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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY
RESEARCH ARCHIVES

OI NEWSLETTER - SECOND MONDAY - JUNE 2000

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The Lab purchased an Epson 1200dpi, 11"x17" scanner in Late May. After July 1, the Lab is going to purchase a Macintosh G4 computer, which will host the new 1200dpi scanner, as well as a new Dell Windows 98, 700+ MHz computer with 256+M's of RAM for running the Lab's ArcView GIS software. The same computer will also have Windows NT Server software installed on it, courtesy of David Schloen, for testing his database application programs.

Over the summer Katherine Strange is going to be working part time in the Lab preparing the past three years of Annual Reports and News & Notes for the web site, finally getting us caught up to the present.

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MEMBERSHIP / Emily Napolitano

MEMBERS SYMPOSIUM

Akhnaten: The Music of the Opera
Co-sponsored with the Chicago Opera Theater
Paul Frandsen
Saturday 22 July
9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Breasted Hall

Paul Frandsen is the world's expert on Philip Glass' third opera Akhnaten. Professor Frandsen will take the audience through Akhnaten, with the intention of providing comprehensive information on the way in which Glass and his librettists used themes from ancient Egypt, especially the Amarna period. Akhnaten implies an approach to a more conventional musical language and is thus a further step away from earlier minimalism. In his earlier works, Glass had developed principles of composition in which systematic repeats play a dominating part, both as the melodic technique he terms the "additive process" or in the rhythmical principle of cyclic structure. The music of Akhnaten is in many respects simpler. The increasing appreciation by Glass of the techniques of conventional opera is very apparent. Melody plays a much greater part than in his previous works. Rhythm and harmony also play an independent part, while at the same time being used to demonstrate dramatic points and situations.

Professor Frandsen will also discuss the opera in a wider perspective - as a musical drama with a historical subject and within the framework of operas having Egyptian or Egyptianized plots.
Fee: \$10 for Oriental Institute members, \$12 for non-members

To register call the Development Office at (773) 702-9513.

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MUSEUM / Karen Wilson

Knickerbocker Roofing will begin setting up to replace our roof on Monday June 12th. They will be erecting scaffolding on the north side of the building and fencing off an area to the east of our parking pad for their trailer and other equipment. They have told us that access to the parking pad, loading dock, and east entrance to the building will not be blocked at any time. They will be provided with keys to the east entrance, through which they will access the attic

above the third floor. They will have port-a-potties with running water in their fenced area, so workmen shouldn't be coming into the building for any reason other than to work in the attic.

While they are lifting off the concrete slabs above each section of roof, they want the spaces below where they are working to be vacated. They will provide us with a schedule for each week saying which spaces need to be unoccupied on which days. They say that the "vacating" should only be necessary for a couple of hours - and it will only be necessary once for each space - so I hope the inconvenience won't be too great.

I will keep you posted as I learn more.

At the end of April, Anna Rochester and colleagues from the University of Chicago presented a paper, Chicago WebDocent, at the "Museum and the Web Conference 2000". Chicago Web Docent (CWD) is a partnership formed by the University of Chicago, the Oriental Institute, the Chicago Public Schools, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Adler Planetarium, and the Field Museum. Chicago WebDocent brings together educational institutions in the city of Chicago with the goal of producing high-quality, standards-based curriculum materials via the Web for teachers and students. In this, its pilot year, CWD is striving to maximize Chicago's cultural resources by bringing some of them into the classroom.

At the conference, the panel discussed the timeline of the project and the progress of the interdisciplinary curriculum modules on the topics of Transportation and Communication. The session was well attended. The audience asked provocative questions and encouraged continued collaboration. Attendees were intrigued by the model of not only putting a museum in the classroom, but enabling students to make use of multiple museums simultaneously.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

We expect 800 copies of Wente fs. (SAOC 58) to be delivered Friday 23 June -- on Chris Kahrl's last day at the OI. We'll send him off with a backache! A farewell party is planned for Chris at 3:00 pm in the Director's Study on the 23rd. On 1 June, Robert Herbst joined the

Publications Office as the new Sales Manager. Please stop by room 227 to say hello.

Carol Meyer et al. "Bir Umm Fawakhir 1993" (OIC 28) was sent to press on 1 June; we expect to begin distributing it in August.

