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OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - OCTOBER 1999

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UNITS

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE / Gene Gragg

I would like to welcome students, staff, visitors, and faculty back to what should be a challenging and exciting year for the Oriental Institute. As we head into the new academic year, I am pleased to announce that, by way of recognition of the exceptional contribution to the research effort of the Oriental Institute, Richard Beal and John Sanders have been promoted to Senior Research Associate. Likewise in recognition of his research role in the Oriental Institute, Chuck Jones adds the title of Research Associate to that of Research Archivist/Bibliographer. There are no faculty

comings/goings to report, but we are very happy to have two Visiting Scholars: Alexandrine Guérin is here on a research Fulbright grant. She recently received her doctorate from the Sorbonne; her dissertation deals with archaeological remains of medieval settlement patterns and tribes in southern Syria. She has lived for about 7 years in Damascus and has participated in numerous excavations and surveys in Syria. The other is Dan Selden, Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He is interested in Hellenistic literature as it relates to the Near East.

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The most important news from the Computer Lab over the summer and early fall is that we are in the process of setting up the new Lab in Room 202 and the server room on the second floor. Electrical and network wiring was installed in late August, and plastering/painting will be completed in a few days. By this time next month I expect to be in the new facilities, though perhaps still operating out of a few boxes. All the Institute's servers will be housed in their new home, and Norman Golb and I will probably be playing musical offices as we do a switch.

The start of the new Fall school year has seen the OI website exceed 200,000 "hits" per week on a regular basis (4 weeks in a row throughout September).

Several new computing facilities and capabilities are in the works as I write this memo, such as moving the Research Archives on-line catalog to a web-based format so that it will be accessible to anyone in the world via the internet. Several new public access computers, both Macintosh and Windows-based, will be available in the new Computer Lab AND in the Archives. I'll report on this further in next months report, as they become available.

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MUSEUM / Karen Wilson

This has been a busy summer for the museum, with 22,000 visitors having passed through our doors since the public opening of the Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery on Memorial Day Weekend. The most common comment encountered in the Visitors' Comment Book has been "We can't wait for the rest of the museum to be open as well." Neither can the museum staff, which is beginning work on planning future reinstallations, as well as getting our daily operation back into shape after the chaos that resulted from the push for the reopening.

In August, the museum was awarded a Conservation Project Support grant of \$50,000 to purchase storage cabinets for the Persian Collection. This will allow us to get the collection out of its temporary packing boxes and into cabinets so that objects for the reinstallation of the Persian Gallery can be selected. (A similar grant awarded last year has allowed us to unpack



Simrit Dhese and Blane Conklin were hired as part-time work study assistants.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The renovation project threatened for the end of the summer in the Research Archives was postponed. However, we now have the project bids approved and accepted, and the budget in place so the project can move forward. We are working on the scheduling. Asbestos abatement (luckily there is not very much of this stuff to deal with), will occur on the night of October 4th, requiring us to close at 4PM on that day. We will reopen as usual on Tuesday morning. There has been some disruption of the usual shelving of books in preparation for the project. If you are unable to locate a book let me know.

As for the rest of the project, we hope to schedule it in the least inconvenient way possible. There will nevertheless be periods of noise and disruption in the reading room, and there will certainly also be times when we will be closed.

With luck we will be able to schedule the closed periods during the winter break. Those of you who are teaching should nevertheless contact the Regenstein Reserve department to make sure teaching materials will be available. Catherine Mardikes assures me that she will help to make sure materials you need are available over there. Feel free to contact her <c-mardikes@uchicago.edu> for assistance.

If you have classes including students other than graduate students in NELC, please ask them to identify themselves to me, and inform them that users of this library are expected to reshelve their books. If you have photocopied materials for "reserve", please let me know.

All of the public access machines in the Research Archives have been replaced or upgraded. We now have two iMacs and a new Dell PC. Within days we will have a CD-ROM jukebox available on one of the Apples and on the Dell. This will make some of the CD-ROM based resources much more accessible.

All of the machines in the Research Archives are connected to the internet. You can read your mail at any of them, via telnet or other utilities. In addition we have a 'public' internet jack for those with a laptop.

As mentioned in the COMPUTER LAB report above, we are prepared to have the on-line catalogue make the move from the local network to the Web as soon as the server room and the new computer lab facilities are up and running.

