

# INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

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**RICHARD H. BEAL** spent the last year mostly sitting at home in front of the computer, venturing forth only for weekly shopping until vaccination in late January and early February. Even after receiving the jab, he remained mostly at home, with vacations canceled for the second year in a row. This confinement benefited the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project (CHD), as all his time has been spent working on the dictionary. Beal has spent this time updating the manuscripts for the CHD's T volume, many of which were written more than two decades ago by Prof. Hoffner, Oğuz Soysal, Alice Mouton, and Beal himself. But many more tablets, much new research, and many more editions of texts have come out over that time. A few words with many attestations were never finished, and Beal had to finish them. A few dictionary entries either were never written or were lost in the move from one computer system to another, so drafts of those entries have now been written. This work has been possible because since his undergraduate days Beal has accumulated a large library, which he keeps at home; because many journals and even some books are now available online through the university's library; and because the OI's librarian Foy Scalf has been extremely helpful in finding needed materials. It should also be mentioned that without the Konkordanz der hethitischen Keilschrifttafeln of former CHD research associate Silvin Košak and the editions at hethiter.net, this work would have been far more time consuming in the best of circumstances and almost impossible to accomplish during confinement.

Beal also wrote "Open your ears and listen! The Role of the Senses Among the Hittites," a chapter for the *Routledge Handbook of the Senses in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Allison Thomason and the OI's own Kiersten Neumann (to be released in September 2021). The eyes, ears, mouth, and nose are discussed along with the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells that a Hittite would have encountered, especially in the many festivals held for the gods over the course of a year.

He also wrote a review of Gary Beckman's *The Hittite Gilgamesh*, an edition of the Akkadian, Hittite, and Hurrian pieces of the Gilgamesh story that were found at Boğazköy. These items are important because they form a bridge between the Old Babylonian versions and the Neo-Assyrian version and also seem to be a bit more interested in events closer to Anatolia. The review is scheduled to appear this fall in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 80.

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After serving for seventeen years as co-editor (with Marten Stol) of the series *Die babylonisch-assyrische Medizin in Texten und Untersuchungen*, which saw the publication of seven volumes on various aspects of ancient Mesopotamian medicine, **ROBERT BIGGS** decided to resign to permit the appointment of a younger scholar to carry on the series. His recent publications include a study of Ur III administrative documents in the volume honoring McGuire Gibson. He is now preparing for publication the cuneiform texts from the 1977 excavations at Umm al-Hafriyat to be included in Gibson's volume on the excavations at the site, now totally destroyed by looters.

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With Elizabeth Fagan, assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, **ALAIN BRESSON** organized at the OI the online symposium “Ancient Armenia: Center and Peripheries,” which took place on Friday, April 9, 2021. The symposium is now available at [bit.ly/ancient-armenia](https://bit.ly/ancient-armenia).

The event was cosponsored by the OI, the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies, and by three departments of the University of Chicago: classics, history, and Near Eastern languages and civilizations. It was also part of the Dumanian Lecture Series in Armenian Studies. The organizers wish to express their warmest thanks to these institutions for their constant help and support, including the technical support of the OI in the organization of the event.

The symposium opened with introductory remarks by Prof. Anne Robertson, dean of humanities at the University of Chicago; Theo van den Hout, interim director of the OI; and Richard Neer, director of the Franke Institute, to whom we are especially grateful. The period treated in the symposium was very broad, and our “Ancient Armenia” must be understood in the *longue durée*. We began in the Bronze Age and ended in the early Middle Ages. The goal of the symposium was to *recenter* the image of Armenia by focusing on a period when Armenia was not the *marginal* country it is now supposed to be but was instead one of the main political centers of Western Asia for cultural, political, and economic development.

The seven presenters and their papers included: Timothy Clark, “Trajanic Representations of Roman-Armenian Relations”; Lara Fabian, “Crossing the Greater Caucasus: Dynastic Politics and the Evidence for Interaction between the North and South Caucasus (ca. 300 BCE–400 CE)”; Elizabeth Fagan and Alain Bresson, “Evidence for the Christianization of Armenia: Moses Khorenatsi and Beyond”; Rachel Goshgarian, “Armeno-Turkish and the Space of Language in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Worlds: Manuscript Production and the Circulation of Ideas, Literature, and People”; Hripsime Haroutunian, “What If She Said ‘Yes’ to the King? The Story of One Little Maiden Who Fought Like a Man and Turned Around the Course of History”; Christina Maranci, “Hard as Stone, Smooth as Wax: Interpreting Urartian Spolia in Medieval Armenian Architecture”; and Kate Franklin, “‘World-rulers’ and Local Worlds: Medieval Armenia and the Mongol Ecumene.” Our colleagues Katie Kearns and Clifford Ando provided concluding remarks to the symposium.

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**JOHN BRINKMAN**'s work on Nippur and Khorsabad publications has been curtailed during the past year because of very limited access to research materials housed in the OI building. He has instead focused on expanding and updating his databases on Middle Babylonian prosopography, official and occupational titles, place names, and text catalogues. He published a short article about a pair of fourteenth-century Babylonian governors, each attested in fewer than five texts and from their seal impressions on tablets: “Two Little-Known Governors of Nippur under the Kassite Dynasty: Bēlānu and Ninurta-apla-iddina” in *Nouvelles assyriologiques brèves et utilitaires*, 2020, pp. 238–242.

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**FRANÇOIS GAUDARD** completed his twenty-seventh year as a member of the Oriental Institute scholarly community. Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, which made access to research libraries and museum collections difficult, he managed to work on his various text edition projects and the Mummy Label Database (MLD; see separate report), although he was often unable to consult the books he needed.

