



## **EXCAVATIONS AT MARJ RABBA**



### **ALSO INSIDE:**

- ★ Volunteer Spotlight
- ★ Picturing the Past: The New Special Exhibit

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## NEWS & NOTES

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### COVER ILLUSTRATION:

*Student excavators (from the University of Toronto and Washington University in St. Louis) from the first season at Marj Rabba, 2009*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

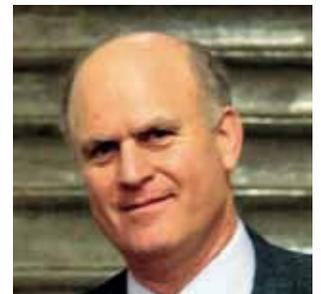
In one of the most powerful passages in T. S. Eliot's poem "The Waste Land," he writes,

*What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow  
Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man,  
You cannot say, or guess, for you know only  
A heap of broken images*

The poem gets to the heart of the challenge that faces us in our research — how can we re-discover the past and communicate our findings to scholars and the public, when the surviving remains are so fragmentary? How can we reconstruct what was lost, understand what we have found, and represent it accurately, when all we have to work with are "a heap of broken images"? The two articles in this issue of *News & Notes* address the poet's challenge — and provide some fascinating answers that go to the very heart of the process of discovery.

Yorke Rowan and Morag Kersel describe the exciting new discoveries of the ongoing Oriental Institute excavations at Marj Rabba as part of the Galilee Prehistory Project. This work is shedding new light on the Chalcolithic period in the southern Levant. The Chalcolithic (roughly 4500–3600 BC) is the time when societies across the Near East began to develop religious institutions, economic specialization, copper metallurgy, long-distance trade, social ranking, and formal political leaders — the foundation that would eventually develop into the first civilizations or state societies in the Fertile Crescent. Although archaeologists had previously excavated some Chalcolithic sites in the arid Negev Desert of southern Israel, until recently we knew almost nothing about the Chalcolithic culture in the rich, well-watered, and more central regions of Israel — most notably the Galilee. Yorke Rowan's excavations at Marj Rabba are starting to fill in this gap by revealing the economy and social organization of a Chalcolithic village community. It is not easy work. After 6,500 years, the surviving evidence consists of fragmentary stone foundations, potsherds, bones, and tools of flint and basalt. Reconstructing an ancient village on this basis requires considerable skill and ingenuity. The careful excavations and meticulous recording by Yorke and his team are showing us that this was a prosperous village whose many round silos attest to rich harvests of grain. Sherds of exotic pottery types attest to long-distance trade connections, while the distribution of basalt tools across the site is showing us where craftsmen worked imported raw materials to manufacture grindstones and ceremonial objects. As the work progresses, we are starting to understand how people lived, and how village communities fit into the broader picture of this evolving Chalcolithic society.

Recovering the physical remains of the past is difficult in and of itself, but a second set of challenges arises when we try to record these remains accurately and extrapolate from the surviving fragments what they looked like originally and how they might have been used. This is the theme of our new special exhibit, *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*. As detailed by Emily Teeter, science, art, and imagination all contribute to the process by which we reconstruct and visualize ancient societies from their material remains. As technology and our general state of knowledge improve, archaeologists have been able to make progressively better images of the past, for example, in going from drawings to photography to computer-generated three-dimensional reconstructions. But we have to recognize that we are still "imagining" the past, and that our reconstructions are very much shaped by our prior conceptions and understandings. This exhibit does a wonderful job in showing the creativity and detective work involved in extracting an accurate portrait of ancient civilizations out of the "heap of broken images" that survive from the actual past.



*Yorke Rowan*

# THE POWER OF PEOPLE AND THE GALILEE PREHISTORY PROJECT EXCAVATIONS AT THE CHALCOLITHIC SITE OF MARJ RABBA

*Yorke M. Rowan and Morag M. Kersel*

Archaeology would be nowhere without people. Dead people, modern people, people who settled down, people who built cities, and people who painted in caves, hunted game, foraged for food, practiced rituals, and threw away unwanted items and general trash. Archaeology is the study of the stuff people leave behind. But archaeology is also about people for whom it is a passion: students, researchers, locals, scientists, supporters, volunteers, and professors. For those of us employed as archaeologists, we are indebted to those who volunteer, study, visit, and participate in our projects, helping us attain our research goals and meet our deadlines. We routinely rely on “the kindness of strangers” as we travel out of our comfort zones to exotic locales to study, interpret, and record past civilizations and lifeways. Local populations consistently invite us into their homes, offer us tea, and provide contemporary information on the landscape, people, and animals of the areas where we study. National governments enable our projects by providing logistical support, granting us permission to carry out excavations and surveys, and even acting as morale builders when they make official visits to our sites, declaiming appreciatively over even modest discoveries. The Galilee Prehistory Project (GPP) is a people-focused project — we count on volunteers and students as our

workforce; we stay in the dorms of Ort Braude College, a regional engineering school whose faculty, staff, and students welcome us back year after year; and we rely on our Israeli and Palestinian archaeological colleagues to provide us with insights and interpretations of our site and artifacts.

In and out of the field, archaeology demands teamwork, and after three seasons of excavation, survey, and post-excavation study at Marj Rabba in

the lower Galilee of Israel, a picture of a substantial agricultural village with connections to nearby regions is beginning to emerge. This bucolic image contrasts with roughly contemporaneous sites to the south (fig. 1) in the northern Negev (e.g., Shiqmim, Bir es-Safadi, Abu Matar, Gilat) and Jordan Valley (e.g., Tulaylat al-Ghassul), where sites are decidedly larger, possibly richer in exotic artifacts, and possibly reflecting less egalitarian societies. Differences in material culture such as the lack of exotic, foreign materials or evocative iconography suggest a relatively self-sufficient village of agro-pastoralists with a mixed farming economy and only limited exchange beyond the immediate hills of the Galilee. Such statements are tentative at this point, based on only three small seasons of excavation.

The area under investigation is in the southern Levant, lying in the shadow of the ancient empires of Anatolia (to the north), Egypt (to the southwest), and Mesopotamia (to the west). The Chalcolithic (Chalco = copper; lithic = stone) period, roughly dated to 4500–3600 BC, was witness to a technological revolution: the smelting of copper. Although the development of metallurgy and the production of copper implements were important, items such as axes, chisels, and mace-heads were rare and available to very few people; their impact as labor-saving devices

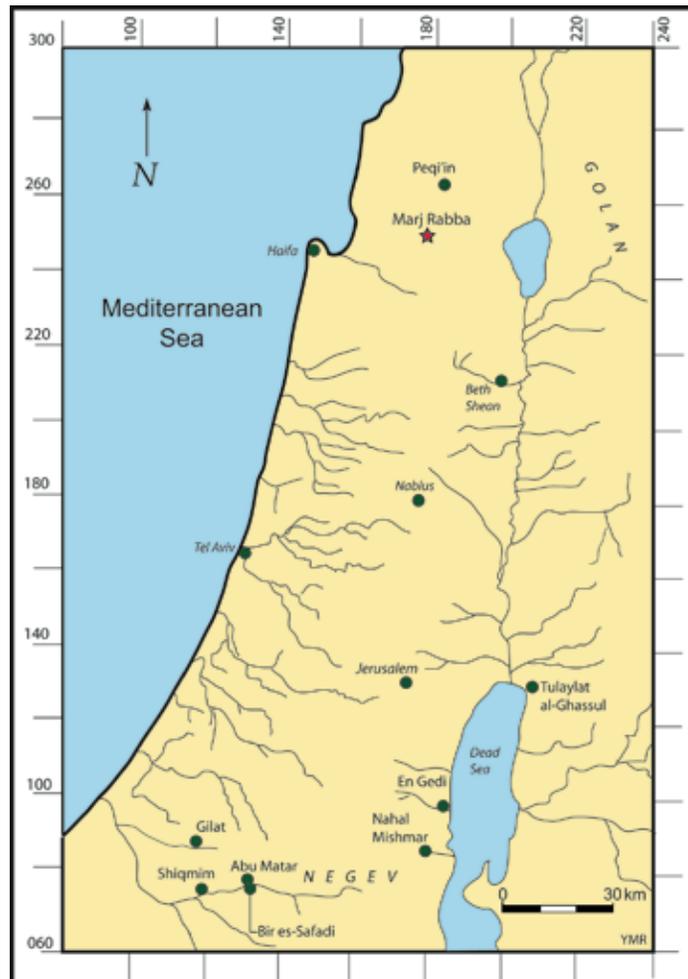


Figure 1. Map of the southern Levant

was minimal, and their effectiveness as tools may have been limited by the softness of copper. The manipulation and display of these impressive objects may have been more important for the status, mythical power, or exotic contacts they represented. During the Chalcolithic period we have evidence for major cultural transformations taking place in the southern Levant, with the combination of farming and animal husbandry spreading into previously sparsely occupied regions (e.g., Golan Heights and the Beersheba Valley). People began to live in villages of varying dimensions. Archaeological evidence like specialized pottery vessels, tools for weaving, and the processing of textiles from sites like Marj Rabba indicates that the use of secondary animal products (milk, wool, traction) plays an important economic role in Chalcolithic society. At the same time, people were cultivating olives, which may play a significant role in exchange with places like Egypt. During this period there is evidence for long-distance trade and the procurement of raw materials from faraway lands. All these advances and the specialized production of prestige items were not solely intended to make people's lives easier, but were instead created as status goods to be used during life, and possibly in death. Elaborate burial practices during the Chalcolithic period, particularly secondary burial (the removal of the long bones and crania for re-burial, often in decorated ceramic containers known as ossuaries), becomes common. Peqi'in Cave, in the Upper Galilee of Israel, is one of the richest burial caves discovered in the region, with a variety of ossuary motifs unseen before. Where did the people interred at Peqi'in Cave come from? Did the people of the Chalcolithic travel long distances to bury their dead? Did they bring the prestige items with them, or did they "shop locally"? Did they trade with Anatolia, Egypt, or lands to the west? Archaeological evidence for the lives of people of the Galilee during this period is sparse — the Galilee Prehistory Project of the Oriental Institute aims to

fill that lacuna in our understanding of people of the past.

