

J
OISN
Mar 2001

MY 09 '01

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - MARCH 2001

RESEARCH ARCHIVES
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

UNITS

- COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders
- DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion
- PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban
- RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

PROJECTS

- EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

INDIVIDUALS

- MARK LEHNER

+++++

UNITS

+++++

COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

Work by our staff and volunteers on the 1905-7 Breasted Expedition to Egypt and Sudan photographs continued in February. We have almost 75% of the 1100+ photographs scanned at this point, and programming to create the captions and HTML pages for each photograph is almost complete. At this rate we'll be done by early April!

Discussions with NSIT continued regarding their hosting the OI website, its redesign, and new database backend capabilities.

We are starting to plan for new equipment needs in the Computer Lab for next fiscal year - I welcome any suggestions...

+++++

DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

All faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend the Institute's Naw Rouz (Persian New Year) celebration on Wednesday, March 28. Mansooreh Sabooris' new film, Children of the Sun, will be screened, and tours of the Persian gallery and a Haft Seen table will form part

of the festivities. The event is free, requires no registration, and runs from 6:00 to 8:30.

The Visiting Committee to the Oriental Institute met on February 14. After a brief business meeting, Committee Members attended their choices of presentations by Jason Ur (on Satellite Imagery and Hamoukar), Theo van den Hout (on Lydian), and Laura D'Alessandro and Karen L. Wilson on the Assyrian Reliefs. Most then enjoyed dinner at the Quad Club.

The membership drive's first major renewal month was successful. Almost 50% of those who joined in the fall 1999 membership drive renewed in February, the end of their initial memberships. Second notices have gone out to those who did not renew. So far in fiscal 2001 (which ends on June 30), our membership numbers and revenues are running about 15% below the membership drive year. I would imagine that we will close at about a 10% decline from last year and should be able to maintain that level until the next drive.

+--+

PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

OIP 117 -- Mark Garrison/Margaret Cool Root, Seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets: Most of the final page proofs have been returned. The authors, Mark Garrison and Margaret Cool Root, personally delivered most of the corrected proofs during the week of February 26. Charles Jones, who is contributing the readings of the seals inscribed in Elamite, joined the discussions, and the final steps that the manuscript will take on what has been a long and arduous journey have been agreed on by all.

OIP 118 -- Emily Teeter, Cowroids, Lentoids, Plaques, Scaraboids, and Scarabs from Medinet Habu: A format for the 350 catalog entries was decided upon, and the 1,036 scans (ca. 2,000 images) are being placed in the plate section.

OIP 119 -- John Darnell, Rock Inscriptions in the Theban Desert at Gebel Tjauti and Wadi el-Hol: The section on inscriptions from Gebel Tjauti has reached its final form; the Wadi el-Hol section is nearly complete. An interesting achievement was made during the preparation of this manuscript. John Darnell requested that his hand-drawn hieroglyphic transcriptions be reproduced in computer-

generated form. To do so, Tom Dousa was hired to create the glyphs with MacScribe. It was soon discovered that MacScribe could not put together the complicated and unique groupings, and -- even with its nearly 5,000 glyphs -- MacScribe did not have several of the glyphs. To overcome these deficiencies, Tom devised a method of combining the capabilities of MacScribe and PageMaker to construct the groupings. For the unavailable glyphs, Tom printed glyphs that were close in appearance to those needed, scanned them, altered their appearances in Photoshop, and then plugged the newly-created glyphs into the groupings in PageMaker.

OIP 120 -- Abbas Alizadeh, Excavations at Chogha Bonut, Iran: About one-half of the scanning has been completed, and the manuscript has undergone its first reading.

OIP 121 -- Markus Hilgert, Drehem Administrative Documents from the Reign of Amar-Suena: About one-half of the Tek files have been converted to Microsoft Word, where they are being given an initial formatting. The font being used for this manuscript is Lloyd Andersen's AssyrianTrAbc.

News & Notes 169 was prepared and printed.

SAOC 59 -- Sam Wolff, ed., Studies in Memory of Douglas L. Esse: This 700-page manuscript was read, and page proofs were returned to the editor and thirty-four contributors.

