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RESEARCH ARCHIVES - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - DECEMBER 1998

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The entire month of November was spent continuing the Institute's email switch from QuickMail to the Eudora software. There are only five individuals left to move off QuickMail now, so the end is in sight in early December. Then I can get back to more research oriented endeavors.

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MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT . Tim Cashion

Tim Cashion was named Director of Development on November 5. The search for a new Membership Coordinator is underway, and it is hoped that an appointment can be announced before the holidays.

The Oriental Institute received an \$800,000 endowment gift, made anonymously, in October 1998; this endowment will provide long term support for archaeological field research and analysis.

The present fundraising goal is meeting the Morse Genius Challenge Grant. The Challenge, by the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts, should if met allow us to restore some of the Research Archives Reading Room's most beautiful features (including replicating the original lighting fixtures) and to equip it with technological infrastructure for the future (such as Internet wiring). If you know anyone who might be interested in helping us meet the challenge, which expires on Dec 31, 1998, please do let Tim Cashion know.

For the first five months of Fiscal 1999, Basic and Associate Memberships are running 7% ahead of last year in terms of number of member households, and 19% ahead of last year in terms of revenues.

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MUSEUM / Karen Wilson

Museum staff continue work on the installation of the new Egyptian Gallery, which we hope to be able to open in May 1999. Once we manage to get all the contracts between the various parties signed, the contractor in charge of building our new exhibition cases will provide us with a work schedule, and we will be able to set an exact opening date. We hope this will happen within the next week or two and will keep you posted.

During October and November, more than 80 new and returning volunteers participated in a seven-session Volunteer Training course that was offered on Saturdays. The course, developed by volunteer coordinators Cathy Duenas and Terry Friedman, began with a lecture that I presented on the history and work of the Oriental Institute, followed by what is reported to have been a superb series of lectures on ancient Egypt by Peter Dorman, John Larson, Robert Ritner, Emily Teeter, Steve Vinson, and Frank Yurco. These lectures, along with a

new training manual, have given our Docents just the guidance they need to begin preparing for the exhibit tours that will be so much in demand with the reopening of the Egyptian Gallery and will enrich the continuing volunteers' outreach program.

Along with the Volunteers, 37 teachers from 29 different Chicago Public Schools also attended these lectures as part of a special teacher training seminar the Museum Education office is presenting in collaboration with the Chicago Board of Education. Funded by a grant from the Fry Foundation, this 8-session seminar is designed to expand and enhance the teachers' understanding of ancient Egyptian history and culture, and to provide them with the curriculum resources they need for effective teaching. These classroom resources—developed by Carol Redmond and Anna Rochester working with a panel of local teachers over the past several years—include curriculum guides complete with lesson plans, full-color poster sets, mini-museums of reproduction artifacts, and an ancient arts video series that features local artists demonstrating ancient arts processes. You are all invited to stop by the Education Office in its new home, Room 221, if you would like to take a look at these impressive materials that were made possible by a generous grant from the Polk Bros. Foundation.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Copies of the Epigraphic Survey's Luxor Temple 2 (OIP 116) were received from the portfolio case maker and distribution has begun. A new catalog of publications was made using the booklet function of the OI's new Xerox photocopier and is being distributed (each catalog consists of 8 double-sided 8.5 x 14 photocopies folded and stapled).

The plate volume for Garrison and Root's Persepolis Seals and Sealings (OIP 117) is nearly complete with 350 of the 434+ photographs of Persepolis Fortification tablets with sealings scanned and placed; captions and a list of plates are being created as the images are placed on the pages. After the photographs are placed, several more plates will be created to aid commentaries in the text volume; line-drawings of seals with similar components and design elements will be grouped and presented on such-themed plates. An interesting dilemma posed itself while scanning photographs of the sealed tablets. After viewing hundreds of photographs, the sealings are very often difficult to see and distinguish on the tablets. Kindly

note that in this volume the sealings are not isolated and presented apart from the objects on which they appear, rather the objects are shown and on them are seen the sealings. We were concerned that the reader may not be able to see the sealings on the tablets and so we called in a representative from a printing company to view the photographs and to give us some idea of what would be shown after the continuous tone photographs are converted to halftones and printed. The printer representative recommended that we take the photographs to the electronic prepress department of the printing plant in Saline, Michigan and have them perform tests on how best to bring out the sealings, cautioning that such may degrade the clarity of the non-sealing part of the image. After due consideration, we are leaning to not doing anything that would improve the clarity of the sealing over the tablet on which it is applied -- this would be misleading and dishonest. To put this in modern terms, it may just be that the importance of sealings on some of the tablets is comparable to Edward Rosewell's signature endorsing the back of a property tax check.