Countless hours of people power have gone into investigating the various questions of the GPP. The goals for the initial test investigation were threefold: (1) to explore the site for intact sub-surface architecture and features, (2) to collect material culture and botanical and faunal samples, and (3) to determine the depth of anthropogenic strata and the degree of human and animal disturbance to these layers. Our very small 2009 crew included undergraduates from the University of Chicago (Brittany Jackson and Max Price), the University of Toronto (Mark Dolynskyj and Natasha Jurko), and Washington University in St. Louis (Amanda Berman), and graduate students from the University of Connecticut (Austin [Chad] Hill) and the University of Chicago (Stephanie Selover), as well as local specialist Dr. Dina Shalem, who all pitched in to open three five-by-five-meter squares in the main excavation area and two trenches in the west area, located in a recently planted forest (see fig. 2). In the west area, we opted to work in one of several large cairns (rock piles) in order to understand the purpose of the cairns and potentially date an associated wall that was visible from the surface. This area, "affectionately" known as the gulag, consisted of many small rocks, virtually no soil, and very few finds (fig. 3). The foundation and dating of the wall engendered a lot of debate among our team

members and visiting archaeological colleagues — whether the wall dates to the Roman/Byzantine or Chalcolithic period remains unresolved. In the east area, we were pleasantly surprised to discover architecture (and scorpions) not far below the surface. By the end of the season, we recognized at least three different building phases, possible evidence for grain storage in the form of silos, and some substantial walls. We had a variety of typical diagnostic Chalcolithic artifacts — stone tools, basalt vessel fragments, local ceramics, and some from the Golan (imported), but alas no copper — the namesake of the period!

Encouraged by the amount of work the small but mighty crew undertook, we embarked on a second season in the sweltering summer of 2010, with a



Figure 2. Forming shade for photography in 2009, clockwise from left: Natasha Jurko, Mark Dolynskyj, Morag Kersel, and Amanda Berman



Figure 3. Excavating Trench 1, Cairn 1 — known as the gulag — in 2009. From left, Brittany Jackson, Dina Shalem, and Stephanie Selover

slightly larger team. We must have done something right since many of the 2009 participants joined us for another adventure in the Galilee. Max Price, now a PhD student at Harvard, continued to act as our faunal analyst (trained by Gil Stein, director of the Oriental Institute) at the same time as supervising a square; Brittany Jackson, with a year of experience in the world of cultural resource management, became the registrar as well as an excavator; and Chad Hill continued to supervise and train students. We were joined by Brown University undergraduates Ben Marcus and Rita Bullwinkel, Cathleen Hammel from the University of Connecticut, student and mom to two Rebecca Dotson, University of Connecticut law student Natalie Wayne, and a brave University of Bradford student, Michael Shamah, the only Brit on the crew (fig. 4). In a daring move, we took on two high school students — Eugene Temlock and Margot Putnam-Delany — who proved to be enthusiastic, hard workers. We concentrated on opening additional squares in the east area in order to examine the mysterious semi-circular structures to determine the extent of buildings, while trying to clarify occupational living phases, and use.

In the fall of 2010, Yorke led an Oriental Institute tour to the Holy Land, a highlight of which was the visit to Marj Rabba, and perhaps the local shwarma shop in Sakhnin. That visit made for some interesting tales and some devotees of the Chalcolithic:

Roberta Schaffner, Andrea Dudek, and Toni Smith. In fact, Andrea became so enamored with the site and the Chalcolithic — or perhaps it was the hummus — that she joined us for the 2011 excavations. Thanks to our biggest team, the 2011 season was nearly “all Chicago, all the time” (figs. 5–8). University of Chicago Egyptology graduate students Elise MacArthur and Lindsey Miller, and University of Chicago undergrads Jill Waller and Marilee Goad (both veteran Oriental Institute excavators with experience at Kerkenes Dag and Zincirli), joined forces with students from Northwestern (Meghan White) and DePaul (Ethan Holmes) to explore the Chalcolithic. Robyn Dubicz, an intern at the Oriental Institute digitizing Marj Rabba maps and plans for the past two years, made her first foray into the field. And we hosted Ozdemir Vayisoglu, a Turkish high school student. Joining this intrepid group were our faithful staff — Max, Brittany (now a PhD student at UCLA), and Chad (now the field supervisor), and together we ate pesto sandwiches, raisin yoghurt, hummus, tomatoes, cucumbers, and a seemingly endless supply of schnitzel. In addition to the expansion of the excavation area, an intensive pedestrian survey and geophysical soundings were conducted in order to better understand the site and the people living in the Galilee during the Chalcolithic period.

During the 2011 season, we concentrated our excavation efforts on three areas. In one area, AA, our excavations focused on the squares previously excavated during 2009–2010, where a long east–west wall (L.7) formed a northern

boundary to a series of round, stone features. Immediately to the east, Area BB consists of two additional five-by-five-meter squares. The third area, CC, expanded on squares previously opened in 2009–2010, with the addition of two half squares. Concentrating on a wide exposure rather than depth, the different character of each locale hints at the possibility that functionally separate areas existed in the village. This is most apparent in Area AA, where a series of overlapping curvilinear stone structures are the latest preserved architectural traces at the village.

### AREA AA

The 2010 season ended with unanswered questions about the extent, function, and phasing of the architecture in Area AA (squares D1, D2, E1, E2, F1, and F2 comprising 112.5 sq. m), so excavation continued in this area in 2011. Our primary objective for the season in Area AA was to remove the latest preserved architectural fragments and the baulks between squares in an effort to complete the exposure of the circular structures. We also hoped to remove some of these excavated circular features in order to expose the earlier walls and associated features and floors below. Although removal of architectural fragments and baulks was successful, additional architecture and round stone features were exposed, requiring clarification and slowing excavations in this area.

The wet winter and minor disturbances by local quadrupeds (and probably some bipeds too!) contributed to a fair amount of slumping in the section and baulk walls in the open squares, but the intact architecture was not appreciably damaged. After careful cleaning, we began the removal of baulks left between squares C1 and D1 and squares E1 and F1. Removal of the square C1/D1 baulk exposed another circular stone feature (L.729), while removal of the E1/F1 baulk allowed exposure of the circular structure (L.207) discovered in 2010 sitting above the floor of the room in square F1 (fig. 9). With exposure of



Figure 4. Team members processing artifacts in 2010. Clockwise from left: Morag Kersel, Michael Shamah, Rita Bullwinkel, Max Price, Rebecca Dotson, Cathleen Hammel, Ben Marcus, and Chad Hill



Figure 5. University of Chicago NELC graduate student Lindsey Miller in foreground; Sakhnin resident Salman Sowad and his son Soyil behind



Figure 6. Area CC crew. From left, Achmed Sowad, Andrea Dudek, Ozdemir Vayisoglu, Elise MacArthur, and Max Price



Figure 7. Area BB crew. From left, Jill Waller, Brittany Jackson, Meghan White, and Robyn Dubicz



Figure 8. Photography at the end of the season. Ethan Holmes, Chad Hill, and Lindsey Miller

these two circular stone features, at least seven circular features have been identified in Area AA. These foundations, possibly the last traces of silos, appear contemporaneous with the later rebuilt phase of east-west wall 7/203 extending along the north side of squares C1, D1, E1, and F1.

Earlier phases of wall construction form the room exposed primarily in square F1, defined by walls 208, 217, and 231/207, with the contemporaneous floor (228) and a small pit (or post-hole?). By the end of the season, however, an additional wall (727) appeared below this room, apparently more similar in style to architecture exposed in Area CC.

The 2011 season began to answer some of the questions we had about Marj Rabba from previous seasons, but at least two more ambitious seasons

are needed to expose the earlier buildings below the circular features and to understand the successive phases. The function of this area seems to have changed significantly from earlier to later phases, and future seasons could provide new insights into the organization of space and functional differentiation at the site.

### AREA BB

To the west of the area excavated during 2009–2010, squares G1 and H1 were opened in order to provide a wider context to the architecture in Area AA and to examine an area outside the courtyard or room. Topsoil layers in these two squares, similar to elsewhere at the site, were rich in Chalcolithic finds, mixed with occasional small weathered Roman sherds and modern debris.

Chalcolithic finds from Area BB topsoil included fragments of basalt vessels, a bone tool, a spindle whorl, and a flint ax. Architecturally, the area extends the range of circular stone features, with two more examples (923, 924), and a possible third appearing by the end of the 2011 season. One circular stone feature clearly post-dates wall 922 (fig. 10). Wall 922 runs parallel to wall 925, creating a possible room bound by wall 925 on the north. The lowest course of these walls and any floor were not yet discovered by the end of the season, and we do not yet understand how such a narrow space functioned. Both parallel walls are also parallel to wall 926 (w218), a later wall abutting the exterior of wall of the room. The space between may be a destroyed pavement, but this requires additional excavation and the efforts of more people.



Figure 9. Area AA, looking north



Figure 10. Area BB, looking north



Figure 11. Area BB, looking north



Figure 12. Area CC, pavement and walls

### AREA CC

Area CC (squares L1, M1, L20, and M20) was initiated in 2009, the excavation of square L1 revealing a large wall (w12) with a “bench” of three flat stones below it (L.35) and two wall fragments (w18 and w22). In 2010, a limited exposure of square M1 did little more than remove topsoil, exposing walls (w606, w607, w605) and dense collapse. Realizing we could not excavate this area properly last season, the square was left for the 2011 season.

