

J
OLSN
Nov 01

JE 30 '02

RESEARCH AND ADVANCED DISCOVERY CENTER
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - NOVEMBER 2001

UNITS

- COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders
- DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion
- PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban
- RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones
- VOLUNTEER PROGRAM / Terry Friedman and Cathy Duenas

PROJECTS

- EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson
- HADIR QINNASRIN / Donald Whitcomb

INDIVIDUALS

- HRIPSIME HAROUTUNIAN
- HARRY HOFFNER
- JANET JOHNSON
- CHUCK JONES
- ELLEN MORRIS
- WALTER RAST
- ROBERT RITNER
- EMILY TEETER
- JASON UR
- DONALD WHITCOMB

+++++

UNITS

+++++

COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

Several hardware upgrades were made to the Lab in Oct. In conjunction with the Museum, the large-format (11'x17") scanner now has a transparency adaptor attached to it, so we can scan negative as well as positive materials at up to 800dpi.

The 800MHz Dell Windows computer now has a second, 40GB, hard disk installed, loaded with the Windows 2000 operating system in a dual-boot configuration with Windows 98. This was done to accommodate the loading of the Oracle 9i database program for use by the Diyala Publications Project as a testbed for their application development.

The Macintosh computer which supports the CD burner in the Lab was changed to a Macintosh G3 with 196MB RAM.

By this time next month a new 600MHz iMac, with a CD-RW (read-write) drive and a new 600dpi, 8.5"x14" scanner, will be available in the Lab, replacing an older Power Macintosh 8600 and 300dpi scanner.

For three days in mid-October, the Lab was the focus of the external review of the Institute's Less Commonly Taught Languages Mellon grant. The review went very well, with many positive suggestions for improvements which will make an already successful piece of computer software even better by the time it is ready for a test run in a classroom situation. Congratulations to Janet Johnson, Sandy Schloen, and Michael Berger for a job well done.

Computer Lab assistant Katherine Strange has been working on the HTML markup of the most recent Annual Report, and it should be available on the OI website by this time next month.

+++++

DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

Lecture: "In Death Immortal." Robert K. Ritner, Oriental Institute. Wednesday, November 7, 8:00 PM. Breasted Hall. Free and open to the public. This lecture is the third and final installment of the Cleopatra: Myth and Reality Lecture Series. Reception Follows.

Lecture: "Alimenta Revisited." Harry A. Hoffner, Jr., Oriental Institute. Wednesday, November 28, 8:00 PM. Breasted Hall. Free and open to the public. (Note: this is the Wednesday after Thanksgiving, not the day before it). Reception follows.

Angle of Repose Gallery Talk: Sarah Anne McNear, Director of the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College, Chicago. Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 PM. Holleb Special Exhibits Gallery. Free and open to the public. Reception follows.

The Oriental Institute Visiting Committee met on October 24. They were given brief updates on the where various faculty searches were

in their timelines, and advised generally of the faculty retreat on November 12-13. Additionally, they received updates on various field projects and research efforts, and an update on reinstallation progress.

Chris Woods, our newest faculty member, will meet for dinner with several members of the James Henry Breasted Society in early December.

As of October 31, Basic and Associate member households for this fiscal year were 424 with a total of \$30,935.00. This represents a decline of 2 members and an increase of 5% in dollars raised. The Breasted Society has just surpassed its revenues for 2000, with two months left in the calendar year.

+++++

PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Studies in the Archaeology of Ancient Israel and Neighboring Lands in Memory of Douglas L. Esse (SAOC 59/ASOR Books 5), edited by Samuel R. Wolff, is being printed; we expect delivery in either late November or early December.

Seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets, Volume I: Images of Heroic Encounter (Part One: Text and Part Two: Plates) (OIP 117), by Mark B. Garrison and Margaret Cool Root, with Elamite inscriptions by Charles E. Jones, unless some unforeseen disaster befalls it, should be in press before the end of November -- almost four years to the day since work began on it.

