

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - DECEMBER 2000

UNITS

- COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders
- DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion
- DIRECTOR'S OFFICE / Gene Gragg
- FRONT OFFICE / Joan Curry
- MUSEUM / Karen Wilson
- PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban
- RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

PROJECTS

- EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson
- TABLET ROOM / John A. Brinkman

INDIVIDUALS

- FRED DONNER
- HARRY HOFFNER
- CHUCK JONES
- EMILY TEETER
- JASON UR

+++++

UNITS

+++++

COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

Several volunteers are now scanning the 1,100+ photographs from the 1905-1907 BREASTED EXPEDITIONS TO EGYPT AND THE SUDAN, preparing them for inclusion on the OI website. Volunteers include docents Karen Terras, Nancy Gould, Margaret Cipolla; College students Nicholas Lezak and Sriram Kanteti. Two additional docents, Les Stermer and Henrietta Klawans, may join the project shortly. We have had the captions to these photographs available on the website since last May, but the images themselves will be a very nice addition to our online Photographic Archives.

Discussions continued in November regarding both design and hosting of the OI website in the future. We are having NSIT (the University's Networking Services organization), who is responsible for the university's web design, prepare several examples of new

homepages for the OI, and we will elicit comments from faculty and staff when they are ready.

Computer Laboratory assistant Katherine Strange has completed preparing for the OI website all of the lead articles from News&Notes back to 1995, as far back as we have electronic copy already prepared. All of these will be available on the OI website within a week or two.

+++++

DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

Associate Professor K. Aslihan Yener will deliver a lecture entitled "The Craft Specialists of Power and Prestige: Traders, Jewelers, and Metallurgists of the Third Millennium BC" at 8:00 PM in Breasted Hall. A reception will follow.

Ruth Welte, AB '00 from the College, joined the office on November 13, 2000, as the Membership Coordinator. I hope those of you who have not met her yet will stop by and say hello soon.

December also brings the year-end appeal. For the first time in many years, our members and friends are not being asked to support a building project. For the 2000 appeal, Gene Gragg has asked that our supporters direct their year-end giving to the excavations going on in the Amuq Valley and in Hamoukar. It is hoped that the OI's various projects will rotate as focal points of the year-end appeal in future years.

Those with kids, or who know those with kids, are reminded that we have several free hands-on activities for children laid on for the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Each day's activity begins at noon, and generally runs through about 2:00 PM. Come one, come all!

+++++

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE / Gene Gragg

After a long search and many interviews the choice for the Administrator for Budget and Finance position is falling very close to

home -- Simrit Dhesi. The appointment will take effect on December 11.

+++++

FRONT OFFICE / Joan Curry

The big news from the front office is the Christmas party that will be in the Director's Study on Friday, December 8th. It will start at 3 P.M. and continue until it is over. There will be activities for the children and Santa Claus will make an appearance as well as lots of food for the day. It is for everyone associated with the Oriental Institute. We want the faculty, staff, students, and their families to come and have a great time.

Please let us know the children you will be bringing so a great time with Santa can be planned.

Also, we have received notice of another wedding. We have received notice that graduate student, Tasha Vorderstrasse and Brian Muhs were married October 31st in Leiden Town Hall, The Netherlands.

On a sad note we have also been notified that Bill Murnane, an Egyptologist and professor in Memphis, TN passed away. Dr. Murnane spent his summers here in our Research Archives doing research.

+++++

MUSEUM / Karen Wilson

Things in the museum have been extremely busy due to the success of Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur. Thanks to media coverage and listings in prominent places such as the Chicago Tribune Friday Section (with a photo) and Chicago Magazine (where the exhibition receives a star denoting an especially noteworthy offering), attendance is at an all-time high, reaching between 1,500 and almost 2,000 per week. (Last year we hovered around 1,000 per week for the same period.) And the contribution box, the proceeds of which are targeted for reinstallation, is up from \$100 or \$150 per week to well over \$1,000. It is especially gratifying to see so many people in the galleries who are obviously thoroughly enjoying themselves - we hope many of them will become life-long friends.

