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RESEARCH ARCHIVES - DIRECTOR'S LIBRARY
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - OCTOBER 2001

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The 1055 photographs from the Institute's microfiche publication THE 1905-1907 BREASTED EXPEDITIONS TO EGYPT AND THE SUDAN: A PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDY were made available on the OI website in August. Once again, I thank all of the faculty, staff, and volunteers who helped in the production of this exhibition. Initial reactions have been very positive:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/PA/EGYPT/BEES/BEES.html>

In September, Janet Johnson and Tom Urban finished work on five Portable Document Format (PDF) files, the letters Y, F, R, L, and H from the Chicago Demotic Dictionary, and these documents are now available on the Institute's website. Additional letters will follow shortly.

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/CDD/CDD.html>

In mid-summer, Computer Lab Assistant Katherine Strange digitized circa 800 slides of various archaeological sites in Iraq and Egypt, taken by John and Peggy Sanders during the 1970's - 80's. They will be made available to the public via the OI website later this fall.

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DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

"The Angle of Repose: Four American Photographers in Egypt" will open in the Holleb Temporary Gallery on Tuesday, October 23. The photographs come from the LaSalle Bank Photography Collection, and the bank is underwriting the exhibit. It will run through January 27, 2002.

The Development Office is sponsoring or co-sponsoring the following events in the next month or so:

Lecture: "The Archaeology of Ancient Egyptian Poetry: Reading the Tale of Sinuhe." Richard Parkinson, British Museum. Wednesday, October 17, 8:00 PM. Breasted Hall. Free and open to the public. Reception Follows.

Downtown Lecture: "New Discoveries from Ancient Papyri." James Allen, Metropolitan Museum of Art. Thursday, October 18. This lecture will be held at the Fortnightly, 120 East Bellevue Place. It begins at 6:30 pm, and a reception will follow. All faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend. Because of the reception, we do ask that you let us know in advance that you are coming.

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.

Major gifts and grants received over the summer include a \$200,000 gift to name the Nubian Gallery, a \$100,000 unsolicited grant from the Polk Bros. Foundation for reinstallation, a \$25,000 grant from the Fry Foundation for Education Office Programs, and a \$50,000 bequest for reinstallation.

I will begin, with this report, a quarterly report on Institute progress toward fundraising goals that have been set in consultation between the Institute and central administration officials. These goals are part of a wider University effort. For Fiscal Year 2002 (July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002), the Oriental Institute has a fundraising goal of \$1,725,124.00. Through September 30, 2001, we have raised \$576,898.89, or 33% of our goal. We have raised \$42,722.31 in Annual Funds, \$355,771.58 from individuals gifts to projects, programs, and facilities needs, \$1,400.00 from corporations, and \$177,000.00 from private nonfederal foundations.

As many people have pointed out, the events of September 11 are expected to affect charitable giving to a degree unseen since World War II. Experts in the field estimate a 20 to 40% decline in charitable giving as a result of the economic slowdown, changed charitable priorities, and loss in business and consumer confidence we have seen in the wake of the attacks. I do not believe that the Institute will see such a decline (almost half of the \$576,000 raised this year came in after September 11). We were the first U of C unit to solicit donations after the attacks, and the results of that solicitation--Breasted Society renewals--have been good so far. Some members will lower their giving for a year, but nothing in our post-September 11 results suggests a decline anywhere near the 20-40% levels. The projects that engage in fundraising coordinated with the Institute--the Epigraphic Survey and Friends of Hamoukar (formerly Nippur)--have been operating long enough and are careful enough with their prospects that I see no reason for a significant decline in their year-end results.

The 2000-2001 Annual Report will be delivered to the Institute on Tuesday, October 2.

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE / Gene Gragg

I'd like to welcome all of you back to the first "First Monday" of the 2001-02 academic year. I am especially happy to be able to welcome in particular two visiting faculty who will be with us for the year: Professor Israel Eph'al from Hebrew University will be combining his own research with teaching an archaeology and a history course in the Winter and Spring, and our own Fumi Karahashi will be with us for Sumerian.

