

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - MARCH 1998

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

1) The Lab's new 35 mm slide scanner has been well received if one considers the number of requests for its use during the past month. We're resorting to a sign-up sheet to schedule its use. Both David Schloen and Clemens Reichel have been experimenting with file formats and data compression levels for both color and gray-scale images and have determined that more than adequate results can be obtained even while compressing very large (25-30 MB) TIFF files down to 400-600 KB JPEG files.

2) The first installment of the Lab's Ancient Near Eastern Map Series, a group of 6 gray-scale images that can each be printed on an 8.5"x11" laser printer and combined to create an 18"x15" composite map. This first series differentiates OI and other ancient sites, primary modern cities, but no relief. These maps will be made available through the Institute's web site during the first or second week of March. Additional map series will follow by the summer.

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MEMBERSHIP and DEVELOPMENT

MEMBERSHIP / Tim Cashion

On Feb 18, 1998, David Reese of the Field Museum and this year's local AIA president, delivered a Members Lecture to an audience of about 80. David discussed the effect of zooarchaeological discoveries, particularly in snails and shells, on chronology and trade patterns across the ancient Mediterranean basin. The lecture was cosponsored by the AIA.

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Readers are reminded of two upcoming lectures: On March 11, 1998, Ben Foster of Yale will deliver a Members Lecture on the earliest American efforts to study the ancient Near East. His lecture, which will cover the time up to the training of Breasted's generation, will of course devote substantial time to William Rainey Harper; on April 22, Gil Stein of Northwestern will deliver a lecture on Hacinebi, circa 3700 BC. Abstracts for both lectures are printed in the most recent News and Notes (156, Winter 1998).

There were 1,369 paying household memberships in February 1998.

DEVELOPMENT / Cynthia Echols

The Legacy Campaign, our fundraising drive to support climate control, renovation, and expansion, continues to "count down": \$9,268,530 [92% of goal] raised; \$846,470 to go.

Development calls and site visits in February:

Chicago Community Trust
Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts
Visiting Committee members Mary Grimshaw, Dr. Henrietta Herbolsheimer, and Marjorie Aronow.

Proposals submitted:

University of Chicago Women's Board (support for publication of a guide to the Egyptian collection)

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MUSEUM / Ray Tindel

Phase I down, Phase II to go.

The late breaking story is that "The Indiana Jones Room" is no more. The old Egyptian Hall which was once packed as tightly as we could get it is now almost empty and the new object storage areas in the basement are filling up. It is amazing; everything down here is clean and new and - most remarkable of all - bright. There are hundreds of fluorescent tubes gleaming everywhere and for the first time ever you really can see what you are looking at. Over the last few weeks the fine arts handlers from Icon and Joe, Randolph, John, and I have been working like ants, hauling carts loaded with boxes, crates, filing cabinets - some 4,500 in all - off to the new storage areas. Emily did the small objects cabinets; Barbara, Susan, and Laura have been handling the very fine and fragile material. I have grown more and more to appreciate the pallet jack as one of humanity's great inventions. We are now in the process of moving the organic collections - bookbindings, papyri, botanical samples, etc. - from the old organics room underneath the Persian Hall to the new organics room on the first floor of the new wing. The mummies, including our old friends Petosiris and Meresamun, have been trundled off to one side, close enough to observe the action (if they are so inclined) but far enough back that they will not be bumped. They will shortly go into the new organics room also. Then we batten down for a few more months of construction as the north side of the Museum and basement are renovated. The collections are not available yet for major research projects, but we are getting closer. Hundreds of inventories have to be checked, new locations entered into the database, and a lot of sorting has to be done, but basically, everything is going well at the moment.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Markus Hilgert's _Dreheim Administrative Documents_ (OIP 115) was sent to the printer on February 6; the ship date from the printer is April 10 and we anticipate delivery of the printed book during the week of April 13.

