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OI NEWSLETTER - SECOND TUESDAY - APRIL 2000

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

In response to the Institute-sponsored "Electronic Publication of Ancient Near Eastern Texts" conference last October 8th-9th, a new majordomo list called NEML (Near East Markup Language) has been created on the Institute's server. Administered by Chuck Jones, the list circulates ideas and comments by those conference participants directly involved in developing the markup structure(s) for electronic publishing of Near Eastern texts.

Several new OI website components went up in March:

- (1) The Conservation Lab now has a "homepage" on which it discusses on-going projects;
- (2) the cover article in the last News & Notes, Norman Golb's "As The Scrolls Arrive In Chicago..." is now available, as are his comments and

corrections regarding the current Field Museum exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls, entitled "THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY OVER THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE EXHIBITION AT THE FIELD MUSEUM OF CHICAGO" (only available electronically from the Institute's website).

The last of the adjustments, hardware, and software upgrades to the Institute's three unix computers, brought about by the Y2K issue(s), were completed in March. Many thanks to Christopher Barnard for all his help with these tasks!

And lastly, I had a chance to drop back into my old architecture mode a little in March. Mac Gibson ask me to work up a design for the new Hamoukar dig house in Syria. We dusted off the drawing board, and my gray matter, and developed what looks like a small Assyrian palace with Forecourt, Reception Suite, and Inner Courtyard plan. Architecturally, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

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DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

As you know, the Oriental Institute will host Romancing the Past 2000, a gala benefit at the Drake Hotel on May 5, 2000. At the event, Janet W. Helman will be awarded by the James Henry Breasted Medallion by President Sonnenschein, and Robert Ritner will give a presentation on the Egyptian Hours of the Night.

As is traditional, the Visiting Committee to the Oriental Institute has invited members of the faculty and staff to come as their guests, and have additionally purchased places for the Director to distribute. All voting members, senior staff, and department or project directors will receive a complimentary ticket for themselves and spouse or guest. Details will follow.

Dress is black tie.

Proceeds from Romancing the Past 2000 will benefit reinstallation of the Institute's galleries.

The LaSalle Banks is proud to serve as Medallion Underwriter to Romancing the Past 2000.

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MEMBERSHIP / Emily Napolitano

Early Towns in Highest Yemen: Investigation of the Bronze Age Mountain Stronghold of Hammat al-Qa

T. J. Wilkinson

Wednesday 12 April

8:00 pm, Breasted Hall (Reception Following)

Arabia is not known for its towns, but within the spectacular scenery of Yemen's verdant mountains, an expedition from the Oriental Institute has discovered some of the best preserved early towns in Arabia. These towns date from as early as 2500 bc, and although they are roughly contemporary with the development of cities in Mesopotamia far to the north, their growth appears to be independent of them. Located at elevations of around 2,200 m (7,000 feet) above sea level, the Yemeni towns often form defended strongholds that overlook rich and fertile basins. In this lecture, Tony Wilkinson will present the results of the recent 1999 field season at Hammat al-Qa, near Dhamar, to include the latest 3-D computer reconstructions of the site and, for the first time, reveal the complete building plan of this beautifully preserved town.

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MUSEUM / Karen Wilson

More than eighty Oriental Institute members and friends spent an entire day learning the basics about ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs during a special "Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs" workshop presented by Museum Education on Saturday, March 4th. Peter Dorman, Jan Johnson, and Emily Teeter led this program that included lectures, reading exercises, and visits to the Egyptian Gallery where participants could practice reading royal names and basic inscriptions. Participants received information and resources for further study, and many indicated they planned to enroll in the Hieroglyphs by Mail course that Museum Education will be offering

this fall. Evaluations of the program stressed how much everyone appreciated the time and attention given to them by the Egyptologists. Special thanks to Peter, Jan, and Emily - and graduate student Francois Gaudard - for their support of this public outreach program.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Holland

Editorial Division:

The Chicago Assyrian Dictionary volumes R and S are in the process of being bound in Michigan and should now be available for sale on Monday, April 17th. [These arrived on the loading dock as this newsletter goes to press]

The Wente Festschrift did not get completed in March due to problems with a number of appendices. The manuscript has been completely formatted for sending to the printers electronically upon the final reading and approval of the text by the editors, E. Teeter and J. Larson. We expect this task to be completed by the end of April so that this book will be available by mid-summer.