One of the main goals of the 2011 excavations in Area CC was to understand the function and phasing of the tight concentration of walls in M1 and L1. Two new half squares were opened on the north side of the area, squares M20 and L20 (both 2.5 × 5.0 m). After five weeks, at least four architectural phases are apparent in Area CC.

Architecture in this area consists of a pavement, large walls, a plastered cup mark, and a pit. The latest walls in the trench define the first phase. Wall 606 (running north–south) and wall 614 (running east–west) are not necessarily contemporaneous, but are lumped into the same phase for the present. Wall 606 cuts wall 607 and lies on top of the pavement (L.636) with a slight sediment layer of several centimeters, suggesting disuse of this area for some time. The relationship of wall 606 to wall 614 is unclear, but wall 606 is much more crudely constructed. Wall 614 is notable for its very deep foundation trench and well-constructed face. Additionally, walls 34 and 22 (excavated and removed in 2009) probably belonged to this phase. The second architectural phase consists of walls 12, 605, and 607, which rest upon the pavement. The pavement

(L.636) represents the third architectural phase, although, as noted, it may be contemporaneous with the second phase of building. Extending over approximately 4 × 7 meters, the cobble rubble in square L1 (L.10) and the bench under wall 12 (L.35) may be related. Although the function is unclear, in future excavations we will attempt to demarcate it better, especially to the north of M20. The fourth architectural phase consists of the floor surface (L.649), its presumed associated walls (w18 and w22), and the plastered cup mark (L.644). The pit (L.647) was cut into the floor sometime before the construction of the pavement, as the cut appears well below L.35, but may not have been contemporaneous with the use of L.649 as a surface. L.649 may have been a courtyard or a room, but it is unclear because our exposure is too limited.

Questions about this area remain, and will require an expansion of the area in order to understand the size and configuration of the structures formed by the walls. Is this a living space, ritual space, domestic space? Which features in Area CC are contemporaneous with structures in AA and BB? What does it mean that there are none of the enigmatic circular “storage” structures found in areas AA and BB? Clearly a great deal of work remains in order to define the chronology, in addition to determining the layout of the structures uncovered. We need the power of people to help answer these and other tough questions.

## CONCLUSION

Typical of archaeology, we raised as many questions as we answered. We also introduced questions through the results of the pedestrian survey that we conducted as part of the 2011 season. Survey data were collected in order to examine (1) distinct functions of the area, (2) periods of primary intensive use, and (3) the extent of the site and its associated hinterland. For three weeks we walked the area in a series of east–west transects (lines) 10–20 meters apart recording material with clickers. Every 10 or 20 meters along these transects, an intensive pick-up in a 1-meter radius was conducted, and artifacts were collected for future analysis. Preliminary analysis indicates that there are some “hot spots” or areas of intense deposits or scatters. For example, in an olive grove to the southwest of the excavation area, an unusually high concentration of unworked basalt — chips, chunks, or debris — may represent a basalt processing area. Basalt-vessel and ground-stone fragments are also recorded from this area. Basalt is not exactly light, and the closest source is the Golan or Upper Galilee, near the Sea of Galilee, 25 kilometers or more to the east. Would Chalcolithic people bring huge chunks of raw material to be worked at the site? Or would they work the basalt at the source and then transport the roughed-out or finished

product? One purpose of a survey is to identify places that need further exploration, and this is certainly one area that requires further investigation.

Building upon our goals from the first season, we wanted to answer some of the big-picture questions currently facing those with an interest in the Chalcolithic period. One problem is dating; the period spans roughly one millennium, with no consensus on an internal division. In the Galilee, only the burial cave at Peqi’in, in the Upper Galilee, has produced radiocarbon dates; those range from Late Neolithic to mid-Chalcolithic, from approximately 5500 BC to 4000 BC. Other dates from three sites in the Golan range from 4496–4254 to 3693–3507 and thus do little to narrow the possible range of Chalcolithic occupation in that region. We are focused on obtaining good samples for radiometric dates (carbon 14), which are necessary to begin building local chronologies, and in order to understand the linkage between settlements such as Marj Rabba and other sites.

Probably the largest lacunae in our database from the north during the Chalcolithic are the faunal and floral assemblages. To the east, the faunal report from the Golan — a mere two pages — includes only sixty bones, primarily teeth, collected from five different sites. We would expect that the general faunal assemblage at a small settlement such as Marj Rabba would reflect a generalized mixed farming community, with reliance on the four major domestic ungulates: sheep, goats, pigs, and cattle. In the more arid regions, such as the Negev, pigs are rare to virtually absent in assemblages, but in the more well-watered areas, we expect the relative frequency of pigs to be higher. Based on Max Price’s initial analysis of the Marj Rabba faunal collection, this is the case, although fish and wild animals were also a minor part of the diet. The presence of cattle and pigs implies regular access to large quantities of water; finding the source of the water will be a future focus of survey in coming seasons. In addition, we will focus on the context

of the faunal material in the hopes of discerning possible chronological and spatial patterns.

In the past three years, various students (graduate and undergraduate), volunteers (in Israel and in Chicago), scientists, geophysical specialists, and others have all contributed to a greater understanding of the Chalcolithic people of the Lower Galilee. The Galilee Prehistory Project has also been generously supported by various individuals — financially, emotionally, and intellectually. While we rely on the “kindness of strangers” to assist us, we rest easy at night knowing that back in Chicago the Oriental Institute support network — Gil Stein, Mariana Perlinac, Steve Camp, and D’Ann Condes — is there for us; that, and a cold beverage at the end of a long hot day. The ancient people of the Chalcolithic need us to tell their story, and we need people to help interpret, analyze, and disseminate that story. Looking for evidence of social complexity in the Galilee is about people in the past and the present — we thank them all.

SAVE THE DATE

MEMBERS’  
PREVIEW

PICTURING THE PAST

IMAGING AND IMAGINING  
THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST

*an exclusive Members’ event*

Monday, February 6th, 2012  
6:00 PM

*For more information, contact Meghan Winston, assistant director of development for special events, at [meghanwinston@uchicago.edu](mailto:meghanwinston@uchicago.edu) or (773) 834-9775*

## ONLINE DISTANCE-LEARNING COURSE

**NEW!**

### THE DAWN OF HISTORY: SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

Kathryn Grossman

January 16–March 12

Registration deadline January 2

Mesopotamia — the land between the rivers, heartland of cities, cradle of civilization. It was along the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers that the world's first cities developed, that writing was invented, and that a series of powerful empires flourished and died. This eight-week, online course provides an accessible introduction to the archaeology and history of Mesopotamia — a region that includes modern-day Iraq and Syria. Through online tutorials and web-based discussion, students will learn about the economy, politics, religion, and social life of one of the world's great early civilizations.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Kate Grossman is a PhD candidate in Mesopotamian archaeology in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She has excavated in Syria, Egypt, and Cyprus.

**CPDUs:** 16

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:** Participants will be provided with links to resources and are expected to be comfortable downloading and using computer software and tools such as Microsoft Word, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines.

*This eight-week online course, which begins on January 16 and continues through March 12, is asynchronous and will be accessible at any time of day or night. Pre-registration is required. To register or to learn more about this online opportunity and its technical requirements, please contact the Public Education Office at (773) 702-9507 or oi-education@uchicago.edu. This course counts as an elective for the Graham School non-credit certificate in Arabic Language and Cultures.*



## VIRTUAL IRAN: A SPECIAL FILM SERIES

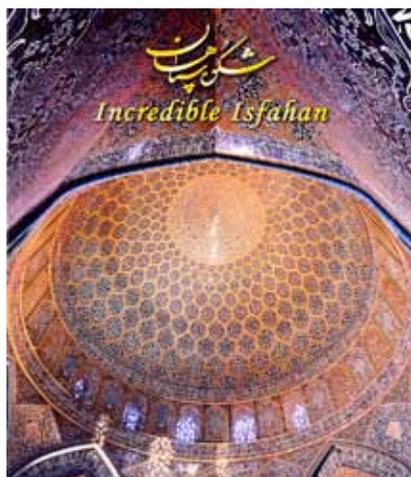
Tobin Hartnell

Sundays, March 4, 11, and 18

2:00 PM

Oriental Institute Breasted Hall

FREE



In March we feature screenings of three documentaries by internationally acclaimed filmmaker Farzin Rezaeian, who uses the latest technologies to showcase the celebrated art and archaeology of Iran. Tobin Hartnell, PhD candidate in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, who has excavated and surveyed in Iran since 2004, will introduce the films and then be available to answer questions at each screening. This free program is presented in conjunction with our special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*, which opens on February 6, 2012.

### March 4 *Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization* (2007)

This major documentary uses the latest technology to explore the 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.

### March 11 *Persepolis Recreated* (2004)

Discover the history and grandeur of Persepolis, a magnificent palace complex of the great Persian Empire from 520 BC until it was destroyed by Alexander the Great in 330 BC. This production features spectacular reconstructions of Persepolis's great palaces

and explains their function in connection with the Persian New Year festival of Naw Rouz, which Iranian communities worldwide still celebrate at the spring equinox.

### March 18 *Incredible Isfahan: Discovering Persia's Past* (2011)

The most recent production from Farzin Rezaeian, this major new documentary presents the zenith of Iranian splendor as showcased in the magnificent city of Isfahan. The film combines contemporary views with compelling computer-generated images to explore the cosmopolitan history, artistic traditions, and dazzling architectural monuments that make Isfahan the jewel in the crown of Persian cities.