The case bound Volume P of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD) was delivered on February 26 (\$100). The P-Volume was prepared completely in-house. We made the preparation especially easy for the CHD editors and staff by not asking them to do anything special, that is, we took copies of their working Microsoft Word files, formatted them in PageMaker to have the look of the earlier volume, and sent the files to the printer in electronic format. Throughout the process of our working on the CHD files, the editors were allowed access to the manuscript so that additions, deletions, and corrections could be made up until the very last moment. Also, very importantly, we returned to the CHD editors a Microsoft Word file of the completed fascicle exactly as it was printed.

We are also co-publishing a volume with the University of Ghent, entitled _Dating the Fall of Babylon: A Reappraisal of Second-Millennium Chronology_ (Mesopotamian History and Environment, Series II, Memoirs IV; Ghent and Chicago, 1998). The authors of this joint Ghent-Chicago-Harvard project are H. Gasche, J. A. Armstrong, S. W. Cole, and V. G. Gurzadyan. The book will be distributed by Eisenbrauns, which is the distributor for the MHE series. It is being printed in Europe and we expect delivery in the States within the next couple of months.

During this first week of April we'll send the Z-Volume of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary to the printer to be reprinted; Volumes A/1 and B will follow shortly.

Work continues on two additional volumes: we're preparing the plates of the Epigraphic Survey's _Luxor Temple, Volume 2_ (OIP 116) to be sent to the printer; and we're ready to print first page proofs of Garrison and Root's _Seals and Sealings from Persepolis_ (OIP 117).

Thanks to the Membership Office for their collaboration with our new catalog. Tim sent a copy of the catalog to the Members, who responded with quite a few book orders ... thanks Tim.

You'll soon notice new computer equipment in room 229. We purchased a new high speed Macintosh, two two-page color monitors, new software, and a high quality scanner. The new computer has a PC card that -- we hope -- will allow us to create new cross-platform (Windows - Mac) fonts. Our aim with the scanner is to cut down on the high cost of photography. As you all know, our books are heavily illustrated and it is getting more and more expensive to have all of the necessary photography done by outside vendors. Now if the powers-that-be would only buy us a new 1800 dpi printer (it only costs \$8,000)!

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

On the last two days of the February we witnessed the installation of the shelving in the new stacks room of the Research Archives. At the time of writing the new space is more or less open for business, though not a single book has been moved there yet. The room is brightly lit, the aisles are wide and the shelving is new and clean. We will begin to move books shortly, in the meantime feel free to walk into the new space through the door at the back of the reading room.

The first component of the move will take some time, and we expect that it will not be disruptive. It will include transferring the books now in the reading room (the

'monograph' collection) into the new space. Once this is complete we can remove most of the 40 inch, free-standing bookshelves from the reading room floor and replace four tables and thirty-two chairs. Those of you who have been using library chairs in your offices should prepare for us to reclaim them at some point in the next few months.

In August 1996 the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts pledged \$200,000 to the Legacy campaign and claimed the right to name the reading room of the Research Archives. We recently gave the officers of these trusts a tour of the Library and of the rest of the construction project. These same trusts have pledged to fund the renovation of the wiring, lighting and floor of the reading room on a matching fund basis. This renovation along with the removal of the free standing shelving will restore the space to its original (and much more attractive) look.

Many thanks to those of you who offered comments on possibilities for reviving some sort of regular Acquisitions List. It now seems most likely that we will revive the old bi-monthly acquisitions lists, delivered from now on by e-mail using our existing mailing list software majordomo.

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TABLET COLLECTION / John A. Brinkman

Markus Hilgert began work again on February 6, editing Ur III texts from the collection for publication.

On February 20, David Weisberg (Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati) visited to collate Neo-Babylonian tablets that he is preparing to publish.