Two authors met with the Editorial Staff during October: Mark B. Garrison, co-author of OIP 117, and Timothy P. Harrison, author of Megiddo III: Final Report of the Stratum VI Excavations.

+++++

RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

Next Sunday, November 11th, marks the second anniversary of the availability of the Research Archives catalogue on the web. We have had more than sixty thousand visits to the site from more than

twenty-three thousand individual users. Something over four thousand of these users can be considered regular customers.

The May-June 2001 acquisitions list was distributed by e-mail and published on the Web site on October 8th:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/RABooks.2001.5-6.html>
the July-August and September-October lists will appear presently.
The e-mail version of the acquisitions list has 423 subscribers

We are working through the journal runs as a part of the retrospective cataloguing project. Currently in progress are: Turk Arkeoloji Dergisi, and Syria. Recently completed are our runs of:

Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan;
Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth;
Madjalle-ye Bastanshenasi wa Tarikh - Iranian Journal of
Archaeology and History;
and others.

We have a growing collection of research tools available on CD-ROM on the two servers on the tables in the Reading Room, Recently added to this collection is:

Bar-Ilan University Responsa Project
Bar Ilan's Judaic library
Manual written by Lieb Moscovitz
Version 9.0
Monsey, N.Y.
Torah Educational Software
2001

1 CD-ROM [654.7 MB] + 1 volume user's guide (vi + 108 pages)
It is now installed on the Dell PC in the reading room of the Research Archives.

ANE: A DISCUSSION LIST FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST: A joint project of The Computer Laboratory and The Research Archives of the Oriental Institute, Chicago

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/ANE/OI_ANE.html

The list continues to flourish. The four delivery modes of ANE collectively have a subscribership of 1595 addresses.

+++++

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM / Terry Friedman and Cathy Duenas

We would like to let everyone know that it is that time of the year again, when the Docents and Volunteers have Volunteer Recognition Day and a Holiday Luncheon at the Quadrangle Club. The Docents and Volunteers have always enjoyed having lunch with Oriental Institute and NELC faculty and staff. We hope that both faculty and staff will mark their calendars for Monday, December 3rd and join the Docents and Volunteers for this special occasion. The Holiday Luncheon at the Quadrangle Club has been graciously underwritten by the Office of the Director of Development. Since space is limited at the Quadrangle Club, we would like to have you let us know in advance if you will be attending the Luncheon. Thank you so much and hope to see you all on Monday, December 3rd.

SAVE THE DATE

December Volunteer Day, Volunteer Recognition, and Annual Holiday Luncheon

Date: Monday, December 3rd

Volunteer Day Lecture

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Breasted Hall

Speaker: Aslihan Yener

Topic: "Wooley's Closet or Shed"

Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: Breasted Hall

Annual Holiday Luncheon

Time: 12:00 Noon

Place: Quadrangle Club

R.S.V.P. 773-702-1845

Please contact Terry or Cathy at 773-702-1845 by Wednesday, November 28th. We must know numbers for this luncheon in order to let the Quadrangle Club know how many lunches to prepare. Thank you for your cooperation.

+++++
PROJECTS

+++++

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

Chicago House officially reopened for the 2001 - 2002 season on October 16th, 2001. Tina Di Cerbo once again arrived two weeks early to open and thoroughly clean the house, and I spent several days in a peaceful Cairo meeting with our colleagues at the American Research Center in Egypt, getting the paperwork for the season finished with ARCE Assistant Director Mme. Amira, and signing the contract with the Supreme Council of Antiquities at Abbassiya (a process which went unusually quickly and smoothly this year). Before I left for Luxor I met Egypt's new US Ambassador, David Welch, who will visit us later in the season, and touched base with US Embassy security officials.