+++++

RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The Acquisitions List covering November and December 2000 appeared in early February on the RABooks List and on the Web at: <http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/RABooks.html>

The on-line catalogue again served nearly twenty-six thousand documents in thirty-three hundred user sessions from just under twelve hundred discreet users during February 2001. This works out to about 123 users per day for the past month. We now average six hundred requests per day to the server:
<http://oilib.uchicago.edu/oilibcat.html>

During February we began the process of entering all analytical records directly into the on-line catalogue. We upload the catalogue to the Web once a week. Once we have worked through the backlog in the next month or so, each item acquired in the Research Archives will not only have a main entry record in the catalogue, but also a complete set of records for each essay, article, and review appearing within it, by the time it appears on the new book shelf.

The scaffolding you see being erected on the west and south sides of the building and the noises you may occasionally notice above the ceiling are part of the preparations to complete the roofing project begun last year. This year's task is to replace the roof on the west side of the Oriental Institute.

When the roofers begin in earnest in the next couple of weeks they will begin by removing the tiles on this wing. This phase will be merely noisy.

The second phase involves the removal of the sagging concrete beams. During this phase no one will be allowed under the roof while the crane is active. Consequently, the Research Archives will be closed in the morning and early afternoon. We plan on having additional evening hours during this period to accommodate readers' needs. This is likely to begin within the next couple of weeks.

We will announce these hours as soon as we know the roofing schedule.

+++++
PROJECTS
+++++

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

On February 7 The American Research Center in Egypt sponsored a Cairo memorial service for Bill Murnane, and the occasion was well-attended by a wide cross-section of Bill's friends and colleagues, including Carlotta Maher and me, the ARCE staff, ARCE Director Bob Springborg and his wife Ann Marie, Chip Vincent, Lanny Bell, Ted and Lyla Brock, Rainer and Hourig Stadelmann, Kelly Simpson, Faisa Haikal, May Trad, Richard Fazzini and Mary McKercher, Cynthia Sheikholeslami, and even SCA Chairman Dr. Gaballa, among many others. Bob Springborg said a few words, then Richard Fazzini

introduced the speakers: first former ES Director Chuck Van Siclen, then me, and finally Peter Brand, who has succeeded Bill as Director of the Karnak Hypostyle Hall Epigraphic Project. Chuck told stories about his and Bill's experiences as students, his qualities as a scholar, and as a friend. I spoke about my experiences with Bill at Chicago House, and related some of the stories of his own experiences here which he so loved to tell. Peter Brand talked about Bill as a teacher and mentor. Reminiscing made us even more mindful of what we, and the field of Egyptology, have lost.

The epigraphic and conservation work in Luxor continued full throttle on both temple sites this past month. At Medinet Habu the artists transferred their operation from the interior of the bark sanctuary, where statue reconstruction began in earnest, to the Akoris doorway on the north of the ambulatory, and to the east porch of the Kushite Pylon, which will be published in volume 3 of the small Amun temple series. We started with the screen walls between the papyrus-bundle columns which present some very interesting epigraphic problems; all were recarved and stylistically "updated" in the Ptolemaic period from earlier reliefs, which by the traces seem to date either to the 25th or 26th Dynasties. To make matters more confusing, the cartouches have all been scooped out and recarved with Nectanebo I's names, although he is certainly not the originator of the reliefs. There are even indications that the screen walls came from elsewhere and were modified to fit the new columns! These are the sorts of problems which are tailor made for the Epigraphic Survey, and I suspect that as the recording and collating proceeds we will be able to shed some new light on its enigmatic history (since no one looks at these monuments quite as closely as we do!).

The epigraphers continued the collation of drawings from the 18th Dynasty bark sanctuary ambulatory, particularly the square pillars. The epigraphers have also started a digital, hieroglyphic paleography file of images from parallel monuments with well-preserved inscriptions for use as a guide in our own recording work. Once the images are photographed (with an Olympus digital camera) the images are downloaded to a zip disk, categorized according to the Gardiner sign list, and eventually will be burned onto CD-ROM for reference. Also at the small Amun temple, stonecutter Dany Roy with conservator Lotfi Hassan drilled dowel hole emplacements in the three largest statue fragments in preparation for its reassembly and glued the first of the base pieces to the body of the statue. Last

week Dany moved the large body and base fragments into the first chamber of the sanctuary, where they will be put back together after the Bairam holiday, at the end of this week. Also in the temple proper, Lotfi, assistant Adel, and conservation student/assistant Nahed continued the cleaning and infilling of the southeastern sanctuary room painted reliefs.