The initial formatting of Oriental Institute News & Notes #160 was completed and the 1997/98 Annual Report was completed and sent to the printer. This year, for the third time, the Annual Report was sent to the printer in electronic format. As you recall, collaboration between the Publications and Membership Offices has brought cost savings and innovation to our book production. Prior to the 1991/92 Annual Report, we spent a great deal of time and money preparing artwork (line-drawings and photographs) for a printer, but in early 1993 when the 1991/92 Annual Report was still not completed, Prof. Sumner brought the manuscript to the Publications Office and told us to finish it and to finish it quickly (Annual Reports were not previously prepared by the Publications Office). In doing so, we sent original artwork to a printer with camera-ready text and the printer put the text and artwork together. Since the artwork was prepared by the printer for the printer's press, the results were better and the cost cheaper than the cumbersome and expensive manner in which we previously had prepared artwork. Then in late 1993 we were preparing to produce our first fascicle of the Hittite Dictionary and we were concerned about spots and printers' opaquing. A printer recommended that we send the manuscript electronically because spots are not generated in electronic prepress so there is no opaquing. To test this, we sent the 1992/93 Annual Report to press in electronic format, making use of all the fonts and special formatting that would be required in the Hittite Dictionary; it worked

and the collaboration continues to bear innovations and savings of time and cost.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The sale of used and duplicate volumes from the Research Archives in November brought in nearly a thousand dollars. The Research Archives staff continues to make progress on the retrospective cataloguing project. We are producing analytical records for periodical holdings and are proceeding with the cataloguing of the map collection now that we have a little more space to work on those materials. It is likely that we will be able to complete more of the reconfiguration of the upper level during the winter break - No doubt the halls will be filled with the contents of offices at we make our move, the Computer Lab begins its move, and miscellaneous archeologists juggle themselves into the new spaces in the basement archaeology labs.

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PROJECTS

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

This was definitely a month of milestones. After three years of negotiations I finally received permission to set up a conservation lab in the Epigraphic Survey blockyard at Luxor temple. With the help of Senior Epigrapher Ted Castle and six workmen I finished preparing the emplacement for the lab on November 17. The single-room conservation lab was delivered in prefabricated sections on the 23rd, and I am very happy to report that it is now fully assembled, the electrical lines are all in, and it should receive its final coat of paint in the next day or so. While the finishing touches are being added to the structure, Egyptologist/artist Tina Di Cerbo and architect Jean Jacquet will begin the surveying and mapping of the area east of Amenhotep III's Luxor temple to facilitate the planning of the Epigraphic Survey blockyard expansion.

At the Medinet Habu small Amun Temple the training of Hratch and Bernice reached the 'at the wall' stage November 1, and they have been happily penciling away on the facade of the main sanctuary all month. New artist Carol Abraczinskas joined the team on the 17th

and will begin wall work soon as well. Painting conservator Lotfi Hassan is working miracles on the previously salt- and soot-stained north wall of the first chamber, and has already finished the better part of that wall. He now knows exactly what materials and cleaning agents work best on the salt and wall stains, and we are in the process of finding additional sources for them now.

On the home front we finished retiling the courtyard and replastering / repainting the dining room walls and have now begun the resealing and retiling of the roof over the north library wing and librarian's office. This section of roof has leaked terribly since the time of the renovation five years ago because of improper sealing. The tiles all came up week before last, and after the whole area is resealed (two-thirds finished as I write this), new tiles will be laid at a proper pitch to direct rainwater to a drainspout on the east end of the roof. Before now the water simply pooled in the middle of the roof and seeped into the walls and ceiling below, even into the light fixture in the librarian's office. A few years' back we wondered why the light was so dim in there and found that the light globe was full of water! It is ironic that we had to do essentially the same repair work on the Medinet Habu small Amun temple roof last year! Because this is the usual rainy season in Luxor we are all holding our breath; the last few days have been overcast, but luckily no rain so far. Fingers crossed!

