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OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY [second Tuesday] - FEBRUARY  
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UNITS

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MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

Tim Cashion is in Egypt leading the University of Chicago Women's Board tour with John Larson (see the Epigraphic Survey report below)

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

During January first page proofs of Persepolis Seals and Sealings (OIP 117) were returned to its authors (Garrison and Root). Work then began on the Wente Festschrift (SAOC 58); all forty-two articles were prepared electronically for printing and the first reading of them has begun. Because the editors of the Festschrift (Teeter and Larson) did such a good job of preparing the manuscripts, we anticipate that this volume will sail to press.

We upgraded software on our production computer as follows: Apple System 8.5, Adobe Photoshop 5.0, Adobe Illustrator 8.0, and Adobe

Pagemaker 6.52. Using Illustrator (with help from Peggy Sanders) we transformed a scanned pencil-drawing of an excavated pot into a computer-drawn image. An electronic drawing allows us to size the image as needed and layout plates electronically. Although we rarely need to draw pottery in the Publications Office, we will use Illustrator to repair, correct, or modify line drawings according to author's request.

The Winter 1999 issue of News & Notes was printed and distributed; it was our first two color publication submitted electronically. We note that our computer generated screens held their place much better than screens applied by the printer. Kindly note that the Spring 1999 issue of News & Notes, which is in production, will be Emily Napolitano's first as editor.

The Publications Office has preserved an electronic copy of all manuscripts published since 1988. At present we have nearly 200 megabytes of such information (manuscripts, fonts, applications) stored on two active hard discs and ten Zip discs, prior to which we stored these files on tape drives and optical discs. These files date back to Microsoft Word 3.0 and PageMaker 4.0. Now that the Computer Laboratory has a writable compact disc (CD) drive, we will write these old files to CDs, stop wasting hard disc space, and stop worrying about the failure of a Zip disc. Since many of these files are so old, before we write them to CD we will open each file and save them in the most up-to-date version of software.

The Publications Office has returned to working with Lloyd Anderson of Ecological Linguistics in order to complete work on fonts that transfer without loss of data between Macintosh and Windows. Also, we hope to make progress (at long last) on a web font.

The two endeavors of data storage and font creation require input of time, which will be taken from time allotted to manuscript production. Therefore, the Production Office will close four hours early one day per week until this work is completed.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

It has been a quiet month in the Research Archives. Retrospective cataloguing projects continue to make progress. We are moving more quickly than expected in the recataloguing of the map

collection. In the process of examining each map sheet, we are turning up interesting annotated sub-collections, apparently collected in the field by various projects of the Oriental Institute over the years.

Facilities Services has appointed a project manager to oversee and coordinate the lighting and reading room renovation project funded by members of the Oriental Institute and friends of the Research Archives in partnership with the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts. I hope to be able to report progress on this project shortly.

We have made substantial progress on the Arabic Manuscripts Project coordinated out of the Research Archives. Tom Van Eynde has completed the photography for about two thirds of the images, Richard Harter has scanned all the photographs, and Scott Lucas has researched and written most of the catalogue entries for the papyri and the Quran fragments. We expect to ship sample images and catalogue entries to our partners at RITSEC in Cairo in the next few days.

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PROJECTS  
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#### EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

1999 began on an upbeat note with the arrival at Chicago House on January 1st of photographer/Photo Archivist Sue Lezon and assistant Ellie Smith, who will both oversee the Photo Archives for the rest of the season. Sue immediately resumed the monitoring and duplication of deteriorating nitrate negatives, and both are working on refining our new Photo Archives database, designed by John Sanders and Jason Ur. But Sue brought with her a special gift, donated by our friend and colleague Dr. Fred Giles: a Microtek Scanmaker 5, a 36 BIT reflexive and transmissive flatbed scanner with an 8x14 inch scanning area. This remarkable machine scans large and small format negatives as well as opaque photographs at 1000-2000 dpi and will allow us to begin the scanning of the 17,000 negatives in our Photo Archives for burning onto CD-ROM for inclusion in our database, a project that will be ongoing over the next few years. The Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak has agreed to

assist us in our task, having just finished the scanning of their own Photo Archives, and Sue will coordinate the scanning in both places.