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PROJECTS
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BIR UMM FAWAKHIR / Carol Meyer

The Bir Umm Fawakhir Project completed a fourth season of survey work from November 16 to December 11, 1997 at the site of Bir Umm Fawakhir near the Wadi Hammamat. The site is a 5th - 6th century Coptic/Byzantine gold-mining town that had a population of a thousand or more. It is the first ancient gold-mining town in Egypt to have been intensively studied archaeologically, and one of the first of its date in the entire Byzantine empire. The 1992, 1993, and 1996 seasons produced a detailed map of three-quarters of the main settlement at Bir Umm Fawakhir, or 152 out of the originally estimated 216 buildings. Walking surveys of the vicinity of the site located eight outlying clusters of ruins of the same 5th - 6th century Coptic/Byzantine date, a pottery corpus has been collected and analyzed, and a geological study of the area has been carried out.

The 1997 season completed the detailed map and photographic record of the main settlement, mapped in detail most of Outlier 2, located six more outlying clusters of ruins (Outliers 9 through 14), documented and photographed two large outliers (6 and 7) adjacent to the main settlement, documented Outliers 12 and 13, supplemented the Coptic/Byzantine pottery corpus, located some of the ancient New Kingdom mines and recorded the pottery from them, and carried out a special study of the ancient mines, ores, and ore reduction techniques at Bir Umm Fawakhir. The staff consisted of Carol Meyer, field director; Lisa Heidorn, assistant director; Henry Cowherd, photographer; Bryan Earl, mining engineer; Alexandra O'Brien, epigrapher; Mohamed Badr el-Din Omar, geologist; Clemens Reichel, archaeologist; Leslie Boose, camp manager and draftsman; Sayyid Remy, driver; and Mohammed Rayyan and Mohammed Hamid, inspectors.

The Main Settlement and Outlier

The 1997 season mapped Buildings 153 through 237, up to a natural gate at the northwest end of the site that seems to have served as a limit to the town. Beyond this point wadi wash and the modern settlement have obliterated any ancient remains, if there ever were any. Again, all the buildings appear to be domestic, though some have some special features as noted below. No churches, storehouses, administrative centers, or defensive structures have yet been located, though they may have existed closer to the wells and the modern settlement where damage from flash floods is heaviest. The 1997 buildings are similar in construction techniques and layout to the buildings mapped earlier, but apart from the Hillock buildings they are not so well preserved.

The Hillock is a granite outcrop with two sizable buildings, 176 and 177, and some lesser structures on it. Between the Hillock and the cliffs to the northeast lies a gully with several well-preserved buildings, especially B170, B172-174, and B175. Finds from this group of houses includes a large number of grinding stones of all sorts, many dipinti, fragments of decorated glass beakers and/or lamps, and an unusual number of fine plates stamped with Coptic crosses and other Christian symbols. Further analysis of the pottery sample from B176 and other parts of the Hillock may indicate functional or status-related differences from the rest of the settlement.

A second survey team headed by Clemens Reichel began work mapping Outlier 2 on November 30 and completed a detailed map of 57 out of 66 buildings. Outlier 2 was selected for intensive work because of its excellent preservation. It lies in the next wadi north of the main settlement, on the Roman road, close to granite Quarry 1, believed to be Roman. Some of the houses appear to stand to their original height and display features not clear in the main settlement such as steps down into the houses, grain silos, and complicated wall construction. The pottery is the same as that in the main settlement and sufficiently abundant to indicate that Outlier 2 was in fact residential and not a temporary work location, though it may not have been inhabited as long as the main settlement.

The detailed map and the photographic record of the main settlement of Bir Umm Fawakhir are now complete, and an entire plan of an ancient town is a rare opportunity to study an ancient community. Walking surveys of the vicinity of Bir Umm Fawakhir have located fourteen outlying clusters of ruins of the same date, wells, ancient paths and roads, guardposts, cemeteries, granite quarries, and above all, gold mines.

New Kingdom Remains

The remains of a New Kingdom guardpost, graves, and a sherd dump across the road from the modern mines in the Wadi el-Sid, about 4 km south of Bir Umm Fawakhir, were noted during the 1996 season but were not systematically studied until this year. The pottery includes blue-painted decoration, burnished jars, and a potstand. The Turin Papyrus, which can reasonably be interpreted as a 20th Dynasty map of the route to the bekhen-stone quarries in the Wadi Hammamat, also shows a "Mountain of Gold" and a "Mountain of Silver" a little further on. These might be the ancient workings in the Wadi el-Sid; identifying actual pharaonic remains there supports the reading.