Staff in the Research Archives this year includes:  
Katherine Strange - Second year Islamic archaeology student  
Jake Lauinger - First year Mesopotamian history student, and  
Mark Saathoff - First year Egyptian archaeology student.

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PROJECTS

AMUQ - TELL KURDU / Aslihan Yener

Tell Kurdu Excavations 1999

The 1999 season at Tell Kurdu (5 August to 15 September 1999) consisted of three large trenches and three smaller trenches dating to the Amuq E (or Ubaid-related, c. 4800-4400/4300 BC), Amuq D (c. 5200-4800 BC), and a late phase of Amuq C (or Halaf-related, c. 5700-5200 BC) periods. Pise-slab constructed architecture, industrial areas, and associated trash deposits were unearthed. In addition, a team from Bogazici University conducted a magnetometry survey over two large portions of the site.

The excavation staff included the following people: Aslihan Yener (University of Chicago), project director; Christopher Edens (University of Pennsylvania), site director; Steven Batiuk (University of Toronto), Jesse Casana (University of Chicago), Rana Özbal (Northwestern University), Amir Sumakai-Fink (University of Chicago), Bakiye Yükmén (Mustafa Kemal Üniversitesi), trench supervisors; Bülent Demir, Özlem Dogan, Lale Döğüscü, Serap Güzel, Dilem Karaköse, Halim Kes (Mustafa Kemal Üniversitesi), Heather Snow (University of Toronto), Nadine Chenier (Laval Université), trench assistants; Benjamin Diebold (Yale University), pottery analysis, Heidi Ekstrom (Saint Mary's University), flotation and botanical analysis; Michelle Loyet (University of Illinois), faunal analysis; Brenda Craddock (independent scholar), illustration.

1. Jesse Casana placed Tr. 11 (10 x 10 m) and Tr. 15 (excavated over a 5 x 10 m area) along the western side of Tr. 2. Three phases of kilns for firing pottery formed three sides around a central open space. Three of the kilns were square while the fourth was round. Fragments of other kilns could also be discerned. Numerous wasters and frequent ceramic slag were unearthed in this industrial installation suggesting that the production of pottery was beyond a cottage industry and that it was a specialized craft product. The workshop dates to the Amuq Phase E.
2. Amir Sumakai-Fink placed Tr. 14 (4 x 10 m) step trench over the east slope of the south mound intending to cut from the modern mound surface to virgin soil below the present level of the surrounding plain. Part of a building was unearthed, as well as bedded trash deposits. Two ovens were uncovered in a corner of the room and trash deposits contained numerous fragments of clay sealings, tokens, figurines and beads. The pottery suggests a date of Amuq E.
3. Rana Özbal placed Tr. 12 (10 x 10 m) and Tr. 16 (excavated over a 5 x 10 m area), in the west end of a building which had been partly revealed by a magnetometer reading in 1998. A courtyard and a second open space framed by a multi-roomed rectilinear structure with surprisingly thick walls was unearthed. The pottery belongs to the Amuq Phase C, or Halaf-related period.
4. Bakiye Yükmén placed Tr. 13 (5 x 5 m) toward the base of the south

mound on its northwest side, while Tr. 18 (3 x 3 m) near the saddle in the north and Tr. 17 (2 x 2 m) by Steve Batiuk was placed to the southwest of the south mound to assess bulldozer activities and the topography of the settlement. The evidence suggests that the Amuq E settlement formed an oval oriented SW-NE above earlier occupation.

The 1999 season of excavation has greatly increased our understanding of Tell Kurdu. The pottery workshop with kilns and storage compartments on the east slope of the mound suggest public organization of craft and subsistence. Sealing activity points to a managed and systemic bureaucracy at the site.

In addition to these activities, Tim Harrison from Toronto University conducted a three week survey of third millennium sites in the Amuq valley. During the course of the investigations, a basalt fragment containing a Hittite hieroglyphic inscription from the Iron Age was discovered at the farmhouse garden on Tayinat al-Sughir. The fragment was said to come from Tell Tayinat and is the first inscription found in the newly activated Amuq Valley Regional Projects.

Another small reconnaissance of the mining regions of the Amanus Mountains was conducted by the author in conjunction with the MTA (the Mineral and Research Institute) and Bogaziçi University. A mine containing veins of arsenopyrites in conjunction with chalcopyrite presented interesting conjunction for the early arsenical bronzes found in Amuq sites. An inscription, containing the word "Antioch" in Greek was discovered on a stone at 2000 m. altitude and is tentatively dated to 500 AD.

