



## SUMMER SEASON AT KURBAN HÖYÜK

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The fourth season at Kurban Höyük, the Turkish Salvage Project on the Euphrates river, has just drawn to a close. It has had its ups and downs, but on overall balance—and overlooking some problems which plague us now and undoubtedly will continue into the next year—the 1983 season has been our best.

How best to describe it? I suppose that I should begin with the May symposium, that is, the Symposium on Anatolian Civilization held in Istanbul in conjunction with the Council of Europe Art Exhibition at the end of May. This was a splendidly organized and hosted affair involving three major events. One was the symposium itself, which lasted a week and included reports by a large international group of participants. Virtually everyone digging in Turkey gave a paper, which was simultaneously translated into four languages: Turkish, English, German and French. Apart from these impressive performances, the Turkish Antiquities Service, the Cultural Minister, and a number of European research institutes (notably the German and French) hosted a series of lavish dinners, luncheons and receptions. The most memorable was a starlit evening in the courtyard of the archaeological museum, where hundreds of guests were entertained by several Turkish folkloric dance troupes representing the Caucasus and southeastern regions.

These activities, however, were overshadowed by the exhibition itself. Centered around the Topkapi palace complex, but actually involving a dozen different exhibits scattered throughout Istanbul, the exhibition included displays on the archaeology, art and ethnography of Turkey from prehistoric times to the present day. Apart from drawing on the storerooms of provincial museums, where objects seldom seen were here on public display for the first time, the exhibition also benefitted from the loans of Turkish objects and artwork now residing in several major Western countries. From a vivid array of Anatolian tents to the history of writing, the exhibition was and still is a smashing success, and for those who visited the archaeological section, pride of place at the beginning of this exhibit was a superbly crafted model of Cayönü—representing in part Anatolian prehistory (and viewed against the musical background of Bach's B Minor Mass!).

Concurrent with this exhibition were two smaller exhibits. One was a photographic montage of all the current excavations in Turkey, mounted by the Department of Antiquities. The other was a travelling display of American archaeology in Turkey (from its beginnings until today) organized and set up by the USIS with the help of the American Research Institute in Turkey. There, one could see and read the entire history of American endeavors in Turkey, from Alishar Höyük, Tarsus and Samsat, to the Lower Euphrates Projects, Gordion, Sardis, Karatas, and Aphrodisias. Even for those who are aware of the long tradition that American archaeology has held in Anatolia, it's worth a look.

Well, all this preceded our season of course, but it certainly lent an auspicious air to what followed. I should perhaps mention that some other events helped create the ambience in which the 1983 season took place. On a somber note, we received

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## BAGHDAD IN THE HEAT OF SUMMER

**Being an Account of a trip to Mesopotamia, with Notes on Visa-Hunting in Washington, London and Amman; Discourses upon the Retirement of a Long-term Employee, and Future Excavations at Nippur and Other Sites; with Additional Comments on Oriental Carpets, the State of the Theater, and Opera alfresco**

The title of this piece is cast in the style of 19th-Century travel books because the trip it recounts was something like the long, slow eastward journeys of a hundred and fifty years ago.

After an especially successful season at Nippur in the winter of 1981–82, we decided that we should skip a year and stay home to write up results of previous excavations. Our decision was based, in part, upon an assumption that our presence at Nippur during wartime would be an unnecessary burden on the State Organization of Antiquities. When it became obvious that other foreign expeditions were digging, it was decided that I should go over for discussions on Nippur and our role in new salvage projects. At the same time, I could finish some formalities on the Nippur cars, pay the guard, and deal with other "house-keeping" problems. I could, in addition, take back with me a crate of borrowed cuneiform tablets from Nuzi, an ancient city of northern Iraq.

