

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - MAY 1998

UNITS

- COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders
- MEMBERSHIP and DEVELOPMENT / Cynthia Echols - Tim Cashion
- MUSEUM / Karen Wilson
- PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban and Chris Kahrl
- RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones
- SUQ / Denise Browning
- TABLET COLLECTION / J. A. Brinkman

PROJECTS

- CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT (CSATE) / Aslihan Yener
- AMUQ VALLEY REGIONAL PROJECT / Aslihan Yener
- THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE DHAMAR PROJECT / T. J. Wilkinson

INDIVIDUALS

- MIGUEL CIVIL
- PETER DORMAN
- HRIPSIME HAROUTUNIAN
- STEVE HARVEY
- CAROL MEYER
- ROBERT RITNER
- OGUZ SOYSAL
- MATTHEW STOLPER
- EMILY TEETER

+++++

UNITS

+++++

COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

On April 26th, the first installment of the Oriental Institute Map Series was added to our website. Aimed at the general public, students, and teachers, primarily, it presents seven Site Maps covering the ancient Near East (Egypt, Sudan, The Levant, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran), locating primary archaeological sites, modern cities, and river courses set against a plain background. All Site Maps are Simple Conic projections at the same scale and orientation.

Future versions of the Oriental Institute Map Series will include terrain relief as a background for each of the seven Site Maps, one version colored for elevation and a second version colored for vegetation, as well as latitude and longitude (graticule) lines.

Once these basic map databases are developed and available, I plan to ask faculty and research projects for assistance in preparing a series of maps detailing settlement, political boundaries, and chronology, aimed at teaching and publication needs.

We moved the Library, Administration, and Rm. 228 public laserwriter printers to the OI's ethernet network near the end of April, so everyone whose computer is on ethernet should experience faster (at least somewhat faster) print service. Well over half the computers in

the OI now are directly connected to ethernet, and we continue to move the remaining Macintoshes on the original LocalTalk network as need, money, and upgrading permits.

+++++  
MEMBERSHIP and DEVELOPMENT

MEMBERSHIP / Tim Cashion

The Membership Office completed an OI Travel Program departure to Iran in April, led by Abbas Alizadeh with Tim Cashion as courier. The trip, which had 16 travelers (including OI VC member Alan Brodie and Erika Schmidt Kuiper, the daughter of the late OI Professor) was a great success from the logistical and warm-reception points of view, and we are hoping to do another one soon.

A Member's lecture, co-sponsored by the AIA and the OI, was delivered on April 22, 1998 by Gil Stein of Northwestern. Gil discussed archaeological evidence for colonial behavior in Hacinebi, Turkey. His talk was well attended and well received.

Our final lecture of this academic year takes place on Wednesday May 6 in Breasted Hall at 8:00 PM. Brian Hesse of the University of Alabama at Birmingham will speak on the biblical pig prohibition (and other topics) in "Dog Love and Pig Hate in the Ancient Levant."

The Oriental Institute Annual Dinner will be held here at the Institute on May 18, 1998. Robert Ritner has graciously agreed to deliver some remarks on magic; the evening also features an expression of gratitude to retiring OI VC Chairman Robert G. Schloerb. The dinner will be held in the future Egyptian gallery, with the general reception beforehand in the Research Archives. I am happy to report that the annual dinner has completely sold out.

A Membership Task Force, comprised of VC Members Mary Shea (Chair), Patrick Regnery, Mary Gray, Muriel Newman, Father John Sevick, Peggy Grant, and Rita Picken has been struck. This group will examine our membership package and operations in preparation for a membership drive in conjunction with the Egyptian gallery reopening. The first meeting is Thursday, May 7.

DEVELOPMENT / Cynthia Echols

The Legacy Campaign, our fundraising drive to support climate control, renovation, and expansion, continues to "count down": \$9,536,156 [94% of \$10,115,000 goal] raised; \$578,844 to go.

Development calls and site visits in April:

Joel Honigberg toured the renovation work in progress with Major Gifts Officer Tom Foley.