The third survey group, the Orontes Delta Survey, directed by Hatice Pamir unearthed 30 new sites at the mouth of the Orontes Delta near the Mediterranean coastal town of Samandag. Although most of the sites were Classical and later, the much sought after LBA Sabuniye which was first excavated by Woolley, as well as several other LBA and EBA sites were found.

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

The Epigraphic Survey office officially moved from room 222 to room 320 on July 19; I moved into room 307 on August 10. To celebrate the move to the third floor, and the publication of 'Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple Volume 2: The Facade, Portals, Upper Register Scenes, Columns, Marginalia, and Statuary in the Colonnade Hall' (OIP 116) we had an open house on August 18 which was quite festive. Our new neighbors have been most gracious with their warm welcome, and we love our new home.

To commemorate our 75th anniversary, on July 20th I had the pleasure of giving a talk to the Women's Board of the University of Chicago entitled: "The Oriental Institute in Egypt: 75 Years at Chicago House", and again at Breasted Hall on September 26 to the University of Chicago Club of Metropolitan Chicago (UC2MC).

Other news: staff members Moataz Abo Shady and Dany Roy are both new

daddies: Dany and Kay's son William was born on August 13, and Moataz and Dalia are the proud parents of little Seif ('sword'), born on August 18. Both moms and sons are doing very well, not to mention the dads!

On October 8 I will return to Egypt to sign the papers at Supreme Council of Antiquities headquarters which will launch the Chicago House 1999 - 2000 field season, our 76th. Tina Di Cerbo is in Luxor now, cleaning and opening up the house in preparation for the staff's arrival. Chicago House's doors officially open October 15, and it already promises to be a very busy season! In the meantime, grad student Randy Shonkwiler will be watching the office for us back here, and making sure important mail gets to us in Luxor (thank you, Randy).

When next you hear from me it will be from the Two Lands (where I am told it is still in the upper 90 degrees Fahrenheit!). Leaving is always a bittersweet affair, but there is much work to do in Luxor this season, and much to be excited about. It will be good to get back, and to plunge back into the fieldwork. We'll keep you posted!

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HITTITE WORKSHOP / Harry A. Hoffner, Jr.

Hittitology Lecture & Workshop Series  
Sponsored by The Dept. of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and The Oriental Institute

October 12-26, 1999

Schedule of Workshops:

During the month of October four visiting Hittitologists will present lectures and conduct workshops for interested members of the University of Chicago community. The lectures are open to the public. The workshop sessions are also open to the public, but persons wishing to participate fully in the discussion are advised to prepare for the sessions

The visiting Hittitologists are: Gary M. Beckman (Univ. of Michigan), Jörg Klinger (Univ. of Würzburg, Germany), Billie Collins (Emory Univ.), and Theo van den Hout (Univ. of Amsterdam). Sessions will be conducted according to the custom and style of the individual visiting scholar. But in general there will be some presentation of background material by the instructor followed by some student responses to questions, historical, cultural and linguistic. Linguistic recitation will require a knowledge of the Hittite language. Session Four (van den Hout) is exclusively linguistic, while sessions one, two and three will mix textual analysis with broader discussions of history, religion, magic, and literary technique.

Students from Classics or CAMW are encouraged to attend Workshop Three, where the Homeric Hymn to Demeter will form a part of the discussion. Students from Linguistics will find Workshop Four of particular interest. Assyriology students are encouraged to participate in Workshop One, where the Akkadian text of the Hattusilis Annals will be read and compared with

the Hittite version.

