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OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - FEBRUARY 2000

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UNITS
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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

After 10 years with the lab and my office together, now they are separate. As a consequence, a good part of January was spent putting things in their proper place, then deciding the other room was a more proper place, and hauling boxes and things back and forth. We're almost done, and almost everything is functioning in the lab again. We are in the process of upgrading our scanning software, as well as making an older version of AutoCAD available for use on a donated Dell (Windows-based) computer.

As a part of the Y2K changes, with Chris Barnard's help, we increased our web server's disk capacity by 400% AND added a second hard disk, so that we have an online backup that is written to at the same time the main hard disk is. In computer lingo, the OI is now operating a RAID (redundant array of inexpensive disks) system on its web server. Sounds good, huh? It gives me more peace-of-

mind, at least. The increased disk capacity means that the lab will start to process the 1100+ 1905-7 Breasted photos of Nubia and Sudan in the near future. They'll need approximately 1 gigabyte of storage all by themselves. Several volunteers have come forward to help in this task.

I'll let Chuck tell you about getting the Archives On-Line Catalogue up and running via the internet and your web browser software. Quite an achievement on Chuck's part, and a great new resource that the OI is making available to the world. Congrats to Chuck!!!

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DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

REINSTALLATION

The total goal for reinstallation of all the galleries is \$3,450,000. This includes funds already spent to remove reliefs and install Egypt.

As of February 7, we have raised \$1,435,470.61, or 42% of the total.

1999 YEAR-END

The year-end appeal fundraising total was \$408,557.23, an increase of 10% over year-end 1998. Voting members will receive a fuller report on year-end giving.

ROMANCING THE PAST 2000

The James Henry Breasted Medallion will be awarded to Janet W. Helman on Friday, May 5, 2000 at the Drake Hotel. The Honorary Chairs are Mayor and Mrs. Richard M. Daley, and the Dinner Chairs are Tom and Linda Heagy, Bruce Sagan and Bette Cerf Hill, Bob and Laura Lunn, and John and Jeanne Rowe. Proceeds will benefit reinstallation of the Institute galleries.

As in past years, members of the Visiting Committee will invite members of the faculty and staff to join them or turn places back into the Institute, to be distributed to faculty and senior staff.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

In the middle of November, the first public membership drive in Institute history was launched. As of February 7, we have 519 new members, whose dues so far total \$40,925. Not surprisingly, 1999 saw the highest number of memberships in a decade.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Cashion.

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MEMBERSHIP / Emily Napolitano

Members Lectures

Sunday, February 13
7:30 pm, Breasted Hall
The Bible and the Monuments
William Hallo
The Grimshaw Gallery will be open from 6:00 to 7:15 pm before Professor Hallo's lecture.

Wednesday, February 23
8:00 pm, Breasted Hall
Artisan Workshops and Cosmic Symbolism: Ceramic Sculpture from Ancient Egypt
Peter Dorman
Professor Dorman will give a lecture based on his most recent work, a study entitled "Faces in Clay," an analysis of ceramic sculpture in ancient Egypt, the collaborative organization of artisan workshops, and the potter's wheel as a symbol of creation and cosmic regeneration.

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MUSEUM / Karen Wilson

On January 19, Delta Design delivered to the Oriental Institute basement 20 new storage cabinets purchased with funds from an IMLS Grant. This brings the total of new cabinets purchased since the completion of the construction project to 57 and is slowly transforming the renovated basement into a state-of-the-art museum storeroom. As a result of these new cabinets, Ray and his crew have been able to unpack more than 13,350 objects from their temporary storage boxes and place them on shelves, where they are

easily accessible for such purposes as exhibit preparation, research, and teaching.

On the same day that the cabinets were being installed, John Vinci and Tom Conroy spent the afternoon in the basement photographing the more than 700 objects that have been selected as candidates for exhibit in the new Persian Gallery. They will use these photographs, in conjunction with other information concerning text, maps, photographs, and other graphics to work on a preliminary layout of the gallery. And on February 14, Belding-Walbridge will begin to deinstall the glazed brick panel on the east wall of the gallery, after which the stone surrounding the windows will be cleaned and patched and the ceiling will be washed. So the reinstallation of the gallery is still progressing on schedule for a targeted opening date in late spring/early summer.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

CAD 14 (R) and CAD 15 (S) were sent to press. We expect them to be available for sale sometime in March.

