



BREASTED'S JOURNEY AND THE EGYPTIAN COLLECTION AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

Arc 237

Maurice Nahman
ANTIQUAIRE

Rue Kasr El Nil (en face le Savoy Hotel)
et Rue El Cheik Abou El Sebaa N° 20
Le Caire, le 22 Nov^{bre} 1919

Dor^t M^r Breasted Prof^r
of Egyptology Institute of Chicago

1	A large Mastaba of Ancient Empire	250
2	A frag ^{ment} of Mastaba of Sesostris III and his servants	20
3	His and his wife's Ancient Empire	100
4	A very handsome small stela.	50
5	A stela of Seti the First with servants.	50
6	A stela (donation of lands) hieratic	20
7	A wooden group. Servants and bakers.	480
8	A wooden (double) with inscriptions	30
9	An offering table ancient empire.	10
10	An old empire frag. Man standing (in relief)	1
11	An brick frag. ancient empire	1
12	An animal (mythological) of Hill.	1
13	An Apries Cartouche	1
14	An Artaxerxes Cartouche	1
15	Large Stone Falcon (serpentine)	200
16	Statue of Amenhotep III: Broken off of white stone	150
	A hieratic papyrus	30
	Settled work marks.	627
	Wahne's descent	142
		485

Also Inside:

PERSEPOLIS IN REGIONAL CONTEXT

Recent
Archaeological
Discoveries in the
Persepolis Plain, Iran

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Director's Study	2
Breasted's Search for Antiquities	3
Oriental Institute in the News	8
Sunday Films	10
Calendar of Events	11
Registration Form	13
Members' Lectures	14
Persepolis in Regional Context	15
Oriental Institute Travel Program	19
Adult Education	20
Suq Corner	Back Cover

NEWS & NOTES

A Quarterly Publication of
The Oriental Institute,
printed exclusively as one of
the privileges of membership

Maeve Reed, Editor

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

1155 East 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

Telephone: (773) 834-9777

Facsimile: (773) 702-9853

E-mail: oi-membership@uchicago.edu

All inquiries, comments, and
suggestions are welcome

World-Wide Web site:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu>

COVER ILLUSTRATION:

An invoice from the Cairo antiquities dealer
Maurice Nahman listing items bought by Breasted
on November 22, 1919

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

The 90th anniversary of the founding of the Oriental Institute gives us a wonderful opportunity to examine our own history and the ways that our work has changed over time. The two main articles in this issue of *News & Notes* bring these changes into very clear focus.

Peggy Grant's article provides a unique archival look at James Henry Breasted's aggressive program of purchasing antiquities in Cairo during his 1919–1920 trip to the Middle East (the focus of our current special exhibit *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920*). During this journey, Breasted purchased literally thousands of artifacts that expanded the holdings of the former Haskell Museum and became the nucleus for the development of the new Oriental Institute Museum.

This episode highlights one of the most important changes that has taken place in the way that the Oriental Institute conducts its research. Breasted's purchases of antiquities were legal and in full accordance with the laws of the early twentieth century; however, they strike a jarring note by today's professional standards. The antiquities laws of Middle Eastern countries have changed dramatically in the intervening years, so that purchases of this sort are no longer permitted. Instead, archaeological artifacts are defined as part of the cultural patrimony of their countries of origin, and quite legitimately remain the property of those countries. In the 1930s foreign excavations were permitted to have a share of the excavated artifacts as part of their permits to excavate at sites such as Tell Asmar or Medinet Habu. These scientifically excavated and legally exported artifacts form the vast majority of our Museum holdings. They are beyond price as a research resource precisely because they were scientifically excavated rather than purchased from antiquities dealers.

Since the 1930s Middle Eastern antiquities laws have continued to evolve, so that "partage" or artifact division between the foreign archaeological teams and the Middle Eastern governments is no longer done. Instead, archaeologists are invited guest researchers who work in partnership with the antiquities departments of Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Israel, and other countries. Our reward is the *information* from our excavations, rather than the physical artifacts. We work with our Middle Eastern partners to excavate the sites, protect them for the future, analyze the artifacts from those sites, and help develop exhibits of those artifacts in local museums.

Toby Hartnell's article on new survey work in the Persepolis hinterlands of Iran illustrates a second way that the Oriental Institute's work and its mission have changed since Breasted's time. Breasted played the instrumental role in negotiating for the permit to excavate at Persepolis. The exploration of major ancient cities across the Near East was the key element in his vision of documenting the rise of civilization. Since the 1920s our research focus has expanded as we have come to see that one cannot understand an ancient civilization only from its cities and urban elites. We now see cities as only one element in an ancient landscape that also included smaller towns, villages, nomadic camps, field systems, and irrigation networks. The current surveys in Fars Province help us to see the people and activities in the larger region that supported the capital of the Persian Empire. This holistic perspective gives us a much more nuanced understanding of Achaemenid civilization.

These two articles — one focused on museums, the other on fieldwork — emphasize that the twenty-first-century version of the "New Past" is quite different from Breasted's original vision. This new vision and evolved mission maintains the highest standards of scientific, professional, and ethical integrity. We would have it no other way.



Michael J. Hartnell

BREASTED'S SEARCH FOR ANTIQUITIES

PEGGY GRANT

This year we celebrate the 90th birthday of the founding of the Oriental Institute by James Henry Breasted. This event is highlighted by a new special exhibit, *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920*, currently on display in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery.

Ninety years ago, thanks to the support of John D. Rockefeller Jr., Breasted was able to organize the future research work of the new Institute by making a trip to the lands of the Middle East whose culture, history, and languages the Institute was designed to study. This exploratory trip was to last almost a year. Breasted left behind his wife Frances, his son Charles, who was finishing college at the University of Chicago, and his two younger children, James and Astrid. His letters home and to his friends, now housed in the Archives of the Oriental Institute, give us a vivid picture of Breasted's life and activities on this history-making trip.

The trip to Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine had two purposes: first, to survey sites available for field

investigation by the newly created Oriental Institute, and second, to purchase from antiquities dealers in Europe and the Near East a share of the ancient monuments and documents of all sorts that had become available at the end of World War I. At this time, especially in Egypt, antiquities for museums in Europe and America were routinely purchased from dealers and were legally exported with the permission of the government. The thousands of objects that Breasted purchased on this trip greatly enrich the collection of the Oriental Institute Museum.

Breasted was given funds by University of Chicago president Harry Pratt Judson to purchase a collection of antiquities that would significantly increase the opportunity for study and research at the University. Breasted was also given funds by the Art Institute of Chicago to secure choice items for their collections. Breasted made his selections with these two different financiers in mind, and pursued a variety of different purchases that would best fit the aim of each collection. For the Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago,

Breasted acquired objects that would be best used as instructional aids. These were not always the most beautiful or artistically significant objects, but instead held the greatest instructional value for students of the history and archaeology of the ancient Near East. In contrast, the objects he purchased for the Art Institute were selected for their beauty and artistic value — the Art Institute also intended these objects to be instructional aids, but for artists instead of archaeologists. Today, many of the objects Breasted purchased for the Art Institute take pride of place in their recently installed galleries.

Of the vast amount of antiquities available after World War I, Breasted wanted first choice. His search began in London in August 1919, but his time was completely filled with arranging transportation to Egypt and Mesopotamia. He consulted with government officials and with colleagues at the British Museum and at the University of London.

On October 9, 1919, Breasted left London for Egypt. He stopped in Paris on his way to Venice, where he was to catch a boat for Alexandria. It was in Paris that Breasted began his serious shopping for antiquities. He spent most of his time in Paris going through the extensive collection of the Kalebldjian Brothers, two Armenian antiquities dealers who also had a business in Cairo. They showed Breasted hundreds of objects including a papyrus of the *Book of the Dead*. Breasted was conscious of his limited budget, and could only choose items that he could afford. He was an experienced and patient bargainer and at the last minute his low bids were accepted by the Kalebldjian brothers. He even succeeded in buying the *Book of the Dead* (fig. 1) for \$1,000, offered at

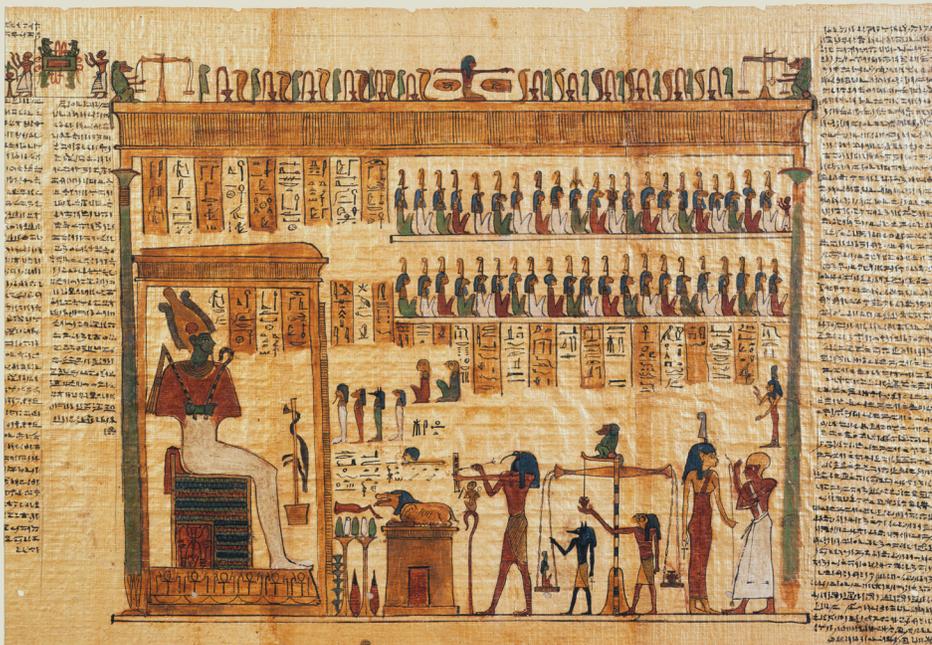


Figure 1. Detail of Papyrus Ryerson, a *Book of the Dead* text purchased by James Henry Breasted from the Kalebldjian Brothers in Paris, 1919. OIM 9787

almost \$1,500. Today that \$1,000 would be equivalent to almost \$10,000. A section of this important document in hieratic, named Papyrus Ryerson in honor of Martin Ryerson, the president of the University of Chicago Board of Trustees (1892–1922), is now on exhibit in the Egyptian gallery.

Among the almost 700 objects that Breasted bought in Paris, many can now be found in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery at the Oriental Institute Museum. There is an impressive predynastic pear-shaped mace-head and a faience Osirid ushabti from Saqqara. In the same case that displays Papyrus Ryerson are several charming amulets from the Kalebajian Paris collection: a standing falcon-headed Horus wearing a sun disk with uraeus, a hematite mason's level, a light blue papyrus scepter, and a sun disk with rays.

