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# THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NEWS & NOTES

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## DICTIONARIES AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE



- ★ CHICAGO ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY
- ★ CHICAGO DEMOTIC DICTIONARY
- ★ CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY

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## NEWS & NOTES

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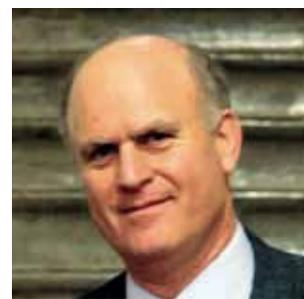
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## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

This issue of *News & Notes* highlights one of the most important and unique contributions of the Oriental Institute to understanding the ancient Near East — our internationally renowned dictionary projects. The Chicago Assyrian Dictionary (CAD), the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD), and the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD) collectively form the most impressive effort I know of to systematically record, codify, and make accessible the languages that lie at the very heart of the textual record of civilization in the “Fertile Crescent.” As the articles by Anna Hudson Steinhelper, Janet Johnson, and Theo van den Hout make clear, the CAD, CDD, and CHD are not simply word lists; by detailing the history and range of uses of each word, the dictionaries are in essence cultural encyclopedias of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Hittite Anatolia. When complete, the three dictionaries will form indispensable research tools for any scholar anywhere who seeks to explore the textual record of the ancient Near East.

To undertake any one of these three dictionaries would be a daunting task; to tackle three at once — and succeed — is an astonishing achievement that could only happen at the Oriental Institute. Writing dictionaries of ancient languages requires comprehensive library resources, a pool of scholarly expertise, and an institution whose commitment to the project is strong enough to take on a task that can take (literally) ninety years to complete. The Oriental Institute's breadth and depth of philological scholarship in Akkadian, Demotic, and Hittite makes possible the close collaboration and group effort needed for these projects. This “critical mass” of dedicated scholars in each language represents a vast improvement over the nineteenth century, when Professor James Murray compiled the Oxford English Dictionary entries essentially by mail, drawing on lay readers everywhere — including criminally insane contributors such as Dr. William Chester Minor, who sent in his lexical entries from Broadmoor prison! (This strange story is beautifully told in Simon Winchester's book *The Professor and the Madman*.)

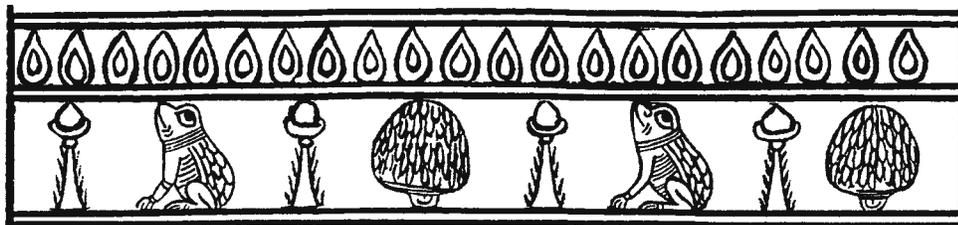
The CAD, CHD, and CDD entries are meticulously crosschecked and edited in a painstaking process that, while time-consuming, ultimately assures their accuracy and lasting scholarly value. All our dictionaries are being made freely available in some digital form (online or as free PDFs) so that they are accessible to scholars worldwide. The slow process by which Oriental Institute scholars are creating priceless research tools is a remarkable and inspiring story worth telling, and it is still unfolding. As reflected in the title of Erica Reiner's book on the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, the Oriental Institute dictionary projects are truly “An Adventure of Great Dimension.”



*Michael J. Hoff*

### COVER ILLUSTRATION:

*Early Dynastic IIIb Lexical List*. This lexical list includes the names of various gods. Lexical lists, essentially ancient dictionaries, were the primary scholarly means of organizing and presenting information in ancient Mesopotamia. Clay; ca. 2500 BC; Iraq, Tello?; 9.3 x 10.0 x 3.2 cm. OIM A3670. Photo by Anna Ressayman



# THE CHICAGO ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY AT NINETY

*Anna Hudson Steinhilper, Assistant, Chicago Assyrian Dictionary Project*

As the publication of the final volume (U/W) of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary (CAD) is almost complete, it is appropriate to reflect on the history of the CAD, the recent work that has been done on it, and its importance to the study of the ancient Near East. In many ways its function, status, and use seem clear: the CAD is a dictionary — you look words up in it, albeit words written in the cuneiform script and in the Semitic languages of ancient Mesopotamia; the final volume is near publication; and access to the culture, history, and traditions of the ancient Near East would be much more difficult without it. However, after having occupied a chair that many editors and graduate student assistants have sat in before me, in the same rooms where the project spent most of its ninety-year life, after having read the U/W draft minutely and character by character, after witnessing editorial struggles over what should and should not be included in the pages, and finally after reading the reflections of the founding editors, I realize that the title of Erica Reiner's (fig. 1) book on her time as the CAD editor, *An Adventure of Great Dimension*, is not an understatement. The phrase "an adventure of great dimension" was originally used by Benno Landsberger in a paper delivered to the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society (AOS) in 1965 and subsequently quoted by A. Leo Oppenheim.<sup>1</sup> In fact, the phrase was not used by Landsberger originally in reference to the vast scope of the project (now in twenty-six books), but as a caution for any user of the Dictionary, a declaration of the fallibility of the project (which Landsberger preferred to describe as an antiproject):

... it does not postpone the final action indefinitely or leave decision for

the next generation; it ignores almost frivolously both systematization and specialization; it is neither deterred nor frustrated. In short, it is an adventure of great dimension, with both the dangers and the unexpected findings of an adventure.... Any user of the CAD must be tolerant both of anticipation and of self-correction.<sup>2</sup>

Despite Landsberger's anthropomorphic vision articulated in 1965, a naive (or optimistic) assessment of the duration of such a project was shared by the early founders of the Oriental

Institute's Assyrian Dictionary project itself. James Henry Breasted originally predicted that the dictionary would run to six volumes and three thousand pages in total.<sup>3</sup> Although at the outset writing a dictionary seemed straightforward to the early scholars, the true task before them in producing the CAD became apparent as each dictionary article "encompassed more and more of the context of the words studied.... Thus, the CAD became a tool for recapturing an ancient civilization, and for studying its social

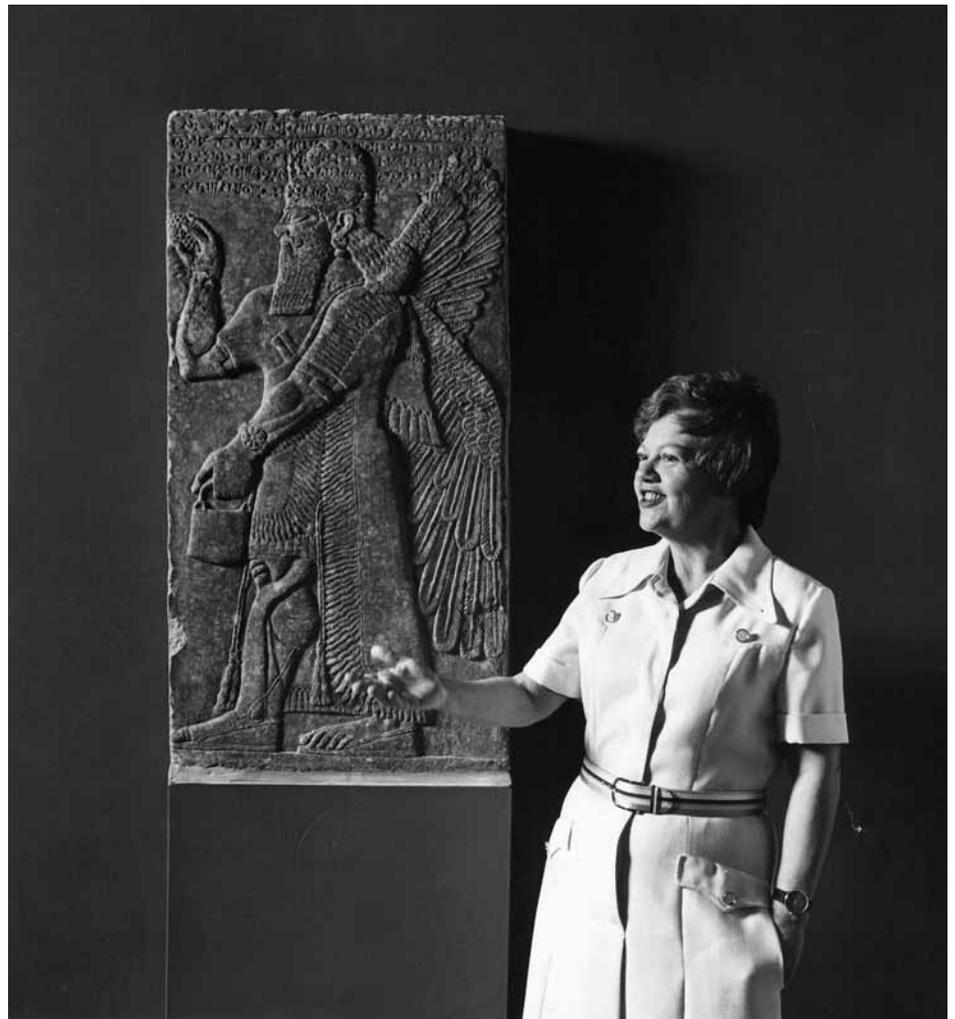


Figure 1. Erica Reiner, former editor of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary

and economic structure, its material culture, its values, and its beliefs, in short, it became a vehicle using an anthropological approach to understand and explicate a civilization alien and remote in time."<sup>4</sup>