John (CEO Unicom) and Jeanne Rowe toured new wing and renovation work in progress with ComEd Treasurer Ruth Ann Gillis, OI Director Gene Gragg, Museum Director Karen Wilson, and Cynthia Echols. Mr. and Mrs. Rowe now have joined the Breasted Society. Mary Grimshaw, OI Docent and Visiting Committee member, toured gallery renovation in progress with OI Museum Associate Curator Emily Teeter and Cynthia Echols.

The Yelda family (Sharukin, OI Visiting Committee) toured new wing and gallery renovation in progress with OI Director Gene Gragg, OI Museum Director Karen Wilson, and Cynthia Echols.

Sarah Solotaroff, Senior Program Officer of The Chicago Community Trust, toured gallery renovation in progress with OI Museum Associate Curator Emily Teeter and Cynthia Echols.

Legacy Campaign Executive Committee Co-Chairs Carlotta Maher and Jim Sopranos met with Gene Gragg and Cynthia Echols to discuss Countdown Phase strategies.

OI Visiting Committee member Jeffrey Short met with Professor Aslihan Yener, Gene Gragg and Brigitte Watkins to discuss plans for the Amuq expedition.

The full Visiting Committee met on 23 April for a business meeting and tour of the new wing and renovation work in progress.

+--+  
MUSEUM / Karen Wilson

Most of the museum staff's time in April was taken up with moving into new spaces and supervising and maneuvering through phase 2 construction. On April 27, the upper part of our statue of King Tut was moved by Belding/Walbridge into the new Egyptian Gallery, where he now rests in a steel armature. Today (May 1) his feet will be put in place in their new location, and on Monday the process of reuniting the two pieces will begin. We plan to have the two parts of the statue rejoined in their new place in the gallery in time for the Annual Dinner on May 18, although, needless to say, the conservation work necessary to restore the legs will not have begun by that time.

Also on April 27, we received word from the Getty Grant Program that they had awarded the museum a grant to support two sequential one-year post-graduate conservation training internships, including scientific analyses of objects in the collection. We are extremely pleased that this grant will enable us to make use of the expanded conservation lab to resume training conservation interns and will provide us with much-needed conservation assistance during work on the reinstallation of the galleries.

From Clay Tablets to CD Roms, the Oriental Institute Dictionaries event co-sponsored by the Membership and Museum Education Offices in March, still continues to receive press coverage in newspapers near and far. Immediately following the event—which drew close to 100 people to a behind-the-scenes look at the Assyrian Dictionary Project, the Sumerian Lexicon Project, the Hittite Dictionary Project, and the Demotic Dictionary Project—a feature article on the program appeared in the Chicago Tribune. Then other papers began picking up the story, with the most recent coverage appearing in papers in Columbus, Ohio and Toronto. Special thanks to all the people who helped plan and present this event—faculty and staff members Miguel Civil, Harry Hoffner, Jan Johnson, Martha Roth, and Tom Urban; Research Associates Richard Beal, Hripsime Haroutunian, and Steve Vinson; graduate students Francois Gaudard, Fumi Karahashi, and Michael Kozuh; and, especially, Tim Cashion, Carole Krucoff, and the rest of the Museum Education Office staff.

+--+  
PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban and Chris Kahrl

Advance copies of Hilgert's \_Dreheim Administrative Documents\_ (OIP 115) were delivered (see below). Mark Garrison, co-author of \_Persepolis Seals and Sealings\_ (OIP 117), approved the scans of the sealings for use in his manuscript. With Garrison's approval in hand, we sent a sample postscript file of one page of text with two scanned images to an outside printer to have the file output to film from a Linotron; this sample printed fine. So, with the scanned images being approved and having passed a printing test, the scanning and placing of sealings in the manuscript continues. Work on the plates for the Epigraphic Survey's \_Luxor Temple 2\_ (OIP 116) is nearing an end; we expect to

send the plates to Chicago Press for printing either the first or second week of May. Work on the booklet for Luxor Temple 2 has begun. Blue-line proofs for the reprints of Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, Volumes A/1, B, and Z, have begun arriving. Lloyd Anderson of Ecological Linguistics will send a sample of his new cross-platform (Mac - Windows) fonts to the Publications Office for testing.

