



# News & Notes

No. 80: June 1982

JUN 25 1982

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
Number of publication

## UNESCO SPONSORS PREHISTORY SEMINAR IN U.S.S.R.

April 17, 1982

### Greetings from Robert J. Braidwood

I write this on my way back from Moscow and the central Asian S.S.R. of Tadjikistan. I am in our accustomed room overlooking the Bosphorus in Istanbul, in the house of our Turkish colleague, Halet Çambel. The reason for the trip was an invitation to an international symposium, sponsored by UNESCO, in the Tadjik city of Dushanbe. The subject of the symposium concerned the beginnings of the food-producing way of life in central Asia some seven or eight thousand years ago. My role, I discovered on arrival, was to present an up-to-date summary of how early village-farming life began, some nine or ten thousand years ago, in neighboring southwestern Asia.

I left Chicago on April 5th for a through flight to Moscow, arriving via Zurich at about 4:30 P.M. the next day. It took about an hour and a half to clear through immigration and customs control in the new Moscow international airport. When the control was completed, the Harvard colleague (who had joined the flight in Boston) and I were met by three of the Russian colleagues who were with us in Chicago for a visit last November.

I'm ashamed to say that in the excitement of being finally cleared and of hurrying to meet the colleagues beyond the barrier I left my passport and exit visa (a separate slip with photograph and details) with the little Russian lady who examined the baggage. This could have been fatal: foreigners don't go documentless in the U.S.S.R.! However, the little customs lady chased after me with the passport and visa, a first nice welcoming touch of hospitality.

There is, of course, much bureaucratic red tape and confusion in the U.S.S.R. but I also discovered how we have it at our own end as well. The Russian colleagues were obviously pleased to greet us but somewhat surprised to see me. I'd been sent a cablegram asking just when I would arrive. I never received it, and they, assuming that I wasn't coming, had not reserved a ticket for the next day's flight to Dushanbe. Why had I not received their cablegram? They had my home address from old correspondence, National Academy of Sciences membership lists, heaven knows from where. Several years ago, however, some American bureaucrat in Indiana (where I live) had revised our address from R.R. 5, Box 316 to 0454 E - 700 N, and last year, the LaPorte post office started refusing to deliver domestic mail to our old form of address. Since telegrams and cables now come by domestic mail (if Western Union doesn't find you by phone the first try), I'm sure that that cable from Moscow is in some dead-letter office. The Russian colleagues were quite properly merry when I explained the situation.

There was, unfortunately, no spare ticket on the April 7th

flight from Moscow to Dushanbe (a party head there died and many officials were going down for the funeral). I was to be given hospitality until the next day in the hotel of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and was assigned two very pleasant graduate students as guides to Moscow for the day. It was a spectacular success, and included the Kremlin, St. Basil's cathedral, Red square, and the center of town. The sight seeing was especially good because the day was bright and sparkling. This was lucky: during our two days in Moscow after returning from Dushanbe, the weather was grey and rainy.

The flight to Dushanbe took a bit over four hours flight time: Dushanbe is almost 2000 miles southeast of Moscow (farther than from New York to Denver) and three hour's earlier time change. The city lies in a pleasant green valley, and there is a fine snow-capped ridge of mountains just north of it. There are other ridges in the far distance to the south. It was already spring: the leaves on the trees were mouse-ear sized and forsythia and daffodils were out. In Moscow there had still been some snow. The hotel was a new eight-story affair, of standard Hilton-like design. It appears that both the hotel and the town are on the package tour circuit which includes Bukhara and Samarkand, to the near northwest.

The next morning, we were taken in minibuses to a couple of sites near a village called Hissar, about thirty miles west of Dushanbe. The village is clustered about a medieval fortress on a high hill, with a ruined mosque and medrese (school) near the base of the hill. The colleagues said that the other site was "neolithic" (I was unclear just what this meant to them) but that it hadn't yet been excavated. This site was also on a high hill, and there was an excellent view of the valley and its main stream, which I believe was an upper tributary of the Amu Darya (Oxus).

I'll not bother you too much with details of the four day symposium. There were scholars from Afghanistan, China, England, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Pakistan, Turkey, and the United States, as well as many Russians and people from Tadjikistan and from several of the other southern republics. I learned much, especially that the beginnings of an early food-producing way of life was also well evidenced in central Asia. The sessions of the symposium were held in a very comfortable hall; there was simultaneous translation of the presentations and the exchange of ideas flowed easily. Late on the afternoon of the third day, they cleared the platform and a group of eight Tadjik musicians, a singer, and a very pretty girl dancer performed most handsomely.