Among my own activities over the summer, the most gratifying was the visit that Michele and I were able to make to Syria, and our site in Hamoukar, from September 13 to 19. It certainly was not foreseen that the visit would take place under such dramatic international circumstances -- the dates were fixed long in advance -- but I think it was particularly fortunate that I was able to be there at that specific juncture. We of course are keeping University of Chicago authorities apprised of the situation as it looks at present, and as it continues to develop.

No amount of inspection of the plans, or photos of construction, prepared me for how impressive the structure is "on the ground". But we were especially impressed by the scope of the work there, and the spirit of the Chicago team. I had very good talks with the Director General of the Syrian Department of Antiquities, and other officials in that department. They are genuinely pleased to have the Oriental Institute excavating in Syria, and very supportive of our work -- and looking forward to a long and fruitful association with us.

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MUSEUM / Karen Wilson

The Museum Hosts Special Programs for New Students in the College

Museum and Institute staff hosted two special events during Orientation Week, inviting new students to explore the ancient world in a brand new way. "Experience Chicago Day," organized by the Student Orientation Office, gave us the opportunity on Saturday, September 22, to offer new students behind-the-scenes views of collections areas, conservation, the Archives, the Epigraphic Survey and the CAD, as well guided visits in the Egyptian and Persian galleries.

Forty new students-the maximum we could host- signed up for "Experience Chicago Day," and their written evaluations gave the program highest marks. One student expressed the view of many when he wrote that the most valuable portion of the day was to see "the amazing array of ancient and extremely valuable artifacts right here at our school." Special thanks to Tim Collins, Chuck Jones, Brett McClain, Linda McLarnen, Vanessa Muros, and Vicki Parry for leading behind-the-scenes tours; to docents Lucie Sandel, Deloris Sanders, and Larry Scheff for leading gallery tours; and to Maria Krasinski, Carole Krucoff, and Claire Thomas of Museum Education for organizing the day.

On Thursday evening, September 22, the Oriental Institute joined with the Smart Museum of Art and the Renaissance Society to present "Museum Night," an open house featuring cultural institutions on campus. The evening at the Oriental Institute included film showings, gallery tours, free refreshments, and two special activities-a behind-the-scenes visit, led by Laura D'Allesandro, to view the reinstalled Assyrian reliefs in the new Mesopotamian Gallery, and an opportunity to discuss the latest discoveries at Giza with Justine Way, Ph.D candidate in Egyptian archaeology. In addition to Laura and Justine, special thanks for Museum Night go to Cathy Duenas, Maria, Krasinski, and Claire Thomas of Museum Education, and docents Debbie Aliber, Gabriele DaSilva, Dario Giocomoni, Mary Harter, Masako Matsutmoto, Lucie Sandel, Karen Terras,

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

It was a very busy summer!

Membership publications completed include the Bell Letter's booklet (SP 71), an issue of N&N (24 pages), and the annual report (240 pages!).

In the editorial office, titles completed include the Douglas Esse Memorial Volume (SAOC 59/ASOR Books 5) and several letters of the Demotic Dictionary (CDD).

Titles nearing completion include Seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets (OIP 117) and Theban Desert Road inscriptions (OIP 119).

The authors of OIP 117 were here from 26 to 28 September, completing 99% of their task, promising to finish the last 1% within two weeks; we are now working on the index, which has been complicated by a rather unfortunate failure of Adobe's PageMaker indexing feature to count page numbers correctly. A small amount of work remains to be done on OIP 119, cleaning up the glossary and adjusting the formatting.

With the completion of OIP 117 and 119 nearing, our attention is swinging back around to Scarabs (etc.) from Medinet Habu (OIP 118), adding more files to the online Demotic Dictionary, continuing work on Chogha Bonut (OIP 120), and all the rest.

We are happy to report that the Hittite Dictionary Project submitted enough material for the first fascicle of the S volume to fill 208 pages.