# WINTER 2012 CALENDAR

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

## JANUARY

- 1 | SUNDAY**      **Breasted Hall closed for New Year's Day**
- 8 | SUNDAY**      **The Bible's Buried Secrets**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details
- 11 | WEDNESDAY**      **How Islam Began: New Views**  
Members' Lecture  
7:00 PM  
See page 18 for details
- 14 | SATURDAY**      **Climate Change and Archaeological Sites**  
Adult Education Course  
1:30 PM  
See page 15 for details
- 15 | SUNDAY**      **Ancient Treasures of the Deep**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details
- 16 | MONDAY**      **The Dawn of History: Society and Culture in Ancient Mesopotamia**  
Online Adult Education Course  
See page 9 for details
- 18 | WEDNESDAY**      **The King Is In: The Palaces of Ancient Egypt**  
Adult Education Course  
7:00 PM  
See page 15 for details
- 29 | SUNDAY**      **Deciphering the Deat Sea Scrolls**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details
- Magnificent Mesopotamia: Clay Crafts**  
Family Program  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details

## FEBRUARY

- 5 | SUNDAY**      **The Sun Was the Only Witness**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
see page 12 for details
- 6 | MONDAY**      **Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East**  
Members' Preview – Exclusive  
Members' Event  
6:00 PM  
See page 8 for details
- 8 | WEDNESDAY**      **The Neolithic of Jordan: From Mega-Sites to Elaborate Villages**  
Members' Lecture  
7:00 PM  
See page 18 for details
- 12 | SUNDAY**      **The Mummies of the Heretics**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details
- 15 | WEDNESDAY**      **Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East**  
Gallery Tour  
12:15 PM  
See page 14 for details
- 18 | SATURDAY**      **Elam: Iran's Oldest Civilization**  
Adult Education Course  
10:00 AM  
See page 15 for details
- 19 | SUNDAY**      **Nubia 64: Saving the Temples of Ancient Egypt**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details
- 26 | SUNDAY**      **Nubia and the Mysteries of Kush**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details
- Amazing Africa: Nubian Celebration**  
Family Program  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details

# WINTER 2012 CALENDAR

## MARCH

4 | SUNDAY

### Virtual Iran: A Special Film Series – Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization

Film Series  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details

7 | WEDNESDAY

### Seventy-five Years of Excavation at Tell Hariri-Mari, Syria

Members' Lecture  
7:00 PM  
See page 18 for details

10 | SATURDAY

### Picturing the Past

Public Symposium  
1:00–5:00 PM  
See below for details

11 | SUNDAY

### Virtual Iran: A Special Film Series – Persepolis Recreated

Film Series  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details

18 | SUNDAY

### Virtual Iran: A Special Film Series – Incredible Isfahan: Discovering Persia's Past

Film Series  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details

25 | SUNDAY

### Junior Archaeologists

Family Event  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details

### Women Pharaohs

Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 12 for details

28 | WEDNESDAY

### The Behind-the-Scenes Story of Picturing the Past

Gallery Tour  
12:15 PM  
See page 14 for details

## PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM: PICTURING THE PAST

Saturday, March 10

1:00–5:00 PM (reception follows)

Oriental Institute

FREE (pre-registration required)

Join us for a half-day symposium that explores the many ways ancient archaeological sites, architecture, and artifacts have been recorded and presented through paintings, architectural renderings, models, photographs, and the very latest high-tech visualizations. Learn how and why these images of the past are produced, why there may be discrepancies between archaeological reality and restorations, and how recreations and documentation of the past can be influenced by their intended audiences. Discover the impact these images can have on our understanding — or misunderstanding — of the ancient Middle East.

Presented in conjunction with the special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*, speakers from the Oriental Institute include the following:

- \* Jack Green, chief curator of the Oriental Institute Museum and co-curator of *Picturing the Past*.
- \* Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute research associate and co-curator of *Picturing the Past*.

Guest speakers include the following:

- \* Eric Carlson, archaeologist and noted archaeological illustrator, whose richly detailed work ranges from the western United States to the Dead Sea Basin in Jordan.
- \* Donald H. Sanders, president of the Institute for the Visualization of History, a non-profit educational

organization that uses cutting-edge computer methods to digitally recreate archaeological sites and historical events.

- \* Michael J. Seymour, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, who specializes in the history of the exploration of ancient Babylon and its representation in art and literature from earliest times to the present day, and who co-curated the recent exhibition at the British Museum, London, entitled *Babylon: Myth and Reality*.

### CPDUs: 5

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

## SUNDAY FILMS

Each Sunday afternoon, enjoy the best in documentary 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 1 **Breasted Hall closed on New Year's Day**

### January 8 ***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 15 ***Ancient Treasures of the Deep* (1987)**

From the PBS Nova series, this classic documentary on the underwater excavation of a fourteenth-century BC shipwreck found off the southern coast of Turkey shows how the ancient world from Africa to the Baltic was united by trade.

### January 22 ***The Dark Lords of Hattusha* (2006)**

This BBC film introduces the Hittites, a civilization that arose in ancient Turkey more than 3,000 years ago and built an empire that rivaled Egypt and Babylon. Then, just as it was at the height of its powers, this great empire vanished. Now archaeologists have rediscovered Hattusha, the long-lost Hittite capital, unearthing one of the most astonishing and ingenious cities of the ancient world.

### January 29 ***Deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls* (1999)**

This film explores the discovery and heated disputes surrounding the authorship and interpretation of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest and most complete biblical manuscripts ever found. The film features commentary by scholars from around the world, including Norman Golb, Ludwig Rosenberger Professor in Jewish History and Civilization, University of Chicago.

Celebrate African American History Month with four important documentaries on ancient Egypt and Nubia. The following two films are episodes from *Akhenaten and Nefertiti: Rulers of Egypt*, a 2002 series that explores the reign of the revolutionary pharaoh who replaced the Egyptian pantheon with a single deity, the sun god Aten.

### February 5 ***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 12 ***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 19 ***Nubia 64: Saving the Temples of Ancient Egypt* (1987)**

Winner of the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival, this film highlights the unprecedented international campaign to salvage and reconstruct ancient monuments in Egypt and Sudan that were threatened by the building of the Aswan Dam. The film's rare footage tells the story in human terms, vividly documenting the campaign's massive efforts to save temples and shrines.

### February 26 ***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.

In March we feature *Virtual Iran*, a special film series featuring screenings of three documentaries by internationally acclaimed filmmaker Farzin Rezaeian. This series, which uses the latest technologies to showcase ancient Iran, is presented in conjunction with our special exhibit *Picturing the Past*. See p. 9 for more information.

### March 4 ***Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization* (2007)**

### March 11 ***Persepolis Recreated* (2004)**

### March 18 ***Incredible Isfahan: Discovering Persia's Past* (2011)**

### March 25 ***Women Pharaohs* (2001)**

Celebrate Women's History Month in March with this film that highlights major discoveries revealing the profound influence and power of royal women in ancient Egypt. From Providence Pictures and the Discovery Channel, this film features Oriental Institute research associate and Egyptologist Emily Teeter.

## TRAVEL PROGRAM

### • CLEOPATRA • THE SEARCH FOR THE LAST QUEEN OF EGYPT

at the

Milwaukee Public Museum  
Saturday, January 21, 2012

with

DR. ROBERT K. RITNER  
Professor of Egyptology

For additional information, please  
contact the membership office at  
(773) 834-9777 or  
oi-membership@uchicago.edu



# FAMILY SUNDAYS AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

**JOIN US ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FOR THESE SPECIAL NEW PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES!**

## MAGNIFICENT MESOPOTAMIA: CLAY CRAFTS

Sunday, January 29  
2:00–4:00 PM  
Oriental Institute

Shape beautiful coil clay pots and traditional Mesopotamian picture seals just like those from ancient times. Look at real seals and the pottery in the galleries for inspiration, and then create your own to take home.

**FEE:** \$7 for Oriental Institute members; \$9 for non-members. Includes guided tour, workshop instruction, and all materials. Suggested for ages 5 and up accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration required.

## AMAZING AFRICA: NUBIAN CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 26  
2:00–4:00 PM  
Oriental Institute

Celebrate the ancient African kingdoms of Nubia during African American History month with a tour through the Robert F. Picken Family Nubia Gallery and hands-on activities. Transform yourself into a Nubian prince or princess by making and dressing up in Nubian crowns and belts. Create your own Nubian-style mirror, and learn how to write your name in Meroitic hieroglyphs, the script of ancient Nubia.

**FEE:** \$7 for Oriental Institute members; \$9 for non-members. Includes guided tour, workshop instruction, and all materials. Suggested for ages 5 and up accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration required.

## JUNIOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Sunday, March 25  
2:00–4:00 PM  
Oriental Institute

Calling all budding archaeologists! Learn how archaeologists work in the field and discover artifacts. Then take part in a simulated archaeological excavation in the Oriental Institute's Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center. A completely unique experience!

**FEE:** \$7 for Oriental Institute members; \$9 for non-members. Includes guided tour, workshop instruction, and all materials. Suggested for ages 5 and up accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration required.



## 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



# THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE IN THE NEWS



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

## GENERAL COVERAGE OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE AND ACTIVITIES

### **Science Insider**

July 18, 2011

"Egypt's Antiquities Boss Is Sacked" (comments by Ray Johnson)

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2011/07/egypts-antiquities-boss-is-sacked.html?ref=ra>

### **New York Observer**

August 23, 2011

"Pyramid Scheme: What's Next for Egypt's Artifacts?" (comments by Emily Teeter)

<http://www.observer.com/2011/08/pyramid-scheme-what%E2%80%99s-next-for-egypt%E2%80%99s-artifacts/>

### **The Hyde Park Herald**

August 24, 2011

"New Hires at the Oriental Institute" (Jack Green and Brian Muhs)

<http://www.hpherald.com/pg4.html>

### **Harvard Crimson**

September 27, 2011

"Cultural Loot" by *The Crimson* Staff, (update on Persepolis Tablet lawsuit)

<http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2011/9/27/artifacts-many-museums-western/>

## COVERAGE OF THE MUSEUM AND PROGRAMS

### **City Buzz: Chicago**

Gil Stein speaking on the Museum (2:25 into the segment)

<http://citybuzz.com/about-us/check-out-whats-playing-when-you-check-in-chicago>

### **Chicago Reader**

September 8, 2011

"Culture Vultures: Pyramids, the Arts Season Kicks Off, and Re-thinking Soup: In-the-know Chicagoans Tell the Reader What They're Watching, Reading, and Seeing," by Asher Klein

<http://www.chicagoreader.com/gyrobase/arts-season-before-the-pyramids-rethinking-soup/Content?oid=4573457&showFullText=true>

### **Phone App for the Oriental Institute and Other Chicago Attractions**

The handiest, quickest access to enjoy the activities in and around the Chicago area. Minimize hassle and confusion on your holiday! You will see at the touch of your fingertips a list of the best tourist sites.