January 1st also saw the steady influx of other friends and colleagues into Luxor. Bruce Williams stopped by to borrow our Nubian Expedition theodolite for his work at Hierakonpolis with the Penn State team. Former Epigraphic Survey Director Chuck Van Siclen and former Oriental Institute Museum Curator Tom Logan arrived to resume their excavations between the Eighth and Ninth Pylons at Karnak, and Betsy Bryan arrived with twelve students(!) to conduct her final season's documentation work at the tomb of Suemniwet on the west bank. And this was just the first day of the new year! A few days later ARCE Treasurer Charlie Herzer and his wife Adrienne stopped by for a visit and dinner, friends Renee Friedman and Will Schenck stopped briefly on their way down to Hierakonpolis to continue their work on the site, and Berkeley's Candy Keller came by for a library tour with a large group from southern California. On January 10 our beloved Carlotta Maher returned for two months of development work, accompanied by former artist (now architect) Jay Heidel who arrived for a two-week visit and Luxor Temple Fragment Project stone conservator Hiroko Kariya. The next day we began the second audit of the season, which just happened to coincide with a visit by the US Ambassador to Egypt and his family to Luxor (it never rains but it pours...). Because the Ambassador was observing Ramadan fasting, rather than host a breakfast for them this year, we gave them an 'iftar' dinner at sundown on January 12, which was quite festive. I acted as their guide during their two days in Luxor, showing them our work at Medinet Habu and Luxor temple as well as other sites on both sides of the river and took special care to point out the signs of accelerating decay everywhere, a matter of great concern to us all. They particularly enjoyed seeing the drawing and collating work going on at Medinet Habu. Carol Meyer returned a few days ago to resume her work at Bir Umm Fawakhir in the Wadi Hammamat, logistics and food supplies were contributed by Chicago House, and she will head out there very shortly for a four-week season.

Hiroko resumed the Egyptian Antiquities Project (EAP)-funded decorated-stone fragment consolidation project at Luxor temple and was joined by project coordinator John Stewart January 25th for a week of consultation and long-range planning. They both are very pleased with the new conservation lab, which greatly facilitates the record-keeping and allows the controlled treatment of selected

fragments. At Medinet Habu Lotfi Hassan completed his first-phase cleaning of the painted reliefs in the small Amun temple, also funded by an EAP grant, on January 15 and is now working for Kent Weeks in the Valley of the Kings (in KV 5, the tomb of Ramesses II's sons) for two months; he will return to us on March 15 for another month of work. Stone cutter Dany Roy rejoined the team in mid-month to resume his work on the roof of the small Amun temple. He will continue the cleaning and sealing of the roof blocks over the Eighteenth Dynasty bark sanctuary and is coordinating the cutting and placing of new stone blocks on the roof of the sanctuary which will restore the ancient Ptolemaic drainage system on the north side. Ellen Pearlstein returned to Luxor on January 16 to continue the cleaning of the indurated-limestone statuary in the Colonnade Hall at Luxor temple and resumed work on the small dyad of Amun and Mut on the east side of the hall. On January 24th EAP Director Chip Vincent, Assistant Director Jarek Dobrolowski, and American Research Center in Egypt Cairo Director Mark Easton joined us for site reviews of our two EAP conservation projects on both sides of the river and picked up the data logger in the Luxor temple ES blockyard, which records temperature and humidity fluctuations, for downloading in Cairo.

Early in the month at Medinet Habu, large-format photography of the inscribed southern well of Ramesses III, on the books as one of the priorities for this season, was launched in earnest. Due to the confined space within the well, the fragile nature of the reliefs on the walls, and because the water level in the well is more than a meter and a half higher than it was in the thirties, the logistics of photographing what is left of the interior decoration (Nile gods bringing sacred water up from the well, and purification scenes) are daunting to say the least. To facilitate the photography, staff photographer Yarko Kobylecky and Senior Epigrapher Ted Castle worked with Chicago House carpenter Shayib to build a series of wooden 'wharf' sections that extend into the main descending passage just above water level and provide a firm footing for the camera tripod and photographer. To our dismay, on the very day we began work we discovered that a small section of inscribed relief had crumbled off the east wall that weekend. Shortly thereafter Ellie Smith discovered three large-format negatives of the well's interior taken in the thirties (only three!), but providentially, one of the shots was of the damaged section. These photos will supplement the complete set of 35mm reference photos taken by staff photographer Tom Van Eynde in 1986 that preserve numerous details

subsequently destroyed by the salting of the walls. The 35mm negatives, already scanned, will be joined into full wall montages this year using Photoshop software. Both sets of earlier photographs will be compared to the photographs currently being generated to determine the rate of decay of the structure from the thirties till now. When the photography is complete we will discuss with local Supreme Council of Antiquities officials what might be done to consolidate the structure. When not working in the well, Yarko, capably assisted by Ellie, finished up the photography in the bark sanctuary of the small Amun temple, thereby completing the primary photographic documentation for the second volume of the Eighteenth Dynasty temple series.

