

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NEWS & NOTES

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SEEING WITHIN THE SOIL EXPLORING AN ANCIENT CITY AT KERKENES DAĞ

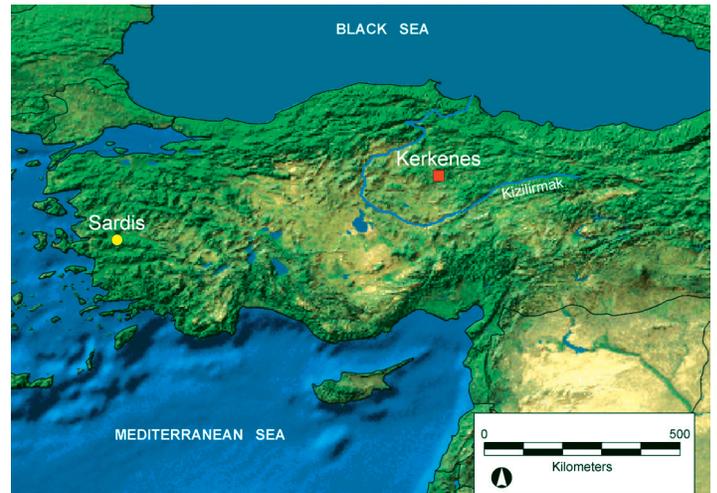
SCOTT BRANTING, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR ANCIENT MIDDLE EASTERN LANDSCAPES (CAMEL)

The ancient city that lies buried just beneath the soil at Kerkenes Dağ was one of the first sites excavated in Turkey by the Oriental Institute. Located high on a prominent ridge overlooking the vicinity of Alişar Höyük and on the far northern edge of the Cappadocian plain, this city has attracted the attention and speculation of numerous scholars since it was first reported in 1903. During the 1920s it caught the attention of James Henry Breasted, the founder of the Institute. He personally directed Erich Schmidt, Field Director of the Hittite Expedition, and a portion of the Institute's team working at Alişar to leave that site for a few weeks in 1928 in order to conduct the first excavations in this enigmatic city at Kerkenes Dağ.

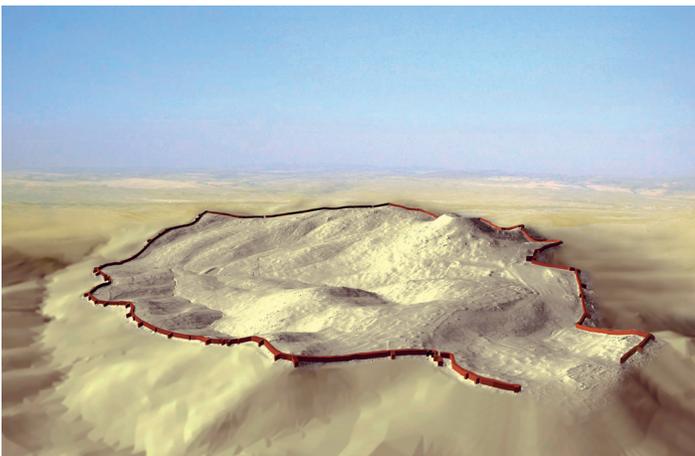
So what had drawn Breasted's attention to this particular ancient city? The first aspect of the site that draws everyone's attention is its enormous size. There are certainly other ancient cities in this part of Turkey that are very large, for instance, the Hittite capital of Hattuşa located only fifty kilometers to the northwest. But the area enclosed by the remains of the massive stone city wall at Kerkenes Dağ exceeds even the size of the mighty Hittite capital. The buildings and city blocks of this ancient city sprawl over an area of 271 hectares and the rubble remains of the city wall snake over the undulating surface of the ridge for just over seven kilometers. For those of us more accustomed to feet and inches, at just a hair under one square mile in



Aerial photograph of Kerkenes Dağ taken from a hot air balloon



Map showing the location of Kerkenes Dağ within Turkey



Virtual reality model of Kerkenes Dağ based on GPS survey data with the ancient city walls and gates digitally reconstructed

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Resistivity data being collected



Magnetometer in action



GPS survey in action with three roving receivers



The helium blimp used for taking aerial photographs in 1993 and 1994



Inflating the hot air balloon



Fragments of Phrygian inscription and associated relief discovered in the gateway to the palace compound



Lengthier section of Phrygian inscription reconstructed from fragments collected during the 2003 and 2004 field seasons



Map of Kerkenes Dağ produced by the Oriental Institute team in 1927 (OIC 6, fig. 11)



Urban blocks and compounds within the city reconstructed from combined remote sensing surveys

PICTURES FROM THE EXPLORATION OF KERKENES DAĞ



Exquisitely carved 29 cm long ivory furniture inlay, perhaps from the back of a chair, discovered during the first test excavations in 1996 guided by the results of magnetometry survey. The piece is now on permanent display in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara, Turkey

area, the city at Kerkenes Dağ is the largest pre-classical site in all of Anatolia.

The second intriguing aspect of the site is how visible many of its remains are on the surface of the ground. The city wall is a prime example, with the granite stones that once formed its courses and glacis still heaped up high along its wide path. Yet also within the circuit of the city wall one can see strong traces of buried buildings and streets lying just beneath the surface. As you stand on a high point in the city on a late summer afternoon, the shadows cast by the sinking sun bring into high relief these traces and much of the plan of the city unfolds before you. It was from such a vantage point that the first Oriental Institute surveyors stood in 1927 and mapped out the course of the city wall and a few of the numerous features visible within the city.

With that map in hand, Schmidt and a sizable group set out from Alişar on the twenty-three kilometer journey to Kerkenes Dağ in August of 1928. Encamped within the circuit of the city walls they spent eight days excavating fourteen different test trenches in an effort to understand when the city had existed, who had inhabited it, and what the city was. Was it perhaps, as the Institute's Hans Henning von der Osten suggested, the capital of some powerful rival of the Hittites? The short telegram back to Breasted at the conclusion of the excavations sums up most of what they learned. "Kerkenes PostHittite PreClassical +

Schmidt." The excavations showed that this was not a rival of the Hittites but instead a city of obvious importance inhabited some hundreds of years afterwards. They could also tell that the city was pre-planned, designed and constructed by a power capable of controlling the necessary work force to implement such a grand design. Yet while properly dating the city to within the lengthy Iron Age, a period that even today often remains shrouded in mystery, who that power was and what this city was remained a subject of speculation.

