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OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST TUESDAY - MARCH 2002

RESEARCH ARCHIVES - DIRECTOR'S LIBRARY
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The 2000-2001 Oriental Institute Annual Report was made available on the OI website in early February, and all appropriate units of the building had links added to their homepages. The Publications Office's Print Publications Catalog - February 2002 was also made available on the website in February, using Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF).

George Sundell, a volunteer and former AT&T database administrator consulting with the Diyala Publications Project, has the Oracle 9i database installed on the 800MHz Dell computer in the Computer Lab, and the first FoxPro database files with Diyala artifact information are about to be ported to their new, Oracle-based, home. Many conversion bugs and difficulties await, as the Oracle program is a much more robust database environment, but we are taking the first baby steps now and real progress will follow...

Events conspired against my completing, during February, the photo editing for the new Archaeological Site Photography section on the website. It looks good for March, however.

Lab Assistant, Katherine Strange Burke, continued HTML processing of the 1980 Institute publication Ptolemais Cyrenaica, by David Nasgowitz, for inclusion in the Photographic Archives section of the OI website.

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MUSEUM / Karen L. Wilson

Work on the North Gallery proceeded at a rapid pace last month, and we are nearly ready to begin installation of some cases. The window shades have been installed, the globe lights all have new bulbs, and the Khorsabad Court has been dramatically lit by our lighting consultant, Schuler & Shook. All the Guenschel cases are in place and are in the process of having their lighting completed. The walls around the Babylon lions and the Khorsabad reliefs have received their final coats of plaster and are ready to be painted, and the computer kiosk, complete with sound cones, is in place in the Visitor Orientation Center. If you haven't had a chance to look in and would like to do so, just ask a member of the museum staff, and we will be glad to show you how wonderful it all looks.

A treasure hunt for ancient animals, the opportunity to x-ray a mummy, and an up-close and personal encounter with King Tut are but a few of the new activities awaiting families who visit the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. Created during a two-year research and development project supported by the Polk Bros. Foundation, these activities were produced by Museum Education in partnership with parents, students, and administrators of the North Kenwood/Oakland (NK/O) Charter School.

Focusing on ways parents and their children can explore the ancient past, the new activities are designed as self-guided learning experiences that are available whenever families visit the Oriental Institute. Included are:

-- A rich array of full-color Family Activity Cards that direct parents and children to search for and make discoveries about specific artifacts

- Gallery treasure hunts featuring learning activities related to specific topics or ideas, such as ancient animals, or mummification
- Brightly colored, large-sized, family-friendly exhibit labeling for our statue of King Tut
- A computer kiosk where children and parents can take part in "hands-on," interactive experiences, such as sending a mummy through an x-ray machine, reconstructing an ancient stele, or selecting foods to serve at an ancient banquet.

Creating a sustainable and educationally sound family program was our project's major goal. This was successfully accomplished due to the work of a team that had all the levels of expertise needed to reach that goal.

- Anna Rochester, Project Coordinator,
- Nitzan Mekel-Bobrov, Computer Program Designer
- Joe Scott and Elliott Weiss, who designed and installed displays
- Families and educators from the North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School, who helped develop and then test materials and activities.
- Jane Dowling of Wellington Consulting Group, Ltd., who served as educational evaluator

Special thanks also go to Oriental Institute faculty and staff, whose participation ensured that final products would reflect the latest research on the ancient Near East, and to Wendy Ennes, who assumed the position of Project Coordinator in fall 2001 and saw all programs through to completion. The entire project, a two-year initiative, was generously supported by the Polk Bros. Foundation.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Names to put with faces in rooms 227, 229, and 231: Tom Holland, Tom Urban, Curtis Myers (sales), Leslie Schramer (student help), and Munira Khayyat (student help)

CHD S/1 (Güterbock/Hoffner/van den Hout, eds.): All corrections have been entered, and the final formatting has begun.

OIP 118 _Scarabs ... from Medinet Habu, Volume 1_ (Teeter): The catalog was put together and final copy editing has begun.

OIP 119 _Theban Desert Road Survey, Volume 1 ..._ (Darnell): All of the corrections noted on the pages returned by the author have been entered, but all of the pages were not returned and we await their receipt.

OIP 120 _Chogha Bonut_ (Alizadeh): All of the figures were scanned and are being cleaned up.

OIP 121 _Ur III Administrative Documents ... from Reign of Amar-Suena_ (Hilgert): The author's first set of corrections are being entered.