The dictionary project, modeled originally after the venerable Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and later the Middle English Dictionary (MED),<sup>5</sup> grew not only in size and scope, but also in reputation as a rigorous and indispensable scholarly tool. While scholars worldwide feared it was a never-ending project,<sup>6</sup> the editorial process was continually refined as a result of its truly collaborative nature under the direction of a single distinguished scholar. This was expressed repeatedly by various editors<sup>7</sup> and succinctly by Carl Kraeling in November of 1958 (then the director of the Oriental Institute): "The Dictionary is a group enterprise of the Institute

and the group has a head..." so that the CAD is constantly negotiating the line between the "pitfalls of autocracy and the vague impersonal operation of committee."<sup>8</sup> While neither an autocracy nor a democracy, the workings of a group of established and accomplished scholars embarking on such a collaborative project required careful steps and planning alongside bold and decisive decisions. Reiner wrote that "forging tools happens in the heat of the forge, in a heat that may also singe and destroy. The heat in which the tool that became the CAD was forged was no exception."<sup>9</sup> So, while the internal collaboration was not always congenial,<sup>10</sup> it effected a true refining of the project itself, producing additions and corrections, with each editor contributing his or her own stamp to the project.<sup>11</sup> In this spirit, the tradition of passing the latest draft through

the in-house Editorial Board as well as to non-resident collaborators, and the careful consideration of all comments and suggestions, remains a vital practice through the publication of the final volume.<sup>12</sup>

A list of the editors for each published volume only reveals half of the history of the CAD. Long before publication began in 1956 under Oppenheim's editorship, over a million file cards were copied and compiled.<sup>13</sup> Thus the first three decades of the CAD primarily consisted of research, assembling of data, and setting (and re-setting) of process. Reiner credited Gelb with re-establishing the impetus of the project in the post-war period.<sup>14</sup> In fact, in 1947 Gelb predicted that the project would be accomplished in another ten years, five years for research and five years for writing.<sup>15</sup> In the ten years following,

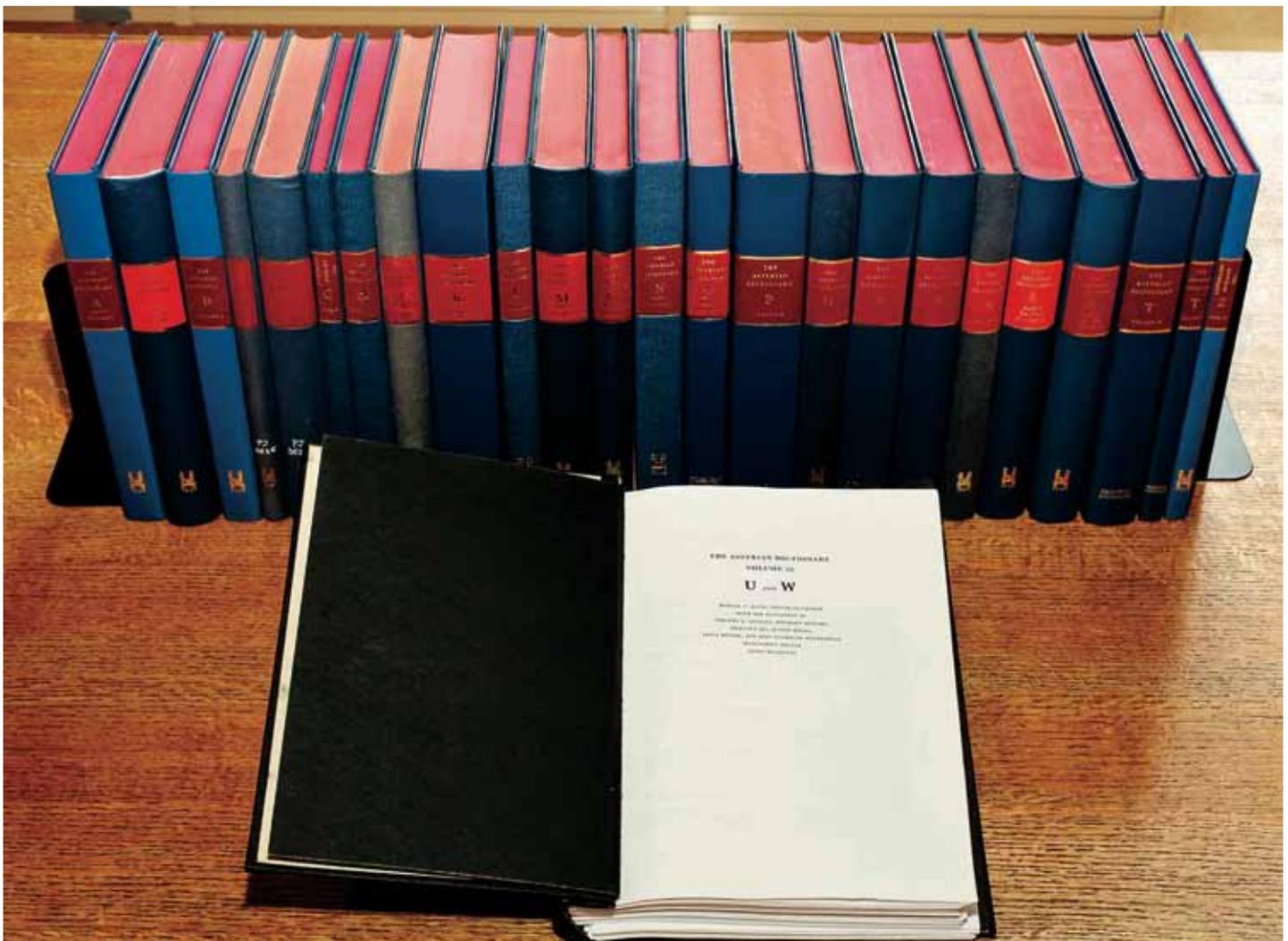


Figure 2. Published volumes of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary

however, the editorship of the CAD transferred to Oppenheim, who achieved the publication of the first two volumes (H and G) in 1956. Starting in 1958 there followed almost annually the publications of nine more volumes (D, I/J, Z, S, A/1, B, A/2, K, and L).<sup>16</sup> Ironically, this ten-year time line turned out to be a historically predictive, albeit incorrect, window that subsequent editors assigned to the remaining duration of the project, concluding with Martha T. Roth's statement in 1996 that (again) the project would be completed in ten years.

In the May–June 1991 issue of the *Oriental Institute News & Notes*, Matthew W. Stolper wrote in “The Chicago Assyrian Dictionary at Seventy”: “only one volume (U/W) remains to be started from scratch,”<sup>17</sup> and, echoing the established ten-year plan, Stolper reflected that the dictionary would be done in “ten years...or so.”<sup>18</sup> Now, almost twenty years later, the “or so” has at last arrived, and the final volume is due to appear in 2010 (fig. 2).

In the past two years of my association with the project, it appears to me that quick work has been done on the U/W volume. Although manuscript and galleys are sent to the compositor electronically, the last volume will reflect an amalgam of the old and the new. Each page is still read on paper by several staff members and editors, the bibliographic references are still carefully checked against the record kept in a taped-together cardboard drawer, and together Editor Martha Roth and Manuscript Editor Linda McLarnan bring a meticulous eye and years of experience to scrutinize each page. Now, however, bibliographic references are more easily cross-checked and standardized electronically, allowing the final work to progress ever more quickly.

The CAD has become much more than simply a dictionary, thesaurus, or even linguistic history. It is a production of “historical moments” conveyed through the words of the ancient texts.<sup>19</sup> The CAD has been a truly collaborative (ad)venture. The rows of file cabinets on the third floor of the Oriental Institute, bursting with millions of cards, each representing a single word, offer a glimpse

into the decades of work and partnership. This partnership has been fundamental to the ultimate success of the project as well as a defining characteristic of the final product. While some might view the project as needlessly prolonged (Roth frequently quotes Reiner quoting Landsberger decrying “insane haste”), others understand it to be an enduring monument to scholarship. The “dictionary” is not simply a tool of translation for Akkadian. It is rather a living compendium of the culture of Mesopotamian scholarship, continuously revised and reassessed with each new volume.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> A. Leo Oppenheim, “In memoriam Benno Landsberger,” *Orientalia*, n.s., 37 (1968): 367–70.

<sup>2</sup> Landsberger, quoted from Erica Reiner, *An Adventure of Great Dimension: The Launching of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary* (Philadelphia, 2002), p. 9.

<sup>3</sup> Reiner, *Adventure*, p. 44.

<sup>4</sup> Reiner, *Adventure*, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> Reiner, *Adventure*, pp. 1 and 40–43.

<sup>6</sup> Matthew W. Stolper, “The Chicago Assyrian Dictionary at Seventy,” *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 129 (1991): 2.

<sup>7</sup> Reiner, *Adventure*, p. 51.

<sup>8</sup> Reiner, *Adventure*, p. 53.

<sup>9</sup> Reiner, *Adventure*, p. 2.

<sup>10</sup> Reiner, *Adventure*, passim.

<sup>11</sup> For a list of the editors-in-charge as well as the date of publication of each volume, see Roth, “How We Wrote the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary,” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 69 (2010): 4, table 2.

<sup>12</sup> For a full list of collaborators, see Roth, “How We Wrote,” Appendices 1–3.

<sup>13</sup> Gelb, “Introduction,” CAD A/1, p. xvi.

<sup>14</sup> Reiner, *Adventure*, pp. 15–17.

<sup>15</sup> Gelb, “Introduction,” p. xv.

<sup>16</sup> Roth, “How We Wrote,” p. 4, table 2.

<sup>17</sup> Stolper, “Dictionary at Seventy,” p. 10.

<sup>18</sup> Stolper, “Dictionary at Seventy,” p. 1; the current article's title is inspired by Stolper's.

<sup>19</sup> This sentence is adapted from Stolper's article, “Dictionary at Seventy,” p. 10.

# FAMILY PROGRAM

## THE MAGIC CARPET: STORIES, SONGS, AND THE ART OF WRITING

Saturday, February 5

1:30–3:30 PM

Take a magic-carpet ride to the ancient world! Discover some of the world's oldest stories and songs during an afternoon filled with hands-on activities and museum treasure hunts. Learn how to write in Egyptian hieroglyphs, make your own ancient Egyptian-style book, and meet a “scribe” who will write your name as it would have appeared in cuneiform script on ancient clay tablets. The adventure continues with a special interactive performance by master storyteller Judith Heineman and musician Daniel Marcotte. Join them to explore how writing, one of the world's greatest inventions, began, and help them bring tales from ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia to life.

