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RESEARCH ARCHIVES + ORIENTAL INSTITUTE LIBRARY
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - OCTOBER 1998

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

Since the end of June the Lab has finished its part in the preparation of the Center for the Study of Ancient Technologies and Environments (CSATE); consulted by the Epigraphic Survey on changes to its Photographic Negative database program, in conjunction with Jason Ur; finished setting up the Institute's new unix-based email server, in conjunction with Christopher Barnard; working with Matthew Stolper and Michael Kozuh, we have prepared the first batch (about 25) of the 999 Persepolis fiche photographs for inclusion on our website, as part of the Persepolis and Ancient Iran section of the online Photographic Archives.

We continue to move more and more Institute computers from Apple LocalTalk to ethernet for their network connection, have setup several new Macintosh G3 computers around the building.

In mid-September we played musical offices by switching the Museum Education office from Rm. 202 to Rm. 221. We now start to prepare for moving the Computer Lab into Rm. 202, my office will move into Rm. 205, which Prof. Golb will vacate and move into Rm. 232, the Computer Lab's present location. The former second floor "fainting room," where the Institute's network equipment and Museum Education storage are currently located, will become the new "computer server" room and network equipment room as soon as we can find a new location for Museum Education storage. Moving all of our servers into that one location will mean that my office will no longer have to be kept at the wine storage temperature of 55°, something many of you have commented on as you've entered the Computer Lab of late. I don't like it, but the computers think it is great.

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MUSEUM / Karen Wilson

The end of this summer coincided with the "end" of the Oriental Institute building and renovation project. Of course, such things are never really fully completed, but in this case

the asymptotic curve has probably gotten as close to the "finished" line as possible. The new LaSalle Banks Education Center (AKA multipurpose room) in the basement has already hosted several parties, the archaeology labs are ready to be moved into as soon as we can get locks put on the doors and the floors swept and cleaned, and the tablet collection has been moved down from the third floor into the newly renovated (and climate controlled) former organic storage room. Also in position in that room, just waiting to be filled, are \$50,000 worth of brand-new museum quality storage cabinets, purchased with a Conservation Support Grant from IMLS, to house the Mesopotamian collection. And just last month, the museum received word that it had received a similar award from IMLS to purchase storage cabinets for the Megiddo collection, so we are well on our way to unpacking boxes and looking at our treasures once again!

Also last month, the museum was awarded an IMLS General Operating Support Grant for the next two years, which is a most helpful infusion of unrestricted funds as we continue to set our offices back up for business and tackle the task of reinstallation. GOS awards are a recognition of the excellence of a museum's operation, and it is a tribute to the entire museum staff that we were one of 186 successful applicants out of a pool of 942. My thanks to them all for their creativeness, their devotion to the museum, and, especially, their ability to continue to do first-rate jobs in the midst of the dirt and confusion of the last 2 years, and to always (well, almost always) do it all with smiles on their faces! Thank you all!

In August, the Museum Education Office introduced a sold-out crowd of potential Egyptologists—ages 6-12!—to the wonders of the ancient world at "Be An Ancient Egyptian Artist," a week-long summer day camp held at the Lill Street Studio, an art gallery and studio space on the north side. This successful collaborative venture is one of the many off-site programs that the Education Office has been offering at schools and community centers throughout the metropolitan area while the museum's galleries have been closed for renovation.

In September, the Museum Education Office was awarded a grant of \$25,000 by the Lloyd A. Fry foundation to present a Teacher Training Program on Ancient Egypt and Nubia in collaboration with the Chicago Public Schools. Anna Rochester will be the coordinator for this program, which is based on the curriculum materials for ancient Egypt and Nubia that were developed by the Education Office over the past 5 years with grant-funded support from the Polk Bros. Foundation.

The City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs invited the Museum Education Office to take part in Spotlight on Chicago, a preview of Chicago's upcoming cultural season held at the Cultural Center on Wednesday, September 23rd. This event introduced more than 300 Chicago-area teachers and community organization educators to the educational services provided by Chicago's major cultural institutions. Carole Krucoff and Anna Rochester hosted the Oriental Institute booth, which displayed all of the slide sets, videos, poster portfolios, curriculum guides, and "mini-museums" of reproduction artifacts that the Museum Education Office makes available to teachers for classroom loan.

Conservation staff are busy working with other museum staff to prepare objects for the new Egyptian Gallery. Due to the large number of objects in this installation, every bit of the lab's bright new expanded space is being used to evaluate and treat some of the most beautiful pieces in the collection.

There have been two recent changes in conservation staff. Barbara Hamann left the Museum in early September to assume the position of conservator for the state of Wyoming. Her place has been filled by Susan Holbrook as of September 1. Susan came

to the Oriental Institute in 1997 as the recipient of a 12-month conservation grant from IMLS to work with conservation staff on the stabilization of the Assyrian reliefs. At the conclusion of the IMLS grant, Susan's position was extended with funds from the James Henry Breasted Society. As the Breasted Society Conservator, Susan spent most of her time working on the restoration of King Tut. We are very pleased that she has accepted the position of Assistant Conservator and welcome her as a permanent member of the staff.