<http://android-apps.com/applications/travel-local/chicago-holiday-guide-gps/>

### **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**

October 8, 2011

"Dine in Style Like Queen of the Nile," by Jackie Loohaus-Bennett

<http://news.tradingcharts.com/futures/3/9/166155693.html>

### **Chicago Sun Times**

Oriental Institute Museum as part of Foursquare "Windy City Badge"

<http://www.suntimes.com/7696177-417/chicago-checks-in-for-foursquare-city-badge.html>

### **WGN TV 9**

October 11, 2011

Focus on Family — Halloween Activities for Kids (Oriental Institute Mummies Night; starts 1:49 into footage)

<http://www.wgntv.com/news/mid-daynews/focusonfamily/wgntv-focus-on-family-kidwinks-halloween-chicago-with-kids,0,1666561.story>

### **WTTW**

June 24, 2011

"Weekend Events Around Town" (on Before the Pyramids exhibit)

<http://blogs.wttw.com/moreonthestory/2011/06/24/weekend-events-around-town-624-%E2%80%93-626/comment-page-1/>

## GALLERY TOURS

### PICTURING THE PAST: IMAGING AND IMAGINING THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST

Wednesday, February 15

12:15 PM

FREE

Be among the first to take a guided tour of our newest special exhibit, *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*. Join Emily Teeter, co-curator of *Picturing the Past*, for an informal discussion of the different ways in which the past has been documented, and how those images can inform — or misinform — us about the ancient Middle East.

### THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES STORY OF PICTURING THE PAST

Wednesday, March 28

12:15 PM

FREE

Join Jack Green, Oriental Institute Museum chief curator and co-curator of *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*, for a unique guided tour addressing the behind-the-scenes planning and processes — including development of themes, content selection, new research, and exhibit design — that led to the creation of this extraordinary special exhibit.

# WINTER ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

The following 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.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Katharyn Hanson

Saturdays, January 14–January 28

1:30–3:30 PM

Oriental Institute

The havoc that climate change can wreak on the environment also affects another non-renewable resource — our cultural heritage. This course examines how climate change impacts the future of the past. From coastal archaeological sites threatened by rising sea levels to arid desert sites endangered by ever-expanding irrigation efforts, cultural heritage is at risk. Find out more about these threats and pressures, discover current efforts to protect endangered archaeological sites, and learn what you can do to help protect the future of the past.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Katharyn Hanson, a PhD candidate in Mesopotamian archaeology at the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, was also co-curator of the Oriental Institute's special exhibit Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past.

**CPDUs:** 6

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** The instructor will provide a packet of readings, available for a small materials fee, at the start of the first class session.

*This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 1:30 to 3:30 PM on Saturdays beginning January 14 and continuing through January 28. Pre-registration is required. This course counts as an elective for the Graham School non-credit certificate in Arabic Language and Cultures.*

## THE KING IS IN: THE PALACES OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Virginia Emery

Wednesdays, January 18–February 22

7–9 PM

Oriental Institute

Were the daily lives of ancient Egyptian kings filled with glamor and spectacle? Or were lifestyles different in the corridors of power? This course offers the unique opportunity to explore all of ancient Egypt's royal residences and encounter the reality of palace life in the land of the pharaohs. In six weeks, we will travel through nearly two millennia, visiting the known palace sites of ancient Egypt and investigating the lives of the kings and the royal families throughout Egypt's long history.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Virginia Emery is a PhD candidate in Egyptian archaeology in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations with field experience at many sites in Egypt.

**CPDUs:** 12

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** The instructor will provide a packet of readings, available for a small materials fee, at the start of the first class session.

*This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7 to 9 PM on Wednesdays beginning January 18 and continuing through February 22. Pre-registration is required. This course counts as an elective for the Graham School non-credit certificate in Arabic Language and Cultures.*

## ELAM: IRAN'S OLDEST CIVILIZATION

Tobin Hartnell

Saturdays, February 18–March 10

10 AM–12 NOON

Oriental Institute

For more than two thousand years, southwestern Iran was referred to in ancient sources as the land of Elam. The Elamites were both warriors and artists, tribal and urban. They developed a thriving nomadic society, their own language and script, and also Iran's first cities, which boasted achievements both historical and cultural. In this course we will use the latest archaeological and historical evidence to explore the intriguing, largely unknown story of the ancient Elamites, their rise to power and prosperity, and their eventual fall to the emerging Persian Empire.

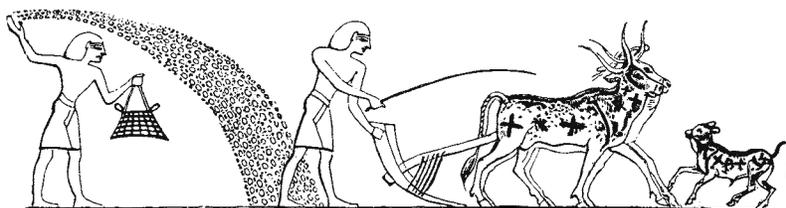
**INSTRUCTOR:** Tobin Hartnell, an archaeologist and PhD candidate in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, has excavated and surveyed in Iran since 2004.

**CPDUs:** 8

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** Denise Schmandt-Besserat and William Hall. *Before Writing: From Counting to Cuneiform*. 1992.

**RECOMMENDED TEXT:** W. Hinz. *Lost World of Elam*. 1999.

*This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 10 AM to noon on Saturdays beginning February 18 and continuing through March 10. Pre-registration is required. This course counts as an elective for the Graham School non-credit certificate in Arabic Language and Cultures.*



# A JOURNEY TO THE ORIENT

On September 14, fifty-two James Henry Breasted Society members boarded *Chicago's First Lady* for a sunset cruise along the Chicago River. After a greeting from Gil J. Stein, director of the Oriental Institute, guests enjoyed an impersonation of Agatha Christie, famed author and wife of archaeologist Max Mallowan, by Betsey Means of WomanLore: Performing Women in History. Following the

performance, guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a seated dinner, catered by Entertaining Company. The menu for the evening included tuna tartare, grilled New York strip steak, heirloom tomato salad, and a fully appointed shortcake dessert bar.

A special thank-you goes out to everyone involved who ensured the night's success.



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS REGISTRATION FORM

Please enroll me in the following Public Programs:

**Don't miss out — register early!**

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Climate Change and Archaeological Sites</b>	_____ \$95	_____ \$135	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>The King Is In: The Palaces of Ancient Egypt</b>	_____ \$195	_____ \$245	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Elam: Iran's Oldest Civilization</b>	_____ \$130	_____ \$165	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>The Dawn of History: Society and Culture in Ancient Mesopotamia</b> <i>(Online distance-learning course)</i>	_____ \$295	_____ \$345	_____
<b>Family Sundays</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Magnificent Mesopotamia: Clay Crafts</b>	_____ \$7	_____ \$9	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Amazing Africa: Nubian Celebration</b>	_____ \$7	_____ \$9	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Junior Archaeologists</b>	_____ \$7	_____ \$9	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Picturing the Past Symposium</b> <i>(Free, but advance registration required. Contact Public Education at oi-education@uchicago.edu or 773-702-9507)</i>	_____ Free	_____ Free	_____
	<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 Public Education Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637 or register online at oi.uchicago.edu/**

### 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.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: GEORGE SUNDELL

Who makes the Oriental Institute a leader in research on the ancient Near East? You do. The Oriental Institute has wonderful volunteers who are constantly working behind the scenes on a wide variety of research projects. News & Notes has added an ongoing special section to spotlight some of our outstanding volunteers each quarter.

**G**EORGE SUNDELL has been a volunteer at the Oriental Institute since November 2000, working on a number of database projects that will bring a vast array of archaeological information to the public and researchers around the world. George is a retired database architect from SBC/Ameritech and has always been fascinated with archaeology, taking courses at Indiana University and participating in field excavations all over the United States. George currently dedicates the majority of his time to the Oriental Institute's Diyala Project, working with professors Clemens Reichel and McGuire Gibson to create a public database of all Diyala excavation materials and records. The Oriental Institute's excavations in the 1930s at four sites in the Diyala region near Baghdad are one of the most important sources of information available for understanding ancient Mesopotamian urbanism. Although much of the Diyala excavation results were published in book form, the recent development of

advanced databases and digital publishing allows us for the first time to create a "virtual archive" with previously published and unpublished field records. The Diyala online database project will enable continued research on this material not only in Chicago, but also literally anywhere in the world, and it will be an important milestone in the introduction of electronic publication for the field of Near Eastern archaeology. George's expertise as a data architect made him a natural choice for Professor McGuire Gibson to recruit as a volunteer and a key member of the project.