Recommended for children age 5 and up accompanied by an adult. This program is presented in conjunction with the special exhibit *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond*.

**FEE:** \$3 per person, payable at the door. Free for Oriental Institute members with membership card.



# THE CHICAGO DEMOTIC DICTIONARY

*Janet H. Johnson, Editor, Chicago Demotic Dictionary*

The Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD) is a lexicographic tool for reading texts written in a late stage of the ancient Egyptian language. Both the language itself and the highly cursive script in which it is written are known as Demotic. In use from around 650 BC until the middle of the fifth century AD, Demotic served as the medium for a wide variety of text types. These include “documentary” texts such as business and legal documents, private letters and administrative inscriptions, and “literary” texts, including not only works of literature, for example, narrative texts and pieces of wisdom literature, but also religious and magical texts and scientific texts dealing with topics such as astronomy, mathematics, and medicine. Demotic texts thus not only provide important witnesses for the development of ancient Egyptian linguistic and paleographical traditions but also constitute an indispensable source for reconstructing the social, political, and cultural life of ancient Egypt during a fascinating period of its history.

The CDD is intended to supplement and update W. Erichsen’s *Demotisches Glossar*, which was published in 1954 and has been the only large-scale dictionary of Demotic available to the scholarly world (fig. 1). The CDD (fig. 2) has been formatted to be compatible with Erichsen’s *Glossar* and is based mainly on texts published during the first twenty-five years after the *Glossar* appeared (i.e., 1955–1979). The coverage of texts published between 1955 and 1979 is intended to be comprehensive. In addition, the CDD contains some vocabulary from texts published before 1955, especially gleanings from a manuscript dictionary compiled by the great German Egyptologist and Demotist Wilhelm Spiegelberg, whose books, papers, and files are now part of the Oriental Institute collection. The CDD also includes a few items from texts published after 1979, especially

new studies of texts that were originally published between 1955 and 1979, but no systematic attempt has been made to include words from all texts published after 1979. Whenever possible, references to more recent secondary literature published in 1990 or later have been incorporated into the dictionary’s entries, though coverage of such references is not complete.

The CDD includes both words that are absent from Erichsen’s *Glossar* and new meanings or significant new orthographies for words cited by Erichsen. It also contains far more extensive examples of compounds, title(–string)s, and idiomatic expressions than the *Glossar*. Otherwise, if the CDD does not have significant new information to add to that adduced by Erichsen, a reference is given to the appropriate page(s) in the *Glossar*. In addition to the standard information provided in a dictionary or glossary (transliteration, translation, range of orthographies, connection with earlier and later stages of Egyptian or with contemporary foreign languages, especially Greek and various Semitic languages), we are including extensive examples of the words used in compounds, phrases, titles, divine epithets, and so on. In this way, people who are not themselves specialists in Demotic will be able to use the dictionary as a resource and entry point for accessing the wealth of social, cultural, historical, and religious information preserved in Demotic texts. For instance, for every geographic name that is included in the Chicago Demotic Dictionary, we include a referenced list of all deities associated with that geographic name, all temples attested in that geographic name, and so on. Even though these lists are complete only for the materials within our limited corpus (essentially 1955–1979), we hope they prove useful both to Demotists who need a good lexical resource and to Egyptologists, Copticists, Greek

papyrologists, and others for whom Demotic materials frequently can be very helpful.

Work on the CDD began in the mid-1970s with the inventorying of the notes, translations, photos, and hand copies of Demotic texts made by Wilhelm Spiegelberg and left to the Oriental Institute by his student William F. Edgerton, who also left his own papers to the Institute. Although we had originally intended simply to accept the suggested translation provided by the editor of a text, this soon proved to be inappropriate. Therefore we began preparing transliterations and translations of the very large number of Demotic texts that had been published during our twenty-five-year span. We prepared a 3" x 5" index card for every word in every text including suggested transliteration and translation, photocopy of the word as written in the text, context for the use of the word, and references to secondary discussions. The explosion in publication spurred by the publication of Erichsen’s *Glossar* included major individual texts, textual genres, and archives. George Hughes acted as support and invaluable resource as we began gathering data and writing dictionary entries.

As we drew close to beginning writing dictionary entries, the Macintosh computer appeared, and all the subsequent work of the CDD has been greatly facilitated by advances in personal-computer technology. All the exotic fonts that we need to use (e.g., Egyptian hieroglyphs, Coptic, Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, even a transliteration font with all the diacritics needed for transliteration of hieroglyphs and Demotic) are available or were designed by one of the dictionary staff. I won a scanner in an early Macintosh Fair and quickly realized that scanners could be used to record a digitized image of the cursive script and even to prepare a “line art” “hand copy” of every word, saving us thousands of hours of preparing old-fashioned hand copies

that, despite the modern editor's best efforts, are never as reliable and valuable to the scholar as a photo; graphics software allows for the easy adjustment of contrast and enlargement of images, making previously almost illegible texts much more readable. At some point after the CDD is finished, we will scan all the old index cards and drawings and make them available to others. The dictionary has always been open to anyone who comes to Chicago to take a look or who writes us asking about a particular word or example.

One intentional change from the format of Erichsen's *Glossar* was our decision to include the column and line number for every example we cite, making it possible for users to check the original for context. Our methodology borrows from that of the Epigraphic Survey: every entry is written by one senior member of the staff and is checked by a second. Only when they agree is the entry approved. Student assistants check publication references and references to other dictionaries, help prepare scans and "digital hand copies" of individual words, and have prepared two major appendixes. One appendix lists every text cited in the CDD and indicates its date and provenience, where and by whom it has been published, and whether the CDD staff had access to a photograph of the text or only an editor's hand copy. The other is an annotated bibliography that indicates the abbreviations used in the CDD.

### HOW TO READ A CDD ENTRY

Figure 2 is an entry from the letter R, to illustrate the type of information provided and the layout of the dictionary. In the left-hand column, in large bold type, is the transliteration of the word (*rmy*); in the first line of the middle column is the part of speech and suggested translation (v.it. [verb intransitive] "to weep, cry"); in the third column are given examples of the word identified by text, column, and line and date of the text (E P R for Early, Ptolemaic, and Roman; e.g., R P Vienna 10000, 2/14 indicates that the text was written during the Roman period, it is currently in the collections in Vienna, where it has the number 10000,

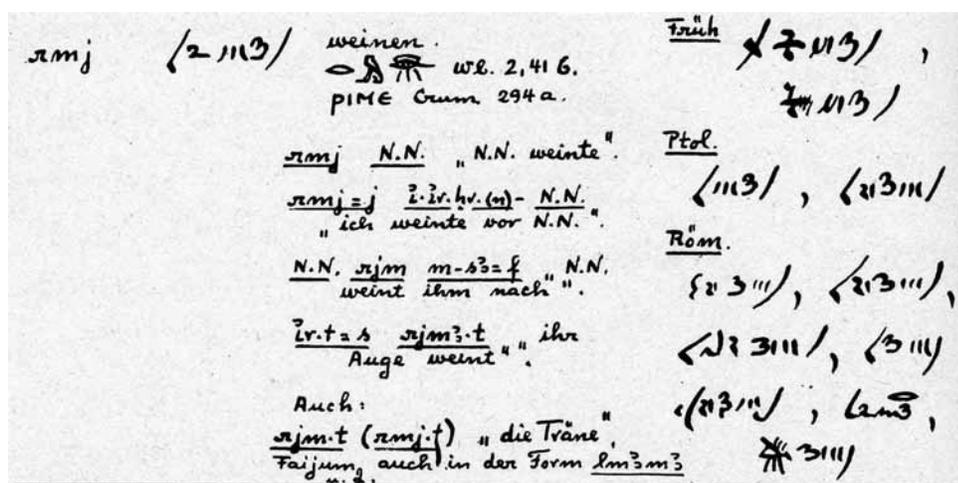


Figure 1. Sample page of Erichsen's *Demotisches Glossar*

<b>rmy</b>	v.it. "to weep, cry" = EG 246 = rmi Wb 2, 416 = PIME CD 294a, ČED 136, KHwB 163, DELC 172b	R P Vienna 10000, 2/14 R P 'Onch, 15/4
	var.	
<b>lmy</b>		R P Michael Bresc L5, 6 R P Vienna 10000, 2/15
	in phrases/clauses lri.t-s rjym3.t "her eye is crying" (EG 246; R P Mythus, 9/33) rmy lri-hr "to cry before" (EG 246) rmy m-s3 "to cry after" (EG 246)	
<b>tī rym</b>	"to make cry" hieroglyphic parallel has šrm "to make cry" Wb 4, 198/1 = L ТРИО ČED 194, KHwB 243, DELC 220b	R P Bib Nat 149, 1/32
<b>(rmy)∞</b>	n.m. "cry, lamentation"	R P Harkness, 2/2 (& passim)
<b>(rmy.t)∞</b>	n.f. "tear(s)" = EG 246 = Wb 2, 417/14-15 = PIME, Верми CD 294b, ČED 136, KHwB 163, DELC 172b	
	var.	
<b>šrm3</b>	see Jasnow, <i>BiOr</i> 44 (1987) 108 vs. Williams, <i>Studies Hughes</i> (1976), who read šrm3-s, took as v.t., but did not trans.	P P Louvre 2380 vo, 1/11
<b>šrm3.w</b>	n.pl.	P P Berlin 13603, 2/12
<b>rym.t</b>		R P BM 10588, 8/10
<b>lm3m3</b>	or? read lm3 + water determinative so now Quack, <i>Carlsberg Pap.</i> , 3 (2000) 170	R P Carlsberg 1, 6/12

Figure 2. Sample page of Chicago Demotic Dictionary

and the example cited occurs in line 14 of column 2). Whenever possible, the examples are given as a scan from the published photo and a black-and-white “line art” drawing prepared from that scan. On succeeding lines in the middle column are given references to the entry in Erichsen’s *Glossar* (EG 246), to the word attested in hieroglyphic and hieratic texts as attested in the *Wörterbuch der ägyptischen Sprache* (*rmi Wb* 2, 416), and in Coptic (PIME CD 294a, ČED 136, *KHWb* 163, *DELc* 172b [the abbreviations here being those of several different Coptic dictionaries]). Next follow variant writings (here two examples written *lmy* instead of *rmy*; the interchange of *r* and *l* was quite common); the transliteration of the variant writings is again given in large bold type to make it easy for the user to find them; and again, specific examples are given in scan and “line art” accompanied by date, collection information, and column and line.