A letter to the State Organization of Antiquities in the fall of last year resulted in an invitation to come to Baghdad. All I had to do was obtain a visa from the Iraqi Interests Section in Washington. Because of teaching commitments, I was unable to schedule the trip before late March of this year. I began applying for a visa in February, but due to a bureaucratic snag somewhere along the line, it was only in late May that the Iraqi consulate in Washington was able to tell me it had a telex covering my trip. On going to Washington, I found, however, that the telex

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*The tomb of Nebi Yumas (Jonah) which is built on part of ancient Nineveh. This photo, with the Tigris and the gardens of Mosul in the background, was taken about 1954. The new Eski Mosul dam will be built up river, to the right, about twelve miles. The landscape, with fields, trees and hills, is very similar to that in the salvage area.*

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official notification of the schedule on which our region will be flooded by the dam. Along with Hayaz, Samsat, Gritille and Lidar, Kurban is scheduled to be inundated (by a smaller diversionary dam channeling water to the Urfa tunnel) on June 1, 1985. This meant that 1984 would be our last opportunity for a field season. On a happier note, there appeared, in mid-June, in one of Turkey's leading national papers, an entire series of page long articles describing the cultural remains along the Euphrates river and environs. On seven consecutive days, these articles covered not only the current dam projects, including two on Kurban and one on Lidar, but also Samsat, Nemrut Dağ and Harran. To date, these articles have provided the most intensive coverage of a rich but otherwise still poorly known area for a public audience. In a more substantive sense, it means that taxi drivers no longer have to ask directions to come to our dig house, that bank clerks no longer keep us waiting in line, or that inquisitive stares follow our footsteps (these have now changed to knowing stares).

But back to the now frayed thread of this letter. After a late start that was remedied by a generous transfusion of funds from an anonymous donor, the season finally began at the end of June. There were more but necessary delays due to the long envisioned renovations to our dig house. Not only do we now have electricity, but there are two new toilets, the floors are now cemented, our store rooms actually have shelves, and there are even screen doors to keep out the flies (sometimes). Perhaps the only real fiasco, therefore, was the flight to Turkey, in which my baggage was lost (and found), our new portable computer burnt out, our computer disks wiped, and the computer printer turned into an expensive piece of furniture. All in all, not a bad start. That's because our permit did come through in time (unlike the French team) and because the rest of our supplies, including much needed new recording forms, did get through customs. One has to be satisfied with minor victories (since our sister dig at Gritille did get snagged at customs and spent an unhappy initial half of the season writing on scraps of paper).

Well now, all this brings us up to the beginning of the season. Fortunately, things began to look up. A disastrous spring harvest in the region brought us a plentiful supply of laborers (as Prof. Nimet Özgüç, of Ankara University, said: "archaeologists thrive on disasters"). And despite what was described as the hottest summer in Turkey, there were few illnesses and none serious. Part of this can be attributed to a new cook, borrowed from Gritille, who fed us from an unending menu of new and delightful dishes. In any case, we had our largest staff ever, with most of our old crew returning, and a fair number of newcomers. Our veterans included Guillermo Algaze, Mary Evins, Bruce Verhaaren and Ron Gorny (from Chicago), as well as the Wilkinsons, the Ingrahams, Mary MacDonald, Naomi Miller, Pati Wattenmaker, Gil Stein, Toni Cross (from ARIT), Canan Öztürk, Semih Aközlü and Asli Yener. Apart from the 17 returnees, Mary Evin's husband, Gaius Overton, and Bruce's wife Christie and daughter Catherine (at three, our youngest staff member); and two more from the States also joined us—Susan Wineberg and Kathy Ataman. And there were three more from Britain—Irving Finkel (from the British Museum), Graham Philip and Nick Illingworth—and another two more from Turkey—Billur Tekkok and Cemil Bezmez. That makes 27, plus our very able government representative, Recep Okcu, our driver, Ömer Honca, our cook and his assistant, as well as occasional visitors. With 53 workmen at our peak, Kurban Höyük was a busy place this summer.

With the dam schedule setting new time constraints on the project, we decided to concentrate our digging to only the soundings (Areas A and CO1) and one horizontal area, Area D on top of the larger south mound. The increased manpower, more than triple what we had last year, enabled us to start off with a bang. Perhaps the principal achievement this year was the virtual completion of our stratigraphic sequence in the step trench, Area A. A substantial portion of the bottom of the trench has been cleared to natural soil. We can now

hypothesize that the original site was founded near the junction of two subterraces of the river, where a spring emerged. This original site, located on the present south mound, can be dated to the Halaf period and seems to have incorporated many of the features that we now associate with the Halaf assemblage (ca. 5000 BC): characteristic fine painted pottery, a type of building known as a "tholos", and a carved stone pendant in the shape of a double axe. In addition, we found a fairly well preserved crouched burial and a finely pressure flaked flint knife in these levels.