Well over 200 Oriental Institute members and friends came to the Institute on Saturday, November 18 to attend "Masterpieces and Mystique," a day-long symposium presented in conjunction with the Ur exhibition. Co-sponsored by the University of Chicago's Graham School of General Studies, the symposium featured lectures by McGuire Gibson and myself and well as guest speakers Anne Draffkorn Kilmer, Professor of Assyriology and Ancient Mesopotamian Civilization, University of California at Berkeley, and Richard Zettler, Associate Curator-in-Charge of the Near East Section, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Participants' evaluations of the program stressed the depth and excellence of the presentations and the desire to attend more day-long events like this. We appreciate the assistance of everyone who helped to make the symposium such a success. Special thanks to the lecturers, to graduate students Simrit Dhesi and Hratch Papazian, and to Carole Krucoff and every member of the Museum Education staff.

+++++

PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

The first volume of an Oriental Institute series, SAOC 45 (Thus Wrote 'Onchsheshonqy: Introduction to Demotic Grammar, by Janet Johnson, third edition), was published on the Oriental Institute's website in fourteen pdf files. A comment card was included, and one commentator said its publication online was "a major step in civilization like Gutenberg's press." The online publication is part of an experiment in the use of the web to publish select titles. Next up are a few letters of Jan Johnson's Demotic Dictionary, and after that some of the Hittite Dictionary in XML format.

The text and plate volumes of Mark Garrison/Margaret Cool Root's Seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets (OIP 117) are being set in PageMaker, which means the end is in sight and the volumes should be sent to press in early 2001.

John and Debbie Darnell's Theban Desert Road Survey (OIP 119) was set in PageMaker and proofs have been returned to them. Because some photographs were not acceptable for printing, we've asked them to supply replacements, which they assure us will be brought back with them from Egypt in mid-January, pushing the go-

to-press day for this title back to the first or second week of February 2001.

With these larger titles well on their way to press, work has once again picked up on Emily Teeter's _Scarabs and [etc.] from Medinet Habu_ (OIP 118).

+++++

RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The Research Archives Acquisitions List for October 2000 was distributed to subscribers on November 13th, 2000. It is available on-line at <http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/RABooks.2000.10.html>

We have agreed on a vendor for the replication of the original lights for the reading room of the Research Archives. I have met with a representative of the firm and am pleased with the samples he provided and with their ability to work with us to produce an excellent result. They will manufacture twelve copies in cast bronze and polycarbonate of the original fixtures on the basis of examples now hanging in the ground floor corridor of Harper Hall. They will also design, build, and install new lamping which will provide excellent light for users of the reading room, as well as decorative horizontal and up-lighting. We plan to have a contract in place by the end of 2000, and the project completed with the lights installed within six months. This will complete the renovation project funded by the challenge grant from the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts, and met by donations from many friends and supporters.

+++++

PROJECTS

+++++

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W Raymond Johnson

The evening of my last day in Cairo (Nov. 7) I was pleased to attend a special election night gathering hosted by US Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer and Mrs. Kurtzer at the Embassy residence. The 700+ guests dined on American hot dogs and hamburgers in the red, white, and blue bedecked tent outside in the garden and watched three large

screens with election results coming in. The Ambassador told me that Mubarak had asked him to telephone him with the results, no matter how late...! Who would have thought we would ALL still be waiting, even now?

Back in Luxor work continues at the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu on all fronts. The epigraphic team is currently recording and collating the Thutmocide reliefs in the bark sanctuary and ambulatory, some of which were renewed in the Ptolemaic period. Rooky epigrapher Harold Hays is now working at the wall, honing his penciling skills on the Thutmocide pillars, both raised and sunk relief, under the watchful eye of artist Margaret De Jong. This week Harold will begin reviewing finished collation sheets prior to collating his own. Artist Will Schenck also began penciling work at Medinet Habu but took three weeks leave of absence to work north with Alain Zivie and his French team recording rock-cut tombs in the Saqqara escarpment, and pottery drawing with the EES at Memphis. He is now back with us, and back at Medinet Habu. Artist Sue Osgood also returned to us at the end of the month. Photographer Yarko Kobylecky is currently preparing photographic drawing enlargements for Volume 3, the Kushite additions to the small temple.

