Admission to film showings is free.

Our June showings feature *Egypt's Golden Empire*, the two-part PBS series that presents ancient Egypt during its greatest age — the New Kingdom. Discover an era when ancient Egyptian art, learning, and technology were propelled to new heights, and the land of the Pharaohs became the center of one of the first great empires in history.

This series was underwritten by Janet Johnson and Donald Whitcomb in memory of Egyptologist Frank Yurco.

**June 20** *Egypt's Golden Empire*. Part I.

**June 27** *Egypt's Golden Empire*. Part II.

**July 4** Independence Day. No film showing.

**July 11.** *As it was in the Beginning*. The first episode in the critically praised Testament: The Bible and History series, this film searches for the roots of the book of Genesis in the great civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia. Narrated by John Romer.

**July 18** *Chronicles and Kings*. How accurate is the Bible as a geography, archaeology, and history text? This second episode in the Testament series compares archaeological evidence with Biblical history.

**July 25** *Mightier Than the Sword*. The third episode from the Testament series examines the written word in Judaism, as narrator John Romer visits Qumran and Masada in search of the origins of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

**August 1** *Mount Nemrud: Throne of the Gods*. Discover the eighth wonder of the ancient world in this film highlighting the massive ruins located on Mount Nemrud in Eastern Turkey.

**August 8** *Mesopotamia: I Have Conquered the River*. Explore the vital role of ancient Mesopotamia's waterways in the development of one of the world's earliest and most powerful civilizations. This film features a remarkable computerized recreation of life along the Euphrates River more than 4,000 years ago.

**August 15** *Out of the Fiery Furnace: From Stone to Bronze*. This first episode from a PBS series on the discovery and use of metal resources highlights bronze, the first high-tech metal of ancient times.

**August 22** *Out of the Fiery Furnace: From Swords to Ploughshares*. This episode traces the transition from bronze to iron, and the impact of this change on human history.

**August 29** *Cleopatra: Destiny's Queen*. This film from the Arts and Entertainment Biography series mixes rare footage with new research and exclusive interviews to present a biographical portrait of Cleopatra that strives to separate myth from fact. Courtesy A&E Network.

In September we celebrate Archaeology Awareness Month with screenings from the acclaimed BBC series, *King Tut The Face of Tutankhamun*. Courtesy A&E Network.

**September 5** *The Great Adventure*. The first episode in the series retraces Howard Carter's momentous journey from rural England to the doorway of King Tut's tomb.

**September 12** *Wonderful Things*. Howard Carter unseals the tomb, revealing a vast treasure beyond imagination.

**September 19** *The Pharaoh Awakes*. "Tutmania" sweeps the world, influencing fashion, art, and the movies.

**September 26** *Heads in the Sand*. Scientific studies confirm the pharaoh's age and royal heritage, while his treasures are imperiled by modern civilization.

### EDUCATION OFFICE REGISTRATION FORM

	Members	Non-members	Total
_____ <i>Armageddon Revealed: The Ancient Israelite City of Megiddo</i>	_____ \$175	_____ \$195	_____
_____ <i>Going Forth by Day: The Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead</i>	_____ \$149	_____ \$169	_____
_____ <i>Ancient Arabs and Their Predecessors: Nomads in the Ancient Near East</i>	_____ \$175	_____ \$195	_____
		<b>TOTAL</b>	_____

To register for the Adler Planetarium field trip, contact Meghan Smith at the Adler at (312) 294-0361.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is \$50 for an annual membership, \$40 for seniors, UC/UCH Faculty and Staff, and National Associates (persons living more than 100 miles from Chicago within the USA). Memberships may be in two names at the same address. **Please send a separate check for membership donation.**

I prefer to pay by \_\_\_ Check \_\_\_ Money order \_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_ Visa

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to: The Oriental Institute Education Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637**

Contact Museum Education at (773) 702-9507 for registration and refund policies.

## SUMMER ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

The following two courses are co-sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies. Each offers Teacher Recertification CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education. For more information, call Museum Education at (773) 702-9507.

