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THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - DECEMBER 2001

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ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

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The Oriental Institute's Annual Holiday Party will be held Friday, December 7th from 3:00 - 6:00 PM in the Director's Office. Your partners and children are welcome to join us. If you are bringing children, please provide me with the name and age of your children. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nicole Torres <nitorres@uchicago.edu>.

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE / Gene Gragg  
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In the light of a large number of on-going and upcoming faculty searches, the faculty of the Oriental Institute held a very helpful two-day retreat, November 12-13, at the Conference Center at Illinois Beach State Park in Zion, Illinois, to discuss faculty hiring priorities and projections.

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

With the help of the Computer Lab. Assistant, Katherine Strange, we are about to add 900+ photographs of 37 archaeological sites in Mesopotamia and Egypt to the OI website. The photos were taken by myself or Peggy during the years 1973-1994, and are personal photographs that we are making available in the hopes someone may find them useful in their work. They will be added to the website by mid-December.

A new Apple iMac is being purchased for the Computer Lab, to replace a PowerMac 8600. It will have a CD-RW drive, the first Read-Write drive in the Lab, and a new 600dpi flatbed scanner attached to it. It should be up and running by mid-December.

At the end of November a new OI research and publications project, [The XSTAR Project](/OI/PROJ/XSTAR/XSTAR.html): XML System for Textual and Archaeological Research, under the direction of David Schloen and Gene Gragg, was announced on the OI website. XSTAR includes a database model, a corresponding XML markup language, and software. The XSTAR project is building a research environment for specialists in textual and archaeological studies.

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DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

All faculty, staff, and students are cordially invited to a light reception on Thursday, December 6th, at 4:30 pm in the Research Archives Reading Room.

The Reading Room was renovated and restored under the auspices of a Challenge Grant issued by the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Reading Room, and met by our members and friends, including many faculty, staff, and alumni of NELC. As a result, the reading room will be designated the Elizabeth Morse Genius Reading Room, and will be formally dedicated on the 6th.

The program will occur at about 5:15 PM, and the reception should break up at about 5:45 or 6:00. There is no need to RSVP--I hope to see you there.

Through the end of November, Basic and Associate Membership Gifts at the Oriental Institute for fiscal year 2002 were 526, with total contributions at \$36,510.00. This is exactly the same number as last fiscal year, and \$45 more in contributions.

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#### PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

\_Studies in the Archaeology of Israel and Neighboring lands in Memory of Douglas L. Esse\_, ed. Samuel Wolff (SAOC 59/ASOR Books 5), was received Wednesday 21 November and went on sale Monday 26 November. \$95

\_Seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets, Volume I: Images of Heroic Encounter\_, Mark Garrison and Margaret Cool Root, with Seal Inscription Readings by Charles Jones (OIP 117, 2 vols., Text and Plates), went to press the week of 26 November; we anticipate having the completed volumes before 1 January, but seasonal work stoppages may delay the schedule.

Chicago Demotic Dictionary. Three more letter files have been prepared for the website.

Chicago Hittite Dictionary S/1: Second proofs for the 208-page fascicle have been returned.

\_Scarabs and [such] from Medinet Habu\_, Emily Teeter (OIP 118), is being put into PageMaker.

\_Rock Inscriptions from the Theban Desert, John Darnell (OIP 119), is more or less complete, but the author has requested to read the manuscript during a three-week season this month in Egypt.

Draft - Unicode in the Publications Office - Draft

The Publications Office offers the following draft report on Unicode:

"The Unicode Standard is the universal character encoding scheme for written characters and text. It defines a consistent way of encoding multilingual text that enables the exchange of text data internationally and creates the foundation for global software. ...The Unicode Standard specifies a numeric value and a name for each of its characters. ... Using 16-bit encoding means that code values are available for more than 65,000 characters. While this number is sufficient for coding the characters used in the major languages of the world, the Unicode Standard and ISO/IEC 10646 provide the UTF-16 extension mechanism (called surrogates in the Unicode Standard), which allows for the encoding of as many as 1 million additional characters ..." (The Unicode Consortium, The Unicode Standard Version 3.0 [Reading: Addison-Wesley, 1991-2000], pp. 1-3, 322; see also Tony Graham, Unicode: A Primer [Foster City: M&T Books, 2000], pp. xxvii, 6-8, 22, 48-50, 76-77, 318, 382).

