

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - JUNE 1998

[The next OI Newsletter will appear on the first Monday of October 1998]

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TIME CAPSULE

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 COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

We spent part of May in discussions with several university network and email personnel regarding our email system switch this summer. We have decided to use the Sun SPARCstation, unix-based computer named "babylon-orinst" as our new server. We plan on creating the new mailboxes and testing the system the first two weeks of July. Then we'll start moving people over to it from QuickMail a few at a time. You'll get further word from me on this as the time nears.

At the request of Aslihan Yener and Jim Viccaro of CARS, the Computer Lab has created a set of web pages based on her NSF preproposal for the Center for the Study of Ancient Technology and Environment (CSATE). They will be made public in the first week of June. Besides announcing the proposed Center to the public, the website will assist all of the participants in the project as they prepare their portions of the final proposal draft over the summer.

The second edition of Peter Piccione's web and email-based adult education course, Introduction to Ancient Egypt, concluded its 18 week run in May, and judging from the responses of the 30+ worldwide participants all went very well. Congratulations Peter and Carole Krucoff!!!



The plates for the Epigraphic Survey's Luxor Temple, Volume 2 (OIP 116) were delivered to the printer on Friday, May 22. Delivery of the three volumes (A/1, B, Z) being reprinted for the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary Project was delayed; we now expect delivery during the week of June 8th. Work continues on the booklet for Luxor Temple, Volume 2 (OIP 116) and Garrison/Root's Seals and Sealings from Persepolis (OIP 117). Regarding the latter, all 313 sealings have been scanned and placed in the electronic file of the catalog -- this file contains 383 pages. Dating the Fall of Babylon, by Gasche et al., is available for purchase from Eisenbrauns.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

In the second week of May, we completed the move of the series into the built-in book-stacks in the Reading Room. We managed to complete this before the Annual Dinner, when the reception was held in the Reading Room. Many members had not seen the Research Archives since the removal of the free-standing stacks. Comments on the new space and the re-organization have been universally favorable. The increased spacing of the tables makes the reading room a much more pleasant place to work. Since the move we've had about a 50% increase in the number of readers working at tables.

With the move of the Series, the basic configuration of the collections is in place.

- 1) Books shelved by author are in the new wing.
- 2) Series are in the Reading Room.
- 3) Journals are in the upper level.

It remains to complete the move of the pamphlet files and map collection to the upper level, and to consolidate other components of the collection into more effective configurations. We will proceed with these changes during the Summer.

I am assured that the air handler delivering cool air (and warm air in the Winter) to the Reading Room will be switched on any day, perhaps even in the first week of this month. Once that has been done then entire confines of the Research Archives will be climate controlled. This promises to make the Research Archives a much more comfortable place to work during the Summer.

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PROJECTS  
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DIYALA PROJECT / Claudia Suter

The Diyala Project, of which I am the coordinator, is pleased to announce the near completion of the basic work on the computerized catalogue of all finds from the Iraq Expedition of the Oriental Institute to the Diyala Sites in the nineteen-thirties. The catalogue is based on the field registers. Its basic unit is the find, and it comprises over 15,000 records. The data include the following information on each find: object classification and description, condition, size, material, provenience (area, locus, level, elevation, special context), present location (museum and museum number), date of registration, publication, and illustration status. The basic work that I wanted to accomplish before proceeding to examine and analyze specific groups of the "miscellaneous finds" not previously published (including everything but sculpture, pottery, and seals) consisted of establishing reliable, consistent, and complete data for the object classification of the find which permit an identification; for the museum numbers so that we will find the objects at their present locations; for the publication of finds in preliminary and final excavation reports published

in the series OIC and OIP; for the illustration record, including the scanning of the available photos and drawings, since images of all finds will be added to the database; for the distinction of sources concerning the provenience since there are discrepancies between the field register and different OIP volumes published over a span of fifty years. Some of our data, such as negative numbers for each find on a photo, required related databases. All in all, we presently manage 1,113,761 cells of information and have scanned 3,000 photos and drawings, adding the proper identification to each item. Valuable help was provided by the volunteers Joyce Weil, Carole Yoshida, and Helaine Staver. Our student assistants have started work on the miscellaneous finds: Clemens Reichel on ancient seal impressions for his dissertation, and Colleen Coyle on the weights for her master's degree. I hope to start work on the inlays upon return from my summer vacation. In my free time I have undertaken the revision of my dissertation, entitled The Temple Building of Gudea of Lagash: A Comparison of Written and Pictorial Accounts, which Styx wants to publish. I will have the manuscript ready for English editing next month.