Our return has sent a very positive message to the Egyptian and foreign community (the response has been heartwarming), and was exactly the right thing to do. Security in Luxor continues to be excellent. In addition to the standard three soldiers posted by the city outside our front gate, we now have a whole truck of soldiers parked outside our complex, just like at the temple sites. They all smile and wave when we pass by, and are no bother at all, but their presence is a sober reminder of the changed circumstances of the world since we left Luxor last April. Because Chicago House is a residence, the rule (even in Cairo) is that all military or police personnel are required to remain outside our compound, and are never allowed inside except for an emergency. During our first week back the staff and I drew up an emergency evacuation plan, should the need ever arise. As a further precaution, all staff members now carry cards with contact phone numbers, I carry a cellular phone at all times, and we have instituted stricter security measures around the house. The temple sites are well guarded, and beefed-up security at site entrances now includes careful bag searches and body scanning. Impressive.

We opened the Medinet Habu small Amun temple on Saturday, October 20th, and resumed our normal work schedule the following Monday. We found the temple dry as a bone (a happy byproduct of our roof restoration work), and untouched since we sealed it up last April, except for a few unhappy scorpions in the main entryway. The first few days were spent transferring ladders, scaffolding, and other equipment to the temple site, and thoroughly cleaning and

organizing everything. Epigraphers Brett McClain and Harold Hays immediately resumed their wall work, and new epigrapher Randy Shonkwiler will join them at the wall next week. New epigrapher/librarian Steven Shubert will arrive in mid-month, as well as stone cutter Dany Roy. Conservator Lotfi Hassan resumed the cleaning of the painted wall reliefs in the southwestern sanctuary last week, and was joined yesterday by assistants Nahed Samir and Adel Azziz. It's great to be back.

Many other missions have returned to work as well, and we are a large community this year. Daniel Polz is here with his German Institute crew working in the 17th Dynasty necropolis at Dra Abu El Naga; Christian LeBlanc and his French team are continuing their conservation and restoration work at the Ramesseum; Nigel and Helen Strudwick and their crew have finished their work in the tomb of Senneferi at Gurna; Andreij Niwinski and his Polish team are back in the cliffs of Deir El-Bahri; Francesco Tiradritti and the Italians are back in the tomb of Harwa; Elena Pischikova from the Met (and her daughter) have been working in the tomb of Nespekashuti; two Hungarian teams have resumed their tomb documentation at Gurna; a digital imaging crew under the direction of Michael Mallinson is doing digital test scanning in the tomb of Sety I in the Valley of the Kings; the Karnak Franco-Egyptian Center is back in full force; and Chuck Van Siclen is working at the Karnak 8th Pylon. Rather than having a Halloween party this year - inappropriate for obvious reasons - last night (November 1) Chicago House hosted an opening season get-together of all of the missions in town and local SCA officials, to celebrate our solidarity and common resolve to keep to a normal schedule in these difficult times. It was a great success, well-attended, and much appreciated by all.

The day before, October 31, the festival of the local Muslim saint of the Luxor Temple mosque, Abul Haggag culminated in his great parade around the temple and through the town. Because this lunar festival will pass out of our season after next year, the professional and local Chicago House staff were given time to attend this joyous descendant of the ancient Opet procession. The parade was the biggest I'd ever seen, complete with the descendants of Abul Haggag leading the procession, seven saints' shrines on camel back, drummers rhythmically banging great kettle drums, at least six wheeled boats towed by the local townspeople filled with laughing children, several sets of stick dancers, and a whole flotilla of trucks and carriages crammed with happy singers, musicians, and dancers.

As the procession wove through the sometimes narrow streets, townspeople on balconies would throw peanuts and dates at the celebrants, and sometimes spray them with water, since it is still quite warm, especially in the hot sun. I can't tell you how many times I was beaned in the head by dates or sprayed with water, but it was moving to be part of a festival which may be a direct link to the distant past we are ever documenting. And although I must have attended this festival at least ten times, there are always revelations. Such as this time, when I realized that the long, pink twisty balloons that people were throwing at each other and putting around their necks on closer inspection turned out to be blown-up sheep intestines! Yow... 23 years here and I never noticed that before!