Breasted arrived in Egypt on October 30, 1919, and his buying frenzy continued. There was competition. The director of the Philadelphia Museum had already been in Cairo and representatives of the Metropolitan Museum were expected shortly. By early November, Breasted had \$18,500 budgeted for purchases and wished fervently that he had \$50,000. His time in Egypt was spent chiefly with three dealers: Panayotis Kyticas, Maurice Nahman, and Nicolas Tano. The Greek Kyticas had some beautiful things in his Cairo house and Breasted was taken aback to realize that when a buyer from the British Museum arrived in Egypt, he stayed in a room in Kyticas' house. Before Wallis Budge, the buyer from the British Museum, was due to arrive, Breasted bargained for a limestone statue of a sitting priest inscribed for the benefit of a priest named Basa from Denderah. This and many other pieces from Kyticas can be found in the Grimshaw gallery, including a sculptor's trial piece of a striding bull with traces of color, and a young Horus standing on crocodiles, holding in one hand two serpents, a scorpion, and a lion, and in the other, two serpents, a scorpion, and an oryx, called a *cippus*.

Maurice Nahman, a wealthy Syrian financier, had a large museum in a spacious native house "with a huge drawing room as big as a church, where he exhibits his immense collection."¹ Breasted and Nahman trusted each other. Breasted wrote Frances that "somehow I have the feeling that Nahman rather likes me. I have treated him like a gentleman ... and some of the others who buy of him treat him with contempt."² Nahman was the only dealer who had a large collection of Greek papyri, and he showed Breasted a manuscript written in handsome Greek uncials. Breasted wrote to E. J. Goodspeed, the Greek specialist at the University of Chicago, and hoped Goodspeed might provide the funds to purchase this Greek papyrus. Breasted was able to read enough of it to recognize that it was a treatise on astronomy.

Breasted's purchases from Nahman have added some spectacular objects to our Museum. The stone falcon and the bakery model from Asyut showing figures grinding, kneading, and baking bread give fascinating glimpses of life in ancient Egypt. Nahman also supplied several sculptors' models that would have been copied for use in temple and stela decorations. Two of these models, a model of a striding lion in high relief (fig. 2) and a model of the vulture and the cobra goddesses, called "the Two Ladies," can be found in our galleries.

It was through Nahman that Breasted was able to see a collection of antiquities compiled by André Bircher, a retired Swiss financier who had lived in Cairo for forty years. Nahman's son took him to Bircher's house, where Breasted picked out over 400 objects to be sent to the Oriental Institute. From this collection a fragment of an Old Kingdom statuette and a painting on stucco picturing cattle with an attendant are on display in the Museum. Also from the Bircher collection are bronze statuettes of a crocodile, a sitting frog, a fish, and a serpent in raised position.

As dealers and collectors in Cairo showed Breasted some of their antiquities for sale, the problem of wanting them and not having enough credit to buy them was a frustration for Breasted. But he kept President Judson informed of the great opportunities for the University of Chicago to have a first-rate collection of Egyptian antiquities that could be both studied and displayed. More than once President Judson was able to add to Breasted's credit. New funds totaled \$25,000. Now Breasted was able to buy from the dealer Kyticas a group of finely worked flints (fig. 3), previously belonging to a Captain Timins of the British Army, several of which are currently on display in the special exhibit. Among the many dealers he revisited, he could afford:



Figure 2. Ptolemaic limestone sculptors' model of a striding lion. Purchased in Cairo from Maurice Nahman. OIM 10554

... a sitting Sekhmet with a smiling lioness's head of silver bronze, a silver bronze statuette of Imhotep reading from a papyrus roll, a wonderful collection of prehistoric stone vessels, two large stele with historical inscriptions, an XVIIIth dynasty officer's battle axe which he carried in the fifteenth century B.C. [fig. 4], a very fine specimen of Amenhotep III's remarkable scarab inscriptions announcing his marriage to the lovely Tiy, his queen, etc., etc.³

The third important dealer that Breasted frequented was "a particularly hard headed Greek with an Italian name, Tano,"⁴ from whom Breasted had bought a good many things, some of them at quite reasonable prices. It was from Tano that Breasted acquired two of the most remarkable acquisitions of his entire buying spree. Tano was reported to have an unusually fine papyrus roll. When Breasted saw it, he pretended that he was not interested, but he secretly determined to buy it with the money Mrs. Elizabeth M. Anderson of Greenwich, Connecticut, had given him. Breasted described it to Frances:

When it was unrolled to the point where the writing began, there was the most beautifully written hieroglyphic papyrus of the Book of the Dead that I have ever seen, with wonderfully delicate and refined vignettes, exquisitely done. I cannot recount the "poker face" that I put up, and the long story of jockeying and haggling. The roll is over forty feet long, and the bargaining was much longer.⁵

Breasted referred to it as Papyrus Anderson and was very anxious to be sure it went to the Oriental Institute. Mrs. Anderson wanted her contribution to be divided between New York and Chicago. In a long and eloquent letter to Mrs. Anderson, Breasted described the papyrus as "a beautiful brown roll of papyrus, as fresh and uninjured as if it had been a roll of wall paper just arrived from the shop!"⁶ He described to her how it should be published in facsimile for future scholars and libraries all over the world with a title page headed PAPYRUS ANDERSON OR PAPYRUS MILBANK (Mrs. Anderson's maiden name), and would be accompanied by an introduction of its



Figure 3. Worked flints from the collection of Captain Timins purchased by Breasted in Cairo from Panayotis Kyticas. Dynasties 3–4, ca. 2686–2498 BC. OIM 11211, 11219



Figure 4. Bronze battle ax purchased in Luxor from Mohammed Tandrous, January 1920. The wood haft and leather lashings are original. Dynasty 18, ca. 1500 BC. OIM 10548

history. He explained that it should not be divided between Chicago and New York ("a superb manuscript cannot be cut in two") and suggested further that he would raise funds when he returned to Chicago to keep it at the Oriental Institute and then find a suitable gift that could be divided between Chicago and New York to fulfill her request. At the same time he assured her that the manuscript would retain the name Papyrus Anderson. His letter succeeded in keeping the papyrus at the Oriental Institute. It is now called the Papyrus Milbank and one of its vignettes can be studied and admired in this exhibit (fig. 5).

The other most remarkable acquisition from Tano is described in a letter to Frances:

A day or two before I left Cairo, Nicholas Tano took [Breasted's colleague Ludlow] Bull and me out to his house in Heliopolis and showed us with much secrecy a group of 25 remarkable statues of limestone which had been excavated at Gizeh and therefore belong to the 29th century B.C. They are

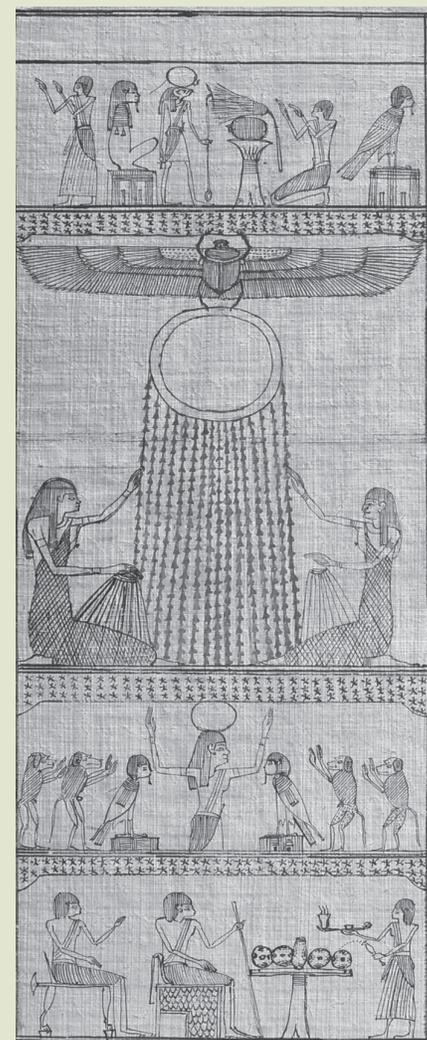


Figure 5. Detail of Papyrus Milbank, purchased by Breasted in Cairo in 1919. Ptolemaic Period, 4th–1st centuries BC. OIM 10486

all small, the largest not two feet high. Four of them depict a deceased noble and his wife; the others his servants and members of his family engaged in all sorts of occupations for his comfort and enjoyment [fig. 6]. Three of them are playing the harp, one is slaughtering and quartering a beef, groups are grinding flour, mixing and kneading dough, molding loaves and baking bread; others are cooking food over a fire, one is mixing beer and another decanting and sealing it in jars; one is turning pots on a potter's wheel. They are all colored in the hues of life, and while they are not the best Egyptian sculpture, they form together as one sees them arrayed on a large dining table, a bright and animated group like a picture out of the real life of nearly 5000 years ago, when Europe was still in the Stone Age, and the cultivated life of Egypt was already possessed of highly developed arts, and its society had already produced sculptors who could put such life into vivacious groups in stone. Tano is asking a stiff price for this extraordinary group, — 4000 pounds Egyptian, and unfortunately Lythgoe of the Metropolitan has the first chance at them, although he has not agreed to this price yet. The University of Chicago has the next chance if the Metropolitan does not take them, as of course they have a good deal of sculpture of the same age. I have not the money for them, even with the

recent \$25,000, for I have been buying rapidly, securing one good thing after another, and there is not much left of the \$25,000; but I could get a safe refusal of them, and endeavor to secure the money. At the present rate of exchange out here, 4000 pounds Egyptian make about \$16,000.⁷

The Metropolitan Museum did not take the collection of Old Kingdom statuettes and Breasted offered Tano 3,500 Egyptian pounds. Tano at first refused but a compromise was reached. He wrote triumphantly to Frances:

I must tell you that I closed with Tano yesterday, and the University has acquired an absolutely unique group of IVth dynasty sculpture, the like of which does not exist in any museum in the world. And now all depends on Pres. Judson's support which he has so loyally given to this expedition; for I bought them when my money was all gone, and I must sit down now and write him a full statement of the situation.⁸

This exciting collection is one of the highlights in the Grimshaw gallery. Other objects from Tano in the galleries include a relief fragment from Saqqara showing a brightly colored couple seated at an offering table, and a statue representing the head and upper torso of the

Lord of Jubilees. A statue of standing Anubis standing and a bronze statuette of Imhotep, seated and holding a papyrus roll across his knees, are more examples of the art of the Egyptian sculptor.