At Luxor Temple conservator Hiroko Kariya and assistant Nan Ray continued the monitoring and treatment of the decaying decorated sandstone fragments in the ES blockyard. They were joined by Nan's husband David (on the 17th), who is kindly helping track and move the various fragment groups, and conservator John Stewart (on the 19th), who has coordinated the fragment consolidation work for the duration of our EAP grant, and before, under Lanny Bell. On the 13th EAP Director Chip Vincent, EAP Technical Director Jarek Dobrolowski, and ARCE Director Bob Springborg visited Luxor for a two and a half day review of the local EAP projects, including ours.

Photo Archivist Sue Lezon returned to us in mid-month and will be with us till the end of the season. She has resumed coordinating the digital scanning of all the negatives in our Photo Archive, the entry of scanned images onto our database, and the cleaning and conservation of the glass-plate negatives currently being scanned.

The OI tour, led this year by Robert Ritner, hit Luxor on the 9th of February, and Chicago House hosted a library talk and courtyard reception for them on the 11th. Site visits of course included Luxor and Medinet Habu temples, where I showed the group our works - in - progress, and Robert was able to return for a week's research in Luxor after the tour ended, on the 17th. It was a particular pleasure to have Robert join us onsite at Medinet Habu for some tricky Ptolemaic inscriptions, and we look forward to more sessions in future seasons. I should mention here that we deeply regret the tragic death in Chicago of Oriental Institute docent Joyce Weil, shortly after her return from this tour.

Visitors this month included Lorelei Corcoran of the University of Memphis, Janet Richards of the University of Michigan/Kelsy Museum Mission to Abydos, and Justine Way with husband Justin. US Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, his family and some friends were in town for three days the weekend of the 16th; Ted Castle gave them a tour of the west bank one day, while I guided them through the east bank sites during the next two days. On the 17th we hosted a

reception for the Ambassador in the CH residence courtyard, and were delighted when the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Dr. Gaballa, dropped by with SCA Director of Upper Egypt Sabry Abdel Azziz. One of the things we discussed was the Luxor groundwater issues roundtable which the Ambassador and Chicago House is hosting on March 18th.

A couple of days later a US Congressional Delegation came to Luxor headed by Senator Ted Stevens (R, Alaska), US Appropriations Committee, who was responsible for convincing Congress to allocate some AID funding for conservation projects in Egypt a decade ago; they were here to see how that money was being spent, and what the reaction to the appropriation had been. This was a golden opportunity to show them firsthand how important, and how crucial, US funding of this sort is for Egypt, particularly at this critical time, with decay of the monuments accelerating so rapidly. The other Senators in the delegation were Pat Roberts (R, Kansas); Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R, Colorado); Conrad Burns (R, Montana); and John Warner (R, Virginia). EAP Director Chip Vincent and I conducted onsite briefings with them on the AID-funded projects in Luxor, including our two EAP-funded documentation and conservation projects at Luxor and Medinet Habu temples, and the current EAP Flood Mitigation Project in the Valley of the Kings, and as many other sites in the area as we had time for that day. They left Luxor with a new knowledge, and appreciation, of what our US aid money is funding, with the promise to look into ways to keep that funding coming. Keep your fingers crossed!

The last two days of February former ES epigrapher Hratch Papazian returned to Luxor with friends ComEd Director John Rowe and his wife Jeanne, and during that time we were pleased to show them our work, and have them to dinner with us on the 28th. They were having a terrific time with Hratch, and I was amused to find out that John was Director of Central Maine Power Company in the mid-80s, based in Augusta, Maine, where I had attended High School! Small world...

On March 1st our dear Mary Grimshaw returned for a month's volunteer work with us and is now working with Emily Napolitano in the front office and Sue Lezon in the Photo Archives. She adds a special element to this place, and it is a special treat to have her back.

Finally, day before yesterday the Tom Heagy tour organized by the OI and led by Emily Teeter and husband Joe Cain blew into town. We had all twenty-one of them for a library talk and a courtyard dinner last night, and I took them through the Amenhotep III mortuary temple and the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu this morning. Because we are in the middle of the great four-day Bairam Festival (which is finished on Thursday), no one is working onsite at the moment, but I was able to describe our work, and show them where it is going on. Tomorrow I will be taking them to Luxor Temple, before the group heads south to Aswan. Last night I presented Tom with a special photograph taken of our crew posed around (and on top of) the Toyota minivan which Tom and the LaSalle National Bank donated to Chicago House six years ago, by way of thanks. It came a little late, in part because it took us four years to register the thing! (That's another story...). But we now wonder how we ever managed without it before, and our appreciation is heartfelt.

All best wishes to all from all of us here in Luxor. I probably shouldn't tell you that it is already beginning to heat up, and has been in the upper 80s for the last week! Yikes!