So we are all well, and very happy to be back at work. Best wishes to you all from the Two Lands!

+++++

HADIR QINNASRIN / Donald Whitcomb

Further field work on the Hadir Qinnasrin project is scheduled for Spring; this Fall, the materials from the 2000 season are analyzed and compared with the results obtained this summer from Mar'ash in southern Turkey (as reported in the OI News & Notes 171). In the meantime, a detailed report on the first season has appeared in Archéologie Islamique 10 (2000), 7-28.

+++++

INDIVIDUALS

+++++

HRIPSIME HAROUTUNIAN

In September 2001 I joined the NELC faculty to teach Elementary Modern Armenian, while continuing my work on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project on part-time basis. I have 5 students, 2 graduate students and 3 undergrads, who are learning Armenian pretty fast. Next year I will teach two courses: Elementary Armenian and Advanced. Thus I will have to leave my part-time job on the CHD.

For the recent couple of months I have been spending much of my time transliterating newly published cuneiform texts from volume, KBo 31, identifying them, matching them to similar fragments from the project files, finding duplicates, parallel fragments or joining pieces, and simultaneously keying them into the project computer. In July-August, 2001 I successfully taught another Oriental Institute Adult Education Course, entitled, "Meet The Hittites: The People of A Thousand Gods."

Besides, I was further engaged with compiling bibliography on the most recently published articles and books in the field, being the sole editor and publisher of the Newsletter for Anatolian Studies. I am finished collecting data for the upcoming enlarged volume of the Newsletter which will be released end of this year. This will be the last hard copy of the journal. With the support of the OI this year I will place the Newsletter on the internet and start producing future issues electronically. This will allow me to publish the journal more frequently than the hard copies, and also to make it more up-to-date and dynamic.

I was also busy with preparing for publication two articles, entitled, "Some thoughts on 'barber', 'shearer'," and "The Role of Prostitutes in Hittite Religion." I was also working on entries 'Religious Personnel', 'Organizational Forms', Religious Practices of the Individual and family' for the 'Anatolia' section of the reference book on "Religions of the Ancient World," Harvard University press.

+++++

HARRY HOFFNER

The main research activities occupying me in the past month were writing a detailed review for the JAOS of Jaan Puhvel's new L volume of his Hittite Etymological Dictionary, and finishing detailed criticisms and comments on Itamar Singer's manuscript for his new volume of Hittite Prayers in translation for the SBL's Writings from the Ancient World series. Puhvel's book will please many, because he was able for the first time to build on the CHD treatment of words, differing from it only in a few significant places (lahha- and its congeners refer, according to him, exclusively to military travel). And since it appears almost 20 years after the CHD L material, he is able to update the citations with many newly published texts. The volume

like its predecessors will irritate many users by its failure to cross index the treatment of words, so that the user can know where to find them (since most are not in alphabetical order) and in his rather too free assignment of English translations without notifying the unwary reader that these are often nothing more than wild guesses. Singer's book, when it becomes available, will add to the lustre of the SBL WAW series. He has become the acknowledged master of the subject of Hittite royal prayer texts. His introductory essays greatly enhance the reading and understanding of the translated texts. His translation are all very reliable. Now if we could only persuade him to do a volume of editions of all these texts, ...!

I also used October to continue work on my Hittite grammar and on my new edition of *Alimenta Hethaeorum*. The latter work of course contributes to my preparation for the OI Members Lecture on November 28th. AOS members will also have been notified recently of the theme of the 2002 Midwest Branch of AOS Meetings in Mundelein, namely, Food in Biblical Lands. So we will all be getting a heavy dose of alimentation this year! Theo, Rich and Tom Urban have worked hard in October in reading and correcting proofs for the new CHD S/1. We are all looking forward to its appearance now. I especially, hving worked on earlier versions of its contents for the past ten years.