Cuneiform Texts from the Ur III Period in the Oriental Institute, Volume 1: Drehem Administrative Documents from the Reign of Shulgi  
by Markus Hilgert

- Oriental Institute Publications Volume 115
- 1998 (hardbound). Pp. xxxii + 576; 44 plates
- \$100, but for the month of May, 40% off for OI faculty, staff, and students

This volume publishes for the first time all of the 499 cuneiform tablets in the Asiatic collection of the Oriental Institute Museum that come from the ancient administrative center of Puzrish-Dagan (modern Drehem). These date to the reign of Shulgi, second ruler of the Ur III Dynasty (ca. 2094-2047 BC.). One hundred and twenty administrative documents from the business archive of Queen Shulgi-simtum are the highlight of this innovative edition. The volume features a comprehensive catalog, transliterations of all cuneiform texts, complete indices, and detailed analytical charts for each document. It also includes philological notes and illustrations for selected tablets.

To see or purchase a copy, feel free to drop by the Oriental Institute Publications Sales office in Room 227.

+++++  
RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

We are proceeding with the second phase of moving the Research Archives. About half of the series volumes have been moved to the built-in shelving in the reading room. We expect to move the remainder of the series within the next week. Through the cooperation of colleagues we have managed to find on-site storage space for the remaining low shelving from the reading room. Most of it will eventually be absorbed into the reconfiguration of the Archaeology Lab space in the North wing of the basement, and into the reconfigured Computer Lab space on the second floor.

While the work on the doorways to the new wing is now mostly complete (and the doors are much quieter than they have been for the past few months), there remains some work to be done to complete the Library component of the renovation project. Most of this involves the climate control system - installation of thermostats, connection and testing of the air delivery systems, and so on. I am assured that the reading room will be air conditioned this summer!

As a consequence of unexpectedly high interest and attendance for the Annual Dinner on May 18, and because of the limited space available in the Museum (and elsewhere in the building), the reading room of the Research Archives will be used for the general reception before the dinner. I plan to have the series volumes completely moved, the pile of shelving stored, and the room generally presentable before that event.

The Research Archives acquired one hundred sixteen items during April. Those wishing to receive a listing of these items should contact me directly. We are still working out a useful method for direct distribution of Acquisitions Lists.

During the past month, UMI announced that it would distribute, free of charge, any documents it has available in PDF format, to any institution or individual affiliated with an institution with a subscription to certain services already provided by UMI. This includes the University of Chicago, along with its faculty, staff, and students. At the present time UMI provides all the dissertations it has published from 1997 to present in this format. They intend to produce all future dissertations in this format. The quality remains about the same as the well-known UMI xerographic publications. Because this form of publication will save us so much shelf space (not to mention money) we are experimenting with means to archive titles appropriate for the Research Archive collections on file servers here. An initial group of thirty titles are now locally accessible on OI File Server #1/Research Archives Documents/Documents/UMI PDFs. Anyone who needs assistance in getting access to this server should contact me or John Sanders. I would appreciate hearing your reactions to this material.

Various electronic projects of the Research Archives continue.

- 1) Abzu routinely serves several thousand users per week. About sixty new documents have been indexed in the past month.
- 2) One new on-line publication has appeared: Reymond, Eric A Structural Analysis of Ben Sira 40:11- 44:15. (A Dissertation Proposal Presented to The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago)
- 3) Subscribership to the ANE list remains steady at just over thirteen hundred.

+++++  
SUQ / Denise Browning

The Suq will have its annual Inventory Sale beginning Monday Memorial Day May 25 - June 3. Members 20% off all books and 30% off all other merchandise. Non-members 10% and 20%.