Grouting of newly restored roof blocks continues on the small Amun temple roof top, while Tina Di Cerbo continues her mapping of the entire roof area; she is presently concentrating on the eastern end over the bark sanctuary. Below, stone cutter Dany Roy began the laborious task of cutting and shaping new floor blocks for the central two chambers, where the flooring was destroyed in antiquity by medieval treasure hunters; the back sanctuary floor will be finished this week. In the two southern chambers conservator Lotfi Hassan assisted by Adel Azziz continued the cleaning and gap-filling of the painted reliefs of Hatshepsut and Thutmosis III. This month the team was joined by conservation student Nahed Samir Youssef, who is the first of several local Egyptian conservation students we hope to train during the next few years.

In mid-month I began the sorting and analysis of the two hundred + grano-diorite fragments of the colossal dyad of Amun and Thutmosis III, which we found in the floor debris of the first two chambers last season. The fragments range in size from small slivers to huge chunks weighing several tons, and I am pleased to say that many of them are coming together, with the smaller pieces filling in many

gaps between the larger joined fragments. Last season we prepared a concrete footing for the statue in the center of the first chamber where the 3-meter-high statue was originally set up, and where we will begin restoring it once the new flooring is laid down.

On November 25th structural engineer Conor Power and his wife Marsha arrived to begin a three-week structural condition study of Luxor Temple which the Epigraphic Survey is sponsoring this season. This study will enable us to understand more fully how the temple structure has been affected by the high levels of salt-laden ground water which has caused so much accelerated surface decay of late. If the structural stability of this mighty monument has been affected as well, we need to know about it, and now.

Photographer and Photo Archivist Sue Lezon continued to coordinate the scanning onto CD-ROM of our entire Photo Archives (in kind cooperation with the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak) and the transfer of those images to our Photo Archives database. This month she prepared the glass-plate negatives in our collection for scanning, which should be completed during the next two months. At the end of November she and Yarko were lent to the American Research Center in Egypt / Egyptian Antiquities Project office for three days of consultations with EAP technical Director Jarek Dobrolowski on the archival storage of the EAP Photo Archives.

Chicago House stone cutter Dany Roy was honored in Cairo on November 6 for his restoration of the tomb of Civil War veteran Erastus Sparrow Purdy Pasha, who died in Cairo in 1881 and was buried in the American Cemetery there. Mr. Purdy was one of 50 veterans of the American Civil War, both northerners and southerners, who served in the Egyptian army in the 1870s at the invitation of Khedive Ismail. The restoration of the obelisk-topped monument was funded by USAID, who tapped Dany for his expertise over the past summer. The tomb rededication, with full military honors, was presided over by US Ambassador Kurtzer.

Tourism has been at an all-time high in Luxor this past month, and our visitors have been many and diverse. OI grad student Tracy Alsberg Hoffman, husband Steven, and their family came by during a whirlwind tour of Egypt early in the month. Italian Ambassador to Egypt Francesco Aloisi de Larderel and wife Vittoria Buffe (an archaeologist who works in Yemen) paid us a return visit as well. Roving EES reporter, friend, and colleague Lisa Giddy spent a

pleasant week with us on her bi-annual fact-finding mission, and my younger sister, Liz, has just finished a two-week stay, her first visit to Egypt, and is heading home tomorrow. Friends Jack Josephson (ARCE Oversight Committee) and Magda Saleh and eight of their friends joined us for a reception on the 20th, and we were later honored with a very pleasant visit (at our invitation) by the Governor of Luxor, Dr. Mahmoud Khalef, who received much of his military training in Virginia and Texas, and had much to tell us about his plans for Luxor.

