

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - NOVEMBER 2000

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARY
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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

Tom Urban has been working with Jan Johnson to create an electronic, Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) version of her 1986 Demotic grammar, Thus Wrote 'Onchsheshonqy. In October, the production was close enough to completion that I started to create the webpages that will serve up this electronic publication, and others to follow. This new publication method is being tested for one year, on a trial basis, during which we will solicit comments and suggestions from scholars and students in the field. This first release should be made public around mid-November, and I'll email everyone the URL when it goes public.

Computer Lab assistant, Katherine Strange, finished the web markup for the latest Annual Report, which we will post on the website later this year, after it has been mailed to all OI membership. At present,

she is working on past issues of News & Notes, reading the lead article for electronic publication on the OI website.

After a building-wide chat in Breasted Hall last month, Gene Gragg, David Schloen, Matt Stolper, and myself started discussions about the complete revamping of the "look & feel" of the OI website. At the same time we started discussions with NSIT, the university's networking group, concerning moving our entire web operation to NSIT-managed computers. There are several operational advantages to such a move, including e-commerce transactions, database serving via our website, and access to faster, more powerful computer hardware to serve our website to the public. There are, of course, reasons for us to continue managing our own web server here in the OI. So I'll keep everyone informed as the discussions go forth. Don't hesitate to mention any concerns or thoughts you might have about this issue to myself, Gene, David, or Matt in the coming weeks as we proceed.

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DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

The following lectures will occur in upcoming months:

Wed, Nov 8: Jerrold Cooper--"Women of Ur: Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Mesopotamia," 8:00 PM, Breasted Hall

Tue, Nov 14 (Co-Sponsored with the AIA): James Russell--"Chasing Roman Soldiers from Anamurium in Turkey to Syria, to Palestine, and Back" (The inaugural Scranton Memorial Lecture), 8:00 PM, Breasted Hall

Wed, Nov 15: Kenneth Kitchen--"Egypt and Israel During the Time of the Hebrew Monarchy," 8:00 PM, Breasted Hall

Sun, Nov 19: Richard Zettler--"Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur," 3:00 PM, Breasted Hall

Wed, Dec 6: Aslihan Yener--"The Craft Specialists of Power and Prestige: Traders, Jewelers, and Metallurgists of the Third Millennium BC," 8:00 PM, Breasted Hall.

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MUSEUM / Karen Wilson

Most of the museum staff's time and energies over the past month were spent on Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur. From the unloading of the trucks to the opening weekend, it was an exciting time for everyone. And thanks to everyone's efforts, the installation went smoothly and the show is receiving rave responses. Attendance has doubled, the contribution box is always full, and - best of all - the beauty of the installation and the objects is commented on by almost every visitor.

We would like to add a special note of thanks to the Volunteers, who were involved in so many of the opening activities for the exhibition, performing tasks that ranged from preparing theme-specific cookies and center pieces for the press opening, providing mums to decorate the front steps of the building, giving a private preview for the University of Chicago Womens' Board, and helping with activities opening weekend. Thank you all for making those events, and many others, so special!

Now that the exhibition has opened and the festivities are over, museum staff are turning their attention back to the task of reinstalling the remaining galleries. Conservation work is resuming on the Assyrian reliefs and beginning on objects for the Mesopotamian gallery, and the initial stages of exhibit development are well under way. Once Treasure from the Royal Tombs closes on January 21, the wall that was built to close off the east end of the north gallery will be taken down in preparation for work required for the creation of the Visitor Orientation Center, the Prehistoric and Mesopotamian galleries, and the Khorsabad Court. We will be designing these galleries this winter, and we will keep everyone updated on that work as it progresses.