Work also continues on the two-volume set by M. Garrison and M. C. Root concerning the seal impressions from Persepolis, Bir Umm Fawakhir by C. Meyer et al., Scarabs, Scaraboids, Seals, and Seal Impressions from Medinet Habu by E. Teeter, and the Theban Desert Road Survey by J. C. and D. Darnell. The memorial volume for Douglas L. Esse, SAOC 59, Studies in the Archaeology of Israel and Neighboring Lands has been sent to Eisenbrauns for typesetting and will appear as a joint publication with the American Schools of Oriental Research.

The most recent manuscript accepted for publication is T. J. Wilkinson's final report on environmental studies in the Tell es-Sweyhat plain, entitled Settlement and Land Use at Tell es-Sweyhat, and in the Upper Lake Tabqa, Syria. The manuscript of the companion volumes, text and plates, on the Sweyhat archaeological results to the present time, has been submitted to the OI Publications Committee; these volumes are provisionally entitled Tell Es-Sweyhat, Syria: A Bronze Age Town on the Left Bank of the Upper Euphrates River.

Sales Division:

Mr. Christopher Kahrl, the publications sales manager, will be resigning his post on June 30 in order to move to Washington, D.C. where his wife will begin working at the National Institutes of Health. The Publications Office will be advertising for a full-time employee to replace Mr. Kahrl in the near future; the new employee will be expected to begin work either at the end of May or the beginning of June so that there will be an overlap with Mr. Kahrl.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

In March and early April the wiring to the tables was completed. Electrical outlets and internet jacks are available at the end of each table in the reading room. Readers interested in using their laptops in the reading room must register with John Sanders in the Computer Lab. Once this is complete you will have complete internet access from your seat in the Research Archives.

We have spent considerable effort this month on the editing and development of the on-line catalogue. We have had 935 users of the catalogue in the past month, making 22,454 requests of the database. We processed and catalogued one hundred and two new items during March, and edited about ten thousand records in the catalogue.

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TABLET ROOM / John A. Brinkman

Markus Hilgert concluded his current session of work on the Ur III tablets on March 17.

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PROJECTS

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W Raymond Johnson

March in Luxor was a month of comings and goings, signaling the rapidly approaching end of the season. Things got off to an excellent start with the arrival of our beloved Mary Grimshaw, who worked with us in the library and Photo Archives for the entire month; and stone conservator Hiroko Kariya's husband Jeffrey, who visited for a few days. Mary's arrival was timely; she helped us entertain Xerox Corporation Egypt Director Bron Curley and his wife Jennie, who took a break from Cairo to come see our operation. Since Xerox is a long-standing supporter of Chicago House and the Oriental Institute, and currently loans us a Xerox copier rent-free, Carlotta and I have been trying to get Bron, who was appointed Director year before last, here for the last two seasons.

Nan and David Ray departed the first week of March, after Nan had spent two very productive months assisting Hiroko in the organization and tracking of the thousands of fragments in the Luxor Temple block yard. I sense a budding new career here (she's even taken summer work home with her!). I am very grateful to her for her invaluable help which put Hiroko much farther ahead in the fragment program, and look forward VERY much to Nan's return (and David's) next January to continue that invaluable work.

Carlotta departed on March 5, always a sad occasion, but this time I accompanied her for some development work in Cairo. We rendezvoused with Carlotta's husband David, in town attending an international Internet convention, and enjoyed a lively dinner with Sheila Kurtzer, wife of the American Ambassador to Egypt, and their son David. Artist Carol Abraczinskas left for home to resume dinosaur-bone drawing for the UofC's Paul Sorreno on March 7, the same day Museum Archivist John Larson arrived for a week's stay after the successful conclusion of the OI tour to Egypt.