On the final afternoon, we had free time. My friend, the Italian colleague, and his wife and I were taken around the bazaar section of the city by a bright young Tadjik lady who spoke good English. Physically, the Tadjiks are Mongols, and their language is essentially Persian. It impressed me that they have obvious pride in their identity. At least a third of the

(continued on page 2)

## ONE EVENING IN MAY—HIGH SPIRITS PREVAILED

The Oriental Institute Museum can often feel austere, certainly awesome. It was not so on the night of its 50th birthday. We sensed an air of relaxed mystery as soon as we entered the lobby. For one thing, we are accustomed to a throng of friends right at the door, around The Suq, and spilling over into the Egyptian hall—engaged in a cacophony of talk. This night there was a small table, staffed by two, one to give you your table number, the other to sell you tickets for wine, cocktails, or soft drinks. Someone approaching the ticket stand asked "where is everyone?" The answer was "follow the arrows!"

We "followed the arrows" and realized that the arrangements committee had done some brilliant planning to accommodate the overflowing crowd. We also began to understand why so many good friends had to have their reservations returned because the party was an early sell-out. What a brainstorm to place bars in the Iranian and Babylonian halls, at the garden entrance, and down in the garden! The garden was breath-

takingly beautiful in the setting sun on a balmy May evening, with the trees in full bloom and the plants in full deep glow.

Small groups, sipping their drinks, strolled from one hall into another, with a stop here and there to take a peek at some artifact capturing passing attention, and eventually wandered down into the garden. Appetizers were passed around at the various stations where drinks could be replenished. A stroll on a spring evening along the River Seine in Paris may induce enchantment with the mystery of life-that-is-to-be. In the stroll through what seemed like open spaciousness of the ancient Near East, there was an aura which induced a profound feeling that civilization is continuous and one, with interruptions now and again. We could stand before a figure over 3000 years old and in 1982, identify with it. Spiritual communion? Who knows, but at least comfortingly inspiring.

The Egyptian and Assyrian halls were off limits until the call to dinner. Soundlessly, the corps of well-trained university students, all dressed in black trousers or skirts with white

shirts and black bow ties, had tables set with gleaming white tablecloths, green napkins, white daisy centerpieces, crystal clear water and wine goblets, and glowing silver. Not even the ice cubes clinked as they served us following our visits to groaning buffet tables. And what a cuisine! Christina Madej certainly put her MA in art from the University to fine use when she turned to gourmet catering in elegant decor. Menu: poached salmon, cucumber-herb sauce; beef tenderloin, sauce provencal; new potatoes, sour cream-dill sauce; pasta with herbs and cheese; vegetable terrine; tomatoes vinaigrette; macedoine of fruit, rolls, butter.

After this repast, we were invited to Breasted Hall, where we no longer wondered whether the "house was full". There was ne'er a seat vacant. Curator John Carswell did a quick sketch about what led to the creation of the Museum, then gave delightful highlights of Dr. Breasted's career full of adventure, direction, imagination, and commitment. These were accompanied by black-and-white slides which further

dramatized this pioneer's monumental achievements. Mr. Carswell concluded the program by showing segments of "The Human Adventure", a 1934 eight-reel talking picture sketching man's rise from savagery to civilization, with narration by Dr. Breasted's son, Charles.

Then what? Good night and homeward bound? Oh no, back to our tables newly re-set and with a delectable rectangle of the anniversary cake at each place. The gigantic cake in all its splendor with pink sweetheart roses spelling out Happy Anniversary had been displayed throughout dinner on a long table between the two halls. Lots of coffee, perhaps some more wine with a toast in our case to two Assyrian functionaries of the Neo-Assyrian period. Said our guest in parting: "Where anywhere in the world could one dine in a museum, in all this atmosphere, and drink a toast to a friend some 2500 years old?" Where, indeed, except at The Oriental Institute!

—Elda Maynard



## UNESCO Sponsors Prehistory Seminar in U.S.S.R. (Continued from page 1)

people one sees on the streets and in the bazaar section wear traditional dress. Perhaps more women than men do so. Predominantly the older men are completely turbaned, quilt-coated and baggy-trousered. The women's dresses are of bright primary colored dashes of zig-zag patterns. The dresses are short and gathered at the waist. The women also wear baggy trousers and head scarves. Half of the men, not otherwise traditionally dressed, wear small skull caps, usually black and with white embroidered patterns.

There is something heartening in all this. Obviously, the central authority has never ordered that a complete shift be made to western dress as was done in Turkey and Iran some fifty years ago. Change is of course well underway. Housing in Dushanbe is fast trending toward large modern flat-roofed blocks of "project" type apartments, all of the same height and monotony, save that the Dushanbe examples are not so many storied as for example are those of Moscow, Paris, and Istanbul. The older Dushanbe buildings reminded me of those of a provincial Turkish town: I could have taken myself to be in Malatya.

There were not, so that I could identify them, any mosques in Dushanbe. Maybe I didn't know what to look for, architecturally.