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#### EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY/ Raymond Johnson

April is always the time of wrapping things up in Luxor, and this season we had a little more time to do so since we went back to the old schedule of closing on April 15. Carlotta Maher and I began the month with a Cairo 'development-run' personally visiting the heads of various corporations based there, explaining the work of the Epigraphic Survey, and urging them to support our documentation efforts. We also had a meeting with John Westley, head of USAID Cairo, and Shirley Hunter, Director of USAID finances, where we discussed the final adjustments to the redesigned Chicago House financial management system. From April 5th to 6th the accounting firm Coopers and Lybrand supervised the final audit of the season, while the Epigraphic Survey staff finished up the season's projects. Artists put the finishing touches on their penciled drawings for inking over the summer, epigraphers did final checking at the wall and inventories of equipment and supplies, and photographer Yarko Kobylecky did the final printing of the season. Stonemason Dany Roy wrapped up his work on the Medinet Habu small Amun temple (MHB) roof; the back part is now sealed against rainwater and a new gutter has been installed that directs the rainwater off the temple roof.

By the second week of April the temperature in Luxor had soared to 110 degrees fahrenheit, and we were hit with a series of violent 'kamseen' sandstorms, one of which was accompanied by serious, although luckily not torrential, rains. A review of the MHB rooftop the next day showed a totally dry roof area; we couldn't have timed it closer! The final days of the season were spent report- and proposal- writing; inventorying, transporting, and cleaning ladders and equipment brought back from the Luxor and Medinet Habu temple site; packing up rooms, offices, and studios; and preparing for the closing of the house. On April 15th the house officially closed for the season and staff members began their trips home. Egyptologist/artist Tina Di Cerbo stayed on until the end of the month to supervise the physical closing of the complex. As a contribution toward their desert road project, John and Debbie Darnell were allowed to use their room at Chicago House as a 'home base' during their first summer field season in the western desert, April 15 to May 15. When they departed Luxor their room was closed up, and the whole house is now shuttered, locked, and sealed with University of Chicago lead seals pending our return in October.

Late April and early May find the epigraphic team back at the Oriental Institute 'mother ship' in the Epigraphic Survey office #222. The first order of business is always the preparation of paperwork for Epigraphic Survey staff members for submission to the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities for next season, and the interviewing of

applicants for artists, photographers, or epigraphers, as needed. It is my pleasure to announce that Hratch Papazian will be joining the Chicago House team for the 1998/1999 season as student epigrapher, and J. Brett McClain will be joining us during the winter quarter as apprentice epigrapher. I am also pleased to announce that Bernice Williams will be joining the team as epigraphic artist (she also happens to be 1998/1999-season Senior Epigrapher Ted Castle's wife).

On May 13 I found myself hanging off the top of the quartzite Tut/Ay colossus in the new Egyptian Hall, tracing the inscription carved on the upper back support. Since the statue was moved to its new location this inscription is now exposed to view, and study. Although the statue may have been produced originally for Tutankhamun, it was inscribed for his successor Ay, whose names and titulary were later erased and reinscribed by his successor Horemheb. At Karen Wilson and Emily Teeter's invitation, Peter Dorman and I will do a proper epigraphic study of this important text while the gallery is still 'in progress.'

Finally, it is a great pleasure to announce that the plate section of the Epigraphic Survey's next publication 'Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple, Volume 2: The Facade, Portals, Upper Register Scenes, Columns, Marginalia, and Statuary in the Colonnade Hall' has just been sent to the printers, with the text section to follow shortly. The wealth and variety of material presented in this volume make it one of the most exciting publications that the Epigraphic Survey has ever produced. Insha'allah, it should be out by summer's end.

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JNES / Robert Biggs

I have not commented on the Journal of Near Eastern Studies in any Oriental Institute forum since a piece in "News and Notes" on the occasion of the journal's centennial in 1984.

