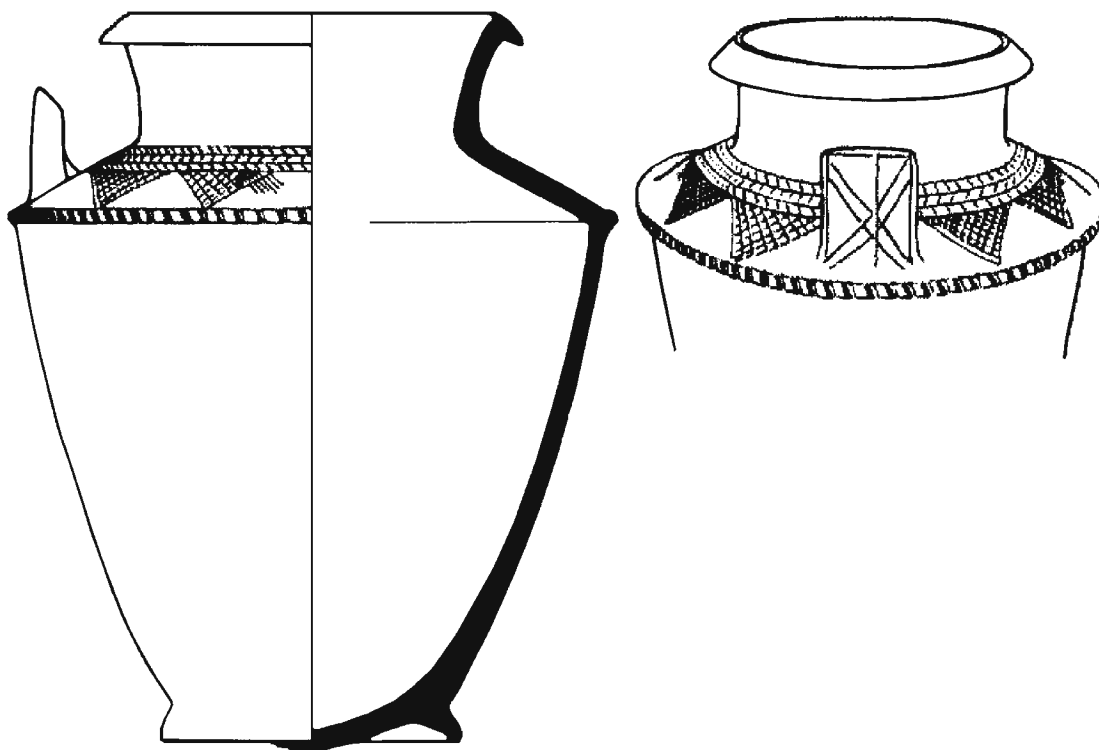


**THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE  
2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT**





Cover and title page illustration: Scarlet-ware vase; baked clay and pigment. Kh. IX 150; vessel type C.515.371. Photograph: scale ca. 2:3. Early Dynastic period. Khafajah, Iraq. Published in *Pottery from the Diyala Region*, by Pinhas Delougaz, Oriental Institute Publications 63 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1952), pls. 15, 60, and 178. Rendering on cover by Alberto Davico. Further information on the photographers and artists may be found on pp. x–xi of OIP 63.

The pages that divide the sections of this year's report feature images of pottery from various Near Eastern sites.

Editor: Gil J. Stein

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*The Oriental Institute, Chicago*

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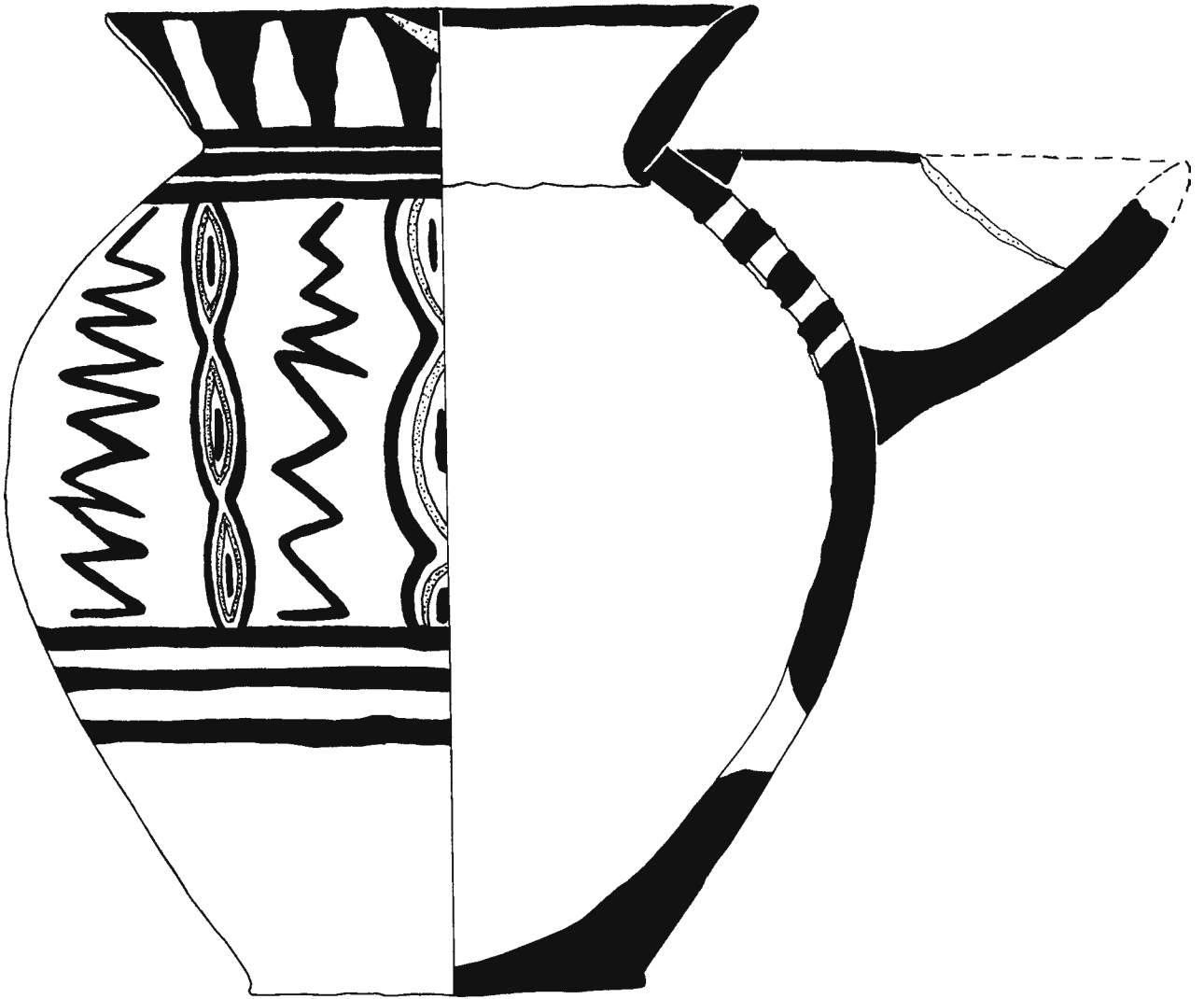
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***INTRODUCTION***



*Overleaf: Spouted strainer jar; baked clay. This unique handmade vessel combines polychrome painting with rocker impressed decoration. Halaf period, mid-sixth millennium B.C. Discovered in 2009 at Tell Zeidan, Syria.*

*Above: Profile drawing of the vessel by Abbas Alizadeh*

# INTRODUCTION

**Gil J. Stein**

The Oriental Institute's mission is to rediscover the ancient civilizations of the Near East through archaeological, textual, and art historical research, and to communicate the results of our work to both scholars and the broader public through our Museum and programs of education and outreach. This year's *Annual Report* highlights the impressive scope of activities by the faculty, researchers, and staff of the Oriental Institute in pursuit of those goals.

Research is at the core of what we do, and it is no easy task. Creativity, expertise, and energy are not enough. The work requires not only the right human and financial resources, but also a favorable economic/political climate both here in the United States and in the countries where we conduct our research. These hard truths make it all the more remarkable that the Oriental Institute's most extraordinary period of research activity actually took place in the depths of the Great Depression in the 1930s. It is a tribute to the vision of Oriental Institute founder James Henry Breasted and the strong, generous support of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., that the brilliant archaeologists and philologists of that era were able to make some of their greatest contributions.

Today, even in the midst of the most severe economic downturn in half a century, I am proud to say that my colleagues have been able to accomplish something very similar — the Oriental Institute has not only been able to maintain every one of its research projects, but we have actually expanded the range of our work with the implementation of two new excavation projects and important new work in both textual research and cultural heritage preservation. The ability to pursue our mission so actively and successfully under adverse conditions is due to the strong intellectual partnership between the Oriental Institute researchers and our many supporters, Members, and friends.

Our archaeological fieldwork continues to make fundamental contributions to the study of early civilizations in the Near East. In Egypt, Mark Lehner's work at Giza continues to revolutionize our understanding of the Old Kingdom state, while Nadine Moeller's excavations at Tell Edfu are giving us a detailed look at urbanism, provincial administration, and community structure in the Middle Kingdom period. In Turkey, two complementary projects are giving us a unique comparative perspective on Iron Age urbanism in the highlands and lowlands of Anatolia in the first millennium B.C. Scott Branting continues his investigations of the Phrygian mountaintop city of Kerkenes before its destruction by the armies of Cyrus the Great of Persia. At the boundary between the north Syrian plain and the Taurus Mountains, the Neubauer Expedition to Zincirli, directed by David Schloen, is making remarkable discoveries about urban organization and the religious beliefs of the Aramean and Neo-Assyrian inhabitants of ancient Sam'al. In Syria, Clemens Reichel's discoveries at Tell Hamoukar are redefining the perceived wisdom about the origins of cities and the beginnings of organized warfare in the Mesopotamian world. I am delighted to have started a second Oriental Institute project in Syria, at Tell Zeidan, where we are investigating the spread of social complexity from southern Mesopotamia into north Syria during the sixth-millennium B.C. Ubaid period. Finally, in June 2009 Oriental Institute Research Associate Yorke Rowan started a new archaeological fieldwork program at the site of Marj Rabba in Israel, aimed at exploring community organization and ritual in the fifth-millennium B.C. Chalcolithic period.

Textual research at the Oriental Institute has been extremely active and productive as well. Our Hittite Dictionary Project is making steady progress under the editorship of Theo van den Hout and Harry Hoffner, while the Demotic Dictionary is moving closer to completion through

## INTRODUCTION

the efforts of Editor-in-Chief Jan Johnson. Under Martha Roth's leadership the last volume of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary is in the final stages of the editorial process. In addition to the Dictionary projects, Oriental Institute text-based researchers are doing groundbreaking work in organizing and digitizing key archives from the ancient world, both to preserve these collections and to make them accessible to scholars around the world. Perhaps the most urgent and monumental of these endeavors is the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project, under the directorship of Matthew Stolper. Matt and his interdisciplinary team have been conserving the tablets, recording sophisticated digital images of the tablets and seal impressions, and have been developing a searchable Web-based relational database of this unique and priceless archive of records from the Achaemenid royal administration at Persepolis. A second key archival effort is the Syriac Manuscript Project, directed by Oriental Institute Research Associates Stuart Creason and Abdul-Masih Saadi. This project is making digital images and cataloging the Professor Arthur Vööbus Collection of Syriac Manuscripts on Film, an archive of more than 100,000 photographs of Syriac Aramaic manuscripts from monasteries and churches across the Near East. Finally, in this past year François Gaudard and his colleagues from the Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales in Madrid have launched a new project to establish a database of all known ancient Egyptian mummy labels in the holdings of museums around the world, including the Oriental Institute. The Mummy Label Database is a wonderful example of the way that Web-based databases can bring together information about a widely scattered set of artifacts and in doing so create a powerful research tool for Egyptology.

Under the directorship of Ray Johnson, Chicago House and the Epigraphic Survey have continued in their painstaking work of recording the reliefs and inscriptions at Medinet Habu, while stabilizing temple walls at Luxor, reconstructing fragmentary reliefs and reinserting them in their original positions, and ensuring the preservation and storage of the many architectural and small relief fragments on long, low "mastaba" platforms to keep them from groundwater damage. The Epigraphic Survey has also published a major volume, Oriental Institute Publications 136, *Medinet Habu IX: The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, Part I: The Inner Sanctuaries*.

In February, our Museum mounted a highly successful special exhibit, *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*, which displays our beautiful mummy Meresamun while providing a rare and fascinating glimpse of Meresamun as an individual. I am proud to say that Meresamun has her own page on the social networking Web site Facebook, where she has more than 1,400 "friends!"

Finally, one of our major new education and outreach initiatives in the past year has been the opening of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center at the Oriental Institute. This innovative installation allows school children (and adventurous adults) to learn how to excavate an ancient Near Eastern "tel" or mound. The response from school groups has been overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to developing this resource further in the coming year.

Overall then, in 2008–2009, the Oriental Institute has added two new excavations, new archival research projects, and new programs of outreach to the public, while our numerous existing projects continue in their fundamental work of discovery. I want to thank all the members of the Oriental Institute's community of scholars, staff, and supporters for the role they have played in this remarkable achievement.

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Mary J. Grimshaw

This past June we were very saddened by the death of Mary J. Grimshaw, a long-time friend and supporter of the Oriental Institute. In 1988, at the suggestion of the late Joan Rosenberg (herself an early member of the docents), Mary began as a volunteer giving tours in the galleries. While on a tour of Yemen with Ray Tindel and Gretel Braidwood, the three became fast friends. Ray suggested that Mary move “downstairs” to assist him in Registration, a position that she faithfully performed for many years. Mary was an important force in the renovation of the new Museum galleries, stepping forward to be the first to name a gallery: The Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. Mary also served on the Visiting Committee of the Oriental Institute from 1997 to 2009.

Mary’s fascination with all things Egyptian is legendary. For three years she was on the staff of the Epigraphic Survey, and life at Chicago House energized her. Back in Chicago, she attended weekly Egyptian hieroglyph tutorials at the Institute.

Born and raised in Hyde Park, Mary completed all her early education in the University of Chicago Schools: kindergarten, grammar school, and high school. She attended the University of Chicago, earning an A.B. in 1938, and the London School of Economics, leaving Britain a few months before the outbreak of World War II. Mary and her husband Joe, also a University of Chicago graduate, were long-time residents of Hyde Park until they moved to Wilmette. Her stories about Hyde Park before urban renewal were a constant source of fascination and amusement. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and the many friends that she leaves behind. Her keen intellect, friendship, and wonderful sense of humor will be missed by so many of us.

---





**RESEARCH**

*Overleaf: Blue glazed vessel with floral decoration and inscription for king Merenptah. OIM E10579. 27.6 x 16.3 cm. Dynasty 19, ca. 1213–1203 B.C. Purchased in Cairo, 1920*

## PROJECT REPORTS

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF ISLAMIC CITIES

Donald Whitcomb

It was in the *Oriental Institute Annual Report* of 2004–2005 that I first outlined a research project on the Archaeology of Islamic Cities. I have been fortunate this year to participate in a research group at the Institute for Advanced Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The subject of this program was “The Concept of Urban Change,” addressed by archaeologists and geographers specializing in periods from the Bronze Age (including Pierre de Miroschedji, well known to many at the Oriental Institute) up to the modern period. One of the leaders of this group was Gideon Avni, who has done fine research in the transition from Late Antiquity to Early Islam, particularly in the Negev region. This provided an opportunity for me to follow a different aspect of changes in the Islamic city.

I began with a subject “close to home,” our excavations at the archaeological site of Ayla (modern Aqaba, Jordan). I have usually focused on the foundation of this town in the late seventh century, during the Umayyad period or earlier. The later periods, including the changes of the later Abbasid and Fatimid periods, have been less explored. I was shocked to find that the geographer Eugen Wirth has compared the plan of Aqaba (Ayla) with that of al-Qahirah (Cairo) as “zwei frühislamische Gründungsstädte” (2000: fig. 22). This intriguing comparison suggests implications about the early development of the Islamic city. On a basis of scale and presumed complexity this comparison would seem a matter of “apples to oranges,” and indeed, one might question the urban nature of both Ayla and al-Qahirah in its earliest phase (ca. 969). Neither foundation was a *misr*, strictly speaking; or, depending on one’s definition, could they both have been part of this phenomenon?

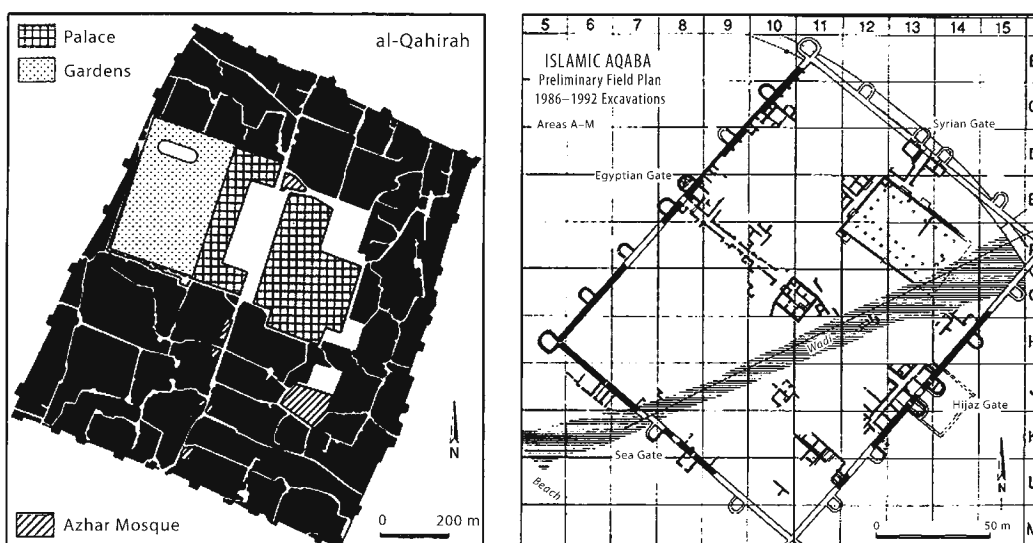


Figure 1. Plan of Ayla (Aqaba) compared with al-Qahirah (Cairo) (after E. Wirth, *Die Orientalische Stadt im islamischen Vorderasien und Nordafrika* [Mainz, 2000], fig. 22)

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF ISLAMIC CITIES

The meaning of the term *misr* (plural *amsar*) has been much discussed in the study of the beginnings of the Islamic city. The Muslim conquest brought Arab armies into the highly urbanized provinces of the Byzantine and Sasanian empires. These troops were settled in camps, often styled garrisons, near older urban centers; these foundations prospered and almost always became famous Islamic cities: Basra, Kufa, Fustat, Qayrawan. The list of *amsar* can be expanded to include virtually any place Muslims settled in numbers (Reitmeyer 1912) and indeed, the cognate *tamsir* seems to mean to settle or found a settlement.

The physical structure of the *misr* usually begins with an assumption of a camp of tents, then some mudbrick, and finally some stone structures; this is accompanied by assumptions of disorganized if not chaotic structures. Better understanding of camps and, more importantly, recognition of Arab familiarity with cities and the Arab's own urban tradition, has revised these prejudicial concepts. Moreover, as Kubiak notes concerning Fustat, this *misr* was at least the third founded, and its leaders must have realized they were planning a future capital city of Egypt. Each foundation had a central district with the *jami'* (congregational) mosque and *dar al-imara* (governor's palace; central administrative buildings), also various *dars* (elite residences, also called *qasr*; plural, *qusur*); around this center the *khitat* or allotments were marked out (as the name implies) for each ethnic group. Needless to say, archaeological evidence for the *amsar* is only slowly focusing on indirect hypotheses and lines of evidence.

### Secondary *amsar*: The Palatine Complex

In a seminar for the Institute for Advanced Studies, I moved from studying this initial phase of urban settlement of the Arab tribes to studying problems of urbanism in a second transition, 850–1100, what might be termed the process “from *misr* to *madina*” (“from camp to city,” a paraphrase of Hugh Kennedy's famous article, “From polis to madina”). I began by looking at Jere Bacharach's suggested three phases in locational analysis of early Islamic cities, in which his earliest phase stresses the centrality of the mosque tied with the *dar al-imara*, the unified focus of religion and administration surrounded by open markets and residential blocks. His second phase describes a radical shift with the foundation of a new “palatine complex” away from the population, that is, separated from the older urban center. While there are earlier examples, this pattern is writ largest and in most dramatic fashion in the foundation of Samarra in Iraq.

Samarra presents a sequence of separate foundations in the ninth century: from Qatul in the south, to Muta'sim's “Surra man ra'a” in the center, to al-Mutawakkiliyya in the north. This last “city” is the clearest illustration of the process, since it was founded and soon abandoned around A.D. 860, thus leaving clear archaeological traces of the original plans. This new foundation of the Caliph al-Mutawakkil consisted of a residential area, the mosque of Abu Dulaf, and the separate palace complex of al-Ja'fari (his given name). The process might be described as the foundation of a *misr*, as Northedge suggested long ago.

In 868, soon after Mutawakkil's expansion of Samarra, Ibn Tulun consolidated his rule in Egypt with the foundation of al-Qata'i in direct imitation of Samarra. The urban history of Cairo begins with Fustat, the *misr* founded in 642, and then a series of expansions to the north. Ibn Tulun laid out a grid of 1,000 districts around an exceptionally large mosque, palaces, and elite residences (of which only the famed mosque remains). After another century, the Fatimids founded yet another city on very similar principals (military sectors, palaces, a mosque, and elite residences). A distinction for this tenth-century “palatine complex” was, for the first time, a strong city wall. The resulting settlement was a “compound city”; the continuing vitality of Fustat induced some

observers to speak of the *misrayn* (old and new, lower and upper), or indeed, one might see the older pattern of a lower town (*rabad* or *birun*) and the city center (*madina* or *shahristan*).

Al-Qahirah was organized as a formal, palatial complex: in the center was first the palace of the Fatimid Caliph al-Mu'izz and secondly that of his successor al-'Aziz (both ruled in the late tenth century). An axial street and parade ground is still called "Bayn al-Qasrayn" (between the two palaces). The first mosque, al-Azhar, was in the southeastern sector. Much of the remainder was left open or marked out as allotments for tribal or ethnic groups (i.e., *khitat*).

With this background of urban centers in Iraq and Egypt, I decided to explore the cities of Palestine during the Tulunid through Fatimid periods. The late tenth and eleventh century in this region is often taken as a dramatic break, even an "archaeological fault." Historians dwell on events indicating a decline of "state," the rise of nomads, and even earthquakes (A.D. 1033 and 1068). In addition, a new Turkish presence began to change military practice. The unsettled times even recall for many the break from "antiquity" with the rise of Islam in the seventh century. Archaeologically it has been called a cultural wasteland, and Kennedy has lamented that "between the death of Harun al-Rashid in 809 and the coming of the Fatimids in 969 there is not a single extant dated monument in the entire area of greater Syria." Even more implausibly, La Bianca finds no settlement remains for the same period; archaeologically, at least, one is dealing with a transitional period subject to mythologies.

In my report in the 2004–2005 *Annual Report* I wrote about the explorations I had undertaken of the early Islamic occupation of Caesarea (or Qaysariyya); I was reminded of this old study as I finished its final proofreading for publication while in Jerusalem. I had suggested that the early Islamic foundation was probably located in the southeast sector of the Byzantine city; this was the likely area of the *hadir* (pre-Islamic Arab settlement), the early Islamic fort (built upon the classical theater), and a possible mosque. More recent work by Ken Holum and Yael Arnon made me realize the applicability of these ideas of a "palatine complex" (and the necessity to rewrite sections of my paper). The inner harbor and Area LL excavations demonstrate the foundation of a new urban district with a new orientation that were apparently laid out in the late ninth century. The mosque proposed by many to be located on the Temple Platform is in an unusual position, however admired by Muqaddasi and Nasir-I Khusraw in the late tenth–eleventh century. The ninth-century walls also suggest a later Islamic settlement (these were incorporated into the Crusader fortifications). Thus the city witnessed by Muqaddasi was not that of Mu'awiya, of the 640s or later. The original Islamic town became the populous suburb, the *rabad*, in relation to the *madina* or new urban extension laid out in Tulunid and developed in Fatimid times.

While the port of Caesarea served the maritime interests of these Egyptian dynasties, the city of Ramla, east of Jerusalem, continued in its role as capital of the province of Filastin. Extensive salvage and larger excavations have sought to determine the structure of this city; for many scholars, the town of 'Anjar, built in the same years, might serve as a model, with its four axial gates named for principal destinations (al-Quds [= Jerusalem], Lud, Yafa [Jaffa], and Misr [Egypt]). However, Muqaddasi lists three additional gates located to the southeast, making a systematic circuit around the city. This suggests that by the late tenth century (but antecedent to the earthquakes and arrival of the Seljuqs), the city had expanded with this new "palatine complex" with mosque and walls). Thus Ramla was a compound city of a *rabad* (the old city) and the new Fatimid city or its *madina*.

Farther to the north was Tiberias (or Tabariya), the prosperous capital of the province of al-Urdunn. Again, archaeological research has shown an extensive early Islamic occupation, and the recent discovery of the *jami'* mosque places the early Islamic town firmly in the middle of the extended site. Years ago, Tim Harrison wrote a paper for me that was published in the *Journal of*

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF ISLAMIC CITIES

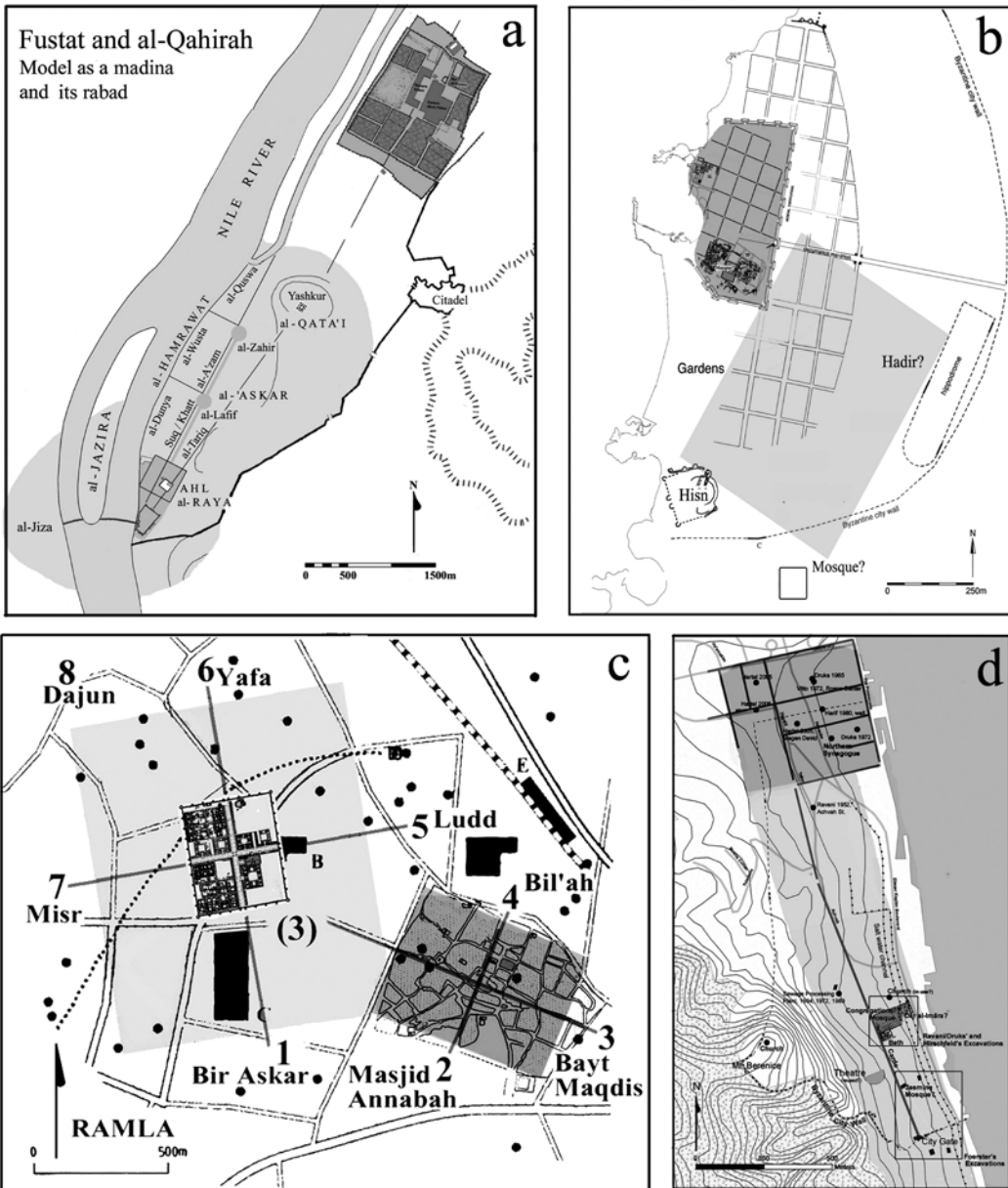


Figure 2. Plans of "palatine cities": (a) al-Qahirah (Cairo), (b) Qaysariyya (Caesarea Maritima), (c) Ramla, and (d) Tabariya (Tiberias)

*Near Eastern Studies*. He boldly suggested that the orthogonal layout under the modern town may have been the early Islamic *misr* of Tabariya. This hypothesis may now give way to another: archaeological evidence strongly indicates this northern settlement was another "palatine complex" of the Fatimid period. Again, this new city attracted the Crusaders for development (as had the palatine foundations in Caesarea and Ramla).

These cities may be described as "dynastic towns" and seem to recapitulate the experience of the *amsar*, that is, development from camp to garrison to city. In this later period, this was an accelerated process due to the understood urban model; there was an intentionality and precise



expectations of function and aesthetics for the resulting settlement. The new urban entity was grafted onto the older town and formed a compound structure. In effect, this relationship would have been identifiable to Muqaddasi and others experienced with cities of the eastern, Iranian world as the *madina-rabad* complex. The resulting urban form may be considered the precursor for the Islamic city of Mamluk and later times.

If I might return to Ayla, one can see a settlement sequence from Iron Age Tell Kheleifa to Roman/Byzantine Aila to early Islamic Ayla and finally to the twelfth-century fort of Aqaba. Early Islamic Ayla was rebuilt in Abbasid times. By the tenth/eleventh century one hears of troubles with political and religious dissidents, such as the Qarmatians and Jarrahids, which led to the battle of Aqaba in 982 and the sack of the city in 1024. If I might quote myself, “Once again, the spectre of thundering hoards may be overdrawn and suggestions of decline and collapse mask complex social and religious movements.” Thus Aqaba illustrates a cyclical process of urbanism in which the eleventh century seems to mark a transition, as seems to be the case in many other sites and regions.

Internal development of Aqaba may illustrate a more subtle urban change within this period. The plan of the archaeological site shows the early walls, but most of the buildings excavated belong to the later Abbasid/Fatimid phases. Thus one might interpret the Central Pavilion as a “central palace,” see the mosque rebuilt in a peripheral location, and commercial expansion in a new seafront *suq*, all elements of a later phase of urban planning. This pattern suggests that the “palatine complex,” the secondary *misr*, is not the only model for the Middle Islamic city. There were other transformations (archaeological patterns) that remain to be discovered, but this is the subject of future studies.

---

# ÇADIR HÖYÜK THE 2008 SEASON

Ronald L. Gorny

## Preface

Çadır Höyük continues to produce important results from a variety of chronological contexts; these results are providing interesting new materials that are being used by a variety of scholars to more fully evaluate the history and culture of the central Anatolian plateau throughout the course of its long history. The 2008 excavation team took to the field for six weeks in July and August and its efforts produced a plethora of fascinating new results. Excavations continue in seven areas with the biggest emphasis being placed on the Northeast Terrace, the Eastern Step Trench, as well as the Upper and Lower South Trenches (fig. 1). These areas have produced vital materials belonging to the Byzantine, Hittite, Iron Age, and Early Bronze Age/Chalcolithic settlements, respectively. The sounding in the middle of the terrace has also become extremely informative for the chronology of that area with occupation there now known to extend at least into the Middle Bronze or Old Assyrian Colony Age.

The continuing excavations make it clearer every year that Çadır Höyük was an important site that influenced the area around it and was settled for the entirety of its history with no period of time left unrepresented in the historical account, with the possible exception of the Roman period. Çadır Höyük also displays an apparent continuity of function during this long sequence of settlement that probably accounts for the historical development that we are just beginning to understand. That function is grounded, most likely, on its identification as an important cult center. We continue to maintain the identification of the site in the second millennium with the important Hittite cult center Zippalanda, though there are still many questions related to that identification. Enough additional materials of a religious nature have turned up in other levels to show that they too had a religious function, the exact nature of which remains to be investigated. Nonetheless, the belief that Çadır maintained a religious function throughout its history remains a working hypothesis.

Our efforts at Çadır Höyük continue to produce physical evidence, but they also continue to produce an abundance of published materials that are shedding new light on the ancient site and its inhabitants. This paper continues that tradition as it reviews the results of work across the site, including additional references to work not mentioned above.

## Area 1: The Eastern Step Trench

### *The Hittite Periods*

In 2008 we returned to explore the Eastern Step Trench and we met with several surprises. The first was in square 800.910. During the last winter, a small area that was no more than 1 × 1 m in size had washed out of the baulk. In the process, 90–100 pieces of Hittite Empire-period pottery sherds had washed out of the baulk or lay exposed in situ. Of these, forty-seven are diagnostic rims, most from simple bowls with inverted splash rims (fig. 2). All the pottery, with the exception of one red-slipped piece, is of the mass-produced plain ware style used at Boğazköy. The pottery is from the baulk on the south side of the trench, near the surface and above the Middle Hittite wall. It rested on a plaster surface that lies just below the thick white

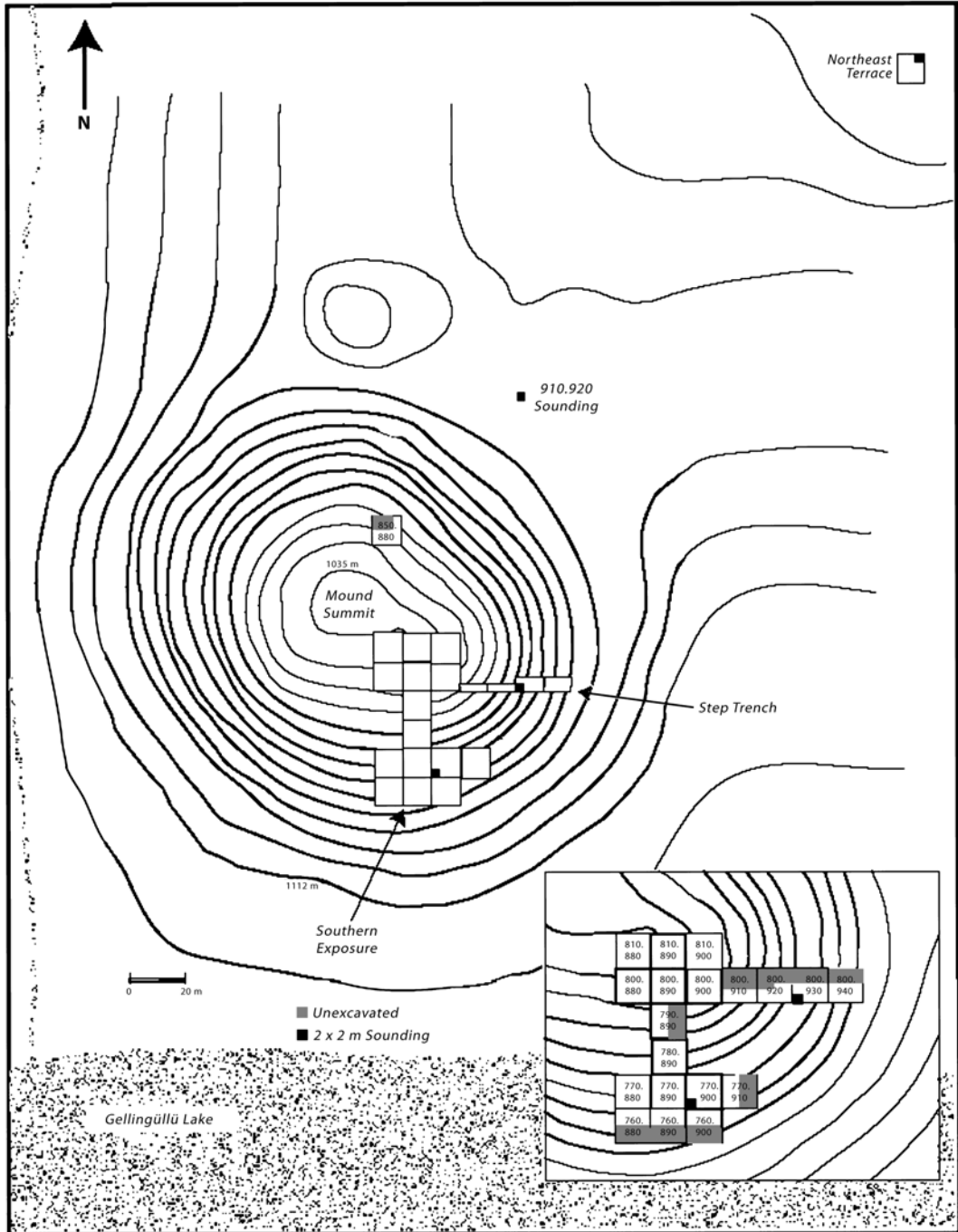


Figure 1. Topographic map of Çadır Höyük



*Figure 2. Hittite Empire-period rims from eroded floor area of square 800.910*

plaster floors of the “Temple” building (F 67), and to the left of the wall that separates the floors from an outside area. More pottery remains in the baulk so it is safe to assume that this is a rich deposit of Hittite Empire-period materials. In any case, this corpus of pottery provides us with an important focal point for our investigations of the Hittite Empire period. Bits and pieces of carbon were also found and may come from a burning of the town, which may explain how the pottery came to rest there.

### ***The Middle Bronze Age***

A second surprise came as we returned to the bottom of the Eastern Step Trench (800.950) in hopes of finding the extension of the Chalcolithic enclosure wall found in square 790.890 (fig. 3) (Gorny et al. 1995). Instead, we began to turn up Middle Bronze Age Kārum-period pottery. Most notable was a huge beak-spouted pitcher spout, a piece of an “andiron”-style hearth, a very carinated bowl, and a variety of wishbone handles. There were parts of surfaces and walls, but nothing that took the form of a building of any sort.

We also found two intersecting pits, but these produced very little in the way of material remains. The two pits were very shallow, approximately 20 cm in depth. The inhabitants had dug both pits into the brown pebble-rich fill that covers the entire area. It appears that the builders of this area brought in the pebbly fill from the river basin, but probably from very near the occupied area of the town, as the fill had small pieces of pottery scattered throughout. Outside of the pottery, the one item of interest from the pits is the bottom half of a lead figurine of the type found at Alişar and elsewhere (fig. 4). These lead figurines are cultic in purpose and date to the Kārum Ib period, which gives us a date for the pit. This particular



*Figure 3. 1994 photo of area we returned to in 2008*

*Figure 4. Old Assyrian Kārum Ib lead figurine fragment*

piece seems to display the bottom half of a goddess wearing a dress and the typical Hittite shoes with upturned pointed toes. The figurine possibly represents the Stormgod's consort. In the final analysis, the second-millennium discoveries made in 2008 at Çadır Höyük were striking in their character. They promise great things for 2009, when we plan to return to the Step Trench in order to continue unraveling the puzzles of Hittite history and geography on the Anatolian plateau.



## Area 2: The Northeast Terrace

Excavations on the Byzantine terrace continue to produce evidence of a three-period Byzantine occupation at Çadır Höyük (fig. 5). While the chronological division of the Byzantine era is quite clear, the exact nature of the settlement(s) remains undetermined.

Excavations in the earliest levels (sixth century) produced a variety of religious artifacts that may suggest that the initial use of the area was for a church. The arching nature of construction on the southern extremity of the excavation area lends itself to the belief that a nave once existed there. The middle layer (eighth century) was constructed over the initial building level and often used the same foundations. A later building in the northwest part of the trench that dates from the same period seems to have cut through and replaced some of the earlier church structure, however, and may have signaled a new function for the area. It is in this eighth-century level that we are finding equipment that seems to be related to the care and grooming of horses. The new construction may have something to do with the conversion of the area to that of a farmhouse or palatial grounds for the horse-breeding aristocracy that was known to have lived in this area at the time.



*Figure 5. Aerial view of Byzantine construction on the terrace*



*Figure 6. Long hall after excavation, showing later bench (rear) and wall (foreground)*



*Figure 7. Horse-related materials from the terrace*

For several years we have been excavating in and around a large room that appears to have the central focus of the larger construction (fig. 5). The central room had at least two doorways off its northern side and one off the eastern side that provided entry into a long hall (fig. 6). This hall seems to have been a focal point of the building's east side in the original sixth/seventh-century building; perhaps it was originally some sort of foyer. If one can appeal to the sense of balance in Byzantine construction, one might expect a similar foyer along the opposite side of the building. Whatever the room's original purpose, its doors were blocked in later phases of construction, indicating that the builders were working with the extant floor plan, but they changed the flow in and out of the hall, which indicates a change in function. The ovens found there in 2006 suggest the building had a pyrotechnical function in its latest phase, though that could have been anything from serving as a kitchen to being used as a smelting area. (The fact that slag was found in one of the rooms may point to this latter use.) Beyond that, several metal tools related to stonework or building construction were found in the area in 2006, as well as other items related to a horse-oriented culture that were uncovered there this year (fig. 7). The meaning of these interesting finds is unclear, though they do suggest a more pedestrian use of the area in later times. A final interesting find is a bowl inscribed in Greek; the inscription remains to be translated (fig. 8).

It is important to note that we are also undertaking a magnetometry survey on the Northeast Terrace. Early efforts show hot spots under the surface along with what we presume to be walls. In many cases, these structures align themselves with our already-excavated walls and provide us with important information for developing our 2009 strategy. The geophysical maps should be finished soon and we intend to continue this critical effort in 2009.