Version 3.0 of the Unicode Standard defines 49,194 characters (from over 90 scripts) and has 7,827 unused code points, 6,400 private-use code points, and 2,048 surrogates, which when paired expand the number of code points by 917,476, including 131,068 more private-use code points.

Unicode is not a font; rather Unicode identifies and assigns a code point (a number) to the many thousands of characters - nearly fifty thousand at present and expandable up to one million - used in the writing systems of the world. With characters assigned a number, it is then up to software designers to create software that recognizes and displays these many thousands of characters. "Wide coverage Unicode fonts are big! For example. the file for Arial Unicode MS - which includes glyphs for all of the characters in Unicode 2.1 [nearly 39,000 assigned characters] is 23 MB" (Graham, Primer, p. 318, table B-1, p. 382).

As noted above, 6,400 code values are at present reserved for private use, meaning that in any designed Unicode font these code values can be assigned to characters of the designer's choosing and therefore are unique to that font - if a user doesn't have the font that

recognizes and displays the characters coded to one of the private use codes, the user won't be able to see or access those characters. On Friday 16 November, Lloyd Anderson of Ecological Linguistics, who has designed most of the fonts used at the Oriental Institute over the last dozen years, stopped by the Publications Office to demonstrate his Unicode font. As yet unnamed, the font displays identical characters in both Macintosh and Window, both having been created from a single source Unicode-coding font. The font was demonstrated both on a laptop Macintosh using Mac OS X and a laptop PC using Windows 98; the Mac used Word 98 and the PC used Word 97 (with a language kit installed and selected). Lloyd said the new font was a next generation font, a "smart" font, which can contain and allow the user to access an almost unlimited number of characters. In the font that Lloyd demonstrated, two characters were assigned to private-use code points, the Fraktur Hyphen and Egyptian double-aleph, neither of which have been accepted by the Unicode Consortium.  
Stay Tuned!

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#### RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

All faculty, staff, and students are cordially invited to a light reception on Thursday, December 6th, at 4:30 pm in the Research Archives Reading Room.

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During November we created and twenty nine hundred records to the electronic catalogue. In addition to processing new acquisitions. we have nearly completed processing runs of Syria and Iran, We have completed the retrospective cataloging of Israel Exploration Journal

Israel Oriental Studies  
Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities  
Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gesellschaft,  
Supplementa  
and  
Vicino Oriente

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PROJECTS

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

November saw tourist and visitor activity in Luxor subdued but steady, and conditions here and throughout Egypt remain peaceful. Chicago House has been able to take good advantage of the quiet time to make excellent progress with our documentation and conservation work on both sides of the river.

At Medinet Habu the epigraphic team has had the pleasure of working and consulting with former ES Assistant Director and senior epigrapher Richard Jasnow for the last week. Richard will be here until the 12th, and it's great to have him back; our discussions on the epigraphic process have been stimulating and helpful. Randy Shonkwiler is now reviewing collation sheets at the wall and is taking to the collation process quite well. Recently arrived librarian/epigrapher Steven Shubert has begun his epigraphic training, in addition to taking over the management of the Chicago House library. In an effort to maximize our epigraphic efforts, we have modified the Chicago House library hours, and are now open weekdays, afternoons only, from 2:00 - 5:00, and on Fridays all day, from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. So far this seems to be working quite well.