François continued working on his series of articles dedicated to the study of the OI Museum funerary shrouds from the Greco-Roman period. A little more than a year after its publication, the first article in this series, dealing with Shroud OIM E4786,<sup>1</sup> is now available online for free download as a pdf: [https://www.academia.edu/49909817/\\_Funerary\\_Shrouds\\_from\\_Dendera\\_in\\_the\\_Oriental\\_Institute\\_Museum\\_of\\_the\\_University\\_of\\_Chicago\\_Part\\_I\\_Shroud\\_OIM\\_E4786\\_in\\_Sur\\_les\\_pistes\\_du\\_d%C3%A9sert\\_M%C3%A9langes\\_offerts\\_%C3%A0\\_Michel\\_Valloggia\\_edited\\_by\\_Sandrine\\_Vuilleumier\\_and\\_Pierre\\_Meyrat\\_pp\\_63\\_70\\_Gollion\\_Infolio\\_2019](https://www.academia.edu/49909817/_Funerary_Shrouds_from_Dendera_in_the_Oriental_Institute_Museum_of_the_University_of_Chicago_Part_I_Shroud_OIM_E4786_in_Sur_les_pistes_du_d%C3%A9sert_M%C3%A9langes_offerts_%C3%A0_Michel_Valloggia_edited_by_Sandrine_Vuilleumier_and_Pierre_Meyrat_pp_63_70_Gollion_Infolio_2019).

The second article in this series, about Shroud OIM E4789, is now in press. François also wrote a third article as part of his other series, dedicated to little-known aspects of the god Seth. It deals with an obscure avatar of this deity, referred to as “Seth the Gleaming One.”

The following articles by François have been submitted or are in press or in preparation:

- “Seth the Gleaming One.” Forthcoming in a Festschrift honoring Robert K. Ritner (submitted).
- “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part II: Shroud OIM E4789.” Forthcoming in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (in press).
- “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part III: Shroud OIM E4788 (= OIM E42046)” (in preparation).
- “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part IV: Shroud OIM E4787” (in preparation).
- “A Demotic Accounting Text from the Ptolemaic Period” (in preparation).

It was with great shock and deep sorrow that François learned about the passing of his former professor, colleague, and friend Robert K. Ritner on July 25, 2021. Robert, who served as the Rowe Professor of Egyptology, was a pillar of the Oriental Institute, always ready to explore still unknown “Egyptological territories” to advance the science to which he had devoted his life. The illness may have gotten the upper hand, but for all his colleagues, his students, and the entire Egyptological community, Robert will always remain the Keeper of the Flame.

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May his soul live forever and eternally!

<sup>1</sup> François Gaudard, “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part I: Shroud OIM E4786,” in *Sur les pistes du désert: Mélanges offerts à Michel Valloggia*, edited by Sandrine Vuilleumier and Pierre Meyrat, 63–70 (Gollion: Infolio, 2019).

**PETRA GOEDEGEBUURE**'s research this year was mainly geared toward her project *Expressing Agency and Point of View*. The Hittite common and neuter gender endings denoting the subject and object evolved from a system in which nouns were not common gender or neuter gender but were count nouns or mass nouns and collectives. Common gender endings were used for count nouns, that is, nouns that tend to be agentive, while neuter endings were used for collectives and masses,

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or nouns that do not tend to be agentive. But sometimes a mass noun or collective needs to be used as a count noun. (In English one may say *one water, please*, with *water* being treated as a count noun.) In Hittite this use is morphologically marked by means of the individuating suffix *-ant-*, but only in Old and Middle Hittite. This suffix was replaced in Neo-Hittite by the suffix *-a-*. Unfortunately, this change means that individuated nouns ending in *-as* (i.e., *-a-* + the nominative ending *-s*) have the same form as the so-called *free-standing genitives*, that is, words with the genitive ending *-as*. Goedegebuure has developed criteria to differentiate between these two types of words in an article in progress (“Hittite Individuating *-a-*: Thematization or Free-standing Genitive?”).

The study of the nominative, a marker of the subject, led to an interesting case of wordplay in Hittite. Goedegebuure corrected the meaning of the short sentence *n=as warkesta*, “he became fat,” to “he became angry.” The root *wark-* still means “fat,” and therefore Goedegebuure could show that the Hittites used the typologically common *swell* metaphor to express anger (“The Fat and the Furious. \**w(o)rg-* ‘fat, furious, strong’ and Derivatives in Hittite and Luwian,” in *Proceedings of the 31st Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, edited by David M. Goldstein, Stephanie W. Jamison, and Brent Vine, 121–37 [Hamburg: Buske, 2020]).

Reviving some old interests, Goedegebuure discussed the demonstratives in the Anatolian languages (“The Fate of the Proto-Anatolian Demonstrative \**ési*,” Virtual East Coast Indo-European Conference XL, June 19, 2021; “Language that Points, Images that Talk, or How Language and Art Interact,” OI [virtual] Volunteer Day, June 15, 2021).

Goedegebuure very much enjoyed writing an article on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project for *News & Notes* on the occasion of the appointment of our interim director, Theo van den Hout (“An Inside Look in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project,” *News & Notes Quarterly Newsletter* 249: 8–15). For Goedegebuure’s work on the CHD itself, see the report on the project in this issue of the OI’s annual report.

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**GENE GRAGG** put COVID-19 isolation to good use by a long and rather tedious transformation of all the data files on the fifty-two languages currently represented in the Afroasiatic Morphological Archive (AAMA) from the less well-known Extended Data Notation (EDN) format to the much more widely used JavaScript Object Notation (JSON). This format will be more familiar and hopefully more easily usable for Python, the one programming/scripting language that has fairly wide currency among working linguists. Gragg is also working out and uploading some sample Python scripts for the display, manipulation, contrasting, and indexing of the morphological paradigms contained in AAMA (and elsewhere). He will eventually maintain and update the current, less accessible Clojure (Lisp) application, intended for online utilization. The current state of the results may be inspected, as always, at <https://aama.github.io>.

