

OIN
June 2001

QC-18 '01

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - June 2001

UNITS

- ADMINISTRATION
- COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders
- DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion
- MUSEUM / Karen Wilson, Carole Krucoff
- PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban
- RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

PROJECTS

- CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY / Theo Van Den Hout
- DEMOTIC DICTIONARY PROJECT / Jan Johnson
- EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

INDIVIDUALS

- ROBERT BIGGS
- CHUCK JONES
- WALTER KAEGI
- ERICA REINER
- ROBERT RITNER
- OGUZ SOYSAL
- DAVID TESTEN

+++++

UNITS

+++++

ADMINISTRATION

The Oriental Institute has posted two position announcements on the Web site:

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/OI_Announcements.html

Posted May 23, 2001

Oriental Institute Directorship

The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago announces its intention to fill the position of Director, effective July 1 or October 1, 2002. It is the Director's responsibility to oversee all Oriental Institute activities, to foster and promote its work at home and in the field, and to be active in assuring its economic stability and growth. Applications are sought from established scholars in any of the

principal areas of research and teaching that are the purview of the Oriental Institute: art and archeology of the Near East; cuneiform studies; Egyptology; history of the Near East; Semitic studies. Nominations of suitable candidates are also solicited. The deadline for applications is October 15, 2001, and candidates should be available for interviews in November and December. Please contact Chair, Director Search Committee, Oriental Institute, 1155 E. 58th Street, Chicago IL 60637, USA. E-mail communications may be directed to: d-pardee@uchicago.edu

Posted April 17, 2001

Position in Egyptian Archaeology and Art

The Oriental Institute and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago invite applications for a tenure-track position in Egyptian Archaeology and Art. The position, to be occupied in Fall 2002, entails a continuing commitment to field research. The successful candidate is also expected to teach introductory and specialized courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Applicants should have the doctorate in hand. CV and a list of references should be sent before October 1, 2001, to: Please contact Chair, Egyptian Archaeology Search Committee Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, 1155 E. 58th St., Chicago, IL. 60637, USA

+++++

COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

Addition of the c. 1,100 1905-1907 Breasted Expedition to Egypt and Sudan photographic archive to the OI web site is only a day or two away. One or two minor code changes are all that remain. Chuck Jones, Emily Teeter, and I have discussed a press release with Bill Harms, so that is in the works as well. These Breasted photos will add 5,500+ files and over 550 megabytes of data to the web site. When combined with the 950+ Persepolis photographs we made available last spring the Oriental Institute Photographic Archive is the largest archive of archaeological material on the internet. No date has been set for the press release, but we'll let everyone know via email when we have a date fixed.

I have started Katherine Strange, Computer Lab assistant, scanning my archaeological slide collection of sites in both Mesopotamia and Egypt, shot between 1972 and the present, for inclusion in a new

I requested Carole Krucoff to provide a brief overview of the vital and growing role that University students play in the Museum Education Department, hoping it might be of interest and, maybe even, use to others in the building. That overview follows:

An important, and long-standing, mission for Museum Education has been to provide NELC graduate students with opportunities to hone their teaching skills as instructors in our ongoing adult education program. NELC students are teaching Oriental Institute courses here on campus, at the downtown Gleacher Center, and have reached learners across the country and around the world as correspondence course instructors and teachers over the internet. Graduate students who have been instructors this past year include Aaron Burke, Harold Hays, Dan Nevez, Hratch Papazian, Clemens Reichel, and Justine Way.

NELC students also are active in our school outreach program. They visit local elementary and high school classrooms to present much-appreciated slide talks and discussion sessions on archaeology and ancient Near Eastern history. Aaron Burke, Jesse Casana, Colleen Coyle, Clemens Reichel, Jason Ur, and Justine Way have been outreach visitors this past year.

We also benefit every summer from the invaluable assistance of student interns. Working closely with our staff on programming for children and adults, they gain practical experience and also an increased understanding of the museum profession. We accept two interns each summer -- all our office space can accommodate, though many more apply! This summer our interns will be Lee Ann Middleton, a graduate student in the history department, and Claire Thomas, an undergraduate in anthropology.

Our newest relationship has been with student groups on campus. This past year, members of the Persian Cultural society volunteered to serve as hosts, ushers, and clean-up crew during the Naw Rouz event, and we couldn't have managed without them. For "Ancient Earth," our family event for Earth Day in April, we had the volunteer assistance of students from the Environmental Concerns Organization. And this spring we collaborated with University Theatre (UT), whose talented student performers developed and presented an remarkably creative one-act adaptation of the Epic of Gilgamesh, which was performed on the UT stage, in Breasted Hall, and at eight public schools in Hyde Park-Kenwood. Plans are underway for the

UT version of Gilgamesh to be a featured part of events celebrating the reopening of the Mesopotamian Gallery next year.