The Medinet Habu conservators, supervised by Lotfi Hassan, are finishing up the cleaning of the two southernmost sanctuary rooms in the small Amun temple, and will move into the front central chamber next week. At that time the team of epigraphic artists, Margaret, Will, and Sue will move into the two vacated chambers to document the newly exposed painted details and inscriptions. Once the epigraphers have checked the artist's work for accuracy, the details will be added to the drawings, which will be published in the first volume of the small Amun series. When the artists and

epigraphers are finished, photographer Yarko will document the painted reliefs with large-format color transparencies for the final publication. I should mention that Lotfi's wife, Giuliana and their two-month old daughter Giulia, arrived this month, will be with us until mid-February, and are a very special addition to our household.

Stone cutter Dany Roy has continued to lay the new sandstone flooring in the front central room, and to seal the bark sanctuary roof against rain water. This work will continue throughout December. In the back naos room the stone pavement has been cleaned and prepared for new stone paving to be added where it is missing on the west side. The floor of the naos room has subsided in the direction of the granite naos due to its weight, and two central floor blocks were removed to raise them slightly to the level of the other floor blocks. In the process a section of the underpinnings of the naos was exposed, revealing one of the foundation stones to be a large, black-granite offering table inscribed for two God's Wives of Amun, Amenirdis I and her adopted daughter Shepenwepet II. This offering table was noted by conservator John Stewart years ago, and appears to be a larger version of another one similarly inscribed, on view in the funerary chapel of Amenirdis across the way, which was also found reused elsewhere in the Medinet Habu precinct. Tina Di Cerbo has supervised the cleaning and recording of this area, and Dany will coordinate the moving of the offering table next week. Tina has also found that when the naos foundation was dug in the Ptolemaic Period, a small sandstone wall predating Hatshepsut and Thutmosis III's temple was exposed and partly dismantled; some of the small, squarish blocks can be seen in the naos underpinnings. Tina is carefully mapping and planning this area, and its date so far is uncertain. Hatshepsut herself renewed the whole small Amun temple complex before capping it with her sandstone monument late in her reign, and it is possible that this feature dates to an earlier phase of her work there.

Things are also hopping at Luxor Temple. I am pleased to report that the World Monuments Fund has awarded the Epigraphic Survey and Oriental Institute a Robert Wilson Challenge Grant which matches funds raised in Egypt in Egyptian Pounds for conservation of the Luxor Temple inscribed stone wall fragments. The grant will allow the ES to build more damp-coursed storage and treatment platforms for all the remaining Luxor Temple fragments presently stored on the ground, an emergency measure designed to slow the accelerated decay of this material due to high ground water and increased

salinity in the soil of late. The grant will also cover the restoration of an Opet-register fragment group to the east wall of the Colonnade Hall (the re-assembly of which will help stabilize that particular section of wall), and the continued structural study and monitoring of Luxor Temple by structural engineer Conor Power, who is due to arrive later this week. I have been working the last two weeks in the southeast area moving and sorting by category inscribed wall material from the ground on to the new storage platforms of our expanded block yard. New damp-coursed mastaba/platforms will be constructed this month in the area now cleared of blocks, thanks in large part to this grant.

Back on the home front, as insurance, we have initiated the publication quality, large-format photography of all of our drawings-in-progress as emergency backup (more than two hundred total) for volumes 1 & 2 of the small Amun temple series, Medinet Habu. These interim negatives will be brought back to Chicago during the course of this season, and will act as backup in the event of evacuation or delayed return to Luxor. We will also have total digital backup back at home of all of our Photo Archives large-format negative holdings, and much of the small-format negatives by the end of this season. This is in the best interests of the Oriental Institute anyway, but under the changed world circumstances of post-September 11, I have made sure it is the season priority for my photography and Photo Archives staff. We will be prepared, for anything.