+++++
INDIVIDUALS
+++++

MARK LEHNER

The following is another dispatch from the field, from our Giza Plateau Mapping Project excavations at the Giza Pyramids, 400 meters south of the Sphinx. I write these dispatches to keep you abreast of our progress, to record the process of discovery, and to inform supporters, colleagues, team members, friends and family. I don't expect all recipients to read all the dispatches, which can be long and detailed. The dispatches are written off the top of my head without reference books and journals, and without much editing. Therefore, you should regard the observations and information as raw and preliminary. If you do choose to read on, the dispatch is probably best read from printed hard copy. A map of the site is pretty much required to follow the text. You may have such a map in our recent AERAGRAM newsletter. However, here I report on our most recent findings in the far northwestern part of the site, which are not included in the maps we have so far published.

GRANITE DUST AND THE HIGH PLACE: SUMMARY

1. The Granite Dust: WCE

We found a thick layer of granite dust off the east end of the Wall of the Crow. This must be evidence of extensive working of granite blocks, or some granite monument at this spot.

2. Two Compounds Off the Crow Wall -- Operation WCS

Along the south side of the Wall of the Crow we have found two large compounds enclosed by fieldstone walls. There are hearths, ash, flints and mud basins inside small rooms within the Eastern Compound.

3. A Simple Stratigraphic Fact: Floods and the Crow Wall

Our deep excavation trench to the base of the Wall of the Crow indicates that in order to make its foundation, its builders cut through an older mud deposit, possibly from Nile floods.

4. The Wall Askew and the Western Gate of Main Street

A thick fieldstone wall that runs south at an odd angle askew to the Wall of the Crow was the western boundary of most of our site. We found a gate in the Wall Askew at the far western end of Main Street.

5. The High Place

A large rectangular tract of high ground just beside the gate in the Wall of the Crow may contain the remains of a building with elements of fine red granite and casing of fine white limestone.

GRANITE DUST AND THE HIGH PLACE

It has been a month since my last dispatch from the field. I went home for a family visit that spanned three weekends. Now we have nearly a full week off for the Islamic Bhairam holiday, which allows me to catch you up. I returned last Monday, February 26, to find two new areas of interest emerging from the progress made in my absence. These areas of imminent discovery are reflected in the title of this dispatch.

I owe thanks to Mohsen Kamal, who supervised the work on site while I was away, to Justine Way, for her management of the villa,

and to Mary Anne Murray and Richard Redding, who took over house management from Justine in the second week of February.

1. The Granite Dust: WCE

When I left, Tobias Tonner of Tübingen was supervising operation WCE (Wall of the Crow East), a large excavation at the very end of the Wall of the Crow. He recorded each and every sandy layer, producing a 3-D rendering in his computer. Many of these layers turned out to be backfill from fairly recent excavations. As he cleared, the top of the east end of the Crow Wall sloped ever deeper and farther east. I thought this slope might be because the wall was never finished, and that it reflected the fact that the builders lengthened the wall from working west to east. The slope would serve as a ramp to haul stones up to the higher courses. Now it appears that stone was robbed from the east working west, and this removal created the slope. At the bottom of the sandy layers, Tobias found a cache of limestone splinters and chips where some of the limestone blocks of the wall had been broken up. Nearby lay fragments of Late Period amphorae jars, like those we find associated with the Late Period burials across the northwestern part of our site.

Under the sandy layers Tobias came onto a thick deposit of mixed sand and granite dust. Granite dust results from granite being pounded or dressed smooth. It ranges from light gray to sky blue because of the blending of the red feldspar, black hornblende, white quartz, and clear mica particles that in compressed aggregate make up granite.

In 1979, when I excavated ancient deposits left by earlier excavators along the base of the north wall of the Sphinx Temple at Giza, I found sky blue granite dust in a socket cut in the floor to receive the granite casing of the wall. The granite casing blocks had been ripped out in ancient times, but the line of the granite facing was indicated by just where the granite dust stopped. The granite dust fell and collected here as the temple builders sanded the wall smooth, then it was preserved under the alabaster paving when the builders laid the flooring up against the granite wall. When despoilers removed the floor and wall cladding, the granite dust remained, covered by the debris of their demolition, testifying that the wall had once been finished in granite casing.