In 1993 this ancient city again became the subject of archaeological investigations. A project under the direction of Dr. Geoffrey Summers of Middle East Technical University in Ankara began that year and has continued annually ever since. I joined the project while a student at the Oriental Institute in 1995 and now serve as one of the directors. With my return to the Oriental Institute this year, Kerkenes Dağ has also once again returned to the ranks of the Institute's projects.

A number of questions have been answered and still others have surfaced in the twelve years we have been working at the site. We have been able to confirm that the city was pre-planned, though subsequent modifications did take place within particular structures and areas. We also learned an important fact missed in Schmidt's short excavations. The city was only inhabited for a relatively short period of time, perhaps two or

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

Research is the *raison d'être* of the Oriental Institute. From the time of its founding in 1919 by James Henry Breasted, the Institute has been one of the world's leading centers for the exploration of the ancient Near East by virtue of its ambitious dictionary projects and its path-breaking excavations at key archaeological sites. But, as the lead article by Scott Branting reminds us, some of the most important advances in archaeology come about indirectly, through the development of new research methodologies and their application to studying ancient civilizations.

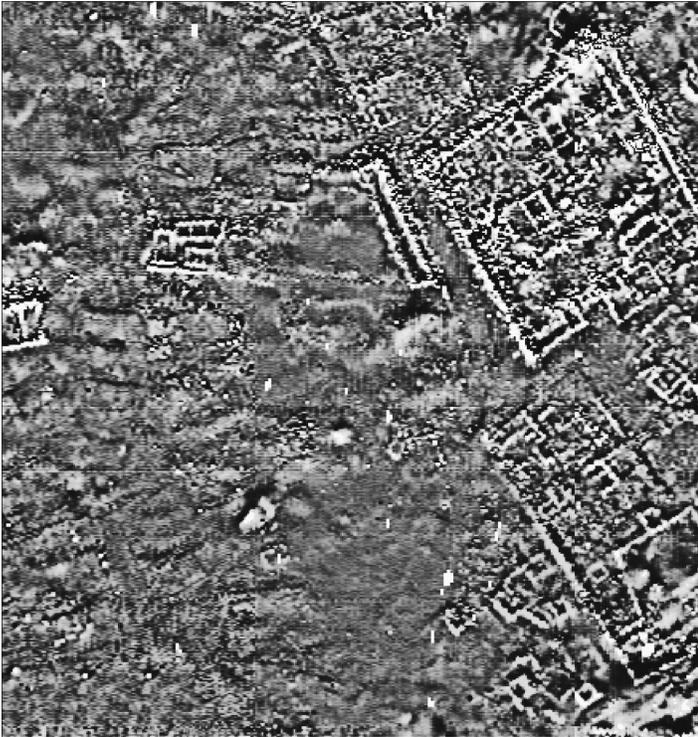
Innovative research methodologies have been, and continue to be, one of the Oriental Institute's most important contributions to scholarship. Erich Schmidt was a pioneer in applying aerial photography to Near Eastern archaeology. Similarly, within one or two years of the invention of radiocarbon (carbon 14) dating at the University of Chicago, Robert Braidwood successfully applied it to the archaeological record, thereby showing the unexpectedly early date of the Neolithic village community of Jarmo. As we all know, radiocarbon dating and aerial photography are now everyday methods in the archaeologist's tool kit.

The Oriental Institute continues this tradition of methodological innovation in the use of satellite imagery by our CAMEL lab to reconstruct ancient landscapes, and through Scott Branting's application of magnetometry, resistivity survey, and transportation modeling to map the layout of Kerkenes Dağ and to reconstruct the organization of everyday life in this short-lived Iron Age metropolis.

The importance of these new methodologies lies in the fact that they allow us to ask questions about the past that never would have occurred to us before. Thus, for example, once you know that it is possible to recover ancient seeds and other plant remains, you can start to develop and test sophisticated models about the origins of agriculture. Similarly, once you know the entire layout of an ancient city and can model the ways that people moved within its walls, it becomes possible to ask how these ancient cities were actually organized and how their houses, streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces functioned to form an actual community. It will be very interesting to see what new insights emerge from this innovative way of looking beneath the ground to see the past.



Michael J. Kelly



Close-up view of magnetometry data showing buried buildings and streets

three generations, before being destroyed in a single intentionally set conflagration. Yet burning the city to the ground was not enough for whoever destroyed it. We have evidence that shortly after the burning, the entire city wall was pushed down over the outer glacis rendering the city completely unfortified.

As to when this city was inhabited we have been able to date the site more firmly from the mid- to late seventh century through to the mid-sixth century BC. Additional dendrochronological evidence — comparing the successive annual growth rings in trees and old timber — is being actively sought to narrow down the construction and destruction dates even further. All the dating evidence fits well for an identification of the site with an ancient city discussed by Herodotus named Pteria. While you may not know that city's name you likely have heard part of the story leading up to its destruction because Herodotus relates in a famous passage how the Lydian King Croesus desired to attack the newly forming Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great. But before attacking he consulted the Greek oracles at Delphi and Amphiaraus, asking them what the outcome of this course of action would be. They returned a cryptic double-sided response that the outcome would be the destruction of a great empire. According to Herodotus, Croesus assumed this would be the new Persian Empire that would fall. But he found out too late, after taking the city of Pteria, that it was his own empire that would fall as Cyrus went on to capture Sardis, the Lydian capital, and Croesus himself later that same year. If the equation of Kerkenes Dağ with Pteria holds true then we can even more precisely date the massive destruction of the city to around 547 BC and begin to understand something of its international importance within the historical framework of the Phrygians, Lydians, Medes, and Persians.