We also have a better picture of the Late Chalcolithic period. Our earlier hypothesis, that we had an apparently earlier local population that was at some point brought into close contact with south Mesopotamian groups (of the Late Uruk period), appears to be substantiated by a fairly abrupt introduction of Late Uruk remains, whose variety and quantity appear to increase over time. Indeed, we can now say that the settlement of this period extended across both mounds and the saddle, and was followed by a transitional phase of settlement to the beginning of the Early Bronze Age (ca. 3100 BC). This transitional period is so far unknown at other sites.

Another period, for which there is now better evidence is represented by a number of mudbrick and stone buildings in several levels of the upper step trench. Dating to perhaps the Akkadian period (ca. 2300 BC), one room yielded a large jar, a circular stamp seal impression, a figurine and a bone awl, along with several painted vessel fragments. By the end of the season in late August, this level has been removed to reveal perhaps an even more impressive building associated with the 5 m. wide "fortification" wall. Roughly contemporary with these structures, on the slope of the south mound, we found a 7 m. deep well that had been dug in antiquity. We reexcavated this well to the original water level, uncovering as we went a series of debris levels including a large deposit of sheep-goat bones.

What I have described so far actually involved less than 50% of our workforce. By far the greatest emphasis was placed on excavating the top of the south mound. Here, the fourth side of the Abbasid khan (or travellers' station) was found, and this piece of the jigsaw suggests that the entire complex was almost a perfect square, roughly 57 m. on each side, bordered by symmetrical rows of rooms with standardized dimensions. Beneath this building, about 1700 m<sup>2</sup>, or about one half of the final Early Bronze Age settlement, has now been cleared. Unlike the previous seasons, some of the rooms cleared this year were filled with broken pots lying in their original positions. A number of ovens, a street, more open courtyard areas, and part of a "gatehouse" near the entryway were found in different sectors of the excavation. With a total of 40 or more rooms excavated now, this exposure promises to yield the largest and most detailed picture of a 2000 BC settlement within this region, and provide important information on the Early Bronze—Middle Bronze Age transition of the northern Fertile Crescent.

Although the final week of the season was hampered by another workmen's strike, the 1983 excavation season was a fruitful one. It was paralleled also by a successful conclusion to our survey. Over 40 sites have been found and examined within a short distance of our site. Partly as a result of this survey, we have been fortunate and gratified to arouse interest in one of the survey sites among other archaeologists. Last year, mention was made of a possible early ceramic Neolithic site of impressive size discovered by Tony Wilkinson and Gil Stein near Şaşkan. You will be interested to know, therefore, that a joint project carried out with the Dutch Historical-Archaeological Institute in Istanbul and the Urfa museum has been organized to carry out excavations there. These excavations, which in fact started this month, are directed by Dr. J. J. Roodenberg, who is also the director of the excavation cross river at Hayaz Höyük, and is perhaps best known for his work at Buğras, in Syria, a site of roughly the same time frame as Şaşkan. Even as we were closing down the Kurban season, the first group of Dutch archaeologists arrived at our dig house. They plan to have teams

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# ORIENTAL INSTITUTE 1984 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS

## EGYPT March 7–March 22, 1984

Our tour of Egypt will be led by Ann Macy Roth, a PhD candidate in Egyptology at the Oriental Institute, and will provide a fascinating look at the art, history, and culture which originated in the Nile Valley over 5,000 years ago. The trip will feature a five-day Nile cruise on a Sheraton ship. A complete itinerary is available from the Membership Office. The cost of the trip from Chicago is:

Land arrangements	\$2295.00
Round trip air fare from Chicago (APEX)	\$917.00
Single supplement, hotels only	\$390.00
Single supplement, hotels and ship	\$915.00

plus a \$350 tax-deductible contribution to the Oriental Institute. This includes deluxe accommodations, Nile cruise, all land arrangements and all but three meals. A \$300 deposit is required at the time of booking.