When asked why he volunteers with the Oriental Institute, George explains, "My wife and I have been fortunate to do many things in our lives and we are at the point in our lives where we want to be able to give something back." George enjoys the sense of community that flourishes when volunteers and scholars work side by side toward a common goal. George also volunteers with his wife (Wendy) two days a week at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, where he leads a group of volunteers evaluating and salvaging donated food supplies for the needy. George says that it is a nice balance between the two since the Oriental Institute volunteer work exercises his brain while the food bank work exercises his muscles. During his limited downtime, he enjoys traveling the world with his



wife and tasting as many Burgundy wines as possible. In addition to his work on the Diyala project, George is also helping the Oriental Institute move to an integrated database that will create an information structure to link the different data archives all across the Oriental Institute, including our museum, library, and photo archives. When asked how others can help, George suggests that others speak with the Public Education Office to find out how their skills and efforts can help an ongoing project. Everyone has something to offer; it's just a matter of finding what inspires you the most.

*Do you have an inquiring mind? Enjoy meeting interesting people? Become a part of the Oriental Institute Volunteer Program. Explore the many options available at [oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/volunteer](http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/volunteer).*

## ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Have you been getting our monthly E-Tablet e-news updates?

If not, we probably don't have your e-mail address!

Stay up to date on all Oriental Institute news. Please e-mail [oi-membership@uchicago.edu](mailto:oi-membership@uchicago.edu) and get your account updated today!

## 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. 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.*

### HOW ISLAM BEGAN: NEW VIEWS

January 11, 2012

7:00 PM

Fred Donner

Professor of Near Eastern History,  
University of Chicago

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

### THE NEOLITHIC OF JORDAN: FROM MEGA-SITES TO ELABORATE VILLAGES

February 8, 2012

7:00 PM

Alan Simmons

Professor, Department of Anthropology,  
University of Nevada-Las Vegas

*Cosponsored by the Chicago Chapter of the  
Archaeological Institute of America*

### SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF EXCAVATION AT TELL HARIRI-MARI, SYRIA

March 7, 2012

7:00 PM

Pascal Butterlin

Professor of Archaeology, Université  
Paris I Panthéon - Sorbonne, and  
director of the French mission to Tell  
Hariri-Mari, Syria

## NEW PUBLICATION FROM THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

### ANCIENT ISRAEL: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

By Gabrielle V. Novacek

Oriental Institute Museum Publications 31

Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2011

ISBN: 978-1-885923-65-3

Pp. xii + 130; 4 B&W and 60 color photos

\$41.95

On January 29, 2005, the Oriental Institute celebrated the official public opening of the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery. This occasion marked the return of some of the most extraordinary artifacts ever excavated in the southern Levant to permanent public display. The Oriental Institute's prolific history of exploration in the region is testament to a long-standing scholarly passion for discovery and the pursuit of knowledge. This volume draws from the momentum generated by the opening of the Megiddo Gallery and presents a selection of highlights from the Institute's greater Syro-Palestine collection. This title is available online and in print, available by free download or purchase from the Suq and the David Brown Book Company ([www.oxbowbooks.com](http://www.oxbowbooks.com)).



Above: Figurine of the Canaanite god El, Late Bronze II. OIM A18316

#### Contents:

Foreword. Gil J. Stein

Acknowledgments

Stratigraphy of Megiddo

The Southern Levant Collection of the Oriental Institute

Megiddo: Cultural Crossroads of the Ancient Near East

The Early Bronze Age (ca. 3500–2000 BC)

The Middle Bronze Age (ca. 2000–1550 BC)

The Late Bronze Age (ca. 1550–1200 BC)

The Megiddo Ivories

The Iron I Period (ca. 1200–975 BC)

Where Did the Israelites Come From?

The Iron II Period (ca. 975–586 BC)

Who Built Royal Megiddo?

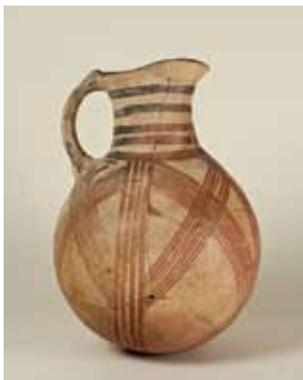
The Southern Levant from the Fall of Jerusalem to the Roman Era (ca. 586 BC–AD 324)

The Southern Levant in the Byzantine Period (ca. AD 324–638)

Bibliography of Works Consulted

Appendices

Indices



Far left: Cypriot white-painted VI jug, Middle Bronze IIB–C. OIM A23952; Middle: Unguentarium, fifth–sixth centuries AD. OIM A30463; Near left: Red burnished jug, Middle Bronze IIA. OIM A23851

# THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE WELCOMES ...



**DEENA  
RAGAVAN**

**POST-  
DOCTORAL  
SCHOLAR**

Deena Ragavan is the Oriental Institute's post-doctoral scholar for 2011/2012. She is organizing the Institute's annual seminar, which this year is on the theme

Temple Topography, Ritual Practice, and Cosmic Symbolism in the Ancient World, which will take place on March 2-3, 2012. Dr. Ragavan received her PhD from Harvard University, where she studied Sumerian and Akkadian. She is currently working on a book about temple architecture in the Sumerian textual sources.



**KATHRYN  
"KAT"  
SILVERSTEIN**

**EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS  
ASSOCIATE**

Kathryn "Kat" Silverstein, who joined us in June, is the education programs associate in the Public Education Office. Kat holds a BFA

from the University of Michigan and an MA in education from the University of New Hampshire. She has been a program coordinator at Northwestern University, a museum educator and program developer at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, and a teaching artist at the Hyde Park Art Center. Kat is in charge of administrative duties for our guided tours and adult education programming, she is our media specialist, and she is also the coordinator of the Kipper Family Archaeology Center, which provides schools as well as other audiences with the opportunity to take part in hands-on, simulated archaeological excavation experiences.



**MONICA  
VELEZ**

**CURATORIAL  
ASSISTANT**

Monica, a native Chicagoan, comes to us from the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, Chicago, where she was executive assistant to the chief

administrative officer. She fills the position previously held by Thomas James. A graduate of New York University, she obtained a BA in anthropology with a focus on archaeology and ancient Near Eastern cultures, and minors in Hebrew and Judaic studies. She went on to receive her MA at the same university in museum studies, with a focus on collections management, exhibition design, and museum history. Subsequently, she worked as administrative assistant in the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, where she was engaged in varied curatorial and documentation-support duties at many levels.



**AMY  
WEBER**

**MEMBERSHIP  
PROGRAM  
MANAGER**

The Oriental Institute and University of Chicago are pleased to announce that Amy Weber has joined the Oriental Institute as membership program

manager. Amy is responsible for managing all membership benefits and programs. She came to the Oriental Institute after working in the sports industry for seven years. She worked down south for the Memphis Redbirds, San Antonio Spurs, and New Orleans Hornets, and locally for Chicago Fire Soccer. She is excited to transition to work in the non-profit sector and looks to increase membership and improve programming here at the Oriental Institute. When she is not hard at work in room 233, you'll find her on her yoga mat practicing or teaching a class.

You may reach Amy with your member benefit questions at [oi-membership@uchicago.edu](mailto:oi-membership@uchicago.edu) or (773) 834-9777.

# PICTURING THE PAST

## IMAGING AND IMAGINING THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST

By Emily Teeter, Coordinator of Special Exhibits

February 6–September 2, 2012

Members' Preview: Monday, February 5, 2012

The new special exhibit, *Picturing the Past*, presents paintings, architectural reconstructions, facsimiles, casts, models, photographs, and computer-aided reconstructions that show how architecture, sites, and artifacts of the ancient Middle East have been documented and interpreted. The show also examines how the presentation and publication of those images has shaped our perception of the ancient world, and how some of the more “imaginary” reconstructions have obscured our real understanding of the past. The exhibit also shows how features of the ancient Middle East have been presented in different ways for different audiences, in some cases transforming highly academic images into widely recognized icons of the past. Much of the material in the show is drawn from Oriental Institute projects and publications. The exhibit is curated by Jack Green, John A. Larson, and Emily Teeter.

Images in the exhibit show how reconstructing ancient architecture is often a balance of the known — archaeological data — and guesswork. Most of the reconstructions are shown alongside photos of what actually remains



Figure 1. Model of the Etemenanki ziggurat at Babylon, based largely on the foundations of the structure and descriptions from ancient texts. OIM C470. Photo by Anna Ressman

of the building, allowing the viewers to evaluate for themselves what is real and what is speculation. For example, the general dimensions of the model of the Etemenanki ziggurat at Babylon are based on the remains of the foundations of the structure (fig. 1). However, the height of the upper stories, the arrangement of the staircases, and the temple on top — of which nothing remains — are based on ancient written sources that describe the manner of construction of the ziggurat, along with a bit of speculation. Other, more recent efforts to reconstruct architecture still rely upon a combination of the known and unknown. The floor plan, niched walls, and the colored cone decoration of a spectacular detailed computer reconstruction of a temple at Chogha Mish (fig. 2) are based on archaeological remains, while the exact arrangement of the cones is based upon a completely different temple.

Sometimes images of the past can be reconstructed from unexpected sources. The footprint of a granary at Chogha Mish was restored from excavated remains, while the shape and proportions of the upper stories were recovered from a seal impression from the site.

The exhibit also shows how some fanciful reconstructions have created misconceptions of the past. One example is G. Rachel Levy's watercolor of a group of statues excavated by the Oriental Institute at Tell Asmar, Iraq (fig. 3). The base of the standing figure of a woman on the right had the remains of tiny feet inset into its base. The missing figure was restored as a young boy (although there are no known representations of youths), leading to the conclusion that the larger figure represented a mother goddess.

