

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NEWS & NOTES

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DISCOVER ANCIENT NUBIA



Nubian pyramids of the Meroitic period (ca. 100 BC–AD 150) at Gebel Barkal. Photograph taken by the University of Chicago Expedition to Egypt and Sudan, 1906

It is with great pleasure that we announce the opening on February 25, 2006, of the Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery and the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits

Gallery. These galleries are milestones in many ways — the first permanent Nubian gallery in the Oriental Institute, the first gallery dedicated to rotating special exhibits, and the final galleries to reopen after the complete reinstatement of the museum that began on April 1, 1996.

They also present unique opportunities. The Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery gives the museum a chance to broaden the range of exhibits in the museum — whether of new discoveries and current research, thematic displays drawn from across the museum's collections, objects borrowed from other countries and institutions, or topics of broad interest not covered in the museum's focus on the ancient history of the Middle East. We are already planning a number of special exhibits for this gallery including evocative photographs taken by Harry Burton during the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb, beautiful traditional clothing of Palestine, and early European maps of the Ottoman Empire.

The installation of the Picken Family Nubian Gallery is above all an occasion to display one of the few collections of Nubian antiquities in the United States and to educate our public about the history of this relatively little-known civilization.

Geoff Emberling, Museum Director



Meroitic jar depicting cobras. OIM 25390

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Ancient Nubia

GEOFF EMBERLING, MUSEUM DIRECTOR



Oriental Institute boat "Fostat" on the Nile. Aswan Dam salvage project, February 1963

As the Nile River descends from the highlands of Ethiopia, it emerges into narrow fertile plains and rocky outcrops that were known in antiquity as Nubia, an area rich in gold deposits. Located in modern southern Egypt and northern Sudan, by 3100 BC Nubia was home to the earliest complex societies in Africa outside Egypt.

Nubia was also a region of great cultural diversity. The variety of likely native terms for the region includes Wawat, Irtjet, Setju, Yam, and Kush, and archaeological finds are divided into stylistic groups including A-Group, C-Group, Pan-Grave, Pre-Kerma, Kerma, and the later X-Group. Unraveling the relationships among all these groups is complicated by the absence of indigenous traditions of writing — the earliest Nubian texts are written in the Meroitic language in the second century BC, and even this language remains unknown. Yet cultural traditions — in burial, in forms of material culture — unite these cultures into a common civilization.

Nubia has been a focus of research for the University of Chicago since before the founding of the Oriental Institute. James Henry Breasted's trips to Egypt and Sudan in 1905–1907 to document the historical records of Nubia are featured in the inaugural special exhibit in the Holleb Family Gallery (February to May 2006) and described in the accompanying article, written by

John Larson, Museum Archivist and curator of the exhibit. From 1960 to 1964, the Institute conducted excavations at sites in the Aswan Dam salvage project. The excavations have been extensively published in the series Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition (OINE), of which eight volumes have been written by Bruce Williams, guest curator of our exhibit. Over 15,000 artifacts found by Institute projects in the Aswan Dam salvage project, as well as objects relating to Nubia but excavated at Egyptian sites including Medinet Habu (Thebes) and Abydos, are the basis for this exhibit.

The Picken Family Nubian Gallery traces the history of Nubia from the first chiefdoms or states of the fourth millennium BC through the fall of Christian kingdoms in the sixteenth century AD.



A-Group beads

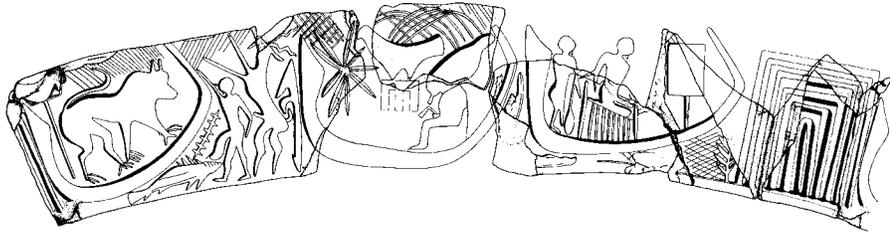
Early Nubia

The earliest period on display, the A-Group, is among the strongest areas of the Oriental Institute's collection and has also generated considerable controversy in recent years. This portion of the gallery contains objects from two tombs excavated at Qustul, one of a ruler and one of a high official. The ruler's tomb is notable for the famous Qustul Incense Burner, a cylinder with a depression at



The Qustul Incense Burner. OIM 24069

the top that would likely have held burning incense. Around the sides of the cylinder are carved scenes interpreted as royal ritual: three boats carry a ruler and bound prisoners toward a palace façade. Although incense burners of this form are distinctively Nubian, the designs are similar to objects associated with early Egyptian rulers. The controversy has revolved around the significance of this object (and others that pose similar interpretive issues): were the Nubians equal participants in the developing



Line drawing of the Qustul Incense Burner. OIM 24069

symbolic language and practices of kingship in the Nile Valley, or did they simply adopt symbols from Egypt? Questions raised by this important object have yet to be resolved. The A-Group is also represented in the gallery by its distinctive and beautiful handmade ceramics and jewelry of carnelian and shell.



Nubian incense burners

Much of the power and wealth of the A-Group came from trade. With access to gold from the eastern desert, carnelian from the western desert, and exotic products like incense, ivory, and ebony from farther south along the Nile, the A-Group traded for Egyptian products contained in large storage vessels, as well as olive oil from the Mediterranean coast. The A-Group flourished until it was destroyed by pharaohs of Egypt's First Dynasty around 3100 BC.

Middle Nubia

Distinct cultures lived in Nubia from 2400 to 1550 BC. Archaeologists have named them the C-Group, Pan-Grave, and Kerma cultures. Egyptians also occupied parts of Nubia at this time. Although they

Did you know that...

More pyramids were built in Nubia than in Egypt

Nubians were renowned archers

Kings of Nubia ruled Egypt for about a century

Nubian queens were powerful in their own right

Modern people speaking Nubian languages still live in the southern Nile Valley

*The Oriental Institute holds one of three major collections from ancient Nubia in the United States**

*The others are the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

By Gil J. Stein

When the Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery opens at the end of February, it will be one of only three major museum collections of Nubian artifacts on display in the United States. With this gallery, we now have the opportunity to present the rich culture and complex history of this civilization on the Nile to a broader public. The artifacts in the gallery will certainly dazzle the eye; but we need to go beyond that. Most visitors will enter the Oriental Institute's museum knowing less about the civilization of Nubia than they would about its northern neighbor Egypt. We therefore face the challenge of educating the public about Nubia and its complex, ever-changing relationship with Egypt. During the course of three millennia, Nubia went from being Egypt's trading partner, its mortal enemy, and its colony through to a period when Nubia conquered Egypt and established its own dynasty of Nubian pharaohs to rule its former ruler.

How can we convey this much information about Nubia in a way that will be informative and accurate, while still being comprehensible and actually interesting? Over the course of our ten-year reinstallation process, we have developed the idea of a reinstallation team tailored to the needs of each gallery. The team develops the themes to be presented in the gallery, selects objects for display, ensures that they are

properly conserved, develops the text panels, graphics, and labels, and physically installs the artifacts in their cases. Some of the hardest work goes into the development of the text panels — since it is here that the exhibit will either succeed or fail in communicating the meaning and context of the artifacts to the public. The process begins with our guest curators Dr. Bruce Williams and Dr. Stephen Harvey — specialists in the archaeology of Egypt and Nubia. The draft they write then goes to a copy editor, Joan Barghusen, who edits the text to improve clarity. The text is then reviewed by Museum Director Dr. Geoff Emberling, who sends it out to the Egyptologists in the Oriental Institute for their review, comments, and suggested revisions. These comments then help the guest curators who review the text to edit in changes as needed. Once the content has passed a final review by guest curators and by Geoff Emberling, the text goes to our graphic design specialist, Diane Hanau-Strain, who formats the material, adds graphics, adjusts the color, and sends the final electronic files out to be produced as the actual text panels that will be affixed to the walls of the gallery. This process takes several months to complete, but the end product is designed to walk the fine line of satisfying the academic specialist while being accessible and informative to the public as well.

were in close contact, these cultures maintained separate identities.