The latter part of the month has been a time of festivals. We celebrated a traditional Thanksgiving Day and turkey feast on the 23rd, and guests included the Amarna Royal Tombs Project crew, Andrej Niwinski of the Polish Mission to Deir El-Bahri, Francesco Tiradritti of the Italian Mission to the tomb of Harwa in the Assasif, and Dr. Jose Galan from Madrid. That was followed on the 27th by the beginning of Ramadan, the Moslem holy month of fasting. This evening (Dec. 3) Chicago House hosted an iftar or sunset meal for all of our workmen and the entire Chicago House staff, which was a great success. Additional guests included Nick Reeves, Mohsen El-Sayid (who have just finished their season in the Valley of the Kings), and Renee Friedman of the Hierakonpolis Expedition.

The news of the tragic and untimely passing of former ES staff member Bill Murnane in Memphis, Tennessee came as a total shock to us out here and to the Egyptological community as a whole. Bill was epigrapher and then senior epigrapher with the Survey for 15 years from 1973. In 1986 he was appointed Visiting Associate Professor of Egyptology at the University of California at Bekeley, and the next year joined the History Department of the University of Memphis, where he was promoted to full professor in 1994. There was almost no one in our small community who did not know him, or was not touched by him in some way. A true gentleman scholar, Bill treated everyone as an equal, and crossed all boundaries within the field. He had an insatiable curiosity about absolutely everything, and a spirit of generosity and sharing that was truly infectious, and which will be terribly missed.

To celebrate his life, on November 19th Chicago House hosted a memorial party on the director's balcony, shared by Bill when he was in residence here. We decorated the balcony with flowers, candles, rugs, and lanterns, and the kitchen crew prepared delicacies which we put inside and out. The setting was beautiful; the darkening

night sky was cool and still, and filled with stars. I played a recording of Verdi's 'La Forza Del Destino' with Leontine Price, which I know Bill loved, all through the event. We invited as many colleagues as were in town to attend: present were Luc Gabolde from the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak; Hourig Sourouzian and Rainer Stadelmann from The German Archaeological Institute with their crew; Lisa Giddy from the EES; Jurgen Osing; Helen and Jean Jacquet; and Geoffrey Martin. Toward the end we toasted our friend and colleague, so tragically taken away from us, and that led to telling stories about him. I told about my first days here at Chicago House, and how welcoming and generous he was. Others told about their own happy experiences with him, and we talked about his love of opera, and the wonderful music that was always issuing from his room... His loss is a terrible blow to Egyptology, and we, his friends, are truly devastated by his passing. Adio, Bill...

+++++

TABLET ROOM / John A. Brinkman

In the past several months, scholars making use of the Tablet Room and/or the Tablet Collection have included Markus Hilgert, Maynard Maidman, Joachim Oelsner, Karen Nemet-Nejat, Jon Taylor, Eleanor Guralnick, Mark Garrison, and Richard Zettler.

At the beginning of October, John Brinkman, Laura D'Alessandro, Jean Grant, Daniel Nevez, and Jonathan Tenney travelled to the Art Institute to effect a temporary join of our Amarna tablet fragment with the British Museum tablet fragment of the same letter (EA 26, from Tushratta to Queen Tiye), while the BM fragment was in Chicago as part of a visiting Egyptian exhibit. The two pieces share twenty-six lines in common, with our fragment containing the beginning and the BM fragment the continuation of each line. We were able to make improvements on previous publications, which had edited the fragments separately and could not compare the relative position of wedges across the join and the gaps between preserved signs. Detailed results of our findings, including photographs, will be published in due course.