This was then used to support the existence of a cult of the mother goddess, which today is regarded as an entirely erroneous understanding of

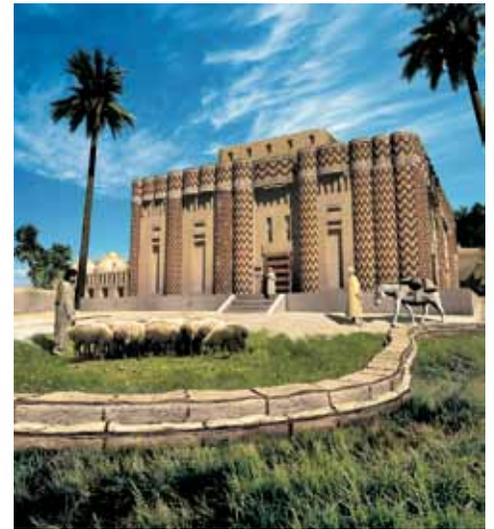


Figure 2. Computer reconstruction of a temple at Chogha Mish (ca. 3400 BC) by Farzin Rezaeian (2007), based on the plan of the temple recovered by Oriental Institute excavations

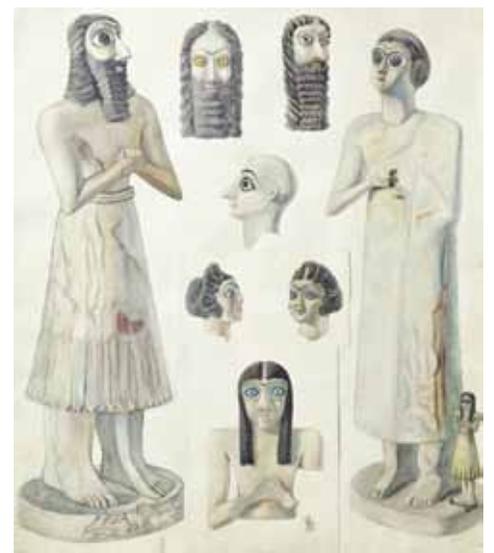


Figure 3. Watercolor of a group of statues from Tell Asmar by expedition artist G. Rachel Levy (ca. 1939), with the speculative reconstruction of a young boy at the feet of the “mother goddess”

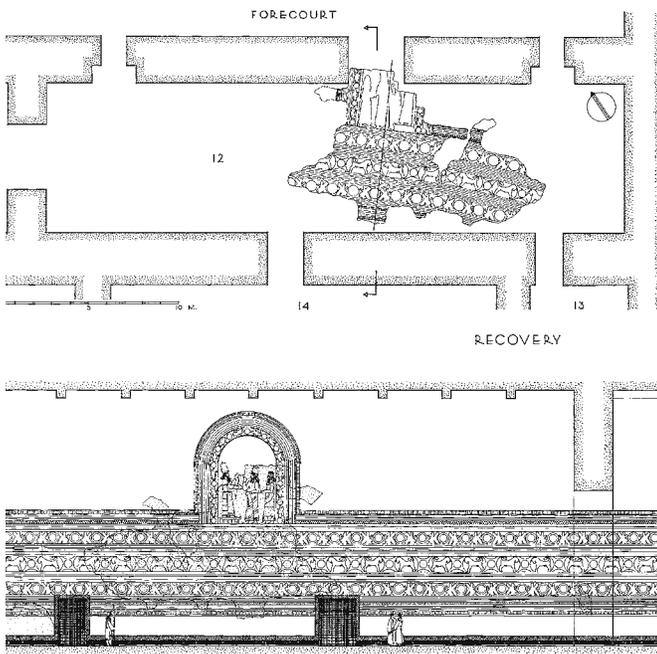


Figure 4 (left). Line drawing documenting the remains of plaster decoration in the royal residence at Khorsabad (plate 88 of *Khorsabad 2. The Citadel and the Town*, by Gordon Loud and C. B. Altman; Oriental Institute Publications 40; University of Chicago Press, 1938)

early Mesopotamian religion. In other cases, speculative parts of reconstructions, or composites drawn from several sources, have become so popular that they are accepted as fact. For example, the Oriental Institute's publication of the palace of Sargon at Khorsabad records the painted plaster decoration of a residence in two ways: a sober and scientific line drawing that reflects what was actually recovered and a colorful reconstruction (figs. 4–5). The color rendering by Charles Altman includes elements such as a small figure of the king in the ring held by the god and elements of dress that were based on images from other sites; yet in later years, the image has been used to illustrate standard features of Assyrian art. Although the color reconstruction was less accurate than the line drawing, it had more public appeal and, as a result, became a standard image of how an Assyrian elite residence was decorated.

The exhibit also examines how images of the past may be presented for particular audiences. The beautiful facsimile copies of scenes from Egyptian tombs painted by Nina de Garis Davies (fig. 6) were published as *Ancient Egyptian Paintings*. Each composition was removed from the context of the surrounding scenes and shorn of its funerary function. The huge folio volumes of these paintings were jointly published

by the Oriental Institute and the Egypt Exploration Society in 1936 as part of an effort to bring what was usually regarded as historical documents to the attention of art historians. This is also evident in the two volumes of reliefs and inscriptions from the mastaba tomb of Mereruka (OIP 31 and 39, published 1938), the introduction to which stresses the art-historical value of the material. Like the Egyptian paintings, the images were published without philological or cultural commentary. This move to reach a wider audience continued with the publication of the statues from Tell Asmar that was intended to be presented in a format to “put our finds into the hands of the increasing number of people who are keen on oriental art.”<sup>1</sup>

One section of the exhibit recounts the major contributions that the Oriental Institute has made in developing methods to accurately document Egyptian monuments and inscriptions. This method combines photography and a system of cross-checking between the photo and the original. The beginning of this process is illustrated in James Henry Breasted's notebooks of careful hand copies of hieroglyphic inscriptions and his own camera that are shown alongside archival photos of the 1905 expedition to Nubia, during which the “Chicago Method” of epigraphy was developed. The work of the

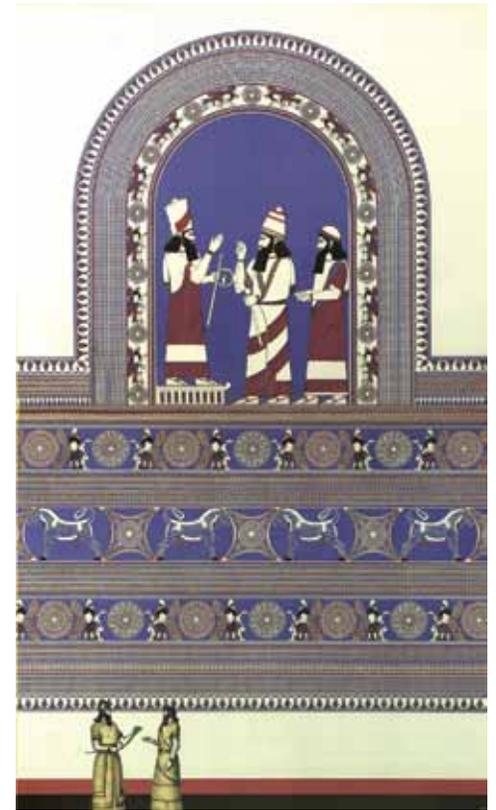


Figure 5. Reconstruction of a detail of the same decoration at Khorsabad by Charles Altman (ca. 1935), whose greater public appeal made it more iconic image. (plate 89 of *Khorsabad 2*)

current Epigraphic Survey is shown by a sequence of photos and collation sheets that illustrate the many steps that culminate in the final publication (fig. 7).

The use of early twentieth-century photography as an essential tool in documenting the past and communicating images of the region to a wide audience is illustrated by examples of the wildly popular stereoscope cards that offered armchair travelers their first views of the monuments and people of the Middle East. These photos, and their accompanying, often neo-colonial commentary, were potent images that created a popular image of the exotic East. The role and development of aerial photography is shown by early experiments with balloon-mounted cameras at Megiddo and by later developments, such as the adoption of formerly classified military spy satellite photography (CORONA) for archaeological work. CT images of the interior of a sealed token ball from Chogha Mish show how today's technology allows what is invisible

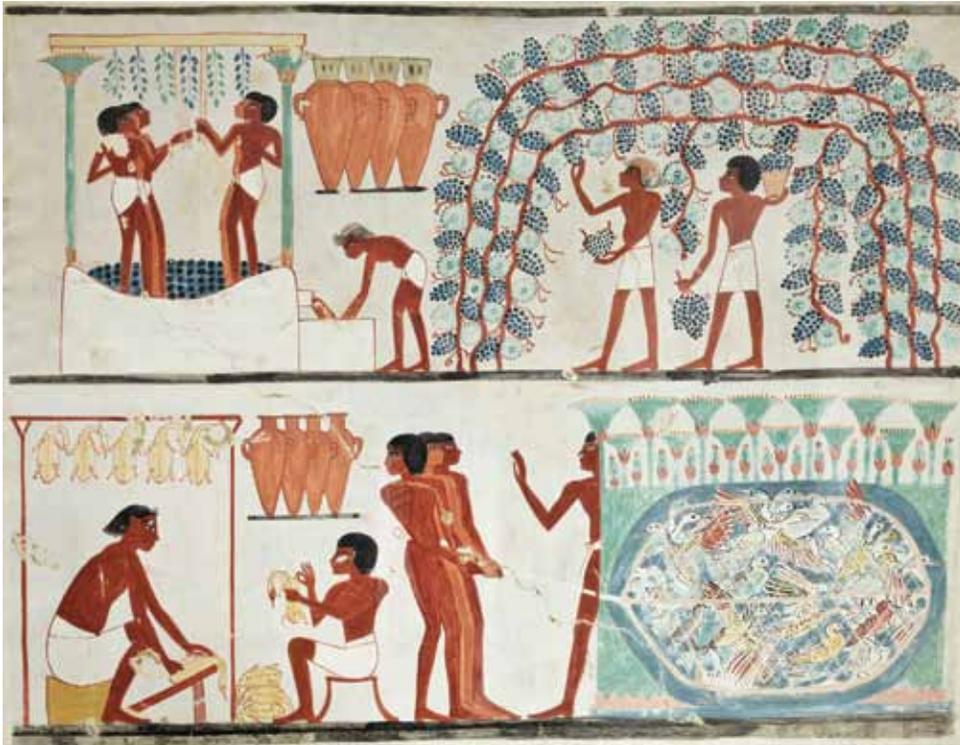


Figure 6. Facsimile of a scene from the tomb of Nakht at Thebes by Nina de Garis Davies, ca. 1936