We hope to have a new shipment of Afghani Rugs.  
Hours 10-5:30 Tues.- Sat. Sun 12-4  
Open Memorial Day 10-5:30  
Closed Mon. June 1.

+++++  
TABLET COLLECTION / J. A. Brinkman

Markus Hilgert completed his current session of work on the tablet collection on April 24. On the previous day, the first volume of his edition of the Institute's Ur III tablets not found in controlled excavations was published: Drehem Administrative Documents from the Reign of Shulgi (OIP 115), containing 499 texts.

+++++  
PROJECTS  
+++++

#### AMUQ VALLEY REGIONAL PROJECT / Aslihan Yener

The Amuq Valley Regional Project is scheduled this year from 18 August to 18 October. We will be playing it by ear this season until the construction of the dighouse. Two options are open to us: a farmhouse near Tell Kurdu; and lodgings at the Mustafa Kemal University. I will be going to Antakya in June to arrange a dighouse for this season. During this time I hope to rent a van and see if I can arrange for our camp site at a farmhouse. A number of people both local and otherwise, excited by the prospect of the

Amuq remobilizing, have expressed the desire to visit us while we are out in the field. The Oriental Institute tour will swing by on September 17th.

We will have several teams working this season. The field director of the Kurdu excavation is Jerry Lyon, surveys are headed by Tony Wilkinson. Some research aims are the following: 1) continue the geoarchaeological and archaeological survey; 2) continue the Aegean-related project headed by Jan Verstraete 3) Clean and draw section profiles of damaged 2nd millennium sites headed by Tim Harrison; 4) put in a sounding in an Amuq F-G mound (Tell Imar) across the drainage canal from Kurdu; 6) initiate the plans for the construction of a dighouse; 7) map out Kisecik, the mining region in the Amanus Mountains; 8) excavations at Tell Kurdu; 9) geomagnetic survey of Tell Kurdu by Lew Somers.

+++++  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
(CSATE) / Aslihan Yener

We have been asked by the National Science Foundation to submit a full proposal for consideration in the Science and Technology Centers (STC): Integrative Partnership Program. Passing this most difficult hurdle, ours was one of 44 full proposals being invited following assessment of 283 preproposals by a panel of external reviewers. CSATE will comprise midwestern universities, museums, and laboratories, with administrative offices at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. Other core members are Argonne National Laboratory, the Field Museum, the University of Missouri, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Southern Illinois Carbondale. The center will investigate the relationships between environment, technology, demography and social processes over the past 10,000 years by articulating the interplay between human environment and ancient technologies. These interactions are considered to be two-way, namely impact of humans on the environment and vice versa. New levels of understanding will result in several ways: (1) theoretical—through vertical integration of archeometric data on a multi-scalar level (artifact, site, region); (2) experimental—as directed by the theoretical work, by pooling access to existing analytical techniques and by partnering with physical scientists to apply powerful new physical analytical methods in part afforded by the latest generation of synchrotron sources, especially non-destructive methods; (3) computational—through use of powerful databases, geographic information systems, and modeling; (4) educational—disseminating skills in using these techniques as well as results obtained from them to the archeological community, other scientists and the public; and, (5) outreach—using the allure of archeology to attract teachers and draw inner city youth into science and vice versa.

+++++  
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE DHAMAR PROJECT / T. J. Wilkinson

Having recently returned from 2 months field work in Yemen, we are now able to summarize the results of the 1998 field season. The season ran from early February until the end of March 1998, with a break for the 4th International Conference on the Civilization of Ancient Yemen in San'a, 10th-13th March. The field season comprised the following parts: general survey of sites in the region; excavations in the sites of Ribat 'Amran, and Kharraib; architectural studies of Bronze Age and Himyarite/Iron Ages sites (by Glynn Barratt and Eleanor Barbanes); study of inscriptions (by Norbert Nebes, University of Jena); study of the development of ancient lakes (by Caroline Davies, Arizona State University), and the study of the history and development of terraced soils (by Charles French, University of Cambridge). Because as many as three teams were in the field at once, we had three representatives, all of whom contributed enormously to the success of

field work. We wish to thank our representatives, and officials of the General Organization of Antiquities and Museums, especially Dr. Yusuf Abdullah, for their help and advice throughout the season. Funding for the season came from the National Science Foundation, National Geographic and several private donors. We wish to thank all who contributed funds to what proved to be a very successful field season.