+++++

PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Mark Garrison/Margaret Cool Root, _Persepolis Seals_ (OIP 117): All that's left to do are the indices and a final reading.

Emily Teeter, _Scarabs from Medinet Habu_ (OIP 118): Illustrations are prepared for about 300 of the 350 scarabs, and the text is being slightly modified and reformatted.

John Darnell, _Gebel Tjauti/Wadi el-Hol Rock Inscriptions_ (OIP 119): Only one computer in the office had the ability to convert the hieroglyphic transcriptions into EPS format, and so this aspect of the manuscript has come to a grinding halt until the one computer is freed for a week.

Markus Hilgert, _Ur III Economic Texts from the Reign of Amar-Suena_ (OIP 121): Aside from finishing the conversion of the half-brackets and some minor formatting of the glossaries and indices, galley proofs of the text are nearly ready to hand over to the author. Clemens Reichel has also submitted an appendix on the seals.

Janet Johnson, _Demotic Grammar_ (SAOC 45/3rd ed.): A single PDF file that contains lessons 1-11, the indices, and bibliography was delivered to John Sanders for posting on the web.

Sam Wolff, ed. _Esse Memorial Volume_ (SAOC 59): All of the thirty-four contributors have returned their page proofs, which are now being transferred to the master pages that will be returned to Eisenbrauns for typesetting. The book will have more than 700 pages.

News & Notes Summer 2001: Printed.

Janet Johnson, _Chicago Demotic Dictionary_ (CDD): As reported earlier, nine letter files of the CDD are prepared for electronic publication. The delay in posting these files is having time to edit the conventions file (a fifteen page file that explains the conventions used in writing the dictionary), but on June 1st with the help of Tom

Dousa the difficulties of this file were hammered out . It remains our hope to post these files before June 30th.

More graffiti! Ray Johnson brought in the manuscript for Khonsu Temple III (by Helen Jacquet-Gordon), which contains about 350 graffiti from Khonsu Temple. The manuscript will shortly be submitted to the Director for the review process.

Tim Harrison, Megiddo 3: Final Report of the Stratum 6 Excavations was accepted for publication.

Robert Herbst is in the process of updating the Publications Office web pages.

+++++

RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

There will be some disruptions of service in the Research Archives this summer. We expect to be installing the new lights in early July. This may take as long as two weeks. Please watch the notice boards and the web site for information on the schedule.

+++++

PROJECTS

+++++

CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY / Theo Van Den Hout

As is well-known by now, the CHD got its NEH grant renewed with which we are very happy. We will soon be finishing the manuscript of the first fascicle of the letter S and will hand it in to the Publications Office within two weeks. Earlier this month I attended the conference of the Dictionary Society of North America (DSNA) at Ann Arbor (see Erica Reiner's contribution). Although apart from Erica's paper there was nothing really Near Eastern, the meeting proved very useful in that it brought together all kinds of people working on dictionaries ancient and modern, most of them struggling in one way or other to get their project on-line. With the invaluable help of Gene Gragg the CHD is doing that right now: we hope to have our entire P-volume on-line by the end of this year and we are looking for ways to get our older material (notably L-M) into an

electronic format quick and cheap (if possible) so that it can be put on the web eventually as well.

+--+

DEMOTIC DICTIONARY PROJECT / Jan Johnson

Jan Johnson and Tom Urban are working on preparing the PDF files for the first 9 letters of the Demotic Dictionary. They will be put online, together with a "problems" file and several background files ("conventions used in preparing the dictionary," "text information," "abbreviations," "bibliography," etc.). As further files are completed, they will also be put online. When the final letters are complete, the publication (both hard copy and CD-ROM, as we now envision it) will be prepared from the PDF files (which, it is anticipated, will be taken off-line at that time). It is hoped that these first nine letters will be up and generally available by the end of June. Another six letters should be ready to post by the end of the year.

Jan gave a demonstration of the use of computers in the preparation of the Dictionary for the OI Visiting Committee in May. She also gave them the first demonstration of the "front end" of the Middle Egyptian Readingbook which is being prepared with Mellon funding. Several additional students will be doing data entry this summer. Hopefully, the Readingbook will be usable by students in the first and second year Middle Egyptian classes by fall, although still a work in process.