But why do we find granite dust just off the east end of the Wall of the Crow? Here, either some large monument of granite was dressed smooth, or many granite blocks were worked. The sand and granite dust mixture covers the entire 10 X 10 meter area that Tobias worked down through the tall sandy overburden. This mix is likely cast-up from digging many graves of the Late Period. In one small patch we can see a lower layer of more pure granite dust, in which there are the outlines of parts of typical thin mud coffins of the Late Period (2,000 years after the Giza Pyramid builders).

These Late Period graves are still obstructing us. Jessica Holst Kaiser and her husband Kevin Kaiser are making a heroic effort -- still in that square 4.Z6 where, as I have mentioned several times in previous dispatches, we think the northwest corner of Gallery Set I should lie. 4.Z6 is a 5 x 5 meter square with an estimated 30 burials. Two more such squares lie between it and the end of the Wall of the Crow. We desperately want to know the contact between our Galleries and the Crow Wall. Yet as many as 60 burials may well lie in the two small excavation squares between 4.Z6 and the Wall. As many as 120 might be in the 10 X 10 area off the end of the Crow Wall, in WCE.

So, to telescope what might lie below the burials and the granite dust, we had Glen Dash come in for some remote sensing in WCE. Glen is pretty confident of his new radar unit, which seems to be working better for wall detection than the magnetometry he used last year. After dragging his hefty radar box in several passes across the 10 X 10 meters of WCE, Glen reported there must be a very thick, slab-like construction about 2 meters down, on-line with the Wall of the Crow. Most probably this is the foundation of the Crow Wall. If so, it once ran at least another 10 meters east. It is possible that the Crow Wall extended much farther east, and that its upper courses were stripped away, the blocks broken up for reuse elsewhere. But this still doesn't explain the thick layer of granite dust. Only further excavation will.

2. Two Compounds Off the Crow Wall -- Operation WCS

In my last dispatch I wrote about two thick fieldstone walls that run southward from the south side of the Wall of the Crow. Fiona Baker and Paul Sharman have been working for more than three weeks now in WCS, a 15 meter wide swath along the south side of the Crow

Wall. They have excavated two large compounds or enclosures bordered by these walls, one on the east and one on the west.

The Eastern Compound takes in a bakery that we excavated in 1991 (at that time this spot was the bottom of a great crater in the overburden). The Eastern Compound is bordered on the north by a thick fieldstone wall that runs parallel and close beside the Wall of the Crow, leaving a corridor of about 1.5 meters, so people could pass between the Eastern Compound and the Crow Wall. The Eastern Compound, 27.5 meters wide, is divided in half by a north-south fieldstone wall, 1.7 meters thick. This makes two large rectangular enclosures, each about 11 to 12 meters wide. In the western enclosure of short walls project off the thick enclosure wall to make small rooms. In these rooms Paul Sharman is finding flints, hearths, ash, and little mud-lined basins. We now see that our 1991 bakery is in the southeast corner of the western enclosure of the Eastern Compound. The fieldstone walls of the Eastern Compound continue south beyond our clearing of the final sand cover.

The Western Compound, about 17 meters west of the Eastern Compound, is enclosed by on its east side by a fieldstone wall about 1.4 meters thick, and on its north side by a fieldstone wall about 2 meters thick. Between the north wall of the Western Compound and the Wall of the Crow runs a corridor 4 meters wide on the east end, and 5.2 meters wide on the west end, which is very near the big gate in the Wall of the Crow. This corridor is filled with construction debris, probably from making the Wall of the Crow. The debris consists of tafla and limestone chips and some granite dust. It looks like the north wall of the Western Compound was built up against this standing debris. Inside the compound, thinner fieldstone walls form rooms attached to the thick enclosure walls. At the far western side of our cleared area (WCS) Fiona found the foundations of what could have been a tower. It is a square-ish structure, 3.7 east-west by 4 meters north-south. There seems to be no entrance to the inside which is about 2.4 meters square (love those details!!). A corridor, about 1 meter side runs along the east and west sides of the "tower."

This "tower" is only several meters south and east of the gate or doorway through the Wall of the Crow. Our loader driver, Mohammed Mussilhi, left tall protective piles of overburden on those several meters. It is time now to remove the piles, so as to see how

the Western Compound and its possible tower relate to this giant doorway.

3. A Simple Stratigraphic Fact: Floods and the Crow Wall

As I reported in my last dispatch, in 1991 we excavated a trench, 2 meters wide, perpendicular to the base of the Wall of the Crow to get a look at its foundation. I also reported that, underneath a series of layers of masons' chips, "a thick layer of dense black and lumpy alluvial mud runs just to the top of the foundation block that juts out from the line of the wall. Just under the alluvial mud layer, there appears to be a thinner paving of desert marl clay (tafla), just like the floors on the well-maintained rooms within the gallery system."

