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OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY [ second Tuesday] - JANUARY 1999

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
JANUARY 30 1999

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

We finished the email switch for all persons in the building. Only a few people who access their email solely from outside the Institute remain to be moved over (Hans Guterbock, Carol Meyer, Carlotta Maher, for example). Thank you all for your patience throughout the process.

The Computer Lab now has its CR-ROM "burner" up and running, so we can write data in CD-ROM format for long term storage and "archival" purposes. Come and see me if you think you have large quantities of data files that would benefit from this sort of storage media.

In December the Lab also acquired our first true Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, a suite of programs called ArcView (the basic program, the Spatial Analyst extension, and the 3D Analyst extension). The software runs on the Lab's Windows NT computer, and will provide tremendous capabilities for archaeological survey and site analysis.

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MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT . Tim Cashion

Emily Napolitano, who has been with Museum Education since April 1997 and has worked in the Development office since August of this year, was named Membership Coordinator on 22 December 1998. Emily will oversee gift and membership renewal processing, take over responsibility for putting together News & Notes and the OI Annual Report (with help from Mr. Urban, wounded paw and all), the OI Travel Program, and the Lecture Series, as well as other membership programming.

While a full year-end appeal report will have to wait until a future edition of the Newsletter, I can report that we have successfully met the Morse Genius

Challenge Grant. Over 60 friends and supporters, including several on the faculty and staff, have helped us reach the \$84,800.00 goal of the Challenge. This amount will be matched by \$70,000.00 from the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts, for whom the Reading Room has been named. Thanks to all for their support and good efforts in securing these donations.

Tim Cashion will be out of the office from January 25 to February 17 (inclusive) in Egypt (until February 10) and then on vacation. He will be accompanying John Larson as he leads the Women's Board Tour to Egypt.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Linda McLarnan is preparing volume 15, S, of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary for reprinting; watch for it and a complete set of the CAD (except for those few volumes in preparation) to be available in June.

First page proofs of the Garrison/Root manuscript \_Seals and Sealings on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets (Text and Plates)\_ (OIP 117) will be sent to the authors the first or second week of January. Enough concern was raised by a printing company representative about the photographs that a field trip is being planned to a printing plant in Saline, Michigan. The concern is with opaquing background, not with the clarity of the images. In the mock-up of the plate volume I placed all 442 images of tablets with the background opaqued and the image altered for best showing of the sealing. For printing we want the background opaqued but the tablet to have uniform clarity. During the field trip I hope to learn how to use scanner and software to produce printable images so to keep book production costs down and to produce books with better halftones and with less hassle. We've used our scanner for a couple of issues of News & Notes and the 1997/98 Annual Report, but the Garrison/Root manuscript is the first book -- and we started with a big one: A large volume without scans normally uses about 1 MB of disk space; at present the Garrison/Root manuscript uses 452 MB of disk space with over 850 low resolution scans (and we may add another 313+ scans to the plate volume).

The winter 1999 issue of News & Notes was sent to the printer electronically, becoming our first electronically prepared, two color manuscript.

The American Schools of Oriental Research has contracted with us to prepare and jointly publish the Douglass Esse Memorial Volume, thereby reducing our list of forthcoming manuscripts to prepare by one.

With the Garrison/Root manuscript in the hands of the authors, attention will turn full time to work on the Wente Festschrift, that is, until the manuscript is returned to us for final corrections and preparation for printing.

From the Sales Office, Chris Kahrl reports another successful Members book sale.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

As a consequence of the diligent work of the Development Office staff and the generosity of members and friends, we have more than exceeded the challenge offered to us by the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts. We exceeded the goal of \$84,800.00 which will be matched by \$70,000.00



work largely finished in preparation for stone conservator Hiroko Kariya's arrival in early January.

Artist/Egyptologist Tina DiCerbo and Helen and Jean Jacquet, assisted by Hratch Papazian, finished the plan of the entire area east of Luxor temple, into which the Epigraphic Survey blockyard will shortly expand. Their map will be used in the landscaping of the area and the planning of the new damp-coursed mastabas which will house and protect the decorated stone fragments now scattered over the whole site, many on the bare ground. It is the aim of this long-term project to categorize, number, and photograph all of these fragile fragments, after which they will be stored by date and category on specially-designated mastabas for further study. Deteriorating fragments will be placed on special covered mastabas for eventual consolidation.