New to the project this season was the location of the pharaonic mines themselves. They lie immediately south of, and in places probably overlain by, the modern ore tailings from the modern mines. The ancient mines are open-cast trenches following the quartz veins down the mountainsides. The trenches are long but not particularly deep, no more than three meters and usually less, though they are probably partly filled now by dust and

debris. Simple crushing stones were noted beside several mines, and such pottery as there is can be dated to the New Kingdom.

Ancient Mines and Ores

Mohamed Omar of EGSMA and Bryan Earl, a retired mining engineer who now works with archaeometallurgical projects, carried out a study of the ancient mines, ores, and ore reduction techniques on November 22 through 25. At least three periods of working at the Bir Umm Fawakhir mines can be detected: pre-Roman, Roman/Byzantine, and modern. The pre-Roman mines are the open-cast trenches. They are not dated by pottery or associated finds but by the amount of silt filling them. The Roman mines bore into the mountainsides, and these do have associated pottery and even a few huts. Seven mines identified as Roman/Byzantine were inspected in detail, and the ores from mines 1, 3, and the Wadi el-Sid were determined to be very similar.

The ore-crushing experiments carried out with modern but manual tools (a heavy iron crusher to break the ore up on the floor, a hammer and bucking plate to powder it, and a vanning shovel to separate a sample) determined that the gold occurs in extremely fine grains. A very large expenditure of labor and therefore a large labor force would have been required in antiquity to grind the ore fine enough to recover the metal.

A preliminary report from Mr. Earl on an SEM sample indicates that gold is indeed present in the mine 3 orestuff, actually as electrum. Also, the associated minerals would have made it difficult for the ancient workers to separate any gold at all unless considerable skill was applied. The gold separation would have been much harder than panning from stream gold. "This indicates that if the site was worked in Roman/ Byzantine times it is of interest from the archaeometallurgical point of view. If worked earlier, it becomes even more interesting."

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

February has always been one of the busiest months of the Chicago House season, and this year has been no exception. February saw the continuation of the epigraphic drawing and collation at the Eighteenth Dynasty Amun temple at Medinet Habu (MHB) in the back sanctuary area (volume 1) and bark sanctuary ambulatory (volume 2). During this second year of our five-year conservation program at Medinet Habu (funded by the Egyptian Antiquities Project of the American Research Center in Egypt) stonecutter Dany Roy has made excellent progress on the sealing of the roof over the back shrines against rainwater. As each section of roof has been cleaned prior to sealing, epigraphic artist Tina Di Cerbo has made careful plans and keyed them into her master plan of the entire roof, while staff photographer Yarko Kobylecky has documented every square centimeter in 35 mm and large-format photography. Across the river stone conservator Hiroko Kariya is finishing up her third season of work in the Luxor Temple blockyard consolidating decorated stone fragments quarried from the upper walls of the temple, another five-year project funded by EAP. She has continued the treatment of the salt-damaged stone fragments with applications of the Wacker OH consolidant, and I have worked with her to ensure that all of the fragments in the blockyard (just under two thousand) have visible numbers for monitoring purposes. We were given permission this season to expand the project and our blockyard, and we have already utilized space to the north of the present blockyard as an extension to our storage area.

Brooklyn Museum stone conservator Ellen Pearlstein returned at the beginning of the month to continue our third conservation project, the Colonnade Hall statue cleaning and

restoration project at Luxor Temple, funded by a generous gift from Marjorie Aronow. This program, which last year saw the reattachment of the face to a colossal statue of the goddess Mut seated beside Amun, focuses on additional cleaning and infilling of that statue as well as the cleaning of two other sculpture groups in the hall, a colossal seated king and a smaller dyad of Amun and Mut. All of these statues will be presented in the ES's latest publication, 'Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple 2: The Facade, Portals, Upper Registers, Columns, Marginalia, and Statuary of the Colonnade Hall' now in Tom Urban's office in the final stages of preparation for printing. This month Ellen has cleaned the seated king of its brown staining, and has carefully removed the obscuring resin and cement overlay concealing a Coptic cross engraved on the knees of the small dyad Mut.