### ARMAGEDDON REVEALED: THE ANCIENT ISRAELITE CITY OF MEGIDDO

**Gabrielle Novacek**

**Wednesdays, June 16–August 4**

**7:00–9:00 PM**

**Oriental Institute**

Located on the vital land bridge between Egypt and Mesopotamia, ancient Megiddo in northern Israel was one of the most significant and strategically important cities in the ancient Near East. Time and again, the armies of great empires clashed there, marking the city so indelibly in the historical memory of the Israelites that it appears in the New Testament Book of Revelation as Armageddon, the site of the final battle between Good and Evil at the End of Days.

This course explores Megiddo's 7,000 years of continuous settlement, which begins in prehistoric times and extends to the era of the Roman Empire. We examine Megiddo as a unique portal for the movement of ideas, trade, and political forces in the ancient world, and focus upon it to discuss such topics as the cosmopolitan nature of the ancient Near East, the emergence of the Israelite religion, and the relationship of archaeological discoveries to events presented in the Bible. The Oriental Institute's major excavations at Megiddo are highlighted, as well as behind-the-scenes previews of the Institute's new Megiddo Gallery, now under construction, which will display some of the most famous objects ever uncovered in Israel.

**Instructor** Gabrielle Novacek, a Ph.D. candidate in Syro-Palestinian archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago, is curating the installation of the Oriental Institute's Albert and Cissy Haas Megiddo Gallery.

The class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Wednesday evenings beginning June 16 and continuing through August 4, 2004. Pre-registration is required.

**CPDUs: 16**

**Required Texts**

*Archaeology of the Land of the Bible.* Amihai Mazar. Reprint. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

*The Battles of Armageddon: Megiddo and the Jezreel Valley from the Bronze Age to the Nuclear Age.* Eric H. Cline. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000.

### GOING FORTH BY DAY: THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BOOK OF THE DEAD

**Harold Hays**

**Saturdays, June 19–July 31**

**10:00 AM–12:00 NOON**

**Oriental Institute**

Unravel the mystery and beauty of the Book of the Dead in this six-session course that examines the most famous composition of ancient Egyptian religious literature. Learn the history and role of the Book of the Dead in ancient Egyptian religious life and culture and discover the principal gods, themes, and spells in the work. Then read selected texts in translation and explore their secrets of regeneration and resurrection.

**Instructor** Harold Hays is a Ph.D. candidate in Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. He specializes in the study of ancient Egyptian religious texts and is an epigrapher with the University of Chicago's archaeological mission to Luxor, Egypt.

The class meets at the Oriental Institute from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON on Saturdays beginning June 19 and continuing through July 31, 2004. Pre-registration is required. There will be no class on July 3.

**CPDUs: 12**

**Required Text**

*The Egyptian Book of the Dead: The Book of Going Forth by Day.* James Wasserman, ed. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1998.

*The following course is presented by the Oriental Institute:*

## **THE ANCIENT ARABS AND THEIR PREDECESSORS: NOMADS IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN WORLD**

**Joey Corbett**

**Thursdays, June 17–August 5, 7:00–9:00 PM**

**Oriental Institute**

Nomadic peoples played an important role in the history and culture of the ancient Near East. Making their living on the arid fringes of the Fertile Crescent, nomadic societies had frequent contacts with their more settled neighbors, forging complex relationships that ranged from cooperation to conflict. This course traces the history and influence of nomadic societies from the second millennium BC to the rise of Islam, as revealed through Near Eastern historical sources, archaeological evidence, and comparisons with nomadic life and culture in more recent times. Class sessions explore a wide variety of topics, such as fact or fiction in the lore surrounding the Queen of Sheba, and the nomadic Midianites and Moses in the origins of ancient Israelite religion.

**Instructor** Joey Corbett is a Ph.D. candidate in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. His research interests focus on the effect of long-distance trade on pastoral-nomadic communities in the southern Levant.

The class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Thursday evenings beginning June 17 and continuing through August 5, 2004. Pre-registration is required.

### **Required Readings**

The instructor will provide a handout of readings at the first class session.