Excavations of precisely one-half of a megaron and surrounding buildings and pavements. This structure was completely buried and only found through the subsurface remote sensing

So how have we gone about learning so much about this ancient city? From the start of the Kerkenes Dağ Project in 1993 the decision was made that digging trenches blindly would likely yield little more evidence than Schmidt found and might never answer fundamental questions about what this city was, who built it, and how it functioned. Even with the 1927 map and Schmidt's excavations as a guide, nearly all of the area of the city remained blank space on a map. So instead of jumping ahead with excavations, alternative ways were sought out to recover as much information as possible about the ancient city before ever breaking ground with a pick and shovel. The first ten years of the project were largely devoted to doing an immense amount of work with non-invasive methods, and it is only now that we are reaping the full benefits of this ambitious strategy. By employing a range of observational and remote sensing techniques across the entire area of the city we have been able to fill in these blank spaces on the map, which has allowed us to situate excavation areas with a high degree of precision and thereby to come to a much better understanding of the ancient city.

The options available to archaeologists today for non-invasive techniques to understand what lies within the soil are certainly more numerous than they were in Schmidt's day. Yet the primary technique used in the first two seasons at Kerkenes Dağ was simple aerial photography, a technique pioneered in the field of archaeology through the Oriental Institute in 1920 by Breasted and later by Schmidt. Employing both a small helium blimp on a tether and a large hot air balloon, a variety of photographs were taken of every square foot of this city. This work has been complemented by additional images taken by airplanes or satellites in subsequent years. Since so much can be seen on the surface at Kerkenes Dağ this has proved a very effective technique.

The numerous visible traces of buildings and streets on the surface have also been investigated in other ways. Using a total station we have mapped out nearly all of the buried walls and terraces that can be seen within the site. With so many traces

visible one would think that it would be easy to join them into buildings and urban blocks, particularly with the aerial photographs as a guide. However, deciding which wall traces might link up with others and assembling the whole into a coherent plan across a wider area takes much more time once you begin to look at each trace in turn. This process is still ongoing with information from new data being incorporated as we are able to collect or purchase it and interpretations reassessed in light of it.

One source of data that has proved very useful in this regard has been an extremely accurate recording of the minute topography of the entire ground surface within the site. Using a Trimble survey grade Global Positioning System (GPS), carried by numerous team members and workers, one and a half million elevation points were recorded over a four year span between 1997 and 2000. The accuracy of these points is about 10 cm and the resulting model of the surface of the ground shows in incredible detail the traces of the slightly protruding architecture. Never before in archaeology had this technique been undertaken on such a grand scale, and it remains a unique and important source of data for some of the simulation projects that we are now undertaking to better understand how ancient cities functioned. The terrain model is also the basis for ongoing work to produce a virtual reconstruction of this entire city neighborhood by neighborhood and building by building.

Complementing the recording and analysis of the surface remains has been an ongoing program of subsurface sensing and prospection. By using Geoscan magnetometers to measure small differences in the magnetic field of a particular location, or resistivity meters to measure differences in how electricity is conducted through a portion of the soil, maps can be created of walls and structures completely buried under the surface of the ground. Over a five year period we completed a magnetometry survey covering nearly the entire city, while the slower process of collecting resistivity data for large portions of the city remains ongoing. Together these two methods for seeing within the soil have given us a better glimpse of the full extent of this ancient city and can help us to locate excavation trenches precisely in order to answer particular questions.

Finally all these results from the aerial photography, satellite images, GPS survey, total station survey, magnetometry, and resistivity have been combined within ArcGIS, a Geographic Information System (GIS) software package, to analyze and interpret this broad range of data. Using this data within the GIS we are able to not only reconstruct the urban fabric of the city but also undertake simulation and analysis to explore how it was used by the people who once filled it with life and activity.



QuickBird satellite image, courtesy Digital Globe, of a portion of Kerkenes Dağ taken during the field season in 2003. With the satellite's 60 cm resolution you could even see us hard at work excavating if you were to zoom in on the white spots (our three tents) near the right corner of a triangular configuration of paths in the lower right center of the image

By focusing the first phase of investigation on this wide variety of non-invasive surveying and sensing techniques, we have equipped ourselves with the necessary knowledge to maximize the returns of present and future excavations within the limitations of available funding. The power of this approach has already been well illustrated during excavation. We have been able to recognize architectural forms in the combined data sources that are not visible on the surface, such as megarons (single-roomed structures with a central hearth and an open porch in front) and columned halls with possible parallels in Anatolia to the west and in Iran to the east, respectively, and we are able to excavate precise portions of these structures as a means to begin to answer some of the historical and social questions involving this ancient city.

We have also been able to locate and excavate key areas in the city, such as the gateway to the palace complex, where we have recently found the first fragmentary inscriptions and reliefs. These inscriptions, written in Phrygian, may soon shed light on the rulers and inhabitants of the city, once they are all recovered and pieced together. Likewise piece by piece through large scale remote sensing and precision excavation we hope to continue to illuminate the events and activities surrounding the construction, inhabitation and eventual destruction of this enigmatic city.

For more information and a list of our sponsors past and present, please visit <http://www.metu.edu.tr/home/wwwkerk/>.

Dr. Scott Branting is the new Director of the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL) at the Oriental Institute. In this capacity he is currently expanding the capabilities and connections of the Institute in the areas of GIS and remote sensing research.

ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA: THIS HISTORY, OUR HISTORY

WENDY ENNES, TEACHER SERVICE AND E-LEARNING COORDINATOR

Museum Education has wrapped up the first year of its Institute of Museum and Library Services federal grant “Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History.” This major grant is supporting the development of an extensive on-line teaching and learning resource that will be available for K–12 students and teachers nationwide. We have accomplished much during the past year and would like to share a few aspects of the project with you. There are three components to this on-line project, which will be available for use by the end of December 2005. They are:

- A searchable database, called the “Learning Collection,” which will include 140 artifacts from the Institute’s Mesopotamian collection. This small yet significant database represents the very first time that any part of the Oriental Institute Museum’s collection will be shared with a national audience in a searchable format. Never before have we had the opportunity to share, at such a broad level, descriptive information and high-resolution photographs of our artifacts.
- An on-line professional development course on ancient Mesopotamia will also be available to teachers across the country. Course participants will use the University’s Blackboard Course Management System software, while participating in on-line discussion groups and individual and group projects for graduate credit.
- A curriculum-based, game-like interactive that will guide K–12 students and teachers through the process of participating in an archaeological dig, cataloging the artifacts they find, and curating a museum exhibit.