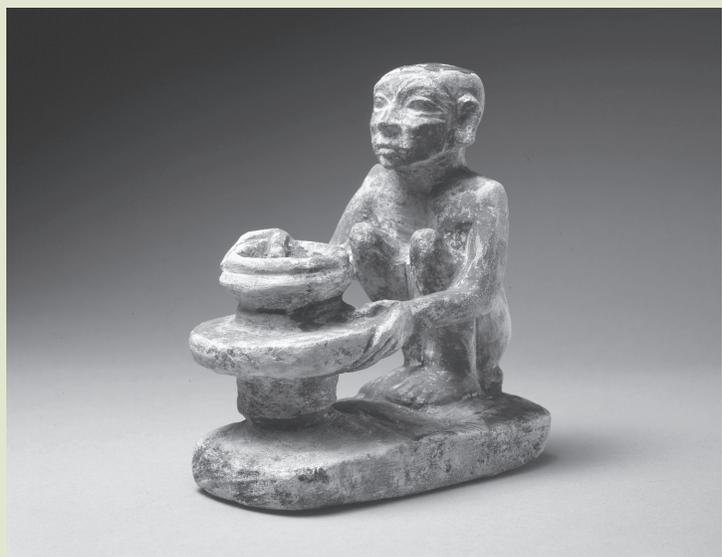
The dealer Tano also offered Breasted a collection of 258 "splendidly written" cuneiform tablets brought to Cairo by an enterprising merchant of Aleppo (fig. 7). The University of Dublin had bid for them but had neglected to pay for them so Breasted was able to purchase them for about 85 cents apiece. More ammunition for the historian!

Not only did the bargaining and the piece-by-piece examination of each antiquity take much of Breasted's time, but he had also to arrange for packing, invoicing, and shipping, as well as obtaining the proper export permits from the Egyptian Department of Antiquities. He boasted that he had bought a complete set of stone vases excavated by Quibell at Saqqara. He complained that his scientific work was suffering but he managed to work in the Cairo Museum from time to time, copying the fading inscriptions on wooden coffins neglected in the basement, and making a new translation of the Palermo stone.

Breasted made a January trip to Luxor, staying at the Metropolitan



Figure 6. Egyptian serving statues purchased by Breasted from Nicolas Tano in Cairo. Dynasty 5, ca. 2445–2414 BC. OIM 10642, 10628



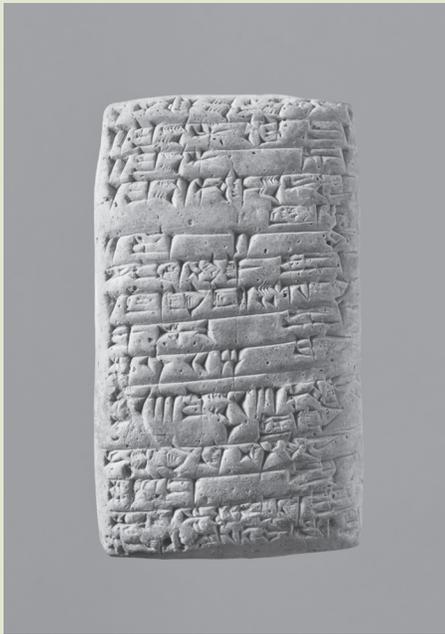


Figure 7. Cuneiform tablet purchased by Breasted from Nicolas Tano in Cairo. Economic text from the Ur III period, ca. 2100–2000 BC. OIM A2651

Museum House. He described his arrival there to Frances:

It would have amused you to see your husband going about in Luxor. News that I was buying had preceded me, and I was waited on by rows of finely dressed natives, all of whom were aware that I had been made pacha,⁹ and addressed me always by that title. As I went through the streets one dealer after another accosted the pacha, or “basha” as they always call it, and urged him to step in and buy up the unspeakable treasures which awaited his command.¹⁰

Just as Breasted was leaving, Mohammed Mohasseb, a wealthy Luxor businessman and dealer, took him into the court of a house to see a “beautifully colored white and red mummiform coffin, as fresh and bright as the day it left the painter’s studio. He wants 400 pounds for it.”¹¹ The mummiform coffin of Meresamun was acquired. Thanks to Emily Teeter, Egyptologist and Coordinator of Special Exhibits, Meresamun was brought to life in the Oriental Institute’s special exhibit, *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*, which ran from February 10 to December 6, 2009.

What excited Breasted even more than the mummiform coffin was the rumor that Yussuf Hassan, another wealthy Luxor businessman and dealer, had six prehistoric and early Dynastic vases, one of which presumably bore an inscription containing the name of Menes, the first of the Dynastic kings of Egypt. The bargaining and jockeying began. Breasted did finally acquire the vases, though they are not currently on exhibit as the inscription is probably a forgery; a statuette of the kneeling high priest of Amen, Meriptah, the name of Amenhotep III inscribed on one shoulder, was acquired during the same purchase and is now on display.

Breasted’s search for antiquities has enriched the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery by 236 important objects, and our study collections, under the watchful eye of registrar Helen McDonald, by many thousands more. This buying trip indeed has made our Egyptian collection an important resource for viewing and study, just as Breasted envisioned. As you walk through the Grimshaw and Holleb galleries, look for the “Acquired 1919–1920” label that identifies the objects bought by Breasted during the first Oriental Institute expedition (fig. 8).

Breasted left Cairo on February 17, 1920, to board the *City of Benares* at Port Said for the trip to Mesopotamia via Bombay. With him sailed Chicago Assyriologist D. D. Luckenbill and three graduate students, Ludlow Bull, William Edgerton, and W. A. Shelton. On board he wrote of his last frantically busy days in Cairo:



Figure 8. Label used in the current special exhibit to identify objects purchased by Breasted during the first Oriental Institute expedition, in 1919–1920

The arrangements for packing our purchases scattered in four different places in Luxor, and in six different places in Cairo, with different kinds of packing required by varying conditions and sorts of objects; full invoices necessarily submitted to the Cairo Museum for clearance of purchases; lists for the packers, lists for the consular invoices, lists for the shipper, accession lists for Haskell, constant inspection of the budget, bills paid, partially paid, or still wholly payable and involving many thousands of dollars....¹²

All in all, Breasted spent over \$75,000 which today would probably equal ten times that amount.

Breasted, Luckenbill, and the three students landed in Bombay and soon obtained passage to Basra where their Mesopotamian adventures began. The significant emphasis on this part of the Institute’s first trip was not to purchase antiquities, but to discover sites that could be excavated and studied. The galleries of the Oriental Institute Museum have been enriched by the results of the ninety years of Oriental Institute excavation and research in the lands Breasted visited in 1920.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My thanks are due to John Larson, Archivist, Geoff Emberling, Chief Curator, Emily Teeter, Egyptologist and Special Exhibits Coordinator, and Helen McDonald, Registrar, for their contributions and suggestions.

NOTES

- ¹ Letter to Art Institute, December 4, 1919.
- ² Letter to Frances Breasted, December 15, 1919.
- ³ Letter to Frances January 25, 1920.
- ⁴ Letter to Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson, December 10, 1919.
- ⁵ Letter to Frances Breasted, November 22, 1919.
- ⁶ Letter to Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson, December 10, 1919.
- ⁷ Letter to Frances Breasted, January 25, 1920.
- ⁸ Letter to Frances Breasted, February 12, 1920.
- ⁹ An honorary title given to important functionaries.
- ¹⁰ Letter to Frances Breasted, February 18, 1920.
- ¹¹ Letter to Frances, January 25, 1920.
- ¹² Letter to Frances, February 18, 1920.



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE IN THE NEWS



A selection of recent coverage of the Oriental Institute in Chicago and national media sources

RITA PICKEN

Hyde Park Herald

January 6, 2010

"Rita Picken Remembered with Professorship at Oriental Institute" — <http://oihistory.blogspot.com/2009/12/news-rita-picken-professorship.html>

MERESAMUN EXHIBIT

KMT — A Modern Magazine of Ancient Egypt

Vol. 20, No. 4, Winter 2009/2010

"The Reconstruction of Meresamun's Face," by Emily Teeter

Near Eastern Archaeology

Vol. 73, No. 3, 2009

"The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt; An Exhibition at the Oriental Institute Museum, University of Chicago," by Jean Li

National Geographic Magazine

January 2010

Technology: "Mummies Bare All" — http://blogs.ngm.com/blog_central/2010/01/mummies-bare-all.html

PIONEERS TO THE PAST EXHIBIT

Hyde Park Herald

January 6, 2010

"Breasted Exhibited: Oriental Institute Showcases Archaeologist," by Sam Cholke — <http://www.hpherald.com/hpindex.html>

Chicago Tribune

January 10, 2010

"Oriental Institute's New Exhibit Examines Its Founding Father, James Henry Breasted," by William Mullen — http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-u-of-c-breasted_mullenjan10,0,6090527.story

University Chicago News

January 6, 2010

"Founder's Archaeological Journey to the Middle East Featured in Oriental Institute Exhibit," by William Harms — http://news.uchicago.edu/news.php?asset_id=1829&msource=MAG10&tr=y&aid=5827267

Go RRSTAR (Rock River Valley)

"Museum Exhibit Features Famed Rockford Archaeologist," by David Dobson

Time Out Chicago

January 28, 2010

Around Town: "The Oriental Institute Exhibit 'Pioneers to the Past' Chronicles the Dangerous, Thrilling and Occasionally Misguided Adventures of a History-Changing Archeologist," by Madeline Nusser — <http://chicago.timeout.com/articles/museums-culture/82233/pioneers-to-the-past-at-the-oriental-institute>

Chicago Maroon

February 2, 2010

"Oriental Institute Explores Founder's Journey," by Gergana Genkova — <http://www.chicagomaroon.com/2010/2/2/oriental-insitutue-explores-founder-s-journey>

GALLERY TALK

PIONEERS TO THE PAST: AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, 1919–1920

Emily Teeter

Wednesday, May 12

12:15 PM

FREE

Join Emily Teeter, Special Exhibits Coordinator, to tour and discuss the Pioneers to the Past special exhibit, with an emphasis on James Henry Breasted's three-month stay in Egypt. See how the political and social contacts he made, and the financial resources he had acquired, enabled Breasted to obtain objects that became key pieces in the Egyptian collections of both the Oriental Institute and Art Institute of Chicago and also to influence the future of archaeology in the Middle East.

DIVINATION AND INTERPRETATION OF SIGNS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

edited by
AMAR ANNUS



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE SEMINARS • NUMBER 6
CHICAGO • ILLINOIS

NEW FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

Divination and Interpretation of Signs in the Ancient World

Edited by Amar Annus

Proceedings of the 2009
Oriental Institute Seminar

To order, contact
David Brown Book Company /
Oxbow Books
at oxbowbooks.com

PIONEERS TO THE PAST: AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, 1919–1920

PUBLIC FORUM

AN ORIENTAL INSTITUTE/ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA COLLABORATION

WHO OWNS THE PAST?

James Cuno, Geoff Emberling, Gil Stein, and Carlos Tortolero

Saturday, May 1

2:00–4:00 PM

Oriental Institute

FREE

Our current special exhibit, *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920*, raises important questions about the links between past civilizations and modern nations, the antiquities trade, and the role museums play in preserving the past. *Who Owns the Past?* brings together archaeologists and Chicago museum leaders to explore these issues in a conversation that focuses on ways archaeology, history, and heritage connect to today's political and cultural realities.