The holy month of Ramadan began in mid-November this year, and will be over in about two weeks. We had an excellent Thanksgiving celebration, largely in-house this year, and are looking forward to the end of Ramadan feast (the Eid El-Fitr), and the Christmas holidays, which are almost upon us. The Chicago House staff joins me in wishing all of you back home a warm and very pleasant holiday season. Happy holidays!

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THE LATE ANTIQUE AND BYZANTINE STUDIES WORKSHOP PRESENTS:

JESSE CASANA  
Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations  
University of Chicago



>THE LANDSCAPE OF LATE ANTIQUE ANTIOCH: RESULTS FROM  
RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
INVESTIGATIONS"

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

4:30 pm.

Cochrane-Woods Art Center (CWAC) Rm. 152

refreshments will be served.

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TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP

We intend to revive the Technology Discussion Group in the Winter Quarter. This once a month informal brown-bag discussion typically follows a presentation of a particular project or problem in the application of technology to ancient Near Eastern Studies. We hope to have presentations by Jan Johnson of the Middle Egyptian Readingbook Project, and by David Schloen of XSTAR early in the quarter. We plan also to have a screening of The Human Adventure, and early example of the application of an emerging technology to the dissemination of the OI's work. For those who haven't seen it, it includes footage taken at the OI, in Cairo and Luxor, Megiddo, the Diyala and Persepolis.

If anyone has thoughts on the best days for the group to meet, or who would like to make a presentation should contact Chuck Jones <cejo@midway.uchicago.edu>, 2-9537

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INDIVIDUALS

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FRED DONNER was kept especially busy, as were many other colleagues, by giving extra lectures and presentations on Islamic topics in the aftermath of 9/11, which caused practically every campus in the US to sponsor special events (lectures, roundtable discussions, teach-ins, etc.) on various aspects of those events. He gave lectures in late October at University of Michigan-Dearborn and Rock Valley College (Rockford, IL), and participated in panel discussions at Illinois Wesleyan College (Bloomington, IL) and at the

Humanities Open House here at U of C. In mid-November he went to San Francisco for the annual Middle East Studies Association meeting, where he participated in a panel discussion on "Publishing (including electronic publishing) and medieval Middle Eastern Studies."

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NANCY DRAY and DAVID TESTEN

Two longtime OI denizens--David Testen, who has been conducting research this past year as a visiting scholar with the support of an ACLS fellowship, and Nancy Dray, who has served as NELC department secretary since February--are heading to Saint Paul, Minnesota, where David is slated to be a visiting assistant professor in the Linguistics Department at Macalester College during the spring semester of 2002. Best wishes to all, and please feel free to keep in touch. Nancy's permanent e-mail address is n-dray-7@alumni.uchicago.edu.

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WALTER KAEGI chaired a session on Byzantine economic history at the 27th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference at The University of Notre Dame, 10 November 2001. He has shipped his book manuscript on Heraclius to Cambridge University Press for copyediting. He also lightly revised and updated his manuscript of his contribution on "Society and Institutions in Byzantine Africa" for the book "Ai confini dell'impero. Storia, arte e archeologia della Sardegna bizantina, " which finally is going to press in Italy.

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CAROLE KRUCOFF

I was pleased to be invited speak at the ASOR Annual Meeting in November, where I delivered a paper on "Institutional and Scholarly Collaboration for Archaeology Public Education." This session was sponsored by ASOR's Outreach Education Committee, which also arranged for me to offer a workshop for Denver-area elementary and high school teachers. Presented at the University of Colorado,

Boulder, the workshop focused on Life in Ancient Mesopotamia, which is one of three award-winning curriculum guides developed by Museum Education in collaboration with the Chicago Public Schools.

A similar program was offered to Illinois educators at the annual meeting of the Illinois Council for the Social Studies, held this fall in Naperville, where I presented a workshop for teachers state-wide on our Life in Ancient Egypt curriculum guide. In addition to workshops for teachers, this fall I presented a lecture on education programming in museums for the Graduate Program in Arts Administration at the Art Institute of Chicago.