The next category is the use of the term in phrases or clauses. All those cited in Erichsen’s *Glossar* are included; additional phrases or clauses are included from our corpus. In this particular entry, after three examples that were cited in Erichsen (for one of which we provide the actual papyrus column and line), we include the compound consisting of the verb “to cause” plus the entry verb “to cry.” In this case, the example (again cited in standard format in the third column) has a hieroglyphic parallel (*srm*) for which the *Wörterbuch* entry is cited (*Wb* 4, 198/1). This compound, in this case causative, verb is also attested in Coptic, references for which are provided in the next line.

Following this entry for the verb “to cry,” we give two entries for the related nouns “cry, lamentation” and “tear(s).” The large bold transliteration in the left-hand column is put in parentheses to indicate that these nouns are related to/derived from the preceding verb. The infinity mark (∞) indicates that our entry includes every example of this word that occurs in our corpus (specifically, in the corpus of materials published from 1954 to 1979). The entries for the nouns are similar to that for the verb. Note here, however, that references are given to secondary literature when one

scholar has re-read or re-translated a word originally read differently by an earlier scholar (e.g., Jasnow correcting Williams’ reading of the example written *ʒrmʒ* in P Louvre 2380 vo, 1/11). In some cases, the dictionary staff itself has suggested re-readings, and we are pleased when another scholar publishes the same suggestion, making our modification even more likely (e.g., Quack’s fairly recent published suggestion that the final signs in what had been read *lmʒmʒ* should actually be taken as the water determinative). Also note two other symbols used by the CDD to provide information to the user: the hieroglyphic sign for “hand” is used to mark a hand copy; the combination  $\epsilon \Rightarrow$  (as found on the black and white drawing of the plural example read *ʒrmʒ.w* in P Berlin 13603, 2/12) indicates that this drawing is a hand copy published by the editor of the text, not a “line art” drawing prepared by the CDD staff from the scan of the word. Whenever possible, we use such editors’ hand copies since the editors, in most cases, had access to the original documents, and their hand copies may reflect information we cannot see in a photograph (and, it saves us a great deal of time if we can use a good published editor’s hand copy). The other sign found in this entry is  $\text{☐}$ , a sign that was used by ancient scribes to mark a hole in a text he was copying; we use it the same way, to mark a word that is damaged and for which some letters/signs or parts thereof are missing. We do not attempt to reconstruct what the original looked like before the damage, but we do think it is important that the user be warned that the word is incomplete. In the example from P BM 10588, 8/10, which is marked with this sign in this entry, there would originally have been three downstrokes in the group second from the right (Demotic is written right to left, which is why the copies of the examples are all aligned along the right-hand margin).

Other entries may be much more complicated, with many more compounds, phrases, and clauses. In addition, as mentioned above, words that have been identified as borrowed from Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, or some other ancient language are identified as such and

basic references given. Place names and names of deities are given special treatment, including examples of all deities or temples associated with a place name, all place names or temples or priestly title(-string)s associated with a deity.

Nine years ago it was decided that, instead of waiting to finish the entire dictionary, we should post online the letters that we had completed. We have now prepared and posted on the Oriental Institute Web site PDFs of the entries for twenty-one letters and a prologue providing an introduction to the CDD, conventions used within the dictionary, lists of abbreviations, and so on. In the last couple of years, five new letter files have been finished, run past the Publications Office, and posted online. We are coming close to finishing. We have three letter files to finish, all in various stages of checking, adding scans, and so on. We are also checking two files that gather together month names and numbers. Finally, we have to finish the Text Information and Abbreviations and Bibliography files. The staff of the CDD has always been small, and the current staff is typical: François Gaudard, a research associate who works full time on the CDD (François started working on the CDD as a graduate student; after he finished his dissertation, he took one year off and worked on the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor before returning to the CDD; he is the mainstay of our operation) and graduate students Mary Szabady and Brittany Hayden, both of whom are writing or will write dissertations on Ptolemaic Egypt using Demotic materials. Volunteer Larry Lissak has spent numerous hours preparing scans of various Demotic texts.

The final dictionary will be published in hard copy and electronically, probably as a CD-ROM.

*URL for Demotic Dictionary home page (including recent annual reports and related materials):*

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/DEM/Demotic.html#Introduction>

*URL for published letters of the Demotic Dictionary:*

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/CDD/CDD.html>

# THE CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY

— *more than just a dictionary* —

*Theo van den Hout, Editor in Chief, Chicago Hittite Dictionary*

## SOME RECENT HISTORY

In 1910, exactly one hundred years ago, Bruno Güterbock, director of the German Orient Society and father of Hans Güterbock, co-founder of our Hittite Dictionary, received a letter from the representative of the Berlin Museums in Constantinople about unpaid salaries of local guards of the excavations at Boğazköy, the former Hittite capital Hattusa. After two very successful seasons in 1906 and 1907 there had been no further digging, but the Germans were eager to return in 1911. The German archaeologist and Assyriologist Hugo Winckler had found thousands of clay tablets in those first two campaigns and definitively established that the small village some 100 miles east of Ankara had once been the center of the mighty Hittite empire. The letter asked for money to pay the guards, who had received no money since Winckler had left in 1907, as well as for the upkeep of the dig house at Boğazköy.

Apparently, the money was sent, because Winckler was able to leave Berlin on May 8, 1911, and finally arrived in Boğazköy on June 23. In 1912 he led his final campaign. Several letters from Winckler to Güterbock written during the 1912 season tell of his finds, among which are fragments of correspondence between the Hittite and Egyptian royal courts, daily life at the modern village of Boğazköy (a murder among the laborers!), and his increasing health problems. These resulted in his death in April 1913 that put a preliminary end to the German excavations.

Winckler had been able to identify Boğazköy as the seat of the Hittite empire because of international diplomatic documents found there that were written in Akkadian, but the overwhelming

majority of the approximately 10,000 cuneiform texts unearthed by him were written in Hittite. Thus far this language had resisted attempts at decipherment. It wasn't until 1915 that the Czech scholar Bedrich Hrozný recognized it as an Indo-European language akin to Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, and others and that the "solution to the Hittite problem," as he called it, was found. That year may be seen as the true birth date of Hittitology.

## SOME LESS RECENT HISTORY

During the period of their empire (ca. 1650–1200 BC), the Hittites were

one of the superpowers of the ancient Near East alongside Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, and the Hurrians of the Mittani kingdom as well as the Mycenaean kings of Greece. In the heyday of its power, the empire stretched from the west coast of Anatolia to the upper Euphrates region in the east and covered much of modern-day Syria in the south (fig. 1). The island of Cyprus likewise fell in its sphere of influence. A remarkably continuous line of kings ruled this vast domain in an efficient system of provinces and provincial capitals from the central seat of administration Hattusa. Around 1200 BC, for reasons still imperfectly understood, the

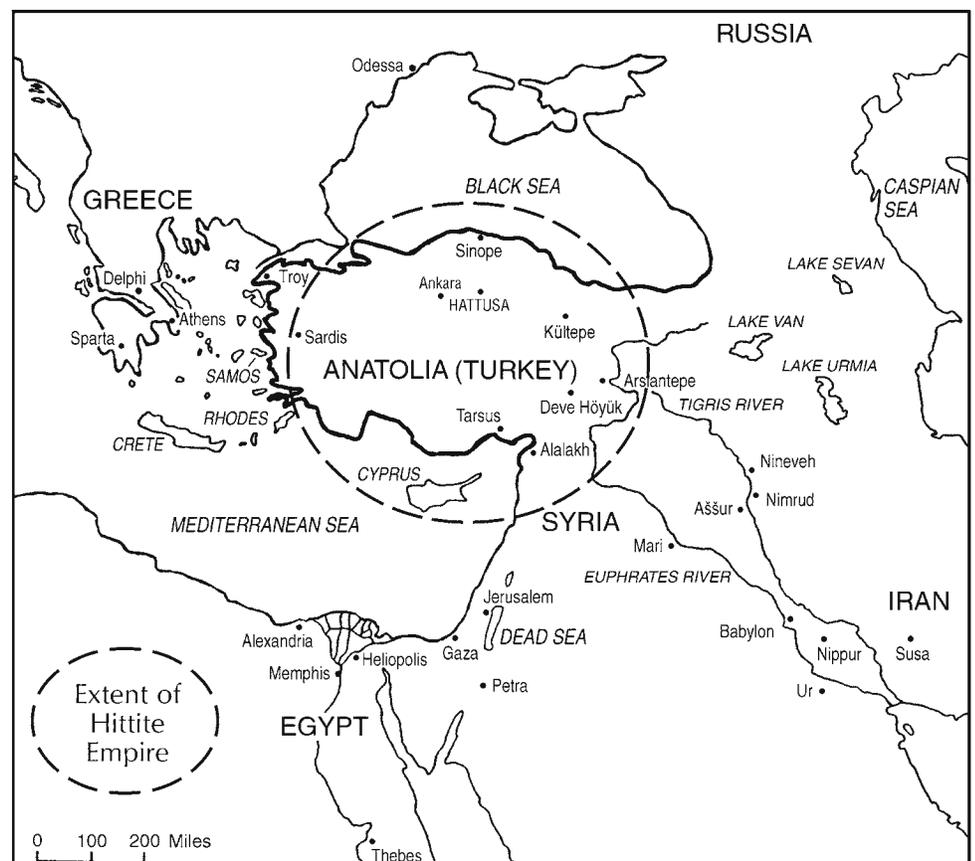


Figure 1. Map of ancient Near East showing where Hittite was spoken

Hittites decided to abandon their capital and to move toward the southeast, only to suddenly disappear from the stage of history, taking with them the Hittite language.