The epigraphic documentation is also gaining speed, as our new staff members learn the ropes and become more comfortable with our conventions and methodology. Epigraphers Hrach Papazian and Brett McClain are now collating real drawings at Medinet Habu under the watchful eye of Senior Epigrapher Ted Castle. New artists Carol Abraczinskas and Bernice Williams have each graduated to penciling real drawing enlargements for collation. All four new staff members were ably trained in the Chicago House artistic conventions by artist Margaret De Jong, whose patience and teaching skills are bearing rich fruit. Artist Sue Osgood has also assisted in the monitoring. It is extremely gratifying to see such excellent progress made by this very talented staff.

On Wednesday, January 27, Ambassador and Mrs. Kurtzer graciously hosted a reception at the US Embassy residence commemorating Chicago House's 75th anniversary. The event was timed to coincide with the arrival in Cairo of the University of Chicago Women's Board tour led by the Oriental Institute Museum Archivist John Larson and Director of Development Tim Cashion, which allowed us to inaugurate the celebrations in style with folks from back 'home.' Other guests included Visiting Committee member Dr. Marjorie Fisher, USAID, ARCE and EAP Directors, various SCA and Embassy officials, corporate heads, and friends. Senior epigrapher Ted Castle, artist Bernice Williams, and epigrapher Hrach Papazian assisted Carlotta and me in representing Chicago House. Carlotta and I visited various Cairo corporations in our ongoing fundraising efforts, and while there I made the last payment on our renovation loan, another major milestone (and a terrific way to begin the new year!). Last Tuesday we continued the 75th anniversary celebrations by hosting the Women's Board tour to a reception, library talk, and dinner at

Chicago House, where our guests were able to mingle and talk with the entire staff. That day I gave them a tour of Luxor temple and the blockyard, while the next day Ted Castle gave them a tour of the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu and a close look at our work.

With the arrival of engineer Jamie Riley in the middle of the month, construction work resumed on the library roof, this time on the south side where the old and new library halls join, right over my office. The roof tiles were pulled up to reveal no heat insulation laid down at all, and no water sealing of the joints between the buildings; this is being done now. At the same time we have opened up the floor in the kitchen and are currently laying a new set of drains. This results in 'stereo' pounding on both sides of the complex, but it is hoped that, however intensive at the moment, these repairs will be fairly short-term and effective. It is a great boon to have Jamie here supervising and coordinating this work, which frees me up for other tasks.

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TABLET ROOM / John A. Brinkman

José Gonzalo Rubio-Pardo, a graduate student at Johns Hopkins, was here from January 16 to 23 doing research on Ur III literary texts discovered during the sixth season of excavations at Nippur.

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TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP / Chuck Jones

The Techno-lunch met on Friday, 5th February in Breasted Hall. David Schloen reported on the UCLA conference on electronic publication of archaeological data. Chuck Jones reported on the first meeting of the Chicago-Northwestern Roundtable on Scholarly Technology in the Humanities which was held February 4th in Evanston. Local attendees included Jones, Mardikes, Sanders, and Schloen, along with members of the University Library and Information Technology communities. The next session of the Roundtable will be held here in Hyde Park, presumably hosted by the Library and the Humanities Institute. Anyone interested in it should contact Catherine Mardikes <c-mardikes@uchicago.edu> to get on the list. Don Whitcomb suggested that a discussion (and perhaps some demonstration) of digital pottery drawing techniques and resources would be a useful topic for a future session of the Techno-lunch. We plan also to schedule visiting scholar Traianos Gagos to talk about and demonstrate the Advanced Papyrological Information

System (APIS) project. This month's main event was a presentation and demonstration by Jan Johnson of the use of technology in the Demotic Dictionary Project.