The beginning of November saw the return to Chicago House of the Demotic Dictionary's Steve Vinson and colleague Alhandro Botta for an overnight stay, followed soon after by a visit by the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Dorothea Arnold, Malcolm Wiener, and former staffmember Jim Allen. Colleague and roving reporter for the EES 'Egyptian Archaeology Bulletin' Lisa Giddy stayed with us a week in the middle of the month, staff members Helen and Jean Jacquet arrived on the 19th, and artist Susan Osgood has just arrived this evening. Last week we had our first season audit, followed by our Thanksgiving Day celebration on the 26th. Dinner guests included Geoffrey Martin, Peter Lacovara, and Nick Reeves (in town doing test pits around Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings); Nigel Strudwick and his Theban Tomb crew; the Antiquities Development Project's Bojana Mojsov who is working in the tomb of Sety I; US Embassy Public Affairs Officer Bill and Cary Cavness and their two daughters; David and Diana Lipsey; and American Research Center in Egypt Cairo Director Mark Easton. Today, the last day of the month, we had a site visit from the directors of the Egyptian Antiquities

Project Chip Vincent, Assistant Director Jarek Dobrolowski, and Antiquities Development Project Director Michael Jones and thirty members of the United Nations Donor Agency Group, who came to see the documentation and conservation work at the small Amun temple.

November 17 marked the year anniversary of the Hatshepsut massacre, and wreathes were laid at Deir el-Bahri very quietly that morning by the Japanese and Swiss Ambassadors. That same day US Consul Roger Pierce and Embassy Security Deputy Director Scott Gallo dropped by Chicago House for tea. They were on an inspection tour of the major archaeological sites in the Nile Valley to check on security arrangements, and reported that they were very pleased with what they saw. I had completely forgotten the significance of the day, in part because of the unbelievable numbers of people in town these days. We are relieved that no bombing occurred in Iraq... that would certainly have brought a quick end to the tourist boom here, and everyone knows it. But al'humdoolilah, all is well here in the southern lands. Best wishes and holiday greetings from all of us here to all of you back on the mother ship!

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TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP / Chuck Jones

The Technology Discussion Group met for the second time, over a bag lunch, on Friday December 4th. Cashion, Gaudard, Gragg, Johnson, Jones, Reichel, Sanders, Schloen and Stolper were joined by Scott Branting and Catherine Mardikes. Discussion was informal, and focussed partly on a potential proposal to cooperate with Regenstein and OCLC in developing records describing the various electronic resources we are producing at the OI. Such records would be made available to the world at large through the on-line databases (Worldcat, etc.); Catherine and Chuck agreed that it would be worthwhile to follow up on this project up. Continued discussion focussed on issues of on-line publication, the persistence (and impermanence) of much web-based material, and so on.

Several suggestions for the focus of future sessions have been offered. All persons interested in the use of technology at the OI are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will next meet on Friday, January 8 at noon in the director's study.

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NELC / Cheryl Klimaszewski

Recent dissertation proposals in NELC:

Shari Lowin (October 8, 1998)

Topic: The Making of a Forefather in Qisas al-Anbiya' and Midrash Aggadah: Intertextuality in Islam and Judaism

Paul Heck (November 23, 1998)

Topic: Qudama b. Jafar (d. 337/948) and his Kitab al-kharaj wa-sina'at al kitaba

Shelley Luppert Barnard (December 10, 1998)

Topic: Assyrian Foreign Relations: 1500-1000 B.C.

Recent dissertation defences in NELC:

Sunil Sharma (November 2, 1998)

Topic: Poetics of Court and Prison in the Divan of Mas'ud-e Sa'd-e Salman

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INDIVIDUALS

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HRIPSIME HAROUTUNIAN

David and Hripsime are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Emily on November 27, 1998 at 6.00 am. She is 5 pounds and 11 ounces. Everyone is in good shape.

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JAN JOHNSON went to Berkeley to give the 10th Annual Kendrick Pritchett lecture for their Graduate Group on Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology (on "Women's Rights in Ancient Egypt"). Traianos Gagos will be here for the winter as a Visiting Scholar in NELC (working on some early Roman Oxyrhynchite papyri).

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WALTER KAEGI read a paper on "Problems of Orientalism in Scholarship on the Muslim Conquest of Byzantine North Africa," Byzantine Studies Conference, University of Kentucky at Lexington,

November 7 1998. He also chaired a session on the Byzantine Economy at the same conference.