All sessions will be held in OI 210 from 4:30-5:30 PM

Tue., Oct. 12	Gary Beckman	Lecture	Gilgamesh in Hatti
Thu., Oct. 14	Gary Beckman	Workshop	The Akkado-Hittite Bilingual Annals of Hattusilis I
Mon., Oct. 18	Jörg Klinger	Lecture	The Hittite King - a Study of Words, Facts, and Ideas
Tue., Oct. 19	Jörg Klinger	Workshop	KUB 32.130: An Often Overlooked Tablet and its Historical Background
Thu., Oct. 21	Billie Collins	Lecture	Getting the Magic Back: Performative Acts in Hittite Ritual
Fri., Oct. 22	Billie Collins	Workshop	The Missing Deities of Anatolia
Mon., Oct. 25	Theo van den Hout	Lecture	Another View of Hittite Literature
Tue., Oct. 26	Theo van den Hout	Workshop	Hittite Phraseological Verbs

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TABLET ROOM / John A. Brinkman

There are two researchers currently working on the tablet collection here: Markus Hilgert (Jena), who began work on Sept. 16 on Ur III documents, and Eleanor Robson (Oxford), who started on Sept. 24 and is concerned with scholarly tablets from the third season of excavations at Nippur.

On September 14, the Chicago Geographic Society gave to the Institute a collection of six tablets in their possession since 1926. The texts range in date from the twenty-first to the sixth century B.C. and include Ur III, Old Babylonian, and Achaemenid materials. There will be a further report about these at a later date.

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TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP / Chuck Jones

In place of the usual lunch meeting on the first Friday of the month many of us will be participating in the conference:

Electronic Publication of Ancient Near Eastern Texts

Sponsored by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago and the Franke Institute for the Humanities

October 8th & 9th, 1999

The program and abstracts are now available as a pdf file through the Conference Web page:

[http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/XML\\_Conference\\_1999.html](http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/XML_Conference_1999.html)

or directly at:

[http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/XML\\_Conference\\_Program.pdf](http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/XML_Conference_Program.pdf)



IMPORTANT: Anyone planning to attend the conference must register by contacting David Schloen <d-schloen@uchicago.edu> as soon as possible, if you have not done so already.

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TELL HAMOUKAR IN SYRIA

Mac Gibson is still in the field at Tell Hamoukar with Judith Franke, Carrie Hritz (already back), Clemens Reichel, John Sanders (already back - see his report below), Peggy Sanders (not yet there), Jason Ur, and Tony Wilkinson (now in Yemen).

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YEMEN PROJECT

Tony Wilkinson is in the field with Chris Edens, Mark Altaweel and Colleen Coyle.

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THE ANCIENT SOCIETIES WORKSHOP

The Ancient Societies Workshop is pleased to present our first meeting of the year this Tuesday, October 5th at 3:30 p.m. in the Walsh Seminar Room (Classics 26):

A Discussion of Mary Douglas' Purity and Danger by Professors James Redfield and Bruce Lincoln

The Ancient Studies Workshop this year will be jointly chaired by James Redfield and Bruce Lincoln, and the theme is, of course, derived from Mary Douglas's book by that name; we shall be exploring, not uncritically, her thesis that purity has to do with classification, that dangerous monsters and substances are things hard to classify. We expect to present a wide range of papers relating to rituals of purification, purity rules, and religiously and magically charged classificatory problems in ancient times.

Refreshments to follow. Please join us!

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INDIVIDUALS

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ABBAS ALIZADEH

Abbas is in the field in Iran

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STEVEN COLE

Steven Cole spent the summer in Ghent, Belgium, working on a joint project between the Oriental Institute and the University of Ghent, the aim of

which is to reconstruct the ancient courses of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. He and Hermann Gasche, of the University of Ghent, finished a major 75-page article, with new topographical maps in color, entitled "Second- and First-Millennium BC Rivers in Northern Babylonia," which has now appeared in a volume entitled Changing Watercourses in Babylonia: Towards a Reconstruction of the Ancient Environment in Lower Mesopotamia, vol. 1, ed. H. Gasche and M. Tanret, Mesopotamian History and Environment, Series II, Memoirs V (Ghent and Chicago: University of Ghent and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 1998 [printed summer 1999]). Cole also traveled with Hermann Gasche to Nice to consult with M.-J. Steve and F. Vallat about a peculiar year formula found on an Elamite text from Haft Tepe, an interpretation of which he and L. De Meyer, also of the University of Ghent, have now published as "Tepti-ahar, King of Susa, and Kadashman-dKUR.GAL," in Akkadica 112 (September 1999). Finally, Cole and V.G. Gurzadyan of Universita di Roma 'La Sapienza' and Yerevan Physics Institute have now published a detailed reply to J. Koch, who, in the December 1998 issue of Nouvelles assyriologiques breves et utilitaires, criticized aspects of the short astronomical section of H. Gasche, J.A. Armstrong, S.W. Cole, and V.G. Gurzadyan, Dating the Fall of Babylon: A Reappraisal of Second-Millennium Chronology (A Joint Ghent-Chicago-Harvard Project), Mesopotamian History and Environment, Series II, Memoirs IV (Ghent and Chicago: University of Ghent and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 1998). The latter has recently appeared as "Ur III Eclipses Revisited," Akkadica 112 (September 1999).

