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THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - JUNE 1999

[The next OI Newsletter will appear on the first Monday of October 1999]

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

Several items of note in May, and plans for the summer:

Steve Vinson's Ancient Mariners adult ed. course on the internet, using the Institute's website and a majordomo mailing list, has been up and running for a few weeks, and next week Nicole Hansen's Egyptian Folklore adult ed. course on the internet starts using the same dual format of web and email list.

The 1905-07 Breasted Expedition to Egypt and Sudan catalog of photographic captions, published in microfiche format in the mid-1970's, is just about ready for the Institute's website. Only a half dozen or so sites still to be located on a map (which was not present in the microfiche version) holds up the project. We may start scanning the photos during the summer, as I do have one or two volunteers interested in spending part of their summer scanning 1100 8x10 grayscale prints.

I had hoped to have the electrical and network wiring of the new Computer Lab facility done by this time, but for sure these tasks will be completed and we'll be moved in by the time the NEXT OI Newsletter lands in your email box!!!

Thanks to the efforts of Jesse Casana, the Amuq Valley Research Project has an entirely new website presence, look, and feel, with several recent publications of excavation and survey results available at: <http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/AMU/Amuq.html>

David Schloen, and his band of student laborers (otherwise known as Aaron Burke and Joey Corbett) finished his massive effort to scan the 35 mm slide collections of field photographs from Ashkelon going back to the early 1980's in early May, and Nicole Hansen is about finished with her efforts to scan her 35 mm slide collection for use on the website of her upcoming Egyptian Folklore internet course. I mention this to alert everyone else that the slide scanner may be available with more frequency over the summer.

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MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

Through June 5, 1999, basic and associate memberships are up 4% in terms of numbers and 6.5% ahead of FY98 revenues. FY99 will be the third straight year of significant growth in membership numbers and revenues. We hope to be 10% in dollars over last year by the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 1999).

Breasted Society revenues are presently at just under \$59,000 for the fiscal year. This is the best performance in the Breasted Society's short history, and represents a 20% increase over FY98.

Grants were prepared and submitted for two Museum Education programs to the Polk Bros. and Fry Foundations. Decisions will be announced in August for the Fry grant and November for the Polk grant.

The Oriental Institute's first membership drive, which will take place this fall, had a preview segment in connection with the gallery opening. Several members of the UC supplied names and some wrote notes to friends who might be interested in membership. As of June 5, 1999, about 40% of those solicited had joined the Institute.

The membership rates have changed, with some going up and some down. Basic membership is now \$50 per annum (for an individual or a couple), and Sustaining membership is \$75. The following lower-cost membership rates are now available: \$40 for senior (indiv or couple), \$40 for UC/UCH faculty & staff (indiv or couple), \$40 for National Associates (those residing 100 miles or more Chicago, again can be an indiv or a

couple), \$20 for students. All foreign memberships are \$50. Members will have a chance to renew at the lower rate this summer, then the rates will be fully instituted in September. All new memberships will be at the new rates.

The Institute celebrated the close of the Legacy Campaign, with a dinner for 120 in the Elizabeth Morse Genius Reading Room, on May 22, 1999. Several other events were held for members between May 23 and May 27; all in all, about half of our local members came through the gallery that week.

The Egyptian Gallery has been named the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. While Mary does not wish to make a big deal about her naming the gallery, you will begin to see it referred to as such in print.

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MUSEUM / Karen Wilson

By dint of endless long hours put in by all museum staff, the new Egyptian Gallery was ready to be viewed on the evening of May 22 by more than 100 guests who came to celebrate the successful completion of the Legacy Campaign. They, Oriental Institute faculty and staff, Oriental Institute members, members of the University of Chicago Women's Board, members of the press, and other invited guests who attended the seemingly endless events that took place over the following week, were generous in their praise for the new installation and the way that it makes our Egyptian collection come to life. They should be even more pleased when we have completed the many unfinished portions of the installation (whose absence over the first week of festivities was, we hope, artfully concealed) and have fine-tuned other aspects which, upon critical viewing, we see could use some modifications.

The public opening weekend for the Egyptian Gallery -- "A Celebration of Ancient Egypt" -- brought a nearly unbelievable 2,000 visitors to the Museum from Saturday, May 29 -- Monday, May 31! The Museum Education staff labored long and hard to plan and carry out the special programming that took place each day. Docents staffed the gallery during the hours it was open to answer questions and share information with visitors who ranged from children to senior citizens. Stonecarver Walter Arnold and potter Hardy Schlick provided demonstrations of ancient Egyptian arts processes. Actresses Liz Cruger and Elena Dodge (also a NELC graduate student) appeared in costume as ancient Egyptian noblewomen, and NELC graduate student Jesse Casana demonstrated archaeological tools and techniques. Documentary films on Egypt were shown continuously each day, and families took part in hands-on activities that included playing ancient Egyptian board games and making Egyptian-style amulets. Our guest book showed visitors who came from across Chicago and its suburbs, throughout Illinois, and from 16

different states -- as well as from Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden!