The C-Group is part of Sub-Saharan African traditions in its manufacture and use of handmade pottery that imitates forms of baskets and gourds, construction of round houses and tombs, and emphasis on the symbolic as well as economic importance of cattle.

Shallow, round burials called “Pan-Graves” are associated with the Medjay, a nomadic group that lived mostly in the desert east of the Nile. Medjay warriors served prominently with Egyptian military forces in Nubia and in Egypt.

The Kerma culture developed near the Third Cataract from the earlier Pre-Kerma culture in that area. By 2000 BC, Kerma was the capital of a growing empire called Kush, and around 1650 BC, rulers of Kerma extended control toward the north, annexed northern Nubia, and came into conflict with Egypt.

Egyptians built a series of forts along the Nile to protect Egypt’s frontier and control trade and travel from Nubia. The Egyptian garrisons traded with local people and conducted raids against them. They also recruited Nubians as soldiers for Egyptian armies, particularly to serve as archers.

Egyptians in Nubia

The rising power of the Egyptian state during the New Kingdom (1550–1070 BC) led to defeat of the Kerma and ultimately to the colonial occupation of Nubia by Egypt. Administered by an Egyptian governor, Nubia sent exotic



C-Group bowl depicting cattle. OIM 23452



This stele of an Egyptian governor of Nubia named Nehi was found by James Henry Breasted in 1907 as he documented historical inscriptions in the Temple of Khnum at Semna East. OIM 9052

products such as animals, skins, and ebony, but especially gold, to Egypt.

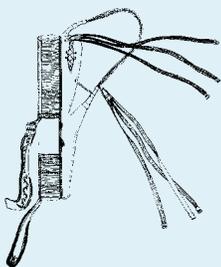
New Kingdom pharaohs built major temples in Nubia, including the famous temple of Ramesses II at Abu Simbel (moved during the Aswan Dam salvage campaign) and a temple to Amun at Napata, located at the foot of the sacred mountain called Gebel Barkal. Napata was an administrative center and transfer point for the gold mined in Nubia’s eastern and western deserts. During this time Nubia’s material culture became strongly Egyptianized and artifacts look much like those found in Egypt.

Late Nubia

After the collapse of Egyptian occupation of Nubia, a new Nubian dynasty based at Napata developed its power, ultimately conquering Egypt during the eighth century BC and ruling as the Twenty-fifth Dynasty of Egypt. The Napatan dynasty saw itself as the restorer of Egyptian civilization and adopted many Egyptian practices and styles, although the style of royal sculpture is recognizably Nubian in facial proportions as well as in use of the ram’s head as a symbol of royalty.

The Napatan dynasty was driven from Egypt by the Assyrian king Ashurbanipal but continued to rule in Nubia from the vast city of Meroe.

As the Meroitic kings later expanded their power, they came into contact with Ptolemaic and Roman rulers of Egypt; as a result, Meroitic culture shows



Drawing of Nubian archer's quiver

Timeline of Nubian History

3100 BC	An early trading partner and rival to Egypt during the A-Group
2000 BC	A still larger empire known as Kush with its capital at Kerma
1550 BC	Conquered by pharaohs of the Egyptian New Kingdom
770 BC	Nubian reconquest of Egypt by Napatan kings
300 BC	Meroitic kingdom with broad trade connections in the Mediterranean world
AD 300	Collapse of Meroe, rise of nomadic warrior kings during the X-Group
AD 500	Conversion to Christianity
AD 1600	Conversion to Islam



Bronze statuette of a Napatan king, Nubia. OIM 13954.

significant connections with the Mediterranean world.

After Meroe's disintegration in the fourth century AD, control of Nubia was divided among rival groups including the Blemmyes, formidable descendants of the ancient Medjay, and the Noubades. Their wealthy burials included both human and animal sacrifices, as well as leather quivers and textiles that will be on display in the gallery.

Nubian kingdoms converted to Christianity in the decades before AD 580. The religious conversion brought great social changes and continued contact with the Mediterranean world. After resisting conquest for many centuries, Christian Nubia finally converted to Islam around AD 1500.

Nubian Identity

The gallery also highlights issues of Nubian identity with displays devoted to archers and to images of Nubians. Nubians have been known throughout history to be excellent archers, recruited into the Egyptian army, and able to resist the Muslim conquest (who referred to

them as "Eye Smitters"). This aspect of identity was also important to Nubians themselves but is clearly not a complete representation of Nubian cultures. The head of a Nubian ruler excavated at Medinet Habu in Egypt may appear to be an accurate representation of a Nubian, but when one realizes that it was one of a series of bound prisoners beneath the "Window of Appearances" of the pharaoh, it becomes clear that this is instead a representation of Egyptian domination of Nubia.

Education and Nubia

We have received funding for two educational programs that will focus on the Picken Family Nubian Gallery. A Polk Bros. Foundation grant will support the placement of two computer kiosks in the gallery with content aimed at children and families, while a Joyce Foundation grant will bring local schoolchildren into the gallery to learn about Nubia, to make objects that relate to Nubian history, and then to give gallery tours to their family and friends.

It is a pleasure to thank the many people who have worked so hard and with such good humor on this gallery: Co-curators Steve Harvey and Bruce Williams; Editor (and so much more!) Joan Barghusen; Curatorial Assistants Laura Deneke, Debora Heard, and Tom James; Head of Education Carole Krucoff; Designers Markus Dohner and Dianne Hanau-Strain; Registrars Ray Tindel and Helen McDonald; Conservators Laura D'Alessandro, Alison Whyte, and Monica Hudak; Preparators Erik Lindahl and Brian Zimerle; and Exhibit Evaluator Barbara Ceiga. Thanks also to Jan Johnson, Peter Dorman, Robert Ritner, and Ray Johnson for receiving exhibit text for review. Thanks to Emily Teeter for comments on text as well as many other suggestions along the way.

And finally, thanks once again to Rita and Kitty Picken, whose continuing generosity and active interest have made it possible to bring Nubia to the museum galleries.

**See Page 14 for
Opening Weekend
Events**



Head of a Nubian from Medinet Habu, Egypt. OIM 14648

“Lost Nubia” Photography Exhibit

JOHN A. LARSON, MUSEUM ARCHIVIST

From February 25 through May 7, 2006, a selection of fifty-two historic photographs from the Oriental Institute Archives will be on exhibit in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery of the Oriental Institute Museum, as a temporary accompaniment to the new permanent installation of objects from ancient Nubia. These photographic images document some of the archaeological sites in Nubia that have disappeared under the waters of Lake Nasser and a few places that are so remote that few tourists have ever seen them. A sneak preview of some of the pictures in the exhibition appears on the cover and the section-divider pages of *The Oriental*

Institute 2004–2005 Annual Report. These documentary images, taken during the consecutive winter field seasons of 1905/1906 and 1906/1907, represent just a small part of a corpus of nearly 1,200 black-and-white negatives that were made by the Egyptian Expedition of the University of Chicago, under the direction of James Henry Breasted. The expedition was sponsored by the Oriental Exploration Fund of the University of Chicago and predates the organization of the Oriental Institute by more than a decade.

Breasted published two preliminary reports on the work of the expedition in the *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures* (*AJSLL*), the pre-

decessor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, the current journal of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Division of the Humanities, University of Chicago. The “First Preliminary Report of the Egyptian Expedition” appeared in *AJSLL*, Volume 23, Number 1 (October, 1906), pages 1–64; the “Second Preliminary Report of the Egyptian Expedition” was published in *AJSLL*, Volume 25, Number 1 (October, 1908), pages 1–110. These reports, long out-of-print, are now available on-line at <http://www.jstor.org/journals/10620516.html>. In 1975, 1,055 of the expedition photographs were published by the University of Chicago Press in a two-

PYRAMID AND CHAPEL OF A MEROITIC KING

The typical royal funerary monument at Meroe consisted of a steep pyramid with a mortuary chapel on its east side. One of Breasted’s field diary entries describes the setting and reveals the character of a man with strong opinions:

Friday, November 2, 1906, Pyramids of Meroe

“These pyramids are the sole remains of a great age, here on the upper Nile. The people who built them, though still understanding Egyptian and still using Hieroglyphic on their monuments nevertheless spoke their own Nubian language, which has still survived and is today their native language, though the men also all speak Arabic. They wrote this language in a system of writing not yet deciphered, of which there used to be many examples here at Meroe. Most of them have however been carried away, some by Lepsius to Berlin. We have as yet found none.”