FS. Wente (SAOC 58) is more-or-less complete; although it is still undergoing a last read. Jean Grant kindly provided prints of the last four illustrations necessary to complete the volume. Thanks Jean! Work on the index is about one-half complete, after which it will be sent to press (we hope in February!).

Author corrections for Persepolis Seals (OIP 117) are being entered; we hope to send second proofs to the authors in March.

Carol Meyer returned page proofs for BUF 1993 (OIC 28); about one-week of work is all that's required to send it to the printer.

N&N 165 was prepared for printing.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

Following five weeks of construction funded by a grant from the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts

matched by donations from friends of the Research Archives, the library reopened on schedule on January 17th, 2000.

All wiring and electrical connections in the Research Archives are new, and additional power supply is now available for exploitation by offices on the second and third floor main corridors. This will help to ease the overloads we all encounter, particularly during the summer months.

In addition to replacing the existing wiring and switches, and to installing new wiring for the eventual installation (in the summer?) of the restored lighting, there are now electrical outlets and ethernet connections at each of the tables in the reading room. At present, the connections are in plates mounted on the floor - eventually the tables will be wired with more convenient access points at each end.

The new connections are available for use right away. Anyone wishing to use the ethernet connection and who does not already have an IP number assigned to the computer in question should consult with me or John Sanders.

Completing the aesthetic effect of this phase of the project is the new cork floor which replicates the original material and pattern. The new cork has the added effect of brightening the room considerably.

During the time the Research Archives was closed I finally had the opportunity to put together all the components necessary to make the on-line catalogue accessible via the web. While there remain problems with the display of some kinds of data, and with the stability of the software, I am generally satisfied with the results and with the prospects for the future. The catalogue is available globally at:

<http://oilib.uchicago.edu/oilibcat.html>

There are links to it from the Research Archives home page as well as from Abzu. I am grateful for comments any of you may have.

Since the beginning of January the catalogue has had more than fifteen hundred visits from about six hundred visitors.

Now that we have this version of the catalogue up and running, we can concentrate in the coming weeks and months on processing the sixty to seventy thousand additional records we currently have in various states of preparation into the catalogue, on making the

database work more effectively with the software, and on optimizing its utility for the end user.

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PROJECTS
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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

January 2000 was noteworthy for the arrival of new staff members and stepped-up activity on all fronts. Sue Lezon, Jamie Riley, and Nan Ray arrived at Chicago house in mid-month, swelling the ranks in our secondary residence, Healey House. Sue Lezon reopened the CH Imaging Center and began coordinating the digital scanning of our Photo Archives 8x10 large-format negatives. The negatives were all organized and boxed by Ellie Smith and are being scanned and burned onto CD-ROM at the Karnak Franco-Egyptian Center. Jamie Riley was put to work almost immediately supervising the addition of a bathroom to the Healey House storage and refrigerator room, which by necessity is being pressed into service as a residence room. That work is finished, and Jamie and Administrator Dalia Abo Shady are now coordinating the construction and procurement of its furnishings.

Conservators John Stewart and Hiroko Kariya arrived on the 16th to resume the Luxor Temple Fragment Consolidation Project, just as Engineer Mohsen Fahmy put the finishing touches on the last of nineteen new, damp-coursed brick storage mastabas. John spent an intense week plotting the season strategy with Hiroko, and Nan Ray has been assisting Hiroko ever since organizing, numbering, monitoring, and moving decorated sandstone wall fragments to their new holding areas. The first fragments to be moved to the new east storage area were a group of over a hundred fragments which join the east wall of the Amenhotep III sun court, partially restored on the wall a decade and a half ago by John Stewart. The remaining fragments have been moved to new mastabas and sorted into two groups: those requiring consolidation, and those which are stable. Consolidation of this material will be one of this season's priorities, and it is hoped that the whole group can be restored to the wall season after next.

At Medinet Habu epigraphic drawing and collation continued in the small Amun temple of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III. Epigrapher Briant Bohleke continued his onsite training most mornings, while his wife Karin supervised the field library. While infilling the central room, Dany Roy prepared a half-meter thick reinforced concrete base for the colossal granodiorite dyad of Thutmose III and Amun which we will restore in the center of the room, its original architectural setting, next season. Dany then prepared the back central room for cleaning, where at month's end Egyptologist Tina Di Cerbo began the task of going through Holscher's backfill, recovering sherds and sculpture fragments in the process.