At a time when many scholarly journals are far off schedule, we are still on time. In fact, the July 1998 issue should be out about the middle of June. A large measure of responsibility for this is borne by Paula von Bechtolsheim whose hard work and attention to detail for her nearly twenty-five years of working for the journal make a huge difference. While officially sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Oriental Institute faculty and staff make an important contribution in refereeing articles and advising on potential book reviewers.

Among forthcoming articles are one by Y. Hirschfeld on the site of Qumran, one by A. Spalinger on the limitations of formal Egyptian religion, one by Wayne Pitard on the Ugaritic text "The Binding of Yamm," one by Mark Garrison on a Persepolis seal in the Royal Ontario Museum, and one by David Testen on Semitic words for "myrtle."

As many people are probably aware, the Press allows us to enter complimentary subscriptions, which means that a number of scholarly journals are received by the Research Archives on an exchange basis.

I should mention that there is a special student subscription rate. New subscriptions are \$22.95 a year, and renewals are \$27.00 I have subscription forms for anyone who would like one. Many of us have canceled some of our subscriptions to scholarly journals when the cost got too high. JNES is \$42.00 a year--very reasonable by contemporary standards.

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## INDIVIDUALS

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### PETER DORMAN and RAYMOND JOHNSON

The Oriental Institute's colossal quartzite Egyptian statue, excavated from the vicinity of Medinet Habu, was one of the more imposing figures in the old galleries, but because of its position against a side wall, the inscriptions on its back pillar have long been difficult to examine. While it was recognized at the time of the statue's discovery that the royal titulary of Ay had been usurped by his successor, Horemhab, the lack of accurate copies of the inscriptions have obscured the questions of technique and extent of the recarving(s). Taking advantage of its exposure in the new Egyptian galleries, Ray Johnson and Peter Dorman have undertaken a re-examination of all the statue's inscriptions, with the intention of producing facsimile copies of the texts and establishing clearly which portions have been usurped—and perhaps when, and whether multiple usurpations are involved. It is hoped the text copying can be completed before the structural support work for the statue is installed.

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### HARRY A. HOFFNER, Jr.

Professor Hoffner's book *Hittite Myths*, published by Scholars Press in Atlanta has now sold out of its second printing. The publisher has given him this opportunity to prepare substantial revisions and the addition of an important new text to a revised second edition of the book, to appear in time for fall courses on college campuses.

Early in May the publisher sent him proofs of this revised edition, which he corrected and returned. The new text contained in the book is the *Song of Release*, a bilingual Hurrian-Hittite composition, excavated at Hattusa in 1983 in several copies dating from the Middle Hittite Period (ca. 1500-1400). A scientific edition of the text was published in 1996 by Professor Erich Neu of Bochum, Germany. Although partial translations have already appeared in various languages, Hoffner's is the first attempt to translate the entire composition into English.

Also during the month of May he has been preparing for publication the printed text of his lecture "The Royal Cult in Hatti" delivered at the University of Pennsylvania on April 28, 1998. Lectures from the conference, entitled "Image, Text and Artifact: Revealing Ancient Israelite Religion." will be published next year by Yale University Press.

During the months of May and June Professor Hoffner will be supervising the preparation of the formal application for a new grant for the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This application must be submitted on June 12th.

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### CLEMENS REICHEL

Oriental Institute Diyala Project and Ph.D. Research:

Since spring 1997 I have been spearheading the artifact analysis for the publication of the miscellaneous objects of the Diyala Region by studying the clay sealings from the site of Tell Asmar (ancient Eshnunna). These sealings, most of which are located in the Oriental Institute's tablet room, have so far been virtually unnoticed and unpublished. 219 of them were found in the area of the Shu-Sin Temple and the Palace of the Rulers which also forms the topic of my Ph.D. dissertation; in addition to that, 111 tablets bearing seal impressions were found in this area. After re-establishing the full corpus of material and the archaeological provenience of each sealing or tablet with the help of field notes, catalogue

cards and field plans I examined each one of them, transliterating the seal inscription and photographing or drawing the seal scene. Particular attention was paid to the reverse of each sealing to establish the nature of the objects it was originally attached to; in many cases casts were made. Although this work is not yet completely finished it is clear enough that the spatial distribution of these sealings within the palace shows an interesting and distinct pattern; differences in distribution from one level to the next may indicate functional changes within the palace throughout its 250 year-long history which so far have gone unnoticed. The iconographic repertoire of the seal scenes also shows a clear pattern; the patronymics within the seal legends have allowed the reconstruction of up to 7 generations of one family serving as officials within the palace administration.