SUDAN: Meroe. November 1906; Photograph by Horst Schliephack; Image from original 8" x 10" glass plate negative. Oriental Institute photograph P. 2911



February 25 – May 7, 2006

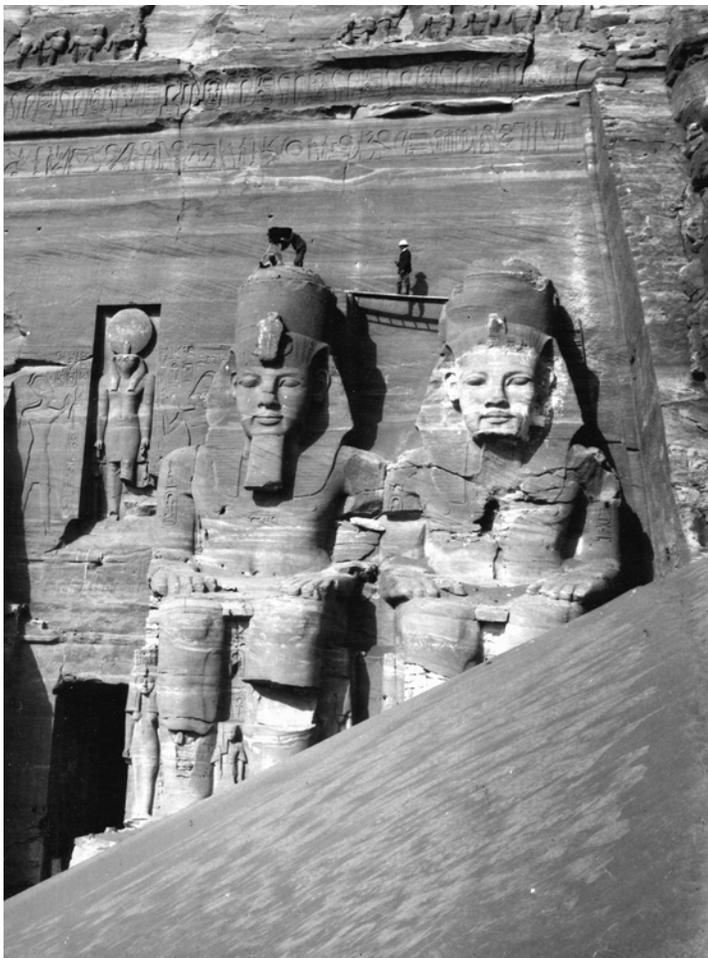
Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery

volume text/fiche edition, entitled *The 1905–1907 Breasted Expeditions to Egypt and the Sudan: A Photographic Study*, which served as the basis for the current on-line version, which appeared on the Oriental Institute Web site on August 3, 2001, at <http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/PA/EGYPT/BEES/BEES.html>.

The original glass-plate field negatives for the first season of the expedition, 1905–1907, were made by German photographer Friedrich Koch. [Around 1912, Koch produced a series of excellent documentary photographs of the reliefs in the Colonnade Hall at Luxor Temple, published by the kind permission of Leipzig University in *The Festi-*

val Procession of Opet in the Colonnade Hall, by the Epigraphic Survey (Oriental Institute Publications 112; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 1994).] For the expedition's second field season up the Nile, 1906/1907, Breasted decided to supplement the professional glass-plate photography of Horst Schliephack with a second camera that used roll-film. The smaller-format film negatives were used to take ethnographic photographs, as well as candid photographs of the expedition members at work. In this exhibition, the prints made from the glass-plate negatives have been enlarged to 11" × 14" format, while the roll-film negatives have been printed at 8" × 10" size.

Lost Nubia: A Centennial Exhibit of Photographs from the 1905–1907 Egyptian Expedition of the University of Chicago has been curated by Oriental Institute Museum Archivist John A. Larson. The photographic enlargements from the original expedition negatives have been made especially for this exhibit by Jean M. Grant in the Oriental Institute darkroom, and Markus Dohner has designed the installation. A companion booklet, illustrated with photographs that have been digitally scanned from the original expedition negatives, will be published by the Oriental Institute Publications Office.



PHOTOGRAPHING FROM THE TOP OF A COLOSSUS

On Saturday, February 17, 1906, the expedition scaled the great seated colossi of Ramesses II to measure the height of the statues and to use the top of the King's head-dress on one of the colossi as a vantage point for photography of the site. The expedition members achieved their goals by splicing together three ladders, which are just visible on the far right. The space between Colossus I and Colossus II was then bridged by another ladder with a plank thrown across it. In a letter to her mother, dated Sunday, February 18, 1906, Frances Hart Breasted reported the height of the great seated colossus of Ramesses II as 71 feet 9 inches.

EGYPT: Abu Simbel, rock-cut temple of Ramesses II. February 1906; Photograph by Victor Smith Persons; image from original 5" x 7" glass plate negative; Oriental Institute photograph P. 2380



LOOKING TOWARD THE NILE ALONG THE MAIN AXIS OF DAKKA TEMPLE

Breasted's field diary description of time spent at El-Dakka reminds us that the practice of leaving graffiti on a wall is not exclusively a modern phenomenon:

Saturday, March 24, 1906, Koshtamneh, Nubia

"We spent half a day at the Temple of El-Dakka, which is entirely of the Graeco-Roman age. This point anciently called Hierasyaminos was the southern limit of Ptolemaic and Roman rule, although the temple of Maharraka, just south of it, is Roman work. The El-Dakka temple contains no historical records, but its walls bear numerous Proskunemata (names) of casual visitors, of whom some were men of high rank. We photographed the Greek inscriptions and some in Demotic, besides the main architectural features of the building, which are of good design and superb workmanship. By two o'clock we were able to sail, and reached Koshtamneh at dusk."

EGYPT: El-Dakka. Photograph by Friedrich Koch. Enlargement from original 8" x 10" glass plate negative. Oriental Institute photograph P. 2673



A BISHARI CAMEL-DRIVER AND HIS SONS

The Bishari are desert-dwellers of the northern Sudan, who live a nomadic existence.

SUDAN: Abu Hamed. Mid-November, 1906. Photograph by James Henry Breasted. Enlargement from original 3-1/2" x 4-3/4" film negative. Oriental Institute photograph P. B786



NEWS FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

NEW TITLES

CATALOG OF DEMOTIC TEXTS IN THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM

George R. Hughes, with contributions by Brian P. Muhs and Steve Vinson
 Oriental Institute Communications 29
 Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2005
 Pp. xix + 115 + 40 b&w + 8 color plates; soft cover
 ISBN 1-885923-27-9
 \$75.00

TAX RECEIPTS, TAXPAYERS, AND TAXES IN EARLY PTOLEMAIC THEBES

Brian P. Muhs
 Oriental Institute Publications 126
 Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2005
 Pp. xxv + 262 + 1 figure + 32 plates; hard cover
 ISBN 1-885923-30-9
 \$110.00

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ORIENTAL INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS ON-LINE

The titles listed below are available in PDF files on the Oriental Institute's Web site at http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/Elec_Publications.html, fulfilling the Institute's policy that titles appear on-line at or near the same time they appear in print; older publications are processed as time and funding permits.

THE CHICAGO DEMOTIC DICTIONARY (CDD)

CDD. *The Demotic Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*. Janet H. Johnson, editor

THE CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD)

The Hittite Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Volume P. Hans G. Güterbock and Harry A. Hoffner, editors.

The Hittite Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Volume S, Fascicle 1, ša- to šaptamenzu. Hans G. Güterbock†, Harry A. Hoffner, and Theo P. J. van den Hout, editors.

THE ELECTRONIC CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY (e-CHD)

e-CHD. The P Volume. Theo P. J. van den Hout, editor.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS (OIP)

OIP 127. *Megiddo*, Volume 3: *Final Report on the Stratum VI Excavations*. Timothy P. Harrison.

OIP 124. *Excavations at Tell es-Sweyhat, Syria*, 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.

OIP 123. *Temple of Khonsu*, Volume 3. *The Graffiti on the Khonsu Temple Roof at Karnak: A Manifestation of Personal Piety*. Helen Jacquet-Gordon.