Dennis Campbell and Leslie Schramer worked nearly full time over the summer. Dennis will return to complete the plate section of OIP 118. Leslie will try to put in about ten hours per week. Tom Dousa will work a few more hours to accomplish final adjustments of the hieroglyphic transcriptions for OIP 119.

The Annual Student, Faculty and Staff Book Sale will take place from October 1st through October 18th. All titles EXCEPT the CAD and the CHD are on sale at 50% of list price.

View our newly updated catalog for available titles:
<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/CATALOG/Catalog.html>
Please visit Robert Herbst in OI 227 for all inquiries and sales.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The restoration of the lighting in the Elizabeth Morse Genius Reading Room of the Oriental Institute Research Archives is now complete. This finishes the project which began several years ago, and which included the upgraded rewiring of this end of the Institute building (including the introduction of new electrical capacity); the introduction of power and ethernet cabling to each of the tables in the Reading Room, the restoration of the floor; and the replication of

the original lights and development of acceptable lamping inside them.

I invite those of you who have not yet done so to stop in and have a look at the new lights which reproduce the originals removed a generation ago (now hanging in the corridors of Harper and Stuart Halls). I think the results are visually spectacular and the improvement in the quality, distribution and brightness of the lighting is even better than expected

We are grateful to The Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts for their challenge grant and to the many friends of the Oriental Institute who met the challenge.

Many thanks for your patience during the various stages of this renovation over the last two years.

The dedication of the Elizabeth Morse Genius Reading Room will take place at a small reception with a few remarks on Wednesday, October 24, following the meeting of the Visiting Committee.

We are also happy to see the completion of the new roof and the removal of the scaffolding which wrapped the windows of the Research Archives (as well as other parts of the building) for nearly two years. Since the completion of the roof we have experienced none of the leaks which plagued the reading room for as long as I can remember.

Staff for this year includes Ali Witsell, second year graduate student in Mesopotamian Archaeology, and Vanessa Davies, first year graduate student in Egyptology. I am still seeking a third employee. Anyone interested?

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PROJECTS

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CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY / Theo van den Hout

During the summer we finished reorganizing our files after we had received the new file cabinets. At the same time great progress was made in parsing and filing recently published texts. Most of this

work was done by Hripsime Haroutunian and our summer-job student Carl Thunem. Meanwhile Harry Hoffner and Theo van den Hout in close (email) cooperation with consultant Craig Melchert managed to finish the manuscript for the first fascicle of what will be our next volume, the S. With amazing speed and quality Tom Urban produced proofs of all this (212 pp. which will be one of the largest fascicle we ever produced) and Rich Beal and Theo van den Hout are currently going over them. Rich Beal and Oguz Soysal continued writing drafts of words in the TA-range.

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

The Epigraphic Survey is preparing for its 78th field season in Luxor which will begin on October 15, 2001. Staff member Tina Di Cerbo has returned to Luxor to reopen and prepare Chicago House for occupancy and the resumption of our work. I have received word from the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) that our work application for this season has been approved by the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), and all ES staff members have received security clearance. Our documentation and conservation work will resume on schedule at the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu, and in the Epigraphic Survey blockyard at Luxor Temple.

All reports indicate that Egypt is stable and safe, and the US Embassy and our colleagues who have resumed work are urging us to return. Nigel Strudwick is back with his group, Ann Roth is working at Giza, the Metropolitan Museum of Art crew under Dieter Arnold is at Dahshur, and the French have returned to Karnak. The Hungarian missions are all preparing to return next week, and all of the archaeological institutes in Cairo, including the American Research Center, are functioning normally. Emily and Harold, in Cairo now, tell us that all is well. Security in Egypt is excellent.

The situation as it is now is acceptable for us to return and resume our documentation and preservation work, so at this writing the Epigraphic Survey will keep to its normal schedule. If the situation changes, we will take proper, immediate action to evacuate our team members.