The one event looming large in the museum this month is the replacement of a large number of the sprinkler heads that were installed as part of the renovation project. Certain of those sprinkler heads have been recalled by the manufacturer due to non-performance during fires. We are having some 130 sprinkler heads replaced in the object storage areas of the building as part of a project currently underway throughout the university. The work will begin on November 6th and proceed until completion, hopefully

within two weeks. No other areas of the building will be affected, although some slight noise may be detectable in some areas contiguous with the storage area.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

About 40% of the plate volume of Garrison/Root's Seals from Persepolis (OIP 117) is completed (note: the plate volume will have about 1,000 illustrations), and work on the text volume is progressing.

The Tjauti portion of Darnell's Theban Desert Road volume (OIP 118) is nearly complete, and page proofs should be sent in a week or so. The Hol portion of the manuscript is shorter and should be completed soon.

We received the first sets of galley proofs for the Esse memorial volume (SAOC 59) from Eisenbrauns. This volume is being jointly published with ASOR.

The annual report was published. We note that the cover photograph was taken with a digital camera at low resolution (72 dpi, compressed to 151 dpi for printing).

See the news from the Computer Lab (above) for work done on Johnson's Thus Wrote 'Onchsheshonqy (SAOC 45).

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The Research Archives Acquisitions List for August-September 2000 was distributed to subscribers on October 16th, 2000. It is available on-line at <http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/RABooks.2000.89.html>

We also issued Supplement No. 1: "Dissertations Available in the Research Archives in .pdf format", available at: <http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/RABooks.Supp1.html>

The Research Archives Acquisitions List for October 2000 will be distributed in the next few days to those subscribed to RABooks.

Those wishing to subscribe to the list should send the following single line message:

subscribe rabooks

in the body of e-mail to majordomo@oi.uchicago.edu

Full information on the list is available at:

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

Currently there are 366 addresses subscribed to the RABooks list

We continue to work on editing and developing the on-line catalogue:

<http://oilib.uchicago.edu/oilibcat.html>

I expect that we will soon be able to begin the addition of a very large corpus of material developed by our retrospective cataloging project during the last couple of years.

The on-line catalogue, made public in February, continues to increase its usership. We have had about twenty-five thousand visits to the catalogue by nearly ten thousand visitors. Of these, seventeen hundred have made repeat visits. We have had traffic from eighty-four countries ranging (in order of frequency) from the USA, Germany, France, and Italy... to ...Armenia, Bosnia, and Cote d'Ivoire.

As the work on the roof draws to a close for the winter, many of you will have noticed that the repair of the roof on the west wing of the building has been postponed until next spring. It is obvious from this year's experience that the Research Archives will have to be closed for some period of time when work begins again. We do not know how long the Library will have to be closed - I suspect at least a week - almost certainly longer. We are working to coordinate the timing of the project with the spring break, but much will depend on the contractor's schedules, the weather, the condition of the roof as they tear it off (it is leaking as I write this), and other variables. Therefore all users should be prepared for this inconvenience next year. I'll pass along useful information as soon as I get it.

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PROJECTS

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W Raymond Johnson

Thanks once again to the good graces of Tina Di Cerbo, who came two weeks early to open and clean, Chicago House officially reopened its doors on Monday, October 16th. I arrived in Cairo on October 10 and for the next few days finished up the paperwork for the season at ARCE and at SCA headquarters at Abbassiya with the invaluable assistance of Assistant Director Amira Khattab (without whom all of this would take forever). While in Cairo I met with US Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, and some of the new staff of the US Embassy Security. I also had a very pleasant meeting with newly appointed ARCE Director Bob Springborg, and arranged for his and EAP Director Chip Vincent's visit to Chicago House on October 15th. I flew to Luxor the evening of the 14th and hit the ground running the next day with Bob and Chip, who reviewed our Luxor Temple and Medinet Habu projects as well as those in the Valley of the Kings. Both gentlemen stayed with us that evening and departed the next day.