All of the second proofs for Garrison/Root _Persepolis Seals_ (OIP 117) have been returned and work has resumed to complete it.

Simrit and Blane are finishing the legwork on Teeter _Medinet Habu Scarabs_ (OIP 118) and Darnell _Theban Desert Road Inscriptions_ (OIP 119); at some point during the summer they will begin work on Alizadeh _Chogha Bonut_.

Emily Napolitano has requested a quick turnaround on the annual report, so I've begun some of the preliminary work to prepare for it.

I asked Markus Hilgert to review the files for his second volume on Ur III administrative documents; he will submit these files when he returns in July, and I hope to convert them from Tec to Word over the summer.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

For many years, lists of recent acquisitions in the Research Archives were produced periodically and distributed informally. For a period in the 1990s the acquisitions lists were published more formally, but that ambitious project was abandoned in 1995.

The development of electronic media offers us new opportunities to distribute acquisitions lists widely and in a timely and inexpensive manner. It is our intention to distribute the Research Archives Acquisitions List monthly -- free of charge -- by means of an automated e-mailing list called "RAbooks" We hope also to use this list to distribute topical lists, lists of dissertations, and other useful material from time to time as they are developed here.

Those wishing to subscribe to the list should send the following single line message:

subscribe rabooks

in the body of e-mail to majordomo@oi.uchicago.edu

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PROJECTS

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W Raymond Johnson

When the Epigraphic Survey field season officially ends on April 15 each year, the ES Field Director must submit a lengthy report on the season's accomplishments to the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities, as well as an application for the next season's work. Because all the paperwork for next season's field staff must be submitted to the SCA by June 1st, the first month back from Egypt in Chicago is generally spent arranging for additional team members when needed. Although the Chicago House staff for next season will largely be the same as this year, there will be a few additions. I am very pleased to announce that Egyptologist Harold Hays will be joining the Chicago House team, as well as his fiancee Emily Napolitano, and artist Will Schenck. Structural engineer Dr. Conor Power (who worked with us several years ago at Medinet Habu) will fly out in late November to do a special condition study of Luxor Temple for the ES and the SCA. A warm welcome is extended to all the new folk; their presence will ensure the continued excellence of the Epigraphic Survey and its vital documentation and preservation work.

The Epigraphic Survey will also be conducting an exciting experiment at the Medinet Habu small Amun temple next season. In order to facilitate the cleaning of the painted reliefs of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III in the sanctuary rooms and their final epigraphic collation, Chicago House has invited four Egyptian conservation students from Cairo University and the Luxor Conservation Institute who reside in Luxor to join the team, starting in October. Under the supervision of conservator Lotfi Hassan, assisted by conservator Adel Azziz, they will receive onsite training which they will then be able to apply elsewhere when our project is eventually completed. If this program works as well as I think it will, we may use it as a model for a similar program for local epigraphers perhaps as early as the following year.

On May 28th I made a brief trip back to Egypt, returning to Chicago on June 3rd. While in Cairo I had a meeting with US Ambassador to Egypt Daniel Kurtzer about the Luxor groundwater initiative, property issues, and endowments. I also made a flying trip out to Saqqara to see Alain Zivie and Will Schenck on the last day of their work there, and to get Will's signature on his security forms for next season. Saqqara, as you can imagine, was hot as a furnace, but it felt great (absolutely no humidity)! I later hand-delivered our 38 security forms (including the UofC digital imaging team members) for next season's fieldwork to ARCE for submission to the SCA.

I then flew down to Luxor, where it was even hotter (about 115 degrees Fahrenheit), to review the enclosure wall construction work at Chicago House. You will recall that we started raising the front wall in April, primarily for security reasons. I had new grill sections made in Cairo, identical to the old, which were being put into place as we left, capably supervised by our local contractor Girgis Samwell. The front gate had just been put back up the day before I arrived, and the construction is now completely finished, with some plastering on the piers remaining to be completed. I am pleased to say that the whole wall, now more than a meter taller, looks very good, with no appreciable difference in style. I left orders for bougainvillea vines to be planted at key points inside the compound, to help screen the house from outside view.