After having been forgotten for almost three thousand years, excavations from the early twentieth century onward have unearthed the impressive legacy of Hittite civilization. Remains of their culture have been found spread all over Anatolia, and the capital of Hattusa with its gates, sanctuaries, and palaces is one of the largest and most impressive places of the ancient Near East. The excavations also brought to light an enormous body of written documents: some 30,000 tablets and fragments of tablets are now known (fig. 2), and each year archaeological campaigns add new texts to this corpus: letters; historiography; laws and other legal and administrative documents; treaties and instructions; myths, prayers, and hymns; translations and adaptations of foreign literature

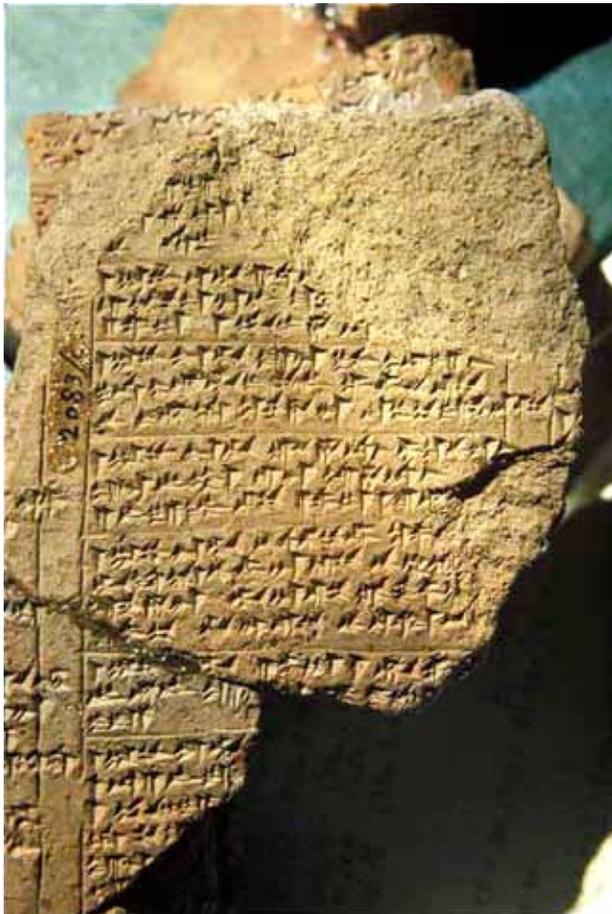


Figure 2. Typical clay tablet containing text written in the Hittite language, inscribed in the cuneiform script.

(including the Gilgamesh epic); oracles and omens; and a host of magic rituals and scenarios for religious festivals. All these texts allow us insight into a vibrant society matching a deeply felt religiosity to a great sense of realism and political astuteness. This varied corpus of texts often gives us a surprisingly direct and intimate picture of the Hittite ruling class with their all too human personal fears and anxieties.

Studying Hittite is studying some of the foundations of our modern Western civilization. Despite what is often thought, modern Western civilization did not start with the Greeks: the real cradle of our civilization stood in what is now the Middle East. Many literary and artistic themes and motifs can be traced back directly to that world, the Bible was embedded in ancient Near Eastern society, and the earliest forms of what we call modern science are found in Babylon. Anatolia is the natural bridge between those eastern and western worlds, and the Hittites and their later descendants in the same area served as intermediaries, passing on ancient Near Eastern culture to the West.

### THE ROAD TO THE CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY

Once Hittite had been deciphered by Hrozný in 1915, things developed rapidly: editions of the most important and interesting-looking texts were prepared, first outlines of Hittite history and culture were written, and volume after volume of copies of cuneiform texts appeared in print. Although Hittitology was largely a field of German scholarship and would remain so for a long time, British, French, Italian, and American scholars joined the effort. German excavations eventually resumed in 1931, and apart from a hiatus during and shortly after the Second



Figure 3. Logo of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. Seal of the Hittite Great King Mursili II (ca. 1318-1295 BC)

World War, they continue into the present day. Not surprisingly, in the United States it was James Henry Breasted who led the way. The Oriental Institute sent several “Syro-Hittite” expeditions to Anatolia in the 1920s and 1930s. As every visitor to our Anatolian galleries can see, these were very successful in southeast Anatolia and northern Syria at places like Tell Tayinat and Çatal Höyük, but in central Anatolia they were not as lucky as Winckler, and a real imperial Hittite site like Boğazköy never came their way.

However, as witnessed in a letter of December 1928, Breasted already dreamed of a Hittite dictionary:

In the course of the work on the Assyrian Dictionary, it has been necessary of course to do some work on the Hittite documents but it has not been intended heretofore to include the purely Hittite materials in our present Assyrian Dictionary. Nevertheless, it would obviously be highly desirable to produce a Hittite dictionary.

Breasted’s dream came true when in 1975 Hans Güterbock and Harry A. Hoffner joined forces and started *The Hittite Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*, as we are officially called. It is more commonly known as the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary* or CHD. In the *Annual Report* of that year, they explained the need for a Hittite-English dictionary, and the progress of the project can be followed in every *Annual Report* since

then. With the first of many grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1976, the necessary files were built up and the first entries written. A few years earlier in Munich, a Hittite-German dictionary had just started with the letter A, as any decent dictionary would. Wisely, however, Güterbock and Hoffner decided not to immediately replicate that work with their own English version. Instead L was chosen to be the first letter of the CHD, which came out in 1979. This was a wise decision indeed: as opposed to A, L is a relatively small letter with only few complicated or problematic entries. Every long-term project such as the CHD needs time to overcome initial problems and to establish a routine, and L was the perfect letter for doing so. Since then we have produced M, N, P, and over half of S. We plan to finish that letter in the coming year and are already working on T, the next letter in the Hittite “alphabet.”

### WHAT IS THE CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY?

The CHD is a comprehensive, bilingual Hittite-English dictionary. By “comprehensive” we mean that we claim to describe every word on the basis of all available material. Fortunately, the excavation of tablets and fragments continues, and our material basis is thus ever expanding. This means that we must make a continuous effort to update our files with every new fragment that is published.

Every entry in the dictionary is the result of a painstaking process: we aim to produce a dictionary that is not just a list of words and their meanings. If that were our goal, we would conclude next year. The vocabulary of a society reflects its ideas and its material world in all its aspects. A good dictionary is like an encyclopedia of the civilization whose language it records. The CHD is published in printed form but also accessible on the Internet as the eCHD through the Oriental Institute Web site. In its electronic form, it has Turkish meanings added to the English ones, so that we are actually a bit more than just bilingual.

Because Hittite is no longer a living language, the CHD is a passive dictionary, that is, meant to be used in translating and interpreting the source language (Hittite) into the target language (English) only. In such a field with native speakers no longer available, a top-quality dictionary is the most important tool of every philologist and an indispensable work of reference for historians and all others professionally involved in the study of the ancient Near East.

Ultimately, it is the task of Hittitologists to preserve, study, and make known and accessible to a wider audience the achievements of Hittite culture and society. The first and foremost tool is a good, reliable dictionary based on as much material as possible. That is what the Chicago Hittite Dictionary is and does.

URL for the eCHD:

<http://ochre.lib.uchicago.edu/eCHD/>

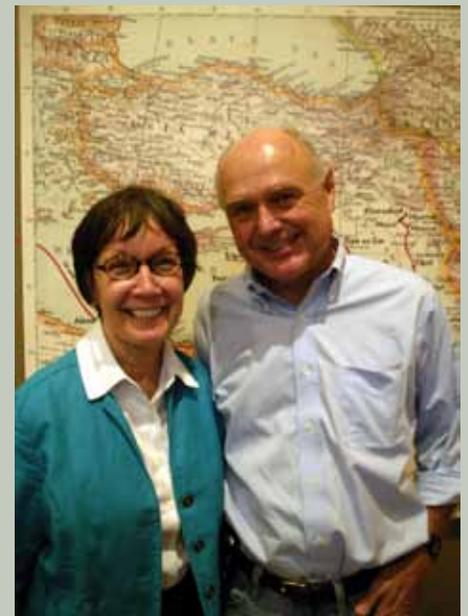
## Granddaughter of William A. Shelton Visits the Pioneers to the Past Exhibit

On August 29, Dr. Sarah Hill, the granddaughter of William A. Shelton, a member of the 1919–1920 Breasted expedition through the Middle East, visited the Oriental Institute to see the Pioneers to the Past special exhibit. As Dr. Hill recalls,

I adored my grandparents and spent every summer with them until my widowed grandfather came to live with us. As a child I often accompanied him when he gave slide presentations about the trip. The cadence of his voice as he came to each slide became as familiar to me as his warm laugh and deep faith. I loved hearing about tea on the summit of Cheops, lamb dinner in the Arab tents, and Queen Tiye’s mascara palette. The exhibition at the Oriental Institute brought me great joy and the happiest of memories.

Professor Shelton received an honorary degree in theology from Emory College (now University) in 1914, just years before the expedition. His association with Breasted dates to 1915–1916, when he continued his post-graduate studies with Breasted at the University of Chicago. Shelton served as a professor of Hebrew and Old Testament literature at Emory until his retirement in 1930. During the 1919–1920 expedition, he also acquired antiquities for Emory’s museum, some of which are on exhibit at the Michael C. Carlos Museum.

Dr. Hill’s visit follows a visit of five members of the Breasted family (see *News & Notes* No. 206). We are always happy to extend an especially warm welcome to the descendants of the men and women who played such important roles in the work of the Oriental Institute.