Two collaborators on campus, Chicago Web Docent and Regenstein’s eCUIP Digital Library are assisting us with the entire project. We also have ten Teacher Advisory Board members to help make sure that all three products of this grant are educationally sound.

The curriculum-based interactive is one area where we are spending a lot of creative time. Called “Collect, Catalogue, Curate,” teachers and students will be able to play this game at home or as part of their classroom curriculum. Game-play moves forward when each student makes the choice to either agree or disagree with a “quest statement” that relates to a big idea or concept about ancient Mesopotamia. They make a choice to be guided by the sage advice of one “mentor,” Seymour Diggs, Ph.D.; A. Pylo Mudd, Ph.D., Sandy Pitt, Ph.D.; or Lotta Dust, Ph.D. As the mentor guides each student through game-play, the student will learn more about archaeology and the processes that bring artifacts and the stories they tell to the public. Embarking on the adventure of unearthing artifacts, meeting challenges, and making decisions about their work schedule and budget, students will also learn to observe and catalogue each artifact’s characteristics. The game comes to an end with each student “curating” a museum exhibit that supports the statement they chose at the beginning of the game.

Our Teacher Advisory Board comes from diverse areas of the Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago City Colleges system. The board includes teachers, area instructional technologists, and administrators. They play an integral role helping us develop the products of this grant. Recently they developed the “quest statements” that will drive the game-play for students. The quest statement that the student chooses at the beginning of

the game will produce events and challenging scenarios. These events will build upon the student’s critical-thinking and visual skills. We recently met with our Teacher Advisory Board to go through a process of “modeling” and developing the quests on a more intricate level. “Collect, Catalogue, Curate” is still in a wire-framed developmental stage — meaning it does not contain final graphics or content, but is in a conceptual phase. You are most welcome to view the early stages of this project at: <http://www.chicagowebdocent.org/~syork/imls/simdig.html>.

We hope you enjoy your experience with one of the many programs we develop here in Museum Education!

SIMDIG WIREFRAME DEMO

CHOOSE YOUR QUEST

"Agree" or "Disagree" with a statement to begin
(You can change your answer later)

Ancient Mesopotamians had no religion.	Difficulty: Easy
<input type="button" value="Agree"/> <input type="button" value="Disagree"/>	⌚ About 20 min.
Ancient Mesopotamians believed in giant man-animal-gods.	Difficulty: Medium
<input type="button" value="Agree"/> <input type="button" value="Disagree"/>	⌚ About 30 min.
Ancient Mesopotamians developed the first writing system.	Difficulty: Hard
<input type="button" value="Agree"/> <input type="button" value="Disagree"/>	⌚ About 45 min.

QUEST DESCRIPTION

Travel from the prehistoric mountain village of Jarmo to the palaces and temples of Khorsabad, the imperial city on the steppe. Expectations are high to find some exciting new religious artifacts. You'll also discover why we wouldn't be getting around the way we do without some help from the ancient Mesopotamians, and determine the age of an artifact using carbon dating.

Map Labels: KHORSABAD, JARMO, DIYALA, Tigris R., Euphrates R., Upper Zab R., Lower Zab R., Diyala R.

A sample graphic from the area where students choose their “quest”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oriental Institute.

APRIL

Saturdays, April 16 to 30

1:30–3:00 PM

See page 13 for details

3 Sunday

The Dead Sea Scrolls: Secrets of the Caves

Film

2:00 PM

See page 10 for details

17 Sunday

Who Were the Israelites?

Film

2:00 PM

See page 10 for details

5 Tuesday

Polytheism, Prophets, and Priests: An Exploration of Ancient Israelite Religion

Adult Education Course

Tuesdays, April 5 to May 24

7:00–9:00 PM

At the Gleacher Center

See page 12 for details

17 Sunday

Deities and Dolls: Public and Private Ritual in the Neolithic Near East

Members' Lecture Series

4:00 PM

See page 11 for more details

6 Wednesday

New Light on Ancient Iran: Unearthing a New Bronze Culture in the Region of Jiroft in the Province of Kerman

Members' Lecture Series

8:00 PM

See page 11 for details

19 Tuesday

Polytheism, Prophets, and Priests: An Exploration of Ancient Israelite Religion (cont.)

20 Wednesday

Trade and Tribute in the Ancient Near East (cont.)

21 Thursday

The Other Hieroglyphs (cont.)

23 Saturday

Brewing Ancient Beer (cont.)

7 Thursday

The Other Hieroglyphs: An Introduction to Hieroglyphic Luwian

Adult Education Course

Thursdays April 7 to May 26

6:30–8:30 PM

See page 12 for details

24 Sunday

Pioneer to the Past: The Life and Times of James Henry Breasted

Film

2:00 PM

See page 10 for details

10 Sunday

A Legend in the Taurus Mountains

Film

2:00 PM

See page 10 for details

26 Tuesday

Polytheism, Prophets, and Priests: An Exploration of Ancient Israelite Religion (cont.)

12 Tuesday

Polytheism, Prophets, and Priests: An Exploration of Ancient Israelite Religion (cont.)

17 Wednesday

Trade and Tribute in the Ancient Near East (cont.)

28 Thursday

The Other Hieroglyphs (cont.)

13 Wednesday

Ancient Iraq

Lunchtime Gallery Talk

12:15 PM

See page 13 for more details

30 Saturday

Brewing Ancient Beer (cont.)