## **TEACHERS' SEMINAR**

### **THIS HISTORY, OUR HISTORY: NEW WAYS TO TEACH ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA**

*An Oriental Institute/Chicago Public Schools Recertification and Lane Promotional Credit Course*

**July 12–30, Monday through Friday, 1:30–4:30 PM**

**Oriental Institute**

Bring the grandeur and the power of Mesopotamia into your classroom! The great civilization that flourished in the land that is now Iraq is explored in lectures and gallery talks by archaeologists and museum educators. Hands-on workshops and discussion sessions focus on ways Mesopotamian art and artifacts can become dramatic resources for integrating the museum, computer technology, and the Chicago Reading Initiative into the curriculum. Special feature: a portion of the course takes place online, so that you can participate from home. Participants must have access to a computer and the Internet.

Each participant receives:

- Hands-on computer training for online participation
- Ideas for student learning on the web
- Maps and lesson plans for classroom use
- Life in Ancient Mesopotamia Teachers' Guide
- Opportunities for class visits to the Oriental Institute

This course provides three Chicago Public Schools Lane Promotional Credits and forty-five Recertification CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education.

**Course Fee: \$185, payable to the Oriental Institute**

**Materials Fee: \$35, payable to the Oriental Institute**

**Lane Credit Fee: \$25, payable to the CPS Teachers Academy. Please bring a money order payable to the Teachers Academy on the first class day.**

**To register, please call Oriental Institute Museum Education at (773) 702-9507. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.**

**This program is made possible by the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation.**

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### FIELD TRIP

CO-SPONSORED BY THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE AND THE ADLER PLANETARIUM

#### STARS OF THE PHARAOHS

**Robert K. Ritner, Associate Professor of Egyptology**

**Saturday, August 14**

**10:00 AM–4:00 PM at the Oriental Institute and the Adler Planetarium**

View the skies through the eyes of the ancient Egyptians at this special Oriental Institute/Adler Planetarium event offered in conjunction with “Stars of the Pharaohs,” a new StarRider Theater program at the planetarium. Join Robert K. Ritner, Associate Professor of Egyptology, for a lecture that explores the role of astronomy in ancient Egyptian culture and religion, followed by a visit to the Oriental Institute Museum’s Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. Then travel by charter bus to the Adler Planetarium for a catered light lunch in Galileo’s Cafe, a showing of “Stars of the Pharaohs” with VIP seating, and a visit to “Bringing the Heavens to Earth,” the planetarium’s exhibit on ancient astronomy. A charter bus returns you to the Oriental Institute at the end of the day.

**Fee: \$50 for Oriental Institute and Adler Planetarium members; \$60 for non-members. Bus transportation, lunch, and programs at both museums included.**

**Pre-registration is required and is being taken by the Adler Planetarium. Contact Meghan Smith at (312) 294-0361 or at [msmith@adlernet.org](mailto:msmith@adlernet.org).**

## ELDERHOSTEL PROGRAM

### MESOPOTAMIA: THE CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION

#### AN ELDERHOSTEL DAY OF DISCOVERY AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

**Geoffrey Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director**

**McGuire Gibson, Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology**

*Select One Date:*

**Wednesday, September 8**

**Friday, September 10**

**Tuesday, September 14**

**Friday, September 17**

**10:00 AM–2:30 PM**

Treasures from the dawn of human history await you at this Day of Discovery on ancient Mesopotamia — the land now known as Iraq — where the world’s first civilization was born nearly 5,000 years ago. This visit to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago offers the rare opportunity to experience world-renowned scholarship on Mesopotamia alongside an awe-inspiring collection of ancient art and artifacts.

Join Geoffrey Emberling, Director of the Oriental Institute Museum, to discuss Mesopotamia’s profound influence on our cultural heritage from the beginnings of recorded history to the present day. Tour the museum’s Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery to view exhibits that include clay tablets inscribed with the earliest writing systems, exquisite art from the world’s first cities, and colossal sculpture from the imperial palace of a Mesopotamian monarch who ruled a vast empire and called himself “king of the universe.” Then meet with McGuire Gibson, Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology, whose expertise in the field has given him a major role in the worldwide efforts to preserve the antiquities and threatened archaeological sites of today’s Iraq. Learn how the work of Oriental Institute scholars is documenting and helping to recover artifacts that were lost in the looting of the Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad.