Dr. Sarah Hill with her husband Harold Hill



# THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE IN THE NEWS



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

## PIONEERS TO THE PAST EXHIBIT

### **Chicagoist**

August 8, 2010

"Last Chance: Arts Roundup." Announcement of closing of Pioneers exhibit — [http://chicagoist.com/2010/08/26/last\\_chance\\_arts\\_roundup.php](http://chicagoist.com/2010/08/26/last_chance_arts_roundup.php)

## VISIBLE LANGUAGE EXHIBIT

### **Time Out Chicago**

August 26–September 1, 2010

Around Town Fall Preview 2010. Features Inventions of Writing exhibit — <http://chicago.timeout.com/articles/museums-culture/88455/around-town-fall-preview>

### **Time Out Chicago**

September 23–29, 2010

Around Town: "Write Out of Nowhere" — <http://chicago.timeout.com/articles/museums-culture/89243/visible-language-at-the-oriental-institute>

### **Chicago Tribune**

September 25, 2010

"1st Scribes Face Familiar Fear of New Technology," by William Mullen— also online as "Before Twitter, Tweets Were Made of Stone and Clay": <http://chicago.tribune.com/news/ct-met-writing-invention-20100924,0,2431808.story>

### **Saudi Aramco World**

September/October 2010

"Visible Language"

### **Chicago SunTimes**

October 2, 2010

"Oriental Institute Shows Kids Write Way" — <http://www.suntimes.com/lifestyles/family/2764332,CST-FTR-familiy02.article>

### **The New York Times**

October 20, 2010

"Hunting for the Dawn of Writing, When Prehistory Became History," by Geraldine Fabrikant— <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/20/arts/design/20writing.html?src=twrh>

## GALLERY TOUR

### VISIBLE LANGUAGE: INVENTIONS OF WRITING IN THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST AND BEYOND

Emily Teeter

Wednesday, January 19

12:15 PM

FREE

Take a guided tour of our special exhibit Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond with Egyptologist Emily Teeter; learn how, why, and when writing was invented. Free. Pre-registration not required.



## SPECIAL FILM SHOWING

### CLEOPATRA FILM FESTIVAL FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Sundays, March 13, 20, and 27

2:00 PM

Breasted Hall

FREE

Celebrate Women's History Month on selected Sundays in March with Hollywood's most epic portrayal of Cleopatra. Then discover historians' views in a highly regarded documentary film about ancient Egypt's legendary queen. Free. Reservations not required.

*Cleopatra* (1963)

Part I: Sunday, March 13

Part II: Sunday, March 20

View one of the greatest film spectacles ever made as it should be seen, on the big screen. Elizabeth Taylor stars as Cleopatra in one of the most glamorous roles of her career, along with superb performances by Rex Harrison as Julius Caesar and Richard Burton as Mark Antony. This Oscar-winning film, which includes Hollywood's

most flamboyant entrance — Cleopatra's dazzling arrival in Rome — was called a major failure by some when it was released, but critics today describe *Cleopatra* as one of Hollywood's most astonishingly grand epic productions. 120 minutes each Sunday showing.

*Cleopatra: Destiny's Queen* (1994)

Sunday, March 27

Compare Hollywood's Cleopatra with her portrayal in this documentary from the A&E Biography series. Combining rare footage with research material and exclusive interviews, *Cleopatra: Destiny's Queen* presents a biographical portrait of Cleopatra that strives to separate myth from fact.



# WINTER ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

*The following three courses are co-sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies. Each course provides Teacher Recertification CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education, and each counts as an elective for the Graham School's non-credit certificate in Arabic Language and Cultures. For more information, call Public Education at (773) 702-9507.*

## "OUR LIVER IS HAPPY, OUR HEART IS JOYFUL": DRINKS AND DRINKING CULTURE IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Michael Fisher & Tate Paulette

Wednesdays, January 12–February 16

7:00–9:00 PM

Oriental Institute

Wine-soaked statues? Beer through a straw? Drunken brawls in the divine assembly? Come learn about the first alcoholic beverages and the development of drinking cultures in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Anatolia, and the Levant. From the earliest evidence for Neolithic fermentation to Bronze Age Babylonian beer gods and Iron Age Phoenician wine merchants, this six-week course explores a broad range of archaeological and historical evidence for the production, consumption, and cultural significance of ancient spirits. The course concludes with a hands-on experiment in Mesopotamian-style brewing. That's right — we will be making our own beer using ancient Babylonian recipes.

**INSTRUCTORS:** Michael Fisher is a PhD candidate in Mesopotamian Archaeology in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and is co-author of the popular whisky blog *WhiskyParty.net*. Tate Paulette is a PhD candidate in Mesopotamian Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago and is a fledgling home brewer.

**CPDUs:** 12

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** The instructors will provide a packet of readings at the first class session.

*This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Wednesdays beginning January 12 and continuing through February 16. Pre-registration is required.*

## INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS

Foy Scalf

Thursdays, January 13–March 3

7:00–9:00 PM

Oriental Institute

Learn to read the "divine words" of ancient Egypt! This course offers an introduction to the script and grammar of Middle Egyptian, the classical phase of the ancient Egyptian language. Each class focuses on grammatical analysis and discussion of exercises and readings from short historical, literary, and religious texts. Due to our limited meeting time, preparation outside class is essential. Students should be prepared to spend approximately six hours per week of independent study to maximize their understanding of Egyptian grammar. A subsequent intermediate course will be offered for those desiring to continue their study of Middle Egyptian.

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

**CPDUs:** 16

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

James E. Hoch. *Middle Egyptian Grammar*. Mississauga: Benben Publications, 1997.

James E. Hoch. *Middle Egyptian Grammar: Sign List*. Mississauga: Benben Publications, 1998.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS:**

Alan H. Gardiner. *Egyptian Grammar: An Introduction to the Study of Hieroglyphs*. 3rd edition. London: Oxford University Press, 1957.

Raymond O. Faulkner. *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1964.

*This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Thursdays beginning January 13 and continuing through March 3. Pre-registration is required.*

## IRAN PAST AND PRESENT

Tobin Hartnell

Saturdays, January 15–February 19

10:00 AM–12:00 NOON

Oriental Institute

Despite recent news coverage, Iran is still a relatively unknown country in the West. Yet the cultural and spiritual traditions of this enigmatic land have influenced Western history since ancient times. Explore Iran from its earliest settlements to the present day as we examine how the land became home to the ancient Persian empire, its role along the famed Silk Road, its tribal and nomadic traditions, its impact as birthplace of Zoroastrianism and a medieval home for Sh'ia Islam, its great cities, and the roles of women. The course ends with discussion of what living and working in Iran is like today.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Tobin Hartnell, an archaeologist and PhD candidate in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, has worked on an archaeological survey project in Iran since 2004.

**CPDUs:** 12

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** TBD

*This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON on Saturdays beginning January 15 and continuing through February 19. Pre-registration is required.*



# WINTER 2011 CALENDAR

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

## JANUARY

- 2 | SUNDAY **Breasted Hall closed for the holidays**
- 9 | SUNDAY **Sign, Symbol, and Script: The Origins of Written Communication and the Birth of Writing**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 16 for details
- 12 | WEDNESDAY **Visible Language: The Earliest Writing Systems**  
Members' Lecture  
7:00 PM  
See page 18 for details
- "Our Liver Is Happy, Our Heart Is Joyful": Drinks and Drinking Culture in the Ancient Near East**  
Adult Education Course  
7:00 PM  
See page 13 for details
- 13 | THURSDAY **Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs**  
Adult Education Course  
7:00 PM  
See page 13 for details
- 15 | SATURDAY **Iran Past and Present**  
Adult Education Course  
10:00 AM  
See page 13 for details
- 16 | SUNDAY **The Bible's Buried Secrets**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 16 for details
- 19 | WEDNESDAY **Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond**  
Gallery Tour  
12:15 PM  
See page 12 for details
- 23 | SUNDAY **Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 16 for details
- 30 | SUNDAY **Alexander the Great**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 16 for details

## FEBRUARY

- 5 | SATURDAY **The Magic Carpet: Stories, Songs, and the Art of Writing**  
Family Event  
1:30 PM  
See page 5 for details
- 6 | SUNDAY **Sign, Symbol, and Script: The Origins of Written Communication and the Birth of Writing**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 16 for details
- 9 | WEDNESDAY **Urban Life in an Ancient Assyrian City: Results from Ziyaret Tepe, Turkey**  
Members' Lecture  
7:00 PM  
See page 18 for details
- 13 | SUNDAY **The Sun Was the Only Witness**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 16 for details
- 20 | SUNDAY **The Mummies of the Heretics**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 16 for details
- 26 | SATURDAY **Cuneiform 101**  
Adult Education Workshop  
1:30 PM  
See page 20 for details
- 27 | SUNDAY **Nubia and the Mysteries of Kush**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 16 for details

## MARCH

- 2 | WEDNESDAY **The Rise and Fall of Kerkenes Dağ**  
Members' Lecture  
7:00 PM  
See page 18 for details
- 6 | SUNDAY **Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond**  
Last Day to View the Special Exhibit

# WINTER 2011 CALENDAR

## MARCH

6 | SUNDAY

**Sign, Symbol, and Script: The Origins of Written Communication and the Birth of Writing**

Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 16 for details

13 | SUNDAY

**Cleopatra, Part I**

Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details

20 | SUNDAY

**Cleopatra, Part II**

Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details

27 | SUNDAY

**Cleopatra: Destiny's Queen**

Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details

28 | MONDAY

**The First Pharaohs**

Members' Preview  
6:00 PM  
See page 19 for details

29 | TUESDAY

**The First Pharaohs**

Exhibit Opens to the Public  
See page 19 for details



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS REGISTRATION FORM

Don't miss out — register early!

Please enroll me in the following Public Education Programs:

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> "Our Liver Is Happy, Our Heart Is Joyful": Drinks and Drinking Culture in the Ancient Near East	_____ \$175	_____ \$225	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs	_____ \$295	_____ \$345	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Iran Past and Present	_____ \$175	_____ \$225	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cuneiform 101	_____ \$20	_____ \$25	_____
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	_____

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  Credit card

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 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 Education Office reserves the right to refuse to retain any student in any class at any time.

## SUNDAY FILMS

Each Sunday afternoon, enjoy the best in documentary and feature films on the ancient Near East at the Oriental Institute. Films begin at 2:00 PM, and running times range from 30 to 50 minutes unless otherwise noted. There is no admission fee. Following the films, museum docents will be available in the galleries to answer questions about our exhibits.

