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OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - MARCH 2000

UNITS

- COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders
- DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion
- MEMBERSHIP / Emily Napolitano
- PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban
- RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones
- TABLET ROOM / John A. Brinkman

PROJECTS

- EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

INDIVIDUALS

- PETER DORMAN
- CATHERINE MARDIKES
- ALEXANDRA O'BRIEN
- CLEMENS REICHEL
- DAVID SCHLOEN & AARON BURKE
- OGUZ SOYSAL
- EMILY TEETER
- DAVID TESTEN
- ASLIHAN YENER

HOW OTHERS SEE US...

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

February was spent mostly finishing up tasks started earlier in the year. Moving offices sure does take longer than one first expects!!!

The Archaeology Laboratory in the basement now has a color inkjet printer on-line and available for use by faculty and staff. Along those same lines, I upgraded the software needed by all of the Windows users in the building so that they can access the OI's AppleTalk network, printers, and Apple servers. Happy color printing to all!!!

The Research Archives now has two new workstations, one a PowerMac and one a Dell Windows 98 computer, both with 7-CD jukeboxes attached, now up and running, making even more on-line resources available to faculty, students, and staff. Of particular note here are the Archives' CDs with ANE-related dissertations from Univerity Microfilms, and back issues of Biblical Archaeology magazine on CD.

Thanks again to Chris Barnard, who helped on March 3rd to upgrade the operating system software on mithra-orinst, the last of our unix servers to be brought up to Y2K standards.

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#### DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

The campaign to reinstall the galleries had a healthy public phase kick off and is now at \$1,438,970 of the \$3,450,000 goal (42%). Of that amount, \$458,000 has been raised since November 1, 1999, which was the date at which the campaign went public.

Through February 29, 2000 (the first 8 months of the fiscal year), there were 1,268 Basic and Associate Membership gifts to the Institute, worth a total of \$88,832. These figures represent 47% and 67% increases over the respective figures for the 1998/99 fiscal year.

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#### MEMBERSHIP / Emily Napolitano

##### Members Lectures

The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Current Controversy Over Their Meaning  
Norman Golb  
Wednesday March 29  
8:00 pm, Breasted Hall (Reception Following)

With the publication of sixteen new volumes of Scroll texts since the freeing of the manuscripts in 1991, plus additional archaeological

investigation of Khirbet Qumran, new evidence has emerged casting further doubt on the Qumran/Essene theory of their origins. While some scholars now acknowledge the anomalies in the theory and increasingly look to Jerusalem as the Scrolls' point of origin, traditional Qumranologists, as shown in their writings and in recent and current exhibitions of the Scrolls, generally continue to protect the still popular early hypothesis. This lecture considers not only the main recent developments but also the stakes involved in the eventual outcome of the debate.

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#### PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

On February 25 Tom Urban and Linda McLarnan went to Chicago Press to watch the first sheets of CAD R come off the press. CAD R and S have been printed and are now in Michigan where they are to be bound. On April 7 we should have completed volumes available for sale.

David Weisberg's \_Neo-Babylonian Tablets in the OI Collection\_ was accepted for publication.

William Sumner's \_Excavations at Tal-e Malyan\_ was accepted for publication.

The index of Wente fs. is proving to be rather complicated, but we hope to send the ms. to press in March.

Work studies Simrit Dhesi and Blaine Conklin and volunteer Kathleen Mineck have helped considerably with Wente fs., Garrison/Root \_Seals from Persepolis\_, Meyer \_BUF '93\_, Teeter \_Scarabs and such from Medinet Habu\_, and Darnells \_Theban Road Inscriptins\_.

For word processing, the Publications Office recommends that people use either MS Word 5.1 or a typewriter. Do not use versions of Word beyond 5.1.

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#### RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

We continue to complete details of the reassembly of the Research Archives following the winter construction project. Both Xerox machines are back in place and heavily used. The exit signs and emergency lighting have been installed so we are now fully in compliance with fire safety code. We await the completion of the wiring to the tables. The lighting is still scheduled (as far as I know) to be installed during the summer.

We publicly announced the accessibility of the Research Archives on-line catalogue via the new Web interface at the beginning of February. We experienced some instability in the initial days of increased activity but have learned how to optimize both the hardware and the software making access substantially more reliable. We expect reliability and accuracy to increase, particularly upon the release and installation of a fixed version of one of the software components scheduled for this month (March 2000).