*Figure 8. Byzantine pot inscribed in Greek from the Byzantine terrace*

## Area 2b: The Terrace Sounding

Funding sources dictated that we would direct most of the 2008 excavation efforts to the excavation of Byzantine-period remains on the terrace. Nonetheless, a fair amount of time was devoted to cleaning the old 2001 terrace sounding and continuing to document the site's chronology by means of this important test area. Our work initially included straightening the eroded baulks and removing fallen and eroded materials from the bottom of the sounding. By the time we finished cleaning and were prepared to resume our excavation, the sounding had become a 3.0 × 2.2 m rectangle. While most of the pottery initially found in the cleaning was Iron Age in date, we did find a very nice red-polished Old Hittite handle that proved to be a harbinger of things to come.

We were prepared for a lot of work, since we knew that at Alişar the second-millennium remains were about 4 m beneath the surface. We were more fortunate here. The renewed investigation confirmed that we had been on the cusp of the Hittite era when excavation ended in 2001. We only had to dig another 30 cm before reaching a clear Hittite level. What we found, however, was a bit different from what we had expected.

As we renewed our efforts beneath the 2001 installation, the discovery of numerous Hittite period sherds led us to believe that a building level of some sort was near. The soil in this area, however, was moist and clay-like in composition, but with no evidence of building lines or wall foundations. Based on another sounding done on the terrace in 1994 (910.920) we had expected to come down on a stone wall foundation. Instead, we found a 20 cm thick layer of clay-strengthened soil that was peppered with white stones packed into the upper surface of soil (fig. 9). Initial observations suggested we had found either the broad foundation for a



*Figure 9. Sounding with layer of white stones visible in mid-picture and burial below*

large structure — such as a silo, a pool, or a cistern (such as at Boğazköy) — or some sort of pavement. For now, a synthesis of the evidence leads us to believe that we have discovered a small segment of a (ceremonial) road leading from the outer gate to the Stormgod's temple on the citadel. Possible reference to such a road might be found in Popko's study of the Zippalanda texts, where a procession of cultic participants is noted as being involved in various activities on the way to the temple (Popko 1994: 21, KUB XI 30+ [with duplicate Bo 3496], obv. III 25' ff.); p. 223; p. 207 (Temple way), 163, i.e., KASKAL). The construction method may have been intended to produce a durable paved road surface somewhat more capable of supporting heavier vehicles (such as chariots or carts) than the ordinary earthen roads into which such a vehicle might sink in wetter weather conditions.

Immediately beneath the layer of white stones and clay was a mudbrick construction barely discernible from the soil around it. The



floor of this building was 2.35 m below the surface and composed entirely of yellow-brown mudbrick very much like the matrix around it. The floor of the structure was 1.45 m in width with walls extending up on the east and west sides to create an interior room. In fact, there are actually several layers of floors beneath the room's surface and these are cut by a bell-shaped pit into which was placed a burial of some sort (fig. 9). The width of the walls was not clear as they extended into the baulk, but they were clear on both the north and the south sides with later materials lipping up from the floor to the wall.

Based on the discovery of Old Assyrian sherds in the sounding and elsewhere we can assume that there is also a Middle Bronze level somewhere beneath our current levels. No Early Bronze sherds have appeared in the mix so, despite the massive evidence of Early Bronze settlement on the mound, there may not have been an earlier settlement here. Then again, we may be surprised once we get past the Hittite level(s), which could have acted to seal the earlier deposits. There is certainly enough in the way of earlier mudbrick beneath the floor of the Hittite room (above) to accomplish this purpose.

The dating of these features is also of some interest. An initial analysis indicates that the pottery that came from below the layer of white stones and clay is Middle or Old Hittite, while the pottery above the stones appears to be later, presumably from the Hittite Empire period. Thus, the evidence so far indicates that the layer of white stones belongs to the Hittite Empire period, while the lower Hittite room is from the Middle/Old Hittite period. It also illustrates a period of renovation in the later era, perhaps related to the construction of the Middle Hittite wall F 1 on the citadel (Gorny 2006). The burial below the Hittite room must also be from the Middle/Old Hittite period, though the mudbrick matrix into which it was dug must belong to an earlier period. Pottery suggests either the Old Hittite or Old Assyrian periods, but is in no way definitive.

### **Area 3: The Lower South Slope**

In 2008 we continued to push the excavation of the Chalcolithic period town farther to the west. The result of that project was the discovery of a large mudbrick construction of uncertain purpose (fig. 10). The structure was composed of various walls and surfaces, which currently do not make a lot of sense. Since they are located only about 20 m from our earlier gate and enclosure wall, we thought that it might be a continuation of that whole complex. It later became clear that, despite the similarities in construction and proximity in space, the structures were from different periods.

In 1994, we uncovered the first portions of the Chalcolithic enclosure wall on the south slope of the mound. It was evident almost from the first, however, that the enclosure wall had been cut in some later period by subsequent settlers. In 2006 we discovered the enclosure wall had been cut by people who constructed a small mudbrick building (so-called H-House people) in the cut (fig. 11) (see Steadman et al. 2008a; 2008b). We were excited when the new excavations produced the foundation of a large stone wall leading to the mudbrick construction (fig. 12). At first we thought that the mudbrick construction belonged to the Chalcolithic gate complex, but then we realized that the mudbrick H-House was under the facing wall of the "new" enclosure wall that goes with the large mudbrick construction (fig. 13). In other words, the H-House is earlier than the wall, not later. Because of that, we now believe that there was not one, but two, enclosure walls, one built during the Chalcolithic period and one during the Early Bronze I. The first clue to this possible scenario was that the alignment of the stones



*Figure 10. Large mudbrick construction in Lower South Trench*



*Figure 11. Transitional Chalcolithic–Early Bronze I building*



*Figure 12. Stone wall leading to the large mudbrick construction*



*Figure 13. Early Bronze I “enclosure wall” showing packing and wall’s mudbrick “casemate”*

associated with the Early Bronze I enclosure wall are on a different orientation than the earlier Chalcolithic enclosure wall. The Early Bronze I wall is oriented toward the spot where the late blockage of the Chalcolithic gate occurred, presumably in the Early Bronze I, period as indicated by the pottery (Gorny et al. 2002: 14, 132, fig. 9). The orientation of the Chalcolithic enclosure wall was slightly different, being set a little farther south. Mudbrick now appearing under and to the east of the long north–south mudbrick structure may be part of the mudbrick superstructure of the Chalcolithic enclosure wall. The burned room beneath and to the west of the mudbrick structure seems to be contemporary with the so-called “burned room” found in 2001 (Gorny et al. 2002: 113) and may well provide graphic evidence of the destruction that made a new enclosure wall necessary. This conflagration could also correspond to burning around the Chalcolithic gate and suggest more than a local destruction, as was posited in earlier theories (Steadman et al. 2008a; 2008b). Within this scenario we can better see how the H-House might have fit in. We know that the Chalcolithic enclosure wall was clearly cut by Early Bronze I inhabitants who constructed a small wattle-and-daub home in the place they cut the wall. Soon afterward, however, the building was built over by the people who built the Early Bronze I structure we are currently investigating. I believe that this later mudbrick



*Figure 14. Chalcolithic pottery vessel from under the large mudbrick construction*



*Figure 15. Early Bronze I pottery from large mudbrick construction*



*Figure 16. Early Bronze I cups from large mudbrick construction*

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structure is an Early Bronze I enclosure wall that may also display a gate or tower within its construction. Of special note are the many interesting examples of Chalcolithic and Early Bronze pottery associated with this larger structure (figs. 14–16).

#### Area 4: The Citadel

We undertook one project in 2008 that involved the citadel. This entailed an examination of the Byzantine wall foundations at the top of the Eastern Step Trench, in square 800.910. We had already noted the striated lenses of soil under the wall (fig 17a) and had wondered about their date. To the east of the striations there is a small wall jutting out of the mound that we have determined is Byzantine. The wall is set in a foundation trench that cuts the striations. By taking down the top levels of these striated soil lenses we were able to determine that the various



a

*Figure 17a–b. Striated Hellenistic lenses from (a) the Upper South Trench and (b) the East Trench*



b

striated lenses dated to the Hellenistic period. These lenses of soil may represent a widespread filling or leveling of the site, as they also appear in the same stratigraphic position in the Upper South Trench (fig. 17b) (Gorny 2007: 26, fig 13). This probably indicates that the three documented levels of Byzantine settlement on both the terrace and the mound are all we will find. The questions remain, however, what was happening at Cadır Höyük between the Hellenistic and Byzantine periods. Is there a Roman settlement to be found anywhere on the mound?

### Area 5: The Upper South Trench



a

In the 2008 season we continued to sort out the complexities of the Iron Age settlement. Our primary accomplishment in the Upper South Trench was to unearth the eastern pier of a Late Iron Age gate connected to a fortification wall (fig. 18a). The western pier was unearthed in 2005 (fig. 18b) (Gorny 2006: 15, fig. 4). The gate and associated wall seem to be contemporary with the Iron Age wall on the north slope of Çadır Höyük, and probably form part of that period's defensive system. Also found inside the eastern pier was a second, flimsier mudbrick wall that is a little later than the eastern pier and seems to represent a narrowing of the original gate during the Late Iron or Hellenistic period. This also corresponds to a narrowing of the western pier that was recorded in 2005 (Gorny 2006: 15, fig. 4). The area was also heavily pitted,

*Figure 18a–b. The (a) Eastern (2008) and (b) Western (2005) piers of the Late Iron Age gate*



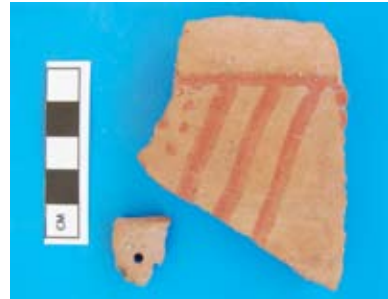
b

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which would explain why there is a good amount of Early Iron/Dark Age pottery coming up in that area.

It should also be noted that the Late Iron Age wall cut through another wall while being constructed. It is not clear just how old this wall is, but in any case, the Late Iron Age structure apparently “robbed out” the Middle Iron period level during its construction. This explains why there was no real Middle Iron level beneath this pier.

Just below the Late Iron walls was a curved wall that appears to be of Middle Iron Age date. We expected to encounter a second Middle Iron Age wall, but the architecture associated with the curved wall stood there instead. Again, the area was probably gutted during the



*Figure 21. Example of Dark Age pottery from the Upper South Trench*

*Figure 19. Middle Iron Age stag ware from the Upper South Trench*

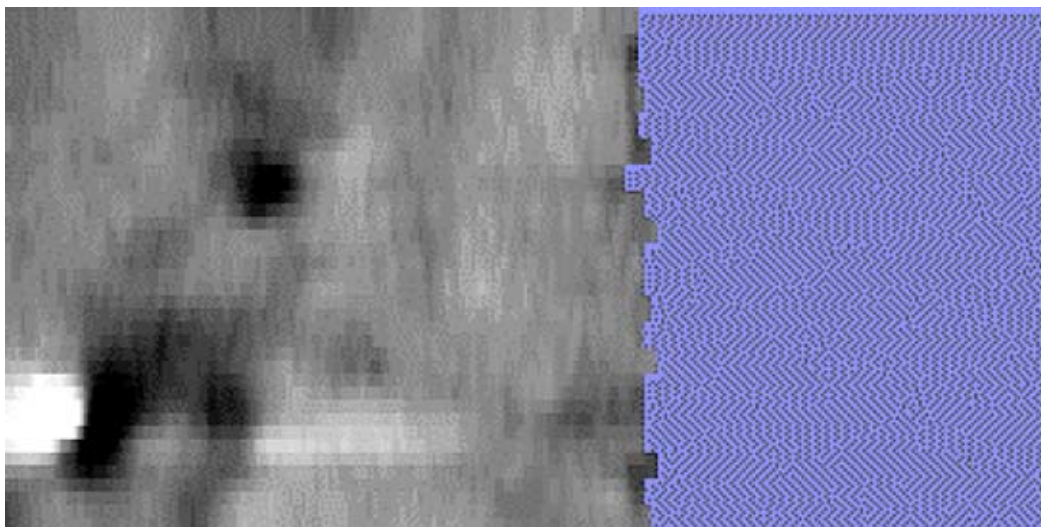


*Figure 20. Iron Age pot found in the Upper South Trench*

construction of the Late Iron Age gate. This level is dated clearly by several pieces of Iron Age “stag ware” (fig. 19), as well as other Middle Iron Age sherds (fig. 20) and was composed of hardened mudbrick that covered the remainder of an early Iron “Dark Age” building first exposed in 2006. Additional examples of Dark Age pottery were revealed (fig. 21; see Genz 2001 for description). We ceased excavation just above the Dark Age structure from 2006; we will continue our exploration of it next season.

### Area 6: The North Trench

The only work on the north slope consisted of a brief magnetometry survey at the bottom, where we believe there may be a gate, staircase, or glaci reminiscent of the Boğazköy glaci at the Sphinx Gate. The Zippalanda texts indicate that a lower gate exists at the base of the citadel through which the king entered and exited the temple area. Unfortunately, time was limited so the sample was small; only a 10 × 10 m square was set up across what seems to be the edge of the construction zone. Nonetheless, the results of the magnetometry sample show a large anomaly that appears to be a wall, perhaps with casemates (fig. 22). This suggests that we may be looking at the Lower Gate of Zippalanda, or at least its lower fortification wall. We intend to continue work in this area in 2009.



*Figure 22. Magnetometry printout showing large construction at base of citadel*

### Area 7: Çaltepe

Exploratory excavations were begun on Çaltepe in the hopes of finding evidence that might link that height to the Mt. Daha of the Hittite Zippalanda texts. Unfortunately, there was to be no quick resolution to that problem. We had hoped that there would not be much overburden and that the walls of the compound at the top of the mountain were Hittite in origin. While we were able to identify Hittite pottery from the sounding, it is now clear that a later use of the mountain may well mask its earlier cultic use by the Hittites.

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We began the Çaltepe sounding near the exterior wall on the north side of the compound (fig. 23). The square is near the conjunction of the north and east walls. The sounding began as a 3 × 3 m exploration of what we hoped would be an interior corner of a temple complex, perhaps near the *adyton*. The hope was that, since this spot overlooks the mound below, it might provide cultural materials from people taking advantage of the view for their religious rites. We had also considered a more central trench on the high point of the compound, but decided against that because the topography seemed to predict a heavier overburden in that area.

In the end, the sounding reached a depth of one meter and produced primarily a very hard mudbrick detritus. Small amounts of pottery were found in the mix, but it was mostly Byzantine with a scattering of earlier Hittite sherds. Thus, while we were unable to locate the Hittite loci, we were able to confirm its use by the Hittites in the second millennium. Although success eluded us in our first attempt to locate the center of Hittite cultic activity on Çaltepe, we are encouraged by the results and intend to try again in 2009.



*Figure 23. Beginning the sounding on Çaltepe, with the heights of Kerkenes Dağ in the background*

## Final Observations

The 2008 season was successful on many fronts. Not only were we able to delineate more levels of the second millennium, add more examples to the ceramic corpus, and further document the transition from Hittite Empire into the so-called “Dark Age,” but we also made strides toward gaining a better understanding of both the Byzantine and Chalcolithic settlements. Çadır Höyük continues to express an amazingly complicated and very fertile nature.



As we noted, progress was made in many areas other than actual excavation. We continue to work on the infrastructure of the excavation house with the addition of a new depot. Beyond that, various team members published articles in *Anatolian Studies*, the *Journal of Field Archaeology*, and the *Oriental Institute Annual Report*. In particular, progress was made by Ben Arbuckle (2009) in analyzing the backlog of faunal materials that have accumulated in the project depot. Of some note in this respect is his observation that the remains of animals in the Byzantine pen on the citadel almost certainly represent a catastrophic death event, much as had been projected in our earlier analysis (Gorny 2004: 20). This would buttress our contention that the Byzantine-period settlement was actually a *kastron* (Gorny 2006: 14). Arbuckle will publish his work in the upcoming *Anatolica* issue, along with an analysis of the Byzantine settlement by Marica Cassis. Jeff Geyer also made significant progress in cataloging and understanding Çadır Höyük's lithic inventory. His work will appear in *Anatolica* in two years. Additionally, Bruce Verhaaren began a geophysical survey of the terrace that promises to produce even greater amounts of data for analysis. Last but not least, more students were introduced to the discipline of archaeological fieldwork, and our Turkish workers gained new experience in the subtleties of archaeological field excavation. All these advances bode well for the future and help guarantee future successes at the site of Çadır Höyük-Zippalanda.

In summary, the dominating nature of the materials at Çadır Höyük continues to impress us with a strong sense of the importance this mound must have had to the Hittites during the second millennium. The remains are consistent with what we know of Hittite-era Zippalanda, though they do inspire new questions about the pre-Hittite existence of the site. Nonetheless, the probability that Çadır Höyük is to be equated with Zippalanda increases with every shovelful of dirt taken from the site. For that reason, future seasons will focus increasing amounts of time, money, and energy on documenting and explaining the second-millennium remains. It is hoped the literary evidence confirming our hypothesis will come to light in ensuing seasons of work. In the meantime, however, we continue to explore the diachronic impact of this amazing site on the social, political, and religious development of central Anatolia. Çadır Höyük remains one of the most significant excavated sites in Turkey.

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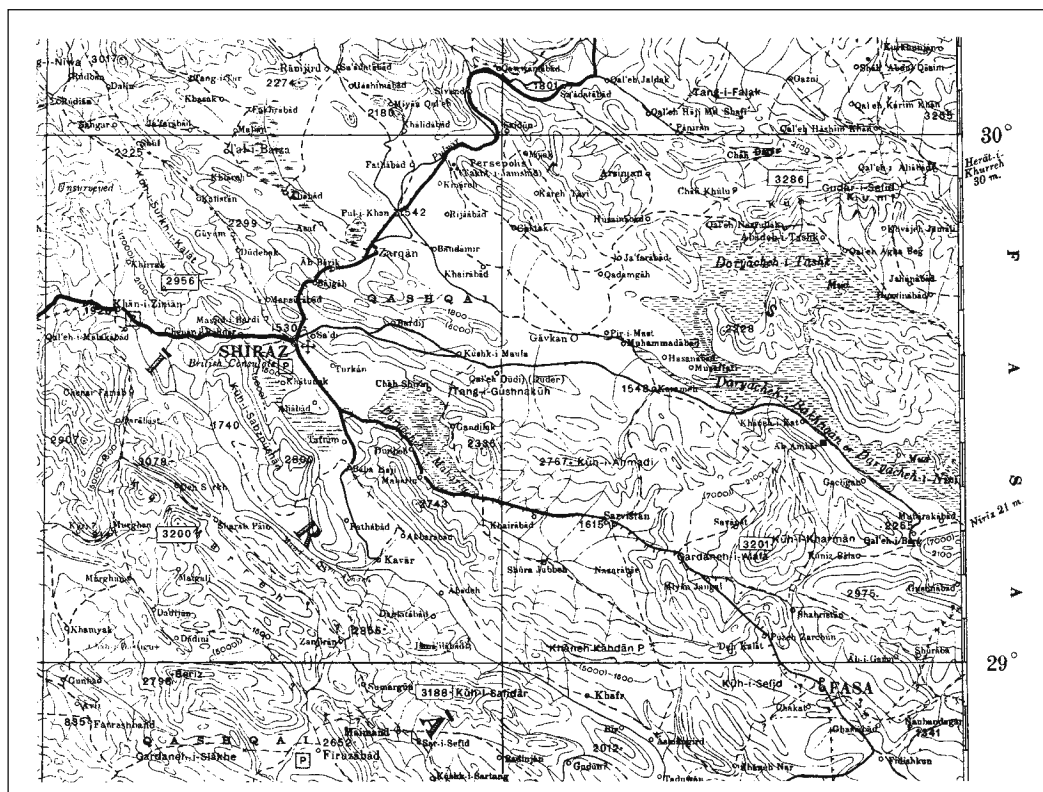


<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/camel>

## Scott Branting

Several important milestones were reached by CAMEL during 2008–2009. The digital collections, which form the core of CAMEL’s holdings, have now grown to over 10,000 unique maps, aerial photos, and satellite images pertaining to the Near East. It is quite an impressive collection, with particular strengths in many of those areas of data collection that have long been part of the Oriental Institute’s mission. Of these, over 1,400 were provided free of charge during the past year to researchers requesting them from all over the world. This is a marked increase from the first several years of CAMEL’s existence. As word grows of the important geospatial data available through CAMEL, more and more requests continue to be received.

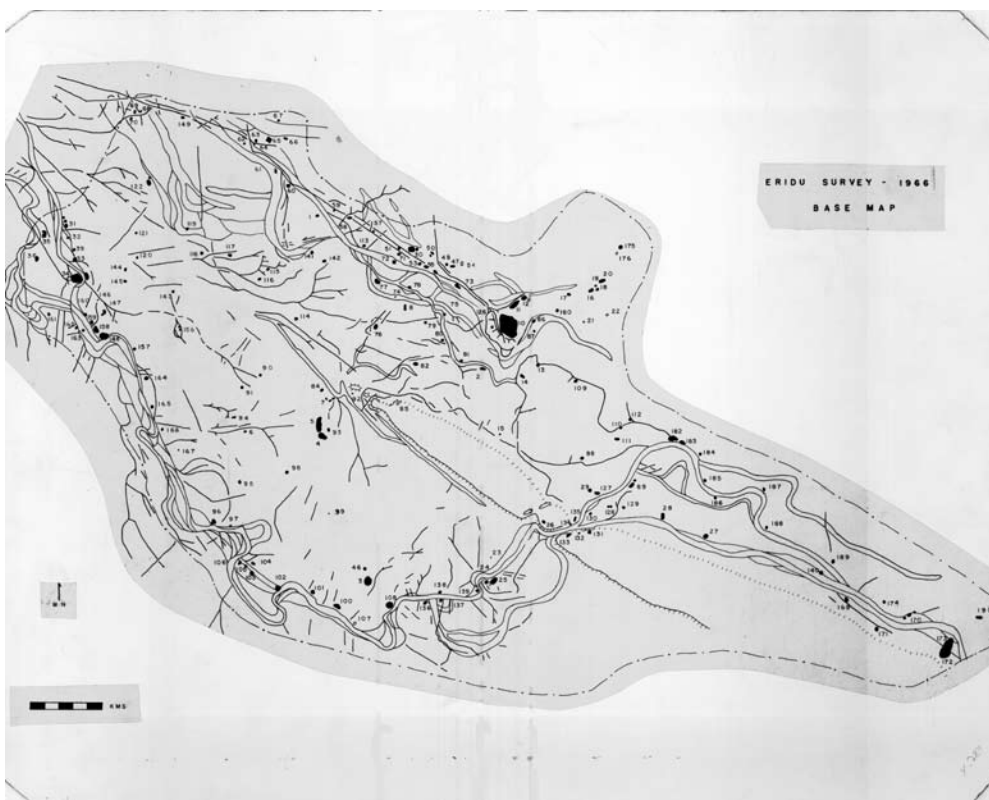
Comprising many of these new additions to the collections were a series of data donations from a dozen scholars in the United States and Europe (fig. 1). Over 3,000 paper and digital items



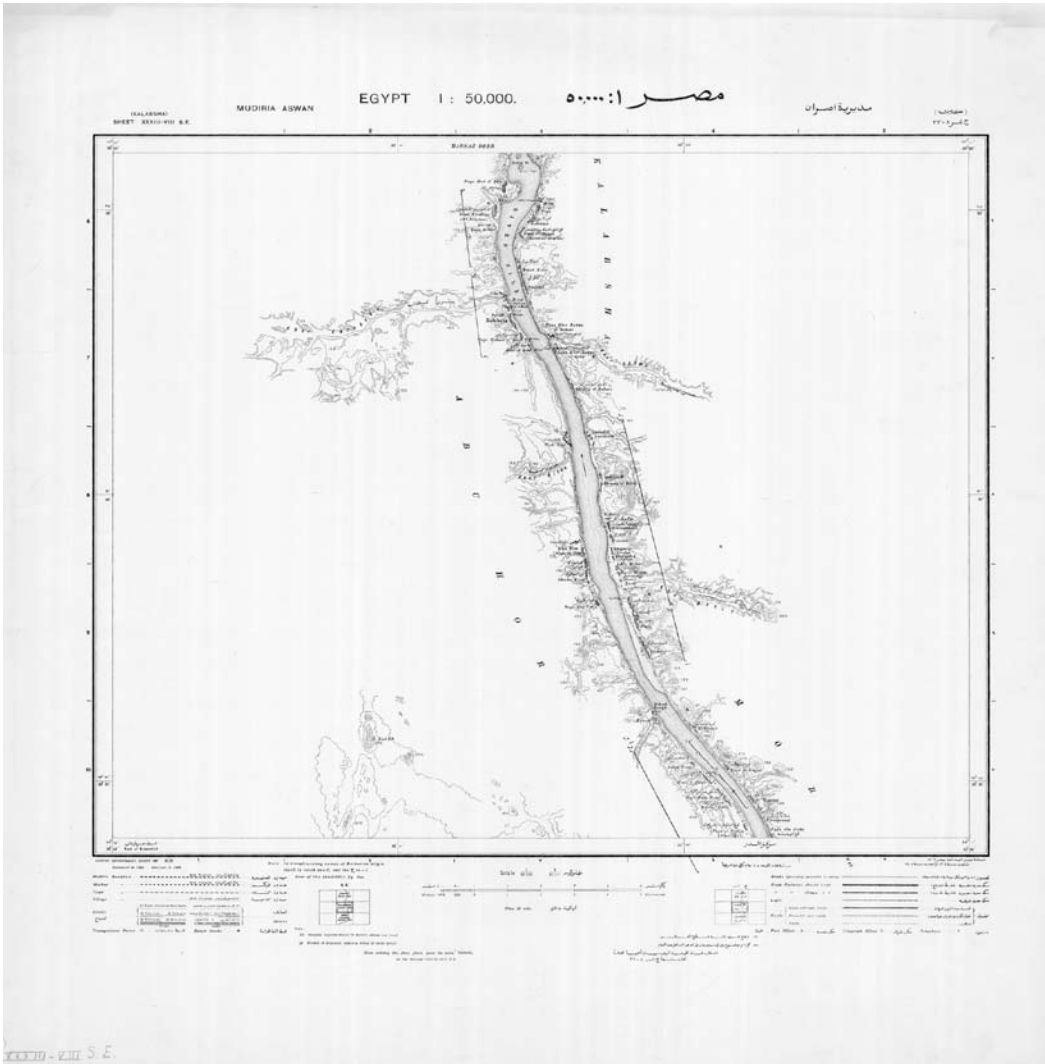
**Figure 1.** This map of Shiraz, Iran, created by the U.S. Army Map Service in 1954, was donated to CAMEL by Abbas Alizadeh. Donations such as his have added over 3,000 maps, satellite images, and aerial photos to CAMEL’s collections during the past year

were received by CAMEL, including a very special donation from Robert McC. Adams (fig. 2). Work has begun on digitizing those that can be digitized as well as georectifying those that can be georectified. Georectification, a process that encodes the image's precise location on the surface of the Earth within the digital data files, makes these datasets immediately available to scholars using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) devices or Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software. With those items for which the copyright is not held by the donor or is not in the public domain, CAMEL is in the process of contacting the copyright owner in order to try and secure permission to digitize and make their important data more widely available. CAMEL is always open to accepting new donations from individuals and scholars in order to make geospatial data of the Near East more accessible to others around the world.

Alongside these new donations, work was completed on the georectification of the thousands of maps that were digitized from the map collections of the Research Archives (fig. 3). This was a major three-year project started in 2006 with a grant from the Provost's Program for Academic Technology Innovation (ATI). This grant provided CAMEL with a large-format scanner, a scanner that can scan up to three-foot-wide maps in one pass, as well as thirty high-resolution Digital Globe QuickBird satellite images used to help georectify some of the maps once they have been scanned (figs. 4–5). Both the scanner and the satellite images remain with CAMEL and have continued to be used by other projects as well as for digitizing donated material throughout the year.

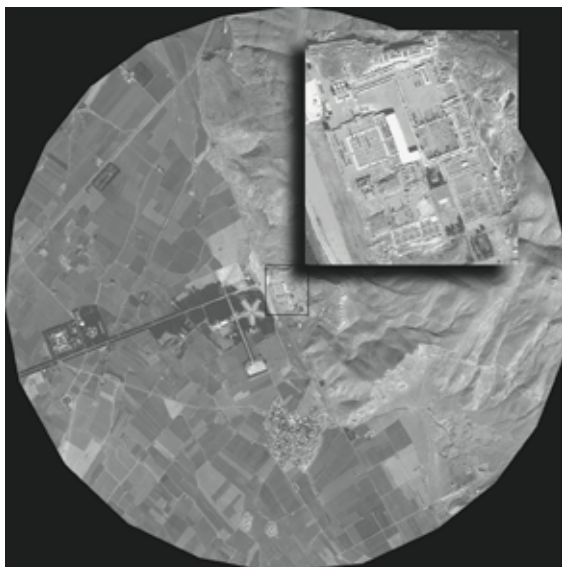


**Figure 2.** This map was created by Robert McC. Adams for the 1966 survey of Eridu, Mesopotamia. It and many other maps and records from Adams' work in Iraq were added to CAMEL's collections following their generous donation in 2008



**Figure 3.** During 2008–2009 CAMEL finished digitizing and georectifying thousands of maps from the map collection in the Research Archives. This 1909 map, created by the Survey of Egypt, shows the area of Egypt south of the Aswan Dam investigated by the Oriental Institute during the Nubian Salvage Campaign, including the temple of Beit el-Wali

Complementing this year's work with maps and the digitization of paper materials has been the acquisition of additional contemporary Digital Globe satellite imagery and the georectification of the historic U.S. Declassified Spy Satellite (CORONA) images. The CORONA images are an important part of the CAMEL collections, offering historical views of the Near Eastern landscape from the 1960s and 1970s and revealing many features and sites that have since been damaged or destroyed (fig. 6). Unfortunately, these images can't be acquired from the U.S. Geological Service already georectified, and so beginning last year CAMEL started the process of georectifying all 1,100 images in our possession. This project entered a new phase this year through a partnership with Jesse Casana, a former member of CAMEL who is now an Assistant Professor at the Department of Anthropology of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Jesse received an American Council of Learned Societies Digital Innovation Fellowship and a National



**Figure 4.** CAMEL ordered thirty high-resolution QuickBird-2 images from DigitalGlobe as part of the Provost's Program for Academic Technology Innovation (ATI) grant. The portion of a QuickBird image taken in 2002 shown here provides a glimpse of the excavated site of Persepolis in Iran and its surrounding landscape. QuickBird-2 images have a 60 cm spatial resolution, allowing individual architectural elements to be discerned, as the close-up of the main Achaemenid palace shows



**Figure 5.** This 2009 QuickBird-2 image of Umma, Iraq, was ordered by CAMEL for McGuire Gibson in order to monitor looting and destruction at that site. The site itself is in the center of the image with agricultural field and canals visible in the upper right corner and desert dunes in lower left. By capturing the surrounding landscape this image allows us to place the site of Umma in its geographic and ecological context and allows us to see surrounding archaeological and historical features of less prominence. CAMEL continues to order many images such as this for researchers around the world investigating both the modern and ancient landscape

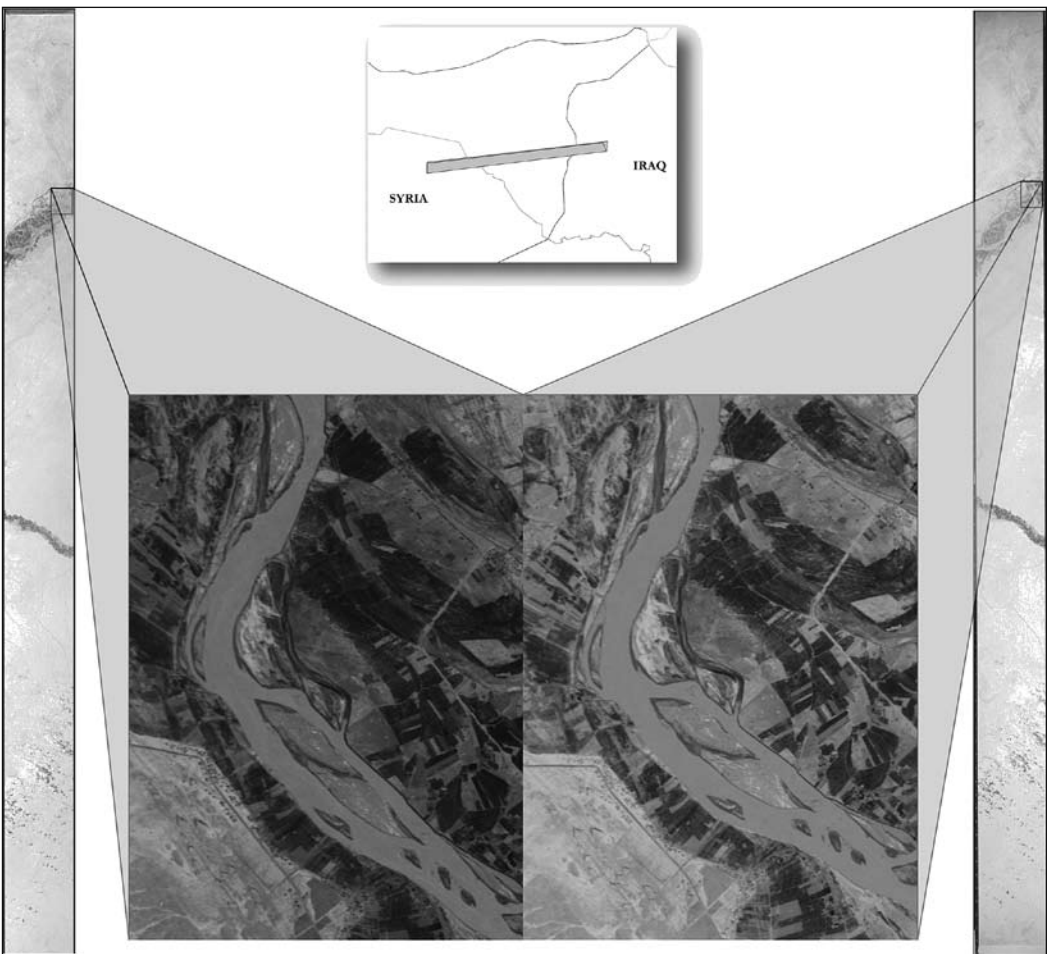


**Figure 6.** The Ptolemaic temple at Kom Ombo in Egypt is visible in this 1969 CORONA satellite image, marked with an arrow, as is the landscape of the Nile Valley around the temple itself. Agricultural and urban development over the last forty years has obscured many features visible on historical images such as this. CAMEL has over 1,100 CORONA images similar to this one, allowing researchers to access information that has long since vanished

## CAMEL

Endowment for the Humanities grant for developing a new way to georectify CORONA images with a very high degree of precision using stereo-pair and orthorectification practices (fig. 7). CAMEL agreed to provide Jesse with 300 of our digitized CORONA images for his project in exchange for receiving back the georectified versions, copies of additional CORONA images acquired through the grants, and Digital Elevation Models (DEM) produced from the CORONAs. Fruitful collaborations such as this, which end up making more geospatial data more easily available to more researchers, are always welcomed by CAMEL.

One such collaboration on the horizon was just recently funded as a part of a U.S. Department of Education, Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) grant. CAMEL will be working with several overseas research centers around the Mediterranean over the next four years to digitize and georectify hundreds of the important



**Figure 7.** These two declassified KH-4B CORONA satellite images form a stereopair set of images from eastern Syria. These two photographs of the same area were taken at slightly different angles at about the same time. When sections of them are taken and laid side by side it is possible to see topographic information and generate high-resolution elevation models. You can see some of this in these images. Try focusing on the large island in the center of both close-ups and crossing your eyes. As the two photographs merge into one you should be able to perceive some 3-D features (note that only approximately 80% of people can do this). An ongoing project at the University of Arkansas is currently using some of the CORONA stereopairs from CAMEL's holdings for creating accurate 3-D Digital Elevation Models



maps held in their collections. Centers participating with CAMEL in this endeavor include the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, Israel; the Centre d'Études Maghrébines en Algérie in Oran, Algeria; the American Research Center in Cairo, Egypt; and the Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt.

Finally, during 2008–2009 CAMEL continued various forms of local outreach within Chicago. Building on the work started last year with Rebecca Graff's archaeological field school in Jackson Park, CAMEL has continued to use a GPS-enabled tablet computer along with maps and satellite images to locate many of the building footprints from Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. A tour of the site using these techniques was even one of the items offered for auction at the recent Oriental Institute Gala. In addition, in partnership with Museum Education, CAMEL has begun to explore the possibilities for outreach through curriculum development or afterschool programs with the Chicago Public Schools. A program is being designed that makes use of existing facilities, like the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center, and combines them with the analytical capabilities of GIS software in order to teach students about both archaeology and geospatial technologies.

\* \* \* \* \*

CAMEL is indebted to all those who gave of their time and efforts during the past year. Joshua Trampier served as Associate Director and Robert Tate as Assistant Director of CAMEL. Elise MacArthur and Susan Penacho were our Senior Supervisors. William Kent, Bryan Kraemer, Elena Guobyte, Lori Calabria, and Ndah Somdah were all Student Assistants. Our volunteers for 2008–2009 were Vincent van Exel, Debora Heard, Larry Lissak, Marc Block, Jim Boves, Gaby Cohen, Deborah Freidrich, Alphonse Lembo, Harold Sanders, and Ronald Wideman. We are always happy to have new volunteers work with us. In addition, I would like to thank all those who donated financially or in contributions of data to CAMEL throughout this eventful year.

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## CHICAGO ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY (CAD)

### Martha T. Roth

For most of 2008–09, the CAD staff has been reviewing the galleys of the U/W volume of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary. The members of the editorial board (Robert D. Biggs, John A. Brinkman, Miguel Civil, Walter Farber, Martha T. Roth, and Matthew W. Stolper) have read and reviewed all galleys. The editor in charge, Martha T. Roth, and her Research Assistants Edward Stratford and Jonathan Tenney have been making the necessary corrections and additions to the master copy which will be sent back to Eisenbrauns for final setting and publication.


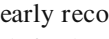






Linda McLarnan, CAD Manuscript Editor since 1986, continues to lend her expert proofreading skills even as she serves as Publications Expert in the Office of the President of the University. Linda continues to oversee the final publication of the U/W volume. In June of this year, Dr. Jonathan Tenney (NELC Ph.D., 2009) joined the CAD staff as Research Assistant. Jon replaced Ed Stratford, who accepted an academic post at Brigham Young University in Utah.





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









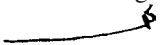




# CHICAGO DEMOTIC DICTIONARY (CDD)







François Gaudard and Janet H. Johnson

This year has seen a change on the staff of the Demotic Dictionary, with Brittany Hayden joining Mary Szabady as graduate student assistants on the project. We have also been assisted by volunteers: Janelle Pisarik and Bryan Kraemer, both of whom are graduate students in Egyptology, checked the Text Information and Abbreviation Authors files, while Oriental Institute docent Larry Lissak scanned more photographs of Demotic papyri and inscriptions. Graduate students Humphrey H. Hardy II, Charles J. Otte III, and Benjamin D. Thomas helped us check some of the Hebrew and Aramaic references cited in the dictionary. Letter files W, P, M, H, and Š, a total of about 1,200 pages, were given to Thomas Urban, Senior Editor of the Oriental Institute Publications Office, for a final style check and will be posted online in the summer of 2009. The last three letters, namely ʾI, T, and S, are currently being worked on, as well as the numbers file. Janet Johnson and François Gaudard attended the 10th International Congress of Demotic Studies, held in Leuven and Brussels from August 26 to 30, 2008, where they both delivered papers. Janet Johnson took this opportunity to ask all the Congress participants to supply the Chicago Demotic Dictionary staff with their corrections and additions, as well as their comments on the “Problematic Entries” files.

Although ancient Egyptian contracts were dated and the parties involved identified, most ancient Egyptian texts were not dated and the scribe/author’s name not mentioned. Moreover, unless one knows the place and the archaeological context where a text was discovered, its exact provenance can also be difficult or simply impossible to determine. Because date and provenance can be important to our understanding of a text, scholars frequently resort to a paleographic study of the text.<sup>1</sup> The term “paleography” (from Greek *παλαιός* “ancient” and *γράφειν* “to write”), perhaps used for the first time in 1708 by the Benedictine monk Bernard de Montfaucon in his *Palaeographia Graeca*, designates the science of studying ancient writing systems, including the deciphering and dating of historical manuscripts. Besides allowing one to assign a text to a specific time period or geographical area, in a few cases paleography can also facilitate the identification of the author of a text. Now, let us see how paleography can be used in practice, starting with the dating of Demotic texts. Three major stages can be distinguished in the evolution of Demotic script, namely Early Demotic (ca. 650–ca. 400 B.C.), Ptolemaic or Middle Demotic (ca. 400–ca. 30 B.C.), and Roman or Late Demotic (ca. 30 B.C.–A.D. 452). Bold script is characteristic of Early Demotic. Since this stage of Demotic script is still close to its hieratic ancestor, the original hieroglyphic signs are usually a little easier to identify than in later stages. For example, in the following writings of the word *tw* “mountain”:  and  (Erichsen, *Glossar* [hereafter EG] 611), the hieroglyphic sign  is clearly recognizable. In Ptolemaic Demotic, the script becomes smaller in size and the signs much further removed from hieratic. It is uncertain whether the scribes themselves were still able to trace them back to hieratic. The same word *tw* “mountain” was then written, for example,  or  (EG 611). Finally, in Roman Demotic, the script is much thinner due to the fact that scribes began to use a pointed reed pen instead of the traditional brush. Therefore, the above-mentioned word *tw* could be written  (EG 611). Interestingly, in this late stage, hieratic or hieroglyphic signs could also be used in the writing of a Demotic word. Such is, for example, the case in the following writings of *sp* “time”:  and  (EG 425), which include the hieroglyphic sign of the “circular threshing floor covered with

grain" , and in writings of *Niw.t* "the City" (= Thebes):  and  (EG 211), where the hieroglyphic sign of the "village with crossroads"  can be easily identified.