On March 9 Jason Ur arrived to tweak the new Photo Archives database for a few days on his way to Syria, and on March 16 our colleague Marianne Eaton-Krauss arrived for a week's stay and research. Other visitors included Betty Winklemann (who writes ancient Egyptian detective novels under the name of Lauren Haney); former Administrator Christian Loeben and ten students; Douglas Kofoid plus four UCGSB students; Carol Redmount and Husband Maury; and former Senior Epigrapher and Assistant Director Richard Jasnow (always a joy to have around). Many of these friends were in

town for the International Congress of Egyptologists at Giza from March 28 - April 3.

And now it's the final week of the season, which hardly seems possible. We've made incredible progress on all fronts, workwise. The epigraphers and artists are putting the finishing touches on their ongoing drawings and collations, and writing their reports for the season. Artist Margaret De Jong is finishing the penciling of a small limestone stela from Deir El-Medina we found used as a chinking stone on the roof. Tina is in the final stages of cleaning Holscher's backfill in the back chamber, and has found painted inscriptions on several foundation blocks; once they are documented, she will be filling the floor in this week.

Yarko and engineer Jamie Riley finished installing the final 'wharf' section in the north Ramesses III well, and with the crucial assistance of Ellie Smith finished the photography of its deteriorating reliefs last week. At the small Amun temple, Yarko, Sue Lezon and Ellie photographed all of the walls (and roof painted with stars) in sanctuary room 2 which conservators Lotfi Hassan, Veronica Paglione, and Adel Andraus had cleaned this season, in b+w and color transparency. Up above, Dany finished the roof sealing work over the sanctuary and ambulatory for this season, and, after two very trying days, successfully transported 50 square meters of sandstone slabs from Karnak to Medinet Habu for restoration work next season, a MAJOR accomplishment!

At the Luxor Temple block yard, while Hiroko wrapped up her treatment program for the season, the epigraphers and I began a catalogue of the decorated stone fragments piled on the ground in the southeast area. This week I will finish raising two entire rows of over two hundred fragments onto new damp-coursed storage mastaba/platforms, sorted and arranged by category. It's only a small beginning, but this work represents another major milestone in the Epigraphic Survey's documentation and preservation efforts at Luxor Temple. Also, our custom-made, waterproof tent-awnings arrived last week for placement on the steel and wooden-framed treatment mastabas. These awnings will not only protect the treated fragments from the elements, but will also provide an enclosed space which makes the treatment more effective.

In the Photo Archives, among many other tasks Sue and Ellie coordinated the ongoing scanning of our 8x10 negatives at the

Karnak Franco-Egyptian Center, and have prepared many more for scanning over the summer. Sue also has started designing a database for Helen and Jean Jacquets' photographic archive, a copy of which will be permanently housed at Chicago House, and which we can adapt for the Habachi Archive as well with Jason Ur's kind help. Helen has finished the mockup of the plate section of her Khonsu Temple rooftop graffiti volume, a sample of which I will take back to Chicago to the publications office (she is scheduled to finish the text next season, and the volume will be the next to appear in our Khonsu Temple series).

The constant maintenance work required for a facility like Chicago House goes without saying, but I must remark that engineer Jamie Riley has been a godsend once again this season. Jamie not only coordinates the dozen or more different maintenance tasks ongoing at any given time, from screen replacement, automotive and plumbing maintenance, refrigerator repairs, etc, but his presence has also allowed some major improvements to be made to the house, some of them needed for a long time. This season we have taken the plunge and are raising the front enclosure wall along the Corniche by adding an extension which matches the original grillwork. One section is in place and looks as if it was part of the original design, and the pillars supporting the grillwork are all being raised as I write this. I think it's the perfect compromise measure for raising the height of the wall (which has become necessary primarily for security reasons) without sacrificing light, air, or our view of the Nile and western cliffs. It wouldn't be happening as quickly and efficiently without Jamie.

Mark Easton, Chip Vincent, and Jarek Dobrolowski will be down on Tuesday, April 11th for a brief EAP end of the season review, and we will take advantage of his presence to give Mark, who is leaving ARCE in July, a HUGE party that night, in celebration of his extraordinary accomplishments at ARCE, and his unstinting kindness to Chicago House.

