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OI NEWSLETTER - SECOND MONDAY - JANUARY 2001

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

Scanning by our volunteers of the Breasted 1905-1907 Egypt and Sudan photographs continued in December. We have about 20% of the 1100+ done. Now that the holidays are over the pace of the work should pickup, and I hope we can have all the scanning completed by the end of February or mid-March at the latest.

Discussions regarding the re-design of the OI website, and its moving to an NSIT-supported server, continued. Several "designs" for the new website were submitted by NSIT programmers, and they are being evaluated by myself, the Director, and several other staff and faculty members. Once a short list is arrived at we will distribute them building-wide for comments.

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE / Gene Gragg

The Director is happy to be able to pass on an announcement from the President and Provost that Robert Ritner has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure.

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FRONT OFFICE / Joan Curry

I am starting the year of 2001 with a brand new scrapbook. The old one is nearly full, but I still manage to find room for news articles that people find in file cabinets and drawers about the Oriental Institute. Don't hesitate to bring them to me because this is a great way to preserve some of the history of the O.I.

The Christmas party was a big success. A big thank you goes to Tom Urban and his wife who made a wonderful Santa Claus and helper. His wife Chris assisted him in passing out toys and candy to the children. The leftover food from the party was distributed to the needy by the help of our custodian, David Robertson. Thank you David for your help. I really appreciate everyone who helped with the clean up, too. Many thanks to you. Having the party early in the month launched us into the holiday season.

My latest and never-before-asked question is, "where do I park in all this snow when I visit the Royal Tombs of Ur exhibit?" I do the best I can in advising them but any and all suggestions for an answer are welcome.

Two new members of the administrative staff are Ruth Welte and Simrit Dhesi. These young ladies are a welcome addition to our staff.

Happy New Year to all of you.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Work continued on OIP 117, OIP 119, and SAOC 59.  
The winter N&N was prepared and printed.  
The Sales Office is having a robust Members sale.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The Facilities Department of the University now has a contract with St. Louis Antique Lighting Company to reproduce the twelve original fixtures in the Elizabeth Morse Genius Reading Room of the Research Archives. I am informed that they will be installed within six months. They will be cast bronze copies of the original fixtures which now hang in the corridors and lobbys of Harper and Stuart Halls

The Acquisitions List covering November and December 2000 will appear shortly on the RABooks List and on the Web:  
<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/RABooks.html>

Work continues on the development on a web-based edition of the Oriental Institute Archaeological Newsletter (the precursor of News & Notes).

We have received permission to reopen the account for the Arabic Manuscripts Project, and with that funding available we hope to complete the project this year. The publication will appear on both WWW and CD-ROM platforms.

The electronic catalogue of the Research Archives (Library) of the Oriental Institute - Chicago has now been available on the web for about a year. During this period we have served a quarter million pages in about thirty thousand user sessions. Several hundred users appear to connect with some frequency.

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HISTORY LECTURE SERIES  
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The Oriental Institute and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations announce a series of presentations

Ancient Near Eastern History: Investigations, Perspectives, and Methodologies

Dr. Thomas Schneider, University of Basel. Monday, 8 January 2001. Breasted Hall. 4:00 PM. Oriental Institute, 1155 E. 58th Street. Formal Presentation: "The Foreign Kings in the Tale of Sinuhe: a New Insight

into Syro-Anatolian History and Egyptian Diplomacy in the Early 2nd Millennium B.C."

Dr. Thomas Schneider, University of Basel. Tuesday, 9 January 2001. 12:00 Noon. Pick Lounge, 5828 S. University Ave. Informal Presentation: "Periodization: Problems and Perspectives of a Historiographic Tool"

Dr. Thomas Boiy, University of Leuven, Belgium. Monday, 15 January 2001. Breasted Hall. 4:00 PM. Oriental Institute, 1155 E. 58th Street. Formal Presentation: "From Alexander the Great until the Seleucid Dynasty. The Chronology of the Early Hellenistic Period (331-305 BC)"

Dr. Thomas Boiy, University of Leuven, Belgium. Tuesday, 16 January 2001. 12:00 Noon. Pick Lounge, 5828 S. University Ave. Informal Presentation: "Problems In Using Demographic Research for Ancient Near Eastern History"

Dr. Karen Radner, University of Munich. Thursday, 18 January 2001. 12:00 Noon. Oriental Institute 210, 1155 E. 58th Street. Informal Presentation: "A Prince Without a Crown: Syria at the Close of the Seventh Century B.C."