Who Owns the Past? opens with Geoff Emberling, Chief Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum, who will discuss the issues the *Pioneers to Past* exhibit raises concerning previous attitudes toward antiquities and how they were obtained. A panel discussion follows, featuring:

- **James Cuno**, President and Director of the Art Institute of Chicago. His recent book, *Who Owns Antiquity? Museums and the Battle Over Our Ancient Heritage*, has inspired impassioned discussion with his message that concern for antiquities should be dictated not by politics but by the demands of conservation and broad public access.
- **Gil Stein**, Director of the Oriental Institute and Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Chicago, is a committed proponent for building strong international legal frameworks to protect cultural heritage from looting and the illicit antiquities trade.
- **Carlos Tortolero**, President of Chicago's National Museum of Mexican Art, leads a cultural institution that forcefully advocates the return of major artifacts to their countries of origin.

This public forum, which will provide ample time for questions from the audience, also includes a coffee reception with the speakers. The program is free but requires pre-registration. Call (773) 702-9507 to pre-register.

Who Owns the Past? is supported in part by an Outreach Grant from the Archaeological Institute of America.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE/ ART INSTITUTE FIELD TRIP

EGYPT IN CHICAGO

Saturday, May 15

Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute, and

Lucas Livingston, Art Institute of Chicago

10:00 AM–3:30 PM

Meet at the Oriental Institute

Round-trip Bus Transportation

We are pleased to offer this unique field trip for the second time, following its sold-out presentation during the winter. Offered in conjunction with the special exhibit *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920*, *Egypt in Chicago* gives an insider's view on the city's three major collections of ancient Egyptian art and artifacts.

Egypt in Chicago is led by Egyptologist Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute Special Exhibits Coordinator, and Lucas Livingston, Assistant Director of Museum Programs at the Art Institute of Chicago. Begin the day at the Oriental Institute where Dr. Teeter introduces you to the daring post-World War I expedition to Egypt and the Middle East led by James Henry Breasted, the Institute's founder. One of Breasted's goals for his trip was to acquire ancient Egyptian artifacts for the Institute's museum and he made spectacular purchases for the University of Chicago. But he also obtained ancient Egyptian art and artifacts for the Art Institute, and for the Field Museum on other expeditions, placing Chicago on the world stage as a holder of three truly significant ancient Egyptian collections.

After presenting an illustrated lecture on the history of Chicago's Egyptian collections and leading a tour of *Pioneers to the Past*, Dr. Teeter joins you on a bus trip to the Art Institute. Enjoy a private lunch in the Millennium Park Room, which overlooks Lake Michigan and the Art Institute's new Modern Wing. Then join Teeter and Lucas Livingston for a guided tour to view and discuss the ancient Egyptian art that James Henry Breasted obtained for study and display at the Art Institute.

FE: \$79 for Oriental Institute and Art Institute members; \$89 for non-members, which includes admission and programs at both museums, lunch at the Art Institute, and round-trip bus transportation.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

SUNDAY FILMS

On Sunday afternoons, at 2:00 PM, you can enjoy the best in documentary films on the ancient Near East at the Oriental Institute. Unless otherwise noted, films run approximately 30–50 minutes. Admission is free. Following the screenings, docents will be available in the galleries to answer your questions.

April 4 Easter Sunday. No film showing

The following two films are episodes from *Akhenaten and Nefertiti: Rulers of Egypt (2002)*, a series that explores the reign of the revolutionary pharaoh who replaced the Egyptian pantheon with a single deity, the sun god Aten.

April 11 *The Sun Was the Only Witness*

Filmed on location in Egypt, the expert commentary and lavish re-enactments in this episode bring Akhenaten's religious revolution dramatically to life.

April 18 *The Mummies of the Heretics*

After his death, Akhenaten was declared a heretic and efforts were made to erase all traces of his reign. This episode traces the nineteenth-century discovery of the pharaoh's famed city of Amarna and the search for the mummies of the heretic king and his queen, Nefertiti.

April 25 *The Bible's Buried Secrets (2008)*

A powerful intersection of science, scholarship, and scripture, this landmark documentary from the PBS NOVA series presents the latest in archaeological scholarship and explores some of the biggest questions in biblical studies: Where did the ancient Israelites come from? Who wrote the Hebrew Bible, when, and why? How did the worship of one God — the foundation of modern Judaism, Christianity, and Islam — emerge? 110 mins.

May 2 *Pioneer to the Past: The Life and Times of James Henry Breasted (2004)*

Shown in conjunction with the special exhibit *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920*, this film from WTTW's Chicago Stories series presents Chicago-area native James Henry Breasted, founder of the Oriental Institute. Arriving at the University of Chicago in the 1890s as the first American professor of Egyptology, Breasted's scholarly 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 9 *Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization (2007)*

This documentary uses the latest technology to showcase the celebrated art and archaeology of Iran over 7,000 years. A cinematic adventure that features spectacular graphic reconstructions superimposed on images of actual architectural remains, the film brilliantly recaptures the ancient treasures of Iran in ways never before possible.

May 16 No film showing. Special Passport To Jazz Concert. See p. 13

May 23 *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.

May 30 Memorial Day Weekend. No film showing

The first Sundays in June feature Egypt's Golden Empire (2001), the two-part PBS series that explores ancient Egypt during its greatest age — the New Kingdom. Discover an era when art, learning, and technology were propelled to new heights, and ancient Egypt became the center of one of the first great empires in history.

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

June 6 *Egypt's Golden Empire, Part 1. 90 min.*

June 13 *Egypt's Golden Empire, Part 2. 90 min.*

Film listings for the remaining dates in June will appear in the Summer 2010 issue of News & Notes.

FAMILY EVENT

DIA DEL NIÑO

Saturday, April 17

11:00 AM–4:00 PM

University of Illinois Pavilion

525 South Racine Avenue

Chicago, IL 60607

FREE



Join the Oriental Institute at Dia Del Niño, a celebration honoring the city's children. Sponsored by Chicago's National Museum of Mexican Art, this event held at the University of Illinois Pavilion showcases the bilingual services and activities offered by the city's museums. At the Oriental Institute booth discover our bilingual gallery activity cards and learn about computer interactives that invite you to unlock the mysteries of ancient tombs; find toys, games, and animals from long ago; and dig like an archaeologist to uncover secrets of the past. Then explore the Pavilion to enjoy interactive exhibits and take-home activities from some of Chicago's most popular museums and cultural institutions.

SPRING 2010 CALENDAR

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

APRIL

4 | SUNDAY

Breasted Hall closed for Easter Sunday

7 | WEDNESDAY

Tracking the Frontiers of the Hittite Empire

Members' Lecture

7:00 PM

See page 14 for details

8 | THURSDAY

Cuneiform by Mail

Correspondence Course

Registration Deadline

See page 20 for details

11 | SUNDAY

The Sun Was the Only Witness

Film

2:00 PM

See page 10 for details

14 | WEDNESDAY

The History of Writing

Adult Education Course

Wednesdays, April 14–June 2

7:00 PM

See page 20 for details

15 | THURSDAY

The History of Greco-Roman Egypt

Adult Education Course

Thursdays, April 15–June 3

7:00 PM

See page 20 for details

17 | SATURDAY

Dia Del Niño

Family Event

11:00 AM

University of Illinois Pavilion

See page 10 for details

18 | SUNDAY

The Mummies of the Heretics

Film

2:00 PM

See page 10 for details

19 | MONDAY

Cuneiform by Mail

Correspondence Course

April 19–August 9

See page 20 for details

25 | SUNDAY

The Bible's Buried Secrets

Film

2:00 PM

See page 10 for details

MAY

1 | SATURDAY

Who Owns the Past?

Public Forum

2:00 PM

See page 9 for details

2 | SUNDAY

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

Film

2:00 PM

See page 10 for details

5 | WEDNESDAY

Meluhha: The Indus Civilization and Its Contacts with Mesopotamia

Members' Lecture

7:00 PM

See page 14 for details

9 | SUNDAY

Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization

Film

2:00 PM

See page 10 for details

12 | WEDNESDAY

Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920

Gallery Talk

12:15 PM

See page 8 for details

15 | SATURDAY

Egypt in Chicago

Field Trip

10:00 AM

Meet at the Oriental Institute

See page 9 for details

16 | SUNDAY

Passport To Jazz

Concert

2:00 PM

See page 13 for details

23 | SUNDAY

A Legend in the Taurus Mountains

Film

2:00 PM

See page 10 for details

30 | SUNDAY

Breasted Hall closed for Memorial Day Weekend

SPRING 2010 CALENDAR

JUNE

2 | WEDNESDAY

Exploring the Roots of Mesopotamian Civilization: Excavations at Tell Zeidan, Syria

Members' Lecture
7:00 PM
See page 14 for details

3 | THURSDAY

Dine Like an Egyptian

Lecture/Gallery Tour and Reception
6:00 PM
See page 14 for details

5 | SATURDAY

Dine Like an Egyptian

Cooking Class
11:00 AM
Gallery 37 Center for the Arts
See page 14 for details

6 | SUNDAY

Egypt's Golden Empire, Part 1

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details

13 | SUNDAY

Egypt's Golden Empire, Part 2

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details



Tribute procession.
Persepolis, Apadana,
eastern stairway

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

This past year, Arthur and Lee Herbst completed their \$100,000 pledged gift in support of the Research Endowment Campaign (REC) for the Oriental Institute. The Herbsts have been continuous supporters of the Oriental Institute, and of the University itself: Dr. Herbst is a physician and Visiting Committee member at the University of Chicago Medical Center, and Lee is a long-time docent of the Oriental Institute.

The REC was a five-year campaign to increase funding for the core research areas of the Oriental Institute, providing a stable and predictable level of support for research projects on ancient languages, fieldwork, museum collections, and more. The Herbsts, along with many others, helped us achieve our goal and build a successful endowment.

Gifts such as these help us continue the high-quality research and programming for which the Oriental Institute has earned its world-class reputation. If you are interested in



Lee and Arthur Herbst

making a gift to the Oriental Institute or would like information on giving opportunities, please call Rebecca Silverman in the Development Office at (773) 702-5062.

The Oriental Institute is under University of Chicago jurisdiction; the University of Chicago is a 501(c)3 organization registered within the State of Illinois. Donations to the Oriental Institute are deductible to the extent allowed by Illinois law; please check with your tax advisor for further deduction eligibility.

CONCERT IN BREASTED HALL

PASSPORT TO JAZZ WITH ERIC SCHNEIDER'S HOT DIXIELAND QUARTET

PASSPORT TO JAZZ

Sunday, May 16
2:00 PM
Oriental Institute
FREE

Eric Schneider's Hot Dixieland Quartet comes to the Oriental Institute to perform in conjunction with the special exhibit *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919-1920*. Born and raised on Chicago's southside, Schneider played saxophone and clarinet with the Count Basie and Earl Fatha' Hines orchestras and has performed with the Who's Who of jazz, including Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughn. Schneider's Hot Dixieland Quartet brings the era of *Pioneers to the Past* to life as they fill Breasted Hall with the great sounds of Dixieland jazz.