A preliminary synthesis of my work was presented at the AOS meeting in New Orleans (April 1998) with the title "Seals and sealings from Tell Asmar - a new look at the nature and function of an Old Babylonian Palace." Another presentation will be given at the seal symposium in New Haven at this year's Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (July 1998). An article called "The Seal of Bilalama, son of Kirikiri" will be submitted to JNES in due course.

In May I resumed my work on the 1232 tablets from this palace. My primary concern is the establishment of a comprehensive onomasticon in order to complete the reconstruction of genealogies and family lines established with the help of the seal legends; based on these reconstructions I hope to undertake a substantial revision of the sequence of Eshnunna chronology which at present is only based on a highly uncertain relative sequence of year dates with no clear links to the main Mesopotamian chronology.

The visual recording of these sealings and tablets was eased substantially by scanning the negatives at the Oriental Institute Computer Lab's 35 mm negative scanner (I want to thank Oriental Institute volunteers and museum docents Richard and Mary Harter for scanning these images for me). Pictures of all objects studied so far can now be called up as picture files while working on the computer databases.

Other work: In March I finished an appendix to M. Hilgert's second volume on Draham Texts at the Oriental Institute dating to Amar-Suena (to be published in OIP); this appendix contains a detailed description and analysis of the seal impressions on these tablets and the seal practices associated with them.

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DAVID SCHLOEN

The Oriental Institute and the Chicago Humanities Institute will jointly sponsor a colloquium in Winter Quarter 1999, tentatively entitled "Networking the Past: Archaeological and Philological Publication on the World Wide Web Using XML." The data format known as XML (Extensible Markup Language) has attracted a great deal of attention in recent months because it provides a simple and extremely flexible new standardized syntax for representing complex, highly structured information on the World Wide Web. It therefore makes possible much more useful and efficient forms of electronic publication via the Internet, including academic publication of archaeological and philological data. In light of this development, it is appropriate for us to begin considering the conceptual and practical issues involved in publishing our data on the Web in XML format. Both archaeology and philology are characterized by highly structured datasets consisting of large quantities of visual as well as textual information. Both disciplines would therefore benefit greatly from suitable forms of electronic publication. But such publication ought to make it possible to represent in a standardized way the large number of internal and external cross-references among the many individual elements of

archaeological and philological datasets. It should also capture the semantic diversity of the many possible types of such cross-references, representing spatial, temporal, or linguistic relationships, for example. Moreover, the goal of such publication should not simply be to facilitate human navigation of large and complex bodies of information, but also to permit automated computer-aided analyses of data derived from many disparate sources. XML will be an important medium for this kind of publication because Web publication using this new data representation standard promises to be a simple and effective means of merging complex datasets from multiple sources for purposes of broader scale retrieval and analysis, avoiding the problems caused by the existing proprietary, limited, and inflexible data formats which have hindered electronic publication to date. In archaeology, in particular, flexible yet standardized electronic publication of this sort will be essential for future research. For reasons of cost and space only a fraction of recorded archaeological data are currently disseminated via traditional print publication. Even with what is published there is a need for computer-aided analyses to make sense of the large volume of information that has accumulated from many different sources. The kind of standardization which XML could facilitate will be of great value, therefore, both as an aid to fuller (and prompter) publication, and as an aid to more sophisticated analysis of published information.