In some cases, as mentioned above, paleography can also help establish the provenance of a text, thanks to regional distinctions which find their origin in various scribal traditions. For instance, let us compare writings of the letter *b* in Roman papyri from two different areas. Most of the time writings of *b* follow the standard form , as is the case in the word  *šbt* "staff, scepter" in P. Magical (= P. British Museum 10070 + P. Leiden 383) 5/18, from Thebes. However, in some Roman texts from the Fayyum, a typical "disarticulated" writing of *b* is attested with three () or even only two strokes (), as in the personal name *Htb*: "Satabous":  (P. Vienna 6344, 15) and  (P. Berlin 6848, 3/3). Another good example is the word *nfr* "beautiful, good" usually written  but also attested in the form , a scribal variant with a diagonal stroke typical of the Elephantine area, as demonstrated by Robert Ritner.<sup>2</sup> As a last example we discuss the ligature of the group  *ir=f* "he did," whose common writing looks as follows: . There are also forms where the tail of the *f* is very long:  (O. Ashmolean 17, 5) or practically non-existent:  (P. Berlin 8278a, x+16), but the point of interest for our discussion is the writing  which, according to Vos,<sup>3</sup> is a regional scribal variant of this ligature, occurring typically in Memphite documents such as P. Brooklyn 37.1802, 22:  and P. Apis (= P. Vienna Kunst. 3873) ro, 3/6 (and passim): . This phenomenon is not specific to Demotic but, as one would expect, already occurred in hieratic as pointed out by Erman,<sup>4</sup> followed by Möller.<sup>5</sup>

It is precisely in basing our argument on hieratic examples that we now discuss how in some cases paleography can also help identify individual hands, or in other terms, a person's handwriting. As noted by Bouvier,<sup>6</sup> the famous corpus of more than sixty hieratic papyri known as *Late Ramesside Letters* is the ideal candidate for such a demonstration. Indeed, these letters, mostly published by J. Černý and translated by E. F. Wente,<sup>7</sup> are contemporary with each other, homogenous in theme, and were composed by a relatively small group of Theban-based scribes. They tell us about events that took place in the last years of the reign of Ramesses XI (1099–1069 B.C.), when the Theban area was under the military control of General Piankh, who also assumed the function of high priest of Amun. But, according to Bouvier,<sup>8</sup> even in such an apparently favorable context a comparative paleographic study between documents proves to be difficult and uncertain, since a scribe could adapt his handwriting depending on the type of text he wrote: he would indeed put much more care in composing a letter addressed to a high official than in preparing a draft. Thus, although two documents look very different from each other, they could have been written by the same scribe, and inversely, documents whose hands are similar could have been written by two different scribes trained by the same teacher. Even so, the peculiarity of a hand can sometimes be extremely helpful to identify the author of a text. This is particularly true in the case of the scribe Butehamon, who, among the writers of the *Late Ramesside Letters*, had a very distinctive habit.<sup>9</sup> Indeed, Butehamon used to add systematically a diacritic dot as part of the writing of the group  *dd* "to say." Regular writings of this word would not include such a dot: . Some scribes tended to add a dot after  *dd* only when part of the expression  *hn' dd* "Quote:" used to introduce the subject of the letter itself. In this case the dot made it easier for the reader to identify this expression whose writing could be quite abbreviated. Butehamon, however, added a dot in practically every case, as in letters 16vo, 2:  and 29ro, 2: ,<sup>10</sup> even when it was not required for the understanding of the text.

It is also worth noting that variations in script can reflect not only differences between time periods, regions, or individuals, but also various uses or calligraphic styles which can be observed in some languages. As a single example we will briefly compare writings of the sacred mantra *om̐ mani padme hūm̐*,<sup>11</sup> as rendered in some Tibetan scripts,<sup>12</sup> namely the sacred script *Lentsa*: འོམ་མཎི་པདྨེ་ཧུམ་, the standard block script *Uchen*: འོམ་མཎི་པདྨེ་ཧུམ་, the decorative script *Drutsa*: འོམ་མཎི་པདྨེ་ཧུམ་, and the cursive hand script *Ume*: འོམ་མཎི་པདྨེ་ཧུམ་.

In conclusion, one could say that paleography is a very useful tool, but it should be used with caution by scholars, who should always keep in mind the limitations of this method.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> For an introduction to ancient Egyptian paleography, see, e.g., G. Möller, *Hieratische Paläographie: Die ägyptische Buchschrift in ihrer Entwicklung von der fünften Dynastie bis zur römischen Kaiserzeit*, 3 vols. (Osnabrück: Zeller, 1965) (reprint of 1927–36 second edition, revised); O. El-Aguizy, *A Palaeographical Study of Demotic Papyri in the Cairo Museum from the Reign of King Taharka to the End of the Ptolemaic Period (684–30 B.C.)*, Mémoires publiés par les membres de l’Institut français d’archéologie orientale 113 (Cairo: Institut français d’archéologie orientale, 1998); U. Verhoeven, *Untersuchungen zur späthieratischen Buchschrift*, Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta 99 (Leuven: Peeters, 2001); D. Meeks, *Les architraves du Temple d’Esna: Paléographie*, Paléographie Hiéroglyphique 1 (Cairo: Institut français d’archéologie orientale, 2004), esp. pp. i–xxv.

<sup>2</sup> See R. K. Ritner, “A Regional Variant in Demotic Orthography:  $\Upsilon$   $\Lambda$  as *nfr*,” *Enchoria* 12 (1984): 187–88.

<sup>3</sup> See R. L. Vos, *The Apis Embalming Ritual: P. Vindob. 3873*, Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta 50 (Leuven: Peeters, 1993), p. 270, note c to 2/23, who states that this “ligature is not so much a peculiarity, therefore, of a particular scribe, but rather a Memphitic spelling employed not only by scribes of everyday contracts, but also by scribes of religious texts,” such as the Apis Embalming Ritual.

<sup>4</sup> See A. Erman, “Zur Erklärung des Papyrus Harris,” *Sitzungsberichte der Königlich preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften* 21 (1903): 460ff.

<sup>5</sup> See Möller, *Hieratische Paläographie*, vol. 2, pp. 2–3 and 12–13.

<sup>6</sup> See G. Bouvier, “L’identification des rédacteurs des *Late Ramesside Letters*,” *Annales de la Fondation Fyssen* 20 (2005): 100–01.

<sup>7</sup> See J. Černý, *Late Ramesside Letters*, Bibliotheca Aegyptiaca 9 (Brussels: Édition de la Fondation égyptologique Reine Élisabeth, 1939); E. F. Wente, *Late Ramesside Letters*, Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 33 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967).

<sup>8</sup> See G. Bouvier, “Quelques remarques sur l’identification des ‘mains’ dans les documents hiératiques de l’époque ramesside,” *Annales de la Fondation Fyssen* 17 (2002): 13–14.

<sup>9</sup> See Bouvier, “L’identification des rédacteurs,” pp. 103–05.

<sup>10</sup> The facsimiles of Butehamon’s writings of *dd* are taken from Bouvier, “L’identification des rédacteurs,” p. 105, fig. 2.

<sup>11</sup> In Hinduism and Buddhism the term *mantra* (from Sanskrit मन्त्र) designates a word or phrase from a sacred text used as a prayer or incantation.

<sup>12</sup> See J. Stevens, “Asian Calligraphy,” in *The World’s Writing Systems*, edited by P. T. Daniels and W. Bright (New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), p. 247, from which these examples are taken.

## CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD)

### Theo van den Hout

As already announced in last year's report Theo van den Hout and Harry Hoffner, assisted by Petra Goedegebuure and Senior Research Associates Richard Beal as well as Oğuz Soysal, continued editing first drafts of words, venturing well into entries starting in *šu-*. This is the final batch of the fascicle that will conclude the *Š*-volume. Meanwhile, Beal and Soysal have continued writing first drafts of words in *T*.

Kathleen Mineck and former undergraduate student Anna Maccourt were again responsible for the upkeep of the CHD photo and lexical files. This included finishing the transliteration and filing of new cuneiform volumes KBo 41 and 53 and also some major file rearranging due to new discoveries regarding the Hittite pronouns. Kathleen continued checking collations from old material found after the move to the new CHD office, and Anna began a project for updating the photograph files with the help of the German online Konkordanz. Because of his stay in the Ankara museum, van den Hout (see *Individual Research*) was able to add many photos of especially .../z-fragments, that is, pieces found in the excavations of 1967 in Boğazköy, as well as of numerous letters from Maşat Höyük. Anna has worked for us now since 2005. She graduated from our college in 2008 but stayed on for another year. In all her years working for the CHD Anna must have parsed and filed thousands of cards and probably knows our collection inside-out. She is now ready to move on: she has been accepted as an Anthropology graduate student at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. We will miss you, Anna, and wish you a wonderful time in Michigan!



*Farewell party for Anna Maccourt. From left, Richard Beal, Dennis Campbell, Kathleen Mineck, Seunghee Yie, Harry Hoffner, Theo van den Hout, and Anna Maccourt*

In the electronic CHD (or *eCHD*), the realm of programmer Sandy Schloen, Dennis Campbell, and Seunghee Yie, we find ourselves once again working to improve the query facility for the on-line version of the CHD. Our previous approach proved to be somewhat mysterious, as it assumed

too much technical familiarity on the part of our end-users, and functionally limited, restricting the query to one aspect of the data or another. The new model that we are currently exploring uses a query-by-example format. A sample query is provided — “Find all occurrences of a given word in texts written in a selected script” — and the user supplies the “given word” and the “selected script.” A wide range of typical queries are presented with fill-in-the-blank options for the user. Additionally, the individual sample queries are presented in a checklist format. By selecting more than one query in the checklist, the user, in effect, creates a compound query, thus dramatically expanding the power and complexity of the analysis without overly complicating the process of expressing the syntax or structure of the query. We anticipate that this new approach will greatly enhance the usability of the online dictionary.

This year has also seen the continued maintenance and modification of dictionary material in the *e*CHD. One of the issues that we have had to deal with is that over the almost thirty years of publication history, many passages have been treated multiple times. As a result, a passage may receive a number of slightly (or less slightly!) different translations. Before the *e*CHD there had been no way of pulling together all of the translations of a particular passage, but we can now use the database to perform this essential task. Having multiple variant translations of a passage in the online dictionary is counterproductive. We have been able to query the material and standardize these translations. This typically involves updating them in order to reflect current scholarship.

We have also been working to standardize our system of text dating. The print versions of the dictionary cannot retroactively modify the dates of original composition and of inscription whenever scholarly opinions on the matter change. The CHD has strived to give its users information as to when a particular text was originally composed, or as to when a particular version of a text was inscribed onto a tablet. As with multiple translations of a passage, for the *e*CHD we need to ensure that the data are internally consistent. Using the available query system the process of standardizing this material is currently underway.

Another important issue is that of general text material. In the printed CHD, all grammatical forms of a particular word are given. It is our standard procedure to give only a few representative samples of a particular spelling. If a user searches for a particular form (for example, all third-person present forms of conjugation II verbs), they will only get these representative forms. By entering more texts into OCHRE and by linking the words in the texts to the appropriate grammatical entries, we can provide the user with a much larger sample. This information will not affect the way that the *e*CHD looks, where only the representative sample will be visible, and yet the user will ultimately be provided with a much richer data set.

During the first five weeks of the Spring Quarter Professor Andreas Schachner stayed with us. He is the director of the excavations at Boğazköy, the site of the former Hittite capital. He taught a class on Hittite archaeology in our Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and gave a lecture on recent developments in the excavations. Among other guests visiting us was again Willemijn Waal from Leiden, the Netherlands, staying for the entire Spring Quarter to consult the CHD files and to work in our Research Archives.

## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

W. Raymond Johnson

On April 15, 2009, the Epigraphic Survey, in cooperation with the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), completed its eighty-fifth, six-month field season in Luxor. What follows is a report on Chicago House's field activities in Luxor, primarily at the sites of Khonsu Temple at Karnak, Luxor Temple, and the Medinet Habu temple complexes during the 2008–2009 field season.

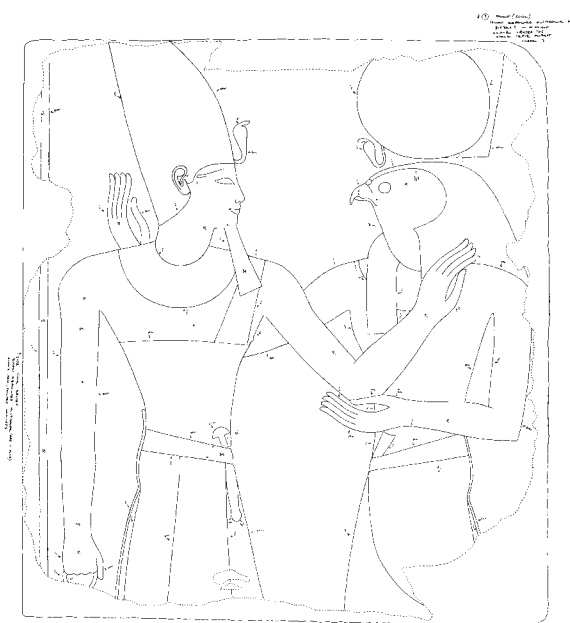
### KHONSU TEMPLE, KARNAK

#### Epigraphic Documentation

This season marked the return of the Epigraphic Survey to Khonsu Temple, Karnak, after a long hiatus for an exciting new collaboration with the American Research Center in Egypt. As part of its East Bank Groundwater Lowering Response Initiative, ARCE is conducting conservation training, conservation work, and restoration in Khonsu Temple. Part of ARCE's program involves replacing missing paving stones along the main axis that were quarried away in late antiquity and which make visiting the site difficult. Ramesses III built his Khonsu Temple out of the blocks from half a dozen temples that he dismantled and reused for this purpose, and in the interests of construction speed his workmen intentionally neglected to erase their original inscribed surfaces. As a result almost every block in Khonsu Temple has earlier decoration preserved on one or more faces, and the floor and foundation stones are no exception. After ARCE archaeologist Pamela Rose cleaned and documented floor areas slated for restoration, artist Krisztián Vértés (fig. 1) and epigraphers Brett McClain, Jen Kimpton, Virginia (Ginger) L. Emery, and I documented the newly exposed blocks. In the first analysis the material appears to be from an earlier, Eighteenth



*Figure 1. Krisztián Vértés tracing a reused block in the flooring of Khonsu Temple. Photo by Pam Rose*

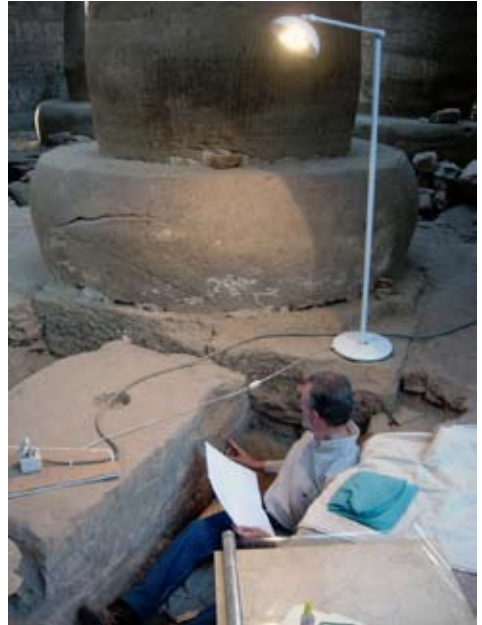


*Figure 2. Khonsu block number 11. Collated, scanned tracing by Krisztián Vértés*





**Figure 3.** Brett, Jen, and Krisztián collating a reused threshold block in Khonsu Temple. Photo by Ray Johnson



**Figure 4.** Ray doing a director's check of collated tracing at Khonsu Temple. Photo by Krisztián Vértés

Dynasty Khonsu Temple similar to the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu that was dismantled and reused by Ramesses III in the foundations and flooring of his new, larger Khonsu Temple complex. Drawings were traced, scanned, and collated in increments before restoration of the flooring once more concealed the inscribed surfaces from view (fig. 2). This season 188 blocks were cataloged, 63 were drawn, 50 were collated (fig. 3), 44 drawings received final director's checks (fig. 4); in all, 46.5 sq. m of inscribed surface were recorded. Blocks inscribed with the names of Thutmose III, Thutmose IV, Ay, Horemheb, Sety I, Ramesses II, and Sety II were documented. A corpus of limestone blocks, two inscribed, are earlier in carving style and may be from an even earlier Middle Kingdom temple on the site. This project will continue into 2010 and is funded by a grant to ARCE from USAID. A preliminary report of our epigraphic work is to appear in the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*.

## MEDINET HABU

### Epigraphic Documentation

Epigraphic documentation of the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu ambulatory and bark sanctuary continued under the direction of senior epigrapher Brett McClain and senior artists Margaret De Jong (fig. 5) and Sue Osgood (fig. 6), with epigraphers Ginger Emery, Christian Greco, and new artist Keli Alberts. Drawing was begun on the decaying Twenty-first Dynasty Pinudjem marginal inscription that wraps around the exterior of the small Amun temple at the base of the wall. This year we continued to study and document the complex history of polychrome repainting of the temple's exterior surfaces in the late and Ptolemaic periods, associated with the various periods of structural repair, for publication of the next two folio volumes. This season we also began to plan the presentation of the Ramesses III exterior scenes for Medinet Habu X; translations and epigraphic commentary on these scenes are now in progress, courtesy of Ginger and Brett, and we have begun the process of preparing the photographic plates of these scenes. On other fronts, photographer Yarko Kobylecky, in addition to producing photographic

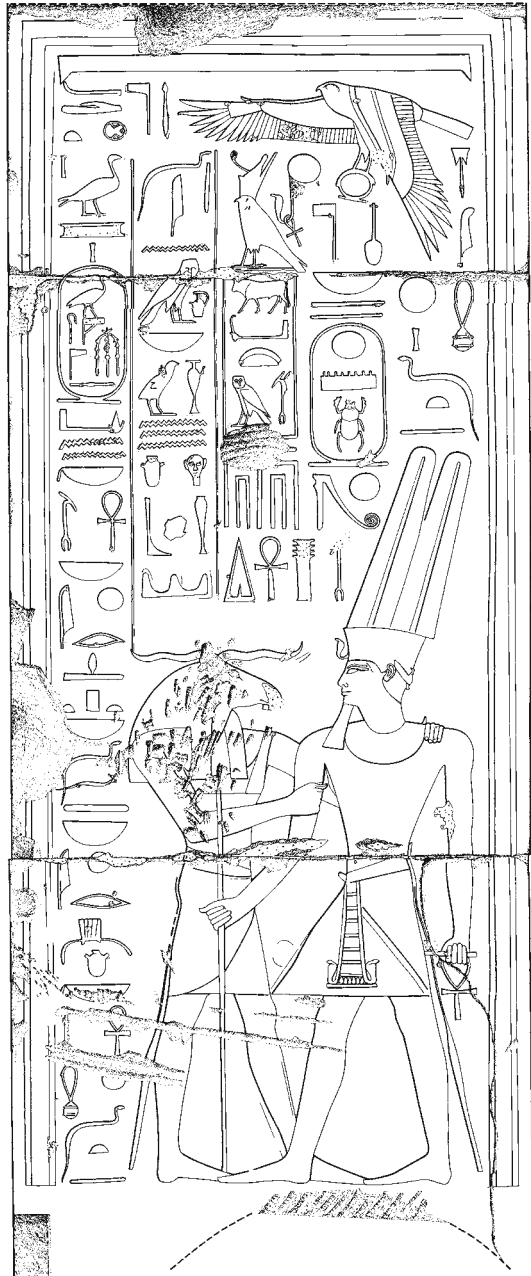
EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY



*Figure 5. Margaret penciling Pinudjem inscription, small Amun temple. Photo by Ray Johnson*



*Figure 6. Sue Osgood penciling an Akoris column, small Amun temple. Photo by Ray Johnson*



*Figure 7. Pillar drawing (MHB 96) Thutmose III before the god Khnum, by Sue Osgood*

drawing enlargements for the wall documentation, finished the large-format photography of the Akoris columns for facsimile drawing by Sue Osgood (fig. 7).

What follows is a breakdown of drawings penciled, inked, and collated this season:

Penciling completed: 24  
 Inking completed: 8  
 Collation completed: 5  
 Transfer Check completed: 5  
 Director Check completed: 3

In July Photo Archivist Sue Lezon, Brett McClain, Ginger Emery, and I reviewed the final plate proofs for Medinet Habu IX, *The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, Part I: The Inner Sanctuaries* with Oriental Institute Publications Managing Editor Tom Urban and digital consultant Waseem Jafar for printing in August. Words cannot express how deeply satisfying it is to get to this point in our publication program with a volume that not only upholds our standards of excellence, but also raises the bar even higher. Sincerest thanks to Tom Urban and Leslie Schramer for making it happen, to Sue Lezon and Waseem Jafar, whose efforts have insured the highest quality reproduction of the color and black-and-white photographs, and especially to Brett McClain, who has coordinated every aspect of the publication production.

### The Medinet Habu Graffiti Project, and Ptolemaic Foundation Study

Tina Di Cerbo focused her work this year on the documentation and digital drawing of the miscellaneous pharaonic and medieval graffiti in the Medinet Habu complex, primarily on the roof of the Ramesses III mortuary temple peristyle, the second court; the area of the second pylon; along with the various Demotic graffiti in the ambulatory of the small Amun temple. Tina discovered and copied many new graffiti in addition to collating many of William Edgerton's original copies in the study areas in cooperation with her husband Richard Jasnow. She also worked with conservator Hiroko Kariya at the beginning of the season to undertake an assessment of the condition of Kushite wall fragments preserved in the foundations of the small Amun temple Ptolemaic court. Their condition was found to be stable, proving the efficacy of the reburial.

### Medinet Habu Blockyard

Julia Schmied (fig. 8), assisted by Christian Greco, continued the database inventory, documentation, and moving of fragmentary sculptural and architectural material scattered around the Medinet Habu precinct into the newly constructed blockyard (with its 14 damp-coursed mastaba platforms 16 m long, part of it roofed; fig. 9) for storage and analysis. Using the Hölscher grid system, Julia has recorded the current position of each fragment on a digitized version of the Medinet Habu excavation maps. Measurements and basic historical and architectural identifications were taken and digital photographs made for each fragment in situ, and all of the information for



Figure 8. Julia taking measurements for the Medinet Habu blockyard database. Photo by Ray Johnson

## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY



*Figure 9. New Medinet Habu blockyard with roofing.  
Photo by Ray Johnson*

each fragment entered into a custom-designed FileMaker database that includes thumbnail images of each piece. The registration of fragments that remain scattered around the precinct (in the south side and most of the west side) will be completed next season. Up to this season 1,033 fragments were registered in the Medinet Habu fragment database. The primary goals of this program are to ensure that the location and basic identification of each fragment are recorded before it is moved into the new blockyard, and to provide a basic registration system that can be used to record and track all the fragments in Medinet Habu precinct, including the fragments currently stored in the existing SCA blockyard. The

transfer into the new blockyard of the most threatened fragments from various areas of the precinct began this season, and 760 fragments have been moved so far. Transfer of the old blockyard material into the new will begin next season.

### Conservation and Restoration

Conservator Lotfi Hassan and his conservation team consolidated some of the more fragile fragmentary material slated for the new blockyard before moving and will focus their efforts exclusively on the blockyard next season. Lotfi and his team continued consolidating the lower wall and foundation areas around the small Amun temple badly affected by groundwater salts, from the back sanctuary all the way around to the Ptolemaic additions flanking and in front of the Eighteenth Dynasty temple. They also test-cleaned and desalinated part of the Thutmose III ambulatory on the southwestern side, interior and exterior. The team monitored and did consolidation work on the blocks removed from the southern Ramesses III well last season. Restoration of the well will not occur until the USAID-funded dewatering program for western Thebes has been activated and the groundwater in the area of the well has been reduced. This vital program was launched in April and is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2010. At the request of the SCA Gurna Inspectorate the conservation team also dismantled and consolidated balustrade blocks from the (now buried) stone quay at the entrance to the Medinet Habu complex in front of the High Gate, also adversely affected by groundwater salts. The Medinet Habu work is currently funded by a generous grant from USAID.

## LUXOR TEMPLE

### The Luxor Temple Blockyard

The Luxor Temple blockyard conservation program continued under the supervision of Hiroko Kariya with preparations for the blockyard open-air museum, supported by the World Monuments Fund (a Robert W. Wilson Challenge to Conserve Our Heritage grant), scheduled to be completed — and opened — in 2010. Additional display platforms were constructed by Tina Di Cerbo and the Chicago House workmen, and fragment groups were selected and reassembled for chronological display under my watchful eye. Educational signage was put together by Oriental Institute Visiting Committee member Nan Ray in consultation with Hiroko and me; Nan also continued

entering data into Hiroko's blockyard database. Two sections of sandstone pavement and protective fencing are now in place to the east of the Luxor Temple sanctuary along platforms that support reassembled fragment groups from the Middle Kingdom (Twelfth Dynasty) presently through the Ptolemaic period, identified with temporary signage that will be replaced with permanent, anodized aluminum signs (fig. 11). Late Ptolemaic, Roman, Christian, and Islamic fragment groups will be assembled in the 2009–2010 season in the northern section of the display area, as well as displays dedicated to the conservation and preservation of the fragmentary material. Another display will feature the USAID-sponsored Luxor Temple dewatering program that exposed more fragments and now helps protect the temple from groundwater salt decay. The display platforms will be protected by chain-link guardrails and will be lit for nighttime viewing. The reassembled fragment groups will provide a much-needed educational component to the Luxor Temple blockyard, and will also help with the traffic flow at the back of the temple, increasingly congested as the number of Egypt's visitors grows.

### The Roman Vestibule

The fourth and final season of the Roman Wall Painting Conservation Project, a collaboration of the American Research Center in Egypt and Chicago House, was completed in December 2008 and brings that project to a successful close. The focus of this season was the much-damaged eastern and western walls that preserve the lower sections of painted horses and cavalrymen, and painted dados that imitate inlaid stone. Yarko Kobylecky finished the photographic documentation of both walls in digital and large-format black-and-white and color film, as well as context shots of the entire chamber on scaffolding provided by Chicago House and set up by Frank Helmholz, Tina Di Cerbo, and the Chicago House workmen. Yarko also did reference photography of the adjoining Treasury chambers before conservation. The Roman Wall Painting Conservation Project was directed by Michael Jones of ARCE; conservators Luigi Di Caesaris, Alberto Sucato, and Maria Cristina Tomassetti (fig. 12), and was funded by the Egyptian Antiquities Conservation Project and USAID. Plans are now underway to publish the results of the cleaning, incorporating the findings into a broader study of Roman Luxor Temple.



*Figure 10. Yarko and Ellie photographing blocks at Luxor Temple. Photo by Ray Johnson*



*Figure 11. Hiroko preparing temporary signage in the open-air museum, Luxor Temple. Photo by Ray Johnson*

## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

**Epigraphic Documentation**

As part of the Epigraphic Survey's study of Roman Luxor Temple, epigrapher Christian Greco is coordinating a new project to document and prepare full translations of the Latin and Greek inscriptions found in Luxor Temple (fig. 13), found either in situ within the temple precinct or in fragmentary form in the blockyard, many of them recently excavated and heretofore unknown. Tina created digital drawings of all of the inscriptions for the project, and photographer Yarko made digital and large-format film photographs of each text. A version of Christian's study will be included in the ARCE publication of Roman Luxor Temple.

**Amenhotep III Solar Court Wall Reconstruction**

This season reconstruction was resumed of 109 fragments that I had identified in the 1980s from the eastern wall of the Sun Court of Amenhotep III, an Amun bark scene. Twenty-



*Figure 12. Italian conservators at the Roman Vestibule. Photo by Ray Johnson*



*Figure 13. Christian Greco collating a Latin inscription at Luxor Temple. Photo by Ray Johnson*

seven fragments from three original blocks were reconstructed by Chicago House in 1986–88 on the original wall. This season we resumed reconstructing the remaining eighty-two fragments that belong to thirteen original blocks (fig. 14).

Between October and February a brick core was constructed by stone mason Frank Helmholz on the existing wall of the sun court. Frank and his workmen also cut and installed sandstone veneer backing on the exterior of the sun court wall to shield the brick core from outside view. In February, the installation of the inscribed fragments began, utilizing the same method as the 1986–88 work in order to minimize migration of moisture in mortar to the soluble salt-contaminated fragments. Each fragment, consolidated by Hiroko, was wrapped in a plastic sheet and set into the lime mortar by Frank and the workmen. When dried, the fragment was removed and the plastic sheet was taken off. The fragment was reinstalled again, dry, and its sides and top were secured with relatively dry lime mortar. During this season forty-nine fragments were installed. The fragments complete a bark of the god Amun followed by a relief of Amenhotep III and the royal *ka*, complete to the top of the king's *khepresh* crown. The whole bark scene, which preserves a lot of painted details, has a rich history: it was carved by Amenhotep III, destroyed by Akhenaten, restored by Tutankhamun, appropriated by Horemheb, and enlarged by Sety I. The reconstruction work, also supported by the World Monuments Fund, is scheduled for completion next season.



*Figure 14. Saber and Frank at the Amenhotep III wall reconstruction. Photo by Ray Johnson*

## Luxor Temple Structural Condition Study

Structural Engineer Conor Power, P.E., joined us from February 18 to 21 to continue his condition study and monitoring of the Luxor Temple structure. Since this was the second year after the implementation of the Luxor and Karnak dewatering program that has lowered the groundwater almost ten feet since November 2007, Conor worked with the SCA and ARCE teams monitoring the two temples. Conor noted that an existing crack on the eastern Luxor Pylon had opened 0.75 mm since last year, and a tilt-beam monitor on the pylon also registered slight movement, which will be monitored closely. It may have coincided with an increase in Nile height at that time, but further observation will determine the causes. Otherwise no other significant movement or change of the temple structure was noted, and in some areas, including the Colonnade Hall, decreased salt efflorescence was noted, and a continued decrease in dampness.

## CHICAGO HOUSE

### The Chicago House Library

The Chicago House Library opened on October 22, 2008, and closed on April 10, 2009. Librarian Marie Bryan, assisted by Anait Helmholz (with occasional kind assistance by Julia, Nan, Tina, and Ellie Smith), kept the facility running smoothly even on busy Fridays. We recorded 920 library patrons during the season, including many Egyptian students and professional colleagues.

## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

Marie accessioned 173 new items to the library holdings, of which 58 were monographs/books, 80 were journals, and 31 were series volumes (47 of these items were gifts). Our CD publication collection grew by 24, and 90 volumes were repaired by Anait during the season. A small collection of books from Dr. Henri Riad's library, which will form the Dr. Henri Memorial Library, was processed, bound, and installed in the Chicago House Library alcove where Henri did most of his work. Artist Sue Osgood prepared a special bookplate for the collection that has been inserted in every book. A total of 881 titles were converted this season from the old Chicago House classification system to the Library of Congress system. Library hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., with a one-hour break for lunch at noon, and we continue to invite colleagues and patrons to join us for lunch in the residence on Fridays.

### Photo Archives

Photo Archives Registrar Ellie Smith registered 251 large-format negatives this season, and assisted photographer Yarko with block photography at Khonsu Temple, at Luxor Temple in the blockyard, the Roman Vestibule, and in the Medinet Habu small Amun temple photographing walls and columns for drawing enlargements as well as pre-conservation photographs for Lotfi. Ellie scanned 205 historic prints of the Luxor eastern bank area in our archives, copies of which we shared with the local SCA inspectorate at Karnak and donated to the SCA Archives in Cairo. We also shared numerous historic Luxor Temple photographs with Michael Jones for ARCE's Roman Luxor study. Ellie compiled catalog lists of all the Theban Tomb photos in the archives (Chicago House, MMA, Seele, and Schott) for easier reference, and coordinated the transfer of duplicate negatives to the Oriental Institute Museum Archives taken during the 2008–2009 season. She, Tina, and Photo Archivist Sue Lezon spent a fair amount of time organizing and labeling the hundreds of images for the final Medinet Habu ARCE/EAP report, now officially turned in and completed; sincerest thanks to them for their herculean efforts. In addition to his site work, photographer Yarko also took reference shots of the fast-changing landscape in Luxor City and the west bank, and the new Chicago House front wall before, during, and after its construction. Sue spent much of her time at Chicago House working on finalizing images for Medinet Habu IX, and also made time to document some of the changes in Luxor for our archives.

Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudès continued coordinating the Chicago House Digital Archive Project of all the documentation generated by Chicago House in Luxor, site by site, utilizing 4th Dimension program and FileMaker Pro software. This season Alain and Brett worked on developing digital indexes for the Chicago House paleography and iconography files, and continued working on the FileMaker Pro database for the dictionary cards. Thus far, since 2006, 20,052 large-format images have been integrated into the database's Photographic Archives section, including 612 identified, published images; 1,265 documented Nelson numbers (sections A and D of the Medinet Habu temple) have been entered in the Epigraphic Archives section, as well as 715 published plates (Medinet Habu I to VIII and Excavations I), and 37 Nelson Key Plans; and 1,470 references have been added to the bibliography section.

Finance manager Safi Ouri and administrator Samir El-Guindy continued to provide the financial and administrative support for all the documentation, conservation, and restoration work we do in Luxor. They may work largely behind the scenes, but it would not be possible to do any of our work without them; special thanks to them and especially to Safi, who is guiding us through these financially challenging times. Helen and Jean Jacquet were unable to join us this season, but continue to consult with us on our projects. In November I joined Assistant to the



Epigraphic Survey Director and Oriental Institute Visiting Committee member Carlotta Maher in Cairo for some increasingly important development work; Carlotta has a special gift for making it fun, for which I am very grateful. Special thanks must also go to Tina Di Cerbo who opens and closes Chicago House before and after our season, and who coordinates its maintenance while we are in residence; bless you, Tina! I must mention here that our dear friend Mary Grimshaw (for whom, with her husband, the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery is named), who worked with us in Luxor from 1999 to 2001, passed away in July. We will miss her bright light, infectious laugh and indomitable spirit more than words can express.

In December and January we were pleased to house and help support (with the use of one of our Land Rovers) the Joint Expedition to Malqata (JEM) for their first season of surveying work at the site of Amenhotep III's sprawling palace complex south of Medinet Habu. The project is under the direction of Diana Craig Patch from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and Peter Lacovara from the Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to the co-directors, the 2008 season, which ran from December 4 until January 3, included Catharine H. Roehrig (the Metropolitan Museum of Art), our very own Ginger Emery, two surveyors: Joel Paulson and Robert Paulson (Palomar College), and SCA representative Fawzi Helmy Okail. The mapping that resulted from this first season demarcates the area of Amenhotep III's activities in that part of western Thebes, and will assist the SCA in protecting the site, currently threatened by agricultural expansion and accelerating decay due to rapidly changing conditions. We hope that this will be only the first of many seasons of work in that historic and increasingly fragile site, Luxor's own "Amarna."

The Luxor urban renewal program continued apace this winter, with tremendous changes on both sides of the river. Gurna Village in western Thebes is now completely gone (fig. 15), along with Dira Abu El Naga. On the eastern side, the New Winter Palace is also gone, torn down and carted away in January and February; all that is left is a lovely green lawn. The Mina Palace Hotel on the Corniche north of Luxor Temple was demolished and cleared away this spring, and the entire community around it, from the Corniche all the way to the Sphinx Road. And yes, the Luxor development program did catch up to Chicago House after all. My summer of 2008 was spent in lively dialogue with the Government of Egypt — through U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, the Honorable Margaret Scobey, and many other Chicago House friends — regarding the Luxor Corniche Boulevard expansion project and its impact on the Chicago House facility. In spring the Government requested 25 m of our front area for the expanded Corniche, which would have seriously affected the proper functioning of our facility and its security. After months of discussion, on November 5th the governor of Luxor, Samir Farag, visited Chicago House and laid out the Government's compromise measure: 14.5 m of our front area would be taken, not 25, and the Government would pay for the construction of a new front wall. While we deeply regret losing any of the Chicago House property, this compromise satisfied our primary concerns regarding security, noise, and space, and as of this writing, the new wall — which took four months to



*Figure 15. Sue Lezon photographing in Gurna Village. Photo by Mark Chickering*

## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

construct — is up (fig. 16). We are adjusting to the change. Sincerest thanks to all our friends, in Egypt, the United States, and around the world, who spoke on our behalf. The good news is that the reduced area also affects our neighbors to the north and south, who are now obliged to give up less land as well. More recent news is that the Corniche plans may have changed again; what was to be an expanded four-lane highway for tour buses, etc., will be used by pedestrians and horse-drawn carriages only.



*Figure 16. Chicago House, new front wall, April 2009. Photo by Ray Johnson*

\* \* \* \* \*

The Epigraphic Survey professional staff this season, besides the director, consisted of J. Brett McClain as senior epigrapher, Jen Kimpton, Christina Di Cerbo, Ginger Emery, and Christian Greco as epigraphers; Margaret De Jong, Susan Osgood, Krisztián Vértés, and Keli Alberts as artists; Julia Schmied as blockyard and archives assistant; Yarko Kobylecky as staff photographer; Susan Lezon as photo archivist and photographer; Elinor Smith as photo archives registrar and photography assistant; Carlotta Maher as assistant to the director; Safinaz Ouri as finance manager; Samir El-Guindy as administrator; Marie Bryan as librarian; Frank Helmholz as master mason; Lotfi K. Hassan, conservation supervisor; Nahed Samir Andraus; Mohamed About El Makarem at Medinet Habu; and Hiroko Kariya, conservation supervisor at Luxor Temple. Nan Ray worked as Hiroko's assistant in the Luxor Temple blockyard; Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudès worked on the Chicago House Digital Archives database; Louis Elia Louis Hanna worked as database architect; Conor Power worked as structural engineer; Helen Jacquet-Gordon



*Chicago House staff, 2008/2009. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky and Sue Lezon*

and Jean Jacquet continued to consult with us; and Girgis Samwell worked with us as chief engineer.

To the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities we owe special thanks for another productive collaboration this season: especially to Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the SCA; Mr. Magdy El-Ghandour, General Director of Foreign Missions; Dr. Sabry Abdel Aziz, General Director of Antiquities for Upper and Lower Egypt; Dr. Mansour Boraik, General Director of Luxor; Dr. Ali Asfar and Mustafa Waziri, General Directors for the West Bank of Luxor; Dr. Mohamed Assem, Deputy Director of Luxor; Mr. Ibrahim Suleiman, Director of Karnak and Luxor Temples; Mr. Sultan Eid, Director of Luxor Temple; and Mme. Sanaa, Director of the Luxor Museum. Special thanks must go to our inspectors this season, at Luxor Temple: Ms. Sanaa Yousef El-Taher; Ms. Hanem Siddiq Kenawi Mahmoud; and Omar Yousef Mahmoud Ibrahim. At Medinet Habu temple: Mr. Yaser Yousef Ahmed, Mr. Hassan Mohamed Hussin, and Mr. Mohamed Yousef Mohamed. At Khonsu Temple: Ms. Shimaa Montasser, Ms. Ghada Ibrahim Fouad, Ms. Maie El-Hussini Mohamed, and Ms. Hala Shafie Ouauis. SCA conservators working with us this season included: Ms. Sahar Mohamed Ahmed, at Luxor Temple; and Mr. Ramadan Mohamed Salem, Mr. Hassan Goma'a Ibrahim, and Mr. Gaber Mohamed Ahmed, at Medinet Habu.

## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

It is once again my great pleasure to acknowledge the many friends of the Oriental Institute whose support allows us to maintain our documentation, conservation, and restoration work in Luxor. Special thanks must go to the American Ambassador to Egypt, the Honorable Margaret Scobey; former American Ambassador to Egypt Frank Ricciardone and Dr. Marie Ricciardone; former Ambassador to Egypt David Welch and Gretchen Welch; Haynes Mahoney and Helen Lovejoy, Cultural Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy; Hilda (Bambi) Arellano, director of the United States Agency for International Development in Egypt; Ken Ellis, former director of USAID Egypt; Mr. Shafik Gabr, ARTOC Group, Cairo; Ahmed Ezz, EZZ Group, Cairo; David and Carlotta Maher; David and Nan Ray; Mark Rudkin; Dr. Barbara Mertz; Daniel Lindley and Lucia Woods Lindley; Dr. Marjorie M. Fisher; Eric and Andrea Colombel; Piers Litherland; Lee and Ramona Bass; Dr. Fred Giles; Tom Van Eynde; Helen and Jean Jacquet; Marjorie B. Kiewit; Nancy N. Lasalle; Tom and Linda Heagy; Misty and Lewis Gruber; Judge and Mrs. Warren Siegel; Barbara Breasted Whitesides and George Whitesides; Miriam Reitz Baer; Mary Grimshaw; Andrea Dudek; Khalil and Beth Noujaim; James Lichtenstein; Jack Josephson and Magda Saleh; the Secchia family; Di Grodzins; Roger and Jane Hildebrand; Douglas and Nancy Abbey; Kenneth and Theresa Williams; Thad and Diana Rasche; Louise Grunwald; Lowri Lee Sprung; Andrew Nourse and Patty Hardy; Kate Pitcairn; Drs. Francis and Lorna Straus; Michael and Mrs. Patricia Klowden; Donald Oster; Patrick and Shirley Ryan; Dr. William Kelly Simpson; Jane Haight†; Dr. Ben Harer; Dr. Roxie Walker; Tony and Lawrie Dean; Mr. Charles L. Michod, Jr; Dr. Gerry Scott, Kathleen Scott, Mary Sadek, Amir Abdel Hamid, and Amira Khattab of the American Research Center in Egypt; Dr. Jarek Dobrolowski and Janie Azziz of the Egyptian Antiquities Project; Dr. Michael Jones of the Egyptian Antiquities Conservation Project; and all our friends and colleagues at the Oriental Institute. I must also express special gratitude to British Petroleum Egypt, the Getty Grant Program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, LaSalle National Bank, Mobil Oil, Coca-Cola Egypt (Atlantic Industries), Vodafone Egypt, and the World Monuments Fund (and especially Robert Wilson) for their invaluable support of our work. Best wishes and thanks to you all!