A coffee reception with the artists follows the concert.

This free event is supported in part by the Hyde Park Alliance for Arts and Culture (HyPa). HyPa's Passport To Jazz Programming presents unique jazz-related experiences through events in Hyde Park's landmark and nationally renowned cultural and arts organizations.

Official Passport books and stamps available at the event. Visit www.hypachicago.org/passport for more information.



MUSEUM EDUCATION

Please enroll me in the following adult education program(s):

Don't miss out — register early!

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> The History of Greco-Roman Egypt	_____ \$240	_____ \$290	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> The History of Writing	_____ \$240	_____ \$290	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cuneiform by Mail	_____ \$255	_____ \$295	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Egypt in Chicago Field Trip	_____ \$79	_____ \$89	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Who Owns the Past? <i>Free, but pre-registration is required. Call (773) 702-9507.</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dine Like an Egyptian, Gallery Tour and Reception (June 3) <i>Free, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call (773) 702-9507.</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dine Like an Egyptian, Cooking Class (June 5) <i>Fee \$30. To register for this class, call World Kitchen at (312) 742-8497</i>			

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 & Staff, and National Associates (persons living more than 100 miles from Chicago within the USA). **Please send a separate check for membership.**

I prefer to pay by Check (payable to the Oriental Institute) Money order MasterCard Visa

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

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Cut out and send form to: The Oriental Institute Education Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637

REGISTRATION AND REFUND POLICY

For multi-session on-campus courses, a full refund will be granted to anyone who notifies us about his/her cancellation before the first class meeting. Those who cancel after the first class meeting, but before the second class meeting, will receive a full refund minus a \$50 cancellation fee. After the second class meeting, no refunds will be granted unless the course is canceled by the Education Office. Failure to attend a class does not entitle a registrant to a refund. Some courses require a small materials fee to be paid at the first class meeting.

For single-session programs, where tickets are sold by the Oriental Institute, no refunds will be granted, but if the Museum Education Office is notified of cancellation at least 48 hours before the program begins, a credit voucher will be issued for the full amount. With less than 48 hours notice, a voucher for the full amount, less a \$5 cancellation fee, will be issued. Credit vouchers can be used for any Oriental Institute single-session program for one full calendar year from the date on the voucher. Tickets sold by other organizations for programs held at the Oriental Institute are subject to the cancellation policies of the organization selling the tickets. Only those registered for classes may attend them. The Museum Education Office reserves the right to refuse to retain any student in any class at any time.

MEMBERS' LECTURES

The Oriental Institute Members' Lecture Series is a unique opportunity for supporters of the Oriental Institute to learn about the ancient Near East from world-renowned scholars. Lectures are held the first Wednesday of every month, October through June, at 7:00 PM in Breasted Hall at the Oriental Institute. These lectures are made possible by the generous support of Oriental Institute Members.

TRACKING THE FRONTIERS OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE

Ann Gunter, Northwestern University

April 7, 2010

A century ago, excavations at Boğazköy uncovered cuneiform tablets and architectural remains that identified the site as ancient Hattusha, capital of the Hittite Empire. From about 1400 to 1200 BC, the Hittites ruled over a large empire extending from western Turkey to northern Syria. This lecture explores ongoing archaeological investigations at Boğazköy and other sites along the empire's frontiers, which have shed light on art and architecture as well as imperial administration, trade, and international relations.

MELUHHA: THE INDUS CIVILIZATION AND ITS CONTACTS WITH MESOPOTAMIA

Mark Kenoyer, University of Wisconsin, Madison

May 5, 2010

Meluhha — the name for the Indus civilization found in Mesopotamian texts — was an important source of exotic goods, many of which are preserved in the archaeological record of Mesopotamia. The movement of people and goods between these two regions established a pattern of interaction that continued in later periods and is still seen today. This lecture presents an overview of the Indus civilization and its contact with the Mesopotamia during the fourth to second millennia BC.

EXPLORING THE ROOTS OF MESOPOTAMIAN CIVILIZATION: EXCAVATIONS AT TELL ZEIDAN, SYRIA

Gil Stein, Oriental Institute

June 2, 2010

The Ubaid period (6th–5th millennia BC) saw the first establishment of towns and villages across Mesopotamia. This period provides the first evidence for the emergence of political leadership, economic differences between rich and poor, irrigation-based economies, dominating regional centers or towns, and the development of temples in these centers. In this lecture, Gil Stein discusses recent excavations at the Ubaid-period site of Tell Zeidan in Syria and the expansion of Ubaid culture across Mesopotamia.

CUISINE & COOKERY OF THE NEAR EAST

AN ORIENTAL INSTITUTE / WORLD KITCHEN COLLABORATION

DINE LIKE AN EGYPTIAN: LECTURE / GALLERY TOUR AND RECEPTION

Emily Teeter and Judith Dunbar-Hines

Thursday, June 3

6:00–8:30 PM

Oriental Institute

FREE — pre-registration required

and private tour of the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery based entirely on the culinary clues hidden there. Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore the cuisine and culinary lifestyle of the ancient Egyptians. This program includes a light reception.

Free, but pre-registration required. Space is limited. Call (773) 702-9507 to register.

Experience the Oriental Institute's Egyptian collection as you've never encountered it before! Join Oriental Institute Egyptologist Emily Teeter and Judith Dunbar-Hines, Director of Culinary Arts and Events and the World Kitchen program of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs, for a richly illustrated slide lecture

DINE LIKE AN EGYPTIAN: COOKING CLASS

Emily Teeter, Judith Dunbar Hines, and the World Kitchen staff

Saturday, June 5

11:00 AM–2:00 PM

Gallery 37 Center for the Arts

66 East Randolph Street

Chicago, IL 60601

What were the ancient Egyptians eating and how has that influenced our menus today? Emily Teeter discusses what was being grown and eaten in this long-ago culture. Then join Judith Dunbar-Hines and the World Kitchen staff to cook up a meal using those ingredients in both ancient and modern ways.

World Kitchen explores Chicago's diverse cultural heritage through ethnic cuisines, and focuses on culinary skills and techniques in their state-of-the-art facility.

Fee: \$30. Separate pre-registration for this part of the Dine Like an Egyptian program is required and is on a first come, first served basis. Space is very limited! Call (312) 742-8497 to register.

PERSEPOLIS IN REGIONAL CONTEXT

by Tobin Hartnell

Persepolis is emblematic of a series of ongoing investigations into Iran's history and culture. The city can be understood as a material artifact of Iran's past. Persepolis was literally *Parsa*, "city of Persia," a monumental symbol of ancient Persian culture. The symbol is even more powerful for being located in Fars or Pars Province in southern Iran, as "pars" is the root of the word "Persia." Today the city is located roughly 40 miles northeast of Shiraz, the modern capital of Fars Province (fig. 1).

Darius I (521–486 BC) was the son-in-law of Cyrus the Great (559–530 BC), founder of the Achaemenid Empire. Darius started to build Persepolis probably soon after he felt secure on the throne. The Achaemenid kings moved their capital around the empire with every season and Darius wanted Persepolis to be the spring capital. As a royal capital, the city employed thousands of laborers to build a monumental platform to host a series of magnificent palaces and reception halls, known as *apadana*. These buildings also preserve some of the most detailed stone relief in ancient Iran. As a result, Persepolis is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as an important site of ancient Iranian art and architecture (fig. 2).

Since the 1930s, the Oriental Institute has played an important part in Iranian archaeology. In 1931, Ernst Herzfeld and Friedrich Kretzer started work for the Oriental Institute at Persepolis (fig. 3). Aside from generating a basic plan of the terrace platform and uncovering the relief panels from the main reception hall, the Oriental Institute excavations revealed the Persepolis Fortification Tablets and Treasury Tablets that explained the administration of the city. Herzfeld's assistants, Alexander Langsdorff and Donald McCown, excavated the nearby prehistoric town of Tall-e Bakun. The Oriental Institute also made soundings at Istakhr, an important regional capital that developed sometime after Persepolis was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC.

All these sites and artifacts continue to play a significant role in Iranian archaeology long after the Oriental Institute excavations have finished. Tall-e Bakun still represents one of the most important

excavations of a prehistoric village in Fars Province. Persepolis itself hosts the Parsa-Pasargadae Foundation, one of the largest archaeological research foundations outside Tehran. Istakhr is expected to be a major site of future excavations because it holds important information about the Sasanian Empire (AD 224–651) and the earliest centuries of Islam in Iran. In 2005, I started a joint archaeological survey project with the Iranian Parsa-Pasargadae Foundation to develop a regional view of

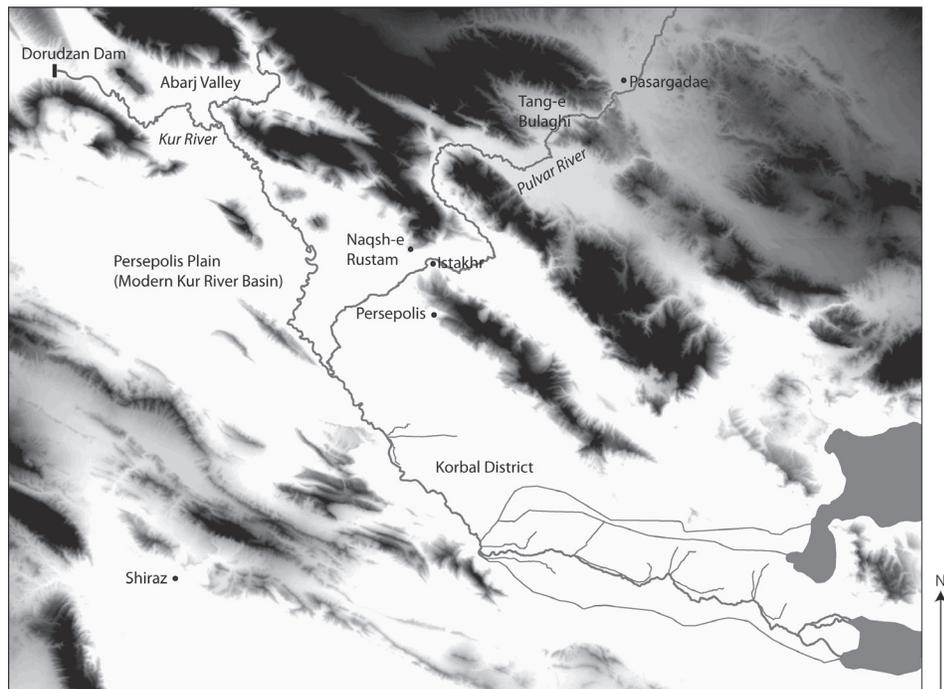


Figure 1. Map of the Kur River Basin (Persepolis Plain)



Figure 2. Aerial view of Persepolis



Oriental Institute excavations on the terrace of the Apadana, ca. 1933

Persepolis (see *Acknowledgments*). This work continues that of Abbas Alizadeh, Senior Research Associate at the Oriental Institute, and is hopefully a prelude to future archaeological cooperation between Chicago and Iran.