+++++

INDIVIDUALS

+++++

FRED DONNER

FRED DONNER led a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on "Islamic Origins" that ran for five weeks this past summer (June 19-July 21). Other faculty involved were WALTER KAEGI and DONALD WHITCOMB, who attended all sessions. The twenty-three participants in the Institute were faculty from junior colleges, colleges, and universities around the United States, and represented a variety of disciplines, including history, literature, religious studies, political science, computer science, and economics. Most participants stayed in the University residence hall at 5700 Stony Island Avenue and seemed to thrive in the communal setting. Speaking for myself, the undertaking, it was a wonderful experience, as the group was very enthusiastic, energetic, and congenial. I believe Messrs. Kaegi and Whitcomb would concur. In any case, I strongly recommend that other OI faculty consider organizing and leading an NEH Summer Seminar or Institute; faculty who do so are remunerated quite well, and the seminars or institutes are a wonderful form of outreach that brings what we do to college-level (or, if you wish, high-school-level) teachers who can then, in turn, impart it to their students. Deadlines for Summer 2002 Institutes should be around the end of February, so there is still time to apply. The application guidelines will be found on the NEH website in mid-December at <http://www.neh.gov>

Those who wish to have a closer look at what our Summer Institute was all about can check out its website at <http://humanities.uchicago.edu/islamic-origins/>

+++++

HARRY HOFFNER

This fall has been very pleasant for me. I was uncertain at the start how I would find the adjustment to emeritus status. I've discovered that I don't miss committee work too much, but I do miss classroom teaching. I have more time now for personal research and health club exercise with Wini. The CHD staff is very up-beat. We're fortunate to have Theo on board, and our collaboration so far has been very productive and enjoyable, even if his office is in the "Hochtempel" one floor up. Rich has been providing Theo and me with pre-final copy of SA material that will eventually be turned over to Tom Urban. Theo reads and comments, then passes it to me

for my reactions, and then we sit down together as Hans Guterbock and I used to due and work out compromises. Gene Gragg and I have worked up a prototype of what may eventually be called the "eCHD", an on-line platform-indepdent, browser-readable form of the published parts of the print CHD. The on line version will allow creative searching of the published corpus.

This past month I gave an invited lecture on Hittite merchants to the Wheaton Archeological Conference on "Trade and Travel in the Ancient Near East", which was well received. I have obligations to contribute to three festschrifts and one Gedenkschrift. I've already sent off my contribution to the first festschrift, honoring two Israeli scholars. It deals with disabled persons as they find mention in Hittite texts. I have reached an agreement with Professor Craig Melchert of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to collaborate on an article on verbal aspect in Hittite for the Gedenkschrift honoring the late Fiorella Imparati. This article will grow out of work he and I have done in preparation of our introductory grammar of Hittite which should be finished in a few more months. Two other festschrift contributions have to be sent off by the first of January. I have some good ideas about at least one, the other I'm still thinking about.

I'm the first reader for Kathleen Mineck's dissertation, the topic of which she defended Friday, Dec. 1. As you know, it is on color terminology in Hittite and the symbolic overtones of color words in Hittite rituals. The theme is exciting, and I believe Kathleen will do a good job with it. I'm sure she'll need lots of input from others of you, both on textual clues from Mesopotamia and Egypt and from archeology.

Wini and I will be flying out to Northern California Dec. 4-12 to visit our daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughters; so I'll not be around for about 8-9 days.

+++++

CHUCK JONES

In mid November I attended a meeting of the ETANA project at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, held there in conjunction with the annual ASOR and SBL meetings. We now have the bare bones of a project for the development of a digital Library for the ancient Near

East. We hope to have a proposal in to the Mellon Foundation in the Spring of 2001. At present the project is conceived as having nine components:

1. The Archeologist's Tool Kit (ATK) (year one project)
2. The Scholar's Commons (year one project)
3. Abzu: the Portal (year one project)
4. Core Text Digital Conversion (year one and continuing)
5. High Definition Images (year one and continuing)
6. Born Digital Electronic Publications (year two and continuing)
7. Training and Developmental Efforts (on-going)
8. Archival Preservation
9. Open Archives

I'll gladly show the documentation to anyone who is interested.