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TELL ATCHANA/ K. Aslihan Yener

Remote sensing and geographical information systems (GIS), two technologies now used commonly in excavations today, are a good measure of how far science and archaeology have come in the past decades: from digging grand sites for sumptuous finds, to socio-historical syntheses, from documenting patterns to understanding processes, and from bemoaning the quality of the archaeological record to putting meaningful confidence limits on data. But nothing beats being there for serendipitous discovery in archaeology. During the summer of 2001, I, and the University of Chicago Oriental Institute team set out to investigate the last remaining, previously-excavated site in the Amuq Valley Regional Projects survey, Tell Atchana. Ancient Alalakh, the capital of the Late Bronze Age Kingdom of Mukish, was investigated in 1936-39; 1946-49 by Sir Leonard Woolley and is located at the center of the valley close to the bend of the Orontes (Asi) river near Antakya (Antioch) in southern Turkey.

Our target was to complete a detailed topographical map with GIS and carefully clean a section from a deep sounding for chronological clarity. The section 1 in Woolley's Temple IV deep sounding yielded a Middle Bronze Age sequence of ceramics and stratigraphy as well as radiocarbon datable charcoal. In addition we checked the results of magnetic gradiometry and ground-penetrating radar, which confirmed our survey results from last year that there may be an outer town in the cropfields below the site as well as possibly a river channel. Importantly the site may have been much larger than previously thought.

But the value added aspect of our season was "discovering" the contents of Woolley's dighthouse depot. Long forgotten and inaccessible for years, the on-site depot yielded unpublished Assyrian Colony Period and Hittite ceramics, copper bun ingots, beeswax, multi-faceted molds, chunks of bitumen, glass and all manner of unpublished metals. The Anatolian ceramics enhanced our material knowledge of the less-known relationships with northern regions of this globally active capital. Material culture from Egypt, Syro-Palestine, Anatolia, Aegean and Mesopotamia had been unearthed at Atchana and thus the site provides the ideal setting for

investigations into the rise of indigenous urban-scale societies over the larger Ancient Near East.

The excavation of Chalcolithic Tell Kurdu continued under the new direction of former NELC student Fokke Gerritsen and Rana Ozbal. Finds include large, tripartite Halaf period architecture, streets and Halaf pottery. The Antakya Museum depot held surprises as well with scores of still-unpublished small tablet fragments from earlier Atchana excavations. Our plans for next year include setting up a pre-fabricated dighouse on the mound and repair Woolley's dighouse, which will set the stage for future excavations.

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INDIVIDUALS
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PETER DORMAN

Peter Dorman was invited by Boyo Ockinga of Macquarie University in Sydney to conduct a symposium in August on the topic of Hatshepsut and her reign, in conjunction with his colleague from Emory University, Gay Robins. Peter and Gay's presentations were supplemented by another given by Gae Callender, to a surprisingly large and enthusiastic audience of the general Australian public, and the same program was delivered a week later in Melbourne, at Monash University, this time with the Hatshepsut talks augmented by a lecture on the queen's (king's?) monuments by Olaf Kaper. Melbourne was also the venue for an evening's joint presentation with Gay Robins on the architecture and decoration of Theban tombs, and Peter also gave a graduate seminar on canopic jar lids for Colin Hope's students. Adelaide also hosted Peter for two of his Hatshepsut lectures-and of course all of this talking was amply augmented by visits to wildlife parks and the Great Barrier Reef. Kathy came along for the trip, the first time either of us had visited Australia to enjoy its indescribable beauties. The Australian connections with Egyptology are numerous, surprising (one of the early coastal surveyors was an uncle of W.M.F. Petrie), and too complicated to recount here!

Kathy and Peter also spent the first two weeks of September in Russia and Siberia, on a concert tour with Golosa, the UofC's Russian choir, performing with the Academic Choir of Moscow State

University (we were put up in its mammoth Stalinist, wedding-cake edifice on the hill) as well as the university choir of Irkutsk. The ultimate goal of the trip was to visit a small choir in the village of Tarbagatay, outside of Ulan Ude, which specializes in "Semieskie" music typical of the Old Believer groups that were persecuted in the 17th century but allowed to settle near Lake Baikal by Catherine the Great. These people preserve their old ways of dress, architecture, and choral singing, which have recently been declared an "intangible world heritage" by UNESCO. The trip was memorable in many ways, including the chance to live with people in their homes, an afternoon of roasting fish on the shores of Baikal, attempting to communicate in Russian, and of course singing for each other.