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DAVID SCHLOEN

Conference Announcement: Electronic Publication of Ancient Near Eastern Texts
The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago
October 8th & 9th, 1999

Organizers:

Gene Gragg, Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Linguistics and Director of the Oriental Institute (g-gragg@uchicago.edu)

Charles Jones, Oriental Institute Research Archivist (ce-jones@uchicago.edu)

John Sanders, Head, Oriental Institute Computer Laboratory (jc-sanders@uchicago.edu)

David Schloen, Assistant Professor of Syro-Palestinian Archaeology (d-schloen@uchicago.edu)

The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago is pleased to announce a conference on the electronic publication of ancient Near Eastern texts, to be held at the Institute on October 8th & 9th, 1999. The focus will be on Web publication of "tagged" texts using the new Extensible Markup Language (XML), although other aspects of electronic publication may also be discussed. XML provides a simple and extremely flexible standardized syntax for representing complex information and for delivering it over the World Wide Web (for more details see <http://www.oasis-open.org/cover>). Furthermore, it is based on a proven approach because it is a streamlined subset of the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) that has been used for electronic publication worldwide for more than a decade. XML therefore makes possible quite powerful and efficient forms of electronic publication via the Internet, including academic publication of philological and archaeological data.

Now that this technology is available it is appropriate for ancient Near East specialists to begin considering what is involved in

publishing their data on the Web in XML format. XML itself is merely a starting point because the very simplicity and flexibility of XML, which ensure its widespread adoption, require the development of specific tagging schemes appropriate to each domain of research. The purpose of our conference is to bring together researchers who have begun working on electronic publication in various ways using such tools as SGML, HTML, and XML, or who are interested in exploring these techniques. Through a combination of formal presentations and informal discussions we will exchange ideas concerning the conceptual and practical issues involved in using XML on the Web. In this way the conference organizers hope to foster collaboration in the development of specific XML/SGML tagging schemes, especially for cuneiform texts, in which a number of the confirmed conference participants specialize. The conference will inaugurate a formal "Working Group on Cuneiform Markup" to provide an ongoing forum for communication and collaboration in this field. Please note, however, that the issues to be discussed are by no means of interest only to cuneiformists. Wherever possible the conference organizers will encourage presentations and discussion concerning other ancient Near Eastern scripts and languages as well (e.g., Egyptian and Ugaritic). Anyone who has not yet been contacted but is interested in making a presentation is invited to contact the organizers at the address below.

Although the conference will focus largely on philological publication, Oriental Institute archaeologists will also participate and there will be discussion of the need to present "texts in context" as archaeological artifacts among other artifacts. Archaeologists and philologists have a similar need for efficient and flexible electronic publication of complex data, albeit data of different kinds. In many cases also they share overlapping interests in terms of substantive historical questions. Indeed, it is possible that cooperation on the level of technical methodology in pursuit of effective electronic publication will have the beneficial effect of reducing the ever-increasing balkanization of these disciplines. An ancillary goal of our conference, therefore, is to stimulate interest, where feasible, in interdisciplinary research projects that involve both archaeological and philological data. By facilitating electronic access to philological data by archaeologists and vice versa, and by learning a common data representation technique such as XML, we may generate new ways of representing or even conceiving of the conceptual relationships not just within but also between archaeological and philological datasets, which are so often considered in isolation. Once

these different kinds of datasets and their interrelationships have been stored in a rigorous, formal framework they can be used far more easily for a variety of purposes in the course of subsequent linguistic, socioeconomic, and historical research.

Electronic publication will clearly play an important role in future research on the ancient Near East. Philologists and archaeologists alike work with complex, highly structured datasets consisting of visual as well as textual information which call for "hyperlinks" among different kinds of data. But devising suitable forms of electronic publication is not a trivial matter and ought to be done on a collaborative basis. Suitable electronic publications will represent in a standardized fashion the large number of internal and external cross-references among the many individual elements of each dataset and will capture the semantic diversity of the many possible types of such cross-references, representing, for example, various kinds of spatial, temporal, or linguistic relationship. Furthermore, the goal of such publication is not simply to facilitate human navigation of large and complex bodies of information but also to permit automated computer-aided analyses of data derived from many disparate sources. XML will be an important medium for this because Web publication using this format promises to be a simple and effective means of merging complex datasets from multiple sources for purposes of broader scale retrieval and analysis, avoiding the problems caused by the existing proprietary, limited, and inflexible data formats which have hindered electronic publication to date. XML is a non-proprietary, cross-platform, and fully internationalized standard that has been enthusiastically embraced by the software industry in general. For this reason our conference will focus specifically on the use of XML in the publication of ancient Near Eastern texts.