In mid-January a wooden 'wharf' platform designed by senior epigrapher Ted Castle was constructed by CH carpenter Shayib and inserted into the northern Ramesses III well just above the present water level. Shortly afterward photographer Yarko Kobylecky and assistant Ellie Smith began arduous, emergency photography of every square inch of the inscribed inner wall surface, now badly eroded by groundwater salts, with our large-format, 8x10 field camera. When they are finished with the first sloping corridor later this month, a second platform will be constructed in the second sloping corridor which continues at a right angle to the first, now mostly submerged.

Visitors have come to us in a constant stream for the last month. Most recently the Field Museum VIP tour led by Peter Dorman passed through Luxor and Chicago House; on February 4th I showed them our work at Medinet Habu, while later that day Carlotta Maher and I gave them a briefing on the work of CH in the library followed by a tour of the grounds. Earlier in the week Director of the Art Institute of Chicago Jim Wood and his wife Emese joined us for dinner and later, site tours of both Luxor and Medinet Habu temples. Both sets of museum officials were in Egypt doing prep work for the BMFA Amarna show 'Pharaohs of the Sun: Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and Tutankhamun' opening at the Art Institute in July.

Other visitors included Donald and Susan Levy, and old friends and supporters Mark Rudkin and Fred Giles (back in Egypt for the first time in 25 years). Epigrapher Hrach Papazian left us at the beginning of the month to experience the joys of working at Giza with Mark Lehner and his crew for a month; we trust Mark will return him to us safely. On February 2 and 3 ARCE Director Mark Easton, EAP Director Chip Vincent, and EAP Assistant Director Jarek

Dobrolowski conducted onsite reviews of our Luxor Temple and Medinet Habu EAP-funded conservation projects. And dear friend Margie Fisher has just arrived for three weeks work with us "at the wall." There have been many, many other visitors, both interested laymen/women and colleagues alike, but if I'm to get this off to you, I'd better stop now. Best wishes from us all, to all of you back home!

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EVENTS
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The Oriental Institute is one of the sponsors of the Midwest SBL/AOS/ASOR meeting:

2000 PROGRAM FOR THE JOINT MEETING OF
THE MIDWEST REGION OF THE SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE
THE MIDDLE WEST BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY
THE AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH -- MIDWEST

February 13-15, 2000

Oriental Institute--University of Chicago and
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
1100 E. 55th Street
Chicago, Illinois

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 13

6:00-7:15 PM Special Showing
Egyptian Gallery
Oriental Institute--University of Chicago
1155 E. 58th Street
Chicago, IL

7:30-8:30 PM Plenary Session, The Oriental Institute
Chair: Michael Fox, University of Wisconsin--Madison

William Hallo, Yale University
The Bible and the Monuments

MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 14

8:00 --10:00AM Registration, Entrance area at LSTC
8:00 AM -- 5:15 PM Publisher Displays, Main Lounge

Session 1: Plenary Session, Auditorium
Chair: Eleanor Guralnick

9:00-12:30 The Context of Scripture

9:00-9:30 K. Lawson Younger
Trinity International University

9:30-10:00 Harry A. Hoffner
Oriental Institute--University of Chicago

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-11:00 David B. Weisberg
Hebrew Union College

11:00-11:30 James Hoffmeier,
Wheaton College

Session 2A: Luke-Acts, Room 203
Chair: Russell Sisson, Union College

9:00-9:30 J. Albert Harrill, DePaul University
The Dramatic Function of the Running Slave Rhoda (Acts 12:13-16): A
Piece of Greco-Roman Comedy

9:30-10:00 Stephen R. Wiest, Marquette University
A Propaedeutic From the Bacchae of Euripides for Interpreting
Luke's Stephen-Section (Acts 6:1-8:4)

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-11:00 Karl Kuhn, Lakeland College
Luke's Gospel Characters: Far from Speechless

11:00-11:30 Lynn Allan Kauppi, Valparaiso University
St. Luke Plays the Lottery: The kleros Motif in Acts 1:15-26

Session 2B: Christian Origins, Room 207
Chair: Christine Shea, Ball State University

9:00-9:30 Bastiaan Van Elderen, The Scriptorium
An Unpublished Baptismal Prayer in a 9th Century Minuscule
Manuscript of the Gospels

9:30-10:00 Ritva H. Williams, Augustana College
Charisma and Church Leadership: Ignatius of Antioch and His
Contemporaries

10:00-10:30 James Kelhoffer, Lutheran School of Theology
The Apology of Marcianus Aristides of Athens: Some Initial Probing