+--+

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

March-May

On April 15, 2001, the Epigraphic Survey completed its seventy-seventh, six-month field season in Luxor. As staff members began to depart, Egyptologist Tina Di Cerbo immediately began the laborious task of closing the house down for the summer, which she finished at the beginning of May. March had been unseasonably hot - in the 100 degrees Fahrenheit - but April was, thankfully, unseasonably cool, which made the season's end infinitely more pleasant for everyone.

This was an extraordinarily productive season. At Medinet Habu the epigraphic team of photographers, artists, and Egyptologist / epigraphers made excellent progress on the documentation work in the small Amun temple of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III. The artists and epigraphers continued to pencil, ink, and correct facsimile drawings of the bark sanctuary and ambulatory reliefs which will be published in the second volume of the small Amun temple series. In March the artists transferred their operation from the interior of the bark sanctuary (where statue restoration work commenced) to the Akoris doorway on the north of the ambulatory, and to the east, the "Saite" porch of the Kushite Pylon, which will be published in Volume 3 of the series.

Our new Egyptologist / epigrapher, Harold Hays, and new Egyptologist / artist, Will Schenck, have proven to be excellent additions to the team. SCA Inspector Ahmed Ezz, who also turns out to be a very capable artist, practiced penciling on site and will continue to learn our drawing conventions next season. A total of twenty-three new drawings were penciled at the wall by the artists, eight of which were inked during the season, and fifteen of which will be inked over the summer. Forty-four additional drawings were collated and checked at the wall by the epigraphers and artists, all of which will appear in the second volume projected for the small Temple of Amun at Medinet Habu, devoted primarily to the Thutmoside bark sanctuary area, including the ambulatory pillars.

During the latter part of the season, staff photographer Yarko Kobylecky, assisted by photo archives assistant Ellie Smith, photographed the upper restoration inscription of Ptolemy VIII inside the bark sanctuary, the northern lintel of the Kushite gateway to the north and west of the Kushite pylon, and the granite doorjamb leading from that gate into the Kushite "court" for publication and drawing enlargement production. Yarko also produced drawing enlargements of the west interior wall of the Thutmosis III bark sanctuary for Volume 2; and for Volume 3: the Kushite pylon mast emplacement and cornice inscriptions, east, north, and south sides; the Kushite pylon 'Saite' porch screen walls; the north and south sides of the Kushite gateway; and the granite doorjamb inscriptions leading into the Kushite 'court' from the Kushite gateway, north exterior and thickness.

Within the two southernmost painted chapels, senior conservator Lotfi Hassan, assisted by conservator Adel Aziz Andraws and new

conservation trainee Nahed Samir, completed the ARCE/EAP-funded cleaning of the painted reliefs in the southeastern chamber, and cleaned two walls in the southwestern chamber, with wonderful results; the rooms are quite transformed with the newly revealed color. Conservators Adel and Nahed also replaced old deteriorated mortar between the wall courses with hydraulic lime and sandstone powder, particularly in the lower wall courses affected by humidity from high groundwater. The goal for next season is to finish cleaning the southwestern chapel, as well as the front central sanctuary chamber, started year before last.

Stone cutter Dany Roy supervised several very different projects for the Epigraphic Survey in the small Amun temple. First, he and his workmen completed the grouting with liquid mortar of the sanctuary roof area, particularly the new roof blocks over the northeastern chapel, the 'King's Chamber,' replaced two seasons ago, which reactivate an ancient Ptolemaic drain spout on the north side. He also placed several new patch stones over the breezeway between the back sanctuary and the bark sanctuary, replacing ancient Ptolemaic ones removed since antiquity.

In the sanctuary area below, Dany coordinated the laying of new sandstone floor slabs, 10 centimeters thick, in the two central sanctuary chambers. In the back chamber, sixteen slabs (= 13.3 square meters) were laid on a bed of sand, and in the front room, Seventeen slabs were laid, with the four corners left open until next season (total area of room = 22 square meters). The remains of four original paving stones found subsided in the floor debris last season along the north side of the chamber, too fragile to raise in the restoration of the flooring, were used as a guide for the proportions and orientation of the new slabs in that area. In each room a distance of 10 centimeters was left between the stone slabs and the walls for the emplacement of electrical wiring for future lighting, and this space was filled with clean sand. Additionally, PVC tubes 5 centimeters in diameter were laid under the thresholds to receive the same wiring. After each room was fitted with new sandstone flooring, the slabs received a final sanding and were covered with plywood boards for protection.