Like everyone else in the building, I am sure, the Museum staff is looking forward to a much less frenetically paced summer before gearing up again for events in the fall. However, now that we are so beautifully climate controlled, it may be hard to stay out of the galleries! Only time will tell.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

We continue to work towards the expected renovations of the Morse Genius Reading Room. Our consultants remain sanguine about our ability to complete all three components of the project:

- Replicating, rewiring and installing the original lighting fixtures;
- Wiring each of the tables for power and network connections;
- and replacing the entire Reading Room floor, within budget, and during this summer. It turns out, among other things, that the original cork flooring tiles include asbestos, so we will have to follow the abatement procedures so well-known to the museum staff.

We are working closely with our software provider to upgrade the on-line catalogue to the newest version, which is accessible and searchable over the internet. If all goes as planned, this upgrade should be complete this summer.

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DOCENT PROGRAM / Catherine Dueñas

We would like everyone in the Institute to know that more than 55 Docents and Volunteers came out to give tours to school groups, help with hands on activities, officially hostess preview events for the Press and the U. of C. Women's Board, and provide "Ask Me" services in the new Egyptian Gallery for both the Members' Preview and the Public Preview. The Oriental Institute is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated group of Docents and Volunteers, who so graciously and willingly provide a multitude of services for the faculty, the Museum and the staff.

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NELC

During the Spring Quarter the following NELC students were admitted to candidacy for the PhD, having successfully defended proposals:

--David Cook : Development of Muslim self-definition in Syria during the Umayyad period

--Nicole Hansen: Continuity and Change of Reproductive Beliefs and Practices in Egypt from Ancient to Modern Times.

--Tasha Vorderstrasse: A Port City Under Byzantium, Islam, and the Crusades: Continuity and Change at al-Mina: A. D. 350-1268.

--Jason Ur: Urbanism and Society in the Third Millennium BC Upper Khabur Plain

and on June 10th at 10AM

--Mike Kozuh will defend his proposal: Achaemenid Fiscal Practice and Policy in Babylonia

During the same period the following NELC Students successfully defended their completed dissertations:

--Tim Collins: Natural Illness in Babylonian Medical Incantations

--David Clemens: A Study of the Sacrificial Terminology at Ugarit: A Collection and Analysis of the Ugaritic and Akkadian Textual Data and on June 8th at 10AM

--Ann Porter will defend her completed dissertation: Mortality, Monuments and Mobility: Ancestral Traditions and the Transcendence of Space

Joe Daniels completed the requirements for the M.A. He, David Clemens and Tim Collins will receive their degrees at the convocation later this week.

A distinguished scholar (nominated by the NELC faculty) in the field of Ancient Near Eastern Studies will receive an honorary degree during the Spring, 1999 Convocation.

In honor of all of these accomplishments, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Oriental Institute will host a reception on Friday, June 11, immediately following the Convocation, in the Director's Study.

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#### PROJECTS

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#### DIYALA PROJECT / McGuire Gibson

During the last few months we have made substantial progress on the processing of images of the 15,000 objects found during the Diyala excavations. After the initial scanning of the available field negatives and positives had been completed, our volunteer and O.I. docent Joyce Weil started to crop and enhance these photographs to ensure maximum

quality and usability. So far some 700 images of objects from Tell Agrab and Tell Asmar have been processed.

It soon became apparent that only a small percentage of objects had been photographed in the field. Additionally, the available photographs often were not adequate for detailed analysis and publication. Since several objects were included in one photograph, the resolution of the individual object is often poor in these pictures and does not show the necessary details. In 1997, Clemens Reichel started taking photographs of the Tell Asmar tablets and clay sealings that are now in the Oriental Institute's tablet room and prepared detailed composite drawing of the seal impressions; so far, about 500 tablets and sealings have been documented in 2000 photos and 80 drawings. In November 1998, O.I. docent and volunteer Betsy Kremers started photographing other Diyala objects in the O.I. basement; so far, she has taken over 1200 photographs. These new images are not printed on paper; instead, they are sent to a lab to be scanned directly from the negatives onto CD-ROMs. The costs of creating these images are relatively low and, thanks to Betsy's skillful work, the quality of these new photographs is superb.

Once the final modifications have been done by Joyce and Clemens, the images are linked into the existing database setup. In May Clemens created a new computer program for the Diyala Project that allows us to pull up site and area plans in FoxPro display screens. A click with the cursor on a locus displays the find numbers of the objects found there as well as descriptions and images of them; in addition, this program allows refined searches such as all the names which appear on the tablets and seal impressions from that locus, or all the items dealt with in the texts. The list of other possible searches per locus is almost endless and will soon include pottery types, distinct object types, dates (on tablets as well as stylistic dates), and archaeological data concerning a locus (field descriptions, elevations, sections, excavation photos etc.). So far one building (the Shusin Temple and the Palace of the Rulers at Tell Asmar) has been marked up in six phase plans and thirty-six detailed close-up plans. Another volunteer, Richard Harter, will continue the markup of the 200 remaining plans from Tell Asmar, Khafaje, Ishchali, and Tell Agrab in the next few months.