## ADDRESSES OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

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## GIZA FIELD SEASON

### Mark Lehner

Ancient Egypt Research Associates (AERA)'s 2008 fieldwork included projects at three of Egypt's main archaeological sites: Giza, Saqqara, and Luxor. At Giza, excavations, survey, and mapping in the Khentkawes Town began on March 1 and continued until April 24, 2008. Due to a high water table, no excavations occurred in 2008 at Giza Plateau Mapping Project's flagship Lost City site south of the Wall of the Crow (which we refer to in short as HeG, after *Heit el-Ghurab*, "Wall of the Crow" in Arabic). Additionally, and in tandem with Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) and a Japanese consortium, we completed laser scanning and 3-D modeling of the Step Pyramid in Saqqara between late May and early June 2008. The following report summarizes the 2008 work of these two projects. A third 2008 project, the joint AERA-ARCE Salvage Archaeological Field School at Luxor, took place from January through March. The results of the Luxor excavations are being published by the SCA.

### The Khentkawes Town

All the while we were excavating the Lost City of the Pyramids south of the Wall of the Crow, we knew of a neighboring community, roughly contemporary with the final days of the ancient city, on the other side of the Wall of the Crow and about 300 m west. This was the town attached to the tomb of Khentkawes, a queen who ruled at the end of the Fourth Dynasty (fig. 1). Our Lost City settlement must be assessed in the context of this town and of an adjacent settlement attached to the Menkaure Valley Temple (MVT).



**Figure 1.** *The Tomb of Queen Khentkawes stands in the center of the photo. Behind are the Pyramids of Khufu (right), Khafre (center), and Menkaure (left). The Khentkawes Town (KKT) extends east (right) of the queen's tomb. The modern Muslim cemetery fills the foreground. View to the north*

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Realizing the importance of the Khentkawes Town (KKT) for understanding our own site, we applied in 2004 for the concession to survey it, but we only began work in 2005, when the site was under threat from the construction of a new road and the high security wall around the Muslim cemetery nearby.

### ***Town First Revealed***

Selim Hassan excavated the KKT in 1932 and found an L-shaped mudbrick settlement with modular houses arrayed 150 m (492 feet) east–west along a causeway leading to the Khentkawes tomb (Hassan 1943). He produced little more than a map from his work. He did not retrieve or publish pottery and other cultural remains in a way that would inform us as to how long the site was occupied. Egyptologists currently assume the town dates to the late Fourth Dynasty.

### ***AERA Discoveries of Earlier Seasons***

In 2005 Pieter Collet and Mark Lehner found that the builders created the “foot” of the town on two terraces. The upper terrace included a water tank, round granaries, and magazines. Many of the mudbrick walls were eroded down to the last few centimeters or millimeters, or completely scoured away. Hassan’s crew found many of the walls waist-high or taller seventy-six years ago.

In 2007, working at the eastern end of the town, Lisa Yeomans and Collet found definitive evidence of two phases, despite the severely eroded walls. Most surprisingly, they discovered the remains of a building to the east founded on a lower terrace. This building was not included on Selim Hassan’s map. Nor does it show in any archival photographs from Hassan’s work, or those of George Reisner, who also worked at Giza during the 1930s.

### ***Goals of Season 2008***

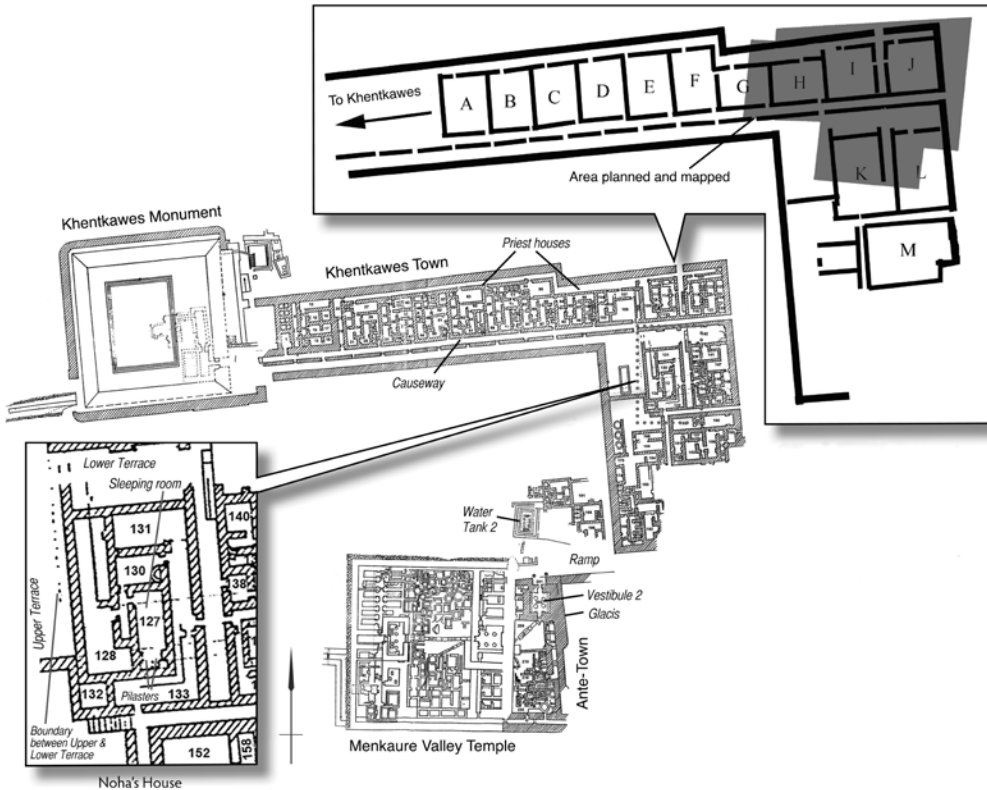
We began a six-week season at KKT (March 1–April 24) with the following goals:

- Study the previously undocumented buried building.
- Continue mapping whatever remained of the leg of the town, westward along the causeway to the queen’s tomb.
- Trace the stratigraphic relationships between the south end of the KKT settlement and the MVT, and investigate the road leading east between them.
- Complete a geophysical survey of the MVT in order to get a geophysical record of what might remain of the temple and surrounding unexcavated structures.

## **Exploration and Discovery 2008**

### ***Mapping Houses in KKT-North (KKT-N)***

The KKT consists of one row of large “priest” houses lined along the northern side of the causeway, which leads from the funerary monument to a large building (the valley temple?) on the east (fig. 2). This northern strip has six large houses on the west and four smaller houses on the east. Yeomans and Collet recorded the scanty remains of the eastern houses in 2007. During the 2008 season Collet continued mapping adjacent to this area. In House F he found evidence of at least two phases of use and rebuilding. Houses G and F show characteristic features of Giza



*Figure 2. Selim Hassan's map, published in 1943, of the Khentkawes Monument, Khentkawes Town (KKT), Menkaure Valley Temple (MVT), and Ante-town. Above right: Letter designations for houses in KKT. Pieter Collet and Lisa Yeomans recorded the shaded area in 2007. In 2008 Collet worked in a 10 m wide zone that took in the eastern half of House F and the western half of House G*

houses such as zigzag entrances, secluded rooms with sleeping(?) niches, and long, narrow storage magazines.

### ***Noha's House***

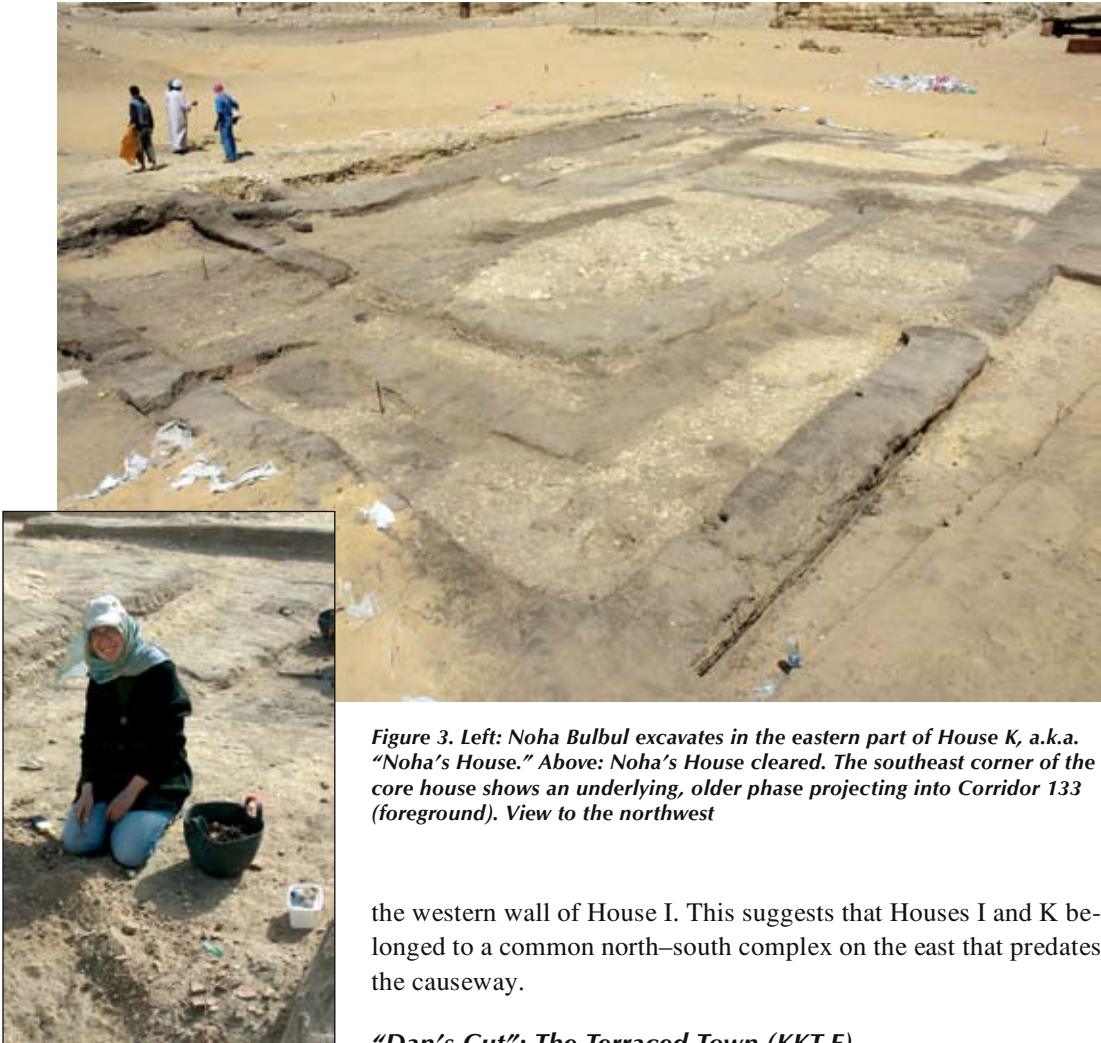
On the lower terrace of the foot of KKT, Giza Inspector and 2007 Field School graduate Noha Bulbul recorded what appeared to be a discrete house unit: House K (dubbed “Noha’s House”), set apart from a larger complex by an open court on the north, a corridor on the south, and a street on the east (fig. 3). Although the house is large — 137 sq. m (1,475 sq. feet) — it is much smaller than the largest house identified in our Lost City settlement, House Unit 1 in the Western Town, which is 400 sq. m (4,306 sq. feet).

Although smaller, Noha’s House shares some features with House Unit 1, such as a room with a “sleeping” niche. The niche in Room 127 is defined by pilasters, like Room 125 in House Unit 1. Both the niche and the “sleeping room” were smaller than those of Room 125. Were it not for the severe erosion in House K, the niche might have enclosed a bed platform, such as the one in Room 125. House K and House Unit 1 were also similar in that one passed through several turns and doorways to reach the sleeping room. To access Room 127, one passed through a doorway through the eastern wall, turned right into Corridor 133, then left into Room 130, left again into

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the long, narrow vestibule, and finally left into the sleeping room. In House Unit 1, one had to likewise pass through room after room and make multiple turns before entering Room 125.

Hassan's excavators found traces of earlier walls, suggesting that the core of House K had been nearly leveled and rebuilt during the life of the settlement. The older walls belonged to a general earlier phase of the KKT, which predated the causeway. Traces of House K's western wall continued north across and under the remains of the causeway where the wall aligns with



*Figure 3. Left: Noha Bulbul excavates in the eastern part of House K, a.k.a. "Noha's House." Above: Noha's House cleared. The southeast corner of the core house shows an underlying, older phase projecting into Corridor 133 (foreground). View to the northwest*

the western wall of House I. This suggests that Houses I and K belonged to a common north–south complex on the east that predates the causeway.

#### ***"Dan's Cut": The Terraced Town (KKT-F)***

We discovered in 2005 that the builders founded the western part of the foot of the southern town (KKT-F) on a higher terrace of dumped limestone debris. To sort out the sequence of construction here, Daniel Jones excavated two trenches along the large north–south wall that separates the upper and lower terraces. He found that the builders cut into the limestone fill of the upper terrace and then erected the lower terrace mudbrick walls flush against the vertical cut through the debris. This indicates that the debris existed before the construction of the brick wall. It might be the case that the builders did not create the upper terrace by dumping limestone quarry debris, but rather they cut into an existing debris fill in



the area between the east–west leg of the KKT and the MVT. They leveled this fill to create the upper, western terrace, and cut down into it to make the step down to the lower terraces. Jones revealed details of the building sequence of the lower terrace mudbrick wall (fig. 4). To the north it consists of two thick mudbrick faces with a rubble core, while in the south it is built entirely of brick. During the occupation, the residents repaired the wall, which, along with repairs and rebuilds of other structures, suggests that the town was long-lived.

### *The KKT-MVT Interface*

One of the main aims this season was to make a stratigraphic link between the KKT and the MVT in order to determine how they were related to each other chronologically (fig. 5).

In 1908 Reisner excavated the Valley Temple of Menkaure, recovering magnificent artifacts and statuary. At the time, little was known of the elements that comprised a pyramid complex (which is typically an upper temple, causeway, valley temple, boat pits, and



*Figure 4. Daniel Jones in Trench A along the boundary between the lower terrace (left) and upper terrace (right)*



*Figure 5. Area KKT-AI and MVT from Hassan's 1943 map overlaid onto a geo-referenced Royal Air Force aerial photo*

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subsidiary pyramids). Reisner, a visionary archaeologist, established that Menkaure had conceived his valley temple on a massive scale comparable to the monolithic valley temple built to the northeast by Khafre. However, the masonry work of large limestone blocks, weighing several tons, stopped with the pharaoh's premature death. Workers under his son and successor Shepseskaf finished the project in plastered mudbrick. Reisner investigated two major phases of temple building and of the residential structures that pressed against the facade and invaded the courtyard. In 1932, twenty-two years after Reisner's work here, Hassan extended his excavations of the KKT southward to the front, eastern part of the MVT.

### *The MVT Ante-town*

Hassan found more residential structures, small mudbrick chambers and bins, as well as an open court in front of the MVT, in a thick-walled enclosure we refer to as the Ante-town (as in "in front of the town"). The doorway through the thick northern wall provided a northern access to a vestibule similar to one just inside the original MVT entrance. When we cleared the face of the eastern wall of the Ante-town in 2005, we found a stout, formidable structure dropping dramatically — 3.5 m (about 10.5 feet) to a much lower level than the vestibule floor, prompting us to dub it "the Glacis." We wonder how one approached and climbed up to the original MVT entrance before the Ante-town was built.

In 2008 Amelia Fairman supervised work in the area from the southern end of the KKT foot to the vestibule in the Ante-town. We called this area KKT-AI, for "Amelia's Interface" (fig. 6). Mike House, Kelly Wilcox, and Amanda Watts also worked in KKT-AI.



*Figure 6. The Ramp in area KKT-AI with a shallow cross trench excavated by Amelia Fairman and Mike House. The uppermost alluvial silt-paved concave surface shows a faint channel parallel to the southern wall. Two other channels show in the lower surface, exposed in the trench. View to the west*

### ***The Ramp***

Hassan's map shows both the KKT and the MVT with its Ante-town, but leaves them unconnected, separated by a blank strip. He wrote that access into this area "is gained by means of a broad causeway running westwards from the valley and lying between a thick mudbrick wall attached to the Khentkawes Valley-Temple," by which he meant the vestibule, "and the [southern] girdle wall of the City [KKT]" (Hassan 1943: 53).

In 2005 we exposed 9 m (29.5 feet) of this causeway, an east–west monumental ramp composed of silt paving over a limestone debris core held between thick mudbrick walls. This season we exposed 21 m (69 feet) of the ramp, from the east, where it disappears under the modern road, to the northeast corner of the MVT. Rising at an angle slightly more than 3°, the Ramp widens as it climbs to the west, broadening to 10.40 m (34 feet) about midway into our cleared area.

The builders appear to have designed the ramp with a concern for rainwater runoff. The surface is concave, with a long gradual slope descending from the north to the lowest point on the south side, where runnels and a built channel drained rainwater down the slope to the east. The channel runs northwest–southeast across the Ramp. It is formed over a bedding of crushed limestone and lined with alluvial mud, similar to the channel we discovered in Main Street in our Lost City settlement.

Ana Tavares supervised work at the western end of the Ramp where someone in the past excavated a deep pit, exposing the foundation for the upper, western end of the Ramp. The pit cut through the Ramp and exposed layers of limestone rubble 2.46 m (about 8 feet) thick, probably dumped as a foundation for the Ramp. The large limestone rubble of the lower layer is similar to the fill of Fourth Dynasty construction ramps elsewhere at Giza, which prompts us to ask: was this ramp first constructed to deliver building materials from the east, such as the granite blocks used to clad the Upper Temple?

### ***The Vestibule***

After the development of the Ante-town and Glacis, there was no direct approach into the first vestibule in the center front of the MVT. Instead, people entered from the north through a small portico and a swinging double-leaf door, as suggested by the pivots and socket in the limestone threshold, and then through the second vestibule in the northern end of the Ante-town.

The village that developed within the MVT spans 300 years, from the time when our Lost City site was occupied to the end of the Old Kingdom. Fairman and House excavated through an intricate sequence of wall remodeling and floors, exposing round sockets for pottery vessels, including a nearly intact vessel, put in by the residents during a long occupation. They discovered that the occupants thickened the walls up to 1.69 m (5.5 feet) with a series of accretions, possibly to support the roof after they had removed four columns that once stood on four round alabaster bases, each about one meter in diameter (fig. 7). Just outside the vestibule, they



*Figure 7. The second vestibule floor, quartered, with floors that were excavated in diagonal quarters. Amelia Fairman and Mike House excavated through a thick rebuild or accretion of the interior eastern wall. View to the north*

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examined the Ramp and found evidence of repairs and resurfacing. It appears that the Ramp and vestibule functioned together in at least the later phases of occupation.

### ***Water Tank 2***

Water Tank 2 is a rectangular basin located north of the MVT. An important feature of Water Tank 2 is that two massive limestone revetments shore up the quarry debris on its southern side to a height 1.40 m (4.6 feet) higher than the silt-paved roadbed of the Ramp. The sides of the tank are therefore higher than the floor levels of the top of the Ramp and the MVT and Antetown. The interior sinks in three steps through the debris and down into the limestone bedrock. The builders designed Water Tank 2 as a higher reservoir from which water could be let down, like modern water towers. We exposed the southern terrace and retaining wall of the basin and the mouth of a drain at the level of the Ramp. Hassan related this drain to a plastered mudbrick building that he designated as the embalming tent for Khentkawes' funerary rites.

### ***The Enigmatic AI Cut (AIC)***

A long ragged trench cuts north-northwest to east-southeast through the fieldstone house just west of the KKT foot, through the upper terrace of the KKT and along the northern side of the Ramp. It impedes our understanding of the stratigraphic relationships in the interface between the KKT and the MVT. We believe that flowing water, perhaps from wadi flooding, scoured out the cut

during the time people occupied the KKT-F and the settlement within the MVT. This would be consistent with Reisner's observation that a flashflood destroyed the first mudbrick phase of the temple, after which it was rebuilt in the Sixth Dynasty. Reisner thought that people added thick fieldstone walls, which he found appended to the western and northern sides of the temple in its second phase, as protection against another violent flood. In fact, the AIC begins about on line with the path that Reisner projected for the flashflood. Water Tank 2 might have been intended as a catchment basin and reservoir for floodwater.



***Figure 8. Surveyor Azab Ahmed Hassan stands with his total station on a massive core block of the MVT, which we exposed when we cleared a large hole at the northeast corner of the MVT. Each day when he set up on survey point GIII.1 of our Giza Plateau Survey grid, he rose higher and higher as we cleared deeper and deeper***

### ***The Northeast Corner of the MVT Exposed!***

The work that Ana Tavares supervised in the large hole (NEH) cut through the Ramp surface at the northeastern corner of the MVT provided valuable evidence about the MVT architecture and the structure of the Ramp. The pit cut through the massive limestone debris of the foundation and fill of the Ramp and through the mudbrick casing at the northeast corner of the MVT, exposing five massive core blocks of the temple foundation (fig. 8). These huge core blocks, stacked in three courses,

make it clear that Menkaure intended a colossal stone valley temple like that of his predecessor, Khafre.

As a result of this season's work, we have a new understanding of the MVT. At the end of its use and occupation it presented a blank eastern facade, dropping dramatically to the east (the Glacis), with a broad access road (the Ramp) rising to the vestibule and Ante-town, and continuing westward along the northern side of the valley temple.

### ***KKT-E: The Buried Building***

In 2007 Yeomans made three important discoveries to the east of the KKT: 1) Along the eastern foot of the eastern KKT enclosure wall the bedrock drops; 2) The wall enclosing the KKT on the north continued east beyond the bedrock edge and beyond the limits of the complex as previously mapped; 3) A large mudbrick building, which had never been documented, stood on the lower level (fig. 9).



*Figure 9. Evidence of 1932 trenching along the bedrock drop. The worker in the upper left corner cleans the scant remains of the KKT eastern enclosure wall. Selim Hassan's workers left narrow, shallow trenches along the face of the bedrock edge as they tracked the run to the south of the edge and the underlying mud mass. They cut down into the mud mass to find the marl lines marking the northeast corner of the building (background). Then they sunk a trench across the western wall of the buried building (ending at the worker on the right closest to camera). View to the north*

### ***KKT-E Goals in 2008***

A principal goal was to find how the lower building related to the eastern end of the Khentkawes causeway. As far as we knew from the 2007 work, the causeway ended abruptly at the bedrock edge. How did people ascend from the lower level up over the bedrock face to the causeway?

### ***Finding the Lower Terrace***

Mark Lehner and Kasia Olchowska supervised the removal of overburden between the two trenches that Yeomans had excavated in 2007. They determined that Selim Hassan's workers had found the lower building. But, for reasons unknown, the structure was not mapped. It may be that Hassan's cartographer mapped the KKT later than his 1932 season (he continued to excavate at Giza until 1938). In fact, the map may have been based on Royal Air Force aerial photos. By then, rapidly drifting sand might have already filled the probe trenches, obscuring them from RAF cameras and from surveyors working on the ground.

In clearing a deep, exploratory pit of Hassan's workers, Olchowska found the bedrock floor of the lower eastern terrace at elevation 16.53 m above sea level, a vertical drop from the KKT causeway threshold of nearly 2 m (about 6.5 feet). This discovery only increased the mystery of how one ascended from the lower terrace up to the causeway.

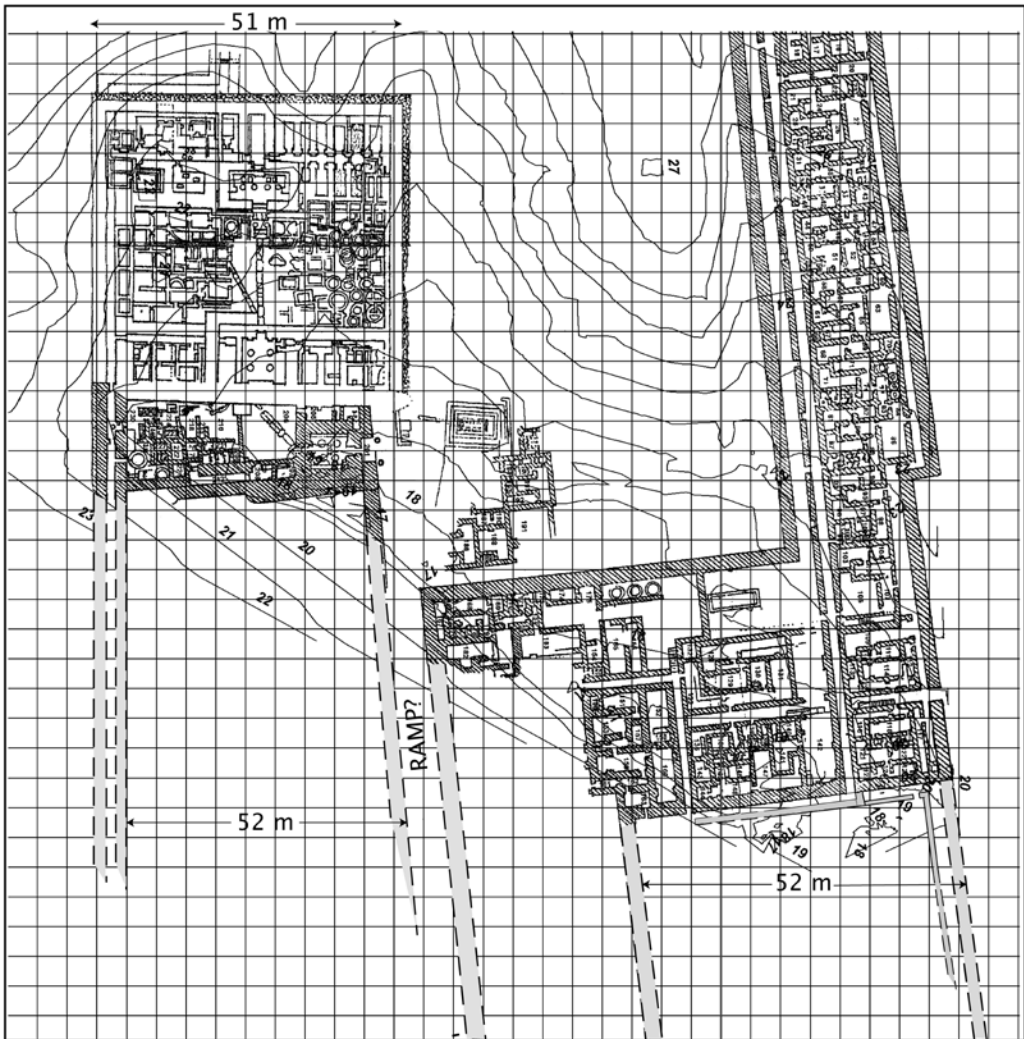
### ***Stairway to Heaven?***

Once the team members worked through the pits and upcast deposits of previous digs and sand deposited post-1932, they uncovered the eroded remains of another ramp, composed of a limestone debris core encased in mudbrick. This one was only 2 m (6.6 feet) wide, and rose in a gentle gradient along the bedrock face from the south up to the causeway threshold. To enter the Khentkawes causeway, one ascended from south to north on this ramp, then turned 90° west to enter the causeway. There might have been a straight-on stairway to the causeway in this sloped, deteriorated mass. It would have been very steep, but steep stairways were not usual in ancient Egyptian architecture. We are certain of the ramp, which may have been used until the end of the Old Kingdom. At its base we found a bread pot common to the Sixth Dynasty, some 300 years after the Fourth Dynasty and the heyday of our Lost City settlement.

### ***Valley Approach, Future Work***

The Ramp at the MVT-KKT interface and our discovery of another ramp in front of the Khentkawes causeway draws our attention to access into the whole complex and into the Giza Necropolis as a whole. If we project the lines of both ramps downslope, they point to the southeastern part of the KKT, which is toward the low end of the dip of bedrock into the central wadi between the Moqattam and Maadi formation outcrops at Giza (fig. 10). It is just this part of the settlement, the southeastern corner of the KKT, which was unobtainable already in 1932 because of the proximity of the modern cemetery, hence leaving it missing from Hassan's map. In our next season we hope to gain a little more of this low corner.

We will also begin excavations into the buried building in KKT-E. Is it in fact a discrete building, or just an enclosure around a broad, open reception area? Hassan's map appears to show the eastern wall of the KKT projecting slightly to the east at a point south of our newly discovered ramp. This hints that the whole foot of the town might have turned to the east and continued in that direction. With the northern KKT enclosure wall continuing eastward, it is possible that it and a southern wall enclosed a rectangular space 52 m (100 cubits, 170.6 feet) broad. This is about the width of the MVT (51 m [167 feet], probably intended to be 100 cubits). If the buried building is indeed a discrete building, it is most likely the true valley temple of Khentkawes, possibly of a size equal to that of Menkaure's valley temple.



*Figure 10. A projection of the possible arrangement east of the MVT and KKT. The MVT, measured off the geo-referenced 1:1,000 map, is 51 m (167 feet) wide north to south. The angle of the northern Ante-town would place its northern face 52 m (100 cubits, 170.6 feet) from the northern wall of the MVT causeway, if both walls are projected about 50 m (164 feet) east, roughly on line with the eastern wall of the KKT foot. Hassan's map shows a turn to the east of the eastern KKT enclosure wall. If projected, the distance from the northern face of this wall is 52 m from the northern face of the eastward extension of the northern enclosure wall of the KKT. The MVT would fit within this space, which contains what remains of a mudbrick building, possibly the Valley Temple of Queen Khentkawes*

### Saqqara Laser Scanning Survey

On June 3, 2008, Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), announced in a worldwide press release that the SCA collaborated with AERA and a Japanese consortium to use laser scanners to map the Step Pyramid in Saqqara (fig. 11). Dr. Hawass requested AERA's help in creating the Saqqara Laser Scanning Survey (SLSS) with the aim of producing a 3-D map of every millimeter of the Step Pyramid. Built around 2700 B.C. for the Third Dynasty king Djoser (or Zoser), this is Egypt's oldest pyramid and first gigantic



*Figure 11. The Step Pyramid of Djoser at Saqqara, southern side*

stone monument. The laser survey is part of the SCA’s salvage archaeology and restoration project for the Step Pyramid, which is threatened by centuries of erosion as well as the fragility of the stone and clay core masonry, exposed in ancient times by stone robbers who removed the protective outer casing.

#### ***Prelude at Giza: Laser Scanning Khentkawes***

At the end of our 2006 season AERA collaborated with a Japanese team from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Gangoji Institute; Osaka University; and the Tohoku University of Art and Design to launch the Giza Laser Scanning Survey (GLSS). In three weeks the team scanned the gigantic funerary monument of Khentkawes and produced elevations, plans, and a 3-D model. They also produced a 3-D record of the Worker’s Cemetery for Dr. Zahi Hawass, who has directed work there since 1990.

With the powerful new technology of laser scanning, researchers use microwaves or infrared signals to gather the coordinates and elevations of points on a monument. As a light beam sweeps over a surface it “captures” tens of thousands of points per second, each located to x, y, and z coordinates. The product is a “point cloud” of the subject, an image that is highly accurate and highly detailed. A print of a point cloud could even be mistaken for a photo. The 3-D point cloud records the monument as it is at one point in time, which is especially useful in monitoring the condition of the structure. With the effects of weathering, tourism, and conservation and restoration efforts, ancient monuments are continually changing.

The plan for the GLSS as a sub-project of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project (GPMP) is to capture and conserve the state of major structures of the Giza Necropolis as “set pieces.” Our next choice was the Sphinx Temple.

#### ***Scanning Egypt’s Oldest Pyramid***

However, prior to our 2008 fieldwork at Giza, Zahi Hawass asked AERA and the Japanese team to help with laser scanning the Step Pyramid at Saqqara. In 2007 an Egyptian construction company under the supervision of the Supreme Council of Antiquities had begun to restore the monument. Dr. Hawass urgently needed an intensive and comprehensive survey of the pyramid exterior, as soon and as quickly as possible, ahead of the changes effected by the restoration



program. In response, the Japanese team and AERA shifted their focus from the GLSS to the Saqqara Laser Scanning Project (SLSS) with the goal of scanning the entire Step Pyramid in three weeks (late May to early June).

AERA joined a new collaboration with the Egyptian SCA, Osaka University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and the Ancient Orient Museum for the development and deployment of the custom-made “Zoser Scanner.” Prof. Kosuke Sato, from Osaka University, led the SLSS team. AERA’s Yukinori Kawae acted as SLSS Field Director (fig. 12). Carrying out most of the organization and fielding of the SLSS on AERA’s behalf, he worked closely with Afifi Roheim, chief SCA inspector and head of the Step Pyramid restoration project.

### ***The Complex Topography of the Step Pyramid***

The Step Pyramid posed special challenges to laser scanning. At  $109.02 \times 121.00$  m ( $358 \times 397$  feet) and 58.63 m (192 feet) high, it is much larger than the Khentkawes monument, and it presents a far more complex topography. Five or six major building phases embedded within the fabric can be seen on the eastern and southern sides where some of the outer masonry was removed before modern times. The pyramid masonry overhangs a long, rectangular recess punctuated by large gaps and by columns of stone left by recent restoration efforts to support the overhang. Also, there are deep gaps and irregularities in the pyramid core. When we scan the Step Pyramid from the ground with commercially available scanners, the laser beams do not reach the topsides of the stones, and when we scan from above, the beams miss the underside of overhanging masonry. Thus each course is left partly in shadow, resulting in an incomplete scan.

To survey and map this challenging surface, the SLSS team used multiple laser scanners in two basic systems. Katsunori Tomita and Kazuto Otani, from the Topcon company, Tokyo, employed conventional ground-fixed laser scanners to scan all four sides and the top of the pyramid. This ensured basic, overall coverage of the pyramid, but did not resolve the problem of numerous small shadows left by the tilt of stones and larger shadows caused by recesses and gaps in the pyramid body.

To resolve the issue of shadows, Takaharu Tomii, of Develo Solutions, Osaka, designed and manufactured the “Zoser Scanner,” which is, by itself, a multiple scanner system. Like the wings of Icarus, the Zoser Scanner was carried on the backs of professional climbers, Yoshihiko Yamamoto and Risei Sato (fig. 13). Instead of flying toward the sun, they rappelled, carrying the Zoser Scanner, down six gigantic steps on each face of the pyramid. As they descended, four miniature scanners, two on each wing, projected infrared signals that brushed the pyramid fabric and gathered coordinates and elevations at the exceedingly fast rate of 40,000 points per second (fig. 14). The radiating cone of infrared beams projected by each mini-scanner assured that the entire surface of the pyramid masonry would be swathed and points thereby captured. Gyroscopes measured its position, orientation, and velocity at the rate of 10 hertz (100 times per second).



*Figure 12. Yukinori Kawae, who organized the SLSS for AERA, at one of two Topcon GLS-1000 laser scanners that the team used for the preliminary overall survey of the Djoser Step Pyramid*

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*Figure 13. Rappelling with the Zoser Scanner down the Step Pyramid southern face*



*Figure 14. A climber about to ascend with the Zoser Scanner mounted on his back. Each wing of the device carries two miniature laser scanners and two miniature macro cameras. The scanner also sports a cooling system, a gyroscope, and a prism for tracking location*

The width of the wings required that the climbers rappel each face about twenty-five times. A miniature macro-camera accompanied each scanner, taking rapid-sequence photographs of the pyramid fabric. The result is complete photographic coverage of the pyramid, in addition to the x, y, and z coordinates of thousands of points on the surface.

The SLSS team members who sat at computers tested the data and assembled the scanned points into position, thereby forming the greater point cloud model. They were aided by GPS and survey points taken by a total station (theodolite and electronic distance measurer) set on the ground. The total station telescope moved automatically with the Zoser Scanner as the climbers rappelled the pyramid. A GPS timer eventually synchronized all the data.

### ***Rebuilding the Step Pyramid: Thousands of Points of Light***

Thanks to the SLSS visualization team, the point data were assembled into a ghostly 3-D image of the pyramid (fig. 15). Five hundred million points combine like spores into a cloud that is an abstraction of the physical structure of the pyramid. This “point cloud” pyramid is the first true, scaled, extremely detailed, 3-D model of the Step Pyramid, and actually, the first time the real fabric of any of Egypt’s gigantic pyramids has been mapped in facsimile. In modern archaeology we try our best to make facsimile maps of any freshly excavated ancient surface. Yet, such mapping “as is” has never been done for the pyramids — because of their sheer size, for one thing — and so most of the theorizing about pyramid building has been based on mental template pyramids, usually of well-squared blocks (which is never the case in the physical reality of a pyramid core).

The miniature cameras on the Zoser Scanner were set up to take one photo per second. The team did not quite finish scanning all four sides with the Zoser Scanner (as they did with the Topcon scanners). When they do, the Zoser will have yielded around 400,000 photographs, each precisely located. The scanned points are far more numerous and far more evenly distributed



*Figure 15. Point cloud model of the Djoser Step Pyramid, eastern side. Looking like an infrared photograph or negative image, the model is assembled from five hundred million points located precisely in space and arresting the pyramid in time: late May–early June 2008*

than those from the GLSS 2006 Khentkawes survey. The Zoser Scanner eliminated most of the shadows and gave an accuracy of scanned data within  $\pm 25$  mm.

It is amazing that the Japanese scanned the Step Pyramid so intensively in less than a month. After they completed the scans, much work remained and still continues in order to resolve the data and compile the 3-D model and its visual presentations.

From the point cloud model of the Djoser pyramid, architects, restorers, and archaeologists can produce detailed models, plans, profiles, elevation drawings, and ortho-photographs for scholarly and scientific studies. The SLSS recorded the effects of current restorations, already a *fait accompli* before the May–June 2008 survey, as well as the untouched fabric of the pyramid. Conservators can use this detailed model of the Step Pyramid for monitoring future restorations and the condition of the Step Pyramid in the long term.

AERA contributed the major part of the cost of development for the project and underwrote food, transportation, and lodging for the SLSS team while in Egypt. Develo Solutions underwrote the development, design, and manufacture of the Zoser Scanner. Osaka University and Tokyo Institute of Technology also contributed to development costs for the project.

### **Acknowledgments for 2008 Season**

AERA could not have carried out the 2008 field season without the support of all our contributors. Major financial support was provided by the David H. Koch Foundation, the Ted Waitt Family

## GIZA FIELD SEASON

Foundation, the Peter Norton Family Foundation, and the Charles Simonyi Fund for the Arts and Sciences. The Ann and Robert H. Lurie Foundation underwrote the total budget for AERA's 2008 KKT Field Season and Archaeological Science Program at Giza with a grant targeted to those projects. Additional support came from the Glen Dash Foundation, Marjorie Fisher, Ed and Kathy Fries, J. Michael and Marybeth Johnston, Jason G. Jones and Emily E. Trenkner-Jones, Bruce and Carolyn Ludwig, David Marguiles, Ann Thompson, Joseph F. Azrack, the Del Rio Family Foundation, Katie Ford, Michael and Janet Fourticq, Ed and Lorna Goodman, Glenn P. Hart, Frederick and Sydene Kober, Robert and Bonnie Larson, Buzz and Barbara McCoy, Ronald Nahas, Richard Redding, the Jon Q. and Ann S. Reynolds Fund, Seven Wonders Travel, Stephen Jay and Amy Sills, Jim and Sharon Todd, Julie Middleton and Barry J. West, and our many other supporters.

In addition, we would like to thank Dr. Zahi Hawass, Undersecretary of State and Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. We thank Sabry Abd al-Aziz, General Director of Pharaonic and Coptic Monuments; Kamal Waheed, General Director, Pyramids of Giza; and Ala el-Shahat, Director of Pyramids of Giza; as well as Mohammed Shiha, Chief Inspector of Giza. We thank Gaber Abdel Dayem, Nagla Hafez, and Ahmed Eiz for serving as SCA inspectors for the excavations and work in the field laboratory.

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## HAMOUKAR

### Clemens Reichel

The screeching of car tires was audible all the way to the photo room. I already knew who it was — the geophysicists had returned. Mixed in with the shuffling of equipment I heard Ann and Mike walk into the workroom. Normally I try not to get distracted by such routines of daily life while doing object photography, but that day I had reasons to drop what I was doing immediately. Ann had plunged down in a chair, her face still wrapped in her *kaffiyah* — all I saw were her eyes and short, blond hair — nursing an orange Crush, one of the sickeningly sweet soft drinks that abound in the Syrian Jazirah. She looked toasted — how else can you describe someone who had just spent several hours walking up and down the slope of a mound in brutal heat. It was early October — was it ever going to cool down? “How was it?” She didn’t reply. Not unusual — I know the feeling of total exhaustion all too well. Instead she plugged her magnetometer, a strange-looking contraption that all too often has inspired the fantasies of the villagers regarding the “true” purpose of her work, into her laptop computer. I knew that this was going to take a while — she was downloading the data recovered on-site during the morning. Little by little the hundreds of signals retrieved this morning would plot out on a map, gradually showing what secrets were still buried at Hamoukar. A few minutes later I heard her voice: “Come over here — I wanna show you something.” No telling in her voice if this was good or bad. I found her tinkering with a grainy image on her computer, changing contrasts and adding algorithms. “Is this what you wanted me to find?” she said triumphantly. I squinted, but the object of interest was unmistakable: a white band winding along the contour of Hamoukar’s high mound. My jaw dropped. I had been hopeful, but this was more than I expected. Hundreds of meters of what appeared to be dense brickwork. We had found Hamoukar’s city wall.