Last season, in preparation for repaving the sanctuary, Egyptologist Tina Di Cerbo coordinated a careful examination of the floor debris in the two central chambers and the recovery (with Dany) of six large and two hundred medium to small fragments of a colossal

granodiorite seated dyad of Thutmose III and the god Amun. As I reported (and illustrated) in April, reassembly began in February, supervised by Dany and Lotfi. First the four largest base fragments were cleaned and drilled with dowel emplacements for stainless steel dowels 2 centimeters in diameter, up to 80 centimeters in length. Then the base fragments, totaling seven tons, were moved into the front central sanctuary, where the pieces were doweled and epoxied into place. The joined statue base was raised on March 20, and moved into the exact center of the room, over a damp-coursed, reinforced concrete foundation prepared last season by Dany. Another, fifth section of the base, preserving the front, was epoxied into place (doweling was not necessary), and on March 24th the top section of the statue was winched into position and epoxied, completing the joining of the six largest pieces of the group. The reassembled dyad, broken at the top, now stands 3 meters in height. Next season the analysis of the smaller fragments will be completed, after which they will be joined to the main group. It is a rare opportunity to restore a piece of Egyptian sculpture to its original architectural setting; this particular dyad was an integral part of the architecture of the sanctuary and is an imposing addition to the room.

Field conservator Hiroko Kariya coordinated the ARCE/EAP-funded Luxor Temple Fragment Project from January 26th through April 15th and was joined by project supervisor John Stewart from February 19th to March 8th. This season Hiroko surveyed and monitored all 1,540 fragments in the Epigraphic Survey block yard recorded on our computer database. Ninety-two fragments (one or more faces) were treated with Wacker OH, including re-treatment; all of the fragments were examined and recorded before and after treatment. All treated fragments were placed in covered areas for protection, as well as additional fragments which will require future treatment. This season Hiroko and John consolidated part of the eastern wall of the Amenhotep III sun court, on which a group of over a hundred joined fragments will be restored starting next season. The fragments from this group have received treatment over the last few years in preparation for their reconstruction. The re-joined group will complete a large offering scene before the bark of Amun now only partly preserved on the wall, originally carved by Amenhotep III, destroyed by Akhenaten, recarved by Tutankhamun, appropriated by Horemheb, and enlarged by Sety I. Several other fragment groups from the Colonnade Hall currently receiving treatment will be restored on special damp-coursed display

platforms along the front of the Epigraphic Survey blockyard for public view and study. Reassembly and restoration of whole scenes and wall sections is the final step in the preservation of any fragmentary material, and it is a real pleasure to be getting to this stage of the fragment treatment.

Hiroko was greatly assisted this season by Nan and David Ray, who helped track and move fragments, updated the fragment database, and increased the signage around the site. At the north and south ends of the Epigraphic Survey blockyard special (illustrated) signage was created which explained the University of Chicago's fragment documentation and conservation project for interested passers-by.

In April, a few days before we closed for the season, Luxor was hit with a day-long rainstorm. Luckily it was not a bad one as these storms go; but to our horror, Hiroko and I found that a section of the Luxor Temple blockyard, just to the south of the Abul El Haggag mosque, had been devastated by the rainwater. More than twenty fragile, sandstone talatat, the small building stones particular to Akhenaten, had dissolved into salty, yellow sand which was now strewn all over the surrounding blocks. This was a group that I had had my eye on for future moving, and it was extremely disheartening to realize that I had waited too long, as now many of the decorated faces, all unrecorded, were mostly gone. Hiroko and I did emergency photography of what was left, and cleaned up the area as best as we could. Next season they will be moved to a special holding area for severely deteriorating blocks which I will start constructing in October.

I returned to Luxor in mid-May for an historic groundwater workshop (May 16-17) sponsored by the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, USAID, and the Supreme Council of Antiquities. The meeting addressed the increasing threat to Egypt's antiquities by high, salt-laden groundwater, and was attended by representatives of several Egyptian government ministries (Agriculture, Irrigation, Antiquities) from the regions of Aswan, Luxor, Qena, and Sohag; the Governor of Luxor; ARCE Director Bob Springborg; USAID Egypt Director Bill Pearson; EAP Technical Director Jarek Dobrolowski; a team of Swedish SWECO water engineers currently doing a study of Karnak and Luxor water problems; Hierakonpolis Director Renée Friedman; KV Egyptologist Ted Brock; World Monuments Fund Technical Director Mark Weber; Chicago House structural engineer Conor Power, and me. Conor Power and I gave a site tour of Luxor

Temple at the end of the first day's session, focussing on the conservation and structural problems (as a result of groundwater), which was a revelation to the group, and brought home the enormous problems which must be faced. Conor was able to show everyone where the new cracks have formed all over the enormous Luxor Temple pylons, which must be monitored very closely now for additional movement.