From 1991 until I wrote that last dispatch, we were overlooking a small, but extremely important fact of stratigraphy. Stratigraphy is the recording of strata, or layers. This is essential to systematic archaeology. A common stratigraphic feature, crucial for dating ancient architecture, is the foundation trench. Traditional builders would dig a trench in which they would lay in the foundations of a wall, be it of stone or mudbrick. In the old days of "archaeological" excavation, diggers would trench along walls to follow them, thereby destroying the relationships between strata or layers and the wall. Do the layers run underneath the wall or up against the wall? Did the builders' foundation trench cut through older layers? Or do adjacent layers run over the top of the foundation trench to hit the wall? Knowing the answers to these simple questions is crucial because a wall foundation can be cut down into layers that are much, much older than the wall. But if you obliterate the foundation trench, these layers could be interpreted as floor layers contemporary with the wall.

In 1991 we missed the cut of the foundation trench for laying in the foundation blocks of the Wall of the Crow. In the sections of the 1991 2-meter trench, Fiona and Paul noticed the foundation trench -- which is not very big, only about 8 to 18 centimeters wide. This is rather subtle for such a colossal construction as the Wall of the Crow (10 meters high and probably more than 12 meters wide at the base), but the cut of the foundation trench through the thick (14 cm) alluvial mud and marl paving layers is unmistakable.

This means that the mud and marl layers were there before the Wall of the Crow was built. The mud and marl probably does not indicate

the paving of a street -- a north-south Broadway as I so boldly hypothesized in my last dispatch. (Oh well! Hypothesizing is the basis for all human cognition according to some developmental psychologists like Jerome Brunner). We have thought that the alluvial black clumpy mud was laid down by people (anthropogenic). We now wonder if it could have been laid down by water -- Nile floodwater coming in from the north. In the middle to southern part of the trench, there are lenses, or overlapping layers of mud, separated by thin sandy layers. This is somewhat similar to the muddy and sandy sequence that includes Nile flood deposits in the northeastern part of our site that Karl Butzer studied. If, as Egyptologists have long believed (though there are now doubters), water reached the valley temples attached to the pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure (at least during flood season), it had to reach far enough west to cover the general area north of the entire length of the Wall of Crow. Could this be the source of the thick muddy layer that was cut through for building the Wall of the Crow?

4. The Wall Askew and the Western Gate of Main Street

The 1991 trench in which we found the cut for the foundation trench of the Wall of the Crow is about centered in an open area between the Eastern and Western Compounds. This open area is about 16 meters wide at the north near the Wall of the Crow, and about 14 meters wide 15 meters at the southern limit of area WCS. The trapezoidal shape is because of the Wall Askew which runs close beside the eastern wall of the Western Compound, but not parallel to it. The north-south walls of the Eastern and Western Compounds are almost perpendicular to the great Wall of the Crow, which is angled about 5.5 degrees north of true east. The compound walls are about 3.5 degrees east of true south. Our gallery walls and the whole system of walls across our site is turned slight counterclockwise to the cardinal directions. But the Wall Askew is turned even more than all the other architecture, running south at an angle 97 degrees / 87 degrees with respect to the Wall of the Crow, or about 13 degrees east of due south.

When I wrote my last dispatch I thought the linear mound of toppled fieldstones here was one great wall (the west side of my hypothetical north-south "Broadway"). When Fiona Baker cleared this mounded deposit, it turned out to be two walls -- the eastern wall of the Western Compound, and the Wall Askew, which is 2 meters thick. The two walls are only 50 centimeters apart at the west end of the

Western Compound, and about 1.05 meters apart at the south limit of the WCS excavation. The difference reflects the amount that the Wall Askew is askew to the Western Compound

Now, as Fiona was clearing this arrangement, Mohsen Kamal supervised Reis Shehat and the workers as they stripped the lowest sandy overburden following Main Street westward from our farthest clearing west as of May 2000. They cleared the sunken track of Main Street - sunken between the north and south fieldstone walls that define the street - - another 15 meters west. There the street stops between two stony humps. These humps turned out to be the north and south sides of the true western gate of Main Street, about 4 meters wide. This gate is 53.50 meters west of the entrance of Main Street into Gallery Sets II and III. The far western gate is an opening in the continuation of the 2-meter thick fieldstone Wall Askew that Fiona cleared 88 meters to the north where it attaches to the Wall of the Crow.

+++++