Back home, the recounts of our field adventures become clinical, suggesting a narrative and a path of action that was not apparent during the actual season. We can show the photographs, plans of buildings, and the artifacts found in them. What we can’t relate is the dust, the heat, the sweat, the exhaustion, the disappointment, but also the exhilaration that comes with a great discovery. People often ask what the “greatest” moment of a season was. The answer to such a question is more complex than most people think, since it is connected to the outset, the expectations that are being put into a season from its beginnings.

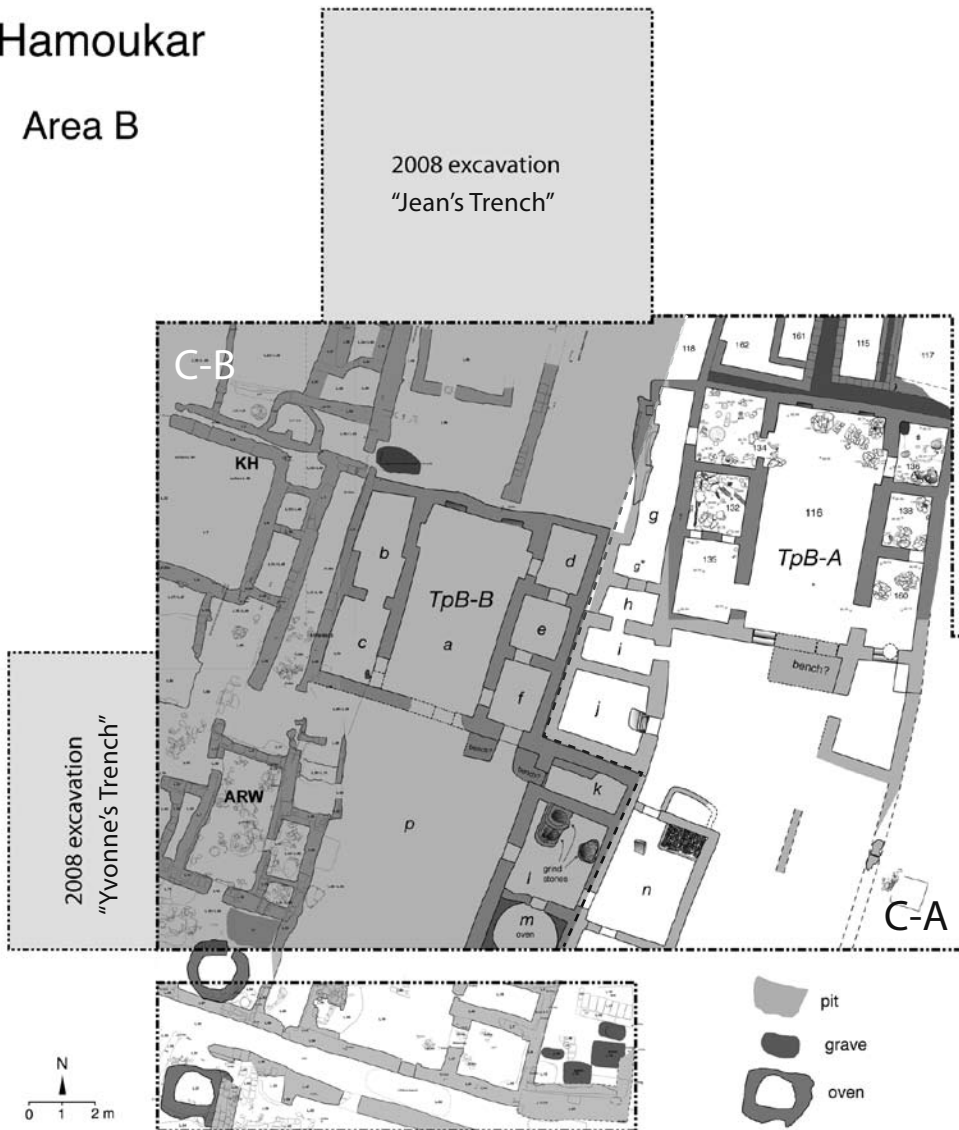
The 2008 season followed a tranquil study season in 2007. Since we undertook our first steps in magnetometry we ultimately have a field season, but without the noise and buzzing coming from trenches under excavation. We needed the time, however, to study and take in all the magnificent discoveries that we had made in 2005 and 2006. The 2008 campaign, however, was going to be different again — a full-blown field season. Preparations during summer were unusual and somewhat awkward for me, since this season coincided with my own departure from the Oriental Institute for the University of Toronto. Packing for a season is one thing; packing up one’s life at the same time is a totally different story....

We arrived in Syria in early September. The paperwork at the Department of Antiquities was done in record time. Within forty-eight hours after my arrival we were on the road to Hamoukar. This year’s team was the largest we ever had, filling the house to capacity — at times up to thirty people! Ann Donkin and Mike Robinson (University of Akron, Ohio), our geophysicists, helped to re-establish the site grid and trench corners so that field work could begin within a few days of our arrival.

## HAMOUKAR

## Hamoukar

## Area B



*Figure 1. Plan of Area B at Hamoukar showing excavations up to 2006 and new excavation areas. The shaded portion of the central excavation area represents complex C-B, the unshaded portion represents complex C-A*

This season we worked in five distinct areas which at the time spread our resources (transport logistics and tools) to the limit. With its size of over 1,000 acres, a walk across Hamoukar is no piece of cake.

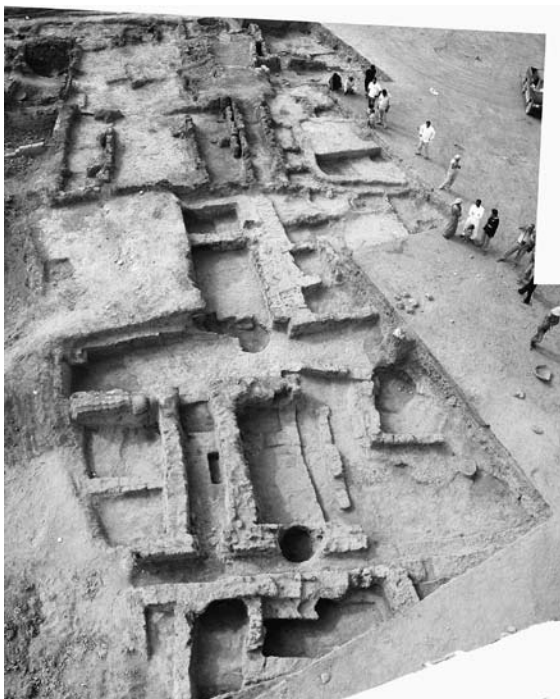
In all previous reports the major focus has been on Area B, the location of the burnt buildings that had been destroyed by a violent conflagration around 3500 B.C. (fig. 1). The recovery of thousands of sling bullets pointed toward a hostile attack and this city's early demise. The story of Hamoukar's warfare often overshadows the fact that these buildings were the remnants of an early city with administrative buildings and storage units, in which we found thousands of clay

sealings and numerous elegantly carved stamp seals. As reported in previous years, the discovery of such an early city in a location far away from southern Mesopotamia — traditionally assumed to be the homeland of Near Eastern urbanism — and far away from any known watercourse runs afoul of most traditional theories on the formation of early cities, adding significantly to the excitement behind our discovery. By 2006 we had largely excavated two large complexes in Area B (C-A and C-B) that appear to have been of administrative nature. The main objectives of the 2008 campaign were the completion of the excavation of C-B, the western complex, and to see if we could follow the architecture as well as the destruction layer farther to the north. While we had determined the function of the two complexes as “administrative” in a wider sense, their exact function still eluded us. By excavating adjacent buildings we hoped to get a better idea of their placement and function within the ancient city. Regarding the first objective, it turned out that in 2006 we narrowly missed the western edge of the economic/administrative unit TpB-B. A 5 × 10 m trench excavated by Yvonne Helmholtz (University of Münster) located another room with a collapsed roof that was fronted by an open space to the west. In previous seasons we already noted sizable differences in floor elevations along the slope, so it seems pretty clear that the Area B ridge is an ancient feature that must have looked very similar some 5,500 years ago. Future seasons along the slope will aim at determining to what degree this settlement was terraced. Within the outer space, which contained several levels of sherd pavements, we found the remains of several burials (fig. 2). Similar to those found in 2006 they had been dug from a slightly higher surface dating to the post-destruction period, obviously representing the clean-up efforts after the fire.

To the north of TpB-B we opened another 10 × 10 m trench, supervised by Jean Evans, who recently joined the Oriental Institute as a research associate. In addition to bringing in her skills as an experienced excavator, Jean’s extensive background in art and art history made



*Figure 2. Area B: burial in post-destruction context. Date: ca. 3500 B.C.*



**Figure 3.** Area B: 2008 excavations at Jean's trench seen from north (composite picture). Burnt tripartite building TpB-B visible in background

her an ideal choice to excavate an area that in 2005 and 2006 has provided us with so many seal impressions. Here, however, things turned confusing. Instead of another complex with a tripartite building Jean found rooms and open spaces that do not seem to conform to any previously encountered building plan (fig. 3). In fact, we cannot even be sure if we are dealing with one or several buildings. Complicating the matter further was the fact that, instead of finding one level destroyed by fire Jean encountered numerous sub-phases, during which the layout of the area kept changing, though it seemed to reflect a gradual change over time. What was entirely missing was a clear destruction level. As the season was drawing to a close, selected areas of the trench were excavated deeper to see if this level could be reached at least in a sounding, but these attempts were unsuccessful even when penetrating below the levels of the burnt complexes. I began to wonder. Over three seasons we had cemented our warfare scenario — a violent destruction of the settlement, possibly caused by military force.

Several pits full of Uruk pottery that had been dug into the ruins from a higher, now eroded building level had allowed us to suggest that this destruction was associated with the expansion of the Uruk culture westward across the Khabur plain. This scenario was at first doubted by several colleagues as being “too early for organized warfare,” but gained general acceptance as we could cement our results with more data. Now it appeared as if our reconstruction was falling apart — had we been on the wrong track? A possible answer (and I shall not commit myself to more than that at this point) was found at the northern edge of the trench, where Jean literally caught the edge of yet another heavily burned building. The destruction of Late Chalcolithic Hamoukar therefore seems to have been patchy, which upon reflection makes much sense. If the attacking army (whether from Uruk or elsewhere) planned taking over the city then it would make little sense to destroy it entirely. Moreover, in the absence of incendiary missiles, fires were most likely not started during the siege, but set during a subsequent house-to-house combat. It seems unlikely and unwise for an “average” occupant of Hamoukar to have put up a stiff resistance to an invading, and obviously winning, army. Resistance more likely would have been encountered in buildings under the control of or affiliated with the city's key political and religious institutions. As administrative/economic units TpB-A and B fit this profile (also keeping in mind their strategic placement at the southwest edge of the city).

Compared to the 2005 and 2006 seasons we recovered relatively few seals and sealings in our new excavations (figs. 4–5). With over 100 sealings, though, the term “relatively few” needs to be put into context. In 2006 we retrieved over 900 sealings. Quite clearly, Hamoukar's wealth of finds has begun to spoil us. One of the more curious finds from Jean's trench was a “spectacle idol,” which was found lying in the middle of an open space (fig. 6). We had found several





**Figure 4.** Stamp seal, bone, in shape of reclining goat or gazelle. Area B; date: ca. 3500 B.C.



**Figure 5.** Clay sealing with impression of kidney-shaped seal showing horned animal. Back shows impression of several strings, possibly closing a box in a leather bag. Area B; date: ca. 3500 B.C.



**Figure 6.** "Spectacle idol" from Area B; date: ca. 3500 B.C.

dozens of them in earlier Late Chalcolithic context (ca. 4500–4000 B.C.) in the workshop areas of the Southern Extension. In the past these items had been explained as utensils used in textile work (spinning or cord making). Their light weight and generally hollow bases, however, would make it hard to anchor them on the ground, and at least those from Hamoukar never show any sign of wear. I prefer to see them in a wider "cultic" context and would connect them to the eye idols known from Tell Brak and Hamoukar, with which they at least share a similarity in appearance. But this debate is certain to continue.

In addition to his own excavation in Area B (concentrating on the baulk left between the main excavation area and a 5 × 10 m trench to the south), Oliver Mack (University of Munich) began a comprehensive study of the sling bullets from Area B. For reasons given above, relatively few of them were found in 2008, but several thousands found in 2005 and 2006 in the burnt buildings were at Oliver's disposal. Oliver noticed a number of things that previously had escaped our notice. The discovery of hundreds of "squashed" sling bullets, which had been distorted upon impact (mostly on walls), hence must have been malleable when launched, was reported in 2005 and 2006. My suggestion that these were bullets made to replenish dwindling



Figure 7. Two sling bullets showing impressions of braided material, presumably from the sling's pouch. Area B; date: ca. 3500 B.C.

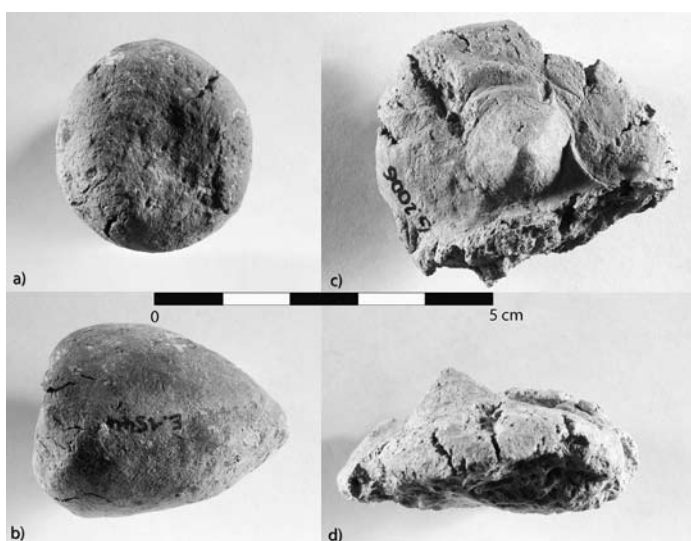


Figure 8. (a–b) Squashed sling bullet (bottom, side) from Area B showing minor deformation at thicker end; (c–d) squashed sling bullet (top, side) from Area B flattened upon impact. Area B; date: ca. 3500 B.C.

ammunition stashes as the battle dragged on, hence did not have a chance to dry out completely, had encountered some criticism, even ridicule, among colleagues — why would one pelt the enemy with wet clay? Oliver's analysis, however, seems to substantiate this theory: he noted that many of the bullets that we had categorized as “complete” actually had impressions of fibrous material, which very likely were impressed by the sling's pouch during the bullets' launch (fig. 7). This greatly increases the number of bullets that appear to have been launched while they were less than completely dry. The range of deformation encountered among the squashed bullets varies greatly, with some being merely

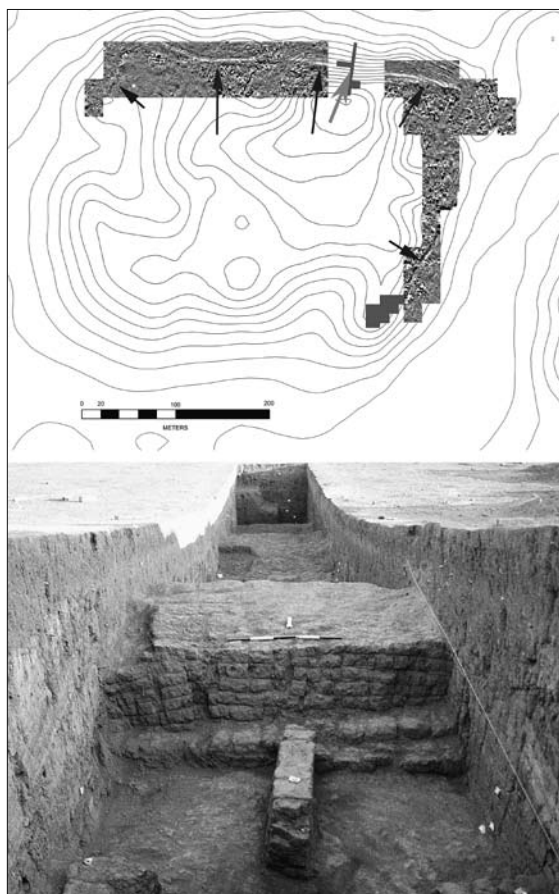
dimply at one side, while others were completely flattened by the impact (fig. 8). By comparison, completely dry bullets that had hit a wall had a much smaller chance of being noticed in the archaeological record, since they often broke apart. Oliver, however, was able to recognize several instances of a bullet that had been “bruised” by its target.

In the outset of this report I refer to the geophysical work undertaken on the high mound, which succeeded in following the line of the Late Chalcolithic city wall over several hundred meters (fig. 9). Modern occupation of the site does not allow us to follow its remainder along the southern and western edge of the mound, but the general size of the Late Chalcolithic settlement, which in large extent corresponds to the high mound, becomes clear. Until 2008 our main information regarding its size came from an intensive site survey carried out by Jason

Ur (now at Harvard University), which gave us an approximation but not a firm line. Now we know exactly what areas — at least in the north, northwest, and east — were inside and outside the city, and we can begin to think about its internal organization and the placement of future excavation areas to complement the data from Area B.

A story that unfolded on a low mound to the north of the high mound (now called “Area I”) bears direct impact on the results from Area B. The site survey of 1999/2000 had picked up a scatter of southern Mesopotamian Uruk pottery in this area, suggesting the presence of an Uruk colony. Such off-site colonies are not unusual; they are known from other Late Chalcolithic centers such as Tell Hammam et-Turkman and Tell Brak and are probably to be understood as trading outposts, similar to the later Assyrian “karums” in Anatolia. Carrie Hritz (Pennsylvania State University), who worked at Hamoukar between 1999 and 2001 and who rejoined the Hamoukar team last season, excavated four 10 × 10 m trenches in this area parallel to a magnetometric survey. Unfortunately, the architecture had been plowed out extensively over the past few decades, and very little remained that could still be articulated. The pottery retrieved from a pit, which extended over 2.5 m, confirmed our date to Middle Uruk — contemporary with the architecture in Area B. What surprised us is

that we found evidence for a violent act here as well: remains of two bodies were found in what appeared to be unburied context, and several dozen sling bullets were retrieved. Even if the context of these discoveries cannot be established firmly, it appears as if this colony had been dragged into a conflict as well. Was it the same attack that destroyed the Late Chalcolithic city? Our chronological resolution is too low to ascertain this, but it is not inconceivable. If this is the case, how did this colony figure into the conflict? The Uruk expansion westward was not a singular, monolithic event. Contacts with local polities began long before the control of this area. It is in this context that the trade colonies should be seen. While economically driven, the initial expansion of the Uruk culture across the Khabur plain, therefore, appeared to be trade based, hence beneficial to both Uruk and the local polities. Our work in Hamoukar’s Southern Extension already identified obsidian tools as a major export item, probably replaced by copper after 4000 B.C. By 3500 B.C. the picture changed, when a massive, seemingly military, expansion of the Uruk system took over pre-existing local settlements (such as Brak and Hamoukar) across the Khabur plains and founded new settlements along the western Euphrates in northern Syria and southeastern Turkey. With their trading partners removed, such an act almost single-handedly



*Figure 9. Top: geophysical map showing course of Hamoukar’s Late Chalcolithic city wall (marked with black arrows); bottom: city wall excavated in 1999 along north slope of high mound (location marked in map with gray arrow)*

HAMOUKAR

would have put the Uruk outposts out of business. We do not know what authorities were behind the trade colonies, but it is quite possible that they should be seen as private enterprises of larger families, not as government endeavors. We really don't know enough about the internal organization of the Uruk system, but we have to allow for the possibility of competing interests in it. Whoever was behind the Uruk colony at Hamoukar may not have been identical to the one that ordered the attack on Hamoukar. The colony only stood to lose from this takeover, so it is conceivable that they sided with Hamoukar in this conflict and, as a result, might have been wiped out by their own people (even if not their own interest group) following the destruction of Hamoukar's city. I admit that this is not the only conceivable scenario, but it fits well with the overall evidence (flimsy as it is) at present.

Work in the Southern Extension, the area of the obsidian workshops, continued at a large scale by taking two 10 × 10 m trenches down some three meters. Excavated by Khaled Jayyab with the help of Ahmed Sleivi (both of Damascus University) and Susanne Hackenbeck (Cambridge University), for the first time the architecture encountered there has started to show a recognizable pattern, even if we are as yet unable to fully understand the layouts (fig. 10). Four phases can be distinguished so far, of which Phases 2 and 3 belong to the Late Chalcolithic 2, the earlier part of the Late Chalcolithic period (ca. 4500 B.C.). A deep sounding extending over 8 m failed to reach virgin soil; the lowest level reached represents the early Late Chalcolithic period (ca. 5000 B.C.). The depth of cultural deposition in this area far away from the main mound truly is astounding, but it confirms our initial notion that tool production from obsidian was practiced here for a long time, possibly extending over a millennium. More seals and sealings showed up this year, confirming the presence of at least some level of administrative complexity at Hamoukar

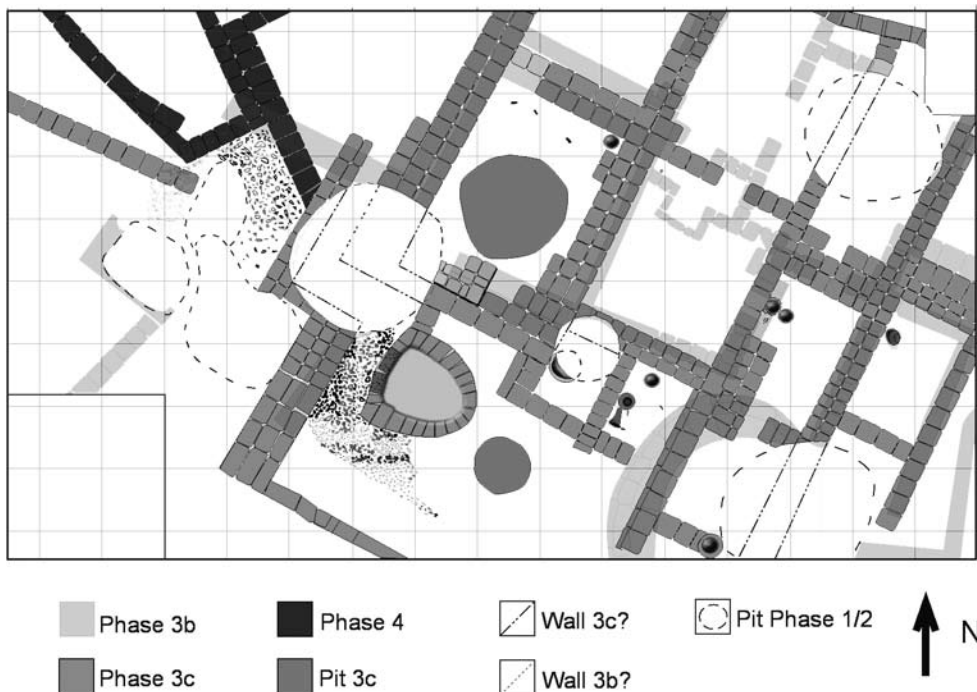


Figure 10. Area Z: Composite plan of architecture (Phases 3b, 3c, and 4)

during the fifth millennium B.C. (figs. 11–12).

During the late third millennium B.C. the Upper Khabur region saw an “urban explosion,” during which the size of sites increased fivefold and large lower towns formed around the traditional settlement sites. Our focus on the Late Chalcolithic period at Hamoukar often overshadows the importance of Hamoukar as an Early Bronze Age center, but quite unjustly. With an expansion of over 100 hectares (260 acres), it became

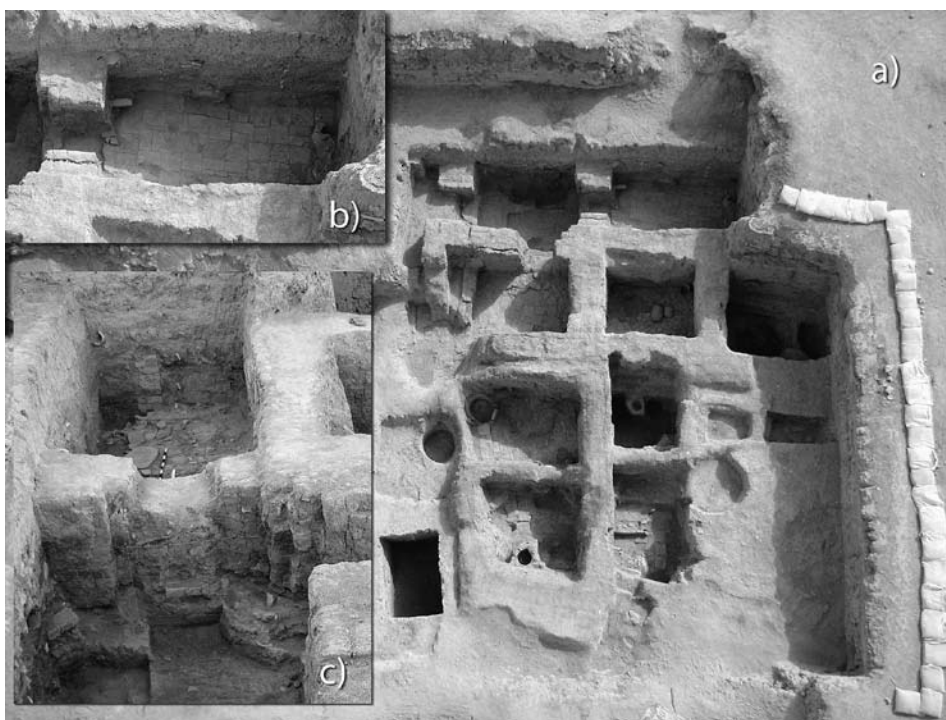
one of the largest of these urban centers. Excavations in 2001 and magnetometry in 2007 (see *2007–2008 Annual Report*) have shown the presence of large, well-planned houses in the southern part of the lower town. It was a low rise in the northeastern corner of the lower town that caught our attention in 1999, during the very first season. That season a 2 × 2 m sounding revealed a niched facade covered in gypsum plaster. We originally interpreted this facade as part of a temple, but subsequent excavations in 2000, 2001, and 2006 showed it to be a monumental



**Figure 11.** Clay sealing with multiple impressions of small circular seals showing rosette motive. Area Z; date: ca. 4300 B.C.



**Figure 12.** Button-shaped stamp seal, black stone, perforated, with geometric motive. Area Z; date: ca. 4300 B.C.



**Figure 13.** Area C: (a) aerial view of public building (from west); (b) close-up of room with double-recessed entrance way and podium (shrine?); (c) view of double-recessed entrance way during excavation (from north) with doorway unexcavated

## HAMOUKAR



**Figure 14.** Clay slab (partial view) with seal impression showing “master of animals” holding horned animals (goats?) by their hind legs. Area C; date: ca. 2300 B.C.



**Figure 15.** Double-mouthed jar. Area C; date: 3500 B.C.

building of a more secular function. Excavations and mapping in 2006 were cut short by flash floods, but in 2008 Tate Paulette, helped by Mike Fisher (both of University of Chicago), was able to continue where he had left off two years earlier. The substantial walls and baked brick floors portray the relative wealth of this era. One of the most interesting discoveries of this season was a room with a double-recessed entrance door facing a feature that appears to be a podium — a shrine or temple within this building (fig. 13). Quite clearly the building is palatial in nature, but more excavations are needed to ascertain its precise function. Sealings and pottery of exquisite quality (figs. 14–15) showing up in floor context point toward a public building. Could it have been one of the palaces, founded during the expansion of the city into the lower town?

The past season also helped us to address some questions concerning the origins of the city’s expansion during the third millennium B.C. While most of the lower town architecture excavated so far dates to the late third millennium, the initial site survey showed the presence of Ninevite V pottery across the lower town, dating from the early to mid-third millennium. Yet we could not tell for sure if these sherds — easily recognizable by their incised and later excised decoration — reflect mere sherd movements associated with later building endeavors or if they indeed represent the extent of a Ninevite V occupation. In 2008 Kathryn Grossman (University of Chicago), who is undertaking her dissertation research on this still-enigmatic time period, dropped several soundings across the lower town to examine the size of the Ninevite V city. Penetrating the levels of the later Early Bronze Age settlement, she indeed located Ninevite V levels in two soundings,

one in the southwestern edge of the mound (Area H), the other on the western edge of the mound. At the southern edge, Area K, where a site visit in 2007 had located large quantities of Ninevite V pottery in a lower area, she opened a 10 × 10 m trench. Recent plowing activities unfortunately had destroyed most architectural Ninevite V remains in this area, but the feasibility of excavating Ninevite V in surrounding higher areas seems virtually assured. A clay sealing from this trench seems to fit in the northern (“Piedmont”) style of early third-millennium seals (fig. 16).

Kate’s results, though preliminary, suggest that Hamoukar’s urban expansion happened centuries earlier than assumed so far, probably as early as 2600 B.C. This is significant since excavating these levels might help us to understand what Ninevite V actually represents. In terms of material culture it is represented by the easily recognizable pottery, but we don’t really know what the associated architecture looks like. Did this pottery represent a particular population group of the Middle East or was it a social marker? In other words, who were the people behind the pots? We hope to be able to address these questions during the next seasons.

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Readers may be aware that in late 2008 I left the Oriental Institute for a faculty position in Mesopotamian archaeology at the University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum. The fate of the Hamoukar expedition following my departure has raised questions and speculations, so I take this opportunity to spill it out in writing: as before, Hamoukar will continue as a joint Syrian-American expedition under my co-directorship. The University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum have agreed to assist with logistical and financial support, and future seasons will see the inclusion of team members from both institutions.



*Figure 16. Clay sealing with impression of "Piedmont"-style seal. Area K (southern edge of the lower town); date: 2900–2700 B.C.*

\* \* \* \* \*

The success of the Hamoukar 2008 season would not have been possible without the generous support of several institutions and individuals. To the Syrian Department of Antiquities, notably Dr. Michel al-Maqdissi (Director of Excavations), I am very grateful for a speedy issue of the excavation permit and logistical support during the season. Several donors have contributed most generously to the success of our season. Here I am particularly grateful to Toni Smith, Alan Brodie, Carlotta Maher (Chicago), Howard Hallengren (New York), and Rita and Kitty Picken (Chicago). To the Oriental Institute I am most grateful for logistical and financial support. Last but by no means least I want to thank my team for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Work at Hamoukar literally could continue for centuries. As the political climate between Syria and the United States has warmed up, I feel more confident than ever that our cooperation, which survived and even thrived during recent times of political stalemate, will continue for a very long time.

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## KERKENES DAĞ PROJECT

Scott Branting

<http://www.kerkenes.metu.edu.tr/>

The 2008 season at Kerkenes Dağ was marked by a few technical difficulties but overall excellent results. There were four different areas of focus to the research program this year: ongoing geophysical survey in the areas around the Palatial Complex and the Cappadocia Gate, excavation of further test Transportation Trenches along streets in the northeastern part of the ancient city, the ongoing conservation and analysis of architectural pieces and artifacts from previous seasons, and the construction of a brand-new museum gallery for Kerkenes Dağ in the local Yozgat Museum (fig. 1). This was in addition to the ongoing activities of the Kerkenes Eco-Center and a festival held in honor of the opening of the Kerkenes Gallery in October. To top it all off, the first monograph on the recent excavations in the Palatial Complex was published in late December.

### Geophysical Investigations

For the past sixteen years geophysical surveys have been undertaken in different areas of this late Iron Age Phrygian city. With one square mile of city area filled with ancient buildings and streets, there is still a great deal that can be learned from new surveys. For the past several years specific areas have been targeted with resistivity survey, a type of survey that uses the measurement of electrical currents passing through the soil to determine what lies buried below the surface. This technique applied at Kerkenes reveals a great deal of detailed information, even

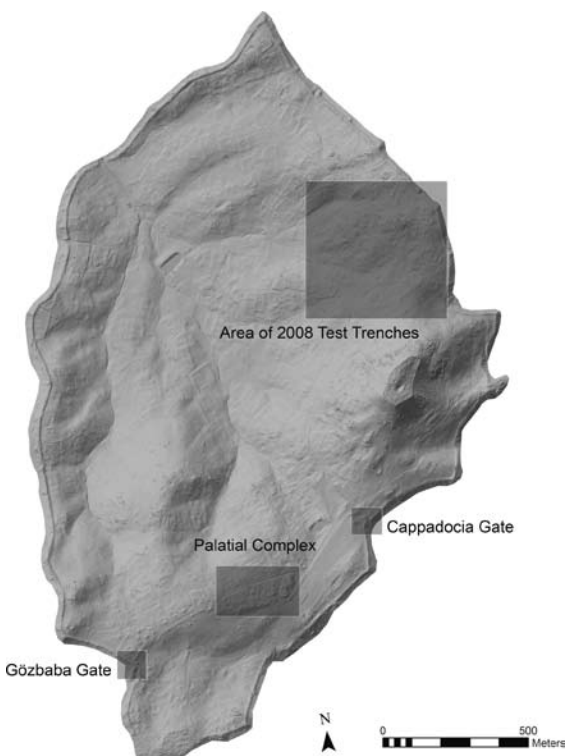
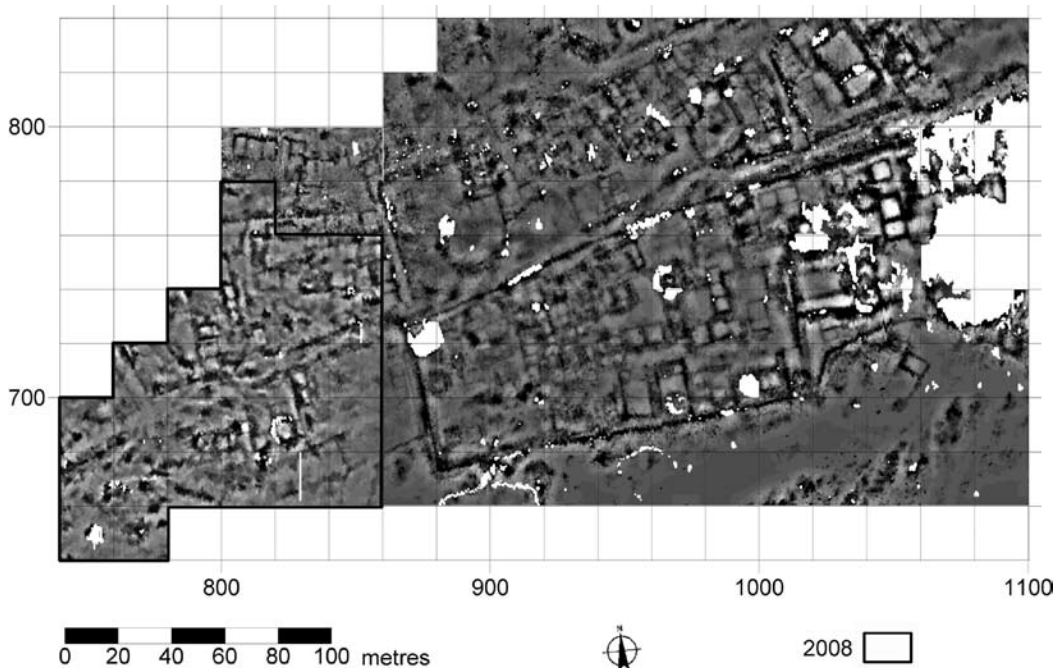


Figure 1. Locations of research at Kerkenes Dağ in 2008



Figure 2. Collecting resistivity data west of the Palatial Complex





*Figure 3. The results of the resistivity survey data in the area of the Palatial Complex collected in 2007 and 2008. An interpretive plan of the Palatial Complex itself can be seen in last year's Annual Report*

aspects of individual buildings such as the internal arrangement of their rooms. Such data can be enormously useful in guiding future excavations as well as understanding the broader picture of the city. However, resistivity survey requires a certain amount of soil moisture to yield results and it can be slow work.

During the month of May, the only time of the year when resistivity survey is possible at Kerkenes, problems were encountered with both the resistance meter and the frame. The problems were overcome, thanks in part to the generosity of the local sugar factory in Sorgun that provided a craftsman and tools for producing a new frame. In the end, 12,800 square meters were surveyed to the west of the Palatial Complex and in the area just inside the Cappadocia Gate (fig. 2). The results from the area adjacent to the Palatial Complex reveal the internal details of some of the urban blocks along the main street that runs from there to the Gözbaba Gate (fig. 3). The portions of the urban blocks surveyed this year do not contain obvious evidence for buildings and installations with specialized functions, like the survey in the urban block to the north of the Palatial Complex did last year. However, much more work needs to be done in this vicinity, as it is a likely location for craft specialization activities within the city. The small area surveyed just within the Cappadocia Gate was designed to test the utility of future surveys in this area.

## Excavations

Excavations in 2008 focused on the continued validation of the computer simulations of ancient pedestrian transportation discussed in last year's *Annual Report*. These simulations make use of the streets of the ancient city plan, reconstructed from the geophysical data collected over the past sixteen years, and then fill them with virtual human beings walking around within this urban landscape. The results can predict how the city was planned and used by its ancient inhabitants, including determining likely locations where particular activities were once undertaken in the

KERKENES DAĞ

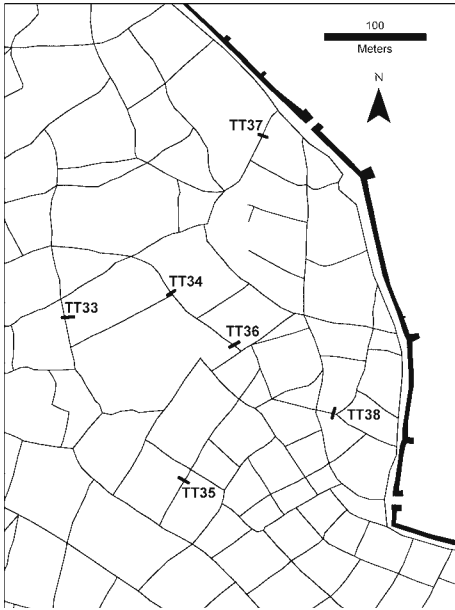
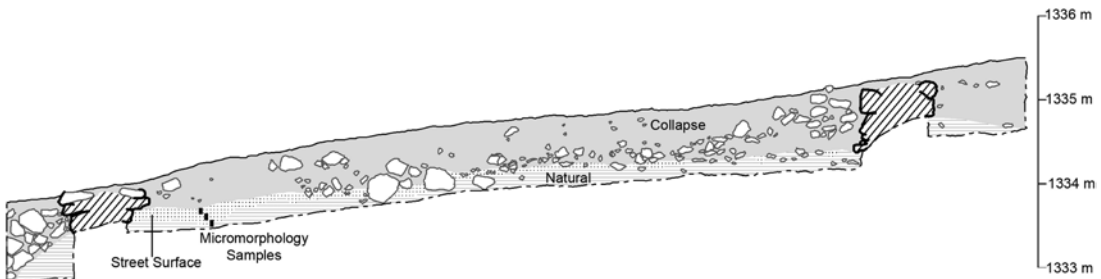


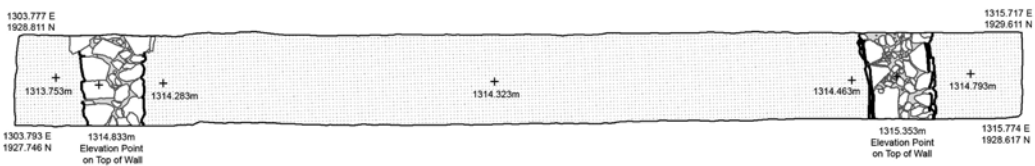
Figure 4. The locations of the Transportation Trenches excavated in the northeastern part of the city in 2008



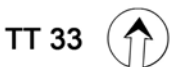
Figure 5. Transportation Trench 33 across one of the ancient city streets. The street is running between the two walls seen in the trench



North Section



Plan



+ Elevation Point

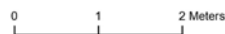


Figure 6. The section and plan of Transportation Trench 33 showing the street running between the two urban block walls. The micromorphology soil samples taken from the street are marked on the section

city. Through a partnership with Argonne National Laboratory, who runs these simulations, we have created a software package named SHULGI after a Sumerian king noted for his prowess in the areas of road building and travel; development of the software has continued this past year. SHULGI has the potential to be used not only for ancient cities, but also to help design more pedestrian-friendly modern cities.

During the 2008 season, six test Transportation Trenches (TT33–TT38) were excavated in the northeastern portion of the city in order to evaluate the results of the computer simulations in this area (fig. 4). Each trench is situated so as to completely expose the full width of one ancient city street (fig. 5). The precise positioning of the trenches was accomplished using a GPS-enabled tablet computer, with the GPS showing in real-time where the corners of the trench would be within the reconstructed plan of the city. Using this method a specific street can be selected for excavation based on the results of the simulations. As was the case last year, the trenches were all 1 m in width and varied in length depending on the breadth of the street they were designed to bisect.

In each trench the soil covering the ancient street was completely cleared and any occupational materials were collected and recorded. The sorts of occupational materials collected this year included animal bone, pottery, seeds, and fragments of stone and metal objects. The trench was then continued down through the street surface, where possible, in order to completely bisect it (fig. 6). Soil samples were then taken from the streets and shipped to England for analysis at the University of Cambridge (fig. 7). In the testing of these soil samples Cambridge has begun to develop a method that can reveal the relative amounts of people that once walked over each street during the time the city was inhabited. This provides a useful measure by which the simulation results can be tested and validated. Five of the six trenches this year yielded well-preserved streets that were suitable for sampling in this manner. As more trenches are excavated we are becoming increasingly adept at locating portions of streets that can yield productive samples.



*Figure 7. Susan Penacho collecting a micromorphology sample from Transportation Trench 33. Since the soil at Kerkenes Dağ is a very hard clay, a hammer and wooden block are needed to insert the metal box around the sample of soil. The box with the soil inside is then cut from the section and wrapped for transit to England*

## Conservation

While new material was being excavated, specialists continued their work on the conservation and analysis of materials collected in previous seasons. A majority of the conservation work undertaken by Noël Siver this season focused on the reconstruction and long-term preservation of the dozens of objects selected for the new Kerkenes Dağ gallery in the Yozgat Museum. The construction of the gallery is discussed further below. However, significant work was also accomplished on the ongoing conservation and restoration of the fragmentary stone architectural elements collected in the excavations within the collapsed monumental entranceway to the Palatial Complex. This includes continued join-finding and restoration of the meter-high semi-aniconic stone crenellations bearing representations interpreted as the Phrygian goddess Matar. Aiding in this endeavor was the new stone workshop building completed early in 2008. This facility has been custom-built to provide a better workspace and storage location for these large and heavy architectural pieces.