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**REBECCA HASSELBACH-ANDEE** worked on several projects this academic year. She completed the final revisions on her translation and revision of Josef Tropper’s *Altäthiopisch: Grammatik des Geʿez mit Übungstexten und Glossar* (Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2002), published as *Classical Ethiopic: A Grammar of Geʿez* (State College, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2021). Furthermore, she completed her work on a volume in honor of John Huehnergard, which she co-edited with her colleague Naʿama Pat-El from the University of Texas at Austin. The volume, titled *Bēl Lišāni: Studies in Akkadian Historical Linguistics*,

is now in press with Eisenbrauns and will appear in the fall. In addition, Hasselbach-Andee continued her work on Eblaite and its socio-linguistic background. Some of her results were presented in an online lecture organized by University College London and King's College London. The lecture, titled "Language Contact in the Third Millennium BCE: The Case of Eblaite," described features and inconsistencies in the grammar of Eblaite that can best be explained by substrate influence, that is, by the influence of the native language of the city of Ebla on the language that was used as the written idiom. The differentiation of different strata of language(s) in the Eblaite material is crucial for our understanding of what kind of language is presented in the written materials of the city, in other words, whether they represent the local language of the city or a learned and imported idiom. Lastly, Hasselbach-Andee continued her work on the alignment of certain Neo-Aramaic dialects, dialects of Aramaic that are spoken today in some areas of Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. The results of this study will be published in the form of an article in a journal.

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**JAN JOHNSON** spent her year of lockdown learning how to teach, attend lectures and conferences, and call meetings via Zoom, which has provided a way to include people who are physically distant but topically important to the gathering. So something positive has come from the isolation, but she looks forward to the resumption of personal interactions on campus. She would like to thank all the OI staff who have gone out of their way to help faculty and each other during the lockdown, making it possible for all of us to continue our work.

Most of Johnson's time this year was spent preparing for classes and reading and commenting on student work; everything seemed to take longer to do. But she has also been able to keep working on entries for her Sourcebook on nonroyal women in ancient Egypt. This volume is intended to include translations of texts by or (mostly) about women, what they did, how they did it, sometimes even what they thought, from the Old Kingdom into the Ptolemaic period, spanning almost three millennia. Some of these texts are *old friends*, texts that she was introduced to as a student and that she introduces to her students. But many are less well-known texts in which she has found women doing a wide range of interesting things, sometimes serving as a bit of counterbalance to the heavy dose of men found in the history of government and politics, religion, war, or economic affairs, or even simply as tomb owners. She keeps finding images of women in art: sculpture, tomb paintings, and the like, which would be wonderful complements to flesh out her translations; but first she must finish her commitment to the women in her texts. (The book is already behind schedule, only partly to be blamed on the pandemic.) At this point, Johnson is envisioning sections of the volume on personal/family life, women's health, women and violence, women and the state, women and the economy, women and religion, and women and the law. But one thing she has learned already is that all these categories intertwine in the texts just as they do in real life. She hopes she'll be able to capture some of the diversity and complexity of women's lives in ancient Egypt.

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This year **W. RAYMOND JOHNSON** completed his forty-second year working for the Epigraphic Survey/Chicago House and his twenty-fourth season as director of Chicago House. On November 6, 2020, he presented the University of Memphis's fifteenth William J. Murnane Memorial Lecture, titled "Tutankhamun's Life, Death, and Afterlife: New Evidence from Thebes" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuHCL88qpFw>). On June 1, 2021, Johnson gave an online lecture titled "Amarna Talatat Blocks and New Joins: Windows onto Akhenaten and Nefertiti's Vanished World" for the

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Metropolitan Museum of Art/Egyptian Art Department's Friends of Egyptian Art lecture series. Then on July 24th he presented an American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) online lecture titled "The Epigraphic Survey, ARCE, and Khonsu Temple: Ancient Secrets Revealed." (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2la0dStHww0>). He contributed the article "The Amarna 'Coregents' Talatat Block from Hermopolis and a New Join" to *Guardian of Ancient Egypt: Essays in Honor of Zahi Hawass*, edited by J. Kamrin, M. Bárta, S. Ikram, M. Lehner, and M. Megahed (Prague: Charles University, Faculty of Arts, 2020). This summer Johnson continued to participate in biweekly Zoom meetings of the Minya Akhenaten Museum Steering Committee, for which he serves as Amarna art consultant and is helping plan the museum's Amarna *talatat* block displays.

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Fortunately, the OI supports long-term projects. **CAROL MEYER** continued work on two of them: the publication of the glass from eleven excavation seasons at Aqaba, Jordan, and the preparation of pottery drawings from al-Widay at the Fourth Cataract in the Sudan. All the glass from the last season at Aqaba in 1995 was tabulated and all but the last few sherds drawn. Once everything is digitally inked, the pieces can be re-sorted into a nearly final typology, and the preparation of the text and plates for publication can begin. The database now comprises 10,119 entries for 15,142 sherds, of which a little more than ten percent have been drawn. As an aid to refining the dating of the material, some 1,297 comparanda have been located so far for 597 of the entries. Also fortunately, Meyer had a significant backlog of penciled drawings from al-Widay that she could digitally ink at home until limited access to the OI in September permitted her to resume work on actual pots and sherds. (See Williams and Heidorns's report on the OINE project in this volume.)

Finally, two long articles were proofed and should appear soon in *Bulletin of ASOR* and *Journal of Glass Studies*. The first article treats the Islamic glass from Nippur, Iraq, and suggests that some occupation continued at the site well into the tenth century, when the rest of the region was virtually depopulated. The second article, written in collaboration with Laure Dussubieux of the Field Museum of Natural History, concerns the corpus of emerald green glass from Aqaba, a distinctive, luxury item that was traded in the Medieval Islamic Fatimid period (late tenth through early twelfth centuries) from Spain to Indonesia. Both articles cite important preliminary reports in *The Oriental Institute Annual Report* that publish data as yet unavailable elsewhere.

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**BRIAN MUHS** submitted two manuscripts for publication in 2020–21: the article "Two Early Ptolemaic Demotic Receipts for the Burial Tax and Theban Ostraca Archives," forthcoming in a Festschrift, and the article "Patronage and Protection in Late Pharaonic and Ptolemaic Egypt," in *Proceedings of the 3rd Lady Wallis Budge Egyptology Symposium, Compulsion and Control in Ancient Egypt, Christ's College, Cambridge, 27–28 August 2020*, edited by Alexandre Loktionov (Oxford: Archaeopress, forthcoming), as well as a review of *The Epigraphy of Ptolemaic Egypt*, edited by Alan Bowman and Charles Crowther (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020), to appear in the journal *Religion and Literature*.