## EGYPT June 29–July 15, 1984

Bruce Williams, Research Associate at the Oriental Institute, will be the lecturer for a 17-day summer tour to Egypt. Designed for people who cannot travel in the winter months, touring will be in an air-conditioned motor coach. Egypt is extremely hot in the summer months and this tour should not be undertaken by people who are not in excellent physical condition. A complete itinerary is available from the Membership Office. Cost of the trip from Chicago is:

Land arrangements	\$1915.00
Round trip air fare from Chicago (APEX)	\$1167.00
Single supplement	\$400.00

plus a \$350 tax-deductible contribution to the Oriental Institute. This includes deluxe accommodations, all land arrangements and all but eleven meals. A \$300 deposit is required at time of booking.

## TURKEY October 12–November 2, 1984

A tour of Turkey, highlighted by visits to two of the Oriental Institute's Turkish excavations in Anatolia, Harran and Çayönü, will be led by Institute professor Robert J. Braidwood and Linda Braidwood. A complete itinerary for this 22-day tour is available from the Membership Office. Cost of the trip from Chicago is:

Land arrangements	\$1795.00
Round trip air fare from Chicago (APEX)	\$1062.00
Single supplement	\$300

plus a \$350 tax-deductible contribution to the Oriental Institute. This includes hotels, all land arrangements and all but four meals. A \$300 deposit is required at time of booking.

On each of these tours arrangements may be made beforehand with the travel agent (Archaeological Tours) to travel in Europe or the Near East before or after the tour. Archaeological Tours will be glad to help you with these arrangements but you will be responsible for any additional travel costs or surcharges.

Please enroll me/us in the Institute's 1984 Archaeological Tour to:

- Egypt, March 7-March 22       Share room (with?) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Egypt, June 29-July 15       Single room  
 Turkey, October 12-November 2       Send detailed itinerary for \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$300 per person) as a deposit to hold my/our place, payable to ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS, INC.

Mail to: Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th St., Chicago, IL 60637 (312) 962-9513.

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had an error in it and the visa could not be issued. A phone call to Baghdad resulted in my being told to apply in London. Since I had already planned to do some work and attend an international Oriental rug conference in London, there was no need to change my ticket.

London was, as usual, a gracious, interesting place and the work I had to do at the Royal Geographical Society was accomplished without difficulty. The rug conference was an odd mix of scholarship and hucksterism. Next to an innovative discussion of stylistic or technical aspects of a specific group of rugs there would be a piece of absolute nonsense, based on no research but given with a showmanship that would guarantee sales. Rug scholarship has not grown much beyond its infancy and if it is to attain full maturity it must entail consistent, serious study from art historical, technical or anthropological viewpoints.

Theater in London was not as good as it has been on previous occasions. But, there was a great variety of serious music opportunities to make up for the doldrums in the theater. Entering St. Martin in the Fields for a noon-time concert is one of the genuine pleasures of London. It was in this way that I filled in the time while waiting for a visa. Here, I had the same snag. Another phone call to Baghdad directed me to Amman, Jordan, where it should be easier to overcome obstacles and international calls would be much less expensive.

I had not been in Amman since 1967 and was amazed by the growth of that once-small city. New hotels and business buildings have sprung up on the hills and in the wadis around the older part of town. I went to the Iraqi consulate and began the process of obtaining a visa. Meanwhile, having made contact with the American Center for Oriental Research I was taken to visit a remarkable Neolithic (c. 6,000 B.C.) town in the northern outskirts of Amman. A few days after I left, the excavators found a group of large clay statues, a great find that was reported in the international papers.

Baghdad was also much changed since my last visit. In only a little more than a year, many of the development projects had been finished. The new airport building, approach highways, clover-leaves, luxury hotels, and large public buildings were now open. With the rate of development reduced until the end of the war, there are fewer foreigners in the city and it was not difficult to find a hotel room. The new Sheraton, Novotel, and Meridien have eased the crowding in the smaller hotels. I was much relieved to find that the heat of Baghdad was not as great as I had anticipated. Instead of being 130 degrees Fahrenheit as it has been at other times when I have been there, it was about thirty degrees cooler, at least for the first week.