Anyone who has not attended the Techno-lunch and would like to hear about it before it happens (at noon on the first Friday of each month) should contact Chuck Jones <cejo@midway.uchicago.edu> to get on the list.

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INDIVIDUALS

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FRED DONNER

Fred Donner delivered a lecture, entitled "Seeing the Rise of Islam in Historical Perspective," at Grinnell College (Grinnell, Iowa), on January 28.

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PETER DORMAN

University of Chicago-Johns Hopkins Theban Workshop  
April 26, 1999

In conjunction with Johns Hopkins University, the Oriental Institute will co-sponsor a workshop on "Thebes and the Rise of Empire: the Middle and New Kingdoms," on Monday, April 26, 1999, immediately following the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, to be held this year in Chicago. The panelists invited to the workshop will consider, from several viewpoints, the causes and effects of the Theban rise to national dominance during the early Middle and New Kingdoms. The panelists include:

Morning: Topics on the Rise of the Middle Kingdom:

John and Deborah Darnell (Yale University and the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago), "Geography and Tactics in the Theban Area During the Eleventh Dynasty: Observations from the Luxor-Farshut Road Desert Survey"

James Allen (Metropolitan Museum of Art), "The Internal Administration of the Late Eleventh Dynasty" Gay Robins (Emory University), Title to be announced on early Middle Kingdom art

Afternoon: Topics on the Rise of the New Kingdom:



Chris Bennett (University of California at San Diego), "Chronological Issues in the Seventeenth Dynasty"  
John and Deborah Darnell (Yale University and the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago), "Geography and Tactics in the Theban Area During the Seventeenth Dynasty: Observations from the Luxor-Farshut Road Desert Survey"  
Peter Lavocara (Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University), "The Theban Empire Strikes Back: the Strategic Location of Deir el-Ballas During the Second Intermediate Period"  
Edna Russmann (Brooklyn Museum of Art), "Theban Art of the Seventeenth and Early Eighteenth Dynasties"

The sessions will be held in Breasted Hall, and all attendees are invited to a reception in the LaSalle Banks Education Center at the conclusion of the afternoon program. For further program details, please contact Peter Dorman (Or 220, 702-9533).

Because time constraints prevent the organizers from inviting all those who may have a contribution to make on the general theme, we cordially invite interested colleagues and graduate students to join the workshop as an audience to the panelists' discussion, and will provide time during the sessions for direct questions of the speakers, at the discretion of the panel moderator. Space is limited. The registration fee is \$12.00 (\$5.00 for students), and should be submitted by personal check made out to the Oriental Institute, attached to the following form.

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I wish to register for the Chicago-Johns Hopkins Theban Workshop on April 26, 1999.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Institutional Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a check made out to the Oriental Institute in the amount of:  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$12.00      \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 (student)

Mail to: Prof. Peter Dorman, Chicago-Johns Hopkins Theban Workshop, Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637

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**MARK LEHNER**

I leave for Egypt on February 12th for the 1999 study season of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project (GPMP). Assistant Director John Nolan will join me later in February. Our season will continue into early April. We will be joined by Nicholas Conard (University of Tubingen) and Cordula Werschkun; for lithics analysis (Werschkun is also a student of Egyptology working with Schenkel and Allam), Mary Anne Murray (University College, London) for archaeobotany; Justine Way (University of Chicago) for ceramics and study of the material from the copper-working installations she excavated the last two seasons (1997-1998); Richard Redding, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology, for faunal analysis; Carl Andrews (Northeastern University), for photography and data base management; and Tero Tucker, Ohio State University, for bioanthropological analysis of Late Period human skeletons excavated last season. We can be reached in Egypt at our villa by the pyramids, 20-2 383-0385, or through the American Research Center in Egypt.

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**ROBERT RITNER**

Robert Ritner has finalized the schedule of ancient papers for the upcoming Chicago conference of the American Research Center in Egypt (April 23-25, 1999). The continued growth of the ARCE conference is remarkable. In 1995 in Atlanta, there were 62 ancient papers, including several on "orientalism" that might equally be considered as modern. In 1998 in Los Angeles, the ancient presenters increased to 72. The Chicago venue has proved unusually popular with 112 proposed lectures, of which 100 were selected for an unprecedented 16 ancient panels.

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