And then, before you know it, we will be home. Like every field director (I am reminded of Miss Kantor in particular), I always have bittersweet feelings about the end of the season, feeling like we've only just reached our stride when it's time to head back. But as the temperatures climb, and the 'kamseen' winds begin to blow (as they are now), and I think of how COOL it still is in Chicago, I will admit to

a touch of homesickness... It has been an intensely productive and full season, and we are all ready for the change.

See you very soon!

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NELC / Marlene Tuttle

You are invited to attend Paul Heck's dissertation defense on Wednesday, May 10, 2000, at 11:30 a.m. in Pick 218. The title of the dissertation is "Qudama b. Ja'far (d. 337/948) and his Kitab al-Kharaj wa-sina'at al-kitaba: Administrative Contributions to Knowledge." The dissertation committee members are Professors Kadi (Chair), Donner and Professor Duri (University of Jordan). The dissertation has been approved by the committee.

ABSTRACT

"Quda'ma b. Ja'far (d.337/948) and his Kitab al-kharaj wa-sin'at al-kitaba: Administrative Contributions to knowledge."

This study uses Qudama b. Ja'far's Kitab al-kharaj wa-sina'at al-kitaba to explore the role of the Abbasid state in the formation of Islamic civilization, specifically its vision of knowledge. The upper echelons of the administrative corps -- its intellectual elite -- played a vital role in the development of various branches of knowledge through the early Abbasid period, even carving out their own space in the Islamic scholarly milieu through the creation of a particular branch of knowledge, "administrative science" (al-kitaba), devoted to their own needs, interests, and identity. Qudama's work, an encyclopedia, is an attempt to consolidate the advances made in these scholarly domains from the point of view of the state. While located within the genre of administrative literature, his work pushes its boundaries by including other branches of knowledge and thus demonstrates the particular ways in which the intellectually talented members of the administrative corps mediated the interests of the state to the wider scholarly milieu.

The work begins by consolidating the administrative science, reflecting its fundamental interest and inspiration in the Arabic language, especially its written form, as the defining element of the administrative craft and, indeed, the entire structure and machinery

of administration. Other sections deal with geography, tax law, and political thought, and by consolidating and classifying the various features of these disciplines, Qudama is able to emphasize the state's particular interest in and contribution to them.

Reading the sections of Qudama's work alongside the other works of their respective genres has had a twofold result: 1) locating Qudama and his social group (kuttab) more precisely on the intellectual map of their day; and 2) appreciating more fully their assessment of these genres as a whole. Thus, Qudama's work is revealing not only for its own vision, but also for its perspective on the intellectual concerns of the Islamic civilization of its day.

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INDIVIDUALS
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PETER DORMAN

Peter Dorman participated in the one-day Egyptian hieroglyphic workshop organized for OI members and for the general public by Carol Krucoff and the Education Office on March 4th, addressing the interrelationship of hieroglyphs, art, and religion. At the very end of the month he traveled to the University of Arizona to lecture on early 18th dynasty history at the invitation of his former roommate and NELC graduate Gene Cruz-Urbe. The presentation was carried live to three remote campuses on the Navajo reservation and preceded by very snappy theme music and graphics -- something we should perhaps consider introducing at the OI? See him in OI 220 if you're dying for tickets to the Park Ridge production of Gilbert and Sullivan's Gondoliers on May 5-6, 12-13, and 19-20. Not to be missed!

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ALEXANDRINE GUERIN

MURWAB - QATAR
ABBASID VILLAGE FROM THE IXth Century

Islamic architecture in the urban context is now well known (palace, mosque, khan, citadel and religious complex). Studies focusing on the rural context however, and particularly those focusing on domestic and village houses have not been well documented in the Arab Middle East. In the case of the Gulf region, excavated Umayyad and Abbasid sites excavated are insignificant. We have some information, for example, the khans of Darb Zubayda (Pilgrim Road between Saudi Arabia and Iraq), some Islamic settlements in the village of Southern-Barbar (Bahrain) and Al-Qusur (Failakah Island, Kuwait). In the context of this desert of knowledge (but not completely a desert: Come to Don Whitcomb's Islamic Arabia Seminar, spring 2000, to learn more!), it is my pleasure to be organizing an archaeological mission in Murwab, State of Qatar.