My first few days in the country were spent in Baghdad, conferring with the officials of the State Organization of Antiquities. Then, I went to Nippur for a time, mainly to see the guard, Nur, but also to check over the house and the site. As expected, everything was in order. Under Nur's care, not a window was cracked in the house, nor an illegal hole dug in the site. This man has been working for the Nippur Expedition since 1948. He and his wife have raised a remarkable set of children at Nippur. A daughter is a school teacher in Baghdad. One son has a degree in engineering from Yugoslavia, and another is a simultaneous translator of English and Arabic. The youngest son, who worked beside me as a pickman one season and learned quicker than any person I have ever known, has decided to study agriculture. The sons and the daughter all speak English very well, and it is assumed by visitors that they learned it from years of association with us. But, this is not the case. There was a very gifted teacher in the local grade school and these very gifted children learned from him and from listening to the radio. That the children are bright is no surprise, since both the father and mother are extremely intelligent. I have spent a great deal of time in their company, especially with the father, discussing in Arabic current events as well as the oral tradition of tribal wars and of the Pennsylvania Expedition of the 1890's, Nur's boyhood memories of Turkish rule, and the coming of the British in the First World War. It was only when I heard

about the possibility of Nur's being drafted in that war that I became aware of his true age. He is not about seventy, as we had thought, but more like eighty.

Given his age, it is not surprising that Nur and his wife think he should retire. He shows his years after a walk over the dunes at Nippur and is not as fast as he used to be when going to see who has come to visit the site, but he is amazingly vigorous and alive. His curiosity about the world in general is as wide ranging as ever, his contemplation of life is as deep, and his humor is still accurately focused. Last year, using his children's old school books, he taught himself to read and write. We have agreed for him to retire at the end of this year, after he finds a suitable replacement. We will still see him, no doubt, in his new house in the local town of Afak. And he will come to visit, to make sure the new guard is working out well. But, there is no possibility of finding anyone to equal him, and with his departure from the site, an era will be ending.

Our own future at Nippur was the subject of much discussion while I was in Baghdad. It is abundantly clear that the authorities



*Nur Kadhim, the Nippur guard, who is retiring this year.*



wish us to continue at the site, and after fifteen seasons we have a large enough body of knowledge about the city that we can do some fairly sophisticated investigations. Continuing at Nippur, however, will entail much larger budgets than have been available in the last few seasons. Major new sources of funding must be found or we must turn our attention to smaller, less complex, less important sites.

Future work in salvage areas was also the subject of talks and travel. There is a new dam being built above Eski Mosul on the Tigris north of Mosul. The reservoir will be a long one, reaching almost to the Syrian border. The valley to be flooded is beautiful, with rolling hills, green fields, orchards, and close to two hundred known sites. This area is not of minor historical importance, as was the Hamrin valley where we worked two very productive seasons (1978-79), but is within the main area of Assyrian occupation. This is an area that can produce rich crops without irrigation. The Tigris has been throughout history a major source of food as well as an important link in water and land transport. Traffic by land can follow the river or pass along the hills to Turkey and Syria. And there are major ancient routes to the Euphrates.

The importance of the Eski Mosul area is highlighted by a number of very large sites in the valley. One that I saw, Tell Jigan, is about as large as Nippur, but not as high. I was told that there is at least one other site that is even bigger.

The Antiquities Organization arranged a trip for me to the salvage area. After a long afternoon's drive to Mosul and a good night's sleep, we went west to Tell Afar, a large town with an

ancient mound at its center surmounted by a newly restored medieval Islamic fortress. The farmland around the town is dotted with tells. It is in this area that the British Expedition carried out several seasons of important work in the 1960's. This area will not be covered by the dam, but from this town it is easy to reach the west side of the Tigris and the sites that are already being excavated by the Iraqis, the Japanese and the Italians. Here, ancient fortresses, towns and villages sit on bluffs overlooking the river. In places, the river has deposited enough silt to create a broad agricultural plain, with one or two mounds marking ancient towns.

The other side of the river, which I visited the next day from Mosul, was somewhat different in that the wadis leading to the river tended to be longer and the alluvial areas larger. We did not go far up the river, because the days had become increasingly hot and I did not want to inconvenience my host, who was doing the driving, but it seemed that the east bank, at least in the area near the dam had far more sites than the west bank. In this region the British Expedition put in seven months of digging over the past year, working through the winter, even with snow on the ground. Their expedition team photograph, taken at the time of the snow, makes them look like Arctic explorers of eighty years ago. We have worked through winters at Nippur and in the Hamrim, and often have experienced freezing cold. Being snowed on, although common in Assyria, would be a novelty for us Babylonian types.