On September 29th, Peter and Betsy Bryan co-hosted the third of the Chicago-Johns Hopkins Theban workshops here at the Oriental Institute. Devoted to recent research on the Theban necropolis, the symposium was attended by 40 guests, mostly professors and graduate students, but with a welcome sprinkling of interested OI members as well. The speakers were Peter Piccione, Melinda Hartwig, Roland Tefnin (who did not allow the horrific events in NYC and DC deter him from flying from Brussels), Betsy Byran, and Kem Fronabarger, who collectively addressed issues of tomb construction, decoration, iconography, cult and perception, tomb reuse, and the geology of the Theban mountain. The next (4th) workshop will be held in Baltimore directly following the ARCE annual meeting in late April.

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FRANÇOIS GAUDARD

For the second time I taught the intensive three-week survey course "Pharaohs Alive!: An Introduction to Egyptology and Archeology" (June 25 to July 13, 2001). It integrated classroom instruction with introduction to Egyptological resources, museum experience and the preparation of a research paper.

During this course, taught for credit, we explored the archeology, history, geography, religion and literature of the ancient Egyptians. It also included an introduction to Middle Egyptian. By the conclusion of the class the students were proud to be able to read basic hieroglyphic inscriptions (hotep-di-nesw formula, cartouches etc).

We also viewed the Field Museum and the Oriental Institute's Egyptian galleries.

I took advantage of the Oriental Institute's resources. I am grateful to Prof. Janet H. Johnson, Karen Wilson, Emily Teeter, Laura D'Alessandro, Vanessa Muros, Vicki Parry, W. Raymond Johnson, John Larson, John Sanders, Frank Yurco and Thomas Dousa. They all contributed to the success of this course.

I am also glad to see that two of my former students, Jenee Laackmann and Nicole Flannigan, are now college students at the University of Chicago and intend to study egyptology.

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NICOLE HANSEN

For those of you who may have been wondering whether I had disappeared off the face of the earth or at least into some dark tomb, I have been living in Cairo for the past two years. I originally came here on a Fulbright fellowship for the academic year 1999-2000, and held a fellowship from ARCE for the year 2000-2001.

At the International Congress of Egyptologists in March 2000, I gave a lecture entitled "Leaping Lizards! Poison Geckoes in Ancient and Modern Egypt." I also delivered a lecture at ARCE in February 2001 on the history of survivals research in Egypt, drawn from the first chapter of my dissertation.

Three articles I wrote appeared the new Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt earlier this year-"Amphibians and Reptiles", "Insects", and "Snakes". My article on execration magic in Coptic and Islamic Egypt is supposed to be appearing before the end of this year.

In the summer of 2000, I worked as a cataloging consultant for the ARCE library, and in spring 2001 I taught an undergraduate course at the American University in Cairo-"Culture and Society of Ancient Egypt."

This month, I have joined the staff of the Theban Mapping Project (for one year, whether the position will be extended depends on funding), working in the office in Cairo. My main responsibility, in

the beginning at least, is to edit a new website/database on the Valley of the Kings that the TMP is producing.

Fortunately, my work at the TMP allows me a flexible schedule so that I can still work on my dissertation. I am making decent progress. I have completed almost all of the research in European languages (with the exception of what I can't get here in Egypt), and have started to seriously focus on the Arabic sources. Meanwhile, I have determined exactly what subjects I will deal with in the dissertation and have begun writing. While I haven't completed any chapters, I have at least begun writing all of them, and have completed about 90 pages.