OIP [122??] _Neo-Babylonian Texts of the Oriental Institute Collection_ (Weisberg): The author's Word Perfect files were converted to MSWord by Annette Hughes of Technomic, Inc. Much like OIP 121, most of the diacritics will have to be re-entered and checked by the author.

Publications Sales Catalog: The catalog of available titles was updated, distributed in house, and put on the web in PDF format.

News & Notes Spring 2002 issue was prepared for printing.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The RABooks list [Acquisitions Lists of The Oriental Institute Research Archives] has been reborn using software provided by the University. Information on the lists is available at the University's listhost Web site at:

<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/rabooks>

as well as at the Oriental Institute Web site at:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/RABooks.html>

where each of the Acquisitions Lists we have broadcast so far via this medium are archived:

Acquisitions Lists

1.Acquisitions - February 2000.

2.Acquisitions - March 2000.

- 3.Acquisitions - April 2000.
- 4.Acquisitions - May 2000.
- 5.Acquisitions - June 2000.
- 6.Acquisitions - July 2000.
- 7.Acquisitions - August-September 2000.
- 8.Acquisitions - October 2000.
- 9.Acquisitions - November-December 2000.
- 10.Acquisitions - January-February 2001.
- 11.Acquisitions - March-April 2001.
- 12.Acquisitions - May-June 2001.
- 13.Acquisitions - July-August 2001.

Supplements

- 1.Dissertations Available in the Research Archives in .pdf format.
(October 16, 2000)

At present, 432 addresses are subscribed to RABooks

The new version of Abzu continues to approach readiness for a formal launch.

Those interested in browsing the new version can look at it at:

<http://www.etana.org/abzu>

966 items have been added in recent days and the harvest of data from the old version at:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/ABZU.HTML>

is nearly complete. I will be grateful for feedback.

Kathy Wagner joined the staff of the Research Archives this month. She will be working the Sunday 11AM-3PM shift, and additional hours during the week

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TABLET COLLECTION / John A. Brinkman

Changing of the Guard. On the afternoon of March 1, Walter Farber assumed the responsibilities of curator of the tablet collection; and John Brinkman became curator emeritus.

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TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP / Chuck Jones

We will have a meeting of the Technology Discussion Group on Friday March 8th at 10 AM.

Patrick Durusau, Director of Research and Development for the Society of Biblical Literature will give an informal presentation:

"Standards and Scholars: Shaping the Future Intellectual Landscape"

An examination of the current standards activities of the Society of Biblical Literature generally and in particular, opportunities for shaping the future intellectual landscape for scholars. International standards underlie the next generation of software that will be used by most scholars. The SBL has undertaken to provide some voice to scholarly concerns and needs in various standards bodies (OASIS and the ISO). A topic of special interest is the recent call for development of public subject identifiers (PSIs) which are a way to provide a common definition to terms in a particular field of study. That particular work is part of the activity of a committee at OASIS of which the SBL is a member. (Patrick Durusau is an original and founding member of Topicmaps.org and participates in ISO standards activities as part of the American delegation from INCITS (committee V1).

Watch for notices indicating the location of the discussion.

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PROJECTS
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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

February has been a full and productive time in Luxor, as the seasons begin to change and the winter cold is gradually being replaced with warmer weather (and sandstorms). At Medinet Habu the epigraphy, conservation, and restoration work made good progress. Epigrapher and librarian Steven Shubert finished his 'basic training' at the wall this month and began 'real' collations on the small Amun temple bark sanctuary exterior south wall, while managing the library during the afternoons. The paint collations of the two southern sanctuaries and south wall of the northern king's chamber were also completed by the epigraphic team this month,

after which I reviewed all of the drawings with their newly added painted details at the wall, scene by scene. In addition, artist Margaret De Jong has added the painted details to the drawings of the western wall of the main sanctuary, the cleaning of which was finished by conservator Lotfi Hassan earlier in the month, and epigrapher Brett McClain is working on the collation of that work.

In the two southern sanctuaries, both inscribed before Hatshepsut's death, just below the roof line is a decorative frieze of Hatshepsut's prenomen, Maatkare, written in rebus form: a rearing cobra ('Maat') coiled within ka arms ('Ka') and crowned with a horned disk ('Re'). The name frieze has been totally cleaned in this area and now displays some wonderfully preserved painted details. Because it was decided long ago not to include the somewhat repetitive frieze in our facsimile drawings of the ritual scenes below, we selected an example of the rebus with the best paint preserved, Yarko photographed it, and Will Schenck will pencil and ink a facsimile detail of the frieze this spring for the final publication.