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MARK LEHNER

I postponed the last field season of our 2.5-year marathon at Giza until January 2002. Where I had planned on splitting the season before and after New Years, and working through Ramadan, the postponement gives us a concentrated and focused four-months of work through April. Our crew of about 25 team members (U.S., Egyptian, British, Dutch, Polish, German, and Swedish) and 35 will be back at our site south of the Wall of the Crow by January 7. We are keen to learn more about the large double-walled enclosure (the "Buttress Building") that turned up in the southeastern corner of our site in last final weeks of our last season.

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CHUCK JONES

I chaired two sessions at the AAR/SBL meetings in Denver in November. Both sessions related to the uses of technology in ancient studies. David Schloen gave a presentation on XSTAR (see below). Other colleagues presented on such things as the use of XML as an analytical tool in the study of Nuzi texts, the next generation of Word Cruncher, and multi-spectral imaging of burned papyri. A number of very interesting projects and opportunities for institutional collaboration are beginning to emerge in these areas.

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HRATCH PAPAZIAN

APIS (Advanced Papyrological Information System)

A planning meeting for the start of phase 3 of the APIS project was held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on November 30 - December 1. Chicago has recently become an official APIS partner and will prepare a catalogue of the papyri and ostraca found in the collection of the Oriental Institute Museum. The initial phase of this effort needs to focus on developing a database compatible with the cataloguing standards of the APIS system. This will enable our catalogue to be incorporated within the APIS environment.

The agenda for the Ann Arbor meeting revolved principally around the technical specifications of the central APIS database, which is maintained at Columbia University and is web-accessible, and its relationship with the local catalogues. Some of the specific issues addressed included APIS search engine capabilities, imaging guidelines, and database platforms and structures of partner institutions.

The meeting was hosted by Dr. Traianos Gagos of the University of Michigan. Participating institutions, in addition to Michigan, included Berkeley, Chicago, Columbia, Duke, Pennsylvania, Toronto, and Washington University.

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CLEMENS REICHEL

Since I keep on missing the deadline for the Newsletter fairly consistently, most recently due to my participation at the Hamoukar expedition, let me backtrack a somewhat before the month of November. As most of you know, I have been employed as a Research Associate at the Oriental Institute since July 1, working on the web-based publication of the objects found during the Diyala excavations. Before we can go on the web, however, it is necessary to move the data from Microsoft FoxPro, the program we have been using for years but which is now outdated and no longer supported, to a web-compatible application. The plan is to use Oracle 8-i or 9-i as the database backend. During the past year I enjoyed the

cooperation of George Sundell, a retired data architect from Ameritech, to create logical, fundamental, and detailed models for the new data layout (to be fair and honest, George did most of this work, based on our discussions). My trip to Hamoukar has interrupted the flow of things somewhat but we have picked up again where we had left off by now.

During the ASOR meeting in Boulder, CO between November 14 - 17 I presented a paper called "Textarchaeology and Sealing Practices at the Palace of the Rulers at Tell Asmar: A functional analysis of a Mesopotamian Palace" in the Mesopotamian Archaeology session. (yes, it was another re-hash of my dissertation, but there were still people who haven't heard that story...). My paper "Seals and Sealings: a new look at an Ur II to Early Old Babylonian Palace," read at a seal symposium in Yale during the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in 1998, was published over the summer in the conference volume "Seals And Seal Impressions" (ed. by W.W. Hallo and I. J. Winter).

I spent September and October working at Hamoukar with the Oriental Institute's team. This year I worked as site architect, a role best described as "Being John Sanders", or more appropriately, trying to be..... The rumors and stories about our fantastic burnt Uruk building with roof beams, lots of complete pots and hundreds of clay sealings, about the late third millennium public building with 3 m wide outer walls, and about dismembered people lying around in courtyards are all true. Mac Gibson will tell you more about this in due course. For now, I am working on the 75 architectural plans and about 1000 object photos from this season. Hamoukar has been an immensely productive site since our first season, but I think that it is fair to say that this season's results by far surpass those of our previous two seasons in terms of excitement. More about this soon.