*Figure 8. Susanne Berndt-Ersöz, assisted by Joseph Lehner and Erik Lindahl, photographing a block from the Cappadocia Gate that contains Phrygian graffiti*

Cappadocia Gate. The drawings completed this year reveal the representations of numerous additional stelae as well as potential architectural elements similar to those found on rock-cut tombs in the Phrygian highlands. These drawings and the reinterpretation of the various elements of the graffiti will form the basis for a chapter by Susanne in the monograph on the excavations in the Cappadocia Gate now underway.

### New Analysis of Metal Objects

Also during this season, Joseph Lehner began a program of sampling metal objects excavated at Kerkenes Dağ for microscopic and chemical analysis. The purpose of this analysis is to provide a better understanding of how the objects were made and where the metals used in the objects originated (fig. 9). Such studies can reveal a great deal about the political and economic reach of this ancient city as well as the practices of its metal-craft artisans. Eighty-three samples were taken for analysis at the Costen Institute of Archaeology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Fifty-eight of these samples were collected using non-invasive techniques, leaving the original objects with no noticeable signs that they had ever been sampled.



*Figure 9. Joseph Lehner in the process of collecting samples from metal objects excavated at Kerkenes Dağ*

### The Kerkenes Dağ Gallery in the Yozgat Museum

In the middle of May, a very interesting offer was extended to the Kerkenes Dağ Project by Hasan Şenyurt, the Acting Director of the Yozgat Museum. For years the Yozgat Museum has focused on ethnographic exhibits, displaying relatively little archaeological material despite many very important sites that have been excavated within the region. This is something that several museum directors have wanted to change, however, and this year for the first time a specific space

for archaeological display was designated within the museum; this space was offered to us if we could install a permanent gallery by the end of the summer.

Thankfully, the Oriental Institute Museum's Preparator Erik Lindahl was already scheduled to work with us during June. He had intended to put together a plan for an eventual gallery showcasing Kerkenes Dağ in the next year or two. However, with the offer of permanent gallery space in the Yozgat Museum those plans had to be accelerated. In only one month Erik, with the assistance of the Kerkenes Dağ team, was able to design and install a wonderful museum gallery (figs. 10–13). Thirty-six of the most important objects uncovered at Kerkenes Dağ underwent all necessary



**Figure 10.** Erik Lindahl installing the Phrygian inscription in the Kerkenes Dağ gallery. A translation of the inscription by noted Phrygian expert Claude Brixhe can be found in the newly published OIP 135



**Figure 11.** Part of the new Kerkenes Dağ gallery in the Yozgat Museum after installation



**Figure 12.** The sandstone slab with eight bolsters on its sides as it appears in the Kerkenes Dağ gallery. Years of join-finding were required to piece it back together after excavation. It also required some of the most extensive conservation and restoration of any of the objects in the new gallery



**Figure 13.** The statue from the monumental entranceway to the Palatial Complex as it is now installed in the Kerkenes Dağ gallery. Erik Lindahl constructed a specialized interior metal frame to support the weight of the piece as it stands. Drawings and interpretations of the statue can be found in OIP 135

**KERKENES DAĞ**

— and in some cases quite extensive — conservation and restoration for permanent display. These include the large sandstone bolster slab, the bronze ibex, the stone statue, the monumental inscription, column bases, and numerous complete pots and metal artifacts. Labels, drawings, photographs, and maps accompanying the objects describe in both Turkish and English the work that has been done at Kerkenes Dağ, its importance in Anatolian history, and the purpose of each object on display. All these important pieces can now be seen year round by anyone who visits the Yozgat Museum.

**Publication**

The museum gallery was not the only major outreach initiative completed this year. In addition to the usual annual publications of the project, the first book on the recent excavations in the Palatial Complex appeared in late December. Published through the Oriental Institute, *Sculpture and Inscriptions from the Monumental Entrance to the Palatial Complex at Kerkenes Dağ, Turkey* (Oriental Institute Publications 135, by Catherine M. Draycott and Geoffrey D. Summers) is the first in the new Kerkenes Special Studies series and is available as a free PDF download at the Oriental Institute Web site (<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip>). The volume includes the Phrygian inscriptions and sculpture, many of which can be seen on display in the new gallery of the Yozgat Museum.

**Kerkenes Eco-Center**

Much of the focus of the Kerkenes Eco-Center this season was on the study of more environmentally friendly building materials. Many of these are traditional materials, like mudbrick or straw bales, which could yield locally available, less expensive building alternatives to the now commonly used concrete. Sensors placed within the structures built for the Eco-Center have already begun to provide real-time data showing the superior insulation properties of many of these materials. These data can be used to help develop energy-minimization strategies for rural villages necessary for their long-term sustainability. This project has also proved useful in helping design parts of the structures in the excavation compound in such a way as to minimize the Kerkenes Dağ Project's own use of electricity and gas. Alongside this research, work continued on the drip irrigation, organic farming, and the solar drying and cooking initiatives.

**Kerkenes Festival**

On October 18th, 2008, an official day-long festival was organized by the Governor of Yozgat to mark the formal opening of the Kerkenes Dağ Gallery in the Yozgat Museum. Events were held in Yozgat, at Kerkenes Dağ, and in the local village of Şahmuratlı where the excavation house and Eco-Center are located. Local dignitaries and foreign ambassadors mixed with local students and the general public in a celebration of the work done by both the archaeological project and the Eco-Center. It was a fitting tribute to a long and productive year.

**Acknowledgments**

The Kerkenes Dağ Project is a joint undertaking between the Oriental Institute and the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara. It is co-directed by Dr. Geoffrey Summers of Middle Eastern Technical University (METU) in Ankara and myself. The Kerkenes Eco-Center Project is directed by Françoise Summers of METU. Our thanks go to the Director and staff of the General Directorate of Cultural Assets and Museums, our official representative Mahmut Altıcan and

the Acting Director Hasan Şenyurt, and the staff of the Yozgat Museum. Our principal sponsors this year were the Oriental Institute, the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, Middle East Technical University, United Nations Development Programme – Global Environment Facility, the Joint Theory Institute of Argonne National Laboratory and the University of Chicago, the Archeocommunity Foundation, TÜBİTAK, the Joukowsky Family Foundation, the Charlotte Bonham Carter Trust, Toreador Turkey, Yozgat Çimento, MESA Mesken, Yenigün, Andante Travel, John Notz, Kay Torshen, Anglo-Turkish Society, Brinks Trust, Hayri Yıldız, Chevron Texaco, the U.S. Embassy, the Australian Embassy, the British Embassy, and anonymous donors. A full list of all participants and sponsors can be found on our Web site.

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## MUMMY LABEL DATABASE (MLD)

François Gaudard, Raquel Martín Hernández, and Sofía Torallas Tovar

### Introduction

The Mummy Label Database is a joint project of the Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales - CSIC, Madrid, and of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. The editors of the present database would like to take this opportunity to thank Gil Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute, for supporting this collaboration. This project is focused on making the already-published mummy labels easily accessible to scholars as an online database. In addition, the aim of the project is to publish as many of the still-unpublished labels as possible, as well as to republish all those that have been defectively or incompletely edited. On April 27, 2009, at the Oriental Institute, we delivered a lecture entitled “Introducing the Mummy Label Database,” in which the aims and guidelines of the project were presented to the University of Chicago scholarly community.

Mummy labels were used as a means of identifying corpses of the deceased when they had to be transported from their home to the necropolis. Made of wood or, more rarely, of stone, faience, or even ivory, they were attached to the mummy with a piece of cord and inscribed in Demotic, Greek, or sometimes both, with short texts giving important information such as the name, parentage, age, place of residence, and destination of the deceased, and sometimes further indications, for example, about the shipping and lading of the corpses. In addition, especially in the Demotic texts, they often included a short formula for the welfare of the deceased in the hereafter, which testifies to their religious function. Mummy labels could even play the role of a cheap substitute for funerary stelae,<sup>1</sup> as indicated in some cases by their shape and the fact that they were identified as *wy.t* or *στήλη* “stela.”<sup>2</sup> It is not unusual for mummy labels to include an illustration in addition to the text. One finds, for example, pictures of sacred animals (falcon, recumbent jackal, winged scarab with the sun disk), gods (Anubis taking care of the mummy of the deceased, protector genius, Osiris), religious symbols (knot of Isis flanked by two *djed* pillars), or, more rarely, the deceased himself (see fig. 1), as well as other illustrations whose interpretation can be problematic.

These small monuments represent a very interesting corpus that has often been neglected in the study of the material and documentary evidence from Egypt. There are approximately 2,500 known and edited labels, but since they are published in various periodicals and journals, a thorough study is all the more difficult to begin.

### The Mummy Labels in the Oriental Institute Museum

To illustrate our study, we now discuss the mummy labels in the Oriental Institute Museum, which will be included in the database.<sup>3</sup> These labels can be sorted into three groups:

#### ***Greek Mummy Labels: LI-368 numbers***

Sixty-one wooden mummy labels inscribed in Greek were found during the excavation of the Roman-period cemetery at Medinet Habu conducted by the University of Chicago Oriental Institute between 1929 and 1930. From the study of the paleography and onomastics they can be dated to the third and fourth centuries A.D. Only one label can be dated precisely to year 2 of the reign of Probus (A.D. 276–282) and a few are apparently dated to an indiction. These sixty-one Greek mummy labels “are significant in being the largest single corpus of mummy labels



from a controlled excavation.” Unfortunately, most of them “do not have precise archaeological context” and “were found amongst the debris of plundered burials.”<sup>4</sup> A preliminary edition of these labels was published by Terry G. Wilfong.<sup>5</sup>

***Demotic Mummy Labels: OIM 25285, 25286, 25287, 25288, 25289<sup>6</sup>***

These five stone mummy labels inscribed in Demotic were originally purchased by W. F. Edgerton at Luxor between 1931 and 1933. They were part of the antiquities received by the Oriental Institute Museum from Edgerton’s collection on January 18, 1973, following his death on March 20, 1970. Their provenance is unknown, but several similarities with mummy labels from Dendera make it virtually certain that these stela-shaped labels originate from that town. Specifically, they are made of stone, and their inscriptions are incised and painted. None of these labels is dated, but by comparison with the rare labels from Dendera that do bear a date, it is likely that they are to be attributed to the late first century B.C. or early first century A.D. (reigns of Augustus [30 B.C.–A.D. 14] or Tiberius [A.D. 14–37]).

***Bilingual Mummy Label: OIM 19387<sup>7</sup>***

This fragmentary limestone mummy label inscribed in Demotic and Greek does not belong to the preceding lot. According to the Oriental Institute Museum registration card, it was collected in the Theban area by Harold Nelson and W. F. Edgerton. However, as suggested by the Oriental Institute Museum Registrar, it is extremely likely that this label was purchased in the Luxor area, between 1929 and 1939, but could have come from elsewhere. Only the left side of the label is preserved, making the reading of the inscription all the more difficult. Paleographically speaking, a date no later than the second century A.D. can be suggested.

## Background

So far, one of the most important general studies on mummy labels was written by Jan Quaegebeur,<sup>8</sup> who contributed greatly to our knowledge about such documents. Quaegebeur offers a tentative typology of the known labels based on their external appearance and sorts them into three basic categories:<sup>9</sup>

### *Stela Shape*

This format is the most common. According to Quaegebeur’s classification, stela-shaped mummy labels can be characterized as having “two corners of the same end ... rounded” (figs. 1 and 2) “or cut at an angle” (fig. 3). Usually such labels have a hole drilled in the narrower end, through which the cord attaching the label to the mummy was drawn.

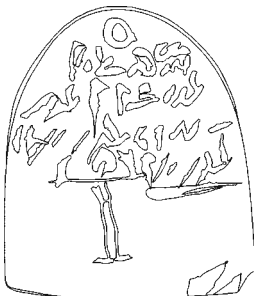


Figure 1. OIM 25289

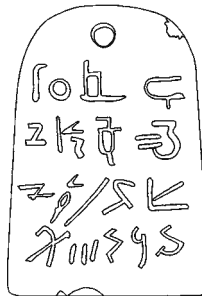


Figure 2. OIM 25285

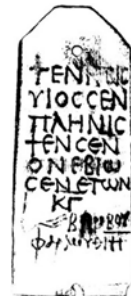


Figure 3. LI-368: 7

## MUMMY LABEL DATABASE

*Tabula Ansata*

This type of tag displays one (fig. 4) or two ears (fig. 5) that could be rounded or pointed. Labels with two pierced ears were “fastened to the mummy and are accordingly as a rule inscribed on only one side.”<sup>10</sup>



Figure 4. LI-368: 2



Figure 5. LI-368: 60

*Rectangular or Arbitrary Shapes*

Figure 6. LI-368: 19



Figure 7. LI-368: 32

In his analysis of the texts inscribed on mummy labels, Quaegebeur covers many relevant points. On the one hand, he studies the practical aspects of the embalming, burial, and the shipping of the mummies, as well as the people involved in the handling of corpses, namely scribes and undertakers. On the other hand, he observes how important the content of these texts is for sociological and sociolinguistic studies: prosopography, genealogy, onomastics (double names), offices, occupations, and the peculiarities of a bilingual population. In addition, he also studies the religious formulae usually inscribed on Demotic mummy labels.

In the section of his study entitled “Future Tasks,” Quaegebeur points out a number of issues:<sup>11</sup>

- 1) Many labels have been published defectively:
  - a) For example, in the case of bilingual labels, many editors neglected the Demotic inscriptions, focusing only on the Greek texts.

- b) In a large number of cases, photographs and facsimiles of the labels have not been provided.
- 2) Moreover, many labels are still unpublished, especially the Demotic ones. Even small collections should be taken into consideration.
- 3) As Quaegebeur himself notes in his conclusions, his study is preliminary and some aspects still need to be treated in depth. He thinks it would be desirable for a corpus to be compiled.

Progress has been made since Quaegebeur's study. At present we have access to more information about the labels and more texts are known, so that notable improvements can be introduced.

### **Description and Aims of the Mummy Label Database Project**

We intend to create a database as complete as possible which will include a full description of each mummy label in six different sections, as follows:

- 1) The name of the institution where the labels can be found, as well as their inventory numbers. This section is to also include the Trismegistos project number (see <http://www.trismegistos.org/>) and a reference to any other existing catalog.
- 2) Archaeological information: date, provenance, and acquisition data.
- 3–4) The material description and measurements. Note that some editions provide exact measurements, not only of the label itself, but also of the ears, and even indicate the distance between the hole and the margin, etc. In the future, these descriptions can be improved with an autoptical examination of the pieces.
- 5) Textual information including the type of script, language, and ink; the state of preservation and orientation of the text; the text itself (transcription/transliteration, translation), whether written in hieroglyphs, hieratic, Demotic, Coptic, Greek, or Aramaic; and, when necessary, a commentary.
- 6) All bibliographical references and online access to museum collections having a Web site with available photographs of the labels. When possible we will include photographs of the labels on the MLD Web site.

Our first endeavor will be to include all the available edited labels in the database as well as the still-unpublished ones. Then it is our purpose to start further studies, some of them already suggested by Quaegebeur. Among others, we intend to:

- 1) *Complete and improve Quaegebeur's typology.* His three types can be expanded with more details. This should prove to be a very interesting line of research and would be useful since the shape of the labels sometimes indicates the provenance and date, which often cannot be deduced from other criteria. A complete material description will provide the necessary information for a systematic typological study.
- 2) *Revise and complete existing editions, as well as publish still-unpublished labels.*
- 3) *Take advantage of the great amount of information provided by the database to study the life of a bilingual, multicultural, and multiethnic population.* Indeed, mummy labels are invaluable testimonies for such a study by the fact that they are often inscribed with bilingual texts. Necessarily short and formulaic, their primary content is the name of the

deceased, but, as already mentioned above, sometimes they include further information such as the parentage, age, place of residence, destination of the deceased, and even a short prayer to Osiris. Some labels were probably bilingual for practical reasons, such as avoiding problems during transportation. The question whether they were written by the same scribe or by two different ones is still unclear. Sometimes the ductus and the uniformity of writing point to a single scribe. Labels are also the best source of information for the study of double names and how the transcription system worked.<sup>12</sup> Anthroponyms in Greco-Roman Egypt do not always reflect linguistic or ethnic extraction, since names from different origins (Greek, Latin, and Egyptian) often appear in the same family, and also many individuals used double names: an Egyptian one at home and a Greek one in society.

## Conclusion

We hope this database will be a useful tool for subsequent studies. We intend to make it available to the scholarly community via the Internet. The database will be fully searchable since all texts will be composed in the Unicode system. Finally, it is our aim to link our database to the Trismegistos project and obtain a fluent interchange of information.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> See, for example, W. Spiegelberg, *Die demotischen Denkmäler 1 (30601–31166), Die demotischen Inschriften*. Catalogue général du Musée du Caire (Leipzig: Drugulin, 1904), p. 3; G. Möller, *Mumienschilder*, Demotische Texte aus den Königlichen Museen zu Berlin 1 (Leipzig: Hinrichs, 1913), p. 2; H. Bonnet, *Reallexikon der ägyptischen Religionsgeschichte* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 1952), p. 479; E. Bresciani “Etichette di mummia in calcare da Dendera nella collezione Michaelidis,” *Studi Classici e Orientali* 10 (1961): 209; J. Quaegebeur, “Mummy Labels: An Orientation,” in *Textes grecs, démotiques et bilingues*, edited by E. Boswinkel and P. W. Pestman, *Papyrologica Lugduno-Batava* 19 (Leiden: Brill, 1978), pp. 237, 251; B. Boyaval “Conclusions provisoires sur les étiquettes de momies en langue grecque,” *Bulletin de l’Institut français d’archéologie orientale* 86 (1986): 39.

<sup>2</sup> See, for example, Möller, *Mumienschilder*, p. 2; Bresciani “Etichette di mummia,” p. 209 and n. 5; Quaegebeur, “Mummy Labels: An Orientation,” p. 237 and nn. 38–39.

<sup>3</sup> We would like to thank Gil Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute, and Geoff Emberling, Director of the Oriental Institute Museum, for giving us permission to publish these labels.

<sup>4</sup> See T. G. Wilfong, “Mummy Labels from the Oriental Institute’s Excavations at Medinet Habu,” *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* 32 (1995): 159.

<sup>5</sup> See *ibid.*, pp. 157–81.

<sup>6</sup> These labels have been edited by F. Gaudard and J. H. Johnson in an article entitled “Six Stone Mummy Labels in the Collection of the Oriental Institute Museum,” now in press.

<sup>7</sup> This label has been edited by F. Gaudard and J. H. Johnson in an article entitled “Six Stone Mummy Labels in the Collection of the Oriental Institute Museum,” now in press.

<sup>8</sup> See Quaegebeur, “Mummy Labels: An Orientation.” For further general information on mummy labels, see, for example, Möller, *Mumienschilder*, pp. 1–9; J. Quaegebeur, “Mumienetiketten,” in *Lexikon der Ägyptologie* 4 (1982) cols. 216–17; compare also Boyaval, “Conclusions provisoires,” pp. 37–89.

<sup>9</sup> See Quaegebeur, “Mummy Labels: An Orientation,” pp. 235–36.

<sup>10</sup> See *ibid.*, p. 235.

<sup>11</sup> See *ibid.*, pp. 257–59.

<sup>12</sup> See J. Quaegebeur, “The Study of Egyptian Proper Names in Greek Transcription: Problems and Perspectives,” *Onoma* 18 (1974): 403–20.

## NIPPUR

### McGuire Gibson

The situation at Nippur seems to be secure enough for now, although reports on the site come third hand from our guards through our agent in Baghdad. The unit of antiquities guards organized by the government, housed in a new building near the dig house, is reported to be still there, and they are taking responsibility for the neighboring sites as well as Nippur itself. When we might return to resume our research is another question entirely, and one that cannot be answered as yet. Unfortunately, I am hearing that money for the Antiquities service, especially in the south of Iraq, has either stopped or is greatly cut back, and this might affect Nippur eventually with a withdrawal of the Antiquities guards. It was already proven in 2003 that our own pair of guards cannot keep large and determined groups of looters from digging on the site.

In general, the lack of financial support for the Antiquities officials in various parts of the country means that guards who should be circulating in various areas and checking on sites to prevent looting do not have gasoline for their vehicles and they often do not have the support of the local government officials. This means that the looting of sites, which had gone down a lot in the

past year or two, is once again a major activity. Part of the increase in looting can be accounted for by the fact that there is little or no water in the canals in the south, and the farmers are seeking other ways to make money. There is a drought in southern Iraq for the first time in history. How can an irrigated zone have a drought? It is easy when the country at the head of both the Tigris and Euphrates has finally dammed both rivers to such an extent that there is a greatly reduced flow for the countries downstream. Despite international laws regulating the flow of shared rivers, Turkey has forged ahead for more than forty years to complete a massive water control project that it sees as the key to its economic and social prosperity. Ecologists have predicted that the twenty-first century would be a period of water wars, and the current situation on the Tigris and Euphrates is setting the stage for one of them. For now, the Iraqis have oil in abundance, and they can pay the Turks to release more water, but in future, when oil is much scarcer, what will Iraq do?

Our work on Nippur does continue here in Chicago. With a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we are well into a project to publish the backlog of volumes on Nippur. First on the agenda is the Inanna Temple, which was discovered in the 1950s and was excavated until 1962 by Carl Haines and Don Hansen. The Inanna Temple publication has been eagerly awaited by archaeological and art-historical colleagues because



*Figure 1. 7N 184, statue of a woman in translucent stone with a gold face. Found at Nippur in Level VIIB, plastered inside a bench. IM 66190. Early Dynastic IIIa*

it was and is one of the very few examples of a temple that has been documented from the Early Dynastic Period (ca. 2900 B.C.) until the Parthian (A.D. 100). Excavating the Parthian temple and then demolishing it and going down to the next earlier one and then demolishing that and then down to the next and next, etc., until they reached the earliest building, Carl and Don were able to present a temple that was erected, used, demolished, and rebuilt for more than 3,000 years. What they had was a stack of temples represented by just the lowest meter or less of the walls and floors for each level, filled in with the debris from the demolished walls. But each level of the temple had in it altars, offering tables, and hundreds of objects left in situ, including dozens of stone statues and many clay tablets with the record of the operations of the temple through time.

Carl was preparing the architectural chapters in 1973, when his work was halted by illness. He asked me to visit him in Cape May, New Jersey, where he and Irene were living in retirement. I brought back with me two suitcases of notes and plans, and they became the basis for Richard L. Zettler's doctoral dissertation and book about the Ur III level of the temple.

In subsequent years, Zettler worked closely with Donald Hansen on the other levels, but they did not finish before Hansen's death in 2005.

In a subsequent meeting in New York, all those with an interest in the Nippur publications met to set a plan for publication. Zettler, Karen Wilson, and Jean Evans (Hansen's last student) took on the architectural and art-historical aspects of the Inanna Temple, with Bob Biggs in charge of the cuneiform tablets. Ed Keall, who had been given the rights to use the information from the Parthian level in his dissertation on Parthian Nippur, also attended and agreed to work with the others to get the publication finished. In the past year, Zettler has visited Chicago twice to work with the other team members. Karen Wilson has taken on overall oversight of the ordering and computer scanning of the basic records while she finishes other commitments, but in the next year she will be working mainly on writing the volume. Jean Evans is also finishing prior commitments, but she has also been able to contribute some of her time to the project. She will take on a much larger role next year. We have three students working on the scanning operation. This kind of preliminary work takes a lot of time and effort, but once the records are entered, they can be accessed by anyone on the project and the data can be manipulated in numerous ways.

One of the student scanners is entering the object catalogs, plans, and photographs from the 9th and 10th seasons, when the Nippur Expedition concentrated on the Parthian Fortress, which dates to about A.D. 100. Keall, who has the main responsibility for the Parthian Fortress volume, will be able to access these records in Toronto, where he has long had a position at the Royal Ontario Museum. Others who will be responsible for the analysis of the pre-Parthian



*Figure 2. 7N 120, IM 66071, a stone vessel with relief carving of a lion fighting a snake. Found at Nippur in Level VIIB, on a floor*



**Figure 3. Inanna Temple excavation in 1962 when it reached the bottom, having taken away at least fourteen later versions of the temple**

objects found in Parthian levels will also have that information available even on their laptop computers.

I am working on the excavations I carried out at Nippur from 1973 until 1990, expanding descriptive chapters when I get the time, and overseeing the scanning of the basic records of these seasons also. We have one advantage in these years of work because we began computerizing the plans and object catalogs as early as 1981. But the hundreds of photos and slides, as well as field notes, still need to be scanned.

In addition to the Nippur excavations, we have also taken on the publication of the first two seasons at Abu Salabikh, which Don Hansen carried out in 1962 and 1965. Bob Biggs served as epigrapher in those operations, and produced a very important volume of early texts found at the site (*Inscriptions from Tell Abū Ṣalābīkh*. OIP 99 [Chicago, 1974]). Hansen was a specialist in the Early Dynastic period, and he chose this site (12 km northwest of Nippur) as a place where he would find remains of that time right at the top of the mound. After those first two seasons, he was hired by New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, and he switched his fieldwork to Tell al-Hiba (Lagash). A British team under Nicholas Postgate (initially with Bob Biggs as

co-director) carried out several seasons of excavation at the site. Bob Biggs and Karen Wilson have taken on the duties of publishing Abu Salabikh after they finish their work on the Inanna Temple.

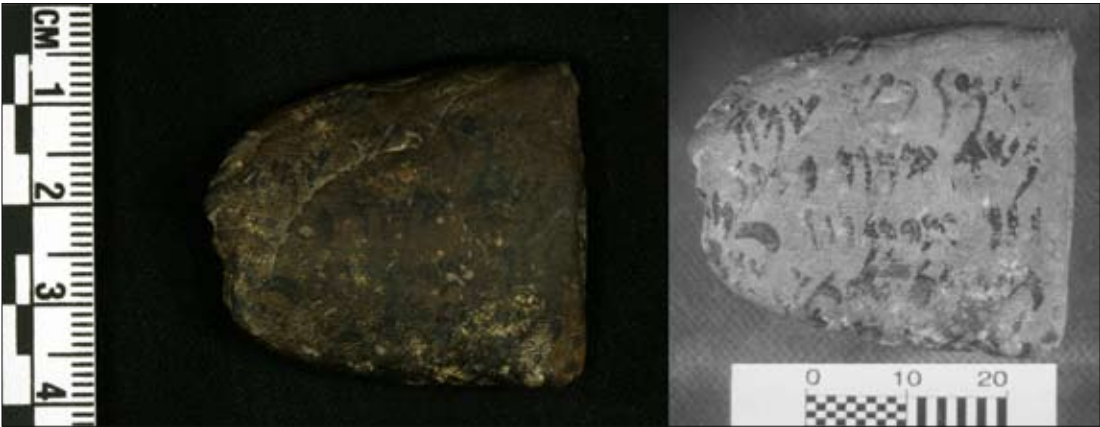
In summary, the publication project is well on its way, and we aim to have several volumes in press at the end of 2011.

## PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

**Matthew W. Stolper**

When we began to learn about the legal emergency that puts the Persepolis Fortification Archive in peril, a colleague couldn't resist quoting Samuel Johnson's old saw: "The prospect of hanging concentrates the mind wonderfully." The prospects of the Archive are still perilous, and the Persepolis Fortification Archive (PFA) Project's attention is still concentrated wonderfully on its emergency priorities: to make thorough records of the Archive and to distribute the records widely, freely, and continuously.

The PFA Project's collaboration with the West Semitic Research Project (WSRP) at the University of Southern California captures two sets of very high-resolution images of Persepolis Fortification tablets and fragments. One set is made with high-resolution BetterLight scanning backs and with polarized and filtered lighting (fig. 1); another set is made with polynomial texture mapping (PTM) technology and software that allows a viewer to manipulate the angle, intensity, and focus of the apparent lighting. A two-year grant from the Andrew W. Mellon



*Figure 1. BetterLight scans of an Aramaic Persepolis Fortification tablet. Left, with natural light; right, with infrared filter*



*Figure 2. Miller Prosser (foreground) and Clinton Moyer process high-quality images of Persepolis Fortification tablets. Foreground: the new, larger PTM dome; middle: the veteran PTM dome; in alcove at rear: BetterLight scanning camera*



Foundation supporting this work came to an end, but a second two-year Mellon grant keeps the work going, expands it, and accelerates it by adding another, larger PTM dome (fig. 2). Clinton Moyer (Ph.D. 2009, Cornell), Joseph Lam (Ph.D. candidate, NELC), Miller Prosser (Ph.D. candidate, NELC), and John Burnight (Ph.D. candidate, NELC) are now making these images. By mid-2009, this phase of the project has made images of about 660 monolingual Aramaic Fortification tablets, about 900 uninscribed, sealed Fortification tablets, and about 200 Elamite Fortification tablets. Now that almost all the Aramaic tablets are captured, the next targets are Aramaic epigraphs on Elamite cuneiform tablets (figs. 3 and 6), more uninscribed, sealed tablets, and selected Elamite cuneiform tablets.



Figure 3. BetterLight scans of an Aramaic epigraph on an Elamite Persepolis Fortification tablet. Left, with polarized light; right, with red filter

During 2008–2009, the crew capturing and editing conventional digital images of Elamite Fortification tablets included undergraduates Trevor Crowell, Fay Kelly, and Madison Krieger (all Classics), graduate students Lori Calabria, Paul Gauthier, Megaera Lorenz, Elise MacArthur, Tytus Mikolajczak (all NELC), and Glenn Garabrant and Gregory Hebda, often working five at a time (fig. 4). This phase of the project has also accelerated since Calabria partially automated the editorial process. As of mid-2009, digital photography of the more than 2,500 PF-NN tablets (that is, Elamite documents that the late Richard T. Hallock edited in preliminary form, but did not publish) is nearly complete, photographs of about 425 new Elamite Fortification tablets (Elamite documents that I have edited in preliminary form) is underway, and photography of the approximately 2,000 Elamite tablets that Hallock published in *Persepolis Fortification Tablets* (OIP 92 [1969]) will soon resume.

## PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT



*Figure 4. Working at two photography stations, two photo editing stations, and one station cataloging scans, all in a single Oriental Institute office, from left, Tytus Mikolajczak, Lise Truex, Glen Garabrant, Trevor Crowell, Lori Calabria. Background, right: storage boxes of still-unprocessed Persepolis Fortification tablets*

We are providing the photographs of the Elamite tablets to our collaborators at the Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative (CDLI) at the University of California, Los Angeles, to supplement the fast flat-bed scans made for CDLI's online presentation, and the revised transliterations of the texts being completed by graduate students Andrew Dix, Seunghee Yie (both NELC), and Wayne Munsch (Divinity). (See <http://cdli.ucla.edu/>; click on "CDLI Search" and enter "OIP 092" in the form under "Primary Publication.") Edited images of all categories of Persepolis Fortification documents are being copied to a server at the Collège de France for release on Achemenet (<http://www.achemenet.com>) and its companion site, the Musée Achéménide (<http://www.museum-achemenet.college-de-france.fr/>).

Images, editions, and cataloging information all flow into the On-Line Cultural Heritage Research Environment (OCHRE: <http://ochre.lib.uchicago.edu>), where PFA Project manager Dennis Campbell (Ph.D., NELC) coordinates, connects, and smoothes the data compiled by PFA Project editors, and prepares it for public release. Campbell and Internet Data Specialist Sandra Schloen have added many refinements to the PFA interface on OCHRE. Graduate students Seunghee Yie and Wayne Munsch are tagging and linking photographs to transliterations and the transliterations to the glossary and parser. As of mid-2009, OCHRE users can view about 750 Persepolis Fortification documents: about 500 Elamite Persepolis Fortification tablets, with interlinked transliterations, translations, notes, seal information, Elamite-English glossary, topical English-Elamite glossary, morphological parsing, and conventional digital images; about 30 Aramaic tablets, with interlinked transliterations, translations and notes, seal information, glossary, scans of the late Raymond Bowman's draft copies and editions, and selected high-resolution BetterLight scans, and live screen-resolution PTM images; a sample of 110 uninscribed, sealed Fortification tablets with interlinked seal catalog information, seal drawings, and live screen-resolution PTM images (fig. 5).

InscriptiFact (<http://www.inscriptifact.com>), the online application of the WSRP, makes the PFA Project's high-resolution images public with a very robust and user-friendly interface that allows viewers to manipulate, compare, and download them. As of mid-2009, InscriptiFact users can view almost 9,000 images of about 370 Persepolis Fortification documents (mostly Aramaic and uninscribed tablets and fragments). WSRP has developed an elegant stand-alone viewer

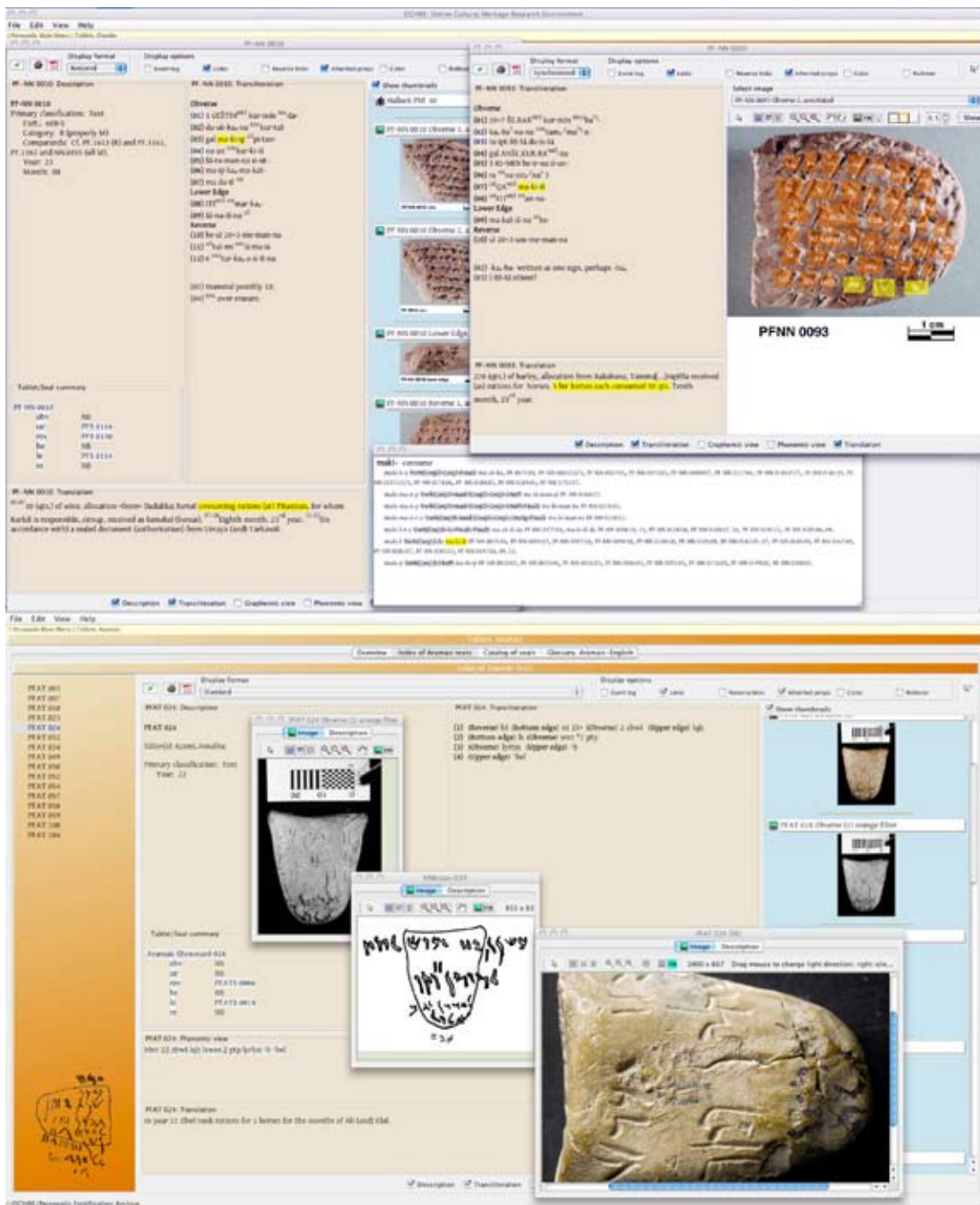


Figure 5. OCHRE views of Persepolis Fortification tablets. Top: Elamite document, showing transliteration, translation, seal information, glossary look-up, and another tablet opened from a reference in the glossary look-up, also with transliteration, translation, and tagged photograph, and highlighting the signs of the word found in the glossary. Bottom: Aramaic document with two texts, one incised and the other in ink, showing transliteration, translation, seal information, autographed copy by Raymond A. Bowman, BetterLight image (with orange-filtered lighting) and live PTM image

## PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

for PTM images that can be run as a Java application on PC or Macintosh computers, currently available to PFA Project staff and soon to be generally available (fig. 6). WSRP is testing an online version of this viewer to be incorporated into the InscriptiFact application. The capabilities, speed, design, ease of use, and platform independence of these viewers are a great advance over the previously available DOS-based viewer, allowing users to see and manipulate PTM imagery at a choice of resolutions, and to make side-by-side comparisons with high-resolution flat scans.

During three extended visits to the Oriental Institute in the past year, PFA Project editor Wouter Henkelman (Amsterdam and Paris) has prepared collated, revised, and annotated editions and translations of about 1,000 Elamite PF-NN documents. These are being brought online category by category in OCHRE, fully glossed and parsed, along with linked and tagged images. Revised editions of comparable previously published Elamite Fortification documents and preliminary editions of comparable newly recorded Elamite Fortification texts will accompany these releases.

During nine trips to the Oriental Institute in the past year, PFA Project editor Mark Garrison (Trinity University, San Antonio) has verified and revised identifications of seal impressions on about 850 of these PF-NN documents. He has set up an OCHRE-based catalog of about 1,150 seals identified from impressions on published Elamite Fortification tablets, incorporating collated drawings of those that he and Margaret Root have published in the first volume of their magisterial work on Persepolis Fortification tablet seals (*Images of Heroic Encounter* [OIP 117]; available for free download at <http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip>) and drawings of those to be published in succeeding volumes. He has added approximately 225 more distinct

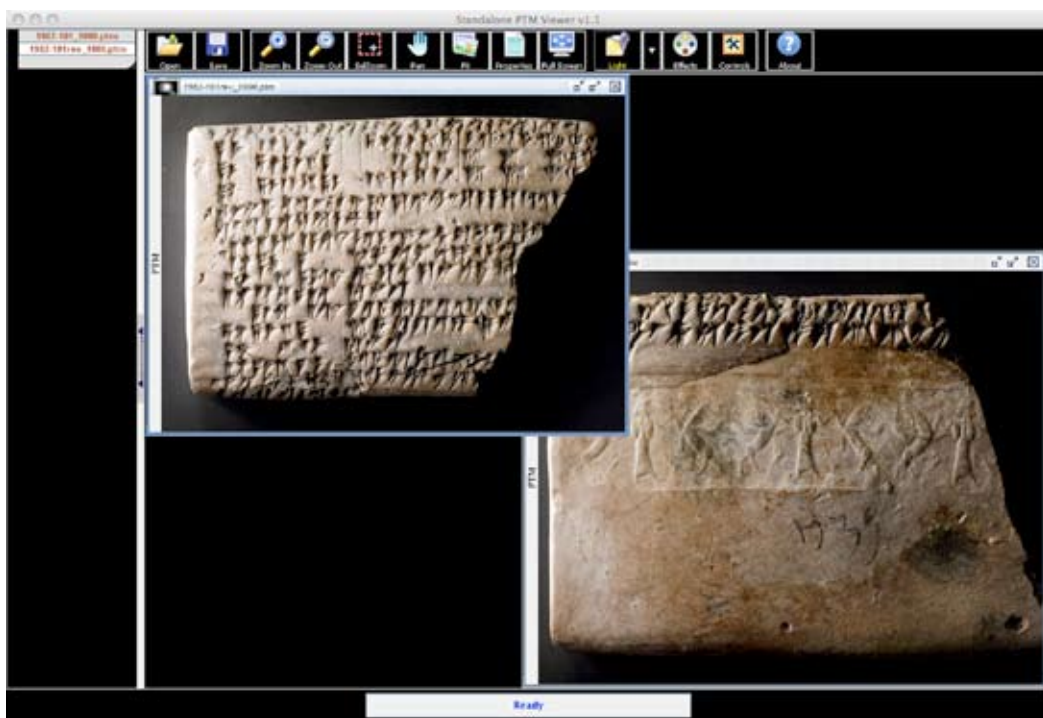


Figure 6. WSRP's stand-alone PTM viewer, showing obverse and reverse of a previously unedited Elamite Fortification tablet (the text is a summary accounting of grain stored and disbursed at one of the sub-stations around Persepolis during three years), with seal impression and Aramaic epigraph on the reverse

seals from impressions on new Elamite tablets and about 200 more distinct seals from impressions on uninscribed Fortification tablets, making working drawings of about 100 of them. Sabrina Maras (Ph.D., Berkeley), supported by a Levy Foundation postdoctoral fellowship, now works with Garrison on seals on the uninscribed tablets. Garrison has systematically surveyed almost 30 percent of the storage boxes of previously unedited Fortification tablets and fragments, selecting, boxing, and labeling uninscribed tablets for high-quality imaging, cataloging, and study, building a sample that already amounts to about 1,400 items as of mid-2009.