It is obvious that I think the Eski Mosul project would be a good one for us to get into, not only because the sites will disappear, but also because the scholarly reward would be great. There is an urgency in this case, since the dam will be finished in a couple of years and the longest projection for the complete filling of the reservoir is eight years. The Antiquities Organization, in the persons of Dr. Moayyad Damirchi, its President, and Dr. Behnam Abu as-Soof, the Director of the Northern Region and the direct overseer of the Eski Mosul Salvage Project, has its own expeditions and foreign teams working near the dam in the area that will be flooded first. As the water rises in stages, the archaeologists will retreat north to take on other sites. We are hoping to field a team soon, but must work out its financing, staffing, and the scheduling of any new work around our commitment to Nippur.

Upon returning to Baghdad, and another round of discussions at the Antiquities Organization, I was shown the museum halls, which have just been re-installed. For the past three years, the objects have been in storage for their protection from possible damage. It was good to see all the objects back in place in their magnificent setting.

After one last feast in the home of Baghdadi friends, I went to the airport to take a flight to Rome. The plane was delayed twenty-four hours and the airline put all of us up at the Meridien. This delay made it possible to visit the bazaar once more and to look at a few more rugs. I had already gotten a fine old Kurdish kilim, so I resisted temptation to buy anything else.

In Rome, on the way from the airport, I saw signs advertising *Tosca* at the Baths of Caracalla. When I arrived at the house of the family who were putting me up, I said I would take them to the opera. They said it was too late, since they had already bought the tickets and were taking me that night. So, in the balmy Rome evening, we saw a great spectacle with elaborate sets and costumes. Luckily, the flight path for airplanes was not over us, and the sound was better than it usually is out of doors. The singing was good, but not brilliant, and only I noticed that the person who threw herself over the parapet was a stand-in. The mosquitoes were present, but rare.

My friends insisted the next day that I must visit the catacombs, since I am an archaeologist and must love bones. We did. We also heard a Bach organ recital in an enormous rococo church and ate well several times.

My flight from Rome to Chicago on July 12 was without incident.

McGuire Gibson

## NOVEMBER LECTURE

Dennis Pardee, Associate Professor at the Oriental Institute and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, will present an illustrated lecture, *Ugarit by the Sea: An International City of the Late Bronze Age*, on Wednesday, November 9, at 8 PM in Breasted Hall.

## DECEMBER LECTURE

Prudence O. Harper, Curator of Ancient Near Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, will present an illustrated lecture, *Silver Vessels of the Sasanian Period: Mirrors of an Age (3rd-7th Centuries A.D.)*, on Wednesday, December 7, at 8 PM in Breasted Hall.

## 1984 MEMBERSHIP LECTURE SCHEDULE

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|-------------|---|
| February 15 | John L. Foster, Roosevelt University, Chicago: <i>Words Inked on Stone: Recovering the Literature of Egypt in Chicago.</i>          |
| March 27    | Peter I. Kuniholm, a joint lecture with the A.I.A.: <i>The Aegean Dendrochronology Project.</i>                                     |
| April       | John D. Ray, Cambridge University   |
| May         | Harry A. Hoffner, The Oriental Institute; <i>Adventures in a World of Words: How We Write a Dictionary of the Hittite Language.</i> |
| May 20      | Members' Day  |
| May (late)  | Elizabeth F. Carter, University of California, Los Angeles  |

## HOLIDAY GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

A holiday gift of an Oriental Institute membership will bring the recipient a year of News and Notes, an Annual Report, discounts in the *Suq*, and access to the many lecture, tour and educational programs which the Institute offers. We will send a packet of materials about the Institute, a membership card(s) and a card announcing your gift on the day you specify (or enclose your own gift card for us to forward on).

Single or family memberships: \$20 in the US and \$25 foreign. Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637, (312) 962-9513.

*Feasts for Pharaohs and Kings:* The Oriental Institute Volunteers' cookbook will make an unusual gift for the holidays. Send us your cards or lists of names and we will post your gifts for you on the dates you specify. Order from the Volunteer Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637. Send \$10 for each cookbook, + .70 tax for each delivered within Illinois + \$2.50 each postage and handling (\$1.00 postage and handling for additional copies to the same address). Please make all checks payable to THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE.