After I delivered the season contract to General Director Sabry Abdel Aziz at the east bank inspectorate and to Gurna Director Mohamed El-Bialy on the west, we reopened the small Amun temple at Medinet on Wednesday the 18th. We are all pleased that Ahmed Ezz, our inspector from last season, has been reassigned to us for this season. He and I supervised the unblocking of the sanctuary entrances, and when we unlocked the doors we found everything untouched, and dry as a bone. Lotfi did an immediate condition study of the monument and found everything stable. That same morning we transported all of our ladders and equipment to the temple and stowed everything away. Ahmed Ezz and I reviewed the Ramesses III wells, which we found had been entered in our absence despite the wooden doors we had installed; luckily we noted no damage. Work at the small Amun temple resumed the next day.

During the first few weeks back in Luxor, the house, which has been 'asleep' for five long months, slowly (sometimes VERY slowly) revives. Telephones, computers, water heaters, plumbing often take some time to become totally operational. For instance, for those of you who might have tried to call, up until last week our telephones still weren't all functioning (our telephone man skipped town and couldn't be lured back from Cairo until very recently). The phones and fax are fine now. This season we signed up with a local Internet

Service provider, Rainbow Net (the only game in town so far, and new since last season). I am using it to access my campus e-mail (wr-johnson@uchicago.edu) via Microsoft Outlook Express, and for that it works very well. But we have found that it is very slow compared to what we have become used to elsewhere. For those of you who wish to contact any of the Chicago House staff via our new e-mail address: chicagohouse@Lxr.com.eg simply put "Attention: (name of staff member)" in the subject heading.

On October 31st Chicago House hosted our annual Halloween party, the first big party of the Luxor field season and a terrific icebreaker. Expeditions in attendance: the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak; the Polish Mission to Deir El-Bahri; the Franco-Egyptian Documentation Center Mission to the Ramesseum and Ramesses II's tomb; the Italian Mission to the Tomb of Harwa; Ted and Lyla Brock; the Amarna Royal Tombs Mission; Deputy Director of the German Archaeological Institute Daniel Polz; and Salima Ikram of AUC. Needless to say, it was as always a great success.

The next evening I flew to Cairo to give the keynote address at the Fulbright 51st Anniversary Alumni dinner held in the great 'Aida' ballroom at the Cairo Marriot Hotel on November 2nd. My talk, entitled "Chicago and Luxor: Partners in Preservation" focussed on the work of the Epigraphic Survey and Oriental Institute in Luxor, past, present, and future. I was also able to discuss some of the challenging preservation issues presently facing Egypt which we are all trying to solve, working together. The dinner was attended by over 700 of Cairo's CEOs, diplomats, and Egyptian Ministry officials, many of the people we keenly wish to know about the OI's documentation and conservation efforts in Luxor. We are honored by Fulbright's choosing us to be their first 'featured friend' at this annual gala event, and I am pleased to report that the response was excellent.

The next day I made my way to Memphis/Saqqara, where I am loaned each November to the Egypt Exploration Society for a few days' salvage epigraphy of Amenhotep III blocks reused in a small limestone Ptah temple of Ramesses II. This sad monument is always partially submerged by foul, black groundwater, and lately has exhibited accelerating decay. When I arrived on site I found that human vandals had helped nature along by pushing down some of the wall stones, which exposed more decorated surfaces; these I traced and then re-covered. This was my last season doing this

recording work (artist Will Schenck and I have, between us, recorded all the accessible material), and now it is time to plan how best to publish the results. I will admit that, despite the conditions which sometimes necessitated underwater epigraphy (and this season, the dead dog nearby), I will miss working at Memphis very much. While facing the same preservation problems as Luxor due to high groundwater, in feel Memphis is a very different place, perhaps because it is far less well preserved, surviving only in tattered fragments scattered among endless date-palm groves.

Our new staffmembers, Emily Napolitano and Harold Hays (who were wed in Cairo in early October) and Will Schenck have settled right in and are each doing very well. Both Harold and Will started wall work at the small Amun temple last week (artist Margaret De Jong has been indoctrinating them into the mysteries of epigraphic recording and ES drawing conventions), and Emily is already totally indispensable in the office. I am pleased to announce that we also have a new accounting manager, Safinaz (Safi) Ouri; she has replaced Moataz Abo Shady, who continues to work on a part-time consulting basis for Chicago House. Of Jordanian descent, Safi was Moataz' boss at Coopers and Lybrand and, like him, specializes in non-profit organizations. We have been extremely fortunate with our new staff this season, and I couldn't be more pleased.