Excavations, conducted by McGuire Gibson, with the help of Krista Lewis and Jason Ur, focused mainly on the investigation of two damaged sites Ribat 'Amran and Kharraib. At Ribat 'Amran (DS 226) the east section of a large bulldozer pit was cleaned and partly excavated to expose the foundations of massive Himyarite period buildings. The foundations cut through horizontal layers which included an ancient soil of the Neolithic period on top of which was a Neolithic hearth with associated lithic material. There then followed the accumulation of cultural deposits of the first millennium BC and Himyarite periods. Dating is tentative at present, but when the results of the radiocarbon dates are known, we hope that this site will contribute to providing a refined chronological framework for the region.

Excavations at Kharraib (DS 228) provided insights into the history, layout and construction of a single Bronze Age house, tentatively dated to the 2nd millennium BC. In addition a plan covering about one hectare of the site was drawn by architectural surveyors Barratt and Barbanes. This area, in turn, was placed in a larger context by the general mapping of the 3-4 ha site as well as the adjacent settlement areas of Bronze Age and Iron Age date. In addition a sounding was briefly conducted in the nearby site of Kharraib al-Sufla (DS 227). Until we receive radiocarbon dates it is impossible to suggest a date for this site.

The program of architectural surveying also produced ground plans of the large Iron Age/Himyarite (i.e. 1st millennia BC and AD) sites of Khirbet Hussein (DS 212) and Khirbet al-Kash'a (DS 198). Both sites were equipped with major walls with irregular rectangular bastions.

Although a number of inscriptions had been noted and recorded in a preliminary fashion during earlier field seasons, no detailed studies had been made until 1998. The following inscriptions were recorded by Norbert Nebes, and together these inscriptions provide a valuable picture of the administration and construction of water supply systems:

OI Hisn Afiq 1: Tentatively dated by palaeography to the pre- Himyarite period.

OI Hakim 1: Himyarite inscription on rock describing a campaign to the Hadhramaut.

OI al-Qa'ima 1: Himyarite inscription on the sluice of a dam, describing the administrative relationship of the dam to Dhu-Raydan.

OI al-Aqm 1: Late Himyarite inscription above doorway in a house in the village of al-Aqm.

OI Nunah 1: Inscription on a rock face overlooking the site of Sedd al-Khanuq. Dated to 389 of the Himyarite era, this describes the dam's construction and the tribal affiliation (Muha'anif) of the person who constructed this dam.

OI Harwarwah 1: Himyarite inscription above doorway in village of Harwarwah.

OI Harwarwah 2: Himyarite- late pre-Himyarite inscription relating to the building of a cistern.

OI Harwarwah 3: Himyarite or late pre-Himyarite inscription relating to the building of this cistern and the tribal affiliation of its builder.

Archaeological survey has continued to discover and record a large number of sites in the region, and this season a further 69 sites were recorded, the final site number being DS

299. The chronological breakdown of sites was as follows: Neolithic: 4 sites; Bronze Age: 21 sites; Iron Age: 12 sites; Himyarite: 14 sites; Islamic: 18 sites.

In addition to the above, an affiliated team from the AIYS concentrated upon recording in detail the large mosque complex of Dhawran (DS 181).