The popular CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS will be held again this winter on the following Saturdays from 10 a.m.-12 noon:

January 21	February 18
January 28	February 25

Each workshop includes gallery study and a related project. Specific topics will be announced in the January News and Notes. There is a fee of \$7.50 for each workshop. For more information or specific topics and age recommendations, call Joan Barghusen, Education Coordinator, 962-9507.

## WINTER MEMBERS' COURSES

### "Ancient Egyptian Literature"

The ancient Egyptians are celebrated today chiefly for their magnificent art and architecture. They also possessed, however, one of the richest literary traditions in the Near East. Stories, wisdom texts, hymns, love poetry, all these and more are available to those who wish to learn about the Egyptians in their own words. This course will be an exploration of that literature. We will read a wide selection of texts in translation, and talk about what they can and cannot tell us of the culture which produced them. Among the topics to be considered are: the role of literature in the society; the development of the various genres; the Egyptian influence on the literatures of other peoples, especially the Hebrews. We will use the excellent three volume survey of Miriam Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian Literature* (Berkeley-London, 1973-1980), now in a paperback edition. This will be supplemented by translations of the instructor. Types of literature will include wisdom literature, prose tales, prophecies, religious and mortuary texts, royal texts, poetry, song, and satire.

**Lecturer: Richard Jasnow**

### "Ebla in the Syro-Mesopotamian World"

The fascinating world of the archaeologist digging in the barren mounds of the Middle East is properly complemented by an understanding of the language or languages spoken in ancient times. The ability to read the cuneiform writing sheds light on the archaeological findings and helps us feel in communication with these old civilizations. This course will focus on the writing system set up by the Sumerian scribes. We will consider the cuneiform writing in its early stage before the first large empire under Sargon of Akkad and the evolution of that writing after the destruction of Agade in the Ur III period. We will later consider how the same writing system was understood and taught at Ebla, in a foreign country more than 500 miles away. Finally, we will study the two main historical texts found in the Ebla archives—the commercial treaty with Assur and the report of the so-called "struggle with Mari." While some of the discussions about the language will be technical ones, all the background needed to follow the discussion will be given in class.

**Lecturer: Lorenzo Vigano**

Courses will begin Saturday, January 28 and continue for 8 weeks, through March 17. Class meets at the Oriental Institute from 10:00 A.M.–noon. Tuition is \$50 for members. For more information call Education Office, 962-9507.

Please register me for the course

- "Ancient Egyptian Literature"
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## HARRAN POSTPONED UNTIL 1984

New rules, adopted by the Turkish Department of Antiquities over the summer of 1983 and communicated to us too late to be acted upon, required the postponement of the fall season for the joint Turkish-American Project at Harran. Although a research permit for the archaeological survey had been issued, it could not be used until a Protocol, establishing the longterm commitment of research and finances, had been drawn up and signed by both parties of the joint archaeological expedition.

The Protocol should be established soon. In the fall of 1984, we envisage a three-pronged program of research, consisting of excavations on the tell of Harran, restoration of standing monuments at the foot of the tell, and a survey of sites in the Plain of Harran.

L. E. Stager

### GIFT CERTIFICATES

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*Continued from page 2*

digging both Şaşkan and Hayaz, with a central base at Cüm-cüme. To carry out this demanding logistical maneuver, Dr. Roodenberg has brought a high-power motorized rubber dinghy (generally used for water skiing!) to transport him back and forth across the Euphrates every day between the two sites.

A final word should perhaps be made of our social season this year. Compared to 1982, 1983 was rather quiet. But we did manage to make a three day trip to the magnificent site of Arslantepe, where Dr. Alba Palmieri (University of Rome) has been producing exciting results for many years, and where our former colleague from 1981, Prof. Mario Liverani, is now also digging. Needless to say, the reception of a somewhat large group of 26 people would have taxed most expeditions, but the Italian team responded with a seemingly effortless display of hospitality and grace (including a four course lunch) that one could only admire and be grateful for. The Uruk period palace there is indeed an impressive sight, and the lessons that we learned there while looking at their comparative material will prove to be of incalculable value. Although roughly contemporary with our Late Chalcolithic levels, their collections appear to be substantially different from ours, and this contrast raises in high relief the complexity of the process by which the Uruk groups contacted local populations in this area.