### January 2 Breasted Hall closed for winter break

#### January 9 *Sign, Symbol, and Script: The Origins of Written Communication and the Birth of Writing* (1996)

Written language is arguably humankind's most important invention. This film explores such topics as the function of tokens and wall paintings; the emergence of Egyptian hieroglyphs, Mesopotamian cuneiform, and Chinese ideograms; the influence of Sinaitic script; and the metamorphosis of the Phoenician alphabet into the Latin characters we use today. After viewing this film, be sure to visit our special exhibit, Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond.

#### January 16 *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 minutes.

#### January 23 *Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization* (2007)

This major 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.

#### January 30 *Alexander the Great* (2001)

Beginning in Macedonia, the empire of Alexander the Great quickly grew to include virtually all the known world in ancient times. This film from the Discovery Channel *Conquerors* series profiles a warrior king of mythic proportions who continues to live on as an icon of martial prowess and a figure of fascination.

#### February 6 *Sign, Symbol, and Script: The Origins of Written Communication and the Birth of Writing* (1996)

See January 9 listing.

Celebrate African American History Month with three important documentaries on ancient Egypt and Nubia. 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.

#### February 13 *The Sun Was the Only Witness*

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

#### February 20 *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.

#### February 27 *Nubia and the Mysteries of Kush* (2001)

This film highlights the splendors of an ancient kingdom in what is now the country of Sudan. Footage includes visits to several archaeological sites, focusing on the discoveries and preservation efforts underway. Created by Emmy Award-winning producer Judith McCrae, the film also explores the natural beauty of the region, accompanied by an original musical score composed by Nubian artist Hamza El Din.

#### March 6 *Sign, Symbol, and Script: The Origins of Written Communication and the Birth of Writing* (1996)

See January 9 listing.

Celebrate Women's History Month for the remainder of March with an epic Hollywood portrayal of Cleopatra, followed by an acclaimed documentary on ancient Egypt's legendary queen (see p. 12)

#### March 13 *Cleopatra Part I* (1963) 120 minutes

#### March 20 *Cleopatra Part II* (1963) 120 minutes

#### March 27 *Cleopatra: Destiny's Queen* (1994)



# VISITING COMMITTEE NEWS

*We'd like to inform you about a few changes to the makeup of our Visiting Committee this year.*



O. J. Sopranos

**O. J. (JIM) SOPRANOS** has stepped down as Visiting Committee chair. Jim oversaw the successful completion of our Research Endowment Campaign, a long-term initiative to build endowments for six areas of the Oriental Institute, and the start of our Adopt-a-Dig campaign. Throughout his tenure, Jim has provided us with the firm leadership, guidance, and support needed to successfully run the Visiting Committee and Oriental Institute programs. We look forward to continuing to

rely on Jim's advice and support in the coming years as he continues to serve on the Visiting Committee Executive Committee. In recognition of Jim's service as the Visiting Committee chair, at the Spring Visiting Committee meeting on May 3, 2010, he was presented with a framed photograph of a Greek sculpture found in the Treasury at Persepolis, as well as a personalized copy of OIP 69 Persepolis II, which chronicles the sculpture's discovery.

**HARVEY PLOTNICK** was appointed as our new Visiting Committee chair on July 1, 2010. Harvey was president and CEO of Paradigm Holdings, Inc., until his retirement in 2007. He was formerly president and CEO of Molecular Electronics Co., and previously he founded and was president and CEO of Contemporary Books, Inc., which was one of the largest publishers of adult basic education instructional materials in the United States. Harvey has a great fondness for the Oriental Institute and its mission, and he is very excited to be leading new and ongoing initiatives.

A 1963 graduate in English literature from the University of Chicago, Harvey has chaired a number of its major fundraising campaigns, including

the \$650 million Campaign for the Next Century, which ended in 1996. He chaired the College and Student Activities Visiting Committee and was a member of the Alumni Association's Board of Governors and Chair of the College Visiting Committee. Harvey has been a member of Argonne's Board of Governors since 2001. He is also a member of the University of Chicago's Board of Trustees. He and his wife endowed the Elizabeth and Harvey Plotnick Scholarship fund for undergraduate students, as well as a fund for graduate students in the physical sciences at the University. Please join us in welcoming Harvey as the new chair of our Visiting Committee.



Harvey Plotnick



Janet Helman

**JANET HELMAN** received special recognition this year by being awarded the title of Life Member of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee. This is in honor of her many years of support for the Oriental Institute both financially and in her role as docent and volunteer. Please join us in congratulating Janet on this wonderful honor.

# MEMBERS' LECTURES

*The Oriental Institute Members' Lecture Series is a unique opportunity for supporters of the Oriental Institute to learn about the ancient Middle East from world-renowned scholars. Unless specified below, all 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.*

## VISIBLE LANGUAGE: THE EARLIEST WRITING SYSTEMS

Wednesday, January 12, 2011\*

7:00 PM

Christopher Woods, Oriental Institute

The ability to represent language graphically, to make language visible, stands as one of humanity's greatest intellectual and cultural achievements. Given in conjunction with the special exhibit, Visible Language, this lecture explores how and why humans first invented writing by comparing the Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Chinese, and Mesoamerican inventions — four instances in history where writing was invented “out of nothing.” In this lecture, Christopher Woods discusses cultural contexts and structural features of each of these systems, focusing on important similarities and differences among them.

\* Please note that this lecture is being held on the second Wednesday in January.

*This lecture is presented in conjunction with the special exhibit, Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond.*

## URBAN LIFE IN AN ANCIENT ASSYRIAN CITY: RESULTS FROM ZIYARET TEPE, TURKEY

Wednesday, February 9, 2011\*

7:00 PM

Lyn Rainville, Sweet Briar College

*Co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America*

The Assyrian city of Tushhan was an important urban center on the edge of the empire. Among the city's residences, excavations at the home of the city tax collector has led to a discovery of a small archive of unbaked cuneiform tablets, detailing aspects of everyday life in this fortified town, and possibly some of the last extant Assyrian letters written shortly before the town's fall in 612 BC. This lecture details the discovery of this archive, as well as other results from excavations at the site.

\* Please note that this lecture is being held on the second Wednesday in February.

## THE RISE AND FALL OF KERKENES DAĞ

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

7:00 PM

Scott Branting, Oriental Institute

The past two seasons of excavation at Kerkenes Dağ have revealed exciting new evidence about the creation and destruction of this extraordinary imperial capital in the mid-sixth century BC. Located in the heart of Turkey, just to the north of Cappadocia, Kerkenes Dağ has for almost a century lain shrouded in mystery. Now with the latest excavations, including the investigation of a potential Phrygian temple this past summer, new light is being shed on what transpired in this mega-city in the years prior to its fiery destruction.



## SASANIAN IRAN: THE OTHER GREAT EMPIRE OF LATE ANTIQUITY

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Touraj Daryaee, University of  
California–Irvine

## THE LURE OF THE RELIC: COLLECTING THE HOLY LAND

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Morag Kersel, Oriental Institute  
and DePaul University



# THE FIRST PHARAHOHS

**AN UPCOMING SPECIAL EXHIBIT AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE**

**March 29 to December 31, 2011**

The most fundamental aspects of ancient Egyptian civilization — architecture, hieroglyphic writing, a belief in the afterlife, and allegiance to a semi-divine king — can be traced to Egypt's Predynastic era before the first pharaohs emerged in about 3200 BC. This exhibit explores the origins of ancient Egyptian civilization through its material culture and shows how these early materials shed light on our understanding of later Egyptian culture.

Special features of the exhibit include discussions of the discovery of the Predynastic period, how this pre-literate culture can be dated, techniques of pottery manufacture, and the splendor of the tombs of the earliest kings.

The objects in the exhibit come from the spectacular permanent collection of the Oriental Institute that includes pottery, lithics, and a wide range of objects from the tombs of the kings of the First and Second Dynasties at Abydos. Most of the objects have known provenance, coming from excavations of the Egypt Exploration Fund (now Society). The exhibit gives us the opportunity to display this extraordinary and important collection, most of which is usually in storage.

The companion catalog contains essays by fifteen pre-eminent scholars of the Predynastic and Early Dynastic periods. This richly illustrated book gives the most up-to-date information about the era and the broadest look at the material culture of the time.

## SAVE THE DATE

### MEMBERS' PREVIEW

#### THE FIRST PHARAHOHS

**Monday, March 28, 2010**

**6:00–8:30 PM**

Please RSVP by March 21, 2010, to Meghan Winston, Special Events Coordinator, at [meghanwinston@uchicago.edu](mailto:meghanwinston@uchicago.edu) or (773) 834-9775.



## JOIN/RENEW TODAY!

I would like to become a Member of the Oriental Institute / Please renew my Oriental Institute membership

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$50 Annual Member
- \$40 Senior Member (65+)
- \$40 National Associate (US residents 100 miles from Chicago)
- \$75 Overseas Member (residents outside the US)
- \$100 Supporting Associate
- \$500 Sponsoring Associate
- \$1,000 James Henry Breasted Society

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

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit security code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

You can also renew by calling (773) 834-9777 or visiting us online at [oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/](http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/)

Questions? E-mail or call the Membership Office: [oi-membership@uchicago.edu](mailto:oi-membership@uchicago.edu) / (773) 834-9777

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

## ON VIEW NOW!

Don't miss our special exhibit, *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in Ancient Middle East and Beyond*. This fascinating show presents the newest research on the origins of writing. It contains examples of the earliest writing from Mesopotamia that has never been exhibited in the United States, as well as an example of the earliest proto-Alphabetic text, on loan from the Harvard Semitic Museum. The exhibit has been featured in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *New York Times* and *Saudi Aramco World* magazine. The show continues through March 6, 2011.