The archaeological site is located a few kilometers inside the desert on the west coast of Qatar. This Islamic village was 1,2 kilometers long and 200 meters wide and included 221 rooms, of which 41 have been excavated. In the Northern part of the site archaeologists found a castle/castrum/khan. This Islamic village dates in the ninth century - "exactly" from 800 to 850 A.D. - and has been excavated twice before. A Danish team worked during the winter of 1958-59 under the direction of the Comte Eigil Knuth, and Karen Frifelt produced a report in 1974. The second mission was organized by the CNRS/RCP 476 under the direction of the prehistorian Jacques Tixier, and C. Hardy-Guilbert reopened the site of Murwab. This project conducted two seasons of excavations (1979/1981). During the last season, I was among the excavators - I was 20 years old and it was my first "exotic" excavation.

During my linguistic stage in Cairo (1986 and 1987), I prepared my Masters degree in Archaeology on the topic of the architecture at Murwab. I worked on an ethnoarchaeological study to understand the social organization. I distinguished three phases of sedentarization by the analysis of houses (see my article in *Archeologie Islamique*, 1994). Unfortunately, the artifacts and especially the ceramics have not yet been published.

The Qatar Government would like open a new room in the National Museum and seems very interested by their Islamic past. For this reason, the Qatar Government has asked me study the material of Murwab. I will travel in November and December 2000 with a project to do test soundings and to analyze all the ceramics in order that date the site and prepare material for an exhibit in the Museum.

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MARK LEHNER

Up Against the Wall

If our dig were an attacking army, I could say that we stormed out of the confines of our Zone Z (where we have the two huge sets of galleries, or corridors, separated by a wide street), marched north 65 meters through the breach that our loader driver, Mohammed Musilhi cleared in the overburden, and rushed the East end of the Wall of the Crow. Our forces hit up against that great stone wall, cutting the path of horse and camel rider, scooping and hauling away the overburden, and scraping to bare a surface along the foot of the Wall not seen in 4,600 years. Now we find ourselves like Napoleon in Russia, at the end of a long extension into terra incognita, surrounded by stubborn overburden, 4 to 6 meters tall on our east and west, and the towering Wall on our north. Our forces halted, they mill about, wondering where to go next, hoping that they will not be ambushed by hostile forces, or caught in a trap of low information retrieval after much cost and struggle.

It has been a busy time since my last dispatch. When I returned from 10 days on break at home in Boston, the Eighth International Congress of Egyptologists (ICE), held every four years, was in full swing at Mena House, just over the Giza Plateau from our site. Two days after I arrived I was pleased to show our work to AERA board member George Link, who stayed at Mena House with his wife Betsy, son Bill and his wife Christie. AERA board member James Allen and his wife Susan, Curators at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, were already at Mena House with the ICE, and they came one very bright and hot noon hour to see the site. AERA board member Matthew McCauley also visited, staying at Mena House from April 3 through 5 with daughter Tosha and son Dylan. We also had several other members of the Egyptological community visit the site during the past week, including Janet Johnson, Jaromir Malek, Chris Eyre, Ian Shaw, Dina Faltings, and Peter Piccione.

I was pleased to share our progress, and I learned from the observations of many of these colleagues. But the most satisfying visit of all for me was when Ann Lurie took time out of her return home from Kenya to see the work she has made possible with her extraordinary grant and challenge. Ann and Tom Hill visited the site

on the afternoon of March 31 with friends and family members. It was a perfect time to see the ancient walls comprising this vast royal installation in the low, raking light of late afternoon from high atop the overburden that remains to be moved across our northern zone.

As I reported in an earlier dispatch, our breach northward cut the way used by modern camel and horse riders around the end of the Wall of the Crow. For safety reasons we had to decisively remove this path. This meant that our clearing took a swing to the west-northwest, along the base of the ancient stone Wall. Now we have cleared a patch about 25 meters east-west by 20 meters north-south along the southern face, eastern end, of the Wall. When we scraped off the last sand cover, we exposed large rectangular areas of dark ash enclosed by field stone walls and, right up against the Wall, thick mounded reddish dumps of concentrated pottery sherds -- mostly bread molds. This "bread mold gravel" is familiar to us. We had similar thick deposits to the east of the bakeries that we found in 1991 in the Southeast corner of Zone C. Up against the Wall, for much of its length, there was a whole lot of baking going on -- at least in the last phase of the site's occupation. (A short distance to the West is our Area A8 in 1991, where Augusta McMahon, then of the Oriental Institute, cleared the first bakery that we found.)