A study of Persepolis and nearby Pasargadae suggests that the Achaemenids should be remembered for their refinement. State artists recreated the national dress of the Achaemenid subjects in sublime detail (fig. 4). The stories from the Greek Wars and gossip from Greek historians suggest that dining at the royal table required bowls and platters of gold and silver to accompany the sumptuous banquets. Many famous palace gardens of the world, including Esfahan and the Taj Mahal, have their root in the formal gardens of Pasargadae. Everywhere, the Achaemenid Empire presents itself with grace and style. The realities of everyday life are absent. As part of my doctorate, I wanted to create a context to study the city itself. This study required an understanding of the region's past, the city's regional importance, and its impact on future Persian society. Hopefully the city will emerge in greater detail from this study.

Persepolis is the ancient symbol of Persia, yet the timing of the arrival of the first Persians in Fars Province is still unclear. A common archaeological view places the Persians

in the wider Indo-Iranian migration from the north, either from the northeast or northwest of Iran or both. The first historical attestations to Iranians of any kind refer to *Parsua* ("Persians," 844 BC) and the Medes (836 BC) living in northwest Iran. Archaeological excavations have revealed elaborate bridge-spouted, painted vessels and burnished gray ceramics, known as Gray Ware (fig. 5), in contemporary northwest Iran (i.e., Media).

In the search for early Persians, archaeologists have looked for similar material cultural remains in the preceding Shogha-Teimuran phase (ca. 1300–800 BC).¹ Evidence for cultural parallels between the Persepolis Plain, the large basin where Persepolis is located, and northwest Iran would provide evidence for the origins of first Persians in Fars Province. While painted ceramics existed in the Shogha-Teimuran culture, strong parallels to the northwest are rare. Alizadeh found some evidence for Gray Ware near Persepolis but it was also uncommon. Finally, Achaemenid ceramicists seem to have abandoned painted designs in favor of simple slips and gray pottery in favor of red. The typical bowl has a sharp carination and flaring rim, just like some copper and stone bowls found during excavations. In sum, the difference between the ceramics of the Shogha-Teimuran and the Achaemenid phases point to dramatic changes in material culture that need to be explained.

Starting in the early twentieth century, archaeologists often identified innovations in material culture with a new people. In the case of Persepolis, this type of analysis appears misleading. While palatial relief carving is innovative for Fars Province, it was common in Mesopotamia and Syria. While the Achaemenid pottery appears new, it resembles stone and metal vessels that have a much longer history in Mesopotamia and even Egypt. In other words, these innovations build on the ancient Near East's imperial heritage instead of Iran's ethnic heritage.

Archaeologists also look for clues to the origins of the Persians in traces of settlements. William Sumner, Oriental Institute Director from 1989 to 1997, proposed that a new people would create a distinct settlement pattern that reflected their new lifestyle. In the Persepolis Plain, the Shogha-Teimuran culture appeared to be largely pastoral because many sites were either field scatters or existed in the least hospitable



Figure 4. Tribute procession. Persepolis, Apadana, eastern stairway



Figure 5. Spouted Gray Ware pitcher. Baked clay. Central plateau or Elburz region of Iran. Iron Age, late 2nd–early 1st millennium BC. OIM A26005

part of the plain. When comparing the settlement structure of Achaemenid and Shogha-Teimuran cultures, Sumner suggested there was no significant break with the past. Since it appeared that Achaemenid Persians continued the tradition of being largely pastoral, the Shogha-Teimuran culture was termed proto-Achaemenid. This hypothesis of settlement continuity was tested by recent survey in Iran.

Just as important as where Achaemenid Persians came from is the role of Persepolis in wider society. One of the persistent problems in understanding Persepolis is the lack of associated settlements that would justify one of the most significant royal monuments of the Achaemenid Empire. Unfortunately, after seventy years of intermittent research (including eleven survey projects) there have been only twenty-seven Achaemenid villages (ca. 200 people each) and eight Achaemenid small towns (< 1000 people each) found in the Persepolis Plain. Many of these sites were identified on the hill slopes by the presence of Achaemenid stonework or possible Achaemenid walls.

Because of the insufficiency of evidence for Achaemenid settlements, past researchers have created three models to explain Persepolis. Sumner argued that the Achaemenid rulers favored low-density occupation of the area. The French archaeologist Rémy Boucharlat argued that this low-density occupation reflected an important role for nomads in the region. For Boucharlat, the hill sites of Sumner's map reflected the transient nature of Achaemenid society in Fars Province rather than its urban character. Finally, Sumner proposed that past researchers had focused too much on *tepes*, artificial hills that once hosted villages, in the search for Achaemenid settlements and perhaps these settlements were in regions that had not yet been intensively surveyed.

The recent salvage archaeology work in the Tang-e Bulaghi near to Pasargadae supports the idea of the Achaemenids living in a different fashion to past societies. All archaeological traces of the Achaemenid towns and monuments in that valley were located in the foothills above the arable lands of the valley instead of on *tepes*. The Achaemenid sites were difficult to find. In the Tang-e Bulaghi, the best signs of Achaemenid sites were Achaemenid wall foundations with parallel rows of external stones and a rubble fill or Achaemenid bowls and storage jars.

As part of my doctoral research, I have been working together with Ali Asadi from Modarres University Tehran to restudy the Persepolis Plain. Our goal is to contextualize the achievements of the Achaemenid kings (ca. 550–330 BC). Our surveys covered three areas — the Abarj Valley, the Korbāl District, and the Pulvar River Valley (fig. 6). The Abarj Valley was the site of an important trade route in Islamic times. The Korbāl District was the most densely settled region of the plain when irrigation networks were installed. The Pulvar River Valley lies on the major route between the two Achaemenid royal cities — Persepolis and Pasargadae.

Given the past difficulties in detecting Achaemenid settlements, our most successful season focused on the Pulvar River Valley. Because this valley provides the only direct link between the two royal cities of Persepolis and Pasargadae, it is the one place where settlement should be expected. Today, the region supports a cereal crop in the winter and spring and pastoralists in the late spring and summer. The modern gardens along the mountain slopes support the idea of this region as fertile and prosperous.

To evaluate the different possibilities of Achaemenid settlement, there were two seasons of archaeological survey in the Pulvar River Valley. The first season replicated earlier work with visits to all the *tepes* visible during a driving survey. During the first season, archaeologists also walked the length of the Pulvar River from its confluence with the Kur River in the Persepolis Plain to the Safavid Bridge (Pol-e Shah Abbasi) near to the entrance of the Tang-e Bulaghi. The river walk documented several important barrages, a type of barrier that diverts water into canals, and bridges from later historical periods. The re-survey confirmed traces of Achaemenid settlement on a few known *tepes* and created a more complete picture of pre-historic settlement in the valley.

The second season involved a walking survey of the foothills to assess whether previous archaeological work on Achaemenid settlements had been done with proper scientific rigor. This walking survey involved a team of Iranian archaeologists working together with the

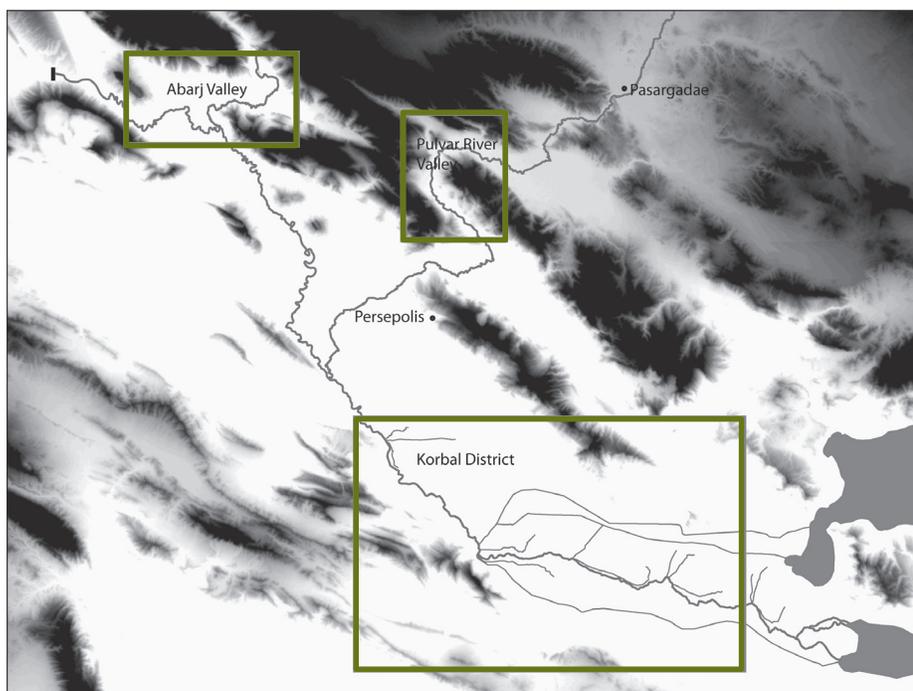


Figure 6. Map of survey regions

author to see every preserved part of the valley slopes. The earlier driving survey had demonstrated that the northern slopes of the valley were the best preserved with the southern slopes cut by forestry preserves and industrial facilities. Therefore, the main focus of the work was to be on the northern side where the entire length of the valley was visited.

During the survey, the team documented fifty-one new sites and features. If the results of the two seasons of archaeological survey in the Pulvar River Basin are combined, there are thirty definite Achaemenid and post-Achaemenid² sites and a further nineteen possible Achaemenid (ca. 600–280 BC) or post-Achaemenid (post-280 BC) sites. Twenty-eight sites have good evidence of Achaemenid-style architecture. Thirteen sites have good evidence of storage jars, implying long-term occupation. Seven sites have definite evidence of post-Achaemenid cemeteries that were consistently found on the higher slopes of the mountains above their post-Achaemenid settlements.

The vast majority of these sites were located on the foothills of the lower mountains. Overall, very few sites were found in the valley floor or on pre-existing tepes. These results suggest that the connection between Achaemenid sites and pre-existing sites is not as strong as past surveys implied. In the Korbāl District, Achaemenid sites were rare but they were also located in the foothills. In the Abarj Valley, there was no clear pattern of Achaemenid settlement found.

The distribution and nature of settlements in the Pulvar River Valley also suggest a major difference between the Achaemenid settlement patterns and later periods. For example, in the Achaemenid settlement patterns there was nothing larger than a village with the largest site recorded at 4 hectares. In the Sasanian period (AD 224–651), there were far fewer sites but there was evidence for consolidation with towns up to 15 hectares visible.