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ERICA REINER participated at the beginning of November, along with papyrologists and her British Assyriologist colleague Andrew George, in the Toronto Conference on Editorial Problems, on RECONSTRUCTING ANCIENT TEXTS. Her paper, on Editing Fragments: How to Reconstruct a Babylonian Treatise, dealt with the problems encountered in reconstructing the series of Babylonian celestial

omens. The papers will be published in the series devoted to the proceedings of the Toronto Conference on Editorial Problems.

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DAVID SCHLOEN

XSTAR: XML System for Textual and Archaeological Research  
Incorporating the "Archaeological Markup Language" (ArchaeoML)

The goal of this project is to create a sophisticated Internet-based research environment for specialists in textual and archaeological studies. In particular, XSTAR is intended for archaeologists, philologists, historians, and historical geographers who work with ancient artifacts, documents, and geographical or environmental data. It will not only provide access to detailed, searchable data in each of these areas individually, but will also integrate these diverse lines of evidence as an aid to interdisciplinary research.

XSTAR is a long-term initiative to create an effective electronic publication and research tool that makes use of the latest Internet technology. It grows out of the international conference on "Electronic Publication of Ancient Near Eastern Texts" held at the University of Chicago in October 1999, where participants from a wide variety of scholarly institutions discussed current projects and future developments in this area. In that conference and elsewhere researchers have voiced their desire to build an online research environment that integrates ancient texts with their archaeological and geographical contexts, for the mutual benefit of philologists and archaeologists. Within archaeology itself a long-held goal has been the integration of archaeological data from many different sites and regions for purposes of large-scale comparison and querying.

XSTAR is intended to meet these needs. It consists of both a database structure and related interface software that will make it possible to view and query archaeological, textual, and linguistic information in an integrated fashion via the Internet. Initially, it is mainly ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern information that will be made available in this way, reflecting the research focus of the Oriental Institute. But the XSTAR software and database structure are purposely generic; they are not restricted to a particular region or period. After thorough testing and documentation using a diverse

collection of Near Eastern data, XSTAR will be made available to researchers in other fields.

The name XSTAR stands for "XML System for Textual and Archaeological Research," indicating that it is based on the powerful and widely adopted Extensible Markup Language (XML) specification and related standards published by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C): <http://www.w3.org/>. For more information on XML, see "The XML Cover Pages" maintained by Robin Cover: <http://xml.coverpages.org/>

XSTAR's Web page is at:  
<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/XSTAR/XSTAR.html>

Please note that the initial set of four "pilot datasets" we are using to develop the XSTAR system is not meant to be exclusive. These four datasets provide a core of representative archaeological and philological information from various cultural regions suitable for testing the system and putting it through its paces. This development and testing phase will take some time, on the order of two or three years. Other electronic projects in the Oriental Institute can easily be added at any time, at the choice of the project leaders. In the new year we will schedule an informal session to discuss the XSTAR project in more detail with all interested faculty, staff, and students.

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JASON UR

At the ASOR annual meeting in Denver, I gave a paper entitled "Urbanization and its Impact on the Landscape of the Third Millennium BC Upper Khabur Plain, Northeastern Syria" in the Mesopotamian Archaeology session. The participating University of Chicago grad students (myself, Clemens Reichel, Jesse Casana, and Amir Sumakai-Fink) put on a good show and all had good attendance at their papers.

Next year's ASOR annual meeting is in Toronto. I've been asked to solicit papers for the Mesopotamian section from other U of C students. The ASOR meeting is an excellent place to give a first conference paper; it's very low pressure, there are many other

students, and there's plenty of opportunities for travel grants.  
Contact me (j-ur@uchicago.edu) for more information.

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