During member tours at the re-opening of the museum galleries on May 27, Colleen Coyle and Clemens showed some of our work and results to the public. Colleen gave a summary of her work on the Diyala weights, while Clemens summarized some of his work on the tablets and sealings from Tell Asmar, as well as the potential use of computers for various kinds of analyses of this material.

May was spent settling back into the Epigraphic Survey office, preparing the paperwork for the 1999-2000 field season, and writing reports on the 1998-1999 season. Senior Epigrapher Ted Castle and I are also preparing to move the Epigraphic Survey office upstairs to Room 320. When that is accomplished in the next couple of weeks, Robert Ritner will move into our present office, Room 222 and I will move into his office, Room 307.

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TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP / Chuck Jones

The Techno-Lunch met on Friday May 7th at 11.30 AM in Breasted Hall and focused on the Iranian projects on the OI's web-site, specifically:

ACHAEMENID ROYAL INSCRIPTIONS:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/ARI/ARI.html>

and

PERSEPOLIS AND ANCIENT IRAN: CATALOG OF EXPEDITION PHOTOGRAPHS

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/PA/IRAN/PAAI/PAAI.html>

Matt Stolper and Gene Gragg spoke about the former, and John Sanders and Chuck Jones spoke about the latter.

We hope to have one more session of the Techno-Lunch this Summer, at a date to be announced. This session might include a presentation by Miguel Civil (though we may postpone that presentation until the Fall quarter). Suggestions for future sessions, and volunteers for presentations, etc. are always welcome.

OI Techno-Lunch is a monthly gathering, usually with an informal presentation, intended to promote friendly discussion of issues relating to the use of technology in the study of the ancient world.

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INDIVIDUALS

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JOAN CURRY

Joan called last Friday and reported that her husband's heart surgery was a success. He went into the operating room at 8:30 in the morning, and the operation lasted until 1:00 in the afternoon. When Joan called around 4:00 on Friday, he was still in intensive care. While he was not yet awake, his body temperature was being closely monitored and was coming back up according to schedule. Joan's three daughters, one of whom a nurse, and two brothers-in-law were with her. She was kept very closely informed throughout the procedure, and was very relieved when it was completed.

Her plan to come back to work on Wednesday remains unchanged.

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FRED DONNER

Fred Donner was invited to deliver a lecture on "Seeing the Rise of Islam in Historical Context" at the University of Cincinnati on May 27, 1999, under their Taft Lectureship Program, with the Departments of History and English as sponsors.

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PETER DORMAN

On May 17, Peter Dorman spoke to the California Museum of Ancient Art in Los Angeles on the topic, "Hatshepsut: Princess, Queen Regent, and King of the Two Lands," as part of a invited lecture series on Women of the Ancient World.

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CHUCK JONES

Chuck Jones and Alex O'Brien were married on May 29th at Bond Chapel, an event occurring on the same weekend as the public opening of the new Egyptian Gallery only through serendipity.

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WALTER KAEGI

Walter Kaegi delivered a lecture entitled "Guarding the Eastern Frontiers: The Euphrates and the Caucasus" at a conference on "Turkey: The Grandeur That Was Rome" (University of Chicago Graham School of General Studies, Gleacher Center, co-sponsored with American-Turkish Council and the American Friends of Turkey), Saturday 15 May 1999.

He published two book reviews in *Speculum*, vol. 74 (April 1999) 521-24, of Warren Treadgold, *\*Byzantium and Its Army, 284-1081\** (Stanford Univ. Press), and 74 (1999) 536-39, of Mark Whittow, *\* Making of [Orthodox] Byzantium\**, University of California Press

Walter Kaegi has received authorization from the International Congress of Byzantine Studies to put together a "Table Ronde" for the 20th Congress of Byzantine Studies, which will meet in Paris from 19 to 25 August 2001. The topic of the Table Ronde will be "Echanges et conflits entre l'Occident chretien et le monde musulman: Relations politiques, militaires, economiques, intellectuelles."

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CLAUDIA E. SUTER



My article entitled "A New Edition of the Lagash II Royal Inscriptions including Gudea's Cylinders," a review of D.O. Edzard's edition in RIM 3/1, has finally appeared in JCS 50, dedicated to Hans Gustav Güterbock. Still in press are a biography of Henriette Groenewegen-Frankfort for an anthology of women in archaeology, and an entry on the Oriental Institute Museum for the Neue Kleine Pauly. Several reviews, for JNES and Aula Orientalis, on books about seals, and an article on the Hittite stamp seal from Megiddo (in the O.I. collections) for a Festschrift are finished or near completion. Presently I am reading the proofs of my book "Gudea's Temple Building: The Representation of an Early Mesopotamian Ruler in Text and Image," which is scheduled to appear in Styx's series of Cuneiform Monographs in a few weeks.

After twelve very instructive and productive years in the United States, I am looking forward to return to Europe in August. I plan to attend a course on "Museum und Arbeit," offered by the International Summer Academy of Museology in Austria, and I have been invited to participate in the excavations of the Universities of Warsaw and Vienna in the Habur Region of Syria in September-October. I have been asked to give lectures later on in Jena, Basel, Istanbul, and Ankara.

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