13 Wednesday

Trade and Tribute in the Ancient Near East

Adult Education Course

Wednesdays, April 13 to May 18

7:00–9:00 PM

See page 13 for details

1 Sunday

Robbing the Cradle of Civilization: The Looting of Iraq's Ancient Treasures

Special Film and Discussion

2:00 PM

See page 9 for details

14 Thursday

The Other Hieroglyphs (cont.)

3 Tuesday

Polytheism, Prophets, and Priests: An Exploration of Ancient Israelite Religion (cont.)

16 Saturday

Brewing Ancient Beer

Adult Education Course

MAY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED

- | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|---|
| 4 Wednesday | Trade and Tribute in the Ancient Near East (cont.) | 22 Sunday | In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great, Episode 1: Son of God
Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details |
| 5 Thursday | The Other Hieroglyphs (cont.) | 24 Tuesday | Polytheism, Prophets, and Priests: An Exploration of Ancient Israelite Religion (cont.) |
| 8 Sunday | Happy Mummy's Day
Family Event
1:30–4:00 PM
See page 13 for more details | 26 Thursday | The Other Hieroglyphs (cont.) |
| 8 Sunday | Mummies Made in Egypt
Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details | 29 Sunday | In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great, Episode 2: Lord of Asia
Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details |
| 10 Tuesday | Polytheism, Prophets, and Priests: An Exploration of Ancient Israelite Religion (cont.) | JUNE | |
| 11 Wednesday | Empires in the Fertile Crescent
Lunchtime Gallery Talk
12:15 PM
See page 13 for more details | 5 Sunday | In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great, Episode 3: Across the Hindu Kush
Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details |
| 11 Wednesday | Trade and Tribute in the Ancient Near East (cont.) | 12 Sunday | In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great, Episode 4: To the Ends of the Earth
Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details |
| 12 Thursday | The Other Hieroglyphs (cont.) | <i>All programs subject to change.</i> | |
| 14 Saturday | Annual Members' Event: Passport to the Middle East
Annual Members' Day
3:00–7:00 PM
See page 11 for details | | |
| 15 Sunday | Mesopotamia: I Have Conquered the River
Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details | | |
| 17 Tuesday | Polytheism, Prophets, and Priests: An Exploration of Ancient Israelite Religion (cont.) | | |
| 18 Wednesday | Trade and Tribute in the Ancient Near East (cont.) | | |
| 19 Thursday | The Other Hieroglyphs (cont.) | | |
| 21 Saturday | Ancient Egypt Unwrapped
Seminar
9:30 AM–4:30 PM
See page 14 for details | | |

TRAVEL PROGRAM UPDATE

Due to insufficient registration, the Museums of Paris and Berlin trip scheduled for May 6–16 has been canceled.

Stay tuned for more travel opportunities with the Oriental Institute.

SPECIAL FILM SHOWING

ROBBING THE CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION: THE LOOTING OF IRAQ'S ANCIENT TREASURES

Sunday, May 1

2:00–3:30 PM

Discussion Leader: McGuire Gibson

Free, No pre-registration required

Join McGuire Gibson, Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology, for a special showing and discussion of an important new documentary film produced by Robert Benger for the Canadian Broadcasting Company. *Robbing the Cradle of Civilization* takes us into the Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad to see the tragic losses from seven days of pillage. Part detective story, part historical thriller, part archaeological tragedy, this film is a dramatic depiction of Benger's premise that if the first casualty of war is truth, the second casualty is history. Professor Gibson will introduce the film and answer questions following the screening.



*Looted objects returned to the Iraq Museum in May 2003.
Photograph by McGuire Gibson*

REGISTRATION FORM

Polytheism, Prophets, and Priests

MEMBERS

_____ \$195

The Other Hieroglyphs

_____ \$195

NON-MEMBERS

_____ \$225

TOTAL

Trade and Tribute in the Ancient Near East

_____ \$169

_____ \$199

Brewing Ancient Beer

_____ \$75

_____ \$85

Ancient Egypt Unwrapped

_____ \$79

_____ \$89

Optional: Box Lunch (includes beverage)

I would like to order _____ box lunch(es) at \$16 per lunch

My entrée choice(s) are:

_____beef _____chicken _____vegetarian

Annual Members' Day: Passport to the Middle East

_____ \$50

GRAND TOTAL _____

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: _____

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

NEWS FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

NEW TITLES

Excavations at Tell es-Sweyhat, Volume 1. On the Margin of the Euphrates: Settlement and Land Use at Tell es-Sweyhat and in the Upper Lake Assad Area, Syria. Tony J. Wilkinson, with contributions by Naomi F. Miller, Clemens D. Reichel, and Donald Whitcomb. Oriental Institute Publications 124. Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2004. Pp. lii + 276; 95 figures; 16 plates; 24 tables. \$75.00.

Changing Social Identity with the Spread of Islam: Archaeological Perspectives. Edited by Donald Whitcomb, with case studies by Jodi Magness, Tracy Hoffman, Yury Karev, Mark C. Horton, and Timothy Insoll. Oriental Institute Seminars 1. Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2004. Pp. x + 102; 46 figures. \$17.95.

Megiddo 3: Final Report on the Stratum VI Excavations. Timothy P. Harrison, with contributions by Douglas L. Esse, Andrew Graham, Ronald G. V. Hancock, and Patricia Paice. Oriental Institute Publications 127. Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2004. Pp. xxxii + 255; 128 figures (9 color); 40 plates; 9 tables; 1 CD. \$100.00.

Members receive a 20% discount.

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SUNDAY FILMS

Each Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM, enjoy the best in documentary films on the ancient Near East at the Oriental Institute. Unless otherwise noted, films run approximately 30 to 50 minutes. Admission is free. Following the screenings, docents will be available in the galleries to answer your questions. Several of this spring's films highlight ancient Iraq, Turkey, or Israel, the areas explored in the new "Empires in the Fertile Crescent" exhibition.

April 3 *The Dead Sea Scrolls: Secrets of the Caves.* 1993.

This film tells the remarkable story of the discovery and acquisition of the thousands of fragments and manuscripts known as the Dead Sea Scrolls.

April 10 *A Legend in the Taurus Mountains.* 2004.