During four trips to the Oriental Institute in the past year, PFA Project editor Annalisa Azzoni (Vanderbilt University, Nashville), after reviewing the approximately 680 monolingual Aramaic Fortification tablets and most of the about 180 Aramaic epigraphs on Elamite Fortification tablets, is populating OCHRE databases with cataloging and epigraphic information, and preparing advanced editions for release on OCHRE. PFA Project editor Elspeth Dusinberre (University of Colorado, Boulder) has processed more than 4,000 conventional digital images of the seals on the Aramaic tablets, uploaded them to the Project's server to be added to OCHRE displays of the tablets, and is populating a descriptive and analytical catalog of about 500 distinct seals on these tablets that she and Garrison set up on OCHRE.

I have suspended detailed cataloging of the boxes of unedited Fortification tablets in favor of selecting the best-preserved or most promising individual tablets and fragments for conservation and recording. By mid-2009, I have added preliminary editions of about 425 new Elamite texts to OCHRE. Project conservators Monica Hudak and Jeanne Mandel have cleaned and stabilized about 650 Fortification tablets, about 325 of them during the last year. The speed and results of their painstaking work improved markedly after the Compact Phoenix laser cleaning system (known to PFA Project staff as the "Death Ray") came on line in November 2008 (see *Oriental Institute News & Notes*, Winter 2008) (fig. 7).

Some Project work slowed or stopped in July/August 2008 while third-floor offices of the Oriental Institute received badly needed upgrades in electrical wiring and data connections. The hiatus provided an occasion for Wouter Henkelman, Mark Garrison, and student workers to put all the tablets that have been published and all those that are in process into new boxes and to file them in new storage cabinets, and an occasion for me to consolidate storage of the boxes of unprocessed tablets and fragments and to reorganize and enlarge Project work space in my office (fig. 4).

During the reorganization of tablet storage, we moved most of Richard Hallock's manuscripts, notes, and files on Persepolis materials to Humanities Division Research Computing to be scanned and made available to off-site project staff. Volunteer Greg Hebda and graduate student Lise Truex (NELC), working with Lec Maj at Humanities Computing, began to scan and catalog photographic negatives and prints of Persepolis



*Figure 7. Conservator Monica Hudak cleans a Persepolis Fortification tablet with the Compact Phoenix laser, a.k.a. the "Death Ray"*

## PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

Fortification tablets made in 1940–41 under a grant from Works Progress Administration (WPA). We expect to display these pictures eventually online, alongside modern digital images of the same tablets and fragments.

When floods of data produced by the various parts of the PFA Project overwhelmed the hospitable resources of Humanities Division Computing, the Oriental Institute acquired a dedicated server for the Project, still maintained and managed by Lec Maj and his colleagues at Humanities Computing. In addition to holding raw data in process, finished files, working databases, scanned documents, and online tools — sixteen terabytes of material in live storage so far — the server shares data with collaborating projects elsewhere. Information capture still outstrips information processing, and many Project participants rely on direct access to fresh raw data, so even the current 22.5 terabyte capacity of this server will be a tight fit for some time ahead.

Despite stressful economic times, supporters of the PFA Project have continued to step up to meet the emergency. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded a second two-year grant, larger than the first, to support expanded high-resolution imaging work. An award from the Iran Heritage Foundation of London made it possible to set up a computer for in-house post-processing of the PTM image sets. The generous response to a fund-raiser in Los Angeles, organized by the Farhang Foundation (Iranian-American Heritage Foundation of Southern California), made possible an award that supports conservation of Persepolis tablets.

We try to convey to wider audiences the unique importance of the PFA and to describe the accomplishments and aspirations of the PFA Project. I discussed the Archive and the Project in lectures at the University of Vienna, Harvard, Tufts, Yale, and New York University, in presentations to the Visiting Committee of the Oriental Institute and to the docents and volunteers of the Oriental Institute Museum, and in remarks at fund-raisers for the National Iranian-American Council in Washington and New York. Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein and I described the Archive, the Project, and the emergency in which we operate at a panel discussion in Chicago organized by the Iranian-American Bar Association. Mark Garrison lectured on the Fortification seal impressions at the University of Michigan; Elspeth Dusinberre spoke on the seals on Aramaic tablets at the Archaeology Day of the Boulder and Denver societies of the Archaeological Institute of America.

The situation of the PFA also attracts continuing journalistic attention. An article by Gwenda Blair in the December 2008 issue of *Chicago Magazine* describes the progress and current status of the lawsuit (available online at <http://www.chicagogmag.com/Chicago-Magazine/December-2008/Paying-with-the-Past/index.php?cparticle=7&siarticle=6#artanc>). N. Beintema interviewed Wouter Henkelman on the circumstances of the Archive and the Project for the science and research section of the leading Dutch newspaper *NRC Handelsblad*. The article by Marlene Belilos in the French online journal *Rue89* connected the circumstances of the PFA with the legal travails of recent museum exhibitions (online at <http://www.rue89.com/2009/06/24/indemniser-les-victimes-dattentats-en-vendant-de-lart>). Sharon Cohen's article for the Associated Press was widely published (for example, in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, the *San Francisco Examiner*, and *Le Nouvel Observateur*; see <http://www.heraldnews.com/opinions/x1658751189/FOCUS-Terrorism-impacting-archaeology-02-22-09>), as was a release prepared by the University News Office ([http://news.uchicago.edu/news.php?asset\\_id=1606](http://news.uchicago.edu/news.php?asset_id=1606); the accompanying video presentation has not gone viral on YouTube; see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZOgkHGAKVo>).

Most significant for the larger intellectual and cultural missions of the Oriental Institute is the note by Sebastian Heath and Glenn Schwartz in *American Journal of Archaeology* 113 (2009),

discussing the PFA in the broader context of recent legal troubles affecting museum exhibitions and cultural exchanges (see <http://www.ajaonline.org/index.php?ptype=content&aid=3612>).

Most of this information, along with many other articles about the PFA and about Achaemenid archaeology and epigraphy, can be followed through the PFA Project's Weblog (<http://persepolistablets.blogspot.com/>, where readers can now sign up to receive e-mail notification of new postings). PFA Project editor Charles E. Jones (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York) reports a substantial increase over last year's traffic: the blog has been viewed almost 20,000 times in the twelve months beginning July 1, 2008, by almost 12,500 distinct visitors, about 12,000 of whom made repeat visits. All told, the blog has been viewed more than 50,000 times since it debuted in October 2006.

This year saw the publication of the symposium on the PFA held in Paris near the beginning of the PFA Project, in 2006, where PFA Project editors discussed the early stages of research that is now bearing fruit, and other scholars discussed the broader context of the PFA.<sup>1</sup> The year also saw the publication of Henkelman's work on Achaemenid religion in light of the Persepolis Fortification texts, a landmark in the use of the PFA to expound complex historical phenomena, including the most up-to-date, most thorough, and most accurate description of the Archive to be found anywhere.<sup>2</sup> Forthcoming presentations of Project-related scholarly results include an article by Henkelman and Stolper on ethnic identity and labeling at Persepolis, a paper by Azzoni and Stolper first given at the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society on a recurrent Aramaic epigraph on the Elamite tablets, and an article by Garrison and Robert Ritner on the Egyptian-inscribed seal impressions on Fortification documents.

The greatest value of the PFA lies in its combination of integrity and complexity — integrity in that these tens of thousands of pieces were found together and fit together in meaningful ways; complexity in that the pieces take many forms bearing many kinds of information. The greatest value of the record that the PFA Project is struggling to make and distribute lies in the interconnections among the pieces, forming a structure of data and inference that grows steadily in scope, depth, and reliability. By now, most of the new data is of a familiar kind, so most of the thrills of fresh discovery are things that only real PFA nerds can appreciate — new bits of vocabulary, grammar, paleography, iconography, or new documents that fill in old gaps. Even so, as we sift the tablets and fragments, real surprises still appear from time to time. Most gratifying for me during the last year was an Elamite Fortification tablet with a text of a completely new type, though it refers clearly to known administrative procedures. Without the integrated context of the whole archive, it would have been all but incomprehensible. It records an internal investigation of some administrative activity in the years immediately before the oldest preserved texts of the Archive. It reminds us that although the structure of interconnected information that we are building looks static, like the mounted skeleton of an extinct creature, the ancient reality that it represents was dynamic. When it was a living archive, it changed constantly as information moved through the system, and the people who compiled and filed these records also consulted them, used them to investigate and assess their own circumstances.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> *L'archive des fortifications de Persépolis: État des questions et perspectives de recherches*, edited by P. Briant, W. Henkelman, and M. Stolper, Persika 12 (Paris: De Boccard, 2009); despite the title, most of the volume is in English.

<sup>2</sup> *Other Gods Who Are: Studies in Elamite-Iranian Acculturation Based on the Persepolis Fortification Texts*, Achaemenid History 14 (Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 2008); see especially "Chapter 2: The Fortification Archive," pp. 65–179.

## SCIENCE AND SUPERSTITION: INTERPRETATION OF SIGNS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

**Amar Annus**

On March 6 and 7, 2009, sixteen scholars from around the world gathered in Breasted Hall of the Oriental Institute to discuss the complexities of ancient divination texts. While the main emphasis of the seminar was on interpretation of the omen texts from ancient Mesopotamia, many attending scholars brought interdisciplinary perspectives to the discussion. During these two days, the phenomena related to ancient divination were approached from a rich variety of angles.

Despite the large size of the Mesopotamian divination corpus, the omen texts have been more often neglected than seriously studied. Due to the relative youth of Assyriology as a scientific discipline, the cuneiform omen texts have been studied mostly from a lexical or linguistic point of view. However, during the past twenty years the study of Babylonian divination has grown into a discipline in its own right. New studies and text editions have considerably added to the awareness of the importance that the study of divine signs had for the ancient Mesopotamians. As the best-documented archaic civilization, ancient Mesopotamia has the potential to provide the scholarly world the earliest model of the psychological, social, and political aspects divination has in a pre-modern society.



*Symposium participants, from left to right: Front row: John Jacobs, Amar Annus, JoAnn Scurlock, Ulla Koch, Martti Nissinen, Ann Guinan, Francesca Rochberg, James Allen. Back row: Edward Shaughnessy, Nils Heeßel, Eckart Frahm, Seth Richardson, Scott Noegel, Clifford Ando, Abraham Winitzer, Robert Biggs. Photo by Kaye Oberhausen*



The first session of the seminar opened with “Theory of Signs in the Ancient World.” The first speaker, Francesca Rochberg, made an inquiry into the nature of Babylonian omens as conditionals, representing statements of material implication “P implies Q.” The validity and truth functionality inherent in conditional statements themselves demonstrate that omen divination is independent from empiricism. James Allen in his lecture gave an outline of ancient Greek conceptions of evidence and inference. After the coffee break, Ulla Susanne Koch, from Copenhagen, spoke about Mesopotamian divination from a cognitive point of view. According to her, cognitive theory has the advantage of providing a way of getting past the sometimes more confusing than enlightening discussions of definitions. The difficulties of capturing ancient notions in modern terminology were emphasized by many speakers, both during the conference and in private discussions. The last speaker of this session, Edward Shaughnessy, talked about the relationship between poetry and divination in early China, how poetical images as means of divination formed correspondences between the natural world and the human realm in classical Chinese literature.

The afternoon session on Friday was entitled “Hermeneutics of Signs in the Ancient World.” Eckart Frahm gave a presentation on the hermeneutics of cuneiform signs in divination and text commentaries. His paper investigated various examples of the way in which Babylonian and Assyrian scholars interpreted cuneiform signs by means of both etymology and “etymography.” The related issue of the generative role that scripts and writing systems play in ancient Near Eastern conceptions of the divine sign was studied in the next paper by Scott Noegel. The process of interpretation, he argued, can be understood as a performative act that empowers the interpreter, while simultaneously promoting the cosmological system upon which mantic exegesis is based. The next paper, delivered by Nils Heeßel, pointed out how difficult it is for modern scholars to understand the deeper layers of Babylonian extispicy. The Babylonian diviners, in his words, “put layer on layer of interpretation and the implications of each layer need to be assessed for their impact on the preceding layers of interpretation.” Heeßel’s discussion of the group of texts called “calculation of the stipulated term” brought forward a new discovery that has finally settled the issue of how the temporal validity of an extispicy was calculated. This discovery is based on the new join of Nineveh tablets K 4061 and K 10344 in the British Museum, which will be published in the forthcoming seminar proceedings.

The last two papers of the session dealt with divine presences in divination and ancient cults. Abraham Winitzer addressed the topic of the divine presence and its interpretation in early Mesopotamian divination. He pointed out the relative silence concerning the presence of deities in the omen collections from ancient Mesopotamia and provided an explanation for this near absence. The final paper, from Clifford Ando, treated a number of Roman rituals, similar in form, in which the presence of the gods was ritually marked, but enacted in several different ways.

After the reception in the Oriental Institute Museum and dinner on Friday night, the final session on Saturday looked at the historical aspects of divination, entitled “History of Sign Interpretation in the Ancient World.” Seth Richardson’s paper dealt with the historical discrepancy that the first written samples of liver omens in list format are attested only from the Old Babylonian period onward, while the divination in oral form must be much older. Richardson explained that a possible reason why we see the corpora of liver omen texts rapidly growing in the Old Babylonian period were the political struggles for power between warring territorial states and their several needs to restructure intelligence through new networks and a new authoritative language. The next paper of the session, from Cynthia Jean, studied the divination practices at the Neo-Assyrian palace, which is perhaps the most famous and best-known case in ancient history, where we can see the minutiae of everyday politics and divination closely interacting. JoAnn

## SCIENCE AND SUPERSTITION

Scurlock's comparative paper on the Old Testament and Akkadian prophetic texts raised the question of a relationship between ominous historical events assuming the predictive capacity on the one hand, and a prophecy or divination on the other hand. After a coffee break, John Jacobs gave an overview of the traces of the Mesopotamian birth omen series *Shumma izbu* found in Cicero's tract *De divinatione* (*On Divination*). This paper was the only one in the seminar that studied the afterlife of the Mesopotamian omens through a cultural transmission.

After the end of the third session, the podium was given to two respondents. Ann Guinan gave a response from the point of view of the specialist in cuneiform omen literature. Her talk included an amusing story of her brother, who once asked her the portent implication of an owl turned upside-down in his bedroom. Having commented on the papers given at the conference, Ann Guinan concluded that the event announced an auspicious moment in the study of cuneiform omens. The final speaker was Martti Nissinen, who compared biblical prophecy to Mesopotamian divination. According to his view, when a prophecy is written down, it becomes a document available to scholarly application and this is the point where the difference between prophecy and omen divination begins to shrink. The canonization of prophesies resulted in an authoritative set of texts that were acknowledged as such and used as a basis for elaborate exegesis, comparable to different kinds of sign divination in ancient Mesopotamia.

In summary, the conference was very successful and intellectually stimulating. The book containing the symposium papers and a few contributions from other scholars, who were invited but could not participate, will hopefully be available in early 2010. The title of the book will be slightly different from that of the actual seminar. I am grateful to Gil Stein, who initiated this remarkable postdoctoral program, and to the Arthur and Lee Herbst Research and Education Fund for its generous funding, which helped make this gathering a pleasant reality. I would like to extend my warmest thanks to Mariana Perlinac, Kaye Oberhausen, and Christopher Woods for all they have done to help me organize this event. I also thank Andrea Seri and Robert Biggs for their chairmanship.

The year in Chicago was also rewarding for me from the point of view of my personal research. The Oriental Institute provided me with a safe haven in the midst of the economically collapsing world, and here I met outstanding working conditions unprecedented in my previous academic career. While it was very exciting to work in and for its community, there was also a consciousness in my mind to use the time here as profitably as possible for my other publications. I was able to write two papers during my stay at the Oriental Institute. One of them, a review article, is already published in the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 9/1, pp. 87–99. The second paper is in an advanced stage of preparation and is the size of a short monograph. My predisposition to work has sometimes led me to keep a lower profile in regard to socializing. While admitting that this may be a deficiency, I would like to stress the potential that liberal scholarship has in itself, indeed capable in my mind of changing the world for the better. The year in Chicago has really been enjoyable, and I am thankful to all the staff in the Oriental Institute for having shared it with me.

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# SYRIAC MANUSCRIPT PROJECT

## Stuart Creason

Because of the downturn in the economy and the corresponding drop in funds available to the Syriac Manuscript Project, work on the Vööbus Collection of Syriac Manuscripts on Film had to be scaled back during the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009, most notably in the areas of cataloging the collection and the development of the project database. Nevertheless some progress can be reported in two other important areas: the physical inventory of the film and the scanning of the film.

### Physical Inventory

During the past year two important steps were taken. The first was the completion of the inventory of the film for 22 of the 23 the locations represented in the Vööbus Collection, that is, all locations other than Mardin, Turkey. The total number of images found on the film for these 22 locations is 22,046 and the current estimate for the total number of images including Mardin is 45,000, a revision downward from the estimate of 60,000 made in June 2008. The total number of images for each of these 22 locations is listed below.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of Images</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of Images</i>
Alqosh	1,836	Kerkuk	240
Anhel	315	Mar Behnam	143
Atshaneh	371	Mar Gabriel	755
Baghdad	957	Mar Mattai	919
Bartelli	10	Midyat	2,293
Bote	153	Mosul	2,169
Damascus	2,744	Pampakuda	544
Diyarbakir	2,200	Qaraqosh	104
Hah	278	Sharfeh	2,703
Istanbul	695	Tel Keph	259
Jerusalem	1,220	Zaferan	1,138

The second step was the inventory of a small amount of film that had been stored in the Vööbus Collection without any indication as to where the images on this film were taken. Close examination of the film allowed most of these segments to be integrated into the rest of the collection, but it was not possible to identify the locations where the images on six segments of film were taken. These six segments contain 130 images from five different manuscripts; as the images are cataloged and the content of the manuscripts is better understood, it may yet be possible to link them to known manuscripts in identifiable locations.

## SYRIAC MANUSCRIPT PROJECT

## Scanning

As of June 30, 2009, a total of 6,840 images on 342 segments of film depicting portions of 106 manuscripts from 16 different locations have been successfully scanned. These figures include the images on the segments of film whose location is unidentified and they represent an increase over the total from the previous year of 2,040 images, 109 segments of film, 44 manuscripts, and 2 locations. These totals are broken down by location in the following table.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of Manuscripts</i>	<i>Number of Film Segments</i>	<i>Number of Images</i>
Bartelli	1	1	10
Qaraqosh	1	4	104
Bote	2	5	153
Mar Behnam	3	7	143
Hah	1	8	278
Kerkuk	3	12	240
Tel Keph	2	8	259
Anhel	4	15	315
Atshaneh	9	17	371
Pampakuda	2	16	544
Istanbul	6	51	695
Mar Gabriel	8	32	755
Mar Mattai	17	47	919
Baghdad	33	65	957
Unidentified Location	5	6	130
Damascus	1	7	205
Mardin	8	41	762
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>6,840</b>

All the film from 14 of these 16 locations has now been scanned (i.e., every location except Damascus and Mardin), as well as all the segments of film whose location is unidentified.

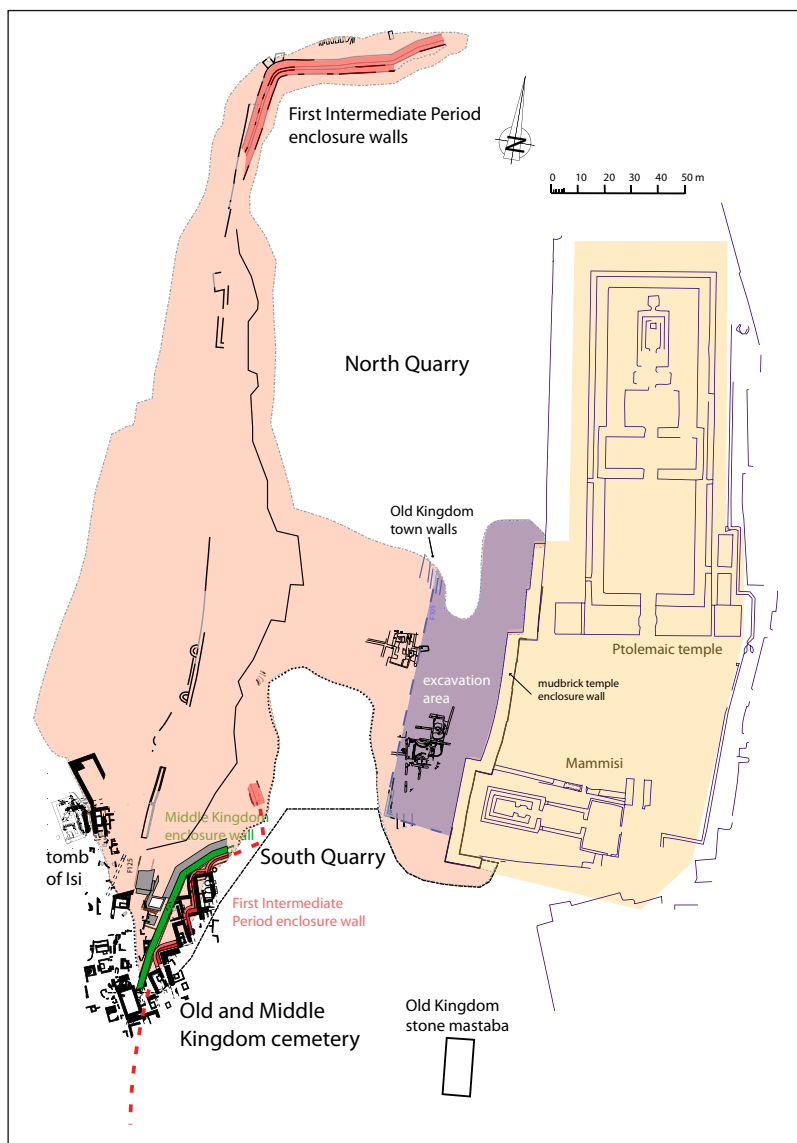
## Cataloging and Project Database

No further cataloging was performed on the Vööbus Collection during 2008/2009 and so the total number of images that have been adequately cataloged remains at 1,000. However, some small progress can be reported on the database for the project. During the past year the logical model and the supporting documentation for the database was completed. The only remaining tasks are the implementation of the logical model in a particular version of database software and the migration of the data from its current provisional form into the database. These two tasks will be given the highest priority during the coming year.

# TELL EDFU

**Nadine Moeller**

The 2008 season of the Tell Edfu Project, directed by Dr. Nadine Moeller (Oriental Institute, University of Chicago), took place from the 11th of October to the 16th of November. Tell Edfu is located in southern Egypt, halfway between Aswan and Luxor. The members of the mission were Natasha Ayers (small finds), Barbara Boehm (pottery), Georges Demidoff (Egyptology), Virginia Emery (archaeology), Elise MacArthur (archaeology), Gregory Marouard (archaeology), Lec Maj (3-D imaging and photography), Aurelie Schenk (archaeology), Julia Schmied (object photography), and Jane Smythe (pottery). The Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) inspector for this season was Osama Ismail Ahmed.



**Figure 1. Site plan of Tell Edfu**

## Introduction

The Tell Edfu Project of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, is a long-term archaeological project with the aim to explore an ancient Egyptian provincial capital and its evolution during the pharaonic period (ca. 2500–332 B.C.). In 2005 we made the important discovery of the administrative quarters of the town along the eastern part of the tell, not far from the Ptolemaic temple enclosure wall (see fig. 1). The earliest phase of occupation which we have partially excavated so far consists of a large columned hall with at least sixteen columns according to the discovery of remaining sandstone column bases which were still in situ in the original mud floor. It dates to the Middle Kingdom (ca. 2055–1650 B.C.) according to the ceramic evidence. In the Second Intermediate Period (ca. 1650–1550 B.C.), when this building fell out use, it was purposefully dismantled in order to provide space for a new installation, which is a large silo courtyard to keep the town's grain reserve. So far we have been able to partially excavate seven silos and to establish the limits of the large courtyard made of walls along its western and southern sides. Its northern and eastern limits are still buried under later settlement debris. A detailed study of granaries based on archaeological evidence has never been done before and so we are eager to present our results, which will contribute to a better understanding of grain storage in ancient Egypt in general.

## Clearance in the Eastern Part of the Excavation Area

One of the main objectives of the 2008 season was to remove large amounts of debris and rubble covering the eastern half of our excavation area that were left by the *sebbakhin* and the French mission working there in the 1920s and 1930s. This was necessary in order to reach the archaeological layers and walls, which are still in situ and currently covering parts of the silo courtyard area (fig. 2). Their study is a priority before we can continue excavating the silos. A photograph taken in 1928 from the top of the temple pylon shows parts of our excavation area. Although the silos are not visible since they are lying too low, one can clearly see the ash layer and the small square magazines that were built into it and which are covering the silos (fig. 3). A comparison with photos taken from the pylon in 2008 shows that most of the walls lying above our excavation area were already excavated more than eighty years ago but remained unpublished until now (fig. 4). These wall remains provide important new information about the Late Period activity in this part of the ancient town and help us to clarify the complete sequence of different occupational levels, which date from the late New Kingdom to the early Ptolemaic Period.

In fact, it turned out that we can follow the administrative character of the excavation area from the late Old Kingdom without break until the Second Intermediate Period. Big changes occur from the New Kingdom onwards, after the demolition of the silos. Instead of constructing new buildings, the whole area was used as a rubbish dump through the rest of the New Kingdom. It is during this time that the thick ash layer accumulated. Only in the Late Period do we have evidence for new mudbrick walls being built here; these belong to domestic buildings. This confirms Barry Kemp's observation at various urban settlements in Egypt that the traditional town centers with their official institutions were abandoned and rebuilt somewhere nearby (Kemp 1977). Here at Edfu we still have to discover the precise location of the main New Kingdom occupation.

## Cleaning of the Ptolemaic Temple Enclosure Wall

A thorough cleaning of the top of the temple enclosure wall in order to make it safe from possible debris falling on tourists below has been carried out. We also cleared a small area to the west



Figure 2. Preliminary plan of the silo courtyard excavation area

TELL EDFU



Figure 3. Photo of Tell Edfu taken in 1928 looking southwest from the temple pylon showing clearly the square magazines built into the ash layer deposited over silos (after Guéraud 1929, pl. 1.1)



Figure 4. Same view of Tell Edfu as figure 2, taken in 2008



of it which led to the discovery of its foundation trench. This enclosure wall had been built directly into the tell by removing a fair chunk of it down to the natural bedrock. There seem to be at least two or even three phases of this wall; the southern part was probably a later addition when the *mammisi*<sup>1</sup> was built. Several houses that were cut by the foundation trench of the enclosure wall have been discovered during our clearance work (fig. 5). So far the massive mudbrick wall around the temple has received little attention and needs to be studied in more depth. Its foundation trench was filled with broken mudbricks, discarded pottery, as well as numerous fragments of painted wall plaster coming from the demolished houses. The plaster fragments were all photographed and sent as unregistered objects to the magazine at Elkab. The foundation trench as well as the buildings that were cut by it should provide new data for its construction and will be the focus of a thorough re-investigation and analysis.

### Study and Documentation of Walls Excavated by the French Mission in 1923

The walls excavated by the French in 1923 (Henne 1925: 15) are currently the focus of a special application to the SCA asking permission to remove them in order to continue the excavation of the silos. These walls are in a very fragmentary state and are void of almost any connecting stratigraphy. We have mapped and studied them as far as it was possible during the previous seasons.

According to the ceramic evidence, the large debris layers and ash deposit (the latter reaches an impressive height of about 2.6 m above the ruins of the silo court) were deposited during the New Kingdom. It is only during the Third Intermediate Period to early Late Period that new domestic installations were constructed here. These buildings are characterized by cellars consisting of small square magazines about 2.0 × 2.0 m in size and at least 1.5 m deep (their upper parts are no longer extant) (fig. 6). Only a few courses of the related mudbrick walls — which were part of the first floor of these buildings — have been preserved, which makes it impossible to fully reconstruct their layout. A group of those square magazines was built directly into the ash layer. The study of these wall remains is currently being prepared for final publication in the form of a chapter in the first volume of the Edfu Reports (to be submitted to the Oriental Institute for publication in January 2010).

### Zone M

Another aim of the 2008 season was the full excavation of the southern end of the silo area, which is called Zone M (fig. 7). The precise chronological sequence was clarified. The foundation trench of Silo 393, which dates to the end of the Second Intermediate Period, was cut into older layers of the late Middle Kingdom which are characterized by reddened soil from a phase of intensive burning. The corresponding floor level outside the silo was prepared very carelessly



Figure 5. Houses cut by the Ptolemaic temple enclosure wall, view to north



Figure 6. Late Period walls and magazines above the silos, view to southeast



Figure 7. Zone M, view to north

and indicates that most emphasis was placed on the careful construction of the silos themselves and less on the exterior floor. This also shows the full complexity of an urban settlement where occupational levels that belong to the same period can vary considerably in their absolute height across the site; for example, the floor of the columned hall 35 m farther to the north lies about 2 m lower than the contemporary walls in Zone M. After Silo 393 fell out of use rubbish and debris were dumped inside it, which can be clearly seen in the northern profile (fig. 7). In one of these layers around thirty hieratic ostraca have been found, including several ration lists and texts naming various titles of officials, which date the Second Intermediate Period according to the paleography (Hratch Papazian, pers. comm.).

## Zone N

A large stretch of the Old Kingdom enclosure wall running north–south was thoroughly cleaned in this zone, which lies along the western side of the excavation area (fig. 8). Its upper brick layers had already appeared beneath the surface last season. This year we completed its full documentation and mapping using photogrammetry. Further elements of this wall are clearly visible in the vertical cuts created by the *sebbakhin* in the northeastern part of the tell. Some parts of it are also visible in the cuts along the southern side where the wall turns sharply toward the east. This enclosure wall surrounded the Old Kingdom town during the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties. West of it another smaller silo was found (Si 566). In the same area a small staircase and an entrance with a stone threshold were excavated; these lean against the outside of the silo court enclosure wall (W 300) and are probably contemporary with it.



**Figure 8.** Tell Edfu, Zone N, view to south

## Zone B

The room west of the columned hall was also further examined (fig. 9). Under a large mudbrick pavement contemporary with the columned hall, a thick ash layer was discovered which contained large amounts of pottery and seal impressions (ca. 150 pieces). The pottery dates from the late Old Kingdom to the Middle Kingdom. Several seal impressions made by First Intermediate Period button seals and Middle Kingdom scarab seals have been identified (figs. 10 and 11); they indicate that this zone was used for administrative purposes from at least that early and continued without interruption until the end of the Second Intermediate Period, encompassing more than 500 years.



*Figure 9. Room west of the columned hall showing ash and ceramics in Zone B, Tell Edfu*



*Figure 10. Seal impression of a First Intermediate Period button seal*



*Figure 11. Seal impression of a Middle Kingdom scarab seal*

\* \* \* \* \*

I would like to sincerely thank the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH Digital Startup Grant), the Women's Board (University of Chicago), the Oriental Institute, and the Michela Schiff Giorgini Foundation for their financial support. In the name of the director and the whole team, we would like to thank the Edfu Inspectorate and the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo for their help and support. A special thank-you also goes to Iaten Abd el-Halim, EES representative in Cairo, for his help with the paperwork.

### **Credit**

All photos (except fig. 3) and drawings by the Tell Edfu Project 2008.

Web site: [www.telledfu.org](http://www.telledfu.org)

### **Note**

<sup>1</sup> This is a separate chapel which is also called "birthhouse" that belongs to the Ptolemaic temple complex. It was built under Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (182–116 B.C.).

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## TELL ZEIDAN

Gil J. Stein

In summer 2008, the Oriental Institute conducted the first field season of excavations in the Joint Syrian-American Archaeological Research Project at Tell Zeidan in the Euphrates River valley, 5 km east of the modern Syrian city of Raqqa. Our project seeks to study the Ubaid period of north Syria and its relationship with both the earlier Halaf and later Late Chalcolithic 1–2 periods from the sixth through the fourth millennia B.C. The Late Chalcolithic 1–2 periods in the later part of this sequence are also known from the Oriental Institute’s excavations at Tell Hamoukar in north-east Syria, under the direction of Clemens Reichel. By documenting the whole sequence from Halaf through Ubaid through Late Chalcolithic 1–2 at Tell Zeidan, and comparing it with parallel developments at Hamoukar and other sites such as Tell Brak, we hope to understand the earliest development of towns and cities in north Syria.

The Ubaid culture is particularly important as a focus of research for the Tell Zeidan project. The Ubaid is the earliest known complex society in southern Mesopotamia, and leads directly to the emergence of the first urbanized states in the subsequent Uruk period. Ubaid southern Mesopotamia is best known from excavations at the sites of Eridu and Oueili. The Ubaid period

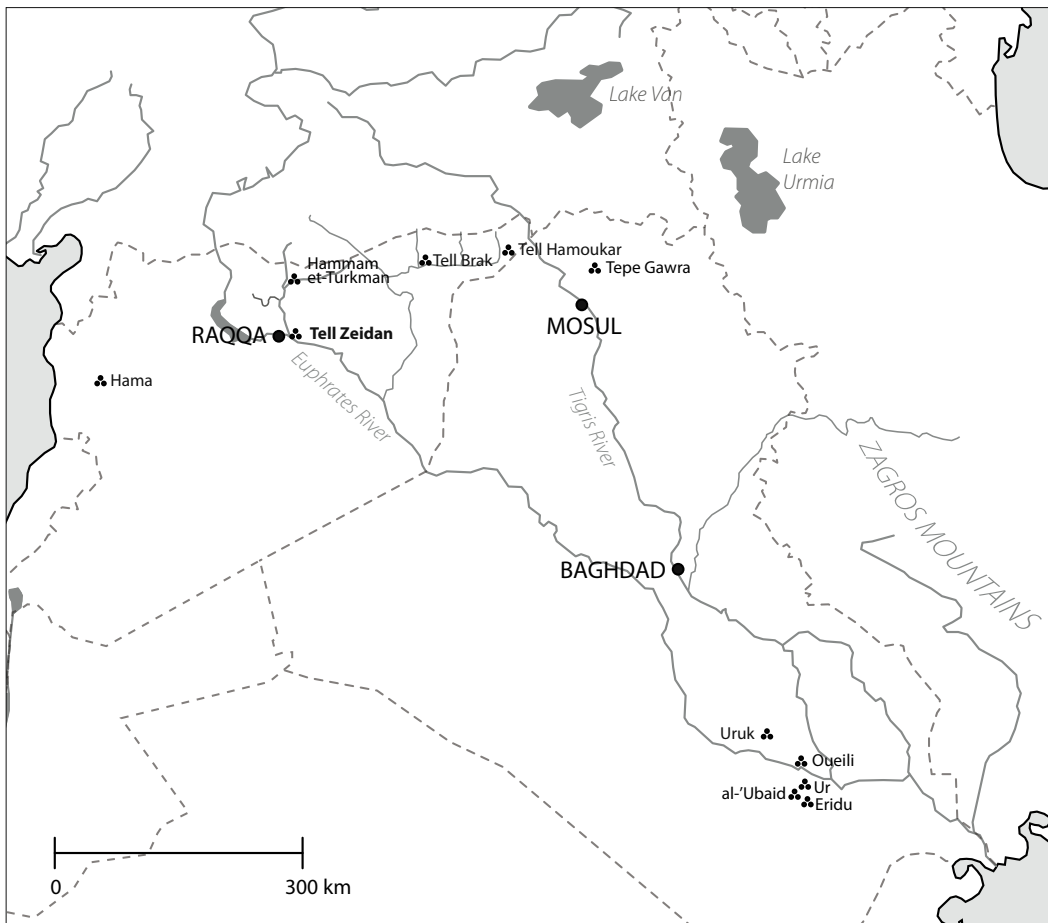


Figure 1. Map of Ubaid-period Near East showing the location of Tell Zeidan

provides the first evidence for political leadership, irrigation economies, regional centers dominating clusters of satellite villages, the development of temples in these centers, and the first community cemeteries as evidence for the emergence of a new form of social identity. Distinctive Ubaid material culture includes: brown painted ceramics made on a slow wheel, baked clay “mullers,” ceramic sickles, “Ophidian” figurines, tripartite houses, and niched-and-buttressed temples. These styles originated in southern Mesopotamia during the Ubaid 0, 1, and 2 phases; in the subsequent Ubaid 3–4 phases — roughly the later sixth millennium B.C. — Ubaid styles of material culture spread into Upper Mesopotamia (northern Iraq, north Syria, and southeast Turkey) and eastern Arabia, forming an Ubaid horizon that extended over 2,000 km from the Mediterranean to the base of the Persian Gulf (fig. 1).

The Ubaid period in north Syria is known from excavations at only a handful of sites. At larger sites such as Hama, Hammam et-Turkman, and Tell Brak the enormous volume of later deposits has buried the earlier Ubaid levels so deeply that we can only expose tiny glimpses of them in narrow, deep soundings. Our only broad exposures of Ubaid settlements have been at smaller village-sized sites which lack the thick overlying layers of later occupations. Up until now, researchers have had very few opportunities to investigate the larger Ubaid towns or regional centers where we would expect to find the best evidence for leaders, temples, socioeconomic differences, and trade; all these are crucial lines of evidence for any understanding of how the Ubaid culture was developing the foundations of what would become Mesopotamian urban civilization.

The site of Tell Zeidan in north central Syria provides an almost unique opportunity to investigate a large Ubaid town and what it can tell us about the broader Ubaid society. Zeidan is a triple-mounded settlement on the east bank of the Balikh River, just north of its confluence with the Euphrates. The three mounds and lower town connecting them extend over an area of about 600 × 200 meters (12.5 hectares). The southernmost mound is the tallest, with a height of 15 meters (fig. 2). The three mounds enclose a lower town in the central portion of Tell Zeidan.



*Figure 2. Tell Zeidan, view of the south mound*

## TELL ZEIDAN

Zeidan is located at the edge of the Balikh River floodplain. Agriculture in this semi-arid area is quite rich when the land is irrigated. The confluence of the Balikh and the Euphrates rivers has historically been a very important location because it lies at the juncture of two key trade routes — the Balikh River valley leads north to Harran, Urfa, and the resource-rich highland of eastern Anatolia; while the Euphrates is the primary route connecting Mesopotamia in the southeast with northwest Syria and the Mediterranean. As a result, this area has always been the setting for major settlements, including Tell Zeidan in the sixth to fifth millennia B.C. Zeidan's strategic location would have allowed the town to prosper through irrigation agriculture, herding, and trade.

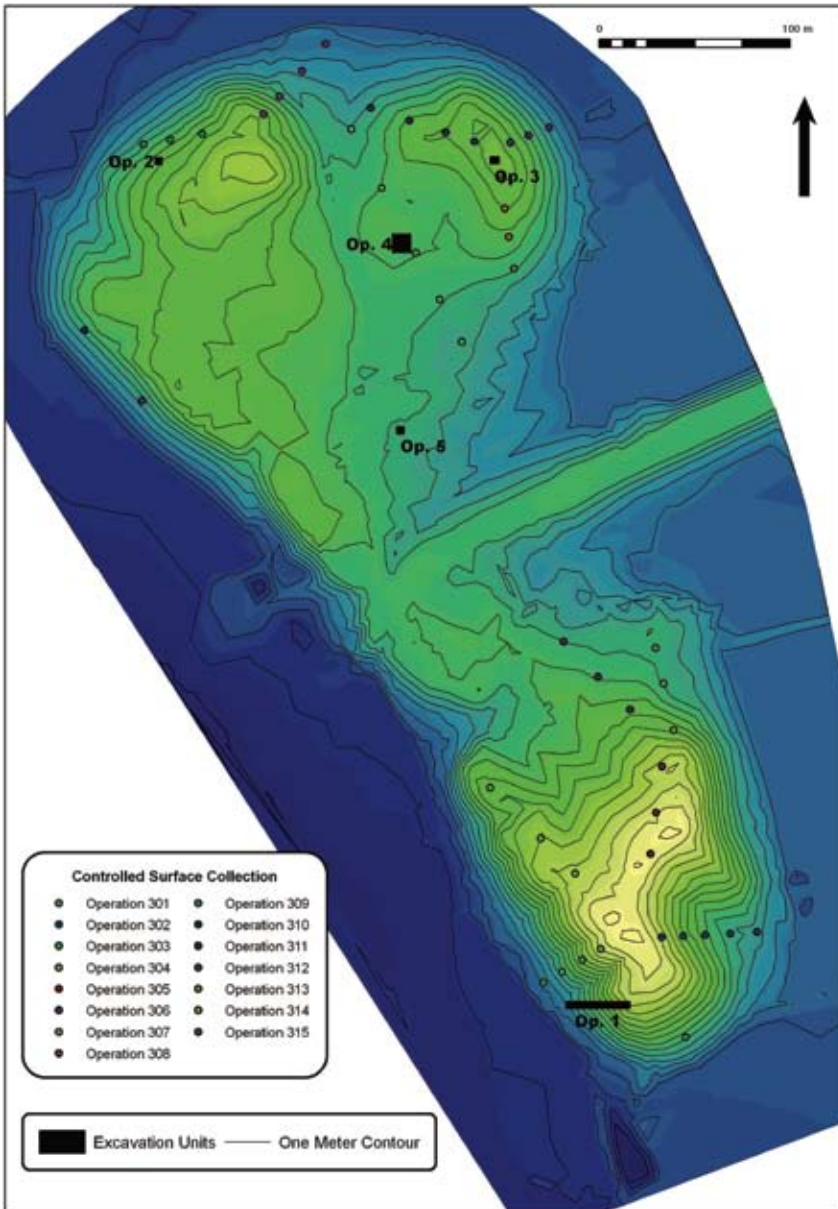


Figure 3. Topographic map of Tell Zeidan showing the 2008 excavation areas (Operations) and the locations of 100 sq. m collection units for surface ceramics



Tell Zeidan was visited and described in the late 1930s by the British archaeologist Max Mallowan and was investigated more systematically in 1983 by the Dutch Balikh Valley Regional Archaeological Survey conducted by Maurits van Loon. The 1983 Dutch survey recorded Zeidan as a large prehistoric settlement of 10–12 hectares dating to the Halaf and Ubaid periods.

In 2008, the Syrian General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums granted the permit for archaeological excavations at Tell Zeidan by a joint Syrian-American project co-directed by Annas al-Khabour from the Raqqa Museum and Gil Stein from the Oriental Institute. The first excavation season took place in July–August 2008 with two main goals: (a) documenting the stratigraphic sequence of the site, and (b) establishing the extent and degree of preservation of the Ubaid occupation at Zeidan.