+++++

JANET JOHNSON

The outside review committee evaluating the Middle Egyptian readingbook project (funded by the Mellon Foundation and directed by Jan Johnson) met from October 17-19. The committee consisted of James Allen (MMA), Richard Parkinson (BM), and James Hoch (of Toronto). I quote from their report,

"After three days of intensive hands-on use of the prototype and discussion, the committee decided to recommend continuation of the project, with its full endorsement of both the concept and its current realization. The committee found the prototype very impressive and fully up to its expectations for the standards of the program...

The committee was particularly impressed by the project's potential for educating beginning and advanced students in reading Egyptian

ELLEN MORRIS

Ellen Morris <emorris@sas.upenn.edu>, who will be teaching Egyptian Archaeology in the Spring quarter is seeking housing for March-June 2002. She is interested in a large one bedroom or two bedroom furnished apartment within walking distance of campus or convenient to public transportation.

+++++

WALTER RAST

WALTER RAST, co-principal director of excavations in the Dead Sea valley in Jordan, is finishing with staff colleagues the writing and editing of a two-volumes-in-one set dealing with the final report of excavations at the Early Bronze Age site of Bab edh-Dhra'. Bab edh-Dhra' has long been known for its extensive cemetery and well-preserved tombs throughout all phases of the Early Bronze Age. The volumes dealing with the excavation of the town site are providing the evidence for the living community -- its buildings and cultural remains -- with which the tombs are being related in research capitalizing on the complementarity of mortuary and occupational remains. The Expedition to the Dead Sea Plain (EDSP) in Jordan began its work in 1975, continuing in various seasons through 1990. Since the latter year the work has concentrated on the publication of the results. One volume on the tombs has appeared, and the present publication on the town at Bab edh-Dhra' is expected to be ready in 2002, printed at Eisenbrauns under the auspices of the American Schools of Oriental Research. Beyond this will be two further volumes of the EDSP. One will deal with the EB III site of Numeira, located approximately 9 mi. south of Bab edh-Dhra'. Another volume will present tombs and skeletal remains excavated at Bab edh-Dhra' and two other cemetery sites in the southeast Dead Sea valley, Feifa and Khanzair, by the EDSP with the participation of Smithsonian anthropologists. The work of the EDSP has concentrated its objectives on the settlements and activities of the Early Bronze populations in the unusual environment of the southeast Dead Sea valley, from the beginning of the Early Bronze Age about 3300 B.C., to its end during EB IV in approximately 2000 B.C.

+++++

ROBERT RITNER

Robert Ritner's lecture schedule continues in November with "The Living Image: Art and Text in Egyptian Hieroglyphs" for the Chicago Humanities Festival (November 3), "In Death Immortal: the Living Legend of Cleopatra" for the Oriental Institute (November 7), "Cleopatra of Egypt" for the Egyptian Consulate in Chicago (November 13), and "Heka: The Magic of Ancient Egypt" for the Muscarelle Museum of Art in Williamsburg, VA (November 15).

+++++

EMILY TEETER

On October 5, Emily Teeter gave a paper "Virginitly, Celibacy, and Women of God in Ancient Egypt" at the 2001 Ancient Studies Colloquium hosted by the Dept of Near Eastern Studies and Classics at John Hopkins University.

+++++

JASON UR

I've just returned from two months in Syria, where the Hamoukar Expedition, directed by McGuire Gibson, had its third season. Initially I'd hoped to conduct a second season of the Tell Hamoukar Survey in an extended area between the Iraqi border and the Wadi Khunayzir, in the eastern end of the Khabur basin, northeastern Syria. However, no new survey permit was forthcoming, and the previous winter had been so wet that ground visibility was terrible. Therefore it was decided to open a trench on the Hamoukar lower town which would complement the existing trenches of 1999-2000 but also the larger regional project. Since the survey is focusing on the impact of urbanism at Hamoukar on the rest of the region, it seemed logical to investigate the furthest extension of Hamoukar at the end of the third millennium (the lower town), and in its final phase; we hoped to learn something of the nature of Hamoukar as a city and something about its final phase.