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-11:30 Susan Myers, University of Notre Dame
The Authorship, Provenance and Dating of the Acts of Thomas,
revisited

11:30-12:00 Leslie Baynes, University of Notre Dame
Lady Virtue, Lady Vice: Personification in Prodicus' Heracles and Its
Nachleben

11:30AM-1:00 PM Lunch Break

12:30-3:00 PM Registration, Entrance area LSTC

Session 3A: Plenary Session, Auditorium
Chair: Robert Jewett,
Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary

1:00-2:30 Adele Reinhartz, McMaster University
Scripture on the Silver Screen

2:30-2:45 Coffee Break

2:45-3:15 Robert Jewett,
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
The Pilgrimage of Brotherhood: The Straight Story in Light of Romans
12:9-13

3:15-3:45 Carol Stockhausen, Marquette University
An Experiment Using Film in Teaching Biblical Text and Theology: Mr.
Holland's Opus Revisited

Session 3B: Student Paper Award Winners

New Testament/Christian Origins, Room 206

Chair: Troy Martin, Saint Xavier University

1:00-2:00 Stephen P. Ahearne-Kroll, University of Chicago
"Who are my mother and my brothers?' Family Relations and
Family Language in the Gospel of Mark

Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, Room 305

Chair: Robert D. Haak, Augustana College

1:00-2:00 Robert D. Holmstedt

University of Wisconsin--Madison

Dislocation and Topicalization in Biblical Hebrew: A Generative
Syntactic-Pragmatic Analysis

2:00-2:45 PM Coffee Break

Session 4A: AOS-Northwest Semitic, Room 305

Chair: Bastiaan Van Elderen, The Scriptorium

2:45-3:15 Wayne Pitard, University of Illinois-Urbana

Old Photos, New Readings: Examining the Original Photos of the
Ugaritic Tablets

3:15-3:45 Anson Rainey, Tel Aviv University

Mesha and Syntax: Language and Style from the 9th Century BCE

3:45-4:15 Lawrence Mykytiuk, Purdue University

A Taxonomy of Identifications of Biblical Persons Named in
Northwest Semitic Inscriptions

Session 4B: New Testament/Gospels, Room 202

Chair: James Kelhoffer, Lutheran School of Theology

2:45-3:15 Richard Thompson, Olivet Nazarene University

When Does Salt Lose Its Saltiness? A Reading of Matthew 5:13 in
Light of Its Literary and Historical Contexts

3:15-3:45 Russell Sisson, Union College

The Social Intertexture of Apocalyptic Discourse in Q

3:45-4:15 Christine Shea, Ball State University
Mark 2:17: Some Doctoring

4:15-4:45 Mark Whitters, Catholic University of America
Why Did the Bystanders Think Jesus Called Upon Elijah Before He
Died (Mark 15:34-36)? The Markan Position

4:45-5:15 Stephen Hatton, Homewood, IL
Markan Comedy in the Family/Beelzebul Intercalation

Session 4C: Old Testament, Room 309
Chair: Stuart Lasine, Wichita State University

2:45-3:15 Sun Myung Lyu, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison
Internalization and Codification: Two Paradigms of Sapiential Pursuit
of Righteousness

3:15-3:45 Sungho Lee, Kaneville, IL
Rhetoric of the Priestly Writings in the Plague Narrative Exodus 7:8-
-11:10

3:45-4:15 Angela Kim, University of Notre Dame
The Golden Calf and the Theology of the Deuteronomistic Source:
Source Criticism of Exodus 32:1-6

4:15-4:45 J. Todd Hibbard, University of Notre Dame
New Prophecy Through Old: Isaiah 24:16b-20 and the Re-Use of
Earlier Biblical Texts

5:00-6:00 Lutheran School of Theology Reception

6:00-7:10 Presidential Banquet, Dining Room

7:15-8:15 Presidential Address, Dining Room
Chair: Robert D. Haak, Augustana College

Michael V. Fox
University of Wisconsin--Madison
The Meanings of the Book of Job

8:30-9:30 Board Meeting, President's Dining Room

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 15

9:00 --10:00AM Registration, Entrance area LSTC
8:00 AM -- 1:00 PM Publisher Displays, Main Lounge

8:15-9:00 Joint SBL/AOS Annual Business Meeting,
President's Dining Room
Chair: K. Lawson Younger, Trinity International University

Session 5A: AOS/ASOR Archaeology, Room 207
Chair: Lisbeth S. Fried, New York University

9:00-9:30 Jeffrey Blakely, Archaeological Assessments
Not Ziklag, Lachish, Gath or Eglon: What was Biblical Tell el-Hesi?