Finding traces of Achaemenid sites is only the first step in understanding them. Boucharlat had argued that the presence of a significant number of Achaemenid special purpose sites such as quarries in the Persepolis Plain overstated the number of inhabitants in the region. When excavated, the remaining Achaemenid sites were fortified storerooms, rural retreats, and rural estates or low-density villages. That is, these sites did not conform to notions of a dense village occupation that past ethnographers had led us to expect. The results are more compatible with serving a road between the two royal cities of Persepolis and Pasargadae than with a major agricultural production center.

The results of our surveys also can make an important contribution to the study of Sasanian (AD 224–651) societies. In the Diyala Plain near Baghdad, Robert McCormick Adams, an anthropologist at the University of Chicago, noted an unprecedented emphasis on urban settlement and imperial irrigation projects. The Sasanian rulers in effect had greater responsibility than ever for agricultural planning and economic well-being of its subjects. Still, Adams questioned the potential for the state to manage local communities, preferring to see the Sasanian administration intervene only in larger towns and strategic control points on the major roads and watercourses.

The survey results in the Korbāl District allow a greater appreciation of the local Sasanian-period settlement and economy. Islamic geographers refer to a sophisticated irrigation network of six barrages in the Korbāl District during the tenth century AD. Our survey aimed to investigate the history of this irrigation network. Each of these barrages effectively served as a bridge and provided water to the local farms and mills. In doing so, they supported the commercialization of agriculture and the expansion of the growing season into the early summer.

Our research suggests that the origins of this irrigation network lie in the Sasanian period (AD 224–651). At least two barrages (Band-e Faizabad and Band-e Tilakun) meander across the Kur River in a similar fashion to how the Sasanian-period Band-e Kaisar (“Caesar’s Dam”) and Band-e Dizful meander across rivers in southwestern Iran. An archaeological survey around the first four barrages suggests that Sasanian occupation is as intensive as any later period and exists on a vastly increased scale when compared to earlier times. Given that in every place where an archaeological survey has recorded Sasanian irrigation networks the relevant valley or plain was at or near capacity and that the Sasanian-period Korbāl District represents the densest period of recorded settlement in the region before modern times, a Sasanian irrigation network in the Korbāl District is quite likely.

Even with evidence for possible Sasanian structures at only two of the four studied barrages, the Sasanian settlement patterns seem oriented to all of the existing barrages. There was typically a major town at the site of the barrage and then a 5 km (3 mile) empty zone downstream. Between 5 and 10 km (3–6 miles) downstream, a dense network of villages and towns is apparent. Every 5 km, a large Sasanian town was detected. The district thus appears to function as densely occupied farming land serving nearby cities such as Qasr Abu Nasr (Old Shiraz).

In theory, these towns resemble strategic control points because of their potential to control irrigation water and local traffic. In Mesopotamia, barrage towns were major centers of administration. In the Korbāl District, these towns are comparable to Mesopotamia in terms of their relation to road system and the irrigation network but they are much smaller (probably around 2,000 people). The result implies that Sasanian administration might have penetrated much further into local settlement and local irrigation networks than Adams proposed.

Persepolis is now starting to have a more defined place in the history of Fars Province because the regional evidence is starting to become clearer. The survey provided archaeologists with the first comprehensive sample of Achaemenid settlement. Whereas previous studies emphasized the rarity of Achaemenid hill sites, it is clear that a large portion of Achaemenid construction focused on these hill sites. So far, this settlement sample appears to support a royal road in the Pulvar River Valley but there is no evidence that the same distributions will occur in the Persepolis Plain. The next season will extend the intensive survey to detect regional patterns in the Achaemenid occupation of the plain.

It is also clear that Persepolis is not simply a model for later societies. The later Sasanian settlement system was connected to irrigation networks that did not exist in earlier times. The Sasanians consolidated settlements into larger towns, while the smaller Achaemenid occupation seems to function as part of the imperial road network. The Sasanian landscape appears highly developed with a network of canals, bridges, and a dense array of towns and villages. In contrast, the Achaemenid occupation focused on the hill slopes, leaving the plain largely empty of villages and towns. This situation might have supported Achaemenid royal estates and royal gardens. More archaeological research is required to understand these differences.

Achaemenid sites would have been highly visible to visitors, as recognized by the historians of Alexander the Great, yet their society remains less clear. The role of these strings of small sites in the wider economy or imperial administration is still unresolved. The role of farming or trade in feeding the population of Persepolis is unclear, as is the role of gardens and royal estates. The only clarity so far is that Persepolis represents something new in the local region. For archaeologists, these innovations make Persepolis a city deserving of ongoing research for many years to come.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My research was part of a joint project between the University of Chicago and the Iranian Parsa-Pasargadae Foundation and the Iranian Centre of Archaeological Research (ICAR). I would like to thank the director of Parsa-Pasargadae Foundation, Dr. Talebian, and the past directors of ICAR, Dr. Fazeli and the late Dr. Azarnoush, for their support. I look forward to working with Arash Lashgari, the new director of ICAR.

In Chicago, I would like to thank McGuire Gibson, Donald Whitcomb, and Abbas Alizadeh for their suggestions and support. The Helen Rich Travel Fund and the Ryerson Fellowship have funded this research.

I would also like to thank my co-director, Ali Asadi, my wife, Yalda Razmahang, and my staff — Ali Sajjadi, Sedigheh Shirvani, Mohammad Parizi, Habibi Fazlollah, Vahid Yunesi, Mousa Zare, Davoud Zare, Ehsan Zare, Ali Reza Abdolahrar, Hesam Aladdin Ahmadi, Hamed Esmacili, Mahdi Omidvar, Narges Asadpoor, Fatemeh Chaker Hosseini, Ali Mardaneh, and everyone else who supported this project.

NOTES

¹ The Shogha-Teimuran culture is named after the place where the relevant material culture was first excavated. It is significant because it represents the centuries leading up to the first Achaemenids in Fars Province.

² Because the post-Achaemenid period includes the Seleucid dynasty (ca. 305–200 BC), the local Persis kings (ca. 200–123 BC), and the Parthian control of Fars (ca. 123 BC–AD 224), it is more convenient to call it the post-Achaemenid period than anything else.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE TRAVEL PROGRAM

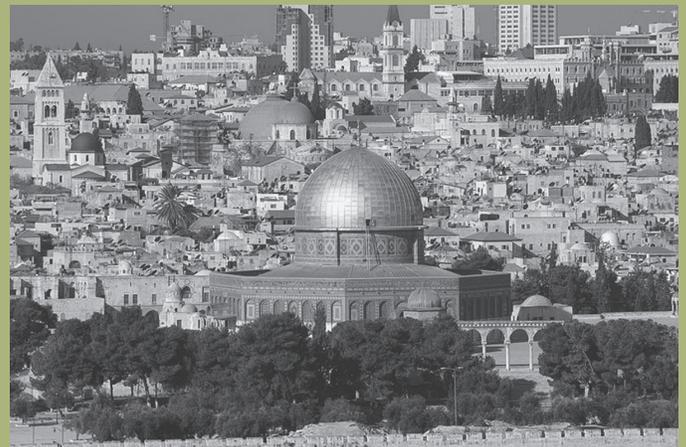
TRAVEL TO ISRAEL WITH THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE!

Escorted by Dr. Yorke Rowan

Departing October 2010

Uniquely situated at the crossroads of cultures and home to seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Israel is among the most historically rich areas in the world. Explore the treasures of this country with visits to Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Acre, the Galilee, Haifa, Jaffa, and Tel Aviv. Take a behind-the-scenes look at the Oriental Institute's newest excavation in Israel, Marj Rabba, and experience the original thrill of discovery at the ancient city of Megiddo, first excavated by the Oriental Institute in the early 1900s. From prehistoric dwellings, ancient tels, and biblical cities, to Crusader fortresses, world-renowned museums, and the modern beauty of the Patrick Geddes' White City, this tour provides a comprehensive look at this fascinating country.

A complete itinerary and registration form will be available March 1, 2010. For more information, please contact Maeve Reed, Membership Coordinator, at (773) 834-9777 or oi-membership@uchicago.edu.



View of the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

The following two courses are co-sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies and offer Teacher Recertification CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education.

THE HISTORY OF WRITING

Ilya Yakubovich

Wednesdays, April 14 to June 2

7:00–9:00 PM

Oriental Institute

Mesopotamia to Mexico. This course explores issues related to the history and development of writing. Why did all these civilizations invent writing? How and why do writing systems differ? What types of writing systems exist in the world's languages? Is there "progress" in writing's development? Do alphabets have evolutionary advantages over syllabic systems like that of Japan? Is the alphabet's proliferation due to historical chance? We will consider these and similar questions, paying particular attention to development of writing in the ancient Near East.

INSTRUCTOR: Ilya Yakubovich holds a PhD in Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Linguistics from the University of Chicago. He specializes in ancient languages and is involved in developing an Oriental Institute Museum special exhibit on the history of writing that will open in fall 2010.

CPDUs: 16

REQUIRED TEXT: Andrew Robinson. *The Story of Writing: Alphabets, Hieroglyphs, and Pictograms*. 2nd edition (paperback). Thames & Hudson, 2007.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM beginning April 14 continuing through June 2. Pre-registration is required.

It is difficult to imagine life without some form of writing. But like any technology, writing was an invention, and it emerged in locations throughout the world, from China to Egypt and

THE HISTORY OF GRECO-ROMAN EGYPT

Foy Scalf

Thursdays, April 15 to June 3

7:00–9:00 PM

Oriental Institute

At his death in 323 BC, Alexander the Great had conquered the entire ancient Middle East. But Alexander's vast empire quickly dissolved as his generals struggled among each other to fill the power vacuum left by Alexander's death. In Egypt, Ptolemy I was proclaimed pharaoh, inaugurating the Ptolemaic period, which lasted nearly 300 years until Cleopatra's death. With Roman occupation initiated under Augustus, Egyptian culture changed significantly as native languages declined and conversion to Christianity increased. This course uses wide-ranging resources to explore the impact of Ptolemaic and Roman rule on ancient Egypt.

INSTRUCTOR: Foy Scalf is a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. He specializes in the religious literature of Greco-Roman Egypt.

CPDUs: 16

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Günter Hölbl. *A History of the Ptolemaic Empire*. Translated by Tina Saavedra. London: Routledge, 2001.

Naphtali Lewis. *Life in Egypt under Roman Rule*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute on Thursday evenings from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM beginning April 15 continuing through June 3. Pre-registration is required.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

CUNEIFORM BY MAIL

Monica Crews and Seunghee Yie

April 19 to August 9

Registration Deadline: April 8

particularly those in ancient Mesopotamia who wrote texts in the Akkadian language — used cuneiform to write a wide variety of documents such as law collections, private and official letters, business records, royal inscriptions, myths and epics, and scientific and astronomical observations. This eight-lesson course familiarizes students with the development and history of the cuneiform script in the ancient Near East while teaching them 110 frequently used cuneiform signs and providing an introduction to the Akkadian language.

Complete each lesson and return the exercises by mail or fax to the instructor, who will correct the exercises, answer any questions, and return the materials to you.