During the two days our colleagues Ted Brock talked about the west bank desert sites (including Medinet Habu) and the encroaching irrigation water, and Renée Friedman gave an excellent presentation about Hierakonpolis, focussing on the land-reclamation projects which now completely surround it, and how that is affecting the ancient remains. By the end of the meeting her site had become the type-site for the problem, and when she took part of the group down there to see it, the agriculture and irrigation ministry officials promised on the spot to assist her (I have since learned from Renée that they have since been true to their word). The agricultural representatives discussed agricultural and irrigation reform in and around Luxor which would lower the groundwater and slow down some of the decay, some of which is being implemented now. At Luxor Temple structural engineer Conor Power is now in contact with SCA engineers and the SWECO group and is assisting them in coordinating the necessary monitoring of the structure as drainage measures are planned and implemented. It was heartening to see the communication among so many different parties and exchange of data and ideas since, as everyone agreed, only by working together can we find solutions to these problems. Additional meetings were planned, and several have already taken place; the ball is definitely rolling, and I am very pleased that the Epigraphic Survey has been able to play a positive role in this process.

After meetings in NYC (where I am now) with the World Monument Fund about future funding of conservation projects at Luxor Temple, I will be back in Chicago for the rest of the summer.

+++++
INDIVIDUALS
+++++

ROBERT BIGGS

Robert Biggs will be giving a paper on Babylonian sexual potency texts at the Rencontre Assyriologique in Helsinki in July. His plans for study of cuneiform texts at the British Museum later in July had to be cancelled because of the closure of the Students' Room for the move to the Department's new quarters.

+++++

CHUCK JONES

Along with Matt Stolper, Chuck will attend the meeting of the Achemenet "co-pilotes" in Paris, June 18th. Pending final review of the manuscript the first volume of the Persepolis Fortification Seals publication is now complete [see PUBLICATIONS above].

+++++

WALTER KAEGI

The journal Ancient World has accepted my "Commentary" on the Association of Ancient Historians/American Historical Association joint session [January 2000] "Session on Late Antiquity: State of Researches", together with the three papers from that session by other contributors. The entire group of papers will be published as a bloc.

+++++

ERICA REINER

Erica Reiner and Theo van den Hout attended in May the biennial meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, celebrating the completion of the Middle English Dictionary. Reiner compared that dictionary to the Assyrian Dictionary in a paper with the title "A Tale of Two Dictionaries."

+++++

ROBERT RITNER

During May Robert Ritner was interviewed by KAOS Entertainment for a Fox Channel program on the Tut curse. He also provided

translations of Egyptian magical spells for the AOL Moviefone review / website on "The Mummy Returns"

Ritner will act as a program chair at the British Museum Cleopatra Colloquium, June 13-17.

+++++

OGUZ SOYSAL

Oguz Soysal is continuing his job on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project. As usual, he has spent most of his time writing articles on words beginning with "su-". In March of this year, after six years work and ca. one hundred and fifty articles, he finally completed the "su-" words.

Between March and May, temporarily escaping from the "first drafts labor work on CHD", he had the opportunity to offer a class entitled "Hattian-Hittite Bilingual Texts on the Sacred Buildings". This class took place with participation of the permanent Hittite students Dennis, Katty, Mary, but also of Hripsime Haroutunian, Theo van den Hout and very special guest Margaret Schröder. During the classes Margaret learned a lot of Hattian curses, so that she can now better protect the holy building of OI against the evil persons and spirits. The more advanced knowledge of Hattian language will be also helpful to the staff of CHD in future works. We are able now to better understand and interpret the Hattian words, which are frequently mentioned in CHD.

For this summer, Oguz Soysal plans to visit Germany in order to manage publishing his book "Hattischer Wortschatz in hethitischer Textüberlieferung".

+++++

DAVID TESTEN

We hope you had the chance to join us at the "Workshop on Near Eastern Languages and Linguistics" today for a talk by John Perry.

"How to Make Things with (Arabic) Junk:
Exaptation of the Feminine Ending in Persian and Beyond"
John Perry

Monday, 4 June
1:30
Oriental Institute Room 208

The "Workshop on Near Eastern Languages and Linguistics" has been meeting each Monday afternoon at 1:30 for the past several weeks for presentation of work in progress by members of the OI community. The meetings are informal and open to all those interested. Previous sessions have dealt with textual pragmatics and comparative Semitics, but the scope of possible presentations is limited only by the interests of the participants. We are currently attempting to determine whether there is sufficient interest to maintain these meetings into the summer. If you have questions or comments, or wish to be added to the e-mail list in order to be kept apprised of future presentations, please contact David Testen (dtesten@babylon-orinst.uchicago.edu).

+++++