Scholars had given up all hope of solving the mystery of Hittite hieroglyphs until the discovery of an ancient castle in Turkey's Taurus Mountains helped them decipher this fascinating pictorial script. See how the site of the castle has now become the first open-air museum of its kind in Turkey.

April 17 *Who Were the Israelites?* 1996.

This film considers ways the latest archaeological discoveries relate to the Bible's depiction of the Israelites' conquest of the Promised Land.

April 24 *Pioneer to the Past: The Life and Times of James Henry Breasted.* 2004.

Part of WTTW's Chicago Stories series, this film presents Chicago-area native James Henry Breasted, founder of the Oriental Institute. Arriving at University of Chicago in the 1890s as the first American professor of Egyptology, Breasted's schol-

arly vision, entrepreneurial flair, and unbending determination helped him shape the Oriental Institute into a great academic institution that is still guided by his principles.

May 1 *Robbing the Cradle of Civilization: The Looting of Iraq's Treasures.* 2004.

Join us for a special showing and discussion of an important new documentary film produced by Robert Benger for the Canadian Broadcasting Company. See page 9 for details.

May 8 *Mummies Made in Egypt.* 1992.

This animated and live action movie from the award-winning *Reading Rainbow* series will delight the whole family. Starring LeVar Burton of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

May 15 *Mesopotamia: I Have Conquered the River.* 2000.

Shot on location in Iraq, this film combines the disciplines of archaeology, anthropology, engineering, and climatology to explore the vital role of ancient Mesopotamia's waterways. A 3-D computer recreation of the ancient city of Ur offers a glimpse of life along the Euphrates River more than 4,000 years ago.

Did you see Hollywood's latest version of Alexander the Great? Now join us on the next four Sundays for *In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great*, the acclaimed 1997 PBS documentary that sought the truth behind the legends depicting Alexander as brilliant visionary and ruthless conqueror.

May 22 *Episode 1: Son of God.*

May 29 *Episode 2: Lord of Asia.*

June 5 *Episode 3: Across the Hindu Kush.*

June 12 *Episode 4: To the Ends of the Earth.*

ANNUAL MEMBERS' EVENT

PASSPORT TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Saturday, May 14

3:00–7:00 PM

This year, the Annual Members' Dinner makes an exciting return in the form of a festival of Middle Eastern arts, culture, and (of course) food! Members are invited to see the entire Institute transformed into an authentic Middle Eastern Suq, centered around a huge, colorful bazaar featuring the finest selection of Middle Eastern rugs. Enjoy a first look at these new arrivals while sipping tea served in traditional Turkish style. Travel from room to room exploring the wealth of cultural riches from the lands in the Fertile Crescent, collecting stamps in your "passport" along the way. From lectures on the history of carpets to workshops on Islamic calligraphy to a genuine Middle Eastern grille outdoors on the Quads, you'll go on an extensive tour of the Middle East without ever leaving the Midwest. A performance by a renowned Middle Eastern musical troupe caps off this fun and festive day, for members only!

Lectures include "The Evolution and Variation of Tribal and Village Rug Motifs" by Peter Stone, a world authority on Oriental rugs. Workshops include a rug cleaning demonstration, traditional henna decoration, the art of Islamic calligraphy, and an introduction to belly dancing.

Fee: \$50, includes entry into a raffle for an authentic rug. Pre-registration is recommended.

MEMBERS' LECTURE SERIES

The following two lectures are co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America

NEW LIGHT ON ANCIENT IRAN: UNEARTHING A NEW BRONZE CULTURE IN THE REGION OF JIROFT IN THE PROVINCE OF KERMAN

Holly Pittman

Wednesday, April 6

8:00 PM



***Chlorite vase from
Jiroft, Iran***

After a hiatus following the 1979 Revolution in Iran, archaeological activity has begun in earnest again. Many expeditions, led by Iranian nationals and foreign archaeologists, are now active in the field. This illustrated slide lecture focuses on the southern site of Jiroft, where Pittman is currently excavating.

Holly Pittman is a Professor in the History of Art Department at the University of Pennsylvania and a Curator in the Near East Section of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology. For fourteen years she was a curator in the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. She excavated in

Iran in the 1970s at the site of Tal-i Malyan, ancient Anshan, the highland capital of ancient Elam, and since then has worked on excavations in the surrounding region. Her current research considers the art and architecture of the cultures of the Iranian plateau from the Neolithic period through the Sasanian.

DEITIES AND DOLLS: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RITUAL IN THE NEOLITHIC NEAR EAST

Mary Voigt

Sunday, April 17

4:00 PM

Small figures of people and animals sculpted of clay and stone are relatively common on Middle Eastern sites occupied by early agriculturalists (ca. 8500–6000 BC). Such images are sometimes aesthetically pleasing and often interesting for the detailed way they depict ancient men and women, but they can also be used to describe patterns of behavior with social and religious significance. Recent excavations in eastern Turkey have revealed larger counterparts of the small figures; these sculptures are usually found in buildings that differ in form and layout from ordinary houses and were probably used by the whole community. This lecture describes the kinds of early Neolithic figures found at several sites and examines surface damage and patterns to distinguish between different functional groups, ranging from toys to cult images. Results obtained by looking at figures from the eastern sites are then used to provide a comparative framework for a study of changes in the form and function of one of the most famous collections of Neolithic images, those from Çatal Höyük in central Turkey.

Mary Voigt is Chancellor Professor of Anthropology at The College of William and Mary; and Director of Excavations and Associate Director of the Gordion Project. Her areas of specialization include Near Eastern prehistory and protohistory, archaeological evidence for ritual, and the cultural history of Neolithic societies in northwest Iran.

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

The following four courses are co-sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies. Each course offers Teacher Recertification CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education.

POLYTHEISM, PROPHETS, AND PRIESTS: AN EXPLORATION OF ANCIENT ISRAELITE RELIGION

Gabrielle V. Novacek

Tuesdays, April 5 to May 24

7:00–9:00 PM

At the Gleacher Center, 450 North Cityfront Plaza

This course explores the nature of religious practices and beliefs in ancient Israel. Topics include worship in the home and temple, the role of sacrifice, religious symbols, the central sanctuary in Jerusalem, and the evolving role and nature of the divine. We also look at the worship of other deities appearing in the Bible — including El, Baal, and Asherah — and how, when, and why the Israelite community ultimately rejected these and other gods in favor of monotheism.