I'd like to close with a note of downright warmth for all I saw and felt in the Soviet Union. True, my contact was predominantly with colleagues and their graduate students. On our very first night in Moscow, we were the guests for dinner and a fine evening (nine different bottles of wine, vodka, cognac, and fruit juices on the table; many toasts). This

was in the apartment of the senior Moscow colleague. In Dushanbe, the last night, we were in the apartment of the senior Tadjik colleague; again a groaning board of magnificent food and many bottles for about twenty people, only six of us were foreigners. To be made to feel at home in a home in any foreign land, is a most gratifying experience.

For our last evening in Moscow, the colleagues provided us with tickets for the Moiseev (Moshayev) dancers in the new auditorium within the Kremlin; absolutely spectacular folk dancing and costumes. During the intermission, everybody went up to the vast top floor, where a buffet was set out on several hundred tables: for about seventy-five cents, we had blini and black caviar!

In sum, I came away with the feeling that there were a lot of warm, humorous, human beings in the Soviet Union who would like to reach out to us, and who are as much frightened by nuclear bombs as we are. I had a wonderful time, and I wish you could have been there too.

Best of cheer,  
Bob Braidwood

Dr. Braidwood, who is Professor Emeritus of Old World Prehistory on The Oriental Institute faculty, has spent the last eight seasons at the early village site of Çayönü, near the headwaters of the Tigris in south-eastern Turkey. The major prehistoric phase of Çayönü represents the remains of a sizable village community of ca. 7250-6750 B.C., the inhabitants of which appear to have been still upon the very threshold of an effective food-producing way of life. —Ed.

## SUMMER WEEK DAY TOURS PLANNED FOR ALL AGES

The Oriental Institute docents have been interpreting the Museum collection to the public continuously since 1966 when Mrs. John Livingood, now Vice Chairman of the Visiting Committee, first organized the Volunteer guide program. Many docents who trained as guides at that time are still dedicated workers today who, with Mrs. Livingood as advisor to the program, generously share their years of experience with the more recently trained.

The guide program also receives help from the Museum education coordinator, Joan Barghusen, appointed to her post three years ago. The program has been expanded specially for students of all ages. This summer, during the months of July and August, each Thursday morning at 10:30, will be Children's Time. Programs will be geared for children, from 7 to 12, who may have visited the Museum during the school year in a group accompanied by a teacher, and who want to "come back again" to explore more fully the educational potential of the Museum through special interest tours designed particularly for them.

A pilot series begun last summer was so well received that it is being repeated and expanded. Each tour lasts approximately 30 minutes, and focuses on a special topic. Children may attend as few or as many tours as they choose. One little girl attended all of them last summer! No special registration is needed—simply meet in the lobby promptly at 10:30.

If you walk into the Museum on any week day during the school year, chances are that you will see fifty or more students touring the galleries under careful docent guidance. Most of these groups are from upper elementary classes study-

ing the culture of the ancient Near East, and from high school classes studying world history. A smaller number of groups include younger students, or from colleges and universities. Just to touch upon the highlights of the collection in an hour's time means a superficial, though fascinating, look at a wide range of objects. The docents encourage the students to come back after this introduction, and many do—especially during the summer.

Parents are welcome to accompany their children on these summer tours. So many did last year, that this year, special interest tours especially for adults have been added. Adult tours last about 35 minutes. All meet in the lobby at the stated date and time. Specific information for both children's and adults' special interest tours is available from the Museum education coordinator at 753-2573.

## CHILDREN'S TIME: Special Interest Gallery Tours

July 1	Pyramids and Mummies
July 8	Assyrian Palace of King Sargon II
July 15	The House of the God
July 22	Highlights of the Museum - with reproductions to touch
July 29	Alexander and His Conquests in the East
August 5	Pots of the Ancients - What Was This Used For?
August 12	Animals of the Ancient Near East
August 19	Highlights of the Museum - with reproductions to touch
August 26	King Tut and His Times

(Continued on flap)

## Summer Week Day Tours Planned for All Ages (Continued)

## ADULT SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS

Fri., July 2	1:00 p.m.	Egyptian Religion
Thurs., July 8	1:00 p.m.	The Bible and the Ancient Near East
Wed., July 14	11:30 a.m.	Assyrian Palace of King Sargon II
Wed., July 14	1:00 p.m.	Art of Mesopotamia
Tues., July 20	11:30 a.m.	Art of Egypt
Tues., July 20	1:00 p.m.	Egyptian Religion
Sat., July 31	1:00 p.m.	Bible and the Ancient Near East
Fri., August 6	11:30 a.m.	Art of Mesopotamia
Fri., August 6	1:00 p.m.	Assyrian Palace of King Sargon II
Thurs., Aug. 12	1:00 p.m.	Art of Egypt
Wed., Aug. 18	11:30 a.m.	Egyptian Religion
Wed., Aug. 18	1:00 p.m.	Bible and the Ancient Near East
Sun., Aug. 22	2:30 p.m.	King Tut and His Times
Tues., Aug. 24	11:30 a.m.	Art of Mesopotamia
Tues., Aug. 24	1:00 p.m.	Assyrian Palace of King Sargon II

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM GUIDE  
OFF THE PRESS

Over two years in preparation, the new Guide to the Oriental Institute Museum is now available. Published with a grant from the Womens' Board of the University of Chicago, the Guide is a brief, thorough introduction to the permanent collections of the Oriental Institute Museum and to the history and culture of the ancient Near East of which these collections form a significant part.