On a personal note, I also got married in January 2000. My husband is finishing up his medical degree here at Azhar University. We had decided to come to the states after about 1.5-2 years possibly permanently, but in light of the recent attacks and the reaction to them, we are reconsidering our plans. For those of you who might be wondering about the situation for Americans here in Egypt since the attacks, I personally have had NO problems here in Cairo. It has been business as usual. Kent Weeks was in Luxor when the attack occurred, and he told me everyone there offered him their condolences for what happened.

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HARRY HOFFNER

Death (brother-in-law) and imminent death (sister) in my immediate family have kept me preoccupied (and even traveling by air!) during the past two months. But as everyone in the USA is realizing these days, it is necessary not to allow catastrophes to keep us from our daily tasks. So I have been continuing.

Theo van den Hout will probably report in this issue the good news that we have finally put the first fascicle of the CHD S volume into the capable hands of Tom Urban in Publications, and he has done a remarkable job of quickly formatting everything. The next step will be checking the results of his work, which will be done by Theo and Rich Beal. My work in the past three months has been solving major problems in the content of the articles. It has been a nice experience

Near Eastern Archives). ETANA is a cooperative project supported by the American Oriental Society, the American Schools of Oriental Research, Case Western Reserve University Library, the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University, the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology (Tel Aviv University), the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, the Society of Biblical Literature, Vanderbilt University Press and the Vanderbilt Divinity Library.

This new funding will allow ETANA to migrate Abzu, the premier Internet ANE portal developed by the Oriental Institute, to a more robust database structure and make it part of the developing ETANA comprehensive portal for ANE studies. The grant will also allow ETANA participants to experiment with the digitization of up to 100 core texts important to scholars of the ancient Near East.

For more information about ETANA see: <http://www.etana.org>

In the last week of September, I checked the penultimate set of proofs for the first volume of the publication of the seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets (See "PUBLICATIONS" above).

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WALTER KAEGI

I was Chair, and Organizer, "Table Ronde: Échanges et conflits entre l'Occident chrétien et le monde musulman: l'Occident chrétien, Relations politiques, militaires, économiques, intellectuelles," XXth International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Paris, France, 21 August 2001. In that Round Table I delivered a paper "The Interrelationship of Seventh-Century Muslim Raids Into Anatolia with the Struggle for North Africa." I also published the entry on the "Yarmuk, Battle" in the Encyclopedia of Islam.

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ROBERT RITNER

Robert Ritner continues to act as the academic advisor and OI liaison for the Cleopatra exhibit at the Field Museum. On October 16, the

opening date for the press, Ritner will be conducting live interviews at the Field Museum from 5:30 AM onward for national and local television morning shows and the press media. He has already provided two hours of lectures for the Field and OI volunteer docents on September 12, and he will speak to Field Women's Board on October 2, the Fortnightly Club on October 22, Exelon on October 23, the Oriental Institute on October 24, the Art Institute Classical Art Society on October 30, and again for the OI on November 7. Further lectures on magic will be given to the South Suburban Archaeological Society on October 18 and the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va on November 15. For the Chicago Humanities Festival, he will present a lecture on "Art and Text in Egyptian Hieroglyphs" on November 3 at the Alliance Française (54 W. Chicago).

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THEO VAN DEN HOUT

This summer has been a very busy one. Finally I had time to submit a contribution to the memorial volume for our Italian colleague Fiorella Imparati. The topic will be familiar to many of you since it is a revised version of the public lecture I gave here at the OI in Oct. 1999 on "Another View of Hittite Literature." At the same time it served as preparation for a class I am teaching currently on the shelf lists of the Hittite tablet collections. Just last year a lot of new shelf list fragments were published and that gives us wonderful new material to work with in class. Another contribution I am working on right now to a memorial volume, this time for Erich Neu, will deal with the origins of the so-called phraseological construction: a serial-like use of the two most important motion verbs in Hittite. In my Elementary Hittite class I was glad to welcome four students (perhaps five).

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TONY WILKINSON

From September 3rd until September 17th 2001 Tony Wilkinson was working with the Amuq Valley Regional Project, Turkey; from Monday 17th September until Saturday 22nd September he stayed