### 2008 Mapping, Surface Survey, and Excavations

As the first step in our fieldwork, we made a detailed topographic map of Tell Zeidan and conducted systematic collections of the ceramics lying on the surface of the three mounds and the lower town (fig. 3). We laid out forty-five sampling units, each measuring 100 sq. m, across the mound, and collected every potsherd we found inside its boundaries. We then analyzed the ceramics to see the period to which they belonged. Our preliminary dating and counting of the distinctive ceramics of the Ubaid period from these controlled surface collections confirmed that the full 12.5 hectare extent of the site was occupied during the Ubaid 3–4 period. This is important because it shows that Tell Zeidan was a major regional center at this time — as large as the Ubaid temple-towns such as Eridu in southern Mesopotamia.

Once the mapping and surface collections were complete, we opened five excavation areas (Operations 1–5) in order to investigate the stratigraphic sequences of the three mounds and lower town at the site (fig. 4).



*Figure 4. Tell Zeidan, view of the northwest mound (left), Operation 4 (center), and Operation 3 on top of the northeast mound (at right)*



Figure 5. Operation 1 step trench, view from the west

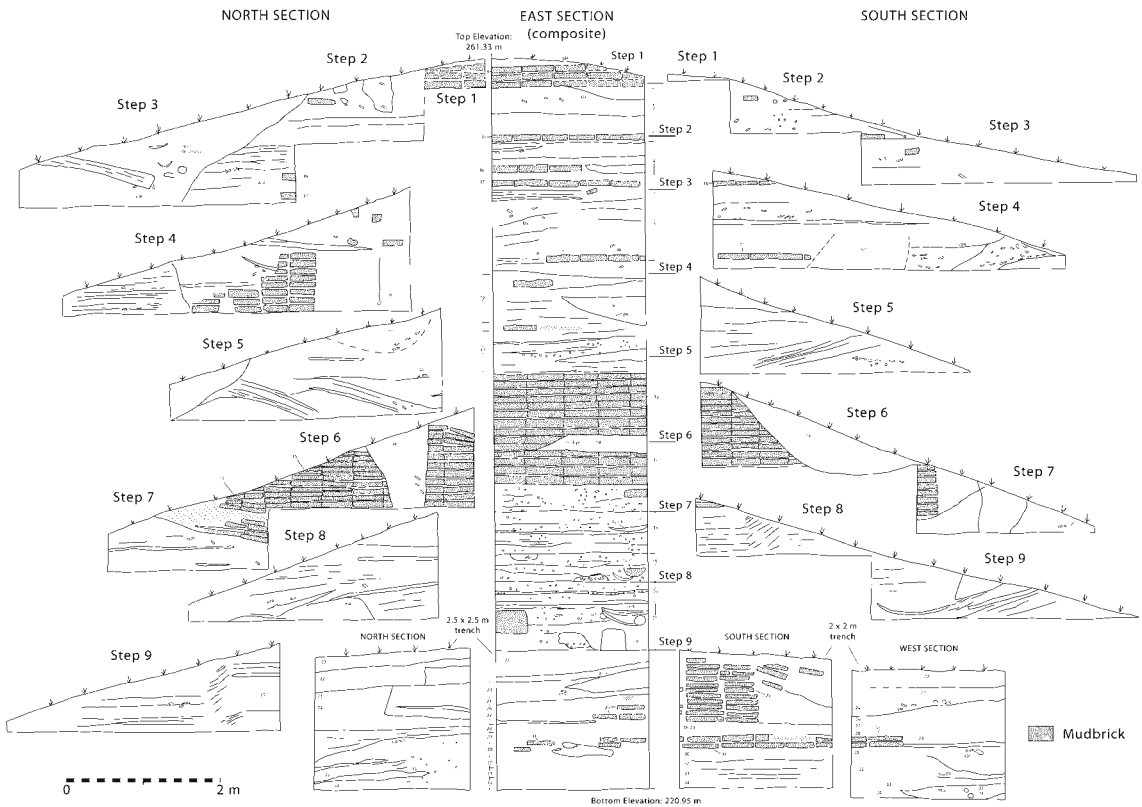


Figure 6. Operation 1 stratigraphic section. Note the large mudbrick wall dating to the Ubaid period at the center of the stratigraphic column

## The Excavations

Oriental Institute Research Associate Abbas Alizadeh excavated Operation 1, a 2 × 22 m step trench located in the southwest corner of the southern mound — the largest of the three mounds that make up Tell Zeidan. Excavation of Operation 1 was designed to document the prehistoric occupational sequence of the site, especially the Ubaid occupation and the periods immediately above and below it. The eight excavated steps of the trench extended down 12 m, and by the end of the season had reached the top of Halaf deposits about 2 m above the Balikh River floodplain (fig. 5).

We determined that the site was occupied more or less continuously from about 5800 B.C. until 3800 B.C. This two-millennium-long occupation spans four key periods: the late Chalcolithic 1–2 on top, the Ubaid period in the middle, and the Halaf period at the bottom. Because Zeidan seems to have been occupied without interruption for two millennia, we have a very rare opportunity to study the development of civilizations in north Syria during the crucial time periods leading up to the emergence of the first cities and states.

In particular, the step trench shows that Tell Zeidan has great potential to enrich our understanding of the Ubaid period. Approximately 6 m of well-preserved Ubaid deposits are present in Operation 1 (fig. 6). Fifteen of these layers are the remains of house floors with hearths, fragments of small mudbrick house walls, and the ash and trash deposits that are so valuable to archaeologists for the artifactual record they give us about ancient daily life. These deposits were rich with the distinctive painted pottery of the Ubaid period (figs. 7 and 8).



*Figure 7. Ubaid-period brown painted ceramics from Operation 1*

## TELL ZEIDAN

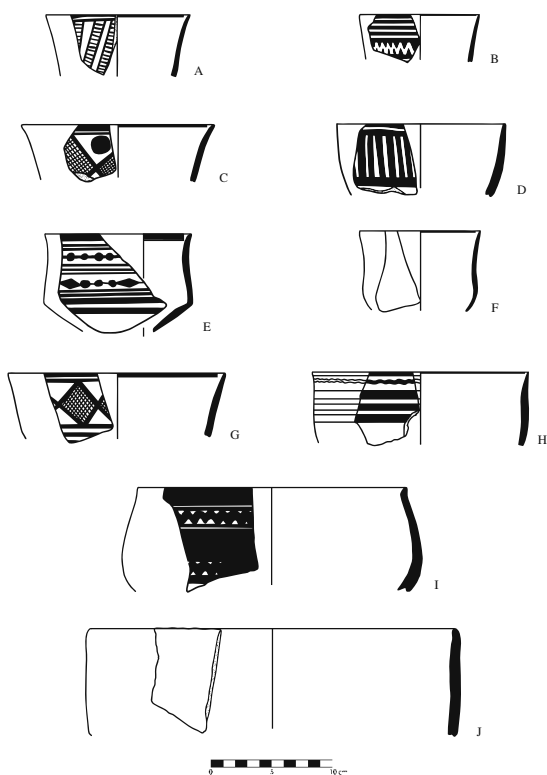


Figure 8. Selected Ubaid bowl types from Tell Zeidan

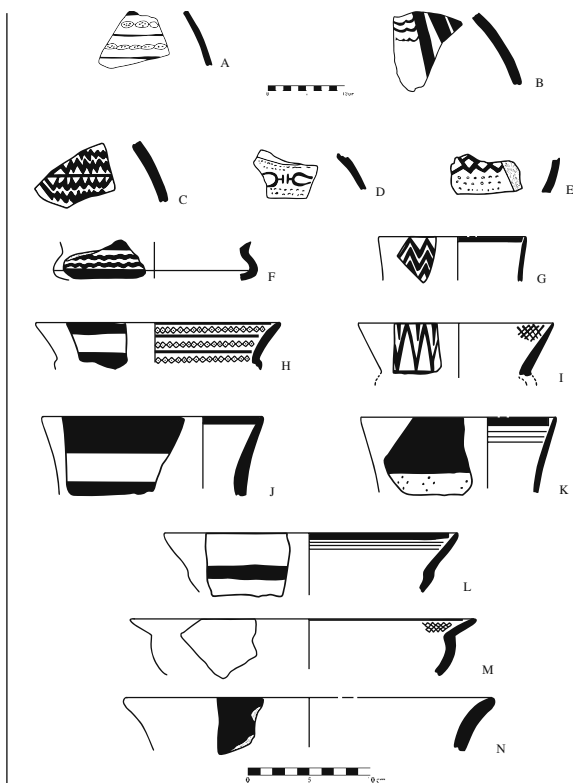


Figure 9. Late Halaf ceramics from Operations 1 and 4

However, capping off these house remains was evidence for something quite different — monumental public architecture dating to the later phases of the Ubaid occupation at Zeidan. In steps 6 and 7 of the step trench, we found part of a large mudbrick wall oriented roughly north–south. The wall was about 3.5 m wide and was preserved to a height of 1.5 m. The preserved portion consisted of sixteen courses of dark brown mudbricks. Unfortunately, we could not determine the full extent of the wall because it was eroded away to the north and south, in the areas outside the step trench. By scraping and cleaning outside the step trench we were able to determine that the wall did extend at least 5 m before disappearing at the eroded edge of the mound slope. Was this part of a fortification wall encompassing Tell Zeidan, or was it a massive public building of some sort? At this point we cannot say without further excavation. Fortunately, we can date the wall with certainty to the Ubaid period, both by the ceramics we found in association with it and because we were able to collect two radiocarbon (carbon 14) samples that gave calibrated Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dates of  $4940 \pm 40$  B.C. and  $5055 \pm 40$  B.C.

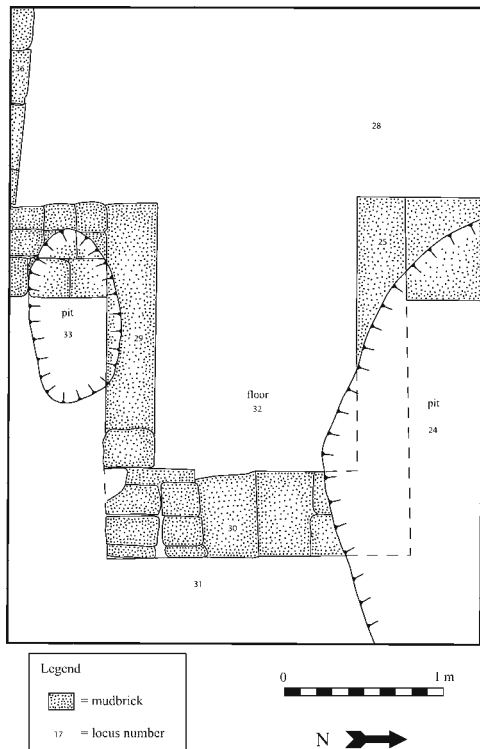
Beneath the Ubaid deposits in Operation 1 we found a series of floors, walls, and trash deposits that date to the important transitional phase between the Ubaid and the earlier Halaf period. This transitional phase is extremely important because it has the potential to help us understand what happened when the Ubaid culture spread out from its original homeland in southern Mesopotamia and replaced the pre-existing local Halaf culture in north Syria. We can see hints that this was a peaceful transition by the fact that there is no destruction layer between the two phases, and by the fact that there seems to be a gradual replacement of Halaf ceramic styles by Ubaid style. Most interesting of all, even after the Ubaid pottery styles have completely replaced the Halaf, the deco-

rations on the Ubaid-style vessels still preserve distinctive painted motifs from the earlier Halaf. We were able to radiocarbon date our uppermost Halaf levels to about 5500/5400 B.C.

As excavations proceeded deeper beneath the transitional phase toward the underlying ashy deposits of pure Halaf material (fig. 9), we began to get closer to the water table at the level of the Balikh River at the base of the mound. The sediments were extremely wet and took a day or so to dry out, thereby making it increasingly difficult to excavate. By the end of the season, Operation 1 had reached an elevation about 2 m above the river. We had to stop at that point. In our next field season we hope to finish excavating Operation 1 down to sterile/natural soil or bedrock.

In addition to the Operation 1 step trench on the south mound, we excavated four additional trenches across the other mounds and the lower town of Tell Zeidan. Operations 2, 3, 4, and 5 were important because they allowed us to see more of the actual workings of the ancient community, while confirming that the Ubaid settlement at Zeidan extended over the entire 12.5 hectare mound.

Operation 3 on the northwest mound was a 3 × 4 m trench that recovered a sequence of well-preserved houses (e.g., fig. 10), each built on top of the ruins of the earlier homes, while Operation 2 (a 3 × 3 m trench) exposed the outdoor surfaces where people cooked and worked. Together these gave us a 500-year-long record of what everyday life was like for the common people at Tell Zeidan during the Late Chalcolithic 1 and 2 periods, roughly from 4500 to 4000 B.C. The Late Chalcolithic 1 period at Zeidan shows interesting continuities with the immediately preceding Ubaid period. One surprising link between the two periods is that the people of the Late Chalcolithic 1 period continued the earlier Ubaid practice of making and using baked clay “mullers,” the distinctive nail-shaped object with a rounded head — perhaps a pestle of some kind (fig. 11).



**Figure 10.** Mudbrick domestic architecture from Operation 3 dating to the Late Chalcolithic 2 period



**Figure 11.** Fragments of baked clay “mullers” dating to the Late Chalcolithic 1 period. The Late Chalcolithic 1 mullers presumably represent a continuation of the Ubaid practices, since this type of artifact is typical of the Ubaid period

## TELL ZEIDAN

The potsherds, tools, animal bones, and other artifacts from these houses give us a fascinating picture of a large community whose wealth derived from the abundance of irrigation agriculture and the benefits of craft production and trade. We found flint sickle blades everywhere, easily recognizable from the glossy sheen where they had been polished by the silica in the stems of the wheat they were used to harvest. The sickle blades were hafted in bitumen, a natural petroleum-based tar like that found in the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles. The people of Zeidan obtained the bitumen for their sickles from a source over 70 km to the south, either by trade or by long expeditions to collect the bitumen for themselves. The trade connections of Tell Zeidan ranged farther afield as well. About 5 percent of the chipped stone at Zeidan is obsidian, the natural volcanic glass that was highly prized and widely traded in the ancient world (fig. 12). The obsidian at Tell Zeidan has the characteristic greenish black color and chemical composition that mark it as having been mined at either the Bingöl or Nemrut Dag sources along the shores of Lake Van in eastern Turkey and traded over a distance of more than 400 km to Zeidan.

Some of our most interesting evidence for craft production comes in the form of a ceramic *tuyere* or blowpipe used to smelt copper (fig. 13). The Chalcolithic was the period when people in the Near East took the first major steps in using pyrotechnology to smelt copper from its parent ores and cast the refined copper into molds to make tools and ornaments. The discovery of a *tuyere* at Zeidan also indicates that the people of this town were trading over distances of 300–400 km to obtain copper (most probably from the Ergani Maden area near Diyarbakir in eastern Turkey) and then were manufacturing their own metal tools using the most advanced technology of the fifth millennium B.C.

Finally, we have recovered evidence for administrative activity by people with a high social rank — perhaps the emerging class of elites who ruled over Tell Zeidan and its surrounding region in the Late Chalcolithic 2 period, about 4100 B.C. Our most remarkable find of the 2008 field season was a stone stamp seal (ZD585) depicting a deer (fig. 14). The seal is unusually large, 5.4 × 5.8 cm, and it is carved from a red stone not native to the Raqqa region. The carving on seal ZD585 has a very close parallel in the iconography of a published seal impression found 300 km to the east at the site of Tepe Gawra near Mosul in northern Iraq. The existence of very elaborate



Figure 12. Obsidian blades and waste flakes (debitage). Obsidian was imported to the site over a distance of 400 km from volcanic source areas in eastern Turkey

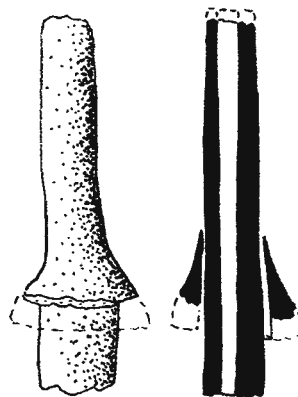


Figure 13. Late Chalcolithic 2 tuyere or blowpipe mouthpiece used in the smelting of copper. The tuyere mouthpiece would have been inserted in a long reed with a pieced clay bulb at the far end so the reed would not burn up in the heat of the smelting furnace

seals with near-identical motifs at two widely separated sites suggests that in this period, high-ranking elites were assuming leadership positions at places like Zeidan and Gawra, and that those widely dispersed elites shared a common set of symbols and perhaps even a common ideology of superior social status.

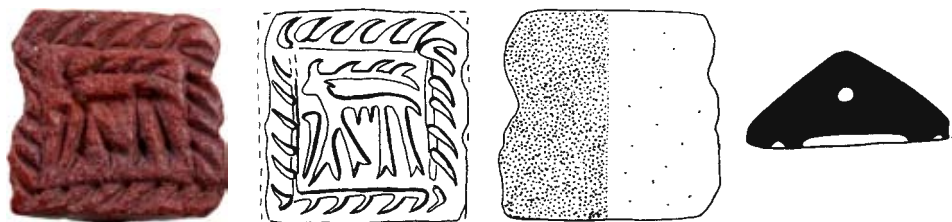


Figure 14. Late Chalcolithic 2 gabled stamp seal with cervid motif from Operation 2 (northwest mound). Scale 1:2

## Chronology

Some of the most important results we were able to obtain from the 2008 field season lie in the realm of chronology. We processed twelve radiocarbon samples through Beta Analytic Laboratory and on that basis were able to assign chronological ranges for the key occupational periods at Tell Zeidan (table 1).

Table 1. Calibrated AMS radiocarbon dates from Tell Zeidan

Beta number	Zeidan number	Op.	Locus	Conventional radiocarbon age B.P.	2 sigma B.C. calibrated maximum	2 sigma B.C. calibrated minimum	2 sigma B.C. calibrated mean	Notes on cultural period and context
248972	381	2	8	5,280 ± 40	4240	3980	4110	Late Chalcolithic 2
248973	533	3	24	5,380 ± 40	4330	4060	4195	Late Chalcolithic 2
248976	745	2	32	5,430 ± 40	4350	4230	4290	Late Chalcolithic 1
248971	278	3	39	5,710 ± 40	4680	4460	4570	Late Chalcolithic 1
248981	1273	3	63	5,910 ± 40	4880	4700	4790	Ubaid–Late Chalcolithic 1 transitional
248974	615	1	21	5,990 ± 40	4990	4790	4890	—
248969	147	1	15	6,040 ± 40	5040	4840	4940	Brick wall at top of Ubaid strata
248970	220	1	16	6,090 ± 40	5200	4910	5055	Ubaid deposit beneath wall 16

*Table 1. Calibrated AMS radiocarbon dates from Tell Zeidan (cont.)*

<i>Beta number</i>	<i>Zeidan number</i>	<i>Op.</i>	<i>Locus</i>	<i>Conventional radiocarbon age B.P.</i>	<i>2 sigma B.C. calibrated maximum</i>	<i>2 sigma B.C. calibrated minimum</i>	<i>2 sigma B.C. calibrated mean</i>	<i>Notes on cultural period and context</i>
248977	813	1	27	6,180 ± 40	5220	5010	5115	Earliest Ubaid
248979	838	1	33	6,510 ± 40	5530	5380	5455	Halaf–Ubaid transition
248978	831	1	33	6,540 ± 40	5550	5470	5510	Halaf–Ubaid transition
248980	1086	4	30	6,900 ± 50	5890	5710	5800	Halaf

The radiocarbon dates from Zeidan fit well with what we know from radiocarbon dates obtained from Halaf, Ubaid, and Late Chalcolithic 1–2 sites in north Syria. These calibrated radiocarbon dates show that the spread of the Ubaid out of Mesopotamia into north Syria took place sometime around 5300–5400 B.C. — almost 900 years earlier than the date of 4500 B.C. that has been widely accepted for many years.

### Conclusions and Plans for Future Work

The first field season at Tell Zeidan in 2008 confirmed the great potential of this site for research focused on Ubaid society and economy. The site was apparently a large town or regional center located on a fertile floodplain at the juncture of two major riverine trade routes. We found a complete stratigraphic sequence spanning the Halaf, Ubaid, Late Chalcolithic 1, and Late Chalcolithic 2 periods, radiocarbon dated from about 6000 B.C. to 3800 B.C. when the site was abandoned. Our preliminary work confirmed that the entire 12.5 hectare area of Tell Zeidan was occupied in the later Ubaid periods 3–4. The step trench shows that over 6 m of intact, well-stratified Ubaid deposits are present on the south mound. The other four soundings and the controlled surface collections confirm that the Ubaid occupation extended over the entire 12.5 hectare area of the site. Traces of large-scale mudbrick architecture with walls 3.5 m wide were found in the later Ubaid strata in the step trench. Obsidian, basalt, and bitumen artifacts provide good evidence for local and long-distance trade networks during this period. The Ubaid occupation shows great cultural continuity and a smooth transition into the immediately succeeding Late Chalcolithic 1 and 2 phases. Late Chalcolithic 2 deposits at Zeidan produced evidence for long-distance trade in copper and on-site smelting, while a large, elaborately carved stone stamp seal with good parallels at Gawra in northern Iraq is evidence for the presence of emergent elites with strong ideological ties across a broad area of northern Mesopotamia.

The continuous stratigraphic sequence at Tell Zeidan allows us to study both the earliest spread of the Ubaid into this area, and the ways that the Ubaid culture evolved over the course of the fifth millennium B.C. into the earliest urbanized societies of northern Mesopotamia during the Late Chalcolithic 2 period. We hope to conduct a long-term program of excavations and regional survey at Tell Zeidan in order to develop a balanced picture of the different neighborhoods and areas of public buildings in this ancient town on the threshold of urban civilization.



## Acknowledgments

We thank the Syrian Department of Antiquities and Museums, most notably Dr. Michel al-Maqdissi, Director of Excavations, and Dr. Bassam Jamous, General Director, for their support and assistance in granting us permission to initiate this joint project. I also gratefully acknowledge Mr. Anas al-Khabour, Director of the Raqqa Museum and Co-Director of the Syrian-American excavations at Tell Zeidan, for his administrative cooperation, logistical assistance, and willingness to work with the Oriental Institute in this joint project. The entire team owes its deepest thanks to Mahmoud al-Qaitab of the Raqqa Museum for his warm hospitality, friendship, and invaluable assistance in the day-to-day logistics of operating a field excavation. In Chicago, Steven Camp, Carla Hosein, and Mariana Perlinac provided invaluable administrative support, while Michael Fisher developed the FileMaker Pro database that lay at the heart of our field recording system. Finally, and most importantly, I want to express my gratitude to the Zeidan Project field staff who made the 2008 field season so successful: Field Director Abbas Alizadeh, Nabil abu-l Heyr, Ibrahim Alalaihah, Kathryn Grossman, Khaled Jayyab, Daniel Mahoney, Tate Paulette, Elizabeth Reistroffer, and Iman Saca.

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## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

### Richard H. Beal

**Richard H. Beal** spent this past year updating articles for and copy editing portions of the Š volume of the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary*. Outside of dictionary work, he wrote the article for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* on Hittite rivercraft and on the ships of the Hittites and their subjects that sailed the Mediterranean. For the same multivolume work he wrote the article “Soldat bei den Hethiter,” that is, Hittite soldiers. More recently he has completed a review for *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* of *The Hittites and Their World*, a book written by his old Chicago Hittite Dictionary colleague Billie-Jean Collins, which describes Hittite history and culture and provides a most thorough discussion of Biblical references to the Hittites, both well known and obscure. He has also written a chapter entitled “Hittite Anatolia — Political History” for the *Oxford Handbook on Anatolian Studies*. In addition, he edited, along with Steven Holloway and JoAnn Scurlock, a book collecting the essays given at the 2007 Society of Biblical Literature meetings in honor of the late Tikva Frymer-Kensky, assyriologist and professor of Hebrew Bible at the University of Chicago. The book is to be entitled *In the Wake of Tikva Frymer-Kensky*.

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### Robert D. Biggs

**Robert D. Biggs** continued his work on the third-millennium texts from the Inanna Temple at Nippur as part of the Inanna Temple Publication Project headed by McGuire Gibson. In winter 2009 he participated in Gibson’s seminar on third-millennium Mesopotamia. He has also done preparatory work on Babylonian omen texts he plans to study at the British Museum in September.

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### Scott Branting

**Scott Branting** continues to serve as the Director of the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL), the Co-Director of the Kerkenes Dağ Project in central Turkey, and a participant in the MASS project.

The most significant event of the year, the birth of his son Noah, occurred within days of his return from the field last July (much to the relief of his wife). While watching Noah grow and grow Scott also presented papers at the annual meetings of the Society of American Archaeology and the Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science. He gave public lectures through the Department of Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago, the Department of Anthropology at Pennsylvania State University, the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Program in Ancient Mediterranean Studies at Emory University.

Grants were received this year from the Women’s Board of the University of Chicago, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Department of Education. Two works have appeared in

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publication and various others were submitted for publication this year. These include: “Agents in Motion” in *Agency and Identity*; “Urban Studies” with G. Summers in *Kerkenes News 2008*; “Transportation Studies” in *Kerkenes News 2008*; “Simulating Movement, Communication and Flows of Knowledge at Kerkenes Dağ” in *The Knowledge Economy and Technological Capabilities of the Early Mediterranean World*; and “The External Economy: Networks and Trade” with T. J. Wilkinson, C. Hritz, J. Ur, B. Studevent-Hickman, M. Widell, J. Christiansen, and M. Altaweel in *Modeling Mesopotamia*.

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### Fred M. Donner

**Fred M. Donner** spent 2008–2009 wrestling with publishers for his book, *Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam*, now scheduled to appear toward the end of 2009 from Harvard University Press. He is discovering that the task of locating, obtaining high-quality images for, and securing permissions to publish the two dozen illustrations for the book is neither particularly enjoyable nor swift. He was once again teaching full time after having been on leave of absence during 2007–08.

During the year he submitted an article on several fragmentary Arabic papyri from the Umayyad period (661–750) for the festschrift of a colleague. He also completed his work on one of the modules in the Oriental Institute’s Web-based resource for teachers, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This module deals with “Religion in the Near East.”

During 2008–09 Donner was active giving lectures and conference papers. In September he delivered the Annual Mead Memorial Lecture sponsored by the History Department at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut; it was on “Recent Views of Islam’s Origins.” In April he read a paper entitled “The Historian, the Believer, and the Qur’an” at a conference on The Qur’an in Historical Context at the University of Notre Dame. Later in the same month he was invited to be the speaker at the Department of History Honors Society Annual Dinner at the University of Arkansas, where he presented a talk on “The Development of Early Islamic Political Vocabulary.” In May and June he gave two talks in Germany. One, at a conference on Eschatology in the Islamic Tradition held at the University of Göttingen, was on “A Typology of Eschatological Concepts.” The other was a talk on “New Perspectives on the Early Islamic Conquests” delivered at the Institut für Islamwissenschaft of the Freie Universität Berlin.

During 2008 a volume entitled *The Expansion of the Early Islamic State*, for which Donner chose the articles, wrote the introduction, and provided a bibliography, appeared as volume 5 in the series *The Formation of the Classical Islamic World*, published by Ashgate. He also submitted, in 2009, the materials for volume 6 in the same series, entitled *The Articulation of Early Islamic State Structures*, which should appear in late 2009 or 2010.

The highlight of the year, in professional terms, was perhaps Donner’s receipt of the Jere L. Bacharach Service Award (for service to the profession of Middle East Studies), presented in November at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, held this year in Washington, D.C.

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## François Gaudard

This has been a busy and productive year for **François Gaudard**. Besides working as a Research Associate for the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (see separate report), he devoted part of his free time to the Mummy Label Database (see separate report). Gaudard attended the 10th International Congress of Demotic Studies, held in Leuven and Brussels from August 26 to 30, 2008, where he delivered a paper entitled “An Update Report on P. Berlin 8278 and Its Fragments,” in which he presented his latest discoveries. Indeed, this very interesting text gives us an attestation of the celebration of the Osirian Khoiak festival in the Fayyum and provides new material for its study — including new mythological episodes — expanding our knowledge of Egyptian religion during the Ptolemaic period. In the fall of 2008, Gaudard taught an advanced language class: Demotic Texts IV, with a focus on funerary, magical, and literary texts. He also wrote two articles, namely “Le P. Berlin 8278 et ses fragments: Un ‘nouveau’ texte démotique comprenant des noms de lettres,” and, together with Janet H. Johnson, “Six Stone Mummy Labels in the Collection of the Oriental Institute Museum.” Both articles are now in press and will be published in festschriften honoring European scholars. On April 27, at the Oriental Institute, Gaudard, together with Sofía Torallas Tovar and Raquel Martín Hernández, delivered a lecture entitled “Introducing the Mummy Label Database,” in which the aims and guidelines of the project were presented to the University of Chicago scholarly community. The highlight of Gaudard’s year was his identifying a papyrus as a still-unknown Late Ramesside letter. The famous corpus of more than sixty hieratic papyri known as *Late Ramesside Letters* tells us about events that took place in the last years of the reign of Ramesses XI (1099–1069 B.C.), when the Theban area was under the military control of General Piankh. This manuscript, acquired in the nineteenth century and housed in a private collection, has been entrusted to Gaudard for identification and publication. It consists of a letter sent from Nubia during a military expedition, as is the case with several letters in this corpus. The original provenance of this letter is ensured by the mention of the god Horus, lord of Kuban. This text also mentions an individual named Payishu[...], who is most likely to be identified with Payshuuben, an agent of General Piankh known from other letters. Unfortunately, only the left side of the letter is preserved. The preparing of this quite advanced text for publication has been delayed by the fact that the verso of the papyrus has been covered with “vegetable paper” that hides at least five lines of text and probably cannot be removed now without serious damage to the manuscript. The help of a conservator will therefore be required. Gaudard is also working on publishing a major copy of *The Book of the Dead* from the Ptolemaic period, a Demotic priestly taxation list, two fragments of *The Book of the Dead* from the Late Period, as well as various mummy labels and Coptic texts.

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## McGuire Gibson

**McGuire Gibson** spent a very productive year that included participation in conferences, workshops, and publication projects. He presented a paper in Heidelberg on the Early Dynastic-Akkadian Transition to a conference on “Mesopotamia East of the Tigris.” He returned to Germany to take part in a workshop on third-millennium Mesopotamian pottery held in the town of Blaubeuren. He traveled to Cambridge, England, to be the commentator on papers presented to Joan Oates as a festschrift. He participated in a conference on Iraq’s 1958 revolution held at Williams College, Massachusetts. He also gave a talk at the Naval Academy in Annapolis on

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Mesopotamia and Iraq. Besides working on the Nippur publications project, he was also engaged with Mark Altaweel in a project created by The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII) that is reconstructing and translating into English archaeological reports by several Iraqi colleagues. This project, which has been going on for four years and will continue for one more, entails the translating of Arabic manuscripts into English, then editing them and improving the illustrations and format for submission to international journals. Each year, the American and Iraqi participants meet in Jordan or Turkey to work through and clarify problems. In June of 2009, the group met in Istanbul because it found out last year that Iraqis could easily gain visas to Turkey, while Jordan was becoming difficult. They stayed at a small hotel near the Blue Mosque for ten days, finalizing two manuscripts and beginning to work on three new ones. Although up to now, the publications in English have been restricted to articles in journals (*Iraq, Akkadica*), at least one book-length monograph will be sent to press in the next year. Currently, one article on the site of Tell al-Wilaya has just appeared in *Akkadica*, and another on Tell Abu-Shiija (ancient Pashime) will be submitted in a few weeks. Gibson continues to serve as the president of TAARII and as a board member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, and the American Institute for Yemeni Studies.

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### Petra M. Goedegebuure

In her study of the languages of Anatolia, **Petra M. Goedegebuure** combines philology and the cultural background of texts with language typology and functional grammar. In doing so she hopes to achieve two main goals. The first is to describe Hittite on the level of pragmatics (how language is used in an interactive setting, as opposed to the study of meaning or form). Her second goal is to develop methods for applying modern linguistics to dead languages. Even though modern linguistic approaches are used in Hittitology, they are never tested for their validity. This has led to the problem of linguists rejecting dead languages as an object of study and of philologists rejecting linguistics as a means of study.

In the keynote paper “Focus in Hittite and the Stressed Pronoun *apa-*: In Search of a Method” (in *Pragmatische Kategorien: Form, Funktion und Diachronie; Akten der Arbeitstagung der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft 24.–26. September 2007, in Marburg*, edited by E. Rieken and P. Widmer, pp. 93–112 [Wiesbaden, 2009]), Petra provides a framework for how to use modern linguistic theories on pragmatics for the description and better understanding of extinct languages. She concludes that general linguistic theories can be fruitfully used for the pragmatic study of extinct languages if one uses an onomasiological approach, mapping forms on well-defined functions, instead of the reverse, which tries to determine the meaning of forms.

This approach is also exemplified in a soon-to-be-published article on Hittite question words (“Focus Structure and Q-word Questions in Hittite” [*Linguistics* 47/4 (2009): 945–69]). Although the current opinion is that Hittite question words typically occur in clause-initial position, it turns out Hittite question words can occur anywhere in the clause, depending on the communicative intent of the speaker.

The field of deixis, more specifically the use of Hittite and Luwian demonstratives, is explored in the forthcoming monograph *Reference, Deixis and Focus in Hittite: The Demonstratives ka- “this,” apa- “that” and asi “yon,”* and in “The Luwian Demonstratives of Place and Manner,” in a festschrift for a colleague. As a result of the latter study Petra was able to oust one alleged

member from the Luwian demonstratives and re-classify it as a local adverb (“The Cuneiform Luwian Adverb *zanda* ‘down,’” submitted to *Proceedings of the 7th International Conference of Hittitology, in Çorum, Turkey, 2008*).

Petra’s work on language change through contact resulted in three publications: “Central Anatolian Languages and Language Communities in the Colony Period: A Luwian-Hattian Symbiosis and the Independent Hittites” (in *Anatolia and the Jazira during the Old Assyrian Period*, edited by J. G. Dercksen, pp. 137–80, PIHANS 111 [Leiden, 2008]); “Hattian Origins of Hittite Religious Concepts: The Syntax of ‘To Drink (to) a Deity’ (again) and Other Phrases.” (*Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 8/1 [2008]: 67–73); “The Syntactic Alignment of Hattian” (in *Proceedings of the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale 53, Moscow 2007*).

She furthermore participated half-time in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project as academic contributor (see separate Report), and taught Elementary Hittite III (reading of texts).

## Gene Gragg

Work proceeds on the COMA (Cushitic-Omotc Morphological Archive) project, whose two goals have been:

- A compilation of *all* available morphological information on the Cushitic-Omotc languages in their Afroasiatic context.
- Development of a user interface to the archive which would be in effect a tool for the organization, manipulation, and contrastive and analytical display of paradigmatic data, both within and among these languages.

On the data-entry front all the Cushitic data which will be contained in the initial publication of the archive have been entered as of spring 2009: forty-plus languages with, at this point, more than 2,500 formatted paradigms — and more to come! At this stage the work of new data entry has been shifted to the Afroasiatic context of Cushitic and is being done by two advanced graduate students in NELC. Maegara Lorenz, a student in Egyptology, has finished entering the basic paradigmatic information from Sahidic Coptic; she will go on in the coming year to include the parallel information in Demotic, Middle Egyptian, and Old Egyptian. Sam Boyd, a student in comparative Semitic, will enter corresponding information in the major Semitic languages (Ethiopic is already in the archive; he will be doing Akkadian, Arabic, Syriac, Hebrew, Old South Arabian, and, time permitting, the best-attested varieties of Modern South Arabian).

Thanks to continued support from the Mellon Foundation, the project was able to engage a programmer from NORC. He has produced the initial version of a drag-and-drop, JavaScript-powered, tool for manipulation and combination of paradigms. We are now working on integrating this into the archive interface and elaborating procedures for making very general queries crossing divisions of language, language family, and morphological category (e.g., “How is the category ‘feminine’ marked in Afroasiatic?”). This latter aspect of the archive intersects with a number of converging projects on linguistic documentation and typology and the development of electronic tools to explore questions in this domain.

In the fall **Gene Gragg** gave a paper at the third meeting of the International Association of Comparative Semitic, held in Turin, Italy, October 2–5, 2008. The paper, “Morphological Expression of Verbal Negation in Cushitic,” uses data gathered for the COMA project to survey

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the very complex integration of verbal negation into the verbal paradigm in all major branches of Cushitic. An earlier conference paper describing the linguistic bases of the morphology project appeared as an article, “An Approach to Describing Afroasiatic Templatic Morphologies” (*Aula Orientalis* 26 [2008]: 61–89). The paper from last year’s 5th International Conference on Cushitic and Omotic, in Paris, “Cushitic Verb Inflectional Classes Revisited,” is being prepared for publication in *Proceedings of the 5th Conference on Cushitic and Omotic Languages*, edited by Marie-Claude Simeone-Senelle and Martine Vanhove (Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2009).

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### Rebecca Hasselbach

**Rebecca Hasselbach** was awarded the residential fellowship of the Franke Institute for the Humanities for the academic year 2008/2009, which allowed her to be on research leave during the winter and spring quarters. During this time, she worked on her current book project, *Grammatical Roles and Relations in Semitic*, which investigates the expression of grammatical case and related matters such as word order in the Semitic languages with the aim to reconstruct the original case system of Semitic and to compare the Semitic system to that of other languages and language families.

In addition, she wrote an article on Old South Arabian grammar for a volume edited by Holger Gzella (Leiden), which comprises descriptions of languages that have significance for the Hebrew Bible and its cultural and linguistic environment. She has also agreed to write various brief articles for the *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics*, of which the first, “The Barth-Ginsberg Law,” was completed and submitted this spring.

This year further saw the publication of several book reviews written by Rebecca Hasselbach, including (2008) *Une théorie de l’organisation du lexique des langues sémitiques: Matrices et étymon*, by Georges Bohas and Mihai Dat (*Journal of the American Oriental Society* 128: 372–77); (2009) *The Modal System of Old Babylonian*, by Eran Cohen (*Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 68: 38–40); (2009) *Current Issues in the Analysis of Semitic Grammar and Lexicon 1*, ed. Lutz Edzard and Jan Retsö (*Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 159: 157–60); and (2009) *Grammaire comparée des langues sémitiques*, by Jean-Claude Haelewyck (*Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 68: 131–34).

In addition to her research, Rebecca Hasselbach co-organized the annual meeting of the North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics that took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in March 2009 — a conference that attracts scholars working on all aspects of Afroasiatic languages from a wide variety of countries. She was also invited to participate in the third meeting of the International Workshop on Comparative Semitics, which met in Turin in October 2009, where she presented a paper on the grammaticalization of demonstratives in Semitic.

Rebecca Hasselbach further continued to work as a book review editor for the Ancient Near East for the departmental *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

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## Harry Hoffner

**Harry Hoffner**, the John Wilson Professor of Hittitology Emeritus, continues to function as co-editor of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. Late this winter, Eisenbrauns published a new two-volume *Grammar of the Hittite Language*, authored by Hoffner and Craig Melchert, which intends to replace the widely used introductory grammar by Johannes Friedrich, and at the same time provide a standard reference grammar for advanced students and colleagues. Initial reviews of the book have been very positive.

A second book, entitled *Letters from the Hittite Kingdom*, is in press and will appear by mid-summer in the Society of Biblical Literature series Writings from the Ancient World. This book contains editions of around a hundred of the more significant letters written in or from the Hittite world. The volume has a lengthy introductory chapter which describes the why and how of Hittite letter writing. All but two of the letters were translated from Hittite originals; the remaining ones from Akkadian originals.

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## Janet Johnson

**Janet Johnson** worked with Emily Teeter and a talented group of graduate students on the Oriental Institute Museum Special Exhibit The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt (see separate report) and co-edited the exhibit catalog of the same name with Emily, writing especially on “The Social, Economic, and Legal Status of Women in Ancient Egypt.” She also gave a number of public lectures during the year, including, in February, “Gender Distinctions, Legal Similarities” for “A Mummy Comes to Life,” the Oriental Institute symposium associated with the Meresamun exhibit (repeated for Oriental Institute Museum Docents in May); in April, “Sex, and Other Social Behavior, in Ptolemaic Egypt: How Do We Find out How a Bi-cultural Person Acted When Cultural Expectations Clashed?” as a “brown-bag” lunch discussion for faculty, staff, and students of the Oriental Institute; and during summer 2008, lectures on the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (see separate report) for the summer intensive Egyptology program for high-school students, for the summer Seminar in (Greek and Demotic) Papyrology held at Stanford University; and, in June 2009, for Egyptology students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She prepared for publication, in conjunction with François Gaudard, an article entitled “Six Stone Mummy Labels in the Oriental Institute Museum,” which will appear in the festschrift for a European colleague; she vetted papers for publication in the proceedings of the International Congress of Papyrology held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in summer 2007; and she continued to act as associate editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, published by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago. She served as one member of the review committee for the M.A. and Ph.D. programs in (ancient, medieval, and modern) Near Eastern studies in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto, as a member of the Scientific Committee of HiéroLexique (Association pour la promotion du dictionnaire hiéroglyphique de Dimitri Meeks), as co-chairman of the ad hoc committee appointed to oversee implementation of revised governing structures for the American Research Center in Egypt and as chairman of its nominating committee, and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Program for the Ancient Mediterranean World within the Classics Department and faculty sponsor of the Ancient Societies Workshop within the Division of the Humanities of the University of Chicago. She was also pleased to sponsor two young Swiss scholars, Julie

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Stauder-Porchet and Andréas Stauder, who received Swiss National Science Foundation scholarships to pursue postdoctoral research on ancient Egyptian language at the University.

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### W. Raymond Johnson

This year **W. Raymond Johnson** completed his thirty-second year working in Egypt, his thirtieth full year