Muhs also revised several manuscripts previously submitted for publication, including the article "Egyptian Scholars, Priests and Temples between Autonomy and State Authority," in *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History* 8 (online ahead of print, 2021); a book chapter titled "Egypt and the Mediterranean in the Early Iron Age," in *The Connected Iron Age*, edited by James Osborne and Jonathan Hall (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, forthcoming); and a book co-authored with Foy

Scalf and Jackie Jay titled *The Archive of Thotsutmis, Son of Panouphis: Early Ptolemaic Ostraca from Deir el Bahari* (O. Edgerton), OIP146 (Chicago: Oriental Institute).

Muhs gave two academic lectures in 2020–21: “Patronage and Protection in Late Pharaonic and Ptolemaic Egypt,” a paper presented online at the 3rd Lady Wallis Budge Egyptology Symposium, Compulsion and Control in Ancient Egypt, Christ’s College, Cambridge, 27–28 August 2020; and “Textual Variants in Kushite and Napatan Mortuary Texts and their Significance,” a paper given online at the 72nd (Virtual) Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, 22–25 April 2021.

This past year Muhs also participated in community outreach on several occasions: he gave online lectures titled “The Autobiography of Hadrian?” for Session 4 of the OI Ancient Literature Workshops, March 6, 2021; “Ancient Nubian Funerary Culture in the First Millennium BCE” for OI Volunteer Day, April 13, 2021; and with Janet H. Johnson, “Drinks with the Dictionaries: The Chicago Demotic Dictionary” for the OI adult education program, June 30, 2021.

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The OI’s *Annual Report 2019–20* described the exciting findings of **JAMES OSBORNE**’s Türkmen-Karahöyük Intensive Survey Project (TISP) in the summer of 2019. Unfortunately, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, travel to Turkey was suspended for the duration of 2020, so the TISP field season could not take place. Plans to return to Turkey exist this summer (2021), and the TISP team looks forward to another productive collaboration with the Konya Regional Archaeological Survey Project. With field work temporarily in abeyance, much of Osborne’s academic year focused on publication efforts. His monograph *The Syro-Anatolian City-States: An Iron Age Culture* was published by Oxford University Press in 2021, thus bringing to completion a writing project that had begun several years earlier. The premise of the book is to provide a reevaluation of the collection of city-states that surrounded the northeastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea during the Iron Age, roughly 1200–600 BCE. While undertaking research on this region as a graduate student and postdoctoral scholar, Osborne repeatedly came across two significant problems in the scholarly literature on the topic: First, this culture lacks a broad synthetic treatment that critically examines the entire collection of city-states macroscopically. Second, the underlying assumptions of much of the scholarship on these kingdoms are anachronistic and in need of revision in light of developments in neighboring fields in the humanities and social sciences. *The Syro-Anatolian City-States* addresses both concerns, thus offering Near Eastern scholarship the first comprehensive treatment of this Iron Age culture.

Osborne’s second major publication effort has been a volume co-edited with Jonathan Hall, in the University of Chicago’s Classics Department. Deriving from a conference Osborne and Hall co-chaired in 2018, the resulting manuscript, titled “The Connected Iron Age: Interregional Networks in the Eastern Mediterranean 900–600 BCE,” underwent thorough editing and peer review. University of Chicago Press placed the manuscript under contract, and the volume will appear in print in 2022. Chapters were contributed by OI faculty member Brian Muhs, Mickey Dietler of the anthropology department, and a range of leading scholars from around the country.

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The COVID-19 crisis made traveling for research and conferences impossible for **SUSANNE PAULUS**, and reformatting her courses for online teaching demanded significant work. After Chris Woods’s departure, upholding the Sumerian program became a central focus of her teaching: she taught a new, two-quarter sequence on scribal education in Nippur based on the tablets housed at the OI.

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Paulus continued her work on the Kassite texts from Babylon in the Vorderasiatische Museum (VAM), Berlin. Travel restrictions prohibited another research stay in Berlin, so she devoted more time to studying and reading the photos of the tablets. The VAM generously provided her with the original excavation photos vital to the reconstruction of tablets that are now lost or more severely damaged. She presented the results of her initial research in a well-attended lecture titled “House Hunters: Babylon, 1300 BCE” for the Dean’s Salon at the University of Chicago. Already the texts from Babylon allow new insights into developments in legal and economic history from 1300 to 1150 BCE. Paulus was also invited to present her research virtually at the University of Oxford.

Several of Paulus’s articles were published this year: “Taxation and Management of Resources in Kassite Babylonia” explores the complex terminology of different dues collected mainly from farmers and landowners and argues that some people had to pay land rent as well as taxes to the provincial and royal administration. “Turn! Turn! Turn!” examines the mysterious term of *turning one’s hand* and its administrative and legal connotation. She established that the expression means “to recompense” and is mostly used in inter-institutional exchanges of commodities. The article was part of a larger volume on *Babylonia under the Sealand and Kassite Dynasties*, which she edited with Tim Clayden (Oxford). The book covers the latest research on Babylonia in the second half of the second millennium BCE. Paulus and Clayden were incredibly proud to incorporate innovative contributions by renowned and emerging scholars, including Iraqi colleagues. Finally, Paulus’s translation of the Sumerian farmer’s almanac, a scholarly text dealing with agricultural advice for a junior farmer with complex technological terms, was published in a German anthology.

Beyond her core research, Paulus continued to work on two interdisciplinary research projects. She served as the cuneiform specialist for the DeepScribe Project, which uses artificial intelligence to decipher cuneiform tablets. This project is a collaboration between Sanjay Krishnan (computer science) and Eddie Williams, Sandra Schloen, and Miller Prosser (OCHRE Data Service) using the data of Matthew Stolper’s Fortification Project (see OCHRE section). Paulus also continued as principal investigator for the project Far From Home: Exploring the Application of Non-destructive XRF Clay Analysis for the Provenance Study of Cuneiform Tablets. The National Endowment for the Humanities currently funds this research.

For more updates on Paulus’s work as Tablet Collection curator, see the Tablet Collection report.