The Old Testament is our primary source and we will use the text to find clues about ways religious worship was carried out day-to-day in Israelite households, as well as how these practices may have at times conflicted with the official Israelite cult centered in Jerusalem. We also examine religious literature from other cultures, including the Canaanites, Egyptians, and Babylonians, to explore similarities as well as points of difference in the texts. A survey of the archaeological record as it relates to ancient Israelite religion completes the picture.

Instructor Gabrielle V. Novacek is a Ph.D. candidate in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She was also Guest Curator for the Oriental Institute Museum's new Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery.

The class meets at the Gleacher Center, the University of Chicago's downtown center at 450 Cityfront Plaza from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Tuesday evenings beginning April 5 and continuing through May 24. Pre-registration is required.

CPDUs: 16

Required Texts

The Religion of Ancient Israel. Patrick D. Miller. John Knox Press, December 2000.

The Bible, any edition; the following is suggested for those who plan to make a purchase:

The New Oxford Annotated NRSV Bible with the Apocrypha. Third Edition. Oxford University Press, 2001.

THE OTHER HIEROGLYPHS: AN INTRODUCTION TO HIEROGLYPHIC LUWIAN

Dennis Campbell and Kathleen Mineck

Thursdays, April 7 to May 26

6:30–8:30 PM

Oriental Institute

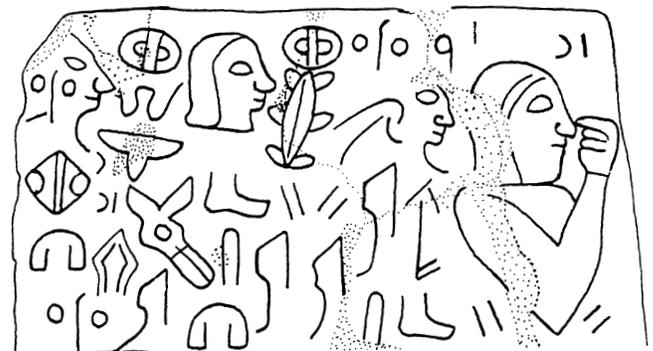
Discover hieroglyphs as intriguing as the writing from ancient Egypt during this course on the pictographic script used by the Luwians of Anatolia, today's Turkey. Originally created for writing personal names, hieroglyphic Luwian had developed into a sophisticated writing system by ca. 1000 BC. Archaeologists have discovered examples that range from simple carvings on miniature seals to monumental royal inscriptions.

This course introduces “the other hieroglyphs” through lectures and readings that explore the many strange and wonderful signs of this fascinating script. Along the way, you will acquire an elementary understanding of Luwian grammar, allowing you to read actual inscriptions, including some that appear on artifacts displayed in the Oriental Institute Museum's new Anatolian Gallery. No prior knowledge of ancient languages is required.

Instructors Dennis Campbell and Kathleen Mineck are Ph.D. candidates in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Both instructors specialize in the cultures and languages of ancient Anatolia.

The class meets at the Oriental Institute from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on Thursday evenings beginning April 7 and continuing through May 26. Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited to twenty participants. A packet of materials, including major articles and a sign list, will be available for a modest fee at the first class session.

CPDUs: 16



Luwian Inscription from an orthostat at Karatepe, the North Gate

TRADE AND TRIBUTE IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Jonathan Tenney

Wednesdays, April 13 to May 18

7:00–9:00 PM

Oriental Institute

This course highlights an era in ancient Near Eastern history when lands from Africa to the Baltic were united by trade. A true international age, the time period from 1500 to 1200 BC saw great heads of state conducting military campaigns, conquering new territories, and extracting tribute from the vanquished. See how wealth poured into imperial capitals in Egypt, Babylonia, Assyria, and Anatolia as merchants moved raw materials and luxury goods throughout the region by land and sea.

Examine texts in translation to see how diplomats handled trade relations between royal courts. Learn how underwater archaeology has revealed ancient shipwrecks carrying such cargo as copper from Crete, tin from Central Asia, and ivory from Africa. The class will visit the Oriental Institute Museum galleries to view displays that feature the goods, routes, and relations of this cosmopolitan age.

Instructor Jonathan Tenney is a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. His special interest is in ancient Near Eastern history and he also serves as assistant curator of the Oriental Institute's Cuneiform Tablet Collection.

The class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Wednesday evenings beginning April 13 and continuing through May 18. Pre-registration is required. A packet of readings will be available for a modest fee at the first class session.

CPDUs: 12

BREWING ANCIENT BEER

Kathleen and Steve Mineck

Saturdays, April 16 to 30

1:30–3:00 PM

Oriental Institute

Enjoy some really old-style beer during this three-part seminar on beer brewing — and tasting! Venture back to 3000 BC, the era when writing first appeared, where among the earliest written records are detailed descriptions of how ancient brewers practiced their craft. There are also verses from drinking songs and penalties for offensive behavior at taverns!

This class expands upon last year's sold-out beer brewing course by including artifacts and information from ancient Turkey as well as ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. At the first session, view a slide lecture, examine translations from original texts, and visit the museum's galleries to see implements and vessels the ancients used to make, store, and drink beer. During the second session use ancient-style processes to create your own authentic brew. At the last session you'll sample your creation, complete with Middle-eastern refreshments, and raise your glass to toast Ninkasi, an ancient goddess of beer.

Instructors Kathleen Mineck is a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Steve Mineck, an amateur home-brewer of long standing, has a special interest in the techniques and processes used by brewers in ancient times.

The class meets at the Oriental Institute from 1:30 to 3:00 PM on Saturday afternoons beginning April 16 and continuing through April 30. Pre-registration is required. All materials and supplies included.