I had never been at Chicago House outside of our season before, and the place really looked fabulous, like Sleeping Beauty's castle, locked up (thanks to Tina Di Cerbo), slumbering, and vine-covered. The garden is HUGE, and has grown amazingly the last month and a half... I couldn't believe it. I was also astonished to see how many trees gush beautiful flame-hued blossoms during the summer after we leave, quite a revelation. Our guard dog Nikon is very well; the workmen were preparing a meal for her when I came by the first morning, and she looked well-fed and happy. Our guards and gardeners are all flourishing as well, and were tickled to see me outside of the normal routine.

I stayed with Mark Easton at ARCE in Cairo on my way out; as most of you know, he will be leaving ARCE July 1st after eight very full years as Cairo Director. He will be staying with his son in Leiden after he leaves Cairo, for part of the summer.

Ted Castle is now back and manning the Epigraphic Survey office for the summer, and we will both be here until October when we head back for the ES's 77th field season. In the meantime, I'll be digesting and writing up our 76th field season's activities for the OI Annual Report and our two EAP-funded projects, the Luxor Temple Fragment Project and Medinet Habu Small Amun Temple Project.

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INDIVIDUALS
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ALEXANDRINE GUERIN

Dear Mister Gragg,

I would like to thank you and the entire OI staff (from the basement to the third story) for all the support and friendship you have shown me during the past year. Your kindness and professionalism made it a very rewarding and productive year.

With my warmest appreciation,

Alexandrine Guerin

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CHUCK JONES

A collaborative electronic publication project.

In the second week of May I attended a day long exploratory meeting with members of the American Oriental Society, the American Schools of Oriental Research, and the Vanderbilt University Divinity School and Library. The Society of Biblical Literature also voiced strong interest in participating in this collaborative effort. Participants expressed a high level of interest in working on a joint electronic publishing project devoted to the study of the history and culture of the ancient Near East. The project would include prepublication of some research materials, current journals and monographs, maps, images of artifacts, and retroactive publishing of reports and studies. This group has applied for planning funds for a project tentatively called Electronic Tools and Ancient Near Eastern Archives (ETANA). The funding would support six planning meetings

between July 2000 and February 2001, including a larger meeting in November 2000, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of ASOR, which will be in Nashville this year. Funding would support the salary of a part-time assistant (most likely a graduate student) whose responsibilities would include organizing these meetings, and also provide seed money to support the investigation of technical infrastructure.

The planning group is to be composed of the individuals who attended the initial exploratory meeting in Nashville, plus a representative from SBL, and the new Director of the Vanderbilt University Press, once that appointment is made. The planning meetings would identify the scope of the project, develop a business plan and governance structure acceptable to all the organizations involved, determine the technical infrastructure, and establish metadata, access, preservation and archiving standards for the project. We intend to comply with the standards and principles of the OpenArchive movement.

Given successful negotiations and outcomes from our planning meetings, our goal is to submit a full proposal for ETANA to the Mellon Foundation in spring 2001.

During the final week of May, I attended the Second International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East in Copenhagen as an invited participant in a session on "Internet and Archaeology". It was an interesting and refreshing (though tiring) experience. More than two hundred and thirty papers were delivered over five days.

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MATTHEW STOLPER

In case anyone missed it, the search for a new Sumerologist to take the place of Miguel Civil brought six candidates to the OI and NELC May and the first days of June: Steve Tinney (University of Pennsylvania), Niek Veldhuis (Groningen University), Gonzalo Rubio (Ohio State University), Fumi Karahashi (University of Chicago), Markus Hilgert (University of Jena), Christopher Woods (Harvard University). They gave public lectures to modest audiences, and workshops on passages from Gudea Cylinder A to packed classrooms. The fact that 25 to 30 people at a time could all participate more or

less knowledgeably in a close reading of a classic Sumerian text was a great indication of the importance of the field in the life of the OI and the University, and the importance of this position in American scholarship.

The close timing of the visits added some intensity to the process of interviewing and observation, and it contributed to making the Gudea classes into a kind of mini-seminar. Credit for the high quality of the seminar belongs not only to the candidates, but also and especially to the students who found time during the hardest-pressed weeks of the academic year to prepare the text and engage the candidates in classroom exchange. Particular thanks and kudos go to Xun Ding, Jacob Lauinger, Kathleen Mineck, John Nielsen, Jonathan Tenney, and Rebecca Thurman.