+++++  
INDIVIDUALS  
+++++

#### MIGUEL CIVIL

M.C. gave a paper at the AOS Annual Meeting in New Orleans with the title "Reading Gilgamesh." In it he attempted to show that more attention to grammatical, lexical, and even archeological and geographical matters results in a better understanding of the Gilgamesh narratives. He proposed a solution for, among other things, the enigmatic wells of "Gilgamesh and Agga," and the heads of Huwawa in temple gates. "G and A" would be a humorous story, more like the libretto for an operetta than a serious historical epic. To use it as a historical source is like using Nabucco as a source for the history of Assyria. M.C. completed two articles, one on an Ur-Namma hymn on an Ur III tablet, the other on a passage of king Ur-Ninurta's wisdom counsels. His main efforts are focused on finishing a "Manual of Mesopotamian Lexicography" to be published by Brill this summer.

+++++  
PETER DORMAN

Peter Dorman attended the annual meeting of the American Research Center over the weekend of April 24-26th, held this year in Los Angeles, and gave a paper on a carved relief block in the Oriental Institute Museum that bears the cartouches of the first two kings of Dynasty 5, Userkaf and Sahure. Although the accession records of the OI suggest a provenance of Abusir, where Sahure had his pyramid, the block (OIM 11084) actually belongs to the Saqqara mastaba of Ptahshepses (now in the British Museum [BM 682]), an official who survived the reigns of no less than eight kings and whose biography is one of the few contemporary sources for confirming the sequence of Old Kingdom rulers. It has long been supposed that this fragmentary and unusual biography, arranged in eight columns, contains the name of a different king in each column. The correct placement of the OIM block confirms this supposition; it also proves that the princess whom Ptahshepses married was the daughter of Userkaf, and that he built his mastaba—logically—near the Saqqara pyramid of his royal father-in-law. Note: this paper could not have been given without the help of Emily Teeter and Ray Tindel, who kindly uncrated the block in the basement of the museum for examination and photography.

+++++  
HRIPSIME HAROUTUNIAN

March-April were quite productive for Dr. Hripsime Haroutunian. She managed to release the new issue of the Newsletter for Anatolian Studies - Vol. 13/1-2, which contains the latest bibliography (644 titles) on Ancient Anatolia and adjacent regions, as well as brief information on the recent or upcoming conferences and lectures in the field. Aside from this, Saturday afternoons, she is teaching an adult education course, entitled "THE PEOPLE OF A THOUSAND GODS: RELIGION AND ART OF THE HITTITES." She accomplished all this in addition to her work at the Hittite dictionary Project. In March-April Hripsime finished the transliteration of texts from volume KBo 39 and immediately picked up a new volume, KBo 38.

+++++  
STEVE HARVEY



On the basis of my defense on April 27, I was awarded the Ph.D. with honors in Egyptian Archaeology from the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Pennsylvania. My dissertation is entitled "The Cults of King Ahmose at Abydos," and is an investigation of my excavation at the monumental complex of that ruler at South Abydos, carried out under the aegis of the Penn-Yale-New York University Expedition to Abydos. The committee consisted of David O'Connor (my advisor), David Silverman (my second reader) and Dieter Arnold of the Metropolitan Museum as a third reader.

+++++  
CAROL MEYER

Carol Meyer attended the annual ARCE meetings at UCLA. She presented a paper on "Gold Mining at Bir Umm Fawakhir" that concentrated on the late New Kingdom and 5th - 6th century Coptic mines. The pharaonic mines in the Wadi el-Sid (about 4km south of Bir Umm Fawakhir) are opencast trenches on quartz veins in the granite. The Coptic miners at Bir Umm Fawakhir cut similar trenches, but also excavated much deeper into the mountainsides. Both, however, represent hard rock mining, which is much more difficult than panning for alluvial gold. Furthermore, the gold is very finely disseminated in the quartz, which must be ground to powder to extract anything at all. Finally, the quartz carries far more sulfide ores such as galena, pyrite, and chalcopyrite than gold. Extracting gold, or any metal, from such a source is far more challenging than from oxides. By the Coptic period the smelters, perhaps located in the Nile valley and not on site, could have used lead processing (cupellation) to extract the gold. The question is whether the pharaonic workmen could have done so as well, and if not, how did they win the gold?