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During this, her second year as a postdoctoral fellow at the OI, **DELPHINE POINSOT** was partly focused on the publication of the proceedings of the 16th Oriental Institute Seminar, Sealing Theories and Practices in the Ancient Near East (March 5–6, 2020). This conference brought together scholars from different areas of study, thus allowing a complete picture of the sources and methods of analysis available in understanding the socio-administrative practices, systems of thought, and beliefs surrounding seals and sealings. As a result, a very exciting volume is in preparation that will make an important contribution to our knowledge of those corpuses throughout the Ancient Near East.

This year Poinsoot also developed her work on the practice of art history in the ancient Near East. She taught a class titled The Kings on the Mountains on the rock reliefs that were patronized by the kings of the Sasanian dynasty (244–651 CE) in Iran in late antiquity. Particular attention was paid to how these images formulated conceptions of royal power and witnessed to the exercise of that power. The class also proposed a critical use of the main *methodologies/theories* of art history for the study of the Sasanian rock reliefs.

Thanks to her colleague Tasha Vorderstrasse, Poinsoot was given the opportunity to work on the notion of the *double-gaze* through a study of Antoin Sevruguin’s photographs (on display in an



exhibition curated by Vorderstrasse at the OI Museum). She contributed to the exhibit’s catalog an article on the artistic gaze of Antoin Sevruguin on the Sasanian reliefs—an article titled “Regarding the One Who Is Regarding the Past.” Another published article continued Poinso’s work on the Sasanian reliefs: “Au service du roi: la cavalerie en Iran sassanide—Représentations et fonctions des cavaliers à Bišāpūr III.”

Finally, Poinso devoted her time to working on the seals from the Persepolis archive in collaboration with the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project at the OI (see Persepolis Fortification Archive Project in Research). She is thankful for her two years at the OI and the very inspiring scientific inspiration she has found here.

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During the academic year 2020–21, **HERVÉ RECULEAU** devoted a great deal of his time to teaching, mentoring, and academic service as the COVID-19 pandemic wore on. His ongoing collaborations with the Humanities Without Walls-sponsored project *Coping with Changing Climates in Early Antiquity: Comparative Approaches between Empiricism and Theory* (abbreviated 3CEA; see the OI’s 2018–19 and 2019–20 annual reports) and the Franco-Russian lexicography project *Laying the Groundwork for a Corpus-Based Dictionary of Old Babylonian* (see the OI’s *Annual Report 2019–20*) suffered unwanted delays due to the impossibility for project members to meet in person and hold the expected workshops and conferences. Work is expected to carry on in academic year 2021–22 as vaccine coverage and general immunity allow for the resumption of normal academic life. Reculeau’s third ongoing collaboration, that with the Computational Research on the Ancient Near East project (CRANE; see the 2018–19 and 2019–20 annual reports), has continued virtually with interdisciplinary research on methods for estimating ancient agricultural productivity conducted in collaboration with Lynn Welton (University of Toronto), Simone Riehl (University of Tübingen), and Dan Lawrence (Durham University). The resulting paper will be presented by Welton at the 2021 Meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research in November, and a subsequent publication is expected in 2022. In addition, Reculeau attended and/or participated in e-conferences about climate change in antiquity, agrarian history, and more generally the history and archaeology of the ancient Near East; these e-conferences were held in the United States, the United Kingdom, and continental Europe.

This year saw Reculeau’s finalization of three articles scheduled to appear in print by the end of 2021 or early in 2022: “Esclaves domestiques, prisonniers de guerre et citoyens endettés: Mari et la haute Mésopotamie, XVIIIe siècle avant notre ère,” in *Les mondes de l’esclavage: Une histoire comparée*, edited by P. Ismard, B. Rossi, and C. Vidal, 19–27 (Paris: Seuil, 2021); “Assyria in the Late Bronze Age,” in *The Oxford History of the Ancient Near East*, vol. 3, edited by N. Moeller, D. Potts, and K. Radner, 707–800 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022); and “Opener of Canals, Provider of Abundance and Plenty: Royal Investment in Large-Scale Irrigation in Second Millennium BCE Upper Mesopotamia,” in *Irrigation in Early States: New Perspectives*, Oriental Institute Seminars 13, edited by S. Rost (Chicago: Oriental Institute, forthcoming).

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**SETH RICHARDSON** spent a good part of the past year writing a book—he wrote about half a manuscript on the kingdom of Babylon in the seventeenth century BC, with the hope of completing it by the time the OI’s annual report for 2021–22 is published.

Three of Richardson’s articles were also published this year: Co-authored with OI postdoctoral fellow Kathryn Morgan, “Wine from Mamma: *alluḫarum*-pots in 17th-century Trade Networks,”

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in *Iraq 82* (2020): 179–205, made a rare and wonderful identification by matching an ancient word (*alluḥarum*, whose meaning had been misunderstood as the name for a kind of dye) with a type of wine flask known from excavation contexts everywhere from Anatolia to Babylonia. From this identification, the authors reconstructed a previously unknown Syro-Mesopotamian trade network operating during the seventeenth century BC.

Richardson's second article, "The Origin of Foreign Slaves in the Late Old Babylonian Period," in *KASKAL 17* (2020): 53–73, examined how foreign slaves came to Babylonia during this same period. Through an analysis of sale documents, Richardson determined that slaves were not brought to Babylonia as captives, war booty, or products of a mass market but individually, sold by their families for debt—the same way in which Babylonians themselves became enslaved.

The third article, "Old Babylonian Taxation as Political Mechanism," in *Economic Complexity in the Ancient Near East: Management of Taxation and Resources* (3rd–2nd millennia BC), ed. J. Mynářová and Sergio Alverni (Prague: Charles University, 2020), 217–247, explored the political dimension of taxation (that most dismal of all topics). By sifting through the evidence—the names for taxes and collectors, how taxes were discussed in letters and literature, and the social settings of assessment and payment—he argued that the primary function of taxation was to create and condition political relations between rulers and different groups of ruled clientele. He also published a review of Odette Boivin's comprehensive *The First Dynasty of the Sealand in Mesopotamia* (Berlin: DeGruyter, 2018). *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 111 (2021): 290–296.