**Fee: \$84. Includes lectures, gallery tour, lunch at the Quadrangle Club, and a packet of educational materials. Pre-registration is required. To register, call Elderhostel in Boston toll-free at (1-877) 426-8056.**

## LUNCH TIME IN ANOTHER TIME

Tired of the usual lunch routine? Take a break and spend your lunchtime in the ancient world during our series of free gallery tours at 12:15 PM on selected Fridays this summer. For additional information, call Museum Education at (773) 702-9507.

### World of the Pharaohs

Friday, June 25, 12:15 PM

Travel through 3,000 years of ancient Egyptian civilization as you discover temples, tombs, and a colossal statue of King Tut.

### Where Civilization Began

Friday, July 23, 12:15 PM

Discover magnificent art and fascinating artifacts from ancient Mesopotamia — current day Iraq — as you explore the cultural legacy of the land that is often called the cradle of civilization.

### Glory and Grandeur: The Ancient Persian Empire

Friday, August 13, 12:15 PM

Encounter the glories and grandeur of the ancient Persian capital of Persepolis, the administrative center of an empire that stretched from Egypt to India until it was conquered in the fourth century BC by Alexander the Great.

## SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR CHILDREN BE AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARTIST

Monday, June 21–Friday, June 25

Or

Monday, August 2–Friday, August 6

9:00 AM–1:00 PM

Lill Street Art Center, 4401 North Ravenswood, Chicago, IL 60640

Calling all Junior Egyptologists! Children ages 8–12 are invited to explore the spectacular arts of ancient Egypt at this summer day camp co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute and the Lill Street Art Center. Let the Egyptian gods inspire you as you create paintings and jewelry like those found in the palaces and tombs of ancient pharaohs. Try your hand at Egyptian metalworking, pottery, and more. The camp, which takes place at the Lill Street Art Center, also includes a one-day visit to the Oriental Institute's Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery.

**Fee: \$200. All materials, supplies, and round-trip bus-transportation to the Oriental Institute included. Pre-registration required. Call the Lill Street Art Center at (773) 769-4226.**

## IN THE MEDIA: TABLETS RETURNED TO IRAN

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

**U. of Chicago to Return Tablets to Iran.** By Tara Burghart. Associated Press. Features Director Gil J. Stein and Professor Matthew Stolper. Find the article at [www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org).

Thursday, April 29, 2004

**Ancient Persian scratch pads going back to Iran from U. of C.** By Dave Newbart. *Chicago Sun-Times*. Features Director Gil J. Stein and Professor Matthew Stolper. Find the article at [www.suntimes.com](http://www.suntimes.com).

**Experts Back in Modern Iran to Again Study Ancient Persia.** By John Noble Wilford. *New York Times*. Features Director Gil J. Stein, Dr. Abbas Alizadeh, and Professor Matthew Stolper. Find the article at [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com).

**Museum keeps its word, after 67 years.** By William Mullen. *Chicago Tribune*. Features Director Gil J. Stein, Professor Matthew Stolper, Mr. Chuck Jones, and Professor Gene Gragg. Find the article at [www.chicagotribune.com](http://www.chicagotribune.com).

# NEWS FROM THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

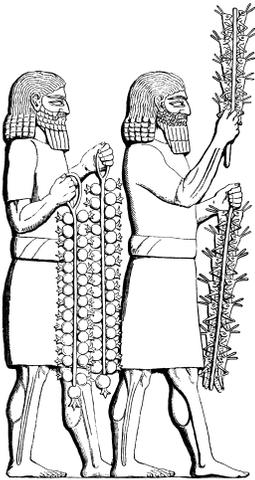
## GRANTS AND GIFTS

*GIL J. STEIN*

The Oriental Institute will benefit from a recent **LASALLE BANK** pledge of \$150,000 in support of museum installation. We sincerely thank Thomas C. Heagy, Vice Chairman of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee, for arranging this gift.

The Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project received a grant of \$100,000 from the **SALUS MUNDI FOUNDATION** to establish an endowment for the support of the dictionary.

**THE INSTITUTE OF AEGEAN PREHISTORY (INSTAP)** has awarded K. Aslihan Yener \$30,000 in support of the Tell Atchana/Alalakh excavations.



University of Chicago Trustee **JOSEPH NEUBAUER** and his wife **JEANETTE** have generously pledged \$200,000 to support the 2005–2006 excavation and study seasons at Tell Atchana/Alalakh. In total, they have now pledged \$400,000 to the Alalakh excavations. This is an extraordinary commitment that will allow Yener and her colleagues to conduct long-term excavations as part of their ten-year research plan. We at the Oriental Institute are all deeply grateful to the Neubauers for their generosity. Their support reflects the importance, the data potential, and the innovative nature of this research project.



*Photograph by Dan Dry*

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

**Erica Reiner**, Professor Emeritus, attended the official inauguration of the University of Chicago's Paris Centre in May (and she hopes to be able to forge some ties between the Paris Centre and the Oriental Institute). From Paris, she will go on to London and spend some time in the British Museum for final collations for the forthcoming volume of *Babylonian Planetary Omens, Part 4*, for which she is expecting a contract from Brill shortly.

**Seth Richardson**, Assistant Professor, delivered a paper at the American Oriental Society meetings in San Diego on land grants given to southern emigres in northern Babylonia in the eighteenth and seventeenth centuries BC, following a late January talk at the Franke Institute for the Humanities on the role of warlords in this same time. Working with museum staff and the new director, Seth is also revising and drafting label copy for the East Gallery reinstallation project. He is looking forward to summer research: first, at the British Museum, where he will be collating and copying texts for a volume of Late Old Babylonian documents in transliteration; and second in residence at the Yale Babylonian Collection, where he will continue work on land cadaster texts from Larsa.

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

### Summer Tea at the University of Chicago President's Home on Tuesday, July 13, 2004

President and Mrs. Randel have again graciously invited the docents, faculty, staff, and volunteers of the Oriental Institute to a lovely afternoon tea at their home on Tuesday, July 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. This year we are going to showcase the Oriental Institute's dictionary projects at the President's home. Our speakers will be dealing with the topic, "The Power of the Word." The three speakers are Jan Johnson, who will speak about her work on the Demotic Dictionary; Martha Roth, who will discuss her progress on the Assyrian Dictionary; and Theo van den Hout, who will bring us up to date on the Hittite Dictionary Project.

Reservations are required to attend this event. Please call the Volunteer Office by July 9, 2004 at (773) 702-1845.

## BECOME AN ORIENTAL INSTITUTE VOLUNTEER!

Answer the Call, Engage Your Mind, Expand Your Horizons

Volunteer Training Sessions for the Oriental Institute Museum's East Wing Will Begin Soon

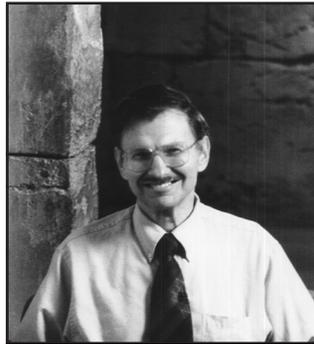
Call Terry Friedman or Catherine Dueñas, Volunteer Coordinators, (773) 702-1845 for More Information

## IN MEMORIAM: FRANK J. YURCO

Frank Yurco, a fine Egyptologist and superb educator, died February 6, 2004. Frank loved everything having to do with ancient Egypt, and he was extraordinarily gifted at sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with people on all levels, from fellow professional Egyptologists to schoolchildren. He began while still a student at the University of Chicago, giving lectures in association with the 1977/78 Tutankhamun exhibit jointly sponsored by the Oriental Institute and The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. From then on he taught adult education courses for both the Oriental Institute and Field Museum and soon began teaching for Oakton Community College and the University of Chicago Continuing Education Program and Elderhostel Program. He taught everything about ancient Egypt, from prehistory to hieroglyphs to religion to the role of women.