OIP 122. *Neo-Babylonian Texts in the Oriental Institute Collection*. David B. Weisberg.

OIP 121. *Cuneiform Texts from the Ur III Period in the Oriental Institute*, Volume 2. *Drehem Administrative Documents from the Reign of Amar-Suena*. Markus Hilgert.

OIP 120. *Excavations at the Prehistoric Mound of Chogha Bonut, Khuzestan, Iran, Seasons 1976/77, 1977/78, and 1996*. Abbas Alizadeh.

OIP 119. *Theban Desert Road Survey in the Egyptian Western Desert*, Volume 1. *Gebel Tjauti Rock Inscriptions 1–45 and Wadi el-Hôl Rock Inscriptions 1–45*. John C. Darnell.

OIP 118. *Scarabs, Scaraboids, Seals, and Seal Impressions from Medinet Habu*. Emily Teeter.

OIP 117. *Seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets*, Volume 1. *Images of Heroic Encounter* (Two Volumes, Part 1: Text and Part 2: Plates). Mark B. Garrison and Margaret C. Root.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE SEMINARS (OIS)

OIS 1. *Changing Social Identity with the Spread of Islam: Archaeological Perspectives*. Donald Whitcomb, editor.

STUDIES IN ANCIENT ORIENTAL CIVILIZATION (SAOC)

SAOC 59. *Studies in the Archaeology of Israel and Neighboring Lands in Memory of Douglas L. Esse*. Samuel R. Wolff, editor.

SAOC 51, "Chapter 34. Implicit Models of Cross-Cultural Interaction: A Question of Noses, Soap, and Prejudice." Robert K. Ritner.

SAOC 45. *Thus Wrote 'Onchsheshonqy: An Introductory Grammar of Demotic* (Third Edition). Janet H. Johnson.

SAOC 38. *The Demotic Verbal System*. Janet H. Johnson.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oriental Institute. All programs subject to change.

JANUARY

- 8 Sunday** **Out of the Fiery Furnace: From Stone to Bronze**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details
- 10 Tuesday** **Beyond King Tut's Tomb: The Archaeology of Ancient Egypt**
Adult Education Course
Tuesdays January 10 to February 28
7:00–9:00 PM
See page 16 for details
- 11 Wednesday** **Jerusalem: City of Ages**
Adult Education Course
Wednesdays January 11 to March 1
7:00–9:00 PM
See page 16 for details
- 12 Thursday** **Affairs and Scandals in Ancient Egypt**
Adult Education Course
Thursdays January 12 to March 2
7:00–9:00 PM
See page 17 for details
- 15 Sunday** **Out of the Fiery Furnace: From Swords to Ploughshares**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details
- 22 Sunday** **Children of the Sun**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details
- 25 Wednesday** **Urbanism and Warfare in North-eastern Syria during the Fourth Millennium BC: The 2005 Hamoukar Excavations**
Members' Lecture Series
7:00 PM
See page 15 for details
- 29 Sunday** **Deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details

FEBRUARY

- 5 Sunday** **Nile: River of the Gods**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details
- 12 Sunday** **Persepolis Recreated**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details
- 19 Friday** **Pyramids and Great Cities of the Pharaohs**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details
- 23 Thursday** **Members' Gallery Preview**
Gallery Event
6:00–8:00 PM
See page 14 for details
- 25 Saturday** **Celebrating Ancient Nubia**
Gallery Event
10:00 AM–6:00 PM
See page 14 for details
- 26 Sunday** **Awesome Ancient African Arts: A Celebration for Families**
Family Program/Gallery Event
12:00–6:00 PM
See page 14 for details

MARCH

- 2 Thursday** **A Taste of Morocco**
Culinary Course
7:00 PM
See page 17 for details
- 5 Sunday** **Cleopatra: Destiny's Queen**
Cleopatra Film Fest
2:00 PM
See page 18 for details
- 12 Sunday** **Cleopatra**
Cleopatra Film Fest
2:00 PM
See page 18 for details

CALENDAR OF EVENTS Cont.

19 Sunday

Women in Ancient Nubia

Lecture
2:00 PM
See page 18 for details

26 Sunday

Caesar and Cleopatra

Cleopatra Film Fest
2:00 PM
See page 18 for details

29 Wednesday

Desert Fortress: Life and Violent Death at Roman Dura-Europas, Syria

Members' Lecture Series
7:00 PM
See page 15 for details

30 Thursday

Art and Empire in the Achaemenid Period

Members' Lecture Series
7:00 PM
See page 15 for details



Face from a coffin, Egypt

VOLUNTEER AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

Open your eyes to the world of the ancient Near East — become an Oriental Institute volunteer! Training for the opening of the new Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery begins February 1, 2006.

For more information on becoming a volunteer, please call the Volunteer Office at (773) 702-1845, or e-mail Volunteer Coordinators Catherine Dueñas (cjduenas@uchicago.edu) or Terry Friedman (et-friedman@uchicago.edu).

AWARD-WINNING CURRICULUM GUIDE AVAILABLE FOR TEACHING ABOUT ANCIENT NUBIA

Teachers! Bring the power, mystery, and magic of ancient Nubia into your classroom with an award-winning curriculum guide from the Oriental Institute.

Developed by the Museum Education Office in partnership with a panel of educators and curriculum specialists, the Life in Ancient Nubia curriculum guide contains:

- Reference materials and background information
- Teacher-developed, classroom-tested lesson plans
- Engaging and thought-provoking activities for students
- Full-color map transparencies
- Overheads of ancient Nubian art for projection in the classroom
- Guide to the latest books, audio-visual materials, and museum resources

Curriculum guides for ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia are also available. Developed with the support of a major grant from the Polk Bros. Foundation, all have received Superior Achievement Awards from the Illinois Association of Museums.





SUNDAY FILMS

Sunday afternoons, enjoy the best in documentary and feature films on the ancient Near East at 2:00 PM. Unless otherwise noted, films range from 30 to 50 minutes. Admission is free. Following the screenings, museum docents will be available in the galleries to answer questions about our exhibits.

January 8 *Out of the Fiery Furnace: From Stone to Bronze*. 1984. This episode from a PBS series on the discovery and use of metal resources highlights bronze, the first high-tech metal of ancient times.

January 15 *Out of the Fiery Furnace: From Swords to Ploughshares*. 1984. This episode traces the transition from bronze to iron and the impact of this change on human history.

January 22 *Children of the Sun*. 2001. The 1999 solar eclipse in Iran inspired Mansoor Saboori, an Iranian film maker then living in Chicago, to return home and explore the meaning of the sun in both contemporary and ancient Iranian culture.

January 29 *Deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls*. 1999. This film explores the discovery and heated disputes surrounding the authorship and interpretation of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest and most complete biblical manuscripts ever found.

February 5 *Nile: River of the Gods*. 1994. Coursing 4,000 miles through three countries, the Nile River sustains some of the world's richest wildlife habitats and has shaped cultures since the beginning of recorded history. This film takes you on an odyssey down the entire length of the Nile. 102 minutes.

February 12 *Persepolis Recreated*. 2004. Discover the history and grandeur of Persepolis, a magnificent capital of the great Persian Empire from 520 BC until it was destroyed by Alexander the Great in 330 BC. This new production by Iranian

filmmaker Farzin Rezaeian features spectacular reconstructions of the great palaces at Persepolis and explains their function in connection with the Persian New Year festival.

February 19 *Pyramids and Great Cities of the Pharaohs*. 1995. The land of the pharaohs rises from the sand in this film by Egyptologists, historians, and artists who worked together to produce video images of temples, tombs, and pyramids in their original splendor. 70 minutes.

February 26 Special Gallery Opening (See page 14)

On selected Sundays in March — Women's History Month — the Oriental Institute presents feature films on Cleopatra, ancient Egypt's most famous queen. Begin with a highly regarded documentary, then treat yourself to two classic Hollywood movies. (See page 18)

March 5 *Cleopatra: Destiny's Queen*. 1994. From the A&E Biography series.

March 12 *Cleopatra*. 1934 Cecil B. DeMille epic starring Claudette Colbert. 101 minutes.