Richardson kept up with colleagues through a number of online events—and tried not to think about where he would have been able to travel for lectures had he not been declaiming them in his living room. There was a talk on warlords for ASOR (notionally in Boston); divination (Florence); *histoire conjoncturelle* and household memory (New York); the economic marginality of women (Bologna/Prague); and funerary traditions (Boston again). As spring emerged, however, Richardson was happy for the opportunity to teach again in person, this time a course on the political life of states. At this writing, Richardson has eight articles and two book reviews in press, with several more in preparation.

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In Chicago due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, **YORKE ROWAN** planned for future fieldwork and worked on publications based on his two field research projects, the Galilee Prehistory Project (GPP) and the Eastern Badia Archaeological Project (EBAP). In connection with the EBAP he was lead author (with Gary Rollefson and Alexander Wasse) on the chapter "Populating the Black Desert: The Late Neolithic Presence" and co-author with Rollefson and Wasse on "Flamingos in the Desert: How a Chance Encounter Shed Light on the 'Burin Neolithic' of Eastern Jordan," both published in *Landscapes of Survival: The Archaeology and Epigraphy of Jordan's North-Eastern Desert and Beyond*, edited by Peter Akkermans (Leiden: Sidestone Press, 2020).

With Chad Hill, Rowan participated in *Framing Society in the Past: Infrastructure in Archaeological Discourse for the Winslow Series in Archaeology* (Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, April 10–11, 2021) by contributing "Desert Kites: Neolithic Infrastructure in the Margins." With multiple authors, he contributed to "The Palaeoenvironmental Potential of the Eastern Jordanian Desert Basins (Qe'an)," which appeared in the journal *Quaternary International* (June 26, 2021). In addition, "Stable Isotopes and Proxies of Local Palaeoclimates for Three Sites in the Holocene Levant," a multi-authored article that deals with data for interpreting palaeoclimates, is currently in preparation for the journal *Quaternary Science Reviews*.

As part of the Galilee Prehistory Project (GPP), Rowan published the results of fieldwork at Wadi el-Ashert with Morag Kersel, Chad Hill, and Thomas Urban. Appearing in the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 385, no. 1 (2021): 1–32, “Later Prehistory of the Lower Galilee: Multi-Faceted Investigations of Wadi el-Ashert” presents the results of aerial, terrestrial, and remote-sensing survey as well as subsurface methodical testing. Also part of the GPP project, Rowan and Kersel co-authored with Chad Hill the results of an experimental application of a new technology for collecting point data in the field. The paper, “On Hedgehogs and Marvelous Minds: A New Technology for Point Data Collection?” is currently in press with the journal *Advances in Archaeological Practice*.

This year was Rowan’s final one on the Fellowship Committee for the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman and his first year serving on the NEH-Getty Research Institute Review Committee. He also continues his role on the editorial board of *Near Eastern Archaeology*. Rowan chaired the Prehistoric Archaeology session via Zoom for the 2020 Annual Meetings of the American Schools of Oriental Research, and with Hill, Wasse, and Rollefson presented the paper “Petroglyphs and Desert Kites at Wisad Pools, Jordan” on November 22.

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**FOY SCALF** helped increase the online profile of the OI by curating and designing several online exhibits for Google Arts & Culture with the help of several colleagues, including Tasha Vorderstrasse. These exhibits included *Magic in the Ancient World*, *Papyrus Milbank: Unrolling the Book of the Dead Papyrus of Irtyuru*, and *Book of the Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt*. From them, Google produced two condensed exhibits, *Book of the Dead* and *God of the Dead*, giving the OI eight online exhibitions through the platform.

Scalf had several important publications appear this year. With much relief to him, Brian Muhs, and Jackie Jay, *The Archive of Thotsutmis* went to the printer and should be available for download and purchase in August 2021, just in time for a final mention in the OI’s 2021–22 annual report! Scalf’s article on a Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago) First Book of Breathing papyrus appeared in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 79, no. 2 (2020): 151–82. His contribution to an American Anthropological Association online teaching panel highlighting his prepandemic experience in the OI’s adult education program appeared in *Journal of Archaeology and Education* 5 (2021).

Scalf’s article on a stela of Sety I and Ramses II in the OI (OIM E10507) was accepted for publication in *JNES*. In the article, he argues that the stela was originally erected at Abydos, not Saqqara as previously thought. The argument derives from Scalf’s observation that the cartouche of Sety I used on the stela is *Osirianized*, as known primarily from Abydos. Scalf also submitted the chapter “Gone, But Alive! Life in the Beyond” form and began collaborating with Sara Cole on a catalog of the Book of the Dead manuscripts for the Getty Museum. Press reports highlighted preliminary work and Scalf’s role in confirming a join between inscribed linen fragments in the Getty and Tece museums, as originally suggested by Judith Barr. With the gracious help of Brian Muhs and Anne Peale, Scalf has taken up another project to publish a collection of Book of the Dead manuscripts held at Williams College (Williamstown, Massachusetts) in the Chapin Library and Museum of Art.

Scalf taught two classes for the OI’s adult education program over the course of the year. With the help of Tasha Vorderstrasse, these classes became two of the most popular, well-attended courses in the program’s history. The transition to Zoom has reinvigorated the program’s ability to engage directly with students. Scalf also taught his book history class for Dominican University. He gave many public lectures during the year, including at ASOR’s annual meeting with Anne Flannery and

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the American Research Center in Egypt's Chicago chapter with Tasha Vorderstrasse. He also participated in Arts@Graham on measuring time in ancient Egypt.

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In 2020–21, **GIL STEIN**'s excavations on behalf of the OI at the prehistoric site of Surezha, in the Kurdistan region of northeastern Iraq, were temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the continuing impact of the virus, Gil, as principal investigator of the OI's three cultural heritage grants in Afghanistan, worked remotely with our international staff in Europe and with our partners at both the National Museum of Afghanistan (NMA) and the Afghan Institute of Archaeology (AIA). This activity included work at the NMA on the Hadda Sculptural Restoration Project and ongoing efforts to identify what objects have been looted from the National Museum. Gil also continued working remotely on the National Museum of Afghanistan Outreach-Mobile Museum Project (MMP) and the Afghan Heritage Mapping Partnership (AHMP).