I am also pleased to report that after almost four years of continuous effort, on December 23 we were finally successful in registering the Chicago House Toyota Minivan, donated to us by LaSalle National Bank. The whole process was a bureaucratic nightmare almost beyond belief, a sad tale of brilliant progress countered by dazzling setbacks. We thought, for instance, that the process had actually been finished and tied up this summer. Then, to our dismay, on our return to Luxor we found out that the serial number of the vehicle had been miscopied by customs officials in Suez, and the whole process had to begin again! Aargh! But it's done now, al'humdoolilah, and we are USING it.

The month was also unusually, and rather uncomfortably, warm and humid until the third quarter when temperatures plummeted to normal levels. Although rain seemed threatening on several occasions, providentially we were spared, and we were able to finish the resealing of the north library roof where the new and old library halls join, unimpeded by the weather. Next month we will begin the process all over again on the south side. December also saw the revival of the bi-annual spraying of the CH grounds against insects, something that had not been done for a decade, and which resulted in the decimation of the flower beds, particularly our famous rose bushes. Fifty-three new rose bushes were brought in to restore the old rose beds; fingers crossed they will be happy in their new location. The remnants of the old bushes are already perking up and showing excellent signs of recovery.

December saw a lot of archaeological activity in town. Erhard Graefe and his team cleared the Deir el-Bahri cachette tomb shaft (twelve meters deep) and successfully planned the tomb itself. Colleagues Nick Reeves, Peter Lacovara, Geoffrey Martin, Jiro Kondo, and Mohsen el-Sayed all teamed up together for the month in the Valley of the Kings to explore that last small triangular area Howard Carter was probing when he discovered Tutankhamun's tomb. They discovered more workmen's hut emplacements similar to those Carter found built over Tut's tomb and will be back in March to continue that work. John Darnell joined wife Debbie for a month of intensive western desert-road surveying and exploration, for which Debbie's time, one of the CH Land Rovers, and the use of our facility were donated by CH in support of that work. Barbara Adams and her crew stopped by Chicago House after a month at Hierakonpolis on their way back to London for the holidays. Just before Christmas Colin Hope stayed with us for a few days on his way to Dakhla Oasis and assisted the Jacquets in the analysis of pottery found in their north Karnak excavations.

The Christmas holiday was filled with friends and holiday cheer. Christmas dinner guests included Boyo Ockinga's Australian team working on late Ramesside tombs across the river; Nigel and Helen Strudwick and their Theban tomb team; Ted and Lyla Brock, working on the reassembly of stone sarcophagi in the tomb of

Ramesses VI; and Rosalind and Jac Janssen. Stopping by in mid-month were old friends Eleonor Johnson (Peter Dorman's sister) and her husband Richard, followed shortly by their newlywed daughter Betsy and husband Jason Crook. Our New Year's Eve celebration was small but merry, the only guests being Ros and Jac Janssen. The kitchen crew outdid themselves with a five-course dinner followed by dancing in the tea room to some of Breasted's old 78 rpm records, a fitting way to ring in the new year.

A few days before the end of the old year our back gateman of many, many years, old Abdel Zahir, died peacefully in his sleep at home. Of indeterminate, but great, age, he had retired at the beginning of this season when his knees finally gave out and he couldn't walk easily anymore. He was a dear friend to us all, and a beloved member of the Chicago House 'family' of local staff, without whom we could do very little here. We will miss him.

We have plenty to keep us occupied these days: we are in the middle of our second audit of the season, Carlotta Maher and conservator Hiroko Kariya have just arrived, and Chicago House is about to host the American Ambassador to Egypt and his family to a Ramadan iftar dinner tomorrow evening (I will be guiding them around town the next couple of days). But that's a report for next month's newsletter...

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year 1999 to everyone 'at home,' from all of us out here!

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TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP / Chuck Jones

The "TechoLunch" met for the third time on Friday January 8th. Carole Krucoff outlined discussions she has been having with a project at Northwestern, which seeks to provide training for persons wishing to provide on-line materials associated with teaching projects. There appears to be an opportunity for training sessions to be conducted here at the OI, free of charge. Anyone interested in this should contact Carole <ckrucoff@babylon-orinst.uchicago.edu> for further information. The announcement elicited a lively discussion of distance education in the context of the Museum Education Program and in other contexts. Noting that there is a site devoted to collecting citations / URLs for the on-line components of college and university courses in Classics - Ancient History - Ancient Near East, Chuck Jones offered to pass the information along: Classics On-line Course Database  
<http://www.colleges.org/ctts/clscourses.html>

Clemens Reichel demonstrated the database of the Diyala Miscellaneous Objects Publication Project, and in particular the component relating to his work on seal impressions. It appears that demonstrations of "works in progress" is of wide interest to those attending the meetings. Jan Johnson has agreed that she will demonstrate and discuss the Demotic Dictionary Project in a session this winter, and we hope also to impose on Traianos Gagos, Visiting Scholar from Ann Arbor, to demonstrate the Advanced Papyrological Information System (APIS) Project materials.