Brett, Tina Di Cerbo, and I also reviewed and planned the final facsimile drawing and collation of all of the graffiti in the sanctuaries (Volume 1), including 18th Dynasty painted-ink graffiti which guided the post-Amarna restorers, and later demotic graffiti. Yarko will do special detail photography of some of the newly cleaned examples, Tina will draw the new ones (1:1) and will add new details to the previously noted (and drawn) ones, after which everything will be collated by the epigraphers.

Conservator Lotfi Hassan continued to supervise conservators Adel Aziz and Nahed Samir in the cleaning of the painted reliefs in the first chamber of the sanctuary. As noted above, they finished the cleaning of the west wall this month, minus the decorative name frieze above, which has allowed the collation of the ritual scenes. Lotfi was obliged to return to Italy for residency paperwork on the 15th, but is returning this weekend with wife Giuliana and baby Giulia to complete another month's cleaning in the small Amun temple. Earlier this month we met with conservator Lamia Hadidy when she passed through Luxor on her way to work with Renée Friedman at Hierakonpolis, and she has agreed to join our team next season to help speed along the cleaning in the sanctuaries. I should also mention here that Lotfi has been awarded a '2002 British Petroleum Fellowship in the British Museum' from April 15 to May 10, for which he was invited to apply by BP.

Stonecutter Dany Roy has been implementing our drainage plan for the roof of the bark sanctuary on the northern side. By season's end, any future rainwater will be channeled off the roof through a spout on the north, which will protect the painted reliefs below. In mid-month we received two truck loads of freshly quarried, rough-cut sandstone from Gebel Silsila hand-picked by Dany at the quarry for our roof, wall stabilization, and flooring work in the small temple, which should keep him busy for awhile. The stone will be used for the last phase of our current USAID/EAP/ARCE grant for the documentation and conservation of the small Amun temple (ending this year), and the extension of that grant during the course of the next two years.

This week photographer Yarko assisted by Ellie Smith started the photography of the Ptolemaic Pylon western doorjamb offering scenes, which will be published in Volume 4 of the small Amun temple series. Whenever possible we try to use our older photographic negatives for drawing enlargements, as there is often much more data preserved in them than is present on the wall now. We have complete photographic coverage of the Ptolemaic Pylon reliefs taken by the Epigraphic Survey in the '30s, but the negative of the western side displays severe distortion which disallows its use for drawing enlargements, which must be totally square, hence this reshoot. The older photograph will be used as reference when the drawings are prepared, and all information not present today will be added by the artist.

At Luxor Temple conservator Hiroko Kariya continued the consolidation and monitoring of the 1,700 decorated wall fragments in the core ES blockyard, funded by AID through EAP/ARCE (the last season), and the moving to new storage platforms of a group of severely deteriorating Akhenaten talatat blocks. We finished the WMF-funded construction of 181 meters of damp-coursed storage platforms in the south and north ends of the blockyard, and are preparing to resume construction of another 100 meters of these 'mastaba' platforms in the next few days. Nan and David Ray, who have been assisting Hiroko this season, coordinated the moving and tracking of over 1,500 decorated wall fragments to the new storage and treatment areas, finished up their six weeks with us on March 1st, and are now on their way home. That we are way ahead of schedule with this salvage project at this most critical time is totally due to their assistance, and we owe them a great debt. Jamie Riley

has taken the baton and will now be supervising the moving of the fragmentary material to the new storage areas. He and I resumed the wall-fragment moving in the northern area (in the shadow of the Abul Haggag mosque) this morning, and we will utilize the freed-up space for new platform construction which will start this week.

Photo Archivist Sue Lezon returned to Luxor (with husband Jamie Riley) on February 14th, Valentines Day. She carried 89 CH Photo Archives CDs to the USA in December, which joined 47 CDs already there for a total of 136 safely transported to the States. The approximate number of images from the CH archive now in the US currently totals 12,250 (out of 18,000). As of February 28, 8,500 images have been optimized for inclusion in the Chicago House Photo Archives large-format negative database. So far, 3,000 images have been added to the database. At season's end, the remaining CDs will travel with her back to the US, and our large-format negative collection will be digitally backed up at home.