The text combines a case-by-case guide to the galleries and descriptions of important objects in the collections, and includes introductory essays on the history and archaeology of the ancient Near East. Objects are placed in their proper historical and cultural contexts. The Guide is generously illustrated with new photographs (including three color plates) of pieces from the permanent collection on display in the museum. The text is supplemented by a two-page chronological chart setting side by side the major episodes of ancient Near Eastern history which spans 10,000 years and three continents. Finally, a fold-out shaded relief map locates the countries and sites discussed in the text.

The Guide is on sale in the Suq Museum Store, or by mail through the Museum Office (Attn: Guide Book Sales).

Order information: for each Guide, enclose \$3.75 (minus 10% members' discount) plus \$1.25 for handling and postage. For Illinois orders, please add 7% sales tax.

FREE SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
FILM SERIES

SHOWN IN BREASTED HALL AT 2 PM

July 4	The Human Adventure
11	Iran: Landmarks in the Desert
18	The Egyptologists
25	Turkey: Crossroads of the Ancient World
August 1	The Human Adventure
8	Rivers of Time
15	Megiddo: City of Destruction
22	Egypt: Gift of the Nile
29	Iraq: Stairway to the Gods
Sept. 5	The Human Adventure
12	Iran: Landmarks in the Desert
19	The Egyptologists
26	Turkey: Crossroads of the Ancient World

Have a  
safe and happy  
summer  
and we will  
see you in  
September



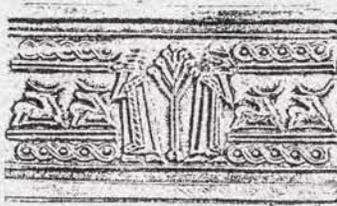
## SUMMER LECTURES

There will be two Museum lectures this summer. The speaker and topic on Thursday, July 29 at 7 PM will be announced later. On Thursday, August 5 at 7 PM, Joe Greene will talk about rural archaeology in Carthage during the Punic and Roman periods. Announcements for both will be sent later, but circle the dates now. Weather permitting, the receptions afterwards will be in the garden.

## THE SUQ

**Near Eastern Belt Buckle**  
adapted from a Northern  
Mesopotamian cylinder seal  
c. 1450-1400 B.C. 1-3/8" x  
2-1/4"

Silver Plated . . . . . \$13.50  
Gold Plated . . . . . 13.50  
Postage and handling . . . . . 1.25



**Persian Belt Buckle**  
adapted from a stone stamp seal  
c. 3000 B.C. 2" diameter.  
Gold Plated . . . . . \$14.00  
Postage and handling . . . . . 1.25

Members 10% discount 7% tax IL residents.

## ONCE AGAIN, HIEROGLYPHS BY MAIL

This summer we are again offering our popular course in Egyptian Hieroglyphs by mail. This beginning course will be taught by Frank Yurco and will cover eight lessons. He will send you lesson notes and exercises, and when you have returned your exercises to him, he will correct them and answer any questions you might have. The course will begin in July and will take you about ten to twelve weeks depending on the speed with which you work. Mr. Yurco recommends borrowing or purchasing a copy of Gardner's Egyptian Grammar, 3rd Edition. The Suq has this text for sale, \$37.50 less 10% for members, plus \$2.50 postage and packing, plus 7% sales tax for shipping in Illinois. Cost of the course is \$70 to members.

Please enroll me in Egyptian Hieroglyphs by Mail.

- My check for \$70 is enclosed.
- I am a member.
- I am not a member, but enclose a separate check for \$20 to cover a one-year membership.
- I would like to order Gardner's Egyptian Grammar from the Suq. I enclosed a separate check (\$37.50 minus 10% discount for members, plus \$2.50 postage plus 7% sales tax in Illinois).

Please make all checks payable to THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE. Please register by July 9, 1982. MAIL TO: Membership Secretary, The Oriental Institute, 1155 E. 58th St., Chicago, IL 60637.



**The Oriental Institute**

The University of Chicago  
1155 East 58th Street · Chicago, Illinois · 60637

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BULK RATE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
PERMIT NO. 1504

Dated Material