Dr. Karen Radner, University of Munich. Friday, 3:30 PM. 19 January 2001. Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute, 1155 E. 58th Street. Formal Presentation: "'With the Aid of Ashur': Tiglath-pileser I in Anatolia"

Dr. David Vanderhooft, Boston College. Thursday, 25 January 2001. 12:00 Noon. Oriental Institute 210, 1155 E. 58th Street. Informal Presentation: "The Decline and Fall of the Babylonian Empire: Ancient Views on the Capture of Babylon by Cyrus II"

Dr. David Vanderhooft, Boston College. Friday, 3:30 PM. 26 January 2001. Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute, 1155 E. 58th Street. Formal Presentation: "Babylonian Imperial Control in the Levant and its Historiographical Implications"

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INDIVIDUALS  
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ROBERT BIGGS

Three Oriental Institute faculty members have at last (after six years) had papers published in a volume honoring Professor W. G. Lambert of Birmingham. The volume (published by Eisenbrauns) is entitled *Wisdom, Gods and Literature: Studies in Assyriology in Honour of W. G. Lambert*. The contributions are Robert Biggs, "Conception, Contraception, and Abortion in Ancient Mesopotamia"; Miguel Civil, "From the Epistolary of the Edubba"; and Erica Reiner, "Early Zodiologia and Related Matters."

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PETER DORMAN

I was in Egypt in early December for a brief 10-day research trip to Luxor. The purpose was to complete the examination and final photography of a statue of an official named Tjanefer, who held a series of priestly functions related to several religious cults on the west bank at Thebes in the 4th century B.C. Among the more interesting of these are the cults of Amun at the Ramesseum and of the deified Amenhotep, son of Hapu. The statue was discovered in 1997 during the clearance of one of the foundation trenches at the temple of Amun at Medinet Habu and has been stored in a magazine ever since. I am most grateful to Ray Johnson for coordinating my visit with the local inspectors, relocating the statue, and arranging for photography in advance of my arrival. Chicago House photographer Yarko Kobylecky handed me magnificent drawing enlargements to facilitate the copying of the inscription on the back pillar. I was

regaled multiple times at Chicago House with great hospitality, and got a look at the ongoing epigraphic work at Medinet Habu and reassembly of the Tuthmoside statue base there. Thanks are also due to my colleague Daniel Polz, assistant director of the German Institute in Cairo, who arranged for accommodations at German House, close to my work on the west bank.

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HARRY HOFFNER

Let's hope the groundhog doesn't see his shadow on February 2nd this year! Shoveling out our long driveway in Darien every other day is getting a bit "old" for me! Well, here we are in the midst of another picturesque Chicago winter, and I'm glad that as emeritus I don't have to negotiate Hyde Park's unplowed streets five days a week for classes. But I am glad that Theo van den Hout is able to do so. And I try to come in to consult with CHD staff and check out new library acquisitions once or twice a week.

Aside from a lovely Christmas holiday season with gorgeous music and Christmas lights, I enjoyed a fruitful period of writing for various festschrifts. "The Disabled and Infirm in Hittite Society" went off to Israel for the two Tadmors, "A Practical Approach to Verbal Aspect in Hittite" (with Craig Melchert) went to Italy for the Imparati Memorial Volume, and "Some Thoughts on Merchants and Trade in the Hittite Kingdom" went off to Berlin for Volkert Haas' festschrift. Since the OI News is strictly "in-house", I assume it is okay to mention the honorees' names here without it getting out to them!

I have one more festschrift contribution to write during the first weeks of January and will then use the rest of the month to prepare my presidential address on Hittite Lexicography for the 2001 Annual Meeting of the AOS Midwest Branch meeting in Notre Dame on February 9-11. As you may not know, a group of distinguished lexicographers, including several from the OI (Reiner, Civil, and Johnson) will be giving presentations on lexicography in their respective disciplines at the Notre Dame meeting.

The OI's presentation of the Penn Ur exhibition has attracted a number of my friends in the far western suburbs, and I was able to lead a group of them to see it in December. I think other groups will be coming in in early January to see it before it ends. I'm very

thankful to Karen Wilson and her staff for helping the OI to host this visiting exhibition, as it certainly is an impressive display. Stay warm and healthy, gang. I plan to see you all irregularly in January and perhaps more frequently, if we ever dig out of this white blanket. Don't you love People's Gas for its holding down the price of heating fuel? Do they contribute to the OI, Tim?

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CHUCK JONES

With Gene Gragg and Matt Stolper I attended the Achaemenid History and Databases on the Internet conference organized by Pierre Briant at the College de France in mid-December. Matt and I were invited to be members of the international steering committee for the project. In addition to contributing to the development of the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project on the web, I will be coordinating the development of an index of Achaemenid related websites for achemenet.

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MATTHEW STOLPER

In December, I gave four lectures at the College de France in Paris, on Achaemenid Babylonian texts and aspects of Achaemenid Babylonian history. I also took part in a conference organized at the College by Pierre Briant, on Achaemenid History and Databases on the Internet; Gene Gragg, Chuck Jones, and I gave a brief presentation of a pilot project for on-line publication of Persepolis Fortification texts (and related materials). Chuck and I were named as members of a steering committee formed to guide the development of achemenet.com, the website devoted to Achaemenid studies, initiated by Briant with collaboration from colleagues in many countries.

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