The next session is scheduled for Friday, February 5th at noon in the Director's study. Everyone is welcome. Bring a sandwich.

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INDIVIDUALS

ROBERT BIGGS

In December Robert Biggs participated in the Ph.D. oral exam of Ulla Koch-Westenholz at the University of Copenhagen. Her dissertation presented an edition of several chapters from the series of Babylonian liver omens. He also presented a seminar paper, "Abu Salabikh and Ebla" as part of an all-day seminar on Mesopotamia and Syria in the third millennium.

WALTER KAEGI - [ See ROBERT RITNER below]

MARK LEHNER

I am planning the 1999 field season of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project with John Nolan, Assistant Director of the GPMP. We plan to work March and April. This will be a study season to catch up on large amounts of seal impressions, lithics, pottery, faunal and floral material from previous seasons. The study season will also help us prepare the first of a planned series of monographs on the results of our excavations at Giza from 1988 to 1998. We plan another large excavation season for 2000, including the possibility of remote sensing to ascertain the extent of the building complex we have been investigating about 300 m south of the Sphinx. Our excavations so far have indicated that the entire mudbrick- and stone rubble-built complex may 'float' in sand, having been founded on the low desert in early Dynasty 4 and buried by eolian sand after it was abandoned shortly after the reign of Menkaure. Field Season 2000 will take place from late January through March, possibly into April, to avoid the New Age Millennium crowds.

ROBERT RITNER

Robert Ritner and Walter Kaegi each contributed an article to the recently published Cambridge History of Egypt. Ritner's contribution is entitled "Egypt under Roman Rule: The Legacy of Ancient Egypt," and Kaegi's article surveys "Egypt on the Eve of the Arab Conquest." On February 28, Ritner will give a lecture on "Egypt and Libya" for a symposium and exhibition on "Egypt and its Neighbors" at Memphis, TN. He is currently organizing the ancient presentations for the April ARCE conference in Chicago, in addition to teaching an undergraduate course on Egyptian Religion with over 50 registered students.

MATT STOLPER

On Dec. 11-12, I took part in a symposium on "Interdependency of Institutions and Private Entrepreneurs" in Leiden, organized by Hermann Bongenaar as the second of three symposia held by a project on "The Economy of Ancient Mesopotamia" in the Middle East Studies program at Leiden. The third symposium, on rainfall agriculture, organized by Remko Jas, will take place in May. This symposium was intended to explore the consequences of the observation that most Neo-Babylonian private archives indicate close commercial involvement of ostensibly private entrepreneurs with state agencies and temples, and of the thesis that this circumstance reflected underlying conditions of relatively abundant land, relatively scarce labor, and practical limits on bureaucratic control, in which state and temple organizations tried to maximize their take and minimize their risks by contracting with entrepreneurs. The first day was mostly devoted to papers on Neo- and Late Babylonian topics (Van Driel, Beaulieu, Bongenaar, Joannes, Wunsch), with all-too-rare interventions from the

many younger NB specialists in the audience (Jursa, Weszeli, Abraham, and others). The second day was mostly devoted to earlier evidence: Ur III Umma (van Driel), OB (Renger, Stol, Charpin), Nuzi (Jas), Ugarit (van Soldt), Old Assyrian (Dercksen), Ugarit (van Soldt). Occasional commentary and a wrap-up perspective was given by the Roman historian, Jongman. The general appraisal seems to have been that although most was expected from the Neo-Babylonians, they were rather too data-heavy, courteous, and timid, while the Old Babylonians and others were more lively, provocative, and stimulating.

On Dec. 30, I spent a day in the Babylonian Collection at the University Museum, copying a text. It was rather quiet.

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EMILY TEETER

I would like to clarify my notice that appeared in the last issue of the OI News concerning the reception of the American Research Center in Egypt at the OI on Friday April 23, 1999. The exact location of the reception has yet to be determined but will be announced with the final program.

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DAVID TESTEN

I would like to announce my recent marriage to Nancy L. Dray (UC Linguistics Dept. grad student and one-time CAD student assistant). This took place 19 Dec. 1998, at the Chicago Cultural Center.

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