A new conservator, Sara Caspi, will be coming on board October 8 for a period of 12 months as the first of two Getty Grant Program interns. Sara will be coming to us after completing an internship at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, Maryland.

Conservation staff are also pleased to once again be in a position to offer their facilities and expertise to Institute faculty, staff, and students. Currently, Colleen Coyle is examining a series of hematite weights from the Diyala under the binocular microscope prior to taking them over to be analyzed by the scanning electron microscope in the Department of Geophysical Sciences. And Tasha Vorderstrasse, who is studying coins from the Amuq, will be bringing some of the most severely corroded ones up to the lab to see what can be read using some microscope 'tricks' that the conservators have up their sleeves. We hope that these links will continue and grow, and that we will find ways to continue to expand our conservation facilities, now that the larger lab makes increased cooperation possible.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Over the summer we completed work on and saw through press the Epigraphic Survey's second volume on Luxor Temple (OIP 116); the plates and booklet are printed and the custom-design portfolio cases are being manufactured. We expect to begin selling this volume in late October (\$250). Work on Garrison and Root's Persepolis Seals (OIP 117) is nearing completion; the text volume is being read one last time before returning it to the authors and the plate volume is being assembled. We thank Chuck Jones for his help with the bibliography and John Larson for providing the illustrations for the figures. On Monday (10/5) work began on the Wente Festschrift (SAOC 58) and the Annual Report for 1997/98. Abbas Alizadeh's Excavations at the Prehistoric Mound of Chogha Bonut, Khuzestan, Iran: Seasons of 1976-1978 and 1996 and Markus Hilgert's Cuneiform Texts from the Ur III Period in the Oriental Institute, Volume 2: Drehem Administrative Documents from the Reign of Amar-Suena were accepted for publication. Two mice were killed in our mouse traps.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

We have just completed the first summer in the Research Archives with climate control. I am pleased to report that the air conditioning works spectacularly well. Two of our regular summer visitors extended their stays here because the room is so much more comfortable than it has been. We are now looking forward to our first heating season with the new system, and trust that the steady delivery of air at a constant temperature and humidity will have as great an impact in the winter as it had this summer.

We have completed the move of the map collection into the west room of the upper level of the Research Archives. The room has shelving, expanded flat-file space, and a table. We are also moving all the bound map and atlas materials into this room, along with other appropriate materials. As a consequence the maps can now be consulted with much greater ease. We are now also keeping the microfilm collection in the Map Room.

The availability of a table and chairs in the Map Room offers an opportunity for small classes to meet within the confines of the Research Archives. The space is particularly suitable for classes or seminars in which it might be useful to consult a number of publications. Two classes have arranged to make use of this space. I will be happy to try to accommodate other events as they appear.

We expect, in the next few weeks, to complete the reconfiguration, moving the pamphlet file to the upper level, and collecting the bibliographical resources in the space at the foot of the stairway.

We have nearly completed the sorting of a fairly large number of duplicates and books not required for our holdings. Most of these have been acquired by gift over the years. We intend to dispose of them in various ways, one of which will be an in-house book sale. Watch for signs giving times and dates.

We have two photocopying machines, one at the front of the Research Archives (which accepts account codes and magnetic cards); the other in the new stacks (accepting magnetic cards only). In the next two weeks we will upgrade all the computers, giving faster and more effective means of communicating with the on-line catalogue, as well as offering improved access to networked resources available through University of Chicago servers, and to individual e-mail accounts.

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TABLET COLLECTION / J. A. Brinkman

The Tablet Collection is entering the final stages of its relocation. The tablets have been moved to new climate-controlled quarters in the basement, as has the large collection of casts, molds, and photographs formerly in the tablet room. The tablet room is being renovated for on-going cataloguing and conservation work and to accommodate visitors; it will combine features and work-space formerly provided by the old kiln room and the small work area in room 322.

Daniel Nevez, assistant curator for the past year, has returned to his former job as research assistant to John Brinkman. Steven Cole has agreed to serve as assistant curator and began work on Sept. 11.

Visitors during the summer included: Tonia Sharlach (July 29-Aug. 4) looking at Ur III materials, David Weisberg (Aug. 11-26) finishing his edition of Neo-Babylonian texts, Markus Hilgert (Aug. 21-Sept. 2) continuing his editing of Ur III tablets, Walter Sommerfeld (Aug. 24-31) collating Old Akkadian texts from the Diyala, and Eleanor Robson (beginning Sept. 28) working on school texts from Nippur.

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INDIVIDUALS

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ELIZABETH FRIEDMAN

Elizabeth Friedman (Liz) is on her second year of fellowship at the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory where she is conducting experiments on archaeological material using synchrotron radiation X-ray fluorescence (SR-XRF). Analysis of samples from a sediment core from relic Lake Golbasi in the northern Amuq reveals trends in concentrations of elements over time. Liz is using some of these elemental concentrations as proxies of environmental change. This past summer she presented the

preliminary results of this project at the 64th Annual Denver X-ray Conference in Colorado Springs. She also submitted a paper for publication in Volume 42 of *Advances in X-ray Analysis*. In September Liz and her colleagues at Argonne conducted a second synchrotron experiment on the sediments. Liz is working on this material with Tony Wilkinson and will be presenting the results of these experiments and their significance to the environmental and archaeological reconstruction of the Amuq during the Late Holocene at the SAA meetings in Chicago next March.