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FRANCOIS GAUDARD

I attended the 7th International Conference of Demotic Studies held in Copenhagen (August 23-27 1999) and gave a paper on the Demotic papyrus P. Berlin 8278 and its fragments, focusing on the literary and philological interests of this text.

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ALEXANDRINE GUERIN

REGION, TERRITORY AND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS IN THE NEAR AND THE MIDDLE-EAST  
DURING THE ISLAMIC PERIOD (VIIth - XVIth century).

The place (region), defense of the territory, and links between the nomads and the settled people are the themes I shall analyse in my work. One area which seem suitable for this study of rural communities is the district of Laja in Southern Syria (subject of my doctoral thesis), the occupation of which has been documented for the Nabataean, Roman and Byzantine periods, but not yet for the Islamic periods. We can fully grasp the links between the topography and the territory. Each of these territories is composed of arid areas with very little arable soil which contrast with the richness of the cereal plain of Nuqra which have been known as the bread basket of Damascus since Antiquity. I have centered my studies on the definition of the gap between or, rather, of the complementarity of these two regions and

the populations that lived there: farmers and nomads. The historian is confronted with the inescapable obstacle of the lack of knowledge concerning the rural world since the existing texts - of urban origin - are not very informative. Consequently, it is essential to make careful archaeological studies of rural zones. I have tried to study the village, its territory and its inhabitants, starting out with the premise that housing conditions give a social and economic account of a population. I used surveys in the Laja area, excavations at the village of Msayké (Southern Syria) for dating the settlements. For a better understanding of housing conditions and the way of life, I have used anthropological and architectural research carried out in the Near Eastern area (Syria and Jordan). For a study of such zones, arid strips bordering on a cereal zone - whose historical approach is particularly difficult given the scant number of written sources - the problem at hand is very much one of understanding binary populations: nomadic and sedentary. The archaeological analysis is thus enriched with an ethnoarchaeological and geographical approach which leads us to take inspiration from the present ("Architecture villageoise et tribu nomade. Définition d'un peuplement dans le Laja durant les périodes islamiques" in Berytus, Mai 2000, 38 pages). Therefore, I shall define my work as a study of Islamic archaeology, the results of which are linked to a historical and ethnological framework. The archaeological data that are the foundation of my work have been associated with the texts and Arabic writings of the medieval period concerning these particular areas considered in their environment writ large.

I would like to continue this research along the same lines.

Firstly, I am currently preparing a translation of a notice from Ibn Asakir concerning the fitna at the end of the 8th century. I have written an initial article about historical topography : "Damas et son territoire à la période abbasside" (acte de la Table ronde, Damas, Janvier 1999, Villes syriennes : Héritages et mutations). I intend to continue the study of Ibn Asakir by focusing on the role of the official army and the tribal army as well as on the power in Damascus during this fitna.

Secondly, I am going to assemble the archaeological typology of the Islamic ceramics from Southern Syria. This particular study will be part of a more general research on the Islamic ceramics from the Middle-East to which Don Whitcomb already largely contributed.

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JAN JOHNSON

A large contingent of Demotists from the OI attended the 7th International Conference of Demotic Studies in Copenhagen in August. Among those giving papers were Robert Ritner, Jan Johnson, Alexandra O'Brien, François Gaudard, and Tom Dousa.

An organizational meeting for the work on the new, Mellon-sponsored annotated electronic readingbook of Middle Egyptian will be (by date of publication "was") held September 30 to familiarize students with the project and enlist student participants. Sandy Schloen, David's wife, is the programmer who will be working with us on this project.