Archaic administrative text recording the amount of grain needed for a given size field, written in an early form of cuneiform script. The earliest texts from Mesopotamia record economic transactions. Iraq, ca. 3100 BC. OIM A2515. Photo by Anna Ressler



Clay ball marked with an official's seal. The ball encloses clay "tokens" which are thought to be the forerunners of numbers or of writing. Iran, Chogha Mish, ca. 3350–3100 BC. OIM A32474. Photo by Anna Ressler



Double-sided ivory tag with an early hieroglyphic inscription recording the name of a year in the reign of King Qa'a and the name of a product made of bird oil. From Abydos, Egypt, ca. 2890 BC. OIM E6192. Photo by Anna Ressler

## ADULT EDUCATION WORKSHOP

CUNEIFORM 101 with KATHLEEN MINECK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 1:30–3:30 PM

Try your hand at an ancient scribal tradition by creating your own cuneiform tablet during this special adult-education workshop on one of the world's earliest inventions — writing. Join Kathleen Mineck, PhD candidate in Hittitology and managing editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, for a richly illustrated lecture, a hands-on lesson in producing cuneiform script, and a gallery tour to explore how that script was used to record laws, confirm business transactions, glorify royalty, and produce great literature in a variety of languages all across the ancient Middle East.

**FEE:** \$20 Oriental Institute Members, \$25 non-members. Includes lecture, hands-on lesson, tour, and all materials. Pre-registration is required.

*This event is presented in conjunction with the special exhibit *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond*.*

# the 2010 Oriental Institute Holiday Gift Guide

Looking for a unique gift for a friend or family member this holiday season? Give the gift of the Oriental Institute! The Suq, the Oriental Institute's gift and book shop, has a delightful selection of gifts for all interests, ages, and budgets.

A selection of five note cards featuring objects from the special exhibit Visible Language. \$6.95; M \$6.25\*



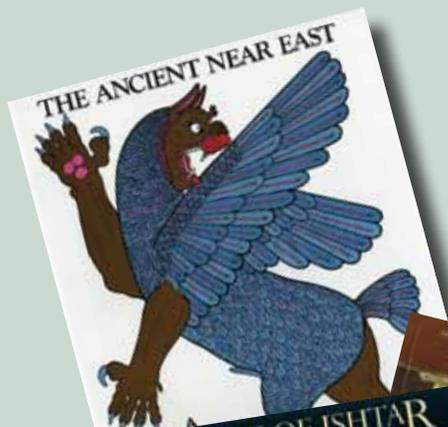
Alabaster tea light, carved in Egypt. \$12.95; M \$11.65



Egyptian-style sterling silver earrings of high-quality lapis and turquoise or carnelian and turquoise. Just in, these are specially made for the Suq. \$19.50; M \$17.55

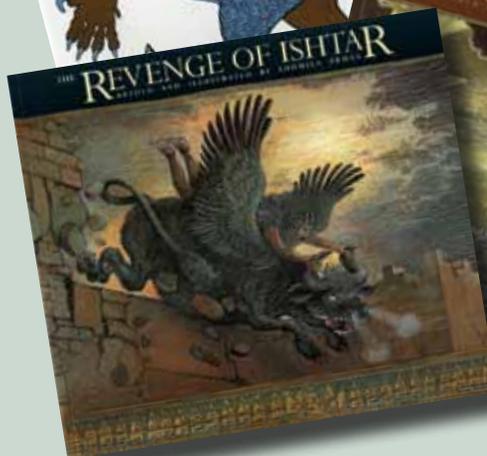


Natural olive soap made in Syria from a millennia-old recipe. \$4.99; M \$4.50



Children's books, each page beautifully illustrated:

- *The Last Quest of Gilgamesh* \$8.95 M \$8.05
- *The Revenge of Ishtar* \$8.95 M \$8.05
- *The Ancient Near East: A Bellerophon Coloring Book* \$4.95; M \$4.45



Don't forget the **MEMBERS' SALE!**  
November 30–December 8,  
Members can double their discount and receive 20% off all merchandise!

\* Denotes Members' Price = 10% discount

# the 2010 Oriental Institute Holiday Gift Guide

Let us take the hassle out of your holiday shopping with these three easy-to-give and easy-to-ship gift ideas!



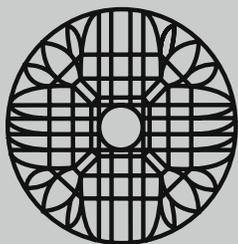
## Membership Gifts

Share *News & Notes*, special invitations to Members' events, discounts, and other Members-only perks with a friend or loved one by giving them the gift of Oriental Institute membership – a gift that lasts throughout the year! Let us take care of the wrapping and shipping for you – memberships come beautifully packaged and include a personalized note on a colorful Oriental Institute note card, an introductory DVD, and the most recent edition of *News & Notes* and the *Annual Report*. Membership begins at \$50, and gifts are tax deductible. Membership gifts can be ordered online or over the phone.

**ONLINE:** <https://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/>

**PHONE:** (773) 834-9777

**Membership gifts should be ordered by December 17 to ensure a December 25 arrival.**

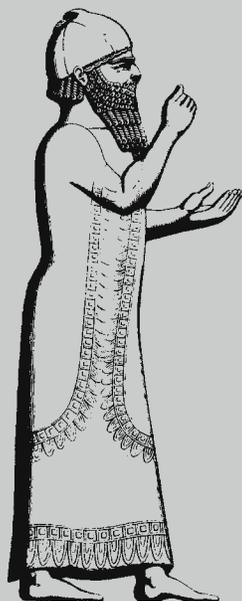


## The Research Archives Adopt-a-Journal Campaign

Give the gift of knowledge this year with two gifts for the price of one! Adopt a journal or book for the Research Archives, and we will memorialize your gift with a personalized bookplate honoring someone of your choice. Demonstrate your commitment to the preservation of knowledge and learning for future generations of Oriental Institute Members, scholars, and visitors.

**ONLINE:** <http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/adopt-a-journal.html>

**PHONE:** (773) 702-9537

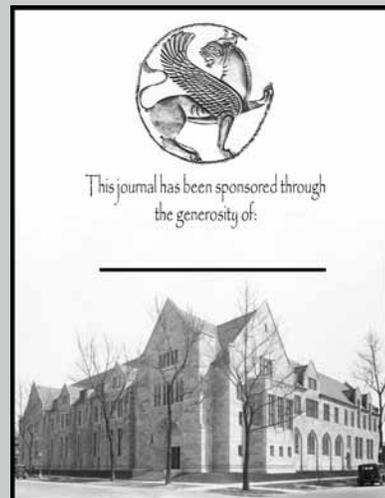


## Donate

Do you have a friend who is particularly drawn to an Oriental Institute excavation? A family member who would have loved to see the completed Chicago Hittite Dictionary? Donating to the Oriental Institute in honor or in memory of a loved one is a thoughtful gift that gives tribute to the recipient while also contributing to the work and mission of the Oriental Institute. Gift recipients and gift donors receive a personalized thank-you letter from Director Gil Stein and are recognized in the Oriental Institute *Annual Report*.

**ONLINE:** <https://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/donate/>

**PHONE:** (773) 702-5062



## MEMBERS' PREVIEW

### *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond*

*by Meghan Winston*

On September 27, 2010, 216 Oriental Institute Members enjoyed an exclusive preview of *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond*, a special exhibit showcasing the earliest writing systems in the world.

After Gil Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute, welcomed all guests, Geoff Emberling, Chief Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum and Research Associate, introduced Christopher Woods, Associate Professor of Sumerian, as the Guest Curator of our newest exhibit. During his talk, Woods helped members understand the origins of written language through ancient cuneiform tablets, hieroglyphics, and Chinese characters.

Following Woods' lecture, guests were invited to tour the exhibit in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery and enjoyed a reception with delectable hors d'oeuvres from *Amazing Edibles* in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. Members were also treated to an expanded selection at the *Suq*, which featured specially ordered merchandise and autographed copies of exhibit catalogs.

A special thank-you goes out to Gil Stein, Steve Camp, Chris Woods, Geoff Emberling, Emily Teeter, Maeve Reed, Erik Lindahl, Brian Zimerle, Adam Lubin, Elise MacArthur, Joanna Derman, Monica Crews, and Megaera Lorenz for all they did to ensure the night's success.

*Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond* runs until March 6, 2011, at the Oriental Institute.



A string quartet entertains guests in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery



Modern-day "scribes" write guests' names in ancient scripts like cuneiform and hieroglyphics



Oriental Institute members view the *Visible Language* exhibit in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery

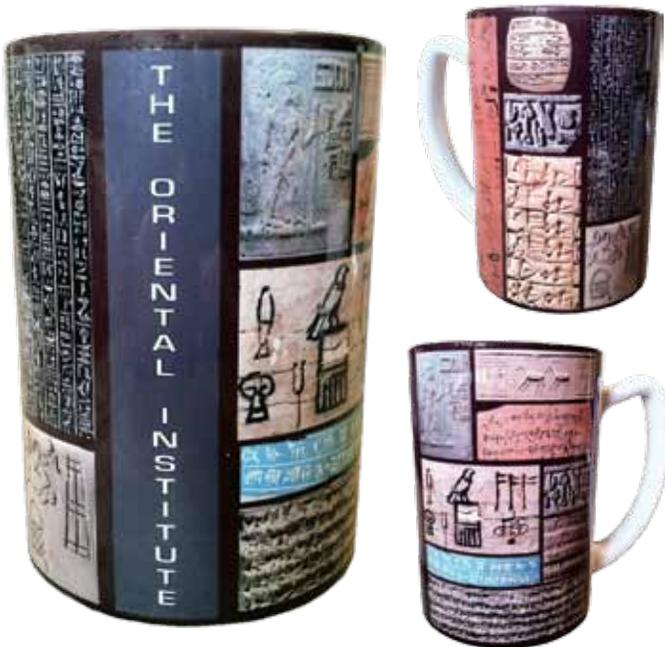
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THE SUQ

## CORNER

### NEW AT THE SUQ



#### Visible Language Mug

14 oz. mug \$9.00

Full-color images wrap the entire mug. Contains a sampling of the most popular pieces from the exhibit. Practice your hieroglyphic Luwian while you sip your coffee in the morning!

Looking for more gift ideas for your holiday gift list? Check out the Oriental Institute Holiday Gift Guide on page 21.