Tomorrow (I am writing this in Cairo) is filled with meetings at the Embassy, ARCE, and Abbassiya. Day after tomorrow I return to Luxor, where I will return to the normal routine and see Tracy Alsberg Hoffman, husband Steven, and Tracy's family, who have been experiencing a whirlwind tour of Egypt and are currently visiting Luxor. The number of tourists is simply staggering, and cannot adequately be described. We have already had several tours to CH for library talks, and Lanny Bell passed through with another one last week, and dropped by for tea. It is very good to be back in Egypt, and even better to be back at work, especially now that the temperatures are going down. Warmest best wishes to you all from all of us out here. Have fun at the elections...!

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INDIVIDUALS
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ELEANOR BARBANES

Now that I've been on the job three months as Project Manager of the Museum reinstallation, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to everyone at the OI for the warm and encouraging welcome I have received since my appointment Aug. 1st, and especially to the staff of the Museum, for the positive attitude and professionalism with which they have greeted me. While I have known many of them for some years now, working with them on the installation of the Ur exhibit and on other things has increased my respect for each of them, and I have gained new appreciation for the work they all do. This small staff has a huge project to accomplish over the next two years, and I am very honored and pleased to have been asked to join them in the realization of such an important and exciting goal. Karen Wilson will continue to provide regular updates on the progress of the reinstallation in this newsletter, but if anyone has any questions or comments along the way, please feel free to talk to me about them.

In addition to managing the construction and installation of the galleries, with the opening of the Ur show I have also joined Karen Wilson in giving occasional public lectures on Ur and leading tours of the exhibit. My own research continues, despite the (hopefully) temporary cessation of my fieldwork plans. A recent visit from my Ph.D. advisor, David Stronach, brought an invitation to collaborate on a chapter of the upcoming Nineveh volume, and so I'll be spending some of my off-hours working up the 8th century fortifications in one area of the city where we last worked in 1990. And, for those with a burning interest in Iron Age and Himyarite architecture in South Arabia, my article "Domestic and Defensive Architecture on the Yemen Plateau, 8th century B.C. - 6th century A.D." has just been published in the latest issue of Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy: http://saturn.bids.ac.uk:80/cgi-bin/ds_deliver/bd5fa6a8-e29756f459/ip_orientalil/orientalil/JOL-1/2FX4F/mksg/aae/2000/00000011/00000002/art00006/A3664C6FAF8BB96A9732016881AFBB0517F38466D.pdf
[watch the URL-wrap]

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MIGUEL CIVIL

The degree of "Doctor Honoris causa" of Barcelona University will be conferred on Dr. Miguel Civil on tuesday 14th November. The degree

will be conferred by the Rector of the University in a public ceremony in the presence of the Senate of the Faculty of Philology. The general public and the media are invited to attend. This is in recognition of his prestige as a Catalonian Scholar of international standing

He will present (but not read) an Inaugural Paper entitled "Mesopotamia: Cradle of Lexicography."

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JOAN CURRY

Looking Ahead.....

The O.I. Holiday Party will be Friday, December 8th this year. It will be in Gene's office as usual with lots of good food and beverages. Santa Claus is expected to make a visit with candy and toys for the children. We will begin at 3:00 P.M. and celebrate until it is over. If you have a class that day, come after class. There will be projects in Joan's office to keep the children entertained. Anyone may bring some kind of Christmas treat (cookies, candies, cakes, etc.) for the dessert table.