In addition to approximately a dozen invited speakers from the University of Chicago and elsewhere, interested colleagues are encouraged to attend and to contribute to the discussion. There will be no conference registration fee but notice of your intention to attend should be sent to us in advance so that we can make suitable arrangements. Please pass this notice on to colleagues who might wish to attend.

To obtain more information or to register your intention to attend, please contact David Schloen (d-schloen@uchicago.edu) by e-mail or at the following address:

David Schloen
Oriental Institute Electronic Publication Conference
1155 East 58th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637
tel: 773-702-1382
fax: 773-702-9853

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EMILY TEETER

The Oriental Institute and the Center for Middle East Studies will host the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt on April 23-25, 1999. Approximately 350 people representing ancient, late antique, and Islamic fields are expected to attend. The papers will be presented in the conference hotel (Ramada Congress). On Friday, April 23 a reception will be held in the new Egyptian Gallery at the Oriental Institute. People interested in presenting papers should contact the New York Office, or submit abstracts for consideration to Robert Ritner. We encourage NELC graduate students to submit proposals for papers. For general logistics, contact the New York office, or Emily Teeter. We will be soliciting graduate students for help with A/V and other tasks. Registration fees are waived for any volunteers.

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DAVID TESTEN

Publications by David Testen which have recently appeared include "Modern South Arabian 'nine'" (Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies), "Semitic Terms for 'myrtle': A Study in Covert Cognates" (Journal of Near Eastern Studies), "The Derivational Role of the Semitic N-Stem" (Zeitschrift für Assyriologie), and "Morphological Observations on the Stems of the Semitic 'nota accusativi'" (Archiv für Orientforschung).

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STEVE VINSON

In November, Steve Vinson's revised dissertation, *The Nile Boatman at Work, 1200 BCE -- 400 CE*, appeared as Vol. 48 of the series *Muenchener Aegyptologische Studien*. Vinson also spent a day in Toronto, being interviewed for an up-coming Discovery Channel

documentary on Franck Goddio's excavations in Alexandria harbor; Vinson talked about a Roman shipwreck Goddio discovered earlier this year, on which Vinson has been doing some consulting.

Vinson's "Hieroglyphs by Mail" course, offered through the OI Museum's education office, kicked off in November with 63 students. This class did not meet the total demand for hieroglyphic instruction, and a separate course with an additional 30 students was formed under the supervision of NELC graduate and visiting instructor Steven Parker! A new feature of this year's Hieroglyphs by Mail is an E-mail discussion list. Assisting Vinson in the class are Egyptology students Nicole Hansen and Tom Dousa.

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JOAN WESTENHOLZ

It is my pleasure to return to the Oriental Institute after an absence now of 14 years. During most of this time, I, as chief curator, have been creating the permanent and temporary exhibitions of the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem. This museum houses artifacts from the ancient near east covering the period from the sixth millennium B.C. to the seventh century C.E. Among the publications of the past half year is the catalogue accompanying the exhibit entitled "Sacred Bounty, Sacred Land, the Seven Species of the Land of Israel," which investigates the meaning and symbolism of wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates in the ancient world. In a more scholarly side is the very recent publication of the symposium volume, "Capital Cities: Urban Planning and Spiritual Dimensions" which came out two weeks ago. The symposium took place in May 1996 and explored the design, function, and role of the metropolitan centers in the ancient Near East (including Egypt). Participants included Volkmar Fritz, David Hawkins, Anja Herrold, Giovanni Lanfranchi, Abraham Malamat, Jean Perrot, Edgar Pusch, Ian Shaw, Marcel Sigrist, Itamar Singer, and many others. In press is a volume of cuneiform inscriptions in the collections of the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem containing the Emar tablets.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the Institute a new project which has just begun in Helsinki. I was privileged to attend the opening symposium in Tvaerminne in October: "The Assyrian Intellectual Heritage in Classical Antiquity." The project is devoted to tracing the cultural continuity and the transmission of knowledge from the ancient Near East to the classical world in the West and to

the Sassanian in the East as well as to the later Islamic and Syriac ("Assyrian") cultures of the Near East. In order to facilitate its goal, the project is planning a database and a cooperative system of collaboration with colleagues in the many pertinent fields.