XML in itself does not solve all of the problems of academic publication, of course. The very simplicity and flexibility of XML, which ensure its popularity, require the development of specific XML "vocabularies" appropriate to each domain of research. Such vocabularies spell out the conceptual meaning of the elements contained in a particular XML dataset and the meaning of the relationships among those elements. There is still a need, therefore, for the development of field-specific standards defining the semantics of XML datasets, although the technical difficulty of formulating and disseminating such standards is now greatly reduced. The purpose of the colloquium is to bring together a small group of philologists and archaeologists who have been working on electronic publication in various ways using such tools as SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), HTML (Hypertext Markup Language, the current Web format), and now XML. Through a combination of formal presentations and informal discussions we will exchange ideas concerning the conceptual and practical issues involved in using XML on the Web, and we also hope to foster future collaboration in the development of specific XML vocabularies.

In addition to approximately ten to fifteen invited speakers from the University of Chicago and elsewhere, interested colleagues in the Chicago area will be encouraged to attend. The inclusion of both archaeologists and philologists in the same colloquium recognizes not only the similarity of their needs in the area of electronic publication of complex data (albeit data of different kinds), but also their overlapping interests in terms of substantive historical questions. Indeed, cooperation on the level of technical methodology may have the beneficial effect of reducing the ever-increasing balkanization between these two disciplines which use different approaches in the study of past societies. An ancillary goal of our proposed meeting, therefore, is to stimulate interest, where feasible, in interdisciplinary research projects that involve both archaeological and philological data, recognizing that by facilitating electronic access to philological data by archaeologists and vice versa, and by learning a common data representation syntax such as XML, we may generate new ways of representing or even conceiving of the conceptual relationships not just within but also between archaeological and philological datasets, which are so often considered in isolation. Once these different kinds of datasets and their interrelationships have been made explicit and have been stored in a rigorous, formal framework such as XML, they can be used far more easily for a variety of purposes in the course of subsequent linguistic, socioeconomic, and historical research.



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EMILY TEETER

The Women's Board has graciously granted the Museum \$24,500 for the publication of a general book on the Egyptian collection that I have been preparing for the last several years. This soft-bound book will include a history of the Egyptian collection and it will feature approximately 75 objects. The photos will be in color and in black and white. The book will be professionally designed and it will be distributed internationally. This volume is envisioned as being the first in a series of 6 volumes each of which will deal with a specific area of the collection. The sales from the Egyptian volume will hopefully fund much of the cost of the next volume.

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STEVE VINSON

The copy for my book "The Nile Boatman at Work, 1200 BCE - 400 CE" has been sent to the printer and the book should be out by the end of the summer; it will be a volume of Muenchner Aegyptologische Untersuchungen.

I'll be speaking at the Staendige Aegyptologenkonferenz in Hamburg on July 3. The conference theme this year is "Hafen, Handel und Schiffahrt im Alten Aegypten"; my paper will be entitled "Bemerkungen zur Beschreibung des aegyptischen Schiffbaus durch Herodot II, 96."

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DONALD WHITCOMB

The Institute of Turkish Studies has recently announced the award to Donald Whitcomb of a grant for a project to prepare Teaching Aids for Islamic Archaeology in Anatolia. Most of this grant will support students doing translation and analysis of articles published in Turkish. The result will be an annotated gazetteer of Islamic sites with illustrations for a course to be added to the impressive range of offerings in this University for the study of Turkey.

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TIME CAPSULE

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[From the "Bulletin to the Staff of the Oriental Institute" No. 2, April 14, 1930]

### Iraq Expedition

Since the publication of the first bulletin [June 29, 1928] the Institute has been able to begin a ten year's program of excavation in Assyria and Babylonia. In a preliminary attack on the palace of Sargon II at Khorsabad in 1928-29, Dr. Edward Chiera discovered an almost embarrassingly large quantity of sculpture among which was a huge winged bull five meters high. In the division with the Iraq government at the end of the season, the bull and a representative share of the wall reliefs were allotted to the Oriental Institute. The transportation of our share of the antiquities to Chicago involved Dr. Chiera in extraordinary mechanical difficulties due to the inadequate facilities available in Iraq. Even in America the largest fragment of the bull, being too wide to pass through railroad tunnels, had to be specially routed from New York to Chicago in order to avoid all tunnels, and the instructions to the train conductor were full of detailed cautions as to certain bridges, tunnels, etc. But the bull and reliefs are now safely stowed here at Chicago awaiting the erection of the new Institute building. The bull will be built into the masonry at one end of the new Assyrian Hall.