March 19 No film showing. Lecture "Women in Ancient Nubia" (See page 18)

March 26 *Caesar and Cleopatra*. 1946. George Bernard Shaw's masterpiece starring Vivien Leigh and Claude Rains. 123 minutes.




ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION FORM

- Beyond King Tut's Tomb: The Archaeology of Ancient Egypt
- Jerusalem: City of Ages
- Affairs and Scandals in Ancient Egypt
- A Taste of Morocco

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Beyond King Tut's Tomb: The Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	___ \$199	___ \$229	___
<input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem: City of Ages	___ \$199	___ \$229	___
<input type="checkbox"/> Affairs and Scandals in Ancient Egypt	___ \$199	___ \$229	___
<input type="checkbox"/> A Taste of Morocco	___ \$44	___ \$49	___

GRAND TOTAL _____

I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is a separate check for \$50 for an individual membership, \$75 for a family membership, \$40 for seniors, UC/UCH Faculty and Staff, and National Associates (persons living over 100 miles from Chicago within the USA).

Total Enclosed: \$_____. Make check(s) payable to the Oriental Institute.

I prefer to pay by Check Money order MasterCard Visa

Account number: _____ Exp. date: _____ 3-digit security code: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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



GALLERY OPENING EVENTS

MEMBERS' NUBIA PREVIEW

Thursday, February 23*

6:00–8:30 PM

Members are invited to a reception celebrating the opening of the Robert F. Picken Nubian Gallery and the inaugural exhibition in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery. Learn about the Oriental Institute's long history in Nubia while touring the new exhibits before they open to the public.

*Note the change in date from the Fall 2005 issue of *News & Notes*.

CELEBRATING ANCIENT NUBIA

Join us for a full weekend of free festivities celebrating the opening of the new Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery and the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery at the Oriental Institute.

Saturday, February 25

10:00 AM–6:00 PM

Be among the first to tour the new Picken Family Nubian Gallery with our museum docents and view the best in documentary films running continuously in Breasted Hall. Then enjoy special opening day programs that bring the history and heritage of ancient Nubia to life.

1:00–5:00 PM See artists revive ancient art techniques and have your name written in Meroitic, the hieroglyphs of ancient Nubia.

1:30 PM View a slide lecture by Oriental Institute Museum Archivist John A. Larson on the inaugural special exhibition *Lost Nubia: Photographs of Egypt and Sudan 1905–07*, on view in the Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery. This exhibition features historic photographs taken on a University of Chicago expedition.

2:30 PM Hear a lecture by Oriental Institute Museum Director Geoff Emberling discussing the exquisite art and historic artifacts on view in the new Picken Family Nubian Gallery.

Special Features for K-12 Educators!

Our opening day events offer K-12 educators the opportunity to receive 3 CPDUs of recertification credit from the Illinois State Board of Education. Tour the galleries, attend the lectures, and meet with museum educators to discover how the artifacts on view in the Picken Family Nubian Gallery can become exciting teaching and learning tools, both at the museum and in the classroom. Field trip information and free curriculum materials available throughout the day.

AWESOME ANCIENT AFRICAN ARTS: A CELEBRATION FOR FAMILIES

Sunday, February 26

12:00 NOON–6:00 PM

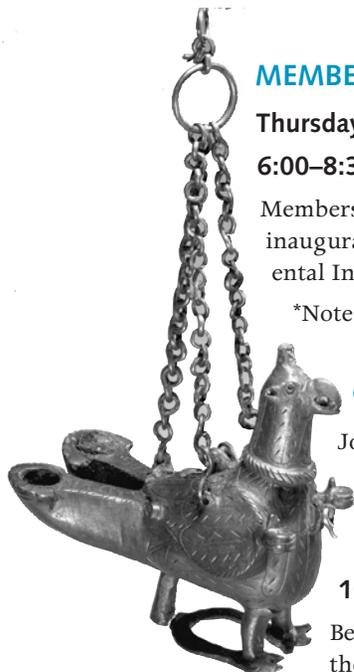
Bring the whole family on an adventure to ancient Africa during a day filled with storytelling, hands-on arts, and more. Tour the new gallery with docents on hand and enjoy a self-guided treasure hunt throughout the day. Then experience the mysteries and wonders of ancient Nubia with a full afternoon of special programs.

1:00–5:00 PM Have your name written in Meroitic, enjoy an award-winning children's film, meet artists recreating ancient techniques, and make your own versions of ancient Nubian-style art. The adventure continues with hands-on presentations by storyteller and master teacher Awad Abdelgadir, who will show objects and demonstrate crafts from his Nubian homeland.

2:00 PM Join Awad Abdelgadir for "Life on the Nile," a fascinating journey to today's Nubia. Go on a safari, experience the color and excitement of a village wedding, and meet the people of Nubia in this interactive program that has engaged all-ages audiences at museums across the country.

Above: Nubian candleholder OIM 16734

Ancient Nubia





MEMBERS' LECTURES

The Members' Lecture Series is made possible by the generous support of Oriental Institute members. Lectures are free and open to the public, with a light reception following each talk.

URBANISM AND WARFARE IN NORTHEASTERN SYRIA DURING THE FOURTH MILLENNIUM BC: THE 2005 HAMOUKAR EXCAVATIONS

Clemens D. Reichel, Oriental Institute

Wednesday, January 25

7:00 PM, Breasted Hall

At the Oriental Institute

A report on the recent fieldwork at Hamoukar (September–October 2005). More details to follow.

DESERT FORTRESS: LIFE AND VIOLENT DEATH AT ROMAN DURA-EUROPOS, SYRIA

Simon James, University of Leicester

Wednesday, March 29

7:00 PM, Breasted Hall

At the Oriental Institute

Around the year AD 256, a large Iranian army marched up the Euphrates River from Iraq, under the command of the Sasanian Persian King Shapur the Great. Its ultimate objective was to sack the rich and populous cities of Roman Syria. However, a substantial obstacle stood between the Persians and their quarry. Before they could plunder Aleppo or Antioch, they would first have to take by force of arms the riverside city of Dura-Europos, which for ninety years had been a major Roman military base on the Middle Euphrates. Originally a Macedonian Greek military colony founded around 300 BC by one of Alexander the Great's generals, Dura was later captured by the Romans in AD 165. For the last decades of its existence, the city was increasingly on the defensive. When the siege finally came, Dura was mortally wounded from prolonged and ferocious fighting, completely evacuated, and never re-occupied on any scale. Abandoned to the winds, the very name of the ruins was forgotten for over sixteen centuries.

This lecture presents the dramatic tale of the recovery of Dura, illustrating how its history was pieced together by a series of archaeological excavations beginning with the identification of the site by the British in 1920, continuing in Franco-American field campaigns through the 1920s and 1930s, and renewed again since the 1980s. As a result of the finds, Dura has been hailed as the "Pompeii of the Syrian Desert," famed for its temples and paintings, its remarkable documents of life in ancient Syria, and the well-preserved remains of the Roman garrison and the siege which snuffed out the city. The treasure trove of Roman arms and armor from the site has been a focus of the speaker's research for the last twenty-five years, and provides an unparalleled insight into the lives of Roman soldiers in general, and into Rome's little-known eastern armies in particular.

Speaker: Simon James is currently on the faculty of the School of Archaeology & Ancient History at the University of Leicester, UK. He received his Ph.D. from the University of London. Among his many interests are Roman provincial archaeology on the Euphrates and warfare and violence in the ancient world. He has extensive fieldwork experience and is currently a member of the Franco-Syrian-led international expedition to Dura-Europos, Syria.

This lecture is co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America.



ART AND EMPIRE IN THE ACHAEMENID PERIOD

Michael Roaf, Munich University

Thursday, March 30

7:00 PM, Breasted Hall

At the Oriental Institute

The walls of the palaces of the Assyrian kings and of the Persian Achaemenid kings (ca. 550–330 BC) were decorated with carved stone reliefs. While those of the Assyrians often show scenes of warfare and torture, the Persian palaces in Pasargadae, Susa, and Persepolis display no such violent imagery, although in many other respects they follow Assyrian models and — according to the available historical sources — the Persian rulers were no less bloodthirsty than previous and subsequent oriental despots. This talk explores why the Persian kings chose to display only non-confrontational imagery in their official art.