With Gene Gragg and Matt Stolper, I will attend the achemenet meeting in Paris in mid-December:

<http://www.achemenet.com/annonces/colloque01.htm>

Hosted by Pierre Briant and the College de France, the conference will present several projects' efforts towards on-line publication of materials relating to the Achaemenid Persian Empire.

The three of us will be presenting the on-line Persepolis Fortification Tablet Publication Project. In anticipation of the conference I have also developed a new sub-index of Abzu including things

Achaemenid:

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/abzu_achaemenid.html

I'd appreciate comments, additions, corrections, etc.

+++++

EMILY TEETER

"The Angle of Repose: Four American Photographers in Egypt", a catalogue of the LaSalle Banks photographic collection, appeared in November with an essay by Sarah McNear and notes on the photographs by Emily Teeter

+++++

JASON UR

The fall 2000 season at Hamoukar included the first season of a planned two-season regional field survey, run by me with the

assistance of Carlo Colantoni and Lamyia Khalidi (both of Cambridge University). The season ran from early September to the end of October. Using high-resolution declassified CORONA satellite photographs as our guide, we began an intensive study of both traditional site settlement patterns and offsite phenomena such as hollow ways and field scatters. We fully collected and documented over 60 sites within our 5km survey limit, which makes the Hamoukar region one of the most archaeologically dense regions in the Middle East. As we anticipated, 3rd millennium sites are uncommon in the survey area, and where they do appear, they are near the limits of the 2000 survey; this we interpret as the effects of the massive urban concentration at Tell Hamoukar itself on the rural hinterland. While we recovered sites from the Hassuna period to the Late Islamic, one of the biggest surprises was the abundance of Late Bronze age sites, mostly Middle Assyrian; a preliminary assessment shows one sizable settlement of 25 ha (Khirbat al-Abd) with a halo of much smaller (<2 ha) villages surrounding it. As in the Iraqi North Jazira and in the Beydar region, Iron Age sites also abound, in a similar pattern of evenly dispersed rural villages.

The unparalleled early 4th millennium settlement on the Hamoukar "Southern Extension" (known locally by the appropriate name Khirbat al-Fakhar) received a lot of attention from both the excavation team and the survey team, which made systematic collections across it at 200m intervals. This served to confirm my assessment of its boundaries in most places and showed that the site continued further to the NW and NE than previously expected, based on sherd densities that often went over 1,000 sherds per 10x10m square. After this adjustment, the extent of the sherd distribution now stands at 300 ha. For comparison, 3rd millennium Hamoukar is 105 and Uruk in southern Mesopotamia is only 250 in the mid-4th millennium. Excavation appears to confirm that this scatter represents not dense urban-type settlement but dispersed households with intervening vacant space.

We mapped and measured twenty hollow ways, which are linear depressions marking the paths of ancient roads. We were able to distinguish two morphologically distinct groups: a very broad (avg. 100m) group associated with Hamoukar itself, and a narrow group (avg. around 50m) which appear to be associated with Sassanian and Islamic sites. Finally 490 field scatter collection units were made, at 200m intervals across fallow fields. These units aimed to document the ancient practice of manuring using site-derived refuse. The

highest field scatters are, unsurprisingly, within 2km of Hamoukar itself, but the scatters continue in most areas all the way to the edge of the 5km area.

If we receive permission from the Department of Antiquities, we will expand this area next season as far north as the important 3rd millennium site at Tell Rumaylan, west to Tell Koz on the Wadi Khunayzir, and south toward the Iraqi border.

Prior to the 2000 Hamoukar season, I spent a week at Tell Beydar, reassessing the 3rd millennium pottery from the 1997 and 1998 survey seasons around that site, directed by Tony Wilkinson. I will be submitting an article on the 3rd millennium settlement system and its communication routes to a forthcoming volume of Subartu.

I also submitted a preliminary report on the surface collection and offsite work in the 1999 Hamoukar season to the journal Iraq, which will (I hope) appear in next December's volume.

+++++