+++++  
ROBERT RITNER

In conjunction with "Splendors of Ancient Egypt," a traveling exhibit of Egyptian antiquities from the Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim, Robert Ritner will lecture on "Egyptian Medical Theory and Practice" for the annual meeting of the Oregon, Washington and British Columbia Academies of Otolaryngology at the Portland Art Museum on May 29.

+++++  
OGUZ SOYSAL

Oguz Soysal, research associate on the Hittite Dictionary Project, spent most of his time with writing articles on words beginning with "s". Aside from this, his research activities have continued to focus on Hittite history and culture. The following articles are expected to appear in 1998:

- 1) Contributions to Old Hittite history (II). AoF 25 (in German).
- 2) Some reflections on KBo XVIII 151. Archivum Anatolicum 3 (in Turkish).
- 3) A forgotten Hittite fragment of the KILAM Festival. JCS 48 (in English).
- 4) A review for: J.Klinger, StBoT 37. Kratylos 43 (in German).

Besides his involvement with Hittite, he is recently working on the Hattian language as well, and since January 1996, is preparing a "Hattian word list" based on the texts in Hattian from Bogazköy.

In June of this year he will join a scientific team at Ankara University in cooperation with Prof. Aygul Suel to study the Ortakoy tablets. Hopefully, this cooperation will be done also on behalf of the Oriental Institute in near future.

+++++  
MATTHEW STOLPER

At the end of March, during the break between terms, I attended the second International Colloquium of the Deutsche Orient Gesellschaft in Berlin. The topic of the colloquium was Babylon; the occasion was the centennial of the founding of the DOG; one of the aims was

to promote ancient Near Eastern study and research and to display the rewards of the large-scale projects of yesteryear, at a time when "kleine Faecher" are under threat in German universities. Perhaps this sounds like a familiar issue. The colloquium opened with a session in the Pergamon Museum--talks in the hall with the Pergamon altar itself, reception in the corridor past the Ishtar gate. The opening talks were attended with some fanfare by the president--of Germany, that is, not of the DOG--who before his political was a professor of constitutional law with research in ancient law. It occurred to me that our president was once a professor of constitutional law, so we might seek a similar foothold.

The sessions of the conference itself took place near the Free University, in Dahlem. The presentations were at high, and surprisingly consistent level (assuming a basic tolerance for Assyriology and art history), and attendance was good right through the last sessions. I gave a paper about the "Kasr texts," that is, the group of late Achaemenid texts partly excavated by the DOG at Babylon, but partly scattered by earlier collectors and dealers. My interest in the work on these texts, something that I started 15 years ago and meant to finish 10 years ago, was rekindled, and I took the opportunity to talk to other interested parties about resuming the work now that access to the unpublished material in Berlin is a simpler matter than it was before 1989. I gave the paper in a kind of German, and rather too much of it; the audience was very courteous.

Among former inmates of the OI who were at the colloquium: Jo Renger (one of the organizers, looking very fit), Joachim Oelsner, Brigitte Groneberg, Steve Cole, Dietz Edzard, Renee Gallery Kovacs.

A week after returning from Berlin I went to New Orleans for the AOS annual meeting. No paper, just chairing a session and warming a chair for Cyrus Gordon. No paper in the strict sense, but the uncharacteristic sobriety of my comportment didn't abate my loquacity. Mike Kozuh says that four people apologized to him for my, um, intervention after his paper. I thought it was rather good, actually ...

A description of the Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions website went into the last News and Notes. John Sanders and Gene Gragg brought reality into line with what the article described and the site is now public. Few responses so far. I have been scanning the file prints prepared for the microfiche publication of Persepolis photographs, with a view to linking the photographs of buildings and inscriptions to the texts on the web site.

+++++  
EMILY TEETER

The American Research Center in Egypt has announced that the 1999 annual meeting will be in Chicago (April 23-25), hosted by the Oriental Institute and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. The meetings will be held downtown in the Ramada Congress Hotel. A reception will be held at the Oriental Institute Museum on Friday the 23rd.

+++++