9:30-10:00 Graham Hagens
The Historicity of Samuel in Light of Recent Archaeological Research

10:00-10:30 Peter Feinman, Columbia University
William Foxwell Albright and the Founding of Biblical Archaeology

Session 5B: Manuscripts, Room 302A
Chair: Lowell Handy, Loyola University of Chicago

9:00-9:30 Michael Anderson, University of Notre Dame
The 'Biblical' Nature of the Non-Masoretic Psalms in 11QPs™

9:30-10:00 James E. Miller
Pseudepigraphy in the Genesis Apocryphon

10:00-10:30 Brian Webster, Cornerstone University
A No Longer Missing Genesis Scroll from Kaifeng China: A
Preliminary Report on VK ms 875

Session 5C: New Testament, Faculty Lounge
Chair: Lynn Allen Kauppi, Valparaiso University

9:00-9:30 Troy W. Martin, Saint Xavier University
The TestAbr and the Background of 1 Peter 3:6

9:30-10:00 Stan A. Lindsay, Loyola University of Chicago
Woman and Serpent: The Entelechial Germ of Revelation

10:00-10:30 Barbara Rossing,

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
"Fallen is Babylon:" The City-Lament Genre in Revelation 18

Session 5D: Biblical Languages, Room 203
Chair: Roy Gane, Andrews University

9:00-9:30 Daniel P. Bailey, Milwaukee, WI
Biblical and Mainstream Uses of hilasterion as Homonyms

9:30-10:00 Brian Ashland, Univ. of Wisconsin--Madison
The Dot and the Glottal Stop

10:00-10:30 Tarsee Li, Hebrew Union College
Stative Wayyiqtol in Biblical Hebrew: A Preliminary Study

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

Session 6A: New Testament/Paul, Faculty Lounge
Chair: Ritva Williams, Augustana College

10:45-11:15 Frederick Long, Bethel College
The Apologetic Nature and Unity of 2 Corinthians Based on Forensic
Oratorical Analogies

11:15-11:45 Peter W. Dunn,
Faculte de Theologie Evangelique de Bangui
Testing Pauline Pseudonymity: 3 Corinthians and Pastoral Epistles

11:45-12:15 Jeffrey R. Asher, Chicago, IL
Military Metaphor, Martial Values, and the Classical Battle Experience
in Eph. 6:10-20

12:15-12:45 Jeffrey B. Gibson, Loyola University
'Christ Died for Us/Our Sins': The Political and Polemical Nature of a
Pauline Topos

Session 6B: AOS/Mesopotamia, Room 207
Chair: Mark Chavalas, University of Wisconsin--LaCrosse

10:45-11:10 Steven W. Holloway,
American Theological Library Association
Honors Equal to Those Paid the Gods: Sacrifice to Neo-Assyrian Kings

11:10-11:35 Lisbeth S. Fried, New York University
Cyprus and the Priests of Marduk

11:35-12:00 Douglas Frayne, University of Toronto
On the Location of the Ancient City of Agade

12:00-12:25 Eleanor Guralnick
A 'New' Near Eastern Bronze from Olympia

12:25-12:50 C. MusËs
Tuvan and Buryatian Shamanism

Session 6C: Old Testament, Room 302A
Chair: Robert D. Haak, Augustana College

10:45-11:15 Joseph Michael Henderson, Indianapolis, IN
Who Weeps in Jeremiah 9:1?

11:15-11:45 Lowell K. Handy, Loyola University Chicago
The Busy Scribes of Josiah's Court

11:45-12:15 Stuart Lasine, Wichita State University
Divine Narcissism and Yahweh's Parenting Style

12:15-12:45 John Schmitt, Marquette University
Two Peculiarities of Zephaniah 3:14

The Officers of the Societies would like to thank the publishers and institutions who have been kind enough to display their books and other products at this meeting. These include:

American Theological Library Association
Augsburg/Fortress Publishers
Eisenbrauns
Ex Libris Books
Hendrickson Publishers
Westminster/John Knox Press
Wisdom Publications

The Societies also wish to express their gratitude to Barbara Rossing and Ralph Klein of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Gene Gragg of the Oriental Institute, who served as local arrangements coordinators this year. We would also like to express

our gratitude to the staff and administration of the Lutheran School of Theology for their gracious cooperation in making the meeting a success. Special thanks go to President James Kenneth Echols and Dean Kathleen Billman of LSTC.