Toward these goals Area H was opened on the SE edge of the lower town, supervised by me, Carlo Colantoni (Cambridge), and Salam Quntar (Syrian Dept. of Antiquities), with two Syrian university students as assistants and thirty Hamoukar village workmen. Ultimately this 20x23m trench revealed a wealthy residential neighborhood of the late or post-Akkadian period (Ur III in the southern Mesopotamian chronology); this included most of one private house and portions of at least two others. While the space between two of these houses was a narrow garbage-strewn alley reminiscent of modern Arab cities, in another part of the trench, public space took the form of an open partially paved plaza.

The most completely excavated house consisted of a central courtyard with a well in the center, paved with baked bricks; rooms communicated with this courtyard on three sides, while the fourth side had a small unroofed space with two tannurs (bread ovens) and a further open courtyard, much larger than the central one, with yet another well. A narrow paved entry corridor led from the narrow alley directly to the central courtyard. Private houses of similar layout are known from 3rd millennium Tell Brak. The clearest architectural sign of wealth was the enormous amount of baked brick paving; in a wood-poor region such as the Khabur basin, the fuel needed to bake this many bricks would have been quite expensive. [Note to future visitors to Hamoukar: the fireplace in the dig house is mostly the floor of locus 20.]

When we reached the floors of this house, we found that its last days had been turbulent: in three rooms, dozens of ceramic vessels had been deliberately smashed in room corners. My interpretation is that the house had been systematically looted: the looters went room to room, gathering the contents of the house and bringing them to a few large rooms where they could be inspected; the valuables were taken and the non-valuable ceramics were smashed. The inhabitants may have met a similarly violent end: among the smashed pots in one room were disarticulated human remains. Although only one skull was found, it appears that there were at least three upper arms. It appears that the residents were killed and left where they fell; after the withdrawal of the looters, scavenging animals tore apart the unburied corpses to produce the disarticulated remains that we found. Area C, supervised by Carrie Hritz and Stephanie Reed, produced a similar pattern of pot smashes, suggesting that the looting may have been site-wide.

In addition to an excellent architectural plan of an urban residence, Area H produced a fantastic ceramic assemblage of the post-Akkadian period. According to some, no settlement existed in the basin at this time, due to some sort of aridification event. Based on the 1999 surface collection and our excavation results from this year, it appears that not only was Hamoukar still occupied in the post-Akkadian period, it was still urban. Cities cannot exist in a settlement vacuum, so it is likely that the rural hinterland which supported it has not yet been recognized by surveys. The Area H ceramic assemblage will allow us to recognize such settlements, based on surface collections, in the future.

+++++

DONALD WHITCOMB

The Fall season in Chicago has been highlighted by two museum events: the first is the Cleopatra exhibit at the Field Museum, and the second is a smaller, less dramatic exhibition at the Spertus Museum of Jewish Studies. The Spertus exhibit is entitled, "A Gateway to medieval Mediterranean life: Cairo's Ben Ezra synagogue," which will be open until August 18 of next year. The exhibit features the discoveries of the Cairo Geniza, an amazing trove of documents recovered from the main synagogue of Cairo, illustrating the intersection of the medieval Jewish community with the Coptic and Islamic population of Cairo.

While the exhibit is a remarkable presentation of these documents from Cambridge University and other collections, The Oriental Institute joins the Metropolitan and other museums in loaning artifacts of daily life; artifacts from The Oriental Institute excavations in Aqaba are presented together in a single case, objects no doubt familiar to Jewish merchants as they passed through this port.

This exhibit is a fine example of creative museum work with a salutary message in these troubled times in the Middle East.

+++++