He was a thoroughly engaging teacher, sharing the breadth and depth of his knowledge and sparking enthusiasm with his obvious love for the subject matter. Many students signed up for class after class with Frank, knowing that whatever he offered would be a rewarding experience. In addition to his ongoing contributions to adult education, Frank was also concerned with the presentation of Egyptian history for schoolchildren, and for about a decade he served as a Curriculum Evaluator for the Chicago Public Schools and those in Washington, D.C., working intensively with elementary and high school teachers to develop accurate, appropriate, and stimulating curricula showing the respect for people of all races and backgrounds with which he lived his whole life. In this capacity he also served as Lecturer for the Chicago Academic Alliance Teacher Enrichment Program "Extending the Great Conversation" funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Frank was a source of information and inspiration for docents at the Oriental Institute and The Field Museum. He frequently helped in the training sessions for new docents or participated in review and update sessions for long-term docents. The most enthusiastic docents regularly took his classes, and all the docents knew that, if they had a question, they could go to Frank, who would have an answer or find one. Frank was very comfortable in museum surroundings and served as Egyptology consultant and/or exhibit developer for several major collections. Again this started when he was a student and worked as Registrar's Assistant for the Oriental Institute Museum. He then worked for The Field Museum for several years on their exhibit "Inside Ancient Egypt," which opened in 1988 and for which he wrote the guidebook. He was also involved with revisions to the exhibit in 1995. After his work at The Field Museum, he helped in the redevelopment of the Egyptian exhibit at the Indianapolis Children's Museum, co-developed an exhibit on "Egypt in Africa" for the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and helped the Denver Natural History Museum research their Egyptian collection.



**Frank J. Yurco**

Frank, the teacher and museum professional, was also a gifted tour leader, sharing his deep knowledge of the monuments and his love of the Egyptian people and their history with enthusiastic travelers. His openness and generosity of knowledge and time meant that the members of his tours maximized their experience of this fascinating country.

Frank was born and raised in New York City and graduated from New York University (NYU) Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in Classics. He then moved to Chicago to begin graduate studies in Egyptology at the Oriental Institute. He interrupted his graduate studies with a three-year tour of duty in the U.S. Army, including one year of service in Vietnam, where he served as historian for the 5th Special Forces Group. When his tour of duty ended, he returned to Chicago with his bride, Dianne (Wells), and resumed his graduate studies. The couple had two children, Edward and Miriam.

Frank worked for three years as an epigrapher for the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, copying scenes and inscriptions in Karnak and Luxor temples and helping prepare the relevant publications. During this time he was also able to carry out much personal research, and he soon became a recognized authority on the Nineteenth (Ramesside) Dynasty and, especially, the reign of Merneptah.

Frank worked as an assistant editor for *Encyclopedia Britannica* for many years and most recently served as a reference librarian at the University of Chicago's Regenstein Library, where he also assisted the Near Eastern bibliographer. His interest in library work also goes back to his student days — he had worked for the New York Public Library during his college days at NYU and he served as one of the first directors of the Oriental Institute's non-circulating Research Archives for a year in the late 1970s.

Frank loved reading, taking long walks along the lakefront in the summer, and listening to good music, especially Mozart. He suffered for the last several years from ALS ("Lou Gehrig's disease") and had to cut back on his teaching and tour leading. But he wouldn't give up teaching entirely and contributed to an Oriental Institute adult education course on Egyptian and Nubian pyramids in fall 2003.

Frank Yurco was an extremely generous, good-hearted, and outgoing individual. It was this nature, combined with his extraordinary knowledge about ancient Egypt and his ability to make the complexities of this great civilization accessible to many audiences, that made him such an extraordinary teacher. Frank's knowledge, enthusiasm, and generosity will be much missed.

*Janet H. Johnson*

*Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology  
Oriental Institute, University of Chicago*

# THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

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