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PETER DORMAN

Having missed the deadline for the October newsletter, I would like to include some information from the summer months in the present "mailing." In late July I attended a two-day international symposium held at the British Museum on the subject of the Theban necropolis, organized to present the latest discoveries and research from one of the most active areas for archaeology in Egypt, especially with the (hopefully temporary) closing of Middle Egypt as a convenient area for fieldwork. The papers included lectures on a host of topics from the early Middle Kingdom to the late Roman period, on historical, archaeological, and cultural themes-even one on preserving the recent history of the town of Gurna. I delivered a talk on "Family Burial and Commemoration," using the burial chamber of Ramose and Hatnofer (the parents of Senenmut)-excavated by the Metropolitan Museum in 1936-as the starting point. The symposium papers will eventually be published, and in the meantime will appear on the BM

website in electronic form as soon as individuals submit them. (Don't look for mine quite yet ...)

I had occasion to speak to other audiences as well: at the Art Institute in Chicago on September 12, in conjunction with the "Pharaohs of the Sun" exhibit, on the controversial aftermath of the Amarna period; at Brown University on October 3, on the early reign of Hatshepsut; and in Baltimore on September 16 (the second occasion of the Chicago-Johns Hopkins Theban workshop) on reassessing the function and status of the God's Wives of Amun during the early 18th Dynasty. The joint workshop, focusing on issues of the Middle and New Kingdoms, was well attended by East Coast friends and scholars and will be hosted again at the University of Chicago in 2001. There has been considerable interest expressed by European colleagues in expanding the scope of the Chicago-Johns Hopkins workshop to include periodic meetings overseas, and we hope to incorporate a more international audience in future sessions.

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HARRY HOFFNER

Harry Hoffner was in Florida the week of October 23-29 for the funeral of his wife's mother, age 96. He will be giving a lecture on "Trade in the Hittite Kingdom" at the Wheaton College Archaeology Conference on Friday, November 10th at 2:30 PM in the Billy Graham Center of Wheaton College. Information on Professor Hoffner's talk and other featured speakers can be found on the Worldwide Web at the following address:

<http://www.wheaton.edu/theology/archconf2000.htm>. Professor Hoffner submitted his manuscript last week for a chapter in a forthcoming festschrift in the Eretz Israel series to be edited by Professor Aviram of the Israel Exploration Society. The chapter will be titled "The Disabled and Infirm in Hittite Society".

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CHUCK JONES

I am engaged in the commissioning and development of three articles in my capacity as coordinator for text encoding, available web resources, and tool developments relating to the Ancient Near

East for the on-line journal Ariadne (<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/>). I expect them to appear in the December issue.

In late September I attended a meeting of the ETANA project at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. With an initial planning grant from the Mellon Foundation, ETANA seeks to develop a digital library for ancient Near Eastern studies. I will be back down there again for the next meeting in mid-November.

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WALTER KAEGI

Walter E. Kaegi read a paper "Gigthis in the Pseudo-Methodius Apocalypse and Its Significance," 27 October 2000, Harvard University. 26th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference.

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THEO VAN DEN HOUT

In the context of past activities I want to report that I hung on one of my office walls a very beautiful signed portrait of James Henry Breasted. It has his signature and the date (also in his hand) "Dec.14, 1933". What is probably the name of the photo studio who took the picture is: Edward Thayer Monroe (in the bottom right hand corner). The picture was framed in Amsterdam very long ago since the framing company's telephone number has only five digits. This dates it to (I guess) shortly after or more probably prior to the Second World War. The photo came to light from under layers of dust in the office of my predecessor in Amsterdam, Philo Houwink ten Cate, when he vacated his office in 1992. It then hung in my office in Amsterdam for several years until I came here and brought it "home". Philo did not know how it came to Amsterdam but it points to early Chicago-Amsterdam contacts. Who brought this to the Netherlands? Amsterdam Assyriologists like van der Meer or Beek? I also considered the Egyptologist de Buck but he worked in Leiden. Another possibility is Henri Frankfort who was appointed Research professor here at the OI in 1932 although he did not come to Chicago until 1936. From 1933 onwards he also held a professorship at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. Can somebody shed light on this? And if you want to see the photo, stop by my office (317).

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