Additionally, Gil continued his work on a second cultural heritage preservation project—one focused on the five post-Soviet republics of Central Asia (also known as the C5). The three-year CTPAC training program for conservators from the five national museums of the C5 republics had been scheduled to hold its third capacity-building workshop in September 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic prevented holding the planned autumn workshop in Tashkent. The program is scheduled to resume in September 2021, if possible.

In 2020, the U.S. State Department awarded Gil a second grant for cultural heritage work in central Asia for a new two-year project: Cultural Heritage Site Preservation and Economic Development in the Central Asian Republics. This project will be carried out through the new Chicago Center for Cultural Heritage Preservation (C3HP).

In tandem with his cultural heritage work, Gil published three articles last academic year: "Leadership Strategies and the Multi-linear Development of Social Complexity in Ubaid Mesopotamia and Susa A Southwestern Iran (5500–4000 BCE)," in *Pathways through Arslantepe: Essays in Honour of Marcella Frangipane*, edited by F. Balossi Restelli, A. Cardarelli, G. M. Di Nocera, L. Manzanilla, L. Mori, G. Palumbi, and H. Pittman, 173–87 (Viterbo: Università di Roma La Sapienza and Sette Città, 2020); "Cultural Heritage Preservation Work in Afghanistan and Central Asia," in *Oriental Institute Annual Report 2019–20*, 21–31 (Chicago: Oriental Institute, 2020); and with Michael Fisher, "Surezha Excavations 2019: Erbil Plain, Kurdistan region, Iraq," *Oriental Institute Annual Report 2019–20*, 129–47 (Chicago: Oriental Institute, 2020).

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**EMILY TEETER** has started a new research project: writing the history of the Epigraphic Survey for its centennial in 2024. She is working primarily with the thousands of pages of correspondence in the archives of the OI, Chicago House, and other institutions and is conducting interviews with former and current members of the expedition. The book will be published by the OI.

Teeter continues to conduct research on objects in the OI and other museums. Her publications for the year include "A New Version of Book of the Dead 30B: Art Institute Chicago Heart Scarab 1894.1359," in *The Afterlives of Egyptian History: Reuse and Reformulation of Objects, Places, and Texts*, in Honor of Edward Bleiberg, edited by Y. Barbash, K. Cooney, and K. Zurek-Doule, 153–64 (Cairo/New York: The American University in Cairo Press, 2021); "Egypt in Chicago: The Century of Progress Exposition 1933, and Lorado Taft and his Dream Museum," in *Guardian of Ancient Egypt: Essays in Honor of Zahi Hawass*, vol. 3, edited by J. Kamrin, M. Bárta, S. Ikram, M. Lehner, and M. Megahed, 1555–64

(Prague: Czech Institute of Egyptology, 2021); and “Scarabs, Scaraboids, Seals, Seal Impressions, and Knotted Cords,” in *The Phoebe A. Hearst Expedition to Naga ed-Deir, Cemeteries N 2000 and N 2500*, edited by Vanessa Davies, 308–28 (Leiden: Brill, 2020).

Teeter has several articles in press: one of them deals with female figures from Medinet Habu, another with a stela of To, the Vizier of Ramesses II (OIM E14655). Her Zoom talks in the pandemic year included “James Henry Breasted and the Birth of American Egyptology” for the Georgia chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt; “Daily Life in Ancient Egypt” for Smithsonian Journeys; “Thebes, City of Amun,” for the OI’s Armchair Traveler series; and “Curious Collectors and the Role of Private Collections and Gifts in the Growth of Museums” for Field Museum of Natural History docents.

Teeter reviewed book manuscripts for the American University in Cairo Press and Princeton University Press, serves on the board of SBL Press’s Writings from the Ancient World series, and continues to serve as the editor of the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*. She received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Research Center in Egypt for her many years of work on the board, and she continues to be very active in its Chicago chapter. She is serving as an academic advisor for an upcoming exhibit on death at the Field Museum and she also advised the Department of Homeland Security on artifacts intercepted by U.S. Customs.

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For **THEO VAN DEN HOUT** the past year began relatively quietly with online and in-person classes. At the beginning of the year his new book appeared: *A History of Hittite Literacy: Writing and Reading in Late Bronze Age Anatolia (1650–1200 BC)* (Cambridge University Press). Together with his colleague Petra Goedegebuure (as well as with James Osborne, Michele Massa, Christoph Bachhuber, and Fatma Şahin) he published an edition of the hieroglyphic Luwian inscription found by Osborne and Massa: “TÜRKMEN-KARAHÖYÜK 1: A New Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscription from Great King Hartapu, Son of Mursili, Conqueror of Phrygia,” *Anatolian Studies* 70 (2020): 29–43. Another article by van den Hout, “Hittite Society, Economy, and Ritual,” appeared in the Japanese journal *Orient* 55 (2020), 3–11. This article represents the printed version of a keynote lecture he delivered in 2018 at Doshisha University in Kyoto (see the OI’s *Annual Report 2017–18*). A popular article, “From ‘an’ to ‘the’: The OI at 100,” about the OI’s centennial book was posted online in *The Ancient Near East Today: Current News about the Ancient Past* 8, no. 8 (August 2020): <http://www.asor.org/onetoday/2020/08/OI-at-100>. In the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 80, no. 3 (2020): 514–16, van den Hout reviewed *Libraries before Alexandria: Ancient Near Eastern Traditions*, edited by Kim Ryholt and Gojko Barjamovic (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

During the year van den Hout also delivered several virtual lectures: in Paris, in Florence, and in Torino, with the latter being a keynote address titled “Hittite Foodways: The Hittite King as the Provider of His People” at the 67th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale.

For the OI van den Hout produced three podcasts—two on the Hittite Plague Prayers of King Mursili II and one in the Armchair Traveler series about the Hittite capital Hattusa.