At the beginning of February photographer Yarko Kobylecky, Epigrapher John Darnell, and I reviewed the photography priorities in the Medinet Habu complex, particularly two deteriorating wells of Ramesses III located on the north and south sides of the mortuary temple. In 1986 staff photographer Tom Van Eynde produced complete 35 mm b/w documentation of all of the inscribed wall surfaces in the wells using a 20 mm lens. We found in reviewing his work that all of the lower sections of the walls have experienced dramatic deterioration since his photography due to corrosive salts in the high ground water, and his negatives are now priceless. This summer Yarko will scan Tom's negatives with the Photoshop program and will create joined montages of complete wall surfaces for publication and drawing. After he and I reviewed the pre-existing photography of the MHB Kushite additions (MHB volume 3) to determine what needed shooting, Yarko began that work and is already 3/4 finished. He will begin the photography of the Ptolemaic additions to MHB and the 25th/26th Dynasty God's Wives Chapels (across from the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu) next season.

This month photographer Sue Lezon finished her survey of two thousand 8x10 nitrate negatives in the Photo Archives, checking for signs of instability, and duplicated sixty of them that were actively deteriorating. She worked with Ellie Smith and Debbie Darnell on the new Photo Archives database developed for the ES this summer by John Sanders and Jason Ur, produced new Lost Egypt Portfolio Printing-Out-Paper prints, and researched the feasibility of scanning ES negatives onto CD-ROM starting next season.

On other fronts, we had another series of audits in mid-February, then a review of our totally revamped financial management system by the head of the USAID Cairo financial department, which I am pleased to say we passed with flying colors. On the 17th I attended an American Research Center reception welcoming the new American Ambassador to Egypt, Daniel Kurtzer, and bidding farewell to Assistant Director Ibrahim Sadek. Two days later the Kurtzers and entourage paid Chicago House a "state visit" where they met the staff and saw the ES work. I accompanied them later to the west bank and Hatshepsut's mortuary temple, where the Ambassador said a few words and Mrs. Kurtzer laid a bouquet of flowers. We ended up seeing Luxor Temple late that night, finishing up at 11:00 PM (!). Needless to say, they went away with a new appreciation of the Oriental Institute's activities out here, and excellent new relations were forged.

Finally, I am pleased and at the same time saddened to announce that after ten year's working with us in Luxor, John Darnell has accepted a teaching position at Yale University starting next fall and will leave the ES in August to take up his new duties in New Haven. We won't lose him entirely; he will return to Luxor for a short field season on his and Debbie's desert road project over the Christmas break next year. John has also agreed to continue working with us on the translation and analysis of the Ptolemaic religious texts at MHB (on which he has already done considerable work) for the second volume of the Medinet Habu small Amun temple series. I am happy to report that Debbie Darnell will

continue to work for the ES as librarian/ epigrapher, and Ted Castle will assume the position of Senior Epigrapher when John departs.

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HITTITE DICTIONARY / Harry Hoffner

Professor Harry Hoffner continues to supervise the ongoing work of the staff of the Hittite Dictionary Project. Just four months ago we published the end of the P volume of the Hittite Dictionary of the Oriental Institute. Reviews of the first installments of the P volume are still appearing. Recently, Prof. Volkert Haas of the Free University in Berlin reviewed one of these fascicles in the *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung*. He praised the CHD and expressed admiration for both the accuracy of our material and the speed of our output. Final drafts, needing only to be reference-checked, exist now for all the SA words. Drs. Güterbock and Beal are now revising first drafts of the SI words into final draft form. Dr. Hoffner is composing the long article on the adverb ser "above, upon." Dr. Soysal has been busy writing first drafts of words in the middle of the SU range. Recently he temporarily ceased work on these first drafts in order to prepare electronic transliterations of the texts that appeared in *Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköy*, vol. 37, most of which are in the ancient Hittite language, but with sections in Hittite.