CPDUs: 4

LUNCHTIME TOURS

Wednesdays, April 13 and May 11

12:15 PM

Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director

Meet in the Museum Lobby

Free

No pre-registration required

Take a break from the usual lunch routine to visit the ancient Near East with Geoff Emberling, Director of the Oriental Institute Museum. Join him for tours and discussion of selected displays in the Institute's Mesopotamian, Assyrian, Anatolian, and Megiddo Galleries.

April 13: "Ancient Iraq"

May 11: "Empires in the Fertile Crescent"

FAMILY EVENT

HAPPY MUMMY'S DAY

Sunday, May 8

1:30–4:00 PM

Free

No pre-registration required

The Oriental Institute Museum invites the whole family to our third annual celebration of Mother's Day. This free event highlights some of our most fascinating artifacts from ancient Egypt. Discover mummies from thousands of years ago, encounter a colossal statue of King Tut, and get acquainted with some parents and children who once lived, worked, and played in the land of the pharaohs. Enjoy interactive computer games, gallery treasure hunts, films, and a free gift from the Suq, the Oriental Institute Museum Gift Shop, for the first 100 mummies who visit the mummies in our museum.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE / GRAHAM SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES SEMINAR

ANCIENT EGYPT UNWRAPPED

Saturday, May 21

9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute

Hear outstanding scholars and researchers from the Oriental Institute present their latest findings on ancient Egypt. Discussions range from the most recent information on the great pyramids and Sphinx on the Giza Plateau to ancient Egyptian texts that offered magical incantations for public and private use.

Through remote sensing, computer modeling, hieroglyphic translation and analysis, and new archaeological excavation methods, these experts shed light on the always fascinating and often mysterious ancient Egyptians.

Presentations Include:

The Giza Plateau Mapping Project

The geology and topography of the Great Pyramids, the Sphinx, and the associated tombs and temples come alive through computer modeling and remote sensing technology. Learn how landscape analysis led to the discovery of the city of the workers and administrators who built the Giza Pyramids.

Presenter: Mark Lehner, Research Associate, Giza Plateau Mapping Project

Piecing Together and Preserving Egypt's Magnificent Past

See how Oriental Institute scholars and artists at Chicago House, the Oriental Institute's base in Luxor, Egypt, are documenting and preserving inscribed monuments at the magnificent Luxor Temple and other ancient Egyptian sites.

Presenter: W. Raymond Johnson, Research Associate (Associate Professor) of Egyptology and Director, Epigraphic Survey, Luxor, Egypt.

A Lost Royal Tomb: The Burial Place of King Ahmose

Discoveries at the funerary complex of King Ahmose, founder of Egypt's New Kingdom era, are providing insights into the end of royal pyramid construction in ancient Egypt. Also see how a combination of excavation and remote sensing has drastically altered understanding of the sacred center of Abydos, identified by ancient Egyptian tradition as the burial place of the god Osiris.

Presenter: Stephen Harvey, Assistant Professor of Egyptian Art and Archaeology

The Archaeology of Egyptian Magic

From elaborate deposits of state cursing rituals to simple guardian figures in private homes, this richly illustrated lecture will combine archaeological and textual evidence to examine the significance of "magic" in ancient Egyptian religious practice.

Presenter: Robert K. Ritner, Professor of Egyptology

CPDUs: 6

Fee: \$79 for Oriental Institute members; \$89 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. Program includes packet of materials, morning coffee, and closing reception, when seminar presenters will be available for questions and conversation in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. Box lunches available upon request for \$16 each.



Pyramids and Sphinx on the Giza Plateau

EMPIRES IN THE FERTILE CRESCENT OPENING OF THE NEW EAST WING GALLERIES

The museum hosted the public opening of the permanent exhibition, Empires in the Fertile Crescent: Ancient Assyria, Anatolia, and Israel on January 29 and 30, 2005. The reinstalled galleries feature over 1,000 artifacts, some never before on display. Over 1,200 visitors toured the renovated galleries and took part in opening weekend festivities. We are now focusing our efforts on the Nubian Gallery, which will be the last of the permanent galleries to be reinstalled. The Nubian Gallery will open in early 2006, along with a special exhibit in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery of photographs from Breasted's Nubian expeditions. We hope to have two special exhibits per year in this space and are planning exhibits that will take us into 2008. More details to come! *Geoff Emberling, Museum Director*



*Museum visitors
tour the Megiddo
Gallery while
King Tut looks on*

*Photographs by
Wendy Ennes*



MAGIC CARPET FAMILY DAY IN THE NEW GALLERIES

Sunday's family day offered a range of activities, from stonecarving and metalsmithing to shadow puppetry and Turkish dance.



*Children learn how to make an-
cient style pottery*



Families enjoy a treasure hunt in the galleries



*Hannah Stein shows off her Turk-
ish shadow puppet*

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

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THE SUQ

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TWO PROGRAMS ON THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON A SINGLE DVD

Breaking Ground: The Story of the Oriental Institute

This outstanding documentary tells the story of the Oriental Institute and shows the extraordinary range of its discoveries through interviews, archival photographs, and breathtaking footage from ongoing Institute field projects such as the excavations at Tell Atchana in Turkey and the Epigraphic Survey's work at Luxor in Egypt.

Pioneer to the Past: The Life and Times of James Henry Breasted

James Henry Breasted, a Chicago-area native, was the first American Professor of Egyptology and coined the phrase "The Fertile Crescent." His expansive scholarly vision, combined with an entrepreneurial flair and unbending determination, led to the creation, in a few short years, of a great academic institution that still guides itself by his principles.



Produced by Leonard Aronson.

Pioneer to the Past is part of WTTW11's Chicago Stories series.

Both programs were generously underwritten by ComEd, An Exelon Company, and LaSalle Bank.

Approx. 57 minutes (Breaking Ground) and 27 minutes (Pioneer to the Past).

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Both programs are available on a single DVD from the Suq at The Oriental Institute.

Members' Price: \$26.95, plus tax and shipping

Suq, The Oriental Institute Museum Gift Shop • Telephone: (773) 702-9509 • E-mail: oi-suq@uchicago.edu

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