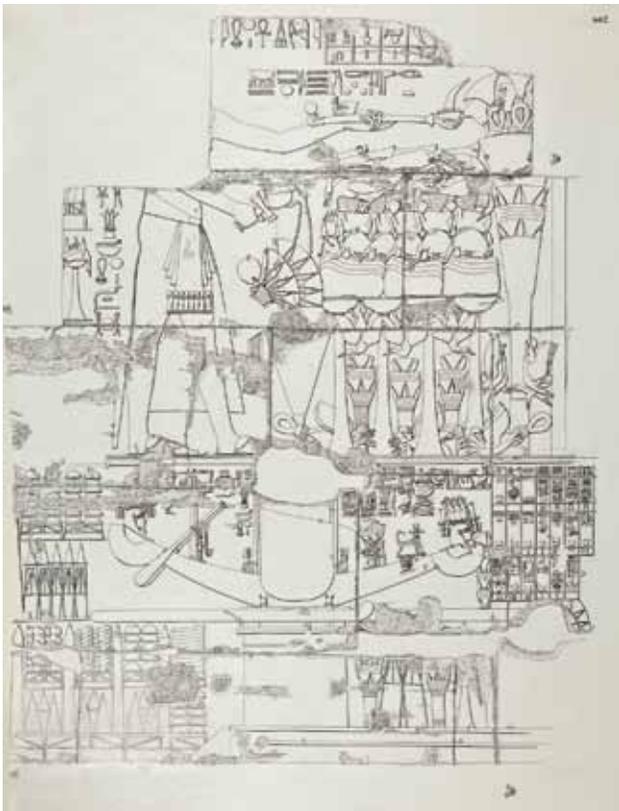


Figure 7. Final drawing by the Epigraphic Survey of a scene in the Colonnade Hall at the Luxor Temple. The drawing is the result of an elaborate system of cross-checking between a photograph and the original. Drawing by Sue Osgood

to the human eye to be seen and studied. A photograph of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Harry Burton illustrates how photography can be used to popularize archaeology, and how a photograph can simultaneously be a document and an artistic statement.

Other objects in the exhibit demonstrate how the expectations of a reconstruction's intended audience may affect its accuracy. For example, a copy of the bust of Nefertiti (fig. 8) in the show was made from the original on the basis of a series of meticulous measurements to ensure that it was an exact duplicate. However, the copy has two complete eyes, whereas the original is missing its left eye, because the public regards this image as such an icon of



Figure 8. Copy of the bust of Nefertiti "improved" by the restoration of the left eye. OIM C280. Photo by Anna Ressman

ancient beauty that a missing eye would be too distracting a flaw.

Two video screens in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery will display a wide range of static and interactive ("virtual heritage") reconstructions demonstrating different technologies and approaches to computer imaging. A lower-tech interactive view of the past is offered by a stereo-opticon reader that will allow visitors to view images of the ancient Middle East just like an armchair traveler of the early twentieth century.

A fully illustrated catalog of essays and descriptions and commentary on the objects accompanies the exhibit.

A symposium, *Picturing the Past*, will be presented at the Oriental Institute on Saturday March 10, 2012, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. For more information, see p. 11.

#### NOTE

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Henri Frankfort to J. H. Breasted, April 17, 1934 (quoted from catalog text by Jean M. Evans).

# IN MEMORIAM CISSY HAAS

by Gil J. Stein

It is with great sadness that we share with you the news of the death of Cissy Haas.

Cissy and her late husband, Bud, were long-time friends and supporters of the Oriental Institute and of the Volunteer Program. Cissy was an enthusiastic supporter of the Institute for more than forty years. Along with her husband (a Life Member of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee and Breasted Medallion Honoree), Cissy was an enthusiastic supporter of the Oriental Institute in spirit, in kind, and in action for all of those many years. Cissy was an artist and friend of the faculty and staff. She loved giving tours of the galleries and is remembered by all her friends in the Volunteer Program as “a docent’s docent.” The Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery in the Oriental Institute’s Museum honors Cissy and Bud’s lifelong commitment and love for the art, archaeology, and history of the ancient Near East. We mourn Cissy’s passing, and we will miss her deeply.



## BOOK SIGNING

December 14, 2011

7:00–7:30 PM – Remarks by Jeffrey Abt

7:30–8:00 PM – Q & A with Jeffrey Abt

8:00–9:00 PM – Reception and book signing in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery, Oriental Institute

*American Egyptologist: The Life of James Henry Breasted and the Creation of His Oriental Institute*, by Jeffrey Abt

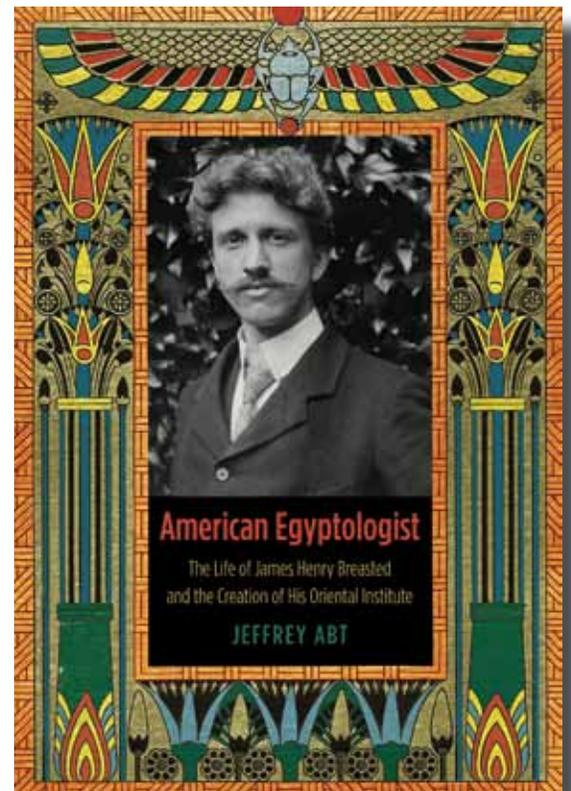
Daring, handsome, and charismatic, James Henry Breasted might have been the inspiration for Indiana Jones — hugely famous in his day, he traveled on expeditions to remote and politically unstable corners of the Middle East, helped identify the tomb of King Tut, and was on the cover of *Time* magazine.

But Breasted was more than just an intrepid archaeologist. He was also an accomplished scholar, academic entrepreneur, and talented author who brought ancient history to life not just for students but also for such notables as Teddy Roosevelt and Sigmund Freud.

*American Egyptologist* weaves together the disparate strands of Breasted’s life, from his small-town origins following the Civil War to his evolution into the father of American Egyptology and the founder of the Oriental Institute in the early years of the University of Chicago. Jeffrey Abt explores his adventurous life and works, providing insight into the origins of America’s most prominent center for Near Eastern archaeology. An illuminating portrait of the nearly forgotten man who demystified ancient Egypt for the general public, *American Egyptologist* restores James Henry Breasted to the world and puts forward a brilliant case for his place as one of the most important scholars of modern times.



Jeffrey Abt, author of *American Egyptologist*



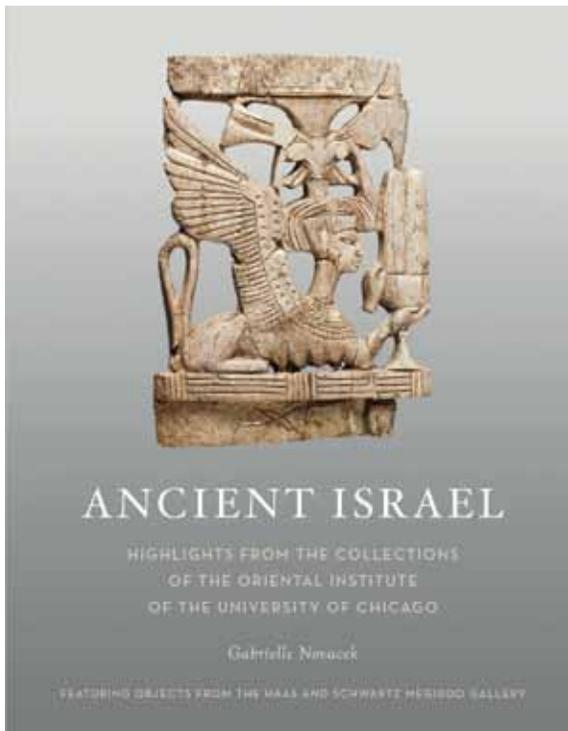
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THE SUQ

## CORNER

### NEW AT THE SUQ



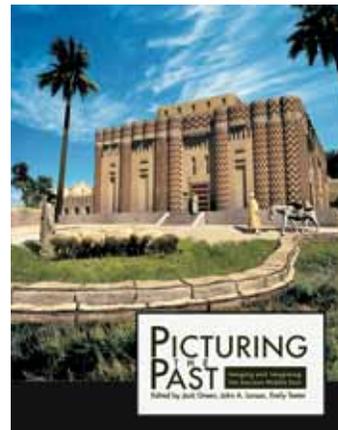
#### Ancient Israel

Highlights from the Collections of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago

New publication from the Oriental Institute  
by Gabrielle Novacek

Members' price: \$37.75

Non-members' price: \$41.95



#### COMING SOON!

Available in February, a fully illustrated catalog of essays to accompany the exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*.