Argonne aside, Liz has been instructing Colleen Coyle in scanning electron microscopy (SEM) of weights from the Diyala as well as continuing her own SEM on pottery from Goltepe. In addition, Liz is fervently trying to finish her dissertation on Technological Style in Early Bronze Age Anatolia :-)

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CHUCK JONES

Chuck Jones has been negotiating a project between the Oriental Institute and The Regional Information and Technology Software Engineering Center (RITSEC) in Cairo. RITSEC originally approached the Oriental Institute suggesting a project to raise the profile of the Museum's Arabic and Islamic Manuscript collections in the context of its Cultureware Project funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the United Nations Development Program. The initial phase of our project, in process this fall, involves support from RITSEC for initial study of some of the MSS, with a focus on the Arabic papyri published by Nabia Abbott in the volumes she produced under the imprint of the Oriental Institute; high resolution photography; the development of an information system for the study of the collection; and the collaborative production of a CD-ROM publication.

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WALTER KAEGI

Walter Kaegi completed four entries "Heraclius," "North Africa, Byzantine," "Warfare, Byzantine," and "Yarmuk, Battle," for the *Encyclopedia of Greece and the Hellenic Tradition*, which Graham Speake is editing. During the month of June he visited archaeological sites and museums in Spain and Morocco.

He spent the duration of the summer working on his book manuscript on the life and reign of the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius, and on another book manuscript on the Muslim Conquest of Byzantine North Africa.

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MATTHEW STOLPER

In early July, I attended the Cambridge, MA part of the *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* and stayed on a day to sit in on a meeting of Robert Englund (Berkeley) and Steve Tinney (Pennsylvania) with the directors of the Perseus Project (Tufts) to discuss on-line text presentation and analysis.

In late September, I spent two weeks in Berlin, working on late Achaemenid Babylonian texts and fragments from Kasr of Babylon in the Vorderasiatisches Museum. There are good reasons why these items have not attracted burning interest since 1913 ...

Mark Garrison (Trinity) will visit in late October (probably Oct. 22-25) to continue work on seal impressions on Persepolis Fortification tablets.

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EMILY TEETER

In June, Emily Teeter joined the European Institute for Underwater Archaeology for their season in the east port of Alexandria, Egypt. The project, under the direction of Franck Goddio, is a joint French-Egyptian expedition in cooperation with the Egyptian navy. The team was made up of remote sensing technicians, archaeologists and divers. Alexandria harbor has long been a sensitive military zone, and virtually no archeological investigation, or even casual diving, has been permitted. In the 1992-3 seasons, Goddio's team documented the submarine features with magnetometers, side scan sonar and bathymeters. In the 1996-7 seasons, the divers, in the course of 3,500 individual dives plotted the harbor floor using innovative underwater GPS techniques. In the June 1998 season, we began to investigate the architectural and sculptural remains. Of special interest was the series of statues which were temporarily raised from the intact pavement of Antirrhodos Island for the purposes of identification. The most interesting of them was a rare statue of a priest of Osiris-Hydreios. It was an exact pair to a badly damaged statue that once stood in the open air statue garden in Alexandria (now removed and present location unknown). Based on the parallel sculptures from the Ras el Soda temple, this strongly suggests that the priest of Osiris Hydreios came from the Isis temple on the island of Antirrhodos which is mentioned so prominently by Strabo. The state of preservation of the ancient city, now underwater, is amazing. Through subsidence, the city simply sank, leaving great sections of pavement intact, and scatters of fallen columns to indicate the route of processional ways. At the end of the season a 35 meter ship wreck, probably of early Roman date, was located in the harbor of Antirrhodos.

In mid August, Emily returned to Seattle to be the keynote speaker for a Jackson School of International Studies (Univ. Wash.) and Seattle Art Museum sponsored teacher's institute.

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TONY WILKINSON

Wilkinson reports that he has just returned from field seasons at Tell Beydar, Khabur Valley Syria, and the Amuq Plain, Turkey. At Beydar team members Wilkinson (OI/NELC), Eleanor Barbanes (Berkeley), Jason Ur (OI/NELC), and Patrice van Dorpe (Leuven) completed a second field season of survey within 12 km radius of that site. In addition a 90 m long 6 m deep backhoe trench was cut through the area between the tell and the outer circular wall to determine the history of this large annular depression. It seems that this feature was artificially cut during two stages of the 3rd millennium BC.

In the Amuq we finished the basic survey of the plain and continued geoarchaeological investigations. Survey team members included Jan Verstraete (U. of Cincinnati), Simrit Dhesi (OI and NELC), Hatice Pamir (Mustapha Kemal University), and T.J. Wilkinson (OI/NELC). We now have 237 sites in the survey inventory, a total that has been increased by the introduction of intensive survey between sites by Jan Verstraete. Excavation still continues and will finish around October 16th. Aslihan Yener will report on this when she returns on the 16th October.