The catalogue is available at:  
<http://oilib.uchicago.edu/oilibcat.html>

The machine called "oilib.uchicago.edu" currently serves only the on-line catalogue. Since we installed the machine we have served 39,398 "pages" to 1,835 unique visitors. We have a core group of about three hundred users, about one hundred of which visit regularly. We have had visitors from fifty-five countries including such unexpected locations as Cuba and the Faroe Islands. The overwhelming majority of the traffic is, as expected, from North America, Europe, Japan, and Australia.

We continue to edit the catalogue dataset and to add entries for newly acquired material into the catalogue. We processed ninety new items during February.

In the Elizabeth Morse Genius reading room we have installed two workstations: one Macintosh and one Dell/Windows. Each of these is networked - each is also connected to a CD-ROM "jukebox" allowing access to materials based in that medium. Fourteen CD-ROMs are accessible at a time. We might be able to serve some of the data on these CD-ROMs over the local network. Anyone with an interest in this kind of access should contact me. Each of these machines also has, or will presently have, the suites of application software licensed

by the University of Chicago for general use. Both are available for general use at any time the reading room is open.

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#### TABLET ROOM / John A. Brinkman

Visitors during February included Anson Rainey (Tel Aviv), who collated our Amarna letter (Feb. 14), and Douglas Frayne (Toronto), who examined Early Dynastic inscriptions for a forthcoming Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia volume (Feb. 14). Markus Hilgert began work on Ur III tablets on Feb. 25.

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#### PROJECTS

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#### EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W Raymond Johnson

At Medinet Habu our documentation efforts continued in the bark sanctuary and ambulatory of the small Amun temple, with artists Margaret DeJong and Bernice Williams drawing inside the bark sanctuary, and epigraphers Ted Castle, Briant Bohleke, Brett McClain, Hratch Papazian, and artists Carol Abraczinskas and Sue Osgood working in the ambulatory. Tina DiCerbo continued to supervise the cleaning of Holscher's backfill in the back central sanctuary, coordinated the recovery of artifacts from that fill (primarily potsherds and miscellaneous granodiorite sculpture fragments), and is finishing that task as I write this. This week Yarko Kobylecky will photograph and Tina will plan the exposed foundations and debris sections prior to careful reburial this month. We have discovered that Hatshepsut built her stone sanctuary over an enigmatic, earlier enclosed area containing horizontal plastered layers going well below the present water table. These layers may be floor levels, or they may be something else (a mound?), and the feature seems to have gone unrecognized by Holscher. Whatever this area was, it was located behind an earlier stone sanctuary Hoscher found partly built into the front of Hatshepsut and Thutmosis III's bark sanctuary, it had its own mud-brick enclosure wall, and was important enough for Hatshepsut to 'cap' with her new stone temple.

Elsewhere at Medinet Habu, in the north well of Ramesses III, Yarko and Ellie continued the salvage photography of every square centimeter of decorated wall surface of the first sloping corridor. This is largely complete, and Yarko and Senior Epigrapher Ted Castle are now planning a new wooden platform which will extend as far as possible into the second descending corridor, also decorated, but mostly flooded, which will allow its photography as well.

In the Luxor Temple blockyard, we finished construction of a sink/basin emplacement which will contain and drain away from the blockyard water drawn by the temple guardians/gafirs. We have tried to be sensitive to their needs while ensuring a dry blockyard, since any moisture activates migration of salts trapped in the block fragments. Conservator Hiroko Kariya continued to treat decorated stone fragments from previous seasons, moved deteriorating fragments to the new treatment areas, and started to treat fragments from the Amenhotep III sun court earmarked for restoration on the east wall in a year. Nan Ray continued to order the blockyard the same way Ellie Smith orders our Photo Archives, tracking fragments moved from their storage mastaba platforms to treatment mastabas, making sure that every fragment has an assigned number, and painting numbers on the fragments which needed them. Later in the month Nan's husband David assisted in this process, and also helped paint numbers on the new mastabas. Last week the Chicago House epigraphers started work in the south blockyard, beginning a preliminary catalogue of eight rows of fragments presently on the ground which will be moved to some of the new damp-coursed mastabas by the end of the season, sorted and stored by category (Amenhotep III sanctuary, porch, or sun court; Tutankhamun Colonnade Hall; Ramesses II first court; etc).

In this busy season the month of February was noteworthy for an unusual density of groups and visitors, most from Chicago. During the first week Peter Dorman brought a VIP group from the Field Museum, including its Director John McCarter, for a library talk at the house and site visits to Medinet Habu and Luxor Temples. At the month's beginning we were pleased to welcome Art Institute Director Jim Wood and his wife Emese, who also enjoyed seeing our operation on both sides of the river, and later Ian Wardropper, The Art Institute's Curator of European Decorative Arts and Ancient Art, who came by with an Art Institute tour. Carlotta returned to Luxor February 4th, and has been a godsend with all of this. She and husband David (here in Cairo attending an Internet conference this

week) will be back in Chicago this coming weekend, and we will miss her sorely!