I should also mention that the Malatya trip was not our only social event. Once again, we had exchanges with the Bryn Mawr team at Gritille and with the Heidelberg group at Lidar, the former directed by Prof. Dick Ellis and the latter by Prof. Harald Hauptmann, both of whom were, as usual, very kind to us. We also visited Samsat, directed by Prof. Nimet Özgüç, for the first time, and were particularly inspired by the scale on which the Turkish archaeologists have undertaken this excavation. Hastened by the new dam schedule, there are now 160 workers employed there. Among the most notable finds there this year were three reused fragments of Neo-Hittite stone sculpture and hieroglyphs, and an Assyrian-style decorated brick.

This has been a most eventful season, as the length of this letter indicates. But the events have not yet ended. As I write, I am informed that my baggage has been lost, found and lost again. I'm not sure how this development will turn out, although one result is no photographs to go with this letter, but such a sour note still cannot change the fact that 1983 was a superb season. Since it was our last major digging season, this was indeed appropriate.

Best regards,  
Leon Marfoe

After visiting the trees at the other museum, come and see the *alternative tree*. . .



### THE SACRED TREE

November 30, 1983–January 5, 1984  
The Oriental Institute Museum  
Opening Reception and  
special Christmas Suq Sale  
Wednesday, November 30th, 5–8 pm.

On display for the first time will be items specially brought back from the Middle East by Institute travelers for this event.

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Lecturer Peter Piccione describes the course:

*"In studying ancient Egypt we usually focus upon royalty, political history, religion and the pyramids, while neglecting the lives of the common people. This course will consider the various aspects of society which affected the lives of the common people, focusing on such topics as the structure of Egyptian society; the Egyptian educational system and the opportunities it presented to the lower classes for advancement; Egyptian occupations and industry; medicine in Egypt; the position of women in society including social equality and women's rights; love and marriage; legal aspects of marriage; organization of labor; building techniques; mathematics and astronomy; and the Egyptian legal system with regard to crime and punishment."*

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## FREE SUNDAY FILMS NOVEMBER 1983-MARCH 1984

All films are shown at 2 PM in Breasted Hall, The Oriental Institute

November 6	Megiddo: City of Destruction
November 13	Myth of the Pharaohs*
November 20	Rivers of Time
November 27	The Egyptologists
December 4	Turkey: Crossroads of the Ancient World
December 11	Of Time, Tombs and Treasure*
December 18	The Big Dig
January 8	Iraq: Stairway to the Gods
January 15	Egypt: Gift of the Nile
January 22	Iran: Landmarks in the Desert
January 29	Preserving Egypt's Past
February 5	Megiddo: City of Destruction
February 12	Myth of the Pharaohs; Ancient Mesopotamia (2 short films)
February 19	Rivers of Time
February 26	The Egyptologists
March 4	Turkey: Crossroads of the Ancient World
March 11	Of Time, Tombs and Treasure
March 18	The Big Dig
March 25	Iraq: Stairway to the Gods

\* New Films in the series

#### ONCE AGAIN—BEGINNING HIEROGLYPHS BY MAIL

Starting January 1 Frank Yurco will again offer the beginning hieroglyphs-by-mail course. He will send you lesson notes and exercises, and when you have returned your exercises to him, he will correct them, answer any questions you might have, and return them to you along with the next lesson's exercises. There are ten lessons in all and it is expected that you will finish in about 20 weeks.

The two necessary texts will be Gardiner's *Egyptian Grammar* and Faulkner's *Middle Egyptian Dictionary*. These can be purchased through the Suq. Cost for Gardiner is \$37.50 less 10% membership discount, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling, plus 7% sales tax if shipped within Illinois; cost for Faulkner is \$21 less 10% discount plus \$2.50 shipping and handling charge, plus 7% sales tax if shipped within Illinois.

Tuition for the course is \$75 for members.

Please enroll me in *Egyptian Hieroglyphs-by-mail* course

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 I would like to order Faulkner's *Dictionary* from the Suq, and enclose a SEPARATE check (\$21.40 for out-of-state purchasers; \$22.72 for Illinois residents).

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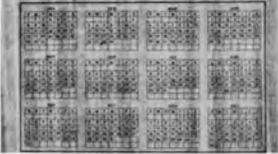
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