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INDIVIDUALS
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Abbas Alizadeh

I am happy to announce the completion of the final manuscript of my Chogha Bonut excavations in 1996/97. The manuscript is now being reviewed by the Publication Review Committee, with luck it will appear sometime in 1999/2000.

My next project is the final publication of the seasons 1972-78 excavations at Chogha Mish. But before that, I am currently working with Janet Helman on a project to work out a system for the grammar of design of the Bakun pottery, which will eventually be incorporated in the final publication of the 1937 season of excavations at Bakun by Donald McCown.

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Elizabeth Friedman is continuing her pre-doctoral fellowship at Argonne National Laboratory where she is working with Ercan Alp of the Advance Photon Source. This cutting-edge collaborative effort involves the non-destructive use of synchrotron radiation to obtain quantified chemical compositions of archaeological material. A preliminary report of the analysis of soil samples from Lake Golbasi in the Amuq is being prepared for publication. A second project focuses on the copper and bronze artifacts from Tell al-Judaidah (Amuq F-H). In addition, Elizabeth is helping prepare the final publication of the highly successful University of Chicago/Argonne National Laboratory Joint Workshop which took place in August 1997.

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On December 15, 1997, Dr. Hripsime Haroutunian resumed her work on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project. During this time period she spent much of her time transliterating newly published cuneiform texts (about 30) from volume KBo 39, identifying them, matching them to similar fragments from the project files, finding duplicates, parallel fragments or joining pieces, and simultaneously keying them into the CHD server-computer.

Aside from this, she was further engaged in compiling the bibliography on the most recently published articles and books in the field, being the sole editor and publisher of the Newsletter for Anatolian Studies. She has almost finished collecting data for the upcoming issue of the Newsletter (vol. 13/1-2 1997) which will eventually appear in the next month.

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Harry A. Hoffner, Jr.

In addition to directing the Hittite Dictionary and his classroom preparation and teaching, Hoffner has been working on two major research projects for the past two months. First, he is revising and augmenting his manuscript of an introductory grammar of the Hittite language, which he will first send to selected colleagues for their criticism, and then submit for publication, perhaps by the autumn quarter. Secondly, he is preparing revisions and additions to his book *Hittite Myths* published by Scholars Press in Atlanta, Georgia, for a revised second edition. These revisions will hopefully be sent to the editor by the end of the first week of March. The major addition to the second edition will be the first complete translation in English of the Hurro-Hittite bilingual text "The Song of Release", whose official edition by Prof. Erich Neu of the University of Bochum is entitled *Das hurritische Epos der Freilassung I: Untersuchungen zu einem hurritisch-hethitischen Textensemble aus Hattusha* (Studien zu den Bogazköy-Texten, 32), Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1996.