Now I urge everyone who attended any of the lectures and classes, or conversed with any of the candidates, or had a meal or a drink with any of them to give comments on them to members of the Sumerian Search Committee (Farber, Gibson, Roth, Stolper) as soon as possible before the memory fades and before summer agenda and travels intervene. Written comments would be easiest and most accurate for the committee, but oral comments and e-mails are very welcome as well.

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DAVID TESTEN

I have been granted a research fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies for February-October 2001, which will allow me to conduct an investigation of the significance of conditioned phonological change for the history of the Semitic languages, with particular emphasis on its consequences at the level of the abstract root.

As of fall 2000, I will be serving on the faculty of the Section of Semitic Languages at Tel Aviv University. Nancy and I would like to offer our best wishes to all our friends and colleagues at the CAD and the Oriental Institute.

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JASON UR

I returned last week from a very productive three-month field season. On the way to the 2nd season of the renewed British-Belgian-Syrian excavations at Chagar Bazar, I stopped for a week of preparation in Cambridge. During this time I was able to spend two days with Joan Oates in the Tell Brak lab at the McDonald Institute. She graciously allowed me to go through the text and plates to the forthcoming 3rd millennium volume of the Brak final reports series. Brak is the key to understanding the controversial "post-Akkadian" period in Upper Mesopotamia, and the Brak sequence seems to confirm our preliminary post-Akkadian dating of certain elements of the Hamoukar surface collection material as well as the Chagar Bazar Area D monumental building.

After leaving Cambridge I spent several days in Luxor doing general maintenance on the Epigraphic Survey's photographic negative database. We are almost to the point of adding a low-resolution thumbnail image of each of the almost 20,000 negatives to the database, which should make it a very valuable tool. In Cairo I visited Mark Lehner's excavations at Giza. The amount of earth, sand, and horse manure that Mark has shifted off that site is truly staggering; my trench from the 1997 season is now a tiny telephone booth-sized hole in a vast field of monumental galleries. Before leaving for Damascus I was given a tour of the Agha Khan-funded restoration of the Ayyubid city wall of Cairo by OI alumnus Cathy Dewey, who is a conservator with the project.

The spring 2000 season at Chagar Bazar was a very successful one. Our work concentrated on the early 2nd millennium BC (Old Babylonian or "Khabur Ware" period). Further work in Area A revealed more of a series of very large well-built private houses with paved courtyards. This year I shifted from Area B to supervise a new trench, Area G. This area was located alongside the remains of Mallowan's trench BD, in an attempt to refine his stratigraphy. Ultimately Area G covered an area of 20 x 15 meters in two adjacent trenches supervised by Carlo Colantoni and Lamy Khalidi, both graduate students of Augusta McMahon's at Cambridge University. Both worked extremely well, allowing me to delegate almost all paperwork, planning and sherd drawing onto them. We uncovered a highly organic "middle class" residential quarter: a central street lined with several houses with doorways, tannurs, stone-lined water drains, and four intramural burials. We were able to link our own excavations with Mallowan's BD plan from the 1930s. Most

importantly for my own research interests, we are now in a position to reach later 3rd millennium levels over a large horizontal area in the 2001 season. Other noteworthy events this season: Mac Gibson visited and delivered the Hamoukar mountain bike (al-Homar al-Ahmar); Lamya Khalidi used it to pace me and to plot my jogging route in what might be the first use of GPS/GIS technology to measure a running route in the Upper Khabur Basin. I suspected that these computer skills would prove useful eventually.

After Chagar Bazar, I gave a paper entitled "Ancient Route Systems and Urbanism in the 3rd Millennium BC Upper Khabur Basin" at the 2nd International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (2ICAANE) held in Copenhagen, May 22-26th.

Upon returning to Chicago, I had two pieces of good news: I have official permission for the Chagar Bazar archaeological survey from the Syrian Department of Antiquities (3 years, 15km radius from the site), and we have been given funding from the McDonald Institute, Ryerson and ASOR. The CB Survey will be underway at the end of August 2000, insha'allah.

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