Of course this has us thinking and rethinking about the Wall of the Crow. It is built of large limestone blocks like those that compose the pyramids. It is nearly 200 meters long. Augusta's trench up against the Wall in 1991 indicates it is 10 meters tall, and possibly 12.5 meters wide at the base. This to hide a massive swath of open-air bakeries?? Under the level of the bakery, Augusta dug through a thick bank of masons' chips -- apparently the Wall was never finished. Its faces were left undressed. Now we may be exposing a "frozen moment" in the construction, which may have progressed in segments that extended the Wall eastward. Mohammed Musilhi only begun to clear around the East end of the Wall. Reis Ahmed and his workers have further shaved down and consolidated the standing section through the deposits up to the end of the Wall. The Wall ends in a pile of stones, gravely sand and limestone chips, that slopes down to the East. This may be the crude ramp that the 4th dynasty builders used to were drag the big limestone blocks up to the course under construction. They may have left the ramp for us to find it when they gave up work on the Wall.

The fact that this great royal monument was never completed may explain why the area along its southern face was allowed to become a garbage dump for lots of bakeries. (These could also be copper working facilities in which bread molds were used as crucibles. Some sizable pieces of copper turned up in this debris during our surface cleaning).

We have now done about as much as we can in the cul-de-sac at the end of the breach until Mohammed Musilhi takes away more of the overburden. Reis Ahmed and his team have cleared an area about 1000 square meters through the breach and into the bulge along the Wall of the Crow. Mohammed Musilhi has been doing work for the Supreme Council of Antiquities outside Giza during last week, but we expect him to return this week.

Another Set of Galleries?

What about the area between Zone C and the Wall of the Crow? It may be well to recall that the greater part of our Zone C is taken up by two sets of galleries, each set composed of eight corridors, about 4.70 meters wide, separated one from the other by walls a little more than 1.5 meters thick (probably an intended 3 cubits). The southern set of galleries, for which we have the northern and southern boundary walls, is 35 m long. This set is separated from the northern set by a street, about 5.20 meters wide (probably an intended 10 cubits). We have tracked the street 80 meters east-west. We have only 20 meters of the total north-south length of the galleries of the northern set, except for the farthest gallery of this set to the West. We have been tracking this gallery, and the western boundary wall of the northern set, in our push northward toward the East end of the Wall of the Crow.

That western boundary wall of the northern set of galleries runs along our 6 range of squares. (Squares are numbered west to east -- so that all squares in one north-south row -- or range -- share one number. Squares are lettered south to north, so that all squares in an east-west row -- or tier -- share one letter. Each square is 5 x 5 meters). We believed we had to track the western wall of the northern set of galleries for 3 squares, or 15 meters, farther north than our Zone C in order to get beyond the northern gallery system. Our belief was based on the assumption that the northern galleries are 35 meters long, like the southern ones. It turns out that assumption is probably correct. In square R6 Mohsen Kamal

skillfully articulated, and Tobias Tonner mapped, the northern boundary wall, where it makes the northwestern corner with the western boundary wall, of the northern set of galleries. So, we wondered, as we cleared and scraped our way northward square by square, what might lie in the 45 odd meters between this outside corner and the area extending from the East end of the Wall of the Crow?

The answer awaits us in squares S 6, and T6, and those round about. But already, in just the last couple days of cleaning and scraping the mud mass in these squares, we have hints that yet another great gallery system, the same size as the two already mapped (or mostly mapped), may lie to the North (so that our 'northern set' is really a middle set). In square S6 a space with no walls may very well be another street about 10 cubits wide. And then in square T6 the western boundary wall picks up again, and it seems to make a corner with a 3-cubit wall running east-west that would be the southern boundary wall of the new set of galleries, or the northern wall of the new street. In the coming days we will be trying very hard to confirm our suspicions. It has important implications for what we do with the last part of our season, between now and the end of May.