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David Schloen

From September to December 1997 my family and I lived in Jerusalem, where I was a NEH fellow at the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research. My purpose in doing this was to devote a few months to sorting and quantifying thousands of pottery sherds excavated at Ashkelon during our annual summer campaigns from 1992 to 1996. This pottery was made in the decades immediately preceding the 604 BC. destruction of Philistine Ashkelon by the Neo-Babylonian army led by Nebuchadnezzar II. The unquestioned attribution of the massive late seventh-century destruction level we found at Ashkelon to this precisely dated historical event provides us with an opportunity to clarify the still-murky ceramic chronology of the Philistine region of southern coastal Palestine in the late Iron Age. Indirectly, it also permits us to pin down more securely the chronology of the so-called "East Greek" pottery manufactured during the last half of the seventh century in the eastern Aegean islands and the coast of Turkey, and exported in some quantity to Levantine coastal sites, including Ashkelon, where it makes up a substantial proportion of the fine imported ware found in our Babylonian destruction layer. Apart from these important chronological concerns and the intriguing questions raised by the presence of imports from far-flung locales, my aim is also to quantify fairly accurately (by counting, weighing, and summing preserved rim percentages) the spatial distribution of various types of vessels found throughout the excavated portions of the site in order to reconstruct the economic pattern of activities carried on in various rooms and buildings. This task is made feasible and meaningful by the tight chronological framework so conveniently provided by Nebuchadnezzar's "total destruction" policy and the extensive sealed destruction layer this produced, and by our "total collection" policy during the course of excavations, in which every sherd was gathered, no matter how humble. Of course, the resulting mountain of material available for study is rather daunting, but thanks to my recent extended stay in Jerusalem I was able to bring near completion a task which has occupied me for the past few summers. I can now proceed to a statistical analysis of the large quantity of data I have collected and the publication of both the data and my interpretations in a forthcoming volume devoted to seventh-century Ashkelon.

An advantage of living in Jerusalem while I was engaged in this project (apart from the beautiful weather) was the opportunity to break the tedium of sorting and measuring pottery by taking field trips and attending lectures organized by the Albright Institute. Together

with the other Albright fellows I visited on-going excavations at various sites in Israel, as well as a number of famous old sites (in the West Bank in particular) that would very much merit renewed excavation with modern methods if political circumstances ever permit this. The Albright lecture program was quite stimulating also, which is not surprising in view of the large number of archaeologists and historians of all nationalities who are concentrated in Jerusalem. I myself gave a lecture at the Albright Institute entitled "Demography and Domestic Space in Ancient Israel." I also gave guest lectures in the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (on designing computer databases for archaeological purposes), and at Tel Aviv University (on domestic architecture and household organization in Late Bronze Age Ugarit). All in all, it was a worthwhile venture--although I must say I was glad to return to Chicago and the prospect of not having to look at a single sherd for a few months at least.

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Matthew W. Stolper spent October and November 1997 teaching aspects of Achaemenid history, late Achaemenid Babylonian, and rudiments of Achaemenid Elamite at the Carsten Niebuhr Institute of the University of Copenhagen. Despite predictions that he would join melancholy Danish colleagues in watching the autumn shadows lengthen and plumbing existential misery, he had a great time.

Stolper gave a paper on "Late Achaemenid Archives" at a combination seminar and retreat for Danish and visiting American staff of the Carsten Niebuhr Institute in early November, and another version of the same paper at the Archaeologisches Institut at Hamburg University later in the month. Hoping for a short vacation in the south of France on the way home, he visited Pierre Briant, who inveigled him into participating in a day-long seminar on the Bisitun inscription of Darius the Great. He gave a presentation on "Darius et les rois menteurs (DB VP 16-53 = El., Bab. 15-42)," rendered into elegant written French by Briant and re-rendered into ludicrous spoken French by Stolper.

After sending off a short note on "Flogging and Plucking" as a legal punishment in Babylonian legal texts and in Classical accounts of Achaemenid court life for a volume devoted to Briant's recently published history of the Achaemenid Empire, and a review of Michael Jursa's book on temple agriculture in Neo-Babylonian Sippar (for JESHO), Stolper has returned to collaborating with Gene Gragg, Chuck Jones, John Sanders, and Michael Kozuh in preparing a searchable electronic edition of the Achaemenid royal inscriptions from Persepolis. A preliminary version of the project will be described in the forthcoming issue of News and Notes. The Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions project (ARI) is itself a stage of preparation for electronic publication of Achaemenid Elamite and Aramaic administrative tablets from Persepolis.

Mark Garrison, of Trinity University (San Antonio, TX) plans a visit to work on seal impressions on the Persepolis Fortification tablets, March 5-8.

Stolper is to participate in the centennial colloquium of Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft in Berlin, March 24-26. The colloquium is devoted to Babylon; Stolper will present a paper on the Kasr texts and their comparability to contemporary Achaemenid Babylonian legal archives.