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INDIVIDUALS

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FRED DONNER

FRED DONNER will be delivering a lecture on "Qur'anic Eschatology" at the Institute for Islamic Studies, McGill University, Montreal, on Tuesday, February 8. The one-volume Oxford History of Islam (ed. John L. Esposito), which includes his lead article on the rise of Islam and the caliphate (ca. 600-1258), has just appeared in print.

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WALTER KAEGI

Walter Kaegi completed a paper "Society and Institutions in Byzantine Africa" for a forthcoming exhibition catalogue in Sardinia. He also commented on the papers in a 7 January a session of the Association of Ancient Historians/American Historical Association on Late Antiquity. He chaired a session on Ethnographic Methods and Models at UC conference on Hellenism, History and Ethnography 5 February in Franke Humanities Institute.

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MARK LEHNER

It was one of those weeks with no dramatic discoveries, but more slogging through necessary work. We have just succeeded in scanning new square plans and just moments ago we sent them via e-mail to Peggy Sanders. Hopefully she will be able to send the revised map back to us in Cairo, and I will send it on as an attachment to you, so that you will be able to see the developing ground plan, the result of our labor.

Hratch Papazian joined us this week. He is on leave from his post as Epigrapher at Chicago House, the epigraphic mission to Luxor of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. During his month with

us, I assigned Hratch excavation areas within what I am calling (only for sake of easy identification) the "Manor". This is the discrete building, about 10 X 15 m, with 3-cubit thick outside walls, in the NE corner of Zone C. I decided to dig here to learn more about this structure. Right now Hratch is digging in the NE corner of the SE room of the "Manor" in square M20. He is about to work through compact mud tumble to arrive at floor deposits. The red ring of a jar top has appeared. It may stand in its original place on the floor.

Mohsen Kamal is excavating in square N18 and 018. The surface of the ruins slopes down to the north across Zone C. The depression is filled with vast amounts of pottery. Mohsen took 100 kilograms of pottery shards from excavating one quarter of 018 (2.5 x 2.5 m) a depth of about half a meter or less. In the slope of the depression, he skillfully recovered scant traces of bricks marking the NW corner of the "Manor," which was cut through by the large pit or depression.

We are conducting surface scraping and light excavation in the 17 column, south of the southern street wall. In my last dispatch I mentioned a series of E-W stony walls that may be modular structures like the one John Nolan excavated in 1997 in square I17. These may be workers houses. The walls and chambers in this series are less regular than I had supposed, but they do appear to be evenly spaced and nothing has disconfirmed the hypothesis about workers houses.

We are adding details -- more subsidiary walls, doorways, etc. -- in a number of squares that we had already mapped. Reis Ahmed and his men have re-emptied all the excavation areas of previous seasons, including the bakeries we found in 1991, but excepting square D14 that Jason Ur excavated in 1997.

I have been supervising excavation in square E19. This square was partially destroyed by a modern backhoe prior to 1991. The low walls, troughs, and benches in F19, alongside which we found fish bones in 1995, run into E19 from the north to the place where the backhoe bit through them. Where the floor remains intact, it is covered with about 2-3 centimeters of halawa-like deposit. Parts of the floor in F19 were also covered with such material (halawa is a kind sesame and sugar confection; the deposit has the color and consistency of halawa, probably not its taste). Once again, we see fish bones embedded in this stuff. I may wait for the arrival of our faunal (animal bone) specialist, Richard Redding, of the University of

Michigan, to seek his advice before excavating these fragile remains. Richard arrives Monday.

Our loader and dump truck team, Mohammed Musilhi and his brother Adel, are still pushing into Zone W. Of course we are eager to have the workers clear the last of the sand in squares J-K-L-6, where we expect a gate at the west end of the street. We have waited to allow Mohammed Musilhi to clear a wide enough swath into Zone W so that we could work safely out of his way in those squares.

I was delighted to have a visit on site from AERA board member Bruce Ludwig, who has been responsible for garnering much of the support for our work since the 1980s. Yesterday Bruce returned with William Kelly Simpson, my advisor and Professor of Egyptology at Yale. It was satisfying to show them first hand the work in which they have put their trust and interest. They accompanied members of the board of the American University in Cairo, their family members, and friends,

Soon I hope to send you an updated map of our results.

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