Speaker: Michael Roaf, Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology at Munich University, is a specialist in the ancient Near East, particularly of Mesopotamia and Iran. Subjects of special study include Assyrian and Achaemenid Persian relief sculpture, archaeological excavations, architecture, historical geography, metrology, and ancient mathematics. Dr. Roaf received both his M.A. and Ph.D. from Oxford University.



ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

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

BEYOND KING TUT'S TOMB: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Joshua Trampier

Tuesdays, January 10 to February 28

7:00–9:00 PM

At the Oriental Institute

While the excavation of the tomb of King Tutankhamun remains the most famous archaeological event of contemporary times, it is but one of the many extraordinary discoveries archaeologists have made in Egypt. This course explores how the work of archaeologists has revealed remarkable pictures of daily Egyptian life from prehistoric times through the New Kingdom. See



View of 17-foot statue of King Tutankhamun in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery at the Oriental Institute. OIM 14088

how the most recent finds at Giza are re-writing the history of the building of the pyramids, and how excavations at Abydos are telling more of the story of this legendary burial place of the god Osiris. Discover how the use of the latest technologies help to document and preserve sites that would otherwise be lost to history. Finally, visit the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery to see the work of past Egyptologists, and experience the rare opportunity to preview as yet unpublished discoveries being made by Oriental Institute archaeologists working in Egypt.

INSTRUCTOR: Joshua Trampier is a graduate student in Egyptian Archaeology in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He is the Assistant Director of the Ahmose and Tetisheri Project at Abydos and he is an experienced instructor in Egyptian language and archaeology.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Tuesday evenings beginning January 10, continuing through February 28. Pre-registration is required.

REQUIRED TEXT:

The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt. Ian Shaw, ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

JERUSALEM: CITY OF AGES

Gabrielle V. Novacek

Wednesdays, January 11 to March 1

7:00–9:00 PM

At the Oriental Institute

This course explores the historical and archaeological development of Jerusalem over the past 3,000 years, considering the city as a major focal point for the three great monotheistic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Examine textual sources such as the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Koran, as well as historical documents from Egypt and Mesopotamia. Explore the architectural



Statue of the god El. A18316

and archaeological remains of the city, taking a virtual tour through Jerusalem as it would have been seen by its various inhabitants over the last three millennia. Through the interwoven testimony of texts, artifacts, architecture, and iconographic representations of the city and its monuments, investigate the theme of Jerusalem as paradise and consider how the various faiths have transformed the landscape into sacred space. The course includes visits to the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery, the Oriental Institute Museum's exhibit on ancient Israel.

INSTRUCTOR: Gabrielle V. Novacek is a Ph.D. candidate in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. She was also Guest Curator for the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Wednesday evenings beginning January 11, continuing through March 1. Pre-registration is required.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths. Karen Armstrong. New York: Ballantine Books, 1996.

Historical Atlas of Jerusalem. Meir Ben-Dov. New York: Continuum Publishing Group, 2002.

AFFAIRS AND SCANDALS IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Foy D. Scalf

Thursdays, January 12 to March 2

7:00–9:00 PM

At the Oriental Institute

Are you interested in the scandalous side of ancient Egypt? Tomb robberies, corruption, seductions, and plots against the crown were all part of ancient Egyptian society, just as we have our tabloid cover stories today. This course covers a wide range of historical periods, from palace intrigues in the Old Kingdom to the allegedly licentious relationships of Cleopatra VII in the Ptolemaic period. Examine the sources and social context of such events, discussing possible reasons why they happened and how we know about them. In addition to the required texts, the instructor introduces students to English translations of the most pertinent Egyptian documents. Discover for yourself the infamous aspects of ancient Egyptian society!

INSTRUCTOR: Foy D. Scalf is a graduate student in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. His special interests include ancient Egyptian language and literature.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Thursday evenings beginning January 12, continuing through March 2. Pre-registration is required.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Harem Conspiracy: The Murder of Ramesses III. Susan Redford. De Kalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2002.

Affairs and Scandals in Ancient Egypt. Vernus Pascal. Translated by David Lorton. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2003.



CULINARY COURSE

A TASTE OF MOROCCO

Thursday, March 2

7:00 PM

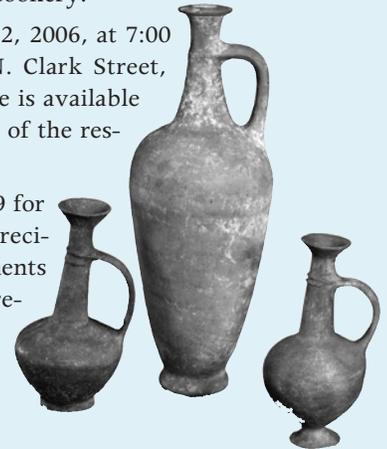
Andalous Restaurant

3307 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL

The Oriental Institute continues its unique series of cooking and dining experiences focusing on the cuisine of the Near East and North Africa. Join us to expand your culinary repertoire with "A Taste of Morocco," a special visit to Andalous Restaurant, where the chef teaches you the secrets of one of his own personal recipes and owner Hadj Akaaharir invites you to savor the unique cuisine of his homeland. Enjoy a full meal of appetizer, main course, dessert, and beverage, all featuring the delicious blend of Middle Eastern and Spanish influences that are a hallmark of Moroccan cookery.

This class meets Thursday evening, March 2, 2006, at 7:00 PM. Meet at Andalous Restaurant, 3307 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60657. Parking at an hourly rate is available across the street or in a lot one block north of the restaurant.

Fee: \$44 for Oriental Institute members; \$49 for non-members (includes tax, gratuity, and recipes to take home). Wine provided compliments of the Oriental Institute. Pre-registration required.



Above: Vessels, Egypt. Left–Right: OIM 288, 58120, 9348

REGISTER NOW ON-LINE!

<http://oi.uchicago.edu>

Click on
"Public Programs"
 for course listings



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

CLEOPATRA FILM FEST

Sundays, March 5, 12, and 26

2:00 PM

Breasted Hall

Join us on select Sundays in March for a film festival highlighting ancient Egypt's most famous queen. Set the scene with a well-regarded documentary presentation on Cleopatra, then see two classic Hollywood movies on the legendary queen.

Cleopatra: Destiny's Queen

Sunday, March 5

This documentary from the Arts and Entertainment *Biography* series mixes rare footage with updated research and exclusive interviews to present a biographical portrait of Cleopatra that strives to separate myth from fact. COURTESY A&E NETWORK.

Cleopatra

Sunday, March 12

This 1934 grand Cecil B. DeMille epic starring Claudette Colbert offers Oscar-winning action in spectacular and authentic settings. Cleopatra's costuming was researched with special care — Ms. Colbert appears in clothing and jewelry that recreates treasures found in ancient Egyptian tombs. 101 minutes.

Caesar and Cleopatra

Sunday, March 26

Originally reviewed as “a lavish feast of movie-making” with “a cast of thousands,” this classic film version of George Bernard Shaw's 1946 masterpiece features powerful performances by Vivien Leigh as Cleopatra and Claude Rains as Caesar. 123 minutes.

WOMEN OF ANCIENT NUBIA LECTURE

QUEENS, PRIESTESSES, AND VENERATED MOTHERS: NUBIAN WOMEN OF ROYALTY

Debora Heard

Sunday, March 19

2:00 PM

Breasted Hall

Free, Pre-registration not required

The queens, priestesses, and queen mothers of ancient Nubia — today's Sudan — played distinct and often powerful roles in their society. Join Debora Heard, Curatorial Assistant for the Oriental Institute's new Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery, for an illustrated slide lecture using ancient art and texts to examine the influence and social status of royal women in Nubia.

Speaker Debora Heard is a graduate student studying the archaeology of ancient Nubia in the University of Chicago's Department of Anthropology. She holds a B.S. in political science from Tennessee State University, a J.D. from Tulane Law School, an M.A. in African-American Studies from Temple University, and an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago.

This lecture is co-sponsored by the DuSable Museum of African American History.