The international workshop on Hittite visual culture (see the OI’s *Annual Report 2019–20*), originally planned for the spring of 2020, was postponed and can hopefully take place in May 2022. Finally, in January 2021 provost Ka Yee Lee asked van den Hout to step in as interim director of the OI.

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**TASHA VORDERSTRASSE**, university and continuing education program coordinator at the OI, facilitated multiple adult education courses and talks and taught several adult education classes and teacher workshops (see the education department's annual report). She curated the OI Museum's exhibition *Antoin Sevruguin: Past and Present*, was responsible for its complete online exhibition, and curated its catalog, *Antoin Sevruguin: Past and Present*, for which she wrote several articles.

In addition, Vorderstrasse presented the following: "The Silk Roads III: Weaving Fantasy," Oriental Institute Community Scholars Lecture with Soma Roy, Nourishment Project, July 2020; lecture for ARCE Chicago with Foy Scalf; "The Synagogue at Dura Europos and Its Decoration in Context," Oriental Institute Community Scholars Lecture, Hadassah, October 2020; "Trade in Roman Glass Vessels: Comparing Arabia, Nubia, and Beyond," ASOR Virtual Annual Meeting talk, November 2020; "Exploring the Photographs of the 19th-Century Photographer Antoin Sevruguin," Virtual Oriental Institute Gallery, December 2020; "OI Armchair Travelers: Georgia," OI Armchair Travelers talk; "Sevruguin and Orientalism," Breasted Society lecture, January 2021; "1000 Nights at the Oriental Institute," Virtual Oriental Institute lecture for YouTube; "Sevruguin and the Exploration of the Iranian Past," Virtual Nowruz lecture at the Oriental Institute, March 2021; "Intentionality and Sevruguin," lecture for the virtual opening of the Antoin Sevruguin exhibition; "Manuscript Illumination in Nubia: Investigating the Role of Serra East," lecture for The Art of Medieval Nubia symposium organized by Global Horizons in Pre-Modern Art, University of Bern, April 2021; "(Re-) Interpreting the Photographs of Antoin Sevruguin: A Close Look," University of Chicago Giving Day lecture; "Sevruguin and the Art of Qajar Iran," OI Volunteers Day lecture, May 2021; "Antoin Sevruguin: An Armenian-Iranian Photographer in Qajar Iran," Armenian Circle lecture; "Perspectives on the Armenian-Iranian Photographer Antoin Sevruguin: A Conversation," National Association for Armenian Studies and Research lecture with Charissa Johnson and Polina Kasian, June 2021.

Vorderstrasse also published the following: "Arabic Ostraca from Abydos," in *Abydos in the First Millennium AD*, British Museum Publications on Egypt and the Sudan 9, edited by E. O'Connell, 259–70 (Leuven: Peeters, 2020); "Limits of the Kushan Empire in the Tarim Basin," in *The Limits of Empire in Ancient Afghanistan: Rule and Resistance in the Hindu Kush, circa 600 BCE–600 CE*, edited by R. Payne and R. King, 169–200, (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2020); and with A. Eger, "Gaps or Transitions? North Syrian/South Anatolian Ceramics in the Early, Middle, and Late Islamic Periods," *Herom* 9 (2020): 381–420.

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**JOHN WEE** authored the following academic articles and essays accepted for publication in 2020–21: "A Systemic Etiology of Sicknesses from Ancient Iraq: Organ Systems and the Functional Holism of the Babylonian Body," in *Ancient Holisms*, edited by C. Thumiger, 318–56 (Leiden: Brill, 2021); "Medicine, Mesopotamia," in *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (Oxford University Press, 26 May 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.013.8632>); "Ghosts In and Outside the Machine: A Phenomenology of Intelligence, Psychic Possession, and Prophetic Ecstasy in Ancient Mesopotamia," in *The Routledge Companion to Ecstatic Experience in the Ancient World*, edited by D. Stein, S. Costello, and K. Foster, chapter 22 (Abingdon: Routledge, 2021); and "The Lamashtu Amulet: A Portrait of the Caregiver as a Demoness," in *The History of Contagion in Harvard Library Collections*, special edition of *Harvard Library Bulletin* (2021).

In preparation are his article "Proclus and His Right Triangles: Pythagorean Number Theory and New Meanings for a Babylonian Rule," in *Anchoring Technology in Greco-Roman Antiquity*, edited by M. Flohr, S. Mols, and T. Tieleman (Euhormos/Leiden: Greco-Roman Studies in Anchoring Innovation/Brill); an invited essay in *Plague in Antiquity*, special edition of *Ancient Near Eastern Studies* 59 (2022); and "Astronomy and Medicine," in *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Astronomy*, edited by J. M. Steele (Oxford:

Oxford University Press, forthcoming). Wee will also present an invited the paper “Medicinal Plant as Actor: Therapeutic Ingredients and Medical Astrology in Ancient Mesopotamia” at a conference titled Prescription to Prediction: The Ancient Sciences in Cross-Cultural Perspective at the Johns Hopkins University in September 2022.

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**KAREN L. WILSON** is pleased to share that the manuscript “Nippur VI: The Inanna Temple” has been accepted for publication by the Oriental Institute in its excavation report series, edited by McGuire Gibson. The volume, authored by Richard L. Zettler, Karen L. Wilson, Jean M. Evans, and Robert D. Biggs, with contributions by R. C. Haines and Donald P. Hansen, will constitute the final publication of the OI’s excavation of the Inanna Temple at the site of Nippur during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The OI’s publications office is currently editing and formatting the volumes, and Wilson is working through proofs of various chapters as they become available.

This past year Wilson also continued to serve as Kish project coordinator and research associate at Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History; she prepared aspects of the publication of the work of the Joint Field Museum and Oxford University Expedition to Kish in 1923–32. The Oriental Institute Publications Committee has agreed to publish the manuscript as a volume in the OIP series. The volume will present the results of a symposium conducted in November 2008 that focused on current research and updated excavations at the site. Chapters cover studies of the human remains, textual evidence, lithics, animal figurines, seals, and stucco, as well as a catalog of the Field Museum’s holdings from Kish and Jamdat Nasr. Wilson is currently working through the proofs for this manuscript as well.

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