JOHN SANDERS

I can report on the first week's work at Tell Hamoukar, in Syria. While McGuire Gibson worked out the logistical needs for starting up a new excavation in a new country, new for most of us at least, Jason Ur started doing his surface survey of the entire mound (collecting all sherds in a 10x10 meter square in every 100x100 meter grid over the entire site). At lot of work, so good luck, Jason. Clemens Reichel started excavating a three meter wide step trench down the north face of the mound, starting at an elevation of 99.0 meters with a 16 meter drop over the 40 meter length of the trench to plain level. He immediately found a 4-meter wide mudbrick wall just under the surface at the very top of the trench. Judith Franke had opened two 10x10 squares on a slightly lower ridge of the main, high mound, and by week's end had nothing but Uruk period pottery throughout. This is at an elevation of 92.0 meters, anywhere from 10-12 meters above plain level at the edges of the site.

Carrie Hritz and I spent seven days walking and surveying the entire site, gathering topographical data which I have now used to produce a contour map of the entire mound and its immediate surroundings. The site is 102 hectares in size, with a modern village on top of the center part of the mound that covers 46 hectares at its outermost extremes.

Needless to say, it was fun to be back in the field, but Mac is going to have his hands full with a site as large and interesting as Hamoukar. But at least he does not have to deal with Pennsylvania backfill as at Nippur.

Lastly, I can report that the Syrian government is providing tremendous support for the project, making operations on a daily basis very productive.

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DAVID SCHLOEN

THE LEON LEVY EXPEDITION TO ASHKELON

The Chicago chapter of the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon (David Schloen, associate director; Aaron Burke, Joey Corbett, Tasha Vorderstrasse, field supervisors and data entry staff) has made substantial progress in computerizing the data from this long-running archaeological project, which just completed its fifteenth annual field season. Particularly noteworthy was our major effort in the academic year 1998-99 to scan 7,000 color slides using the OI computer laboratory's Nikon film scanner and Windows workstation. These slides comprise the bulk of the registered photographs from the expedition, and now that they are in digital form we have been able to incorporate all of them into our database, with links to the specific artifacts or field locations that they represent. We are grateful to John Sanders, Head of the OI Computer Laboratory, for his assistance in this project.

This year we will focus our efforts on computerizing the expedition's many detailed top plans and section drawings, first scanning them as bitmapped raster images, then georeferencing them according to real-world map coordinates, and finally tracing them directly into the database as vector graphics, where they will become "smart" maps that are linked directly to



The project "Ortaköy-Sapinuwa Epigraphical Research" has been financially supported by American Research Institute in Turkey in 1999 with a research fellowship. Our work in 1999 was conducted during April and May. I spent a part of the month of April with Prof. Aygöl Süel in Ankara to select texts for further research. In May, accompanied by Dr. Yasemin Soysal and Esma Reyhan, M.A. (both members of the Ankara University), we went to Çorum and started to take pictures of the selected original tablets (primarily the Hattian and vocabulary texts), which are deposited at the Museum of Çorum. During this work more than 10 small fragments have been identified as joins, and glued together in order to gain larger and more complete texts. They are now 50 fragments in total, most belonging to three different "Foundation Rituals" written as bilinguals in Hattian and Hittite, that are already known from the Bogazköy archives. There are also a few very important vocabulary texts. With the permission of Prof. Aygöl Süel, the pictures of some fragments were brought to Chicago. This makes intensive work on the epigraphic material of Ortaköy possible in my work place at the Oriental Institute, where I am able to use the rich archival files collection of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project.

Our Ankara-Chicago cooperation is expected to be very fruitful for Hittite lexical studies. Indeed, the results that we have achieved to date are encouraging. The Hattian-Hittite bilingual texts have revealed many lexical items that remained unknown to date. We have learned the Hattian word for "ox", Hittite / Ancient Anatolian words for "seah-measure" and "tin," etc. The latter discovery is especially significant since it is a further contribution to the history of Ancient Anatolian metallurgy, adding to the work of our colleague Prof. Aslihan Yener of the Oriental Institute, who has discovered an early Bronze Age tin mining and processing operation during her archaeological excavations at Kestel and Göltepe in the Taurus Mountains of Turkey.

The recently studied 50 fragments, which have yielded such interesting results, make up just 1.5 % of the entire epigraphic material of Ortaköy. Thus, the importance of the approximately 3500 Ortaköy fragments now can be appreciated even more.