Left: Egyptian mirror, Egypt. OIM 11370

Come celebrate

Women's History Month

at the Oriental Institute

in March with an exciting

film series on Cleopatra

and a slide lecture on the

fascinating royal women

of ancient Nubia





ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NEWS

New Faculty Member

This September, we welcomed Rebecca Hasselbach to the Oriental Institute as the new Assistant Professor of Comparative Semitics. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Cultural Heritage Conference

To examine international legal issues in protecting cultural property during wartime, in Iraq, and throughout the globe, the University of Chicago Law School, the Cultural Policy Center at the Harris School of Public Policy, and the Oriental Institute present: Protecting Cultural Heritage: Examining International Law After the Events in Iraq on Thursday, February 2, 2006, 3:00–5:00 PM in the Weymouth Kirkland Courtroom at the Law School, 1111 East 60th Street. For more details, visit the conference site at: <http://culturalpolicy.uchicago.edu> or www.law.uchicago.edu.

Second Annual University of Chicago Oriental Institute Symposium

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, the analysis and interpretation of ancient and modern funerary rituals has been the focus of both archaeologists and ethnographers interested in defining the role played by burial practices within the construction of a common heritage by living communities. Ritualistic performances, as well as the creation of funerary monuments and complexes and the writing of mythological stories, constitute the founding framework for a collective memory of a society's culture and reinforce the social boundaries of the community in which the performances are enacted.

On February 17–18, 2006, the Oriental Institute will bring together scholars from around the world for the Second Annual University of Chicago Oriental Institute Symposium, *Performing Death: Social Analyses of Funerary Traditions in the Ancient Mediterranean*. The conference, organized by Oriental Institute Post-Doctoral Scholar Nicola Laneri, examines through textual and archaeological evidence the social relevance

resulting from the enactment of funerary rituals within the Mediterranean basin as a point of cultural interconnection and exchange between diverse ancient communities from Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Syria and Turkey to France, Greece, Italy and Spain. The Oriental Institute will publish the results of the conference in the Oriental Institute Seminar series.

For complete details, visit the conference Web site at: <http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/SYMPOSIA/>

From the Development Office

Making a bequest is one way you can make a difference to the Oriental Institute and ensure that it continues to be a cultural and educational resource for future members and visitors. For some donors a bequest to the Oriental Institute is the culmination of years of charitable giving. For many others, however, a bequest is a way to make a gift that they may not otherwise be able to afford during their lifetime. The simplest type of bequest is an outright bequest, in which property is given directly to the Oriental Institute upon your death.

Made with cash, securities, real estate, or retirement plan assets, the value of a charitable bequest is fully deductible for estate tax purposes.

You may make a specific bequest of a designated sum or asset, such as real estate, a piece of art, or particular securities. It is also possible to make a pecuniary bequest of a fixed dollar amount

stated in dollars (“\$150,000”), a percentage of the estate (“25% of my estate”), or as a formula (“an amount equal to X”). A residuary bequest is a gift of all or some portion of your estate that remains after other bequests, taxes, and expenses have been paid.

There are many possibilities to direct how your bequest to the Oriental Institute will be used. For example, your gift can be used for preservation of exhibits, acquisition of new works, or educational projects. Your gift can also be unrestricted, thus allowing it to be used for the Oriental Institute's greatest needs.

Donors who include the Oriental Institute in their estate plans are extended membership in the Phoenix Society, the University of Chicago's recognition society. If you are interested in learning more about making a bequest to the Oriental Institute or have already included a provision in your will for the Oriental Institute, please contact Heather McClean in the Office of Gift Planning at (773) 834-2117 or hmclean@development.uchicago.edu.



Ushebt, Egypt.
OIM 10755

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE TRAVEL PROGRAM

WONDERS OF ANCIENT TURKEY: THE LANDS OF THE HITTITES, LYCIANS, AND CARIANS

September 5–21, 2006, plus an optional extension to the museums of Berlin
Led by Theo P. J. van den Hout, Professor of Hittite and Anatolian Languages

For over seventy-five years, the Oriental Institute has been at the forefront of the study of Anatolia, modern day Turkey. This tour takes you to the homelands its ancient inhabitants, the Hittite, Lycians, Carians, and Phrygians. Visit the sites of Hattusas and Alaçahüyük before venturing to cities and tombs at Sardis and Bodrum. For a complete itinerary, contact the Membership Office at (773) 702 9513 or oi-membership@uchicago.edu.

The Last Egyptian Queen's Pyramid: New Discoveries at Abydos, Egypt

STEPHEN P. HARVEY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EGYPTIAN ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY



View of Tetisheri pyramid after excavation. Photo by Stephen Harvey

At Abydos, where I direct excavation on the monuments of King Ahmose (ca. 1550–1525 BC) and his family, significant finds made in three seasons of excavation (1993, 2002, and 2004) have altered our understanding of art and architecture at the dawn of the New Kingdom. The Oriental Institute Ahmose and Tetisheri Project, generously sponsored



View of Tetisheri pyramid before excavation, looking south. Photo by Stephen Harvey

last season in large part by a grant from the Women's Board of the University of Chicago, was able to make a number of extremely significant discoveries from October to December of 2004, as well as to continue our program of proper documentation, study, and preservation of this unique site.

Since 1993, our expedition has uncovered a vast complex at the foot of Ahmose's pyramid, including two structures associated not only with Ahmose but with his sister-wife, Ahmose-Nefertary, whose name is inscribed on bricks from these newly discovered buildings. Through traditional excavation and the geophysical technology of magnetometry, we can document a total of five monumental structures which hold the promise of many more exciting discoveries at this, the largest known New Kingdom cultic complex prior to

Hatshepsut's at Deir el-Bahri. Key to an understanding of Ahmose's pyramid complex is the fact that archaeologists working at the site a century ago on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Society discovered other monuments of this king far beyond the area of the 10 meter-high ruin of his pyramid. The winding passages of a massive rock-cut tomb as well as the broad brick terraces of a temple built against the limestone cliff provide the other terminus of Ahmose's complex.

Nestled halfway between pyramid and terrace temple, yet another brick structure was found in 1902 that could be dated to Ahmose's reign. The discovery of a magnificently carved monumental stela (now one of the treasures of the Egyptian Museum, Cairo) in the corridor of the building enabled its excavator Charles T. Currelly to identify this structure as a memorial monument built by

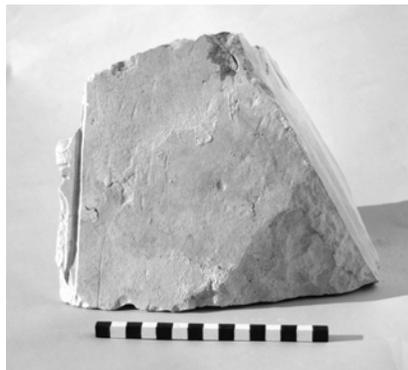
Ahmoose and his wife in honor of their grandmother, Queen Tetisheri. The hieroglyphic text of the stela provided the information that Ahmoose had constructed a pyramid (called *mer* in Egyptian) and a temple or enclosure (Egyptian *hwt*) for Tetisheri in the midst of his own monuments at Abydos. However, it had always proved difficult to associate the drawing provided by Currelly's publication with the expected shape and construction techniques of a pyramid. Most scholars assumed (including Currelly) that the pyramid mentioned in the stela referred to Ahmoose's own stone-clad pyramid at Abydos, known locally as Kom Sheikh Mohammed. Most publications mentioning the Tetisheri structure have referred to it somewhat vaguely as a "shrine" or "cenotaph" (false tomb) of the queen.

As a result of our work this year, however, we can state with confidence that the building in which the stela was found is indeed a pyramid built of mud brick, one that is in fact the latest known example in Egypt of a queen's pyramid. This was demonstrated not only through the steeply angled nature of the façade encountered on all four sides of the pyramid, but also through the discovery of two fragments of the limestone pyramidion (the capstone of a pyramid), one of which was inscribed with the title "lord of the two lands" (*neb tawy*) and a broken cartouche. The angle of the sides of the pyramidion is about 58 degrees, which agrees well with the angle of the sloping mud brick walls of the exterior of the Tetisheri pyramid (see figure to the right). Most likely, the pyramid was never cased in stone, but received only an outer coating of whitewashed mud plaster.

Additionally, a 90 by 70 meter long enclosure wall constructed of bricks also stamped with the phrase "Nebpehtyre (Ahmoose), beloved of Osiris" was first discovered through magnetic survey in 2002, and partially excavated this season.