The Oriental Institute tours came through Luxor on February 24th, led by Emily Napolitano, John Larson and Robert Ritner; we gave them a library talk and festive reception that day, site visits of Medinet Habu on the 26th, and I lectured to the group later that afternoon on "The Legacy of Chicago House." They seemd to be having a terrific time, despite the initial delay in leaving Chicago because of snow.

OI Curator Emily Teeter joined the Chicago House staff from the 11th through the 21st to study the three Medinet Habu magazines with me to ascertain what still remained there from Holscher's excavations of the site. We found one magazine totally empty, one full of objects from all over the west bank (including, I have recently learned, from excavations of Amenhotep III's mortuary temple in the mid-sixties), and one housing fragmentary material (blocks and some sculpture fragments) which appear to be from the Medinet Habu complex, but which were recovered later than the OI/University of Chicago's excavations there. The empty magazine undoubtedly held small objects excavated by Holscher which were subsequently moved elsewhere; we are trying to track that material down now. Emily's visit allowed us to focus on the problems of what is there, and to incorporate plans for its proper storage and documentation into our short and long-range program for Medinet Habu.

Finally, on the last day of the month, February 29th, new President of the University of Chicago Don Randel and his wife Carol stopped by for casual drinks and dinner, to see Chicago House and relax a bit from their Cornell University tour. Carlotta and I gave them an impromptu library talk and tour of the complex, and Yarko gave them a special tour of the Photography Lab/darkroom facility, which they especially appreciated since they both are avid photographers. They professed a real admiration for the OI and its work, and I believe that their visit here was an excellent thing for the OI. We've been trying to get a UofC President out here for years!

Sue Osgood departed Chicago House for home at the end of the month, which always signals the bittersweet beginning of the end of the season. The next day Mary Grimshaw arrived for a month's work in the library, and perked us all up, particularly Dr. Henri, who now

has another 'victim' at the dominos table. It is wonderful to have her back with us.

In closing, I should note two milestones, one sad, and one joyous. As most of you know, our dear friend Ibrahim Sadek suffered a fatal stroke at the end of the month. He was a beloved friend of Chicago House, and to us all, and no one I know lived life more fully, or will be missed so much. On almost the same day, and after MUCH delay, Chicago House accountant Marlin Nassim gave birth to a bouncing baby boy, David. We extend our very best wishes and congratulations to Marlin and her husband Assem, and look forward to her return to Chicago House, with the little one in tow!

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INDIVIDUALS  
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PETER DORMAN

Peter Dorman led a tour to Egypt in early February for the Women's Board of the Field Museum, remaining in Egypt for a few days at the end to pursue some local research in Luxor, and incidentally enjoying a splendid dinner at Chicago House with the present staff of the Epigraphic Survey. He also gave the Members' Lecture at the Oriental Institute on February 23rd on his recent study on potters' and sculptors' workshops, and another presentation on February 26th in Los Angeles to the Southern California chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt on the topic of Senenmut, that international man of mystery and alleged lover of Hatshepsut.

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CATHERINE MARDIKES

By popular demand, we will be holding another workshop early next month on using the new Latin database, \*Bibliotheca Teubneriana Latina (BTL). Those who could not make the earlier workshop have set the date at Tuesday, March 7th at 3:30 pm in Room 504 on the fifth floor of Regenstein Library.



The first workshop went very well. Those who attended were especially impressed with the speed of the BTL program (searching the entire database takes seconds) and the increased number of wildcard options in searching.

Please let Janie Zuber know if you'd like to attend (jazuber@midway.uchicago.edu). If this date is not convenient, but you are interested in learning how to search the database, let Janie or me know and we can set up a tutorial or a smaller workshop. Thanks.

\*The Bibliotheca Teubneriana Latina (BTL) at present includes all the Latin texts of Antiquity from the beginning until the end of the second century A.D. It is a collection of over 600 works from almost 300 authors, including important Late Antique authors such as Ammianus Marcellinus and Macrobius. The BTL makes use of the most recent or best edition published by Teubner.