Assistant Photo Archivist Ellie Smith continues her work on data entry into the CH 35mm photographic database. With the assistance of epigrapher Harold Hays, several fields of the database have been modified in order to speed up the data entry process. To date, over 16,000 data entries have been completed, and all this season (Ellie is amazing). Images will be added to this database in the future.

Saturday morning Tina and our workmen, under Steven Shubert's direction, began the process of reorganizing the journals and series stacks in the CH library main hall to accommodate their growing numbers, a task that is being finished as I write this report. In all, approximately 4,500 volumes were moved. In a week or two the remaining stacks in the new hall will be shifted to accommodate the changeover of our non-journal and series holdings to the Library of Congress classification system, a process begun last season.

Tourism is way up, almost to normal levels, with all its pluses and minuses; the crowds are definitely back, and our library tours have picked up a bit, kindly facilitated by Emily Napolitano. This is also the time when many of our foreign colleagues return to resume their field work, and many groups came back this month, including Daniel Polz's mission to Dira Abu El Naga, José Galan's mission from Madrid to the same area, Geoffrey Martin and the Amarna Royal Tombs Project (to whom we lent artist Will Schenck for a couple of days of emergency drawing), Kent and Susan Week's KV 5 Project, Horst

Jaritz and the Merenptah Mortuary Temple Project, and the Amenhotep III Mortuary Temple Project directed Rainer Stadelmann and Hourig Souruzian. We have had a series of very fruitful site visits on our Sundays off to see the work of our friends, and have hosted similar visits to our sites. There's a lot of very interesting work going on (in addition to our own), and sharing is one of the great things about being out here.

Among the numerous friends and colleagues who have passed by to visit or use the library lately, Richard Fazzini and wife Mary were particularly welcome. Most of you probably know that Richard responded miraculously to his chemotherapy treatments and has beaten his lung cancer. This was definitely a triumphant return. We look forward to the resumption of his field work at Mut temple next year with co-director Betsy Bryan, who went it alone this year (and who has just returned to the US after the successful completion of her work). Irmgard Hein from the Institut für Ägyptologie at the University of Vienna joined us for a week of consulting work with Helen Jacquet and her pottery at North Karnak. Helen, by the way, has just finished her work for the season at North Karnak and is putting the finishing touches on her master plan of the Khonsu Temple roof for her publication of the rooftop graffiti, currently being reviewed at the OI.

I should mention that there are some noticeable absences from our ranks this spring. Our beloved Henri Riad joined his family in Cairo for Coptic Christmas at the beginning of January this year, as is his usual habit, but he did not return to Luxor due to poor health; he is very frail this year, and has a cough he just can't get rid of. We talk to him regularly and he is in good spirits, living with his son Sharif and his family, but we miss him very much. We also are missing two other dear friends who would ordinarily be with us at this time, Carlotta Maher and Mary Grimshaw, whom circumstances wouldn't allow back. We miss them TOO MUCH.

Best wishes from all of us out here to all of you back home. Next up: the OI tour!

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INDIVIDUALS
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FRED DONNER

Fred Donner presented an illustrated lecture entitled "The Many Faces of Islam" at the annual conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston, MA, on Sunday, Feb. 17. It was one of the AAAS conference's "Topical Lectures", which deal with all manner of subjects (mostly scientific, but sometimes dealing, as in this case, with other issues of current interest).

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CLEMENS REICHEL

On February 12 I gave a lecture at Harvard in the Semitic Museum called "Political Changes and Cultural Continuity at the Palace of the Rulers in Eshnunna (Tell Asmar) from the Ur III Period to the Isin-Larsa Period (ca. 2070 - 1850 B.C.)." On February 14 I gave another lecture in New York in the Ancient Near Eastern Seminar at Columbia University called "Text Archaeology and Sealing Practices at the Palace of the Rulers at Tell Asmar: A Functional Analysis of a Mesopotamian Palace."

Here in Chicago I continued working on the Diyala material, teaching in the Mesopotamian History Class (though with a much lighter teaching load than in January), and revising my dissertation. Speaking of my dissertation, I have noticed the poor quality of its UMI version. The plates, which had been converted to bitmaps, are pretty much unusable. I therefore decided to put up a clean PDF version with grayscale images on the Oriental Institute's Webpage within the next two weeks. Chuck Jones (to whom I owe this idea) will announce the details when it is available..

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