This has proven to most likely be the enclosure wall, or *hwt*, mentioned on the Tetisheri stela. In the southwest corner of the enclosure wall, we encountered a pit filled with a series of intact dog or jackal and other animal mummies wrapped in linen and covered with mats and baskets

made of grass and papyrus. While this deposit most likely is of Greco-Roman date, the future removal of this material may reveal additional evidence for the original New Kingdom function of the enclosure wall and its structures. Cult activity of the Eighteenth Dynasty was abundantly documented not in this outer area, but directly in front of the pyramid, where a large deposit of more than 300 intact ceramic vessels were found on a mud brick surface, most likely in their original position. The presence of incense burners, ash, and charcoal imply the burning of offerings and incense in honor of Queen Tetisheri. While little evidence was encountered relating to her cult, a fragmentary offering basin in limestone (see photos page 23) was found that seems to be of Ramesside date, perhaps indicating the long life of her cult at Abydos.



Top to bottom: Limestone fragment (sculptor's trial piece?) with hieroglyphic signs carved in sunk relief; Corner fragment of the capstone of Tetisheri's pyramid. Photos by Stephen Harvey

Our work has clearly indicated the value of new excavation in the area of the pyramid of Queen Tetisheri, including the entire area inside of the ancient enclosure wall. However, protection of the monuments is necessary since the modern cemetery of el-Arabah continues to grow closer to the site of the Tetisheri pyramid. Since 1993, the extent of the cemetery walls has pushed ever closer to the pyramid, requiring the urgent need for action by the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) to stop the destruction of these important monuments. Additionally, we noticed looting and illegal digging in the area of the Ahmoose monuments during 2004, and we have asked the help of the SCA in guarding this important region of Abydos, the only portion of the site containing royal pyramids.

A total of five squares of 10 by 10 meters each were opened this season in the Tetisheri monument under the supervision of trained archaeologists — many of them graduate students at the University of Chicago — working with Qufti laborers and a team of local workmen (see page left for figures before excavation and after excavation).

In most areas, walls built of mud bricks stamped with the name of King Ahmoose were encountered under a small amount of windblown sand. On the exterior of the pyramid, large mounds of brick debris were encountered which may partly be the remains of Currelly's dump from his 1902 excavation. Currelly reported that he found the interior rooms (or casemates) of the structure filled with brick rubble, and that he emptied these in search of objects. Our findings within the building confirmed Currelly's claim in most of these small rooms, which were found empty of all but a small amount of broken bricks and potsherds. However, the entire entrance corridor of the structure was found filled with fallen mud bricks and it is likely that this debris reflects original deposits never reached or removed by Currelly. That Currelly's excavation was incomplete and superficial is apparent in several areas, notably on the south face of the monument. Here, Currelly's plan shows a building of 21 by 23 meters, with a rear wall behind a se-



Left: Eastern face of the Tetisheri pyramid, showing brick laid at a steep angle. Right: Conservators treat ancient grass and papyrus mats for lifting, revealing canine mummies below. Photos by Stephen Harvey

ries of three small rooms. Upon excavation of the supposed rear wall, however, we discovered an additional series of small rooms and the true south face of the pyramid. Here as on all other sides the wall is constructed of mud bricks, each stepped in on the exterior face at a steep angle. Some walls, such as that on the eastern face, make use of bricks put against the wall at an angle, in order to maintain the sloped angle of the exterior (see above). The truly square shape of the building is now clear, which provides additional support for the reconstruction of the building as a pyramid, 23.7 by 23.7 meters in scale and some 28 meters high.

As a complement to our work on site, we conducted conservation of material excavated from the area of the Ahmose pyramid in previous seasons (1993 and 2002), as well as on objects discovered in 2004. This work was carried out by Ms. Catherine Magee, an experienced specialist in archaeological conservation. With the help of the SCA, we were also able to rehouse registered objects currently in the Sheikh Hamad storeroom, providing better preservation for the future of our most important finds to date.

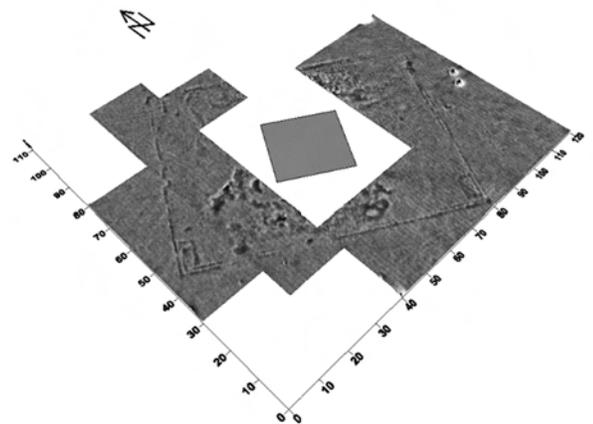
A team of three specialists in ancient Egyptian ceramic from the Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany (led by Ms. Julia Budka) also carried out research on the New Kingdom ceramic from previous seasons of our work. Finally, an experienced specialist in hieratic writing, Hratch Papazian, who

recently received his doctorate from the University of Chicago, assisted us with the study of ink inscriptions on stone flakes and pottery on stone and pottery deriving from the Ahmose pyramid area.

The discovery of additional data confirming the status of the monument of Queen Tetisheri as a pyramid significantly increases the prominence of the monuments of the early Eighteenth Dynasty at Abydos. Now, instead of only relying on data from partial excavation of a century ago, we can begin to construct a detailed impression of an ancient landscape once dominated by two imposing royal pyramids. At the beginning of the Eighteenth Dynasty, Abydos appears to have had greater importance for royal construction than even Thebes or Memphis, a fact that may imply that Abydos was of particular importance during the reign of Ahmose. Combined with the important results of our research since 1993, including the discovery of Hyksos battle reliefs and the identification of three additional monuments built during Ahmose's reign, the Tetisheri pyramid excavations have demonstrated once again the value of renewed excavation in areas previously thought to have been exhausted. It is for this reason, and in particular because of the great surprise of finding intact material so close to the

modern surface in this area, that we hope the Egyptian government will continue its policy of protecting the monuments of Ahmose against the destructive forces of modern houses and other buildings, cemetery walls, and roads or highways. Only once intensive excavation and survey has been completed will we be able to know the full extent of the monuments in this portion of Abydos, which are of particular significance for the history of the New Kingdom and of Egypt more generally.

Stephen P. Harvey is Assistant Professor of Egyptian Art and Archaeology and Director of the Oriental Institute Ahmose and Tetisheri Project. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1998.



The pyramid and enclosure of Queen Tetisheri as revealed by magnetometry. Courtesy of Tomasz Herbich/Stephen Harvey



The 2004 team poses in the ruins of the Tetisheri pyramid. Photo courtesy of Bob Fletcher

Below right:

(Top) The excavation team reveals the previously undetected southern face of the Tetisheri pyramid

(Bottom) Excavating hundreds of offering pots deposited outside of Tetisheri pyramid

Photos by Stephen Harvey



Above: Graduate student Ginger Emery uncovers the edge of a limestone basin inscribed in honor of King Ahmose, found to the north of the Tetisheri pyramid; Limestone basin fragment



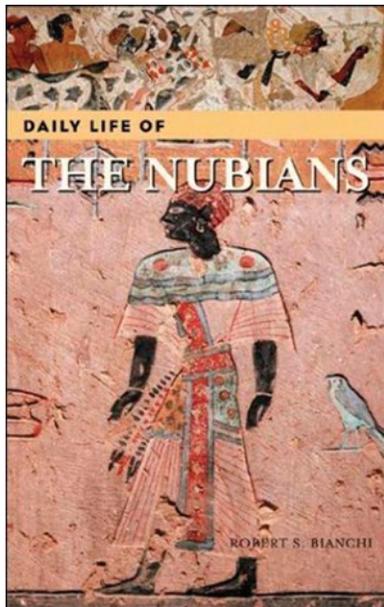
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Daily Life of the Nubians

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This book presents a chronological study of Nubian culture and its importance in ancient history. It is recommended by Egyptologist Emily Teeter in preparation for the opening of the Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery in the Oriental Institute Museum.

Robert Steven Bianchi served as Curator in the Department of Egyptian, Classical, and Ancient Middle Eastern Art at the Brooklyn Museum of Art

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