If there is yet a third colossal set of galleries they take up most of the area under most of our Zone N, where the overburden stands 4 to 6 meters tall. The suspected set may very well mirror, in broad strokes, the two we already have. Shall we spend the rest of our effort, time, and funds on this, or move in other directions? If these galleries are the dominant feature of our site, should we turn our efforts now (as eventually we must) to more intensive excavation and study of their contents to learn more about the function? (Inside the galleries, we have both house-like structures, as well as industry evidenced by open areas filled with black ash, bakeries, and a copper working chamber.)

Not-galleries

It is on the East that we have "Not-galleries." East side of the southern set of galleries, we have the hall of the curious low troughs and benches where we find so much fish bone. This was a columned hall, evidenced by column bases set every 2.62 meters (5 cubits) under the sets of troughs and benches (so a functional, as opposed to a ceremonial, hypostyle hall). The columned hall occupies roughly 20 x 15 meters. Along the west of the hall a row of field stone walls

forms roughly equal units each divided into two rooms -- workers' houses? All this in a space exactly the width of three galleries. North of the street, in the Northeast corner of Zone C, we have the large structure, the "Manor," where Hratch Papazian supervised excavations now continued by Sarah Sterling. The "Manor" is only 10 X 15 meters, but its outer walls are about 3 cubits thick, like the gallery walls. The "Manor" is flanked east and west by bakeries (as we surmise from the ground plans and black ashy fill).

So on the East we something other than galleries, and at the Northeast corner of Zone C is the only thing that looks like a large house. Perhaps we should push northeast as I once intended. Other team members vote for west, following the street. We did find, as I reported in earlier dispatches, a gate at the western end of the street. This gate opens to an area outside the gallery system. The street is continued by field stone walls. It runs into dumb sand, the limit of our clearing. My impression is that the areas outside the gallery system on the West, and outside the gallery system on the East, are dump grounds, evidenced by large patches of concentrated pottery sherds. Here and there within the dumped areas there are stony structures that are less formal than the architecture of, and inside, the gallery system.

Tomorrow we will back in our cul-de-sac at the North end of our breach, hoping for Mohammed Musilhi to free us from more overburden. We need to at least peek around the East end of the Wall of the Crow, and to ascertain whether or not the walls in squares T6-7, U6-7, and V6-7 announce yet a third huge gallery system.

Nicholas Conard and Tobias Tonner from the University of Tubingen joined our team last week. Nicholas is working with Cordula Werschkun on the lithics analysis. He leaves April 9, but Tobias will be with us for more than a month. He is mapping squares in our northern breach and bulge along the Wall of the Crow.

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ROBERT RITNER

From February 17 through March 7, Robert Ritner led an OI tour to Egypt with 30 participants, in conjunction with Emily Napolitano and

a second tour of equal size led by John Larson. After a day's delayed departure caused by blizzard and a closed airport, the tour proved very successful, if hectic. In addition to the standard itinerary, the tour offered exceptional, private viewings of the Giza plateau, the Sphinx temple, the Cairo Museum, Dendera and the much-publicized "Valley of the Golden Mummies" in the Bahriya oasis. Seeing the Cairo Museum without the usual crowds was a particular privilege, and our evening visit to Dendera was the first of its kind, inaugurating the local generator for lighting (we brought a spare).

On April 13, Ritner will lecture for the Dallas Museum of Art on "The One God who Made Himself into Millions: Ancient Egyptian Conceptions of Deity, Religion and Magic", and on April 15 he will lecture for the North Texas chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) on "Egypt in the Third Intermediate Period". On April 28 at the ARCE conference in Berkeley, he will speak on "A Healing Stela of Bes Pantheos in the Brooklyn Museum", and on May 5 at the Drake Hotel in Chicago he will provide the program for the Institute's Breasted Medallion Ceremony, "Romancing the Past 2000," on "The Egyptian Hours of the Night." Back at the OI on May 7, he will speak on "Magical Conventions in the Egyptian Romance of Setna Khamuas" for the University's series on "Works of the Mind."

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