It is fortunate that we have the great opportunity to consult in our research three lexical projects at the Oriental Institute, the Chicago Hittite Dictionary, the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary and the Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon. Their support is very important for utilizing and commenting on the epigraphic material from Ortaköy. As part of the work for 1999 and 2000, we are now preparing three joint articles for publication, in which we will report the first results of our studies on the Ortaköy tablets, in order to make them accessible to the community of scholars in the humanities. The tentative titles are:

- 1) A Vocabulary Text from Ortaköy.
- 2) The Hattian-Hittite Foundation Rituals from Ortaköy (I) (First of a three-part series of articles).
- 3) Ortaköy'de Bulunmus Hattice-Hititçe İnsa Ritüelleri (I) (Turkish version of 2).

On October 4th-8th 1999, I will participate in the 4th International Congress of Hittitology in Würzburg (Germany) and read a Turkish paper on

recent Hattian studies, in which I briefly report also on the Hattian texts from Ortaköy.

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MATTHEW STOLPER

I spent about two and a half weeks of September at the Vorderasiatisches Museum in Berlin, continuing a project that I had resumed last September. I examined texts from a group called the Kasr archive, after the area of Babylon where they were excavated by the Deutsche Orientgesellschaft in 1913. The archive includes information on the business dealings of a district governor of Babylon and later governor of Syria under the Achaemenid Persian kings, so it has some value both for the political history of the empire and the social history of the province. Tablets from the same group had been collected by visitors to Babylon since about 1810. The German excavations collected what was left--probably a thousand items (so Olof Pedersen tells me), of which about 650 are identifiable in the Berlin holdings and about 15 in other museum collections. Last year and this year I examined and transliterated all of the Berlin pieces--finding disappointingly few joins among the fragments, and not many surprises in the larger texts.

I stayed on for the celebration of the 65th birthday of Johannes Renger, formerly of NELC and the OI at Chicago, a longtime contributor to the CAD, and now Professor of Assyriology at the Free University of Berlin. This was a party of friends and family, while an official academic celebration organized by the Free University will take place in November. I took the opportunity to present the compliments of the OI, NELC, and the CAD and read the amusing text from a dazzling document to be presented to Jo--unfortunately the actual document had gone astray in the trails and swirls of time and DHL, and a fresh one is in preparation.

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EMILY TEETER

Late last month, Dietrich Wildung, director of the Staatliche Museen Berlin, advised us that they had found more "missing" records from the OI excavations at Medinet Habu (1926-33). The materials turned up in the museum archive in Berlin. The documents were delivered to New York and then brought to the Institute by Karen Wilson.

The newly recovered material includes 2 more volumes of the Fundlist (Aye 1-59, and volume VII from 1929). The 1929 Fundlist is a very important volume, for the OI received many objects from that season.

We also received all the missing sections of the unfinished catalogue being written by Rudolf Anthes, who worked on the project from 1931-33. This is a very important document for future publication of the small finds from the site, because the manuscript includes objects in Cairo, Chicago and objects whose location is presently unknown. It is the only comprehensive record of the small finds.



The materials will be stored in the OI Museum archive along with the rest of the materials that were transferred from Berlin in 1993.

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DAVID TESTEN

The inaugural issue of Nartamongae: The Journal for the Study of Alano-Ossetic Epics, Mythology, History, & Languages, to be published by the Ossetic National Foundation for Scytho-Alanic Studies in Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia-Alania, Russia), will include the Russian translation of an article by David Testen. "Ibn Rusta and Bakri on the Ossetians and the Apkhaz," a reinterpretation of several sources on medieval Caucasian geography, which first appeared in The Non-Slavic Languages of the U.S.S.R.: Linguistic Studies (New Series), edited by Howard I. Aronson (1992).

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TOM URBAN

Contrary to a silly rumor that I have heard, I am not sick and I am not dying. I have not taken a sick day since 1993. Yes I am diabetic. I took insulin injections every day between June 1973 and May 1999, but I now have an insulin pump and no longer need injections. Yes, maybe ten times since 1987 I've had hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) during the workday and have had to have something to eat, but I never left work because of them. Unless I am hit by a car or something, I am not planning to lose any limbs or organs, either. Hmmm. I do take high blood pressure medication; perhaps this silly rumor has something to do with it. For those who are curious, I also do not use all the vacation hours I have coming. I generally come to work early, I don't stop to have lunch, I work late on occasion when necessary, and I also work on weekends when necessary. Okay, here's something. I haven't needed a new prescription for my eyeglasses since 1985, but I think I need one now; this must mean something.