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ALEXANDRA O'BRIEN

Since graduating on December 10th, 1999 I have started a full-time position at the University of Chicago Press as "Site Licensing Coordinator" for the Journals Division. I have also been teaching "Beginning Demotic" this quarter and in the spring, which has allowed me to review the language myself as well as gain more teaching experience. In January I sent in the write-up of the paper I gave in Copenhagen at last summer's Seventh International Conference of Demotic Studies for the publication of that conference. If anyone needs to contact me they should email me at my alias: a-obrien@uchicago.edu. I am not reading mail at my old Midway account.

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CLEMENS REICHEL

In the past few months I have returned to my work on the tablets from Tell Asmar. I recently finished reading the Old Babylonian real estate documents (or so I think... until I find more), a highly

interesting corpus of material with a wealth of socio-historical information that I can now use for the next chapter of my dissertation. Getting our (FoxPro) database set up to sort out the genealogical complexities found in this material proved to be a bit more of a challenge than I had anticipated - the fact that everybody seems to be related to virtually everybody else was somehow tough to accept for the program - but most problems are solved by now.

Our volunteer Betsy Kremers has spent most of the last month with photographing these real estate documents. This was quite a challenge, since these texts are badly damaged and, above all, have seal impressions at the most awkward and unexpected places, which required elaborate prop-ups and rather complex lighting setups. The results are very good and I am very grateful for Betsy's patience with me and this material.

We had long realized that it would be very difficult to sort out the archaeological and stratigraphic complexities of the Diyála excavations without full access to all the excavation photos. Few of them have been published and by far not all of them are available in printed form. As a result our volunteer Joyce Weil, who has been scanning Diyala object photographs since 1996, has started to scan the large-scale excavation negatives from the Diyala excavations in September 1999 at the Digital Media Lab. These scans are done at 300 dpi, which is not good enough for publication but more than satisfactory for screen display. To present date Joyce has scanned about 800 images, which is about 2/3 of all the surviving field negatives. We are currently discussing in which way this data could be made accessible to scholars worldwide. A website with plans that would allow one to view the pictures by clicking at the locations shown in these images would be a relatively easy option.

The number of digitized object photographs is growing steadily and is (regrettably) piling up on my desktop. So far 2,850 of them have been processed and linked to the object databases. Another 2,000, either old photographs scanned by Joyce Weil or new photographs taken by Betsy Kremers, are awaiting this treatment. The 45 GB harddisk storage space that we were able to add to our equipment last year (replacing dozens of Jaz Cartridges that we had been using until then) have come in more than handy. Work certainly isn't running out yet but we're getting somewhere, step by step.....

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DAVID SCHLOEN & AARON BURKE

Ashkelon And Yaqush Projects:

Since September 1999 much has been accomplished towards the goal of entering and editing computerized data for the publication of both the Ashkelon project and the OI's own Yaqush excavation project. We have been using INFRA ("An Integrated Facility for Research in Archaeology"), the archaeological data management and electronic publication software developed by David and Sandra Schloen. The data entry work has been done by graduate students Aaron Burke, Joey Corbett, and Gabrielle Novacek, each of whom has also participated in excavations at Ashkelon during the past three years. Their experience in the field has proven to be very valuable for their ability to work with the original field notes in this process. We are grateful to the Harvard-based Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon and its director, Larry Stager, for direct financial support of our work, supplementing the OI's own contribution.

From September until late January our work has focused upon editing and verifying computer records from several seasons of excavation by the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon, especially the excavation of the Nebuchadnezzar destruction episode of 604 B.C. This project involved checking previously entered data and making sure that all information from the field books has been entered into the computer database, including digitized phase plans and stratigraphic sequence diagrams, both of which are linked to other data in the database, including thousands of digitized photographs. Our software provides the ability to record stratigraphic sequences directly in diagram form (using the "Harris Matrix" technique). Working with these diagrams on screen has proven to be an effective way of managing the data entry process, as we keep track of hundreds of individual architectural features and debris layers. These sequence diagrams, in combination with the digitized plans, also allow us to produce automatically various kinds of color-coded phase plans and distribution maps as needed.