The cuneiform script is one of the oldest writing systems in the world. From 3100 BC to AD 75, scribes in the ancient Near East — particularly those in ancient Mesopotamia who wrote texts in the Akkadian language — used cuneiform to write a wide variety of documents such as law collections, private and official letters, business records, royal inscriptions, myths and epics, and scientific and astronomical observations. This eight-lesson course familiarizes students with the development and history of the cuneiform script in the ancient Near East while teaching them 110 frequently used cuneiform signs and providing an introduction to the Akkadian language.

INSTRUCTORS: Monica Crews and Seunghee Yie are graduate students of Assyriology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. Ms. Crews' special interests include Sumerian grammar, Mesopotamian thought and literature, and the history and culture of Mesopotamia in the second millennium BC. Ms. Yie is a member of the Oriental Institute's Persepolis Fortification Archive Project and the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project. Her special interests are cuneiform, philology, and Achaemenid Persia.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Daniel C. Snell. *A Workbook of Cuneiform Signs. Aids and Research Tools in Ancient Near Eastern Studies 5*. Malibu: Undena Publications, 1979.

C. B. F. Walker. *Cuneiform. Reading the Past 3*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

This course begins on Monday, April 19, and continues for 16 weeks. Registration deadline is April 8. Pre-registration is required.

PIONEERS TO THE PAST MEMBERS' PREVIEW

by Meghan Winston, Special Events Coordinator

On January 11, 148 Oriental Institute Members enjoyed an exclusive preview of *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920*, a special exhibit showcasing the first expedition of the Oriental Institute in which founder James Henry Breasted scoured the Middle East for sites for future excavation and also acquired objects for the Museum collection.

After Gil Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute, welcomed all guests, Breasted's journey was brought to

life through lively remarks by Geoff Emberling, Chief Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum and curator of the exhibit. Emberling acquainted Members with the realities of Breasted's trip through many never-before-seen photographs, artifacts, and archival documents.

Following Emberling's lecture, guests were invited to tour the exhibit in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery. Members also enjoyed a reception in the Edgar

and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery, browsed the Suq for specially ordered merchandise, and had copies of the exhibit catalog autographed by the curator.

A special thank-you to Gil Stein, Steve Camp, Geoff Emberling, Emily Teeter, Maeve Reed, Mariana Perlinac, Erik Lindahl, and Adam Lubin for all they did to ensure the night's success.

Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920 is on exhibit through August 29, 2010.



Geoff Emberling presents a map of Breasted's travels. All photos by Anna Ressman



Gil Stein discusses the exhibit with Members



A member follows Breasted's journey through Mesopotamia



A display of special exhibit merchandise at the Suq

IN MEMORIAM

RITA TALLENT PICKEN

1919–2009

by Gil Stein



On December 10, 2009, the Oriental Institute community gathered to remember the life of Rita Tallent Picken, a true friend and generous supporter of the Oriental Institute.

Rita showed her love for the Oriental Institute not only through her thirty-year involvement with the docent program, but also through her sponsorship of the Robert F. Picken Family Nubia Gallery and the recent special exhibit on Meresamun.

This past spring at the Oriental Institute 90th Anniversary Gala, the Institute honored Rita with the Breasted Medallion – the highest honor that we give our members and supporters to recognize their service and commitment to the Oriental Institute.

Rita and her daughter Kitty Picken have been part of the fabric of the Oriental Institute for decades; Rita saw the people in the Oriental Institute community as a second family. She will be greatly missed.



Rita Picken, center, on the night of the 2009 Gala, with previous medallion honorees Carlotta Maher, left, and Janet Helman. Photo by Kitty Picken

Rita poses with her usual flair. Photo by Kitty Picken



Rita and Kitty Picken enjoy an ancient-style brew with Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein at the October 2009 Breasted Society event, Babylonian Brews. Photo by Kaye Oberhausen

THE RITA T. PICKEN PROFESSORSHIP IN ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN ART

In December, Kitty Picken and the Oriental Institute announced the endowment of the Rita T. Picken Professorship in Ancient Near Eastern Art, which will be supported by a \$3.5 million gift in memory of her late mother, Rita T. Picken.

The professorship will enhance the work of the Oriental Institute by adding a faculty member whose expertise in ancient art will complement the Institute's strengths in languages and archaeology.

The endowment of this professorship is a fitting tribute to Rita's love of art history and will be historic, given that it is only the second endowed chair in the Oriental Institute's ninety-year history.

Gil Stein noted that "with the Rita T. Picken Professorship in Ancient Near Eastern Art, we will be able to bring

back the study of images, giving us a truly holistic perspective on the ancient Near East. I don't know of any other research center that will have all of these powerful approaches to studying the past united under one roof in an integrated program of research and graduate training."

Modern scholars rely on three complementary kinds of evidence to reconstruct early cultures. Archaeologists study artifacts to tell us about ancient behavior and what people actually did. Scholars also examine texts written by philologists and ancient historians, which let us hear these ancient people describe in their own words the details of how their societies worked.

The third type of evidence, which the Picken professorship will support, is the study of images that provides insights



Kitty Picken

into the ideologies of ancient people — how they expressed power and piety through visual symbols. This will allow the Oriental Institute's expertise in ancient Near Eastern archaeology, cultures, and languages to come full circle with the addition of a new art historian. An art historian has not been present within the Oriental Institute faculty since 1985.

All of us here at the Oriental Institute thank Kitty for her generosity in making this transformational gift.

MUSEUM NEWS

CAIRO REGISTRARS VISIT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

From November 6 to 8, 2009, Oriental Institute Museum Registrar Helen McDonald and Assistant Registrar Susan Allison attended the Third International Registrars Symposium hosted by the Registrars Committee of the American Association of Museums at the Hilton in downtown Chicago. Amid numerous informative sessions there were opportunities to meet colleagues from around the world, including the registrars from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. They recently completed a multi-year training program funded by the American Research Center in Egypt.

We invited our colleagues from Egypt to the Oriental Institute for a tour of our registration and collections storage areas. They arrived with many questions about how we do things at the Oriental Institute and how we deal with certain problems that arise. We were just as eager to learn about their registration process. The Egyptian Museum recently completed a migration to new database software, something the Oriental Institute Museum will do in the coming years. We showed them our current database in the DOS-based program dbase3 and discussed its structure and how it is used in the course of our work. We also mentioned some

things we anticipate the new database will do (like hold photographs of each object for recognition purposes). We are delighted that the Egyptian Museum is sharing its database authority lists with the Oriental Institute. The authority lists, which include lists of terms used in database fields such as object classification and material, will help us standardize terminology and organize information in the database. This will give us a head start on the migration process and make our terminology compatible with other museums.

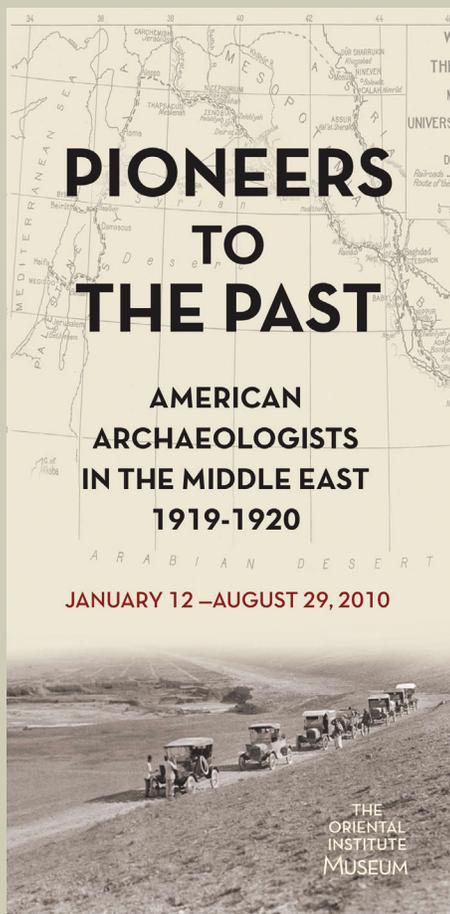
We took an all-encompassing walk through our storage areas, showing the Egyptian conservators how far along we are with unpacking the collection since building the new wing and installing climate control. Our Egyptian colleagues saw our new Delta Designs cabinets and we talked about the archival materials used for re-housing. We also looked at those areas of storage where temporary shelving holds boxes still waiting to be unpacked and cabinets containing old boxes awaiting replacement with new archival materials. Recent re-housing grants and a forthcoming application to re-house our metals collection were all discussed. We shared with our colleagues that upgrading collections housing is a long-term process; we cannot open a cabinet without seeing something we could improve. The Egyptian collection, particularly the organics storage area, was, of course, of particular interest, but we also talked about the Khorsabad Relief Project and how this involved several of the collections staff (Conservation for cleaning, Registration to register pieces, Preparation to uncrate, re-crate, and move heavy blocks around, and Photography to photograph and process images).

We hope to continue developing a professional relationship with the Egyptian Museum that will benefit both museums.

NOW ON EXHIBIT!

Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920

Follow the first expedition of the Oriental Institute through photos, letters, artifacts, and archival documents. Pick up an audio guide (free to Members) at the Suq. Follow Breasted's travels on his blog (<https://blogs.uchicago.edu/oi/>) and on Facebook!



Left to right: Susan Allison, Assistant Registrar, Oriental Institute; Yasmin El Shazly, Head of Documentation, Egyptian Museum, Cairo; Helen McDonald, Registrar, Oriental Institute; Dalia Galal, Loan Registrar, Egyptian Museum, Cairo; Dr. Hanane Gaber, Head Registrar, Egyptian Museum, Cairo

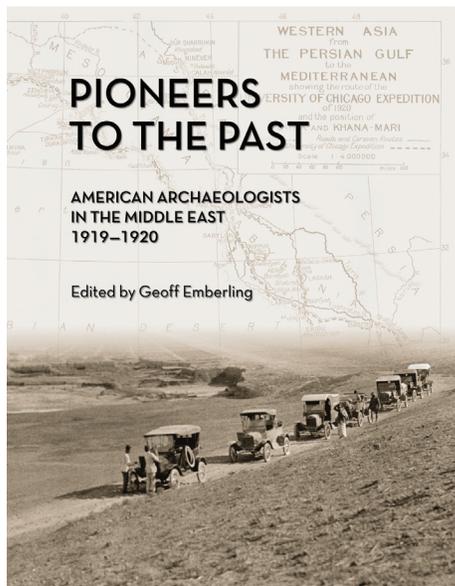
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

The University of Chicago

1155 East 58th Street • Chicago, Illinois • 60637

(773) 702-9514

THE SUQ CORNER



NOW ON SALE

**PIONEERS TO THE PAST: AMERICAN
ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST,
1919-1920**

Edited by Geoff Emberling

Paperback

Members' Price: \$31.45



GENUINE PITH HELMET

Made of cork

Two sizes, regular and large

Members' Price: \$35.10