At the start of February we shifted our attention to performing the same tasks for the Yaqush excavation project. The Early Bronze Age village site of Yaqush, located in the northern Jordan Valley in Israel, was excavated in 1989 and 1991 on behalf of the Oriental Institute

by the late Douglas Esse, who exposed about 1,000 square meters of the site. Further excavations were conducted there in 1995 by David Schloen, and a major excavation season is planned for spring 2000. We have our digging license in hand from the Israel Antiquities Authority and we have already recruited 50 volunteer diggers and 14 professional staff to dig with us six days per week for six weeks in May and June. We are collaborating in this with Dr. Timothy Harrison of the University of Toronto (formerly of the OI and a student of Douglas Esse, and a 1995 Chicago NELC Ph.D. graduate in Syro-Palestinian archaeology) and several of his graduate students. With such a large team we expect to achieve a major horizontal exposure of this well-preserved site, exposing the houses and street plan of a large part of the village, as well as articulating the complete sequence of occupation in various places, spanning the Early Bronze period from ca. 3500 to 2200 B.C. With the assistance of Amir Sumakai-Fink, another graduate student of Syro-Palestinian archaeology, we have been able to secure excellent air-conditioned accommodations at a kibbutz near the dig site at a very reasonable price, which will make our life easier as we work with this large team and offer our volunteers a first-class field school. The swimming pool is also a definite plus, especially for the Schloen and Harrison kids, who will be joining their parents on the dig.

In preparation for this major excavation at Yaqush we are working on preparing a verified, up-to-date database of all of the previously excavated material, including plans, photos, and the contents of all the field notebooks. We will take this database into the field with us and update it as we dig. The Yaqush excavation will provide an excellent test of the INFRA software's ability to record and manage digitized photos and plans in the course of excavation, providing us with an accurate and complete picture of what we have found as we continue to dig, and yielding a complete digitized archive of the data at the end of the season. In particular, because we intend to digitize new features and layers daily, we hope to produce top plans for which only the most recent changes must be edited. This means that we will draw each item only once and then reproduce it as often as necessary from the computer record without manual retracing, which will eliminate "wandering" loci and save a great deal of time.

After the Yaqush dig, David and Sandra Schloen and family and several Chicago graduate students will move on to Ashkelon, to participate in the 16th consecutive dig season of the Leon Levy Expedition with Larry Stager and other colleagues. The unique

experience of digging there will be shared with a wider audience by means of a major National Geographic feature article, to be published in September 2000.

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#### OGUZ SOYSAL

Oguz Soysal, research associate on the Hittite Dictionary Project, spent most of his time with writing articles on words beginning with "su". After five years work and about ninety articles he is now approaching the end of the "su-" words.

Aside from this, his research activities have continued to focus on the Hittite and Hattian languages. The following articles are expected to appear this year:

- 1) Hattice Arastirmalarinda Son Durum (IVth International Congress of Hittitology. Würzburg, Germany, Oct. 4-8, 1999)
- 2) Zum Nomen suwaru-. (For a German Festschrift, Germany)
- 3) Analysis of a Hittite Oracular Document. (Zeitschrift für Assyriologie 90/1, Germany)
- 4) A Practical Vocabulary from Ortaköy. (With Aygöl Suel) (For an American Festschrift, USA)
- 5) Bazi kayip, gözden kaçmiş ve yanlış saptanmış Hattice fragmanlar. (Archivum Anatolicum 4, Turkey)

His project "Ortaköy-Sapinuwa Epigraphical Research" which has been financially supported by the American Research Institute in Turkey with a research fellowship in 1999, continues as part of an Ankara-Chicago cooperation with Prof. Aygöl Suel. In February of this year the good news came from ARIT that another fellowship was granted for the research on the Ortakoy materials in 2000. He plans a trip to Turkey in late May in order to join Aygöl Suel and her team in Ankara.

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#### EMILY TEETER

In February I went to Medinet Habu in Luxor to inspect the artifacts from the Oriental Institute excavations of 1926-33. In the 1933



DAVID TESTEN

As in past years, there will be a practice session for U. of C. students and staff who are scheduled to deliver papers at the American Oriental Society (AOS) meeting. All are invited to come by the LaSalle Bank Room at 3:00 on Tuesday, 7 March; refreshments will be served. For further information contact David Testen at the CAD office (702-9543/dtesten@orinst.uchicago.edu).

Papers scheduled:

Shelley Luppert-Barnard  
"Assyrian Relations with Egypt during the Late Bronze Age"

Timothy Collins  
"The Amorous Worm: Creativity and Convention in an Old Babylonian Toothache Incantation"

Mary Bachvarova  
"Homer and the Hurrian-Hittite Song of Release"

David Testen  
"Palatalization and the Early Akkadian Sibilants"

The full schedule of the 200 American Oriental Society Meetings in Portland Oregon next weekend is at:  
<http://www.umich.edu/%7Eaos/2000/program2000.html>

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ASLIHAN YENER

I will be in the field in Turkey from May 21st to July 20th. My apartment is available for a housesitter who will be able to take care of my dog Charlie. She's playful, good natured and very lovable. Please let me know if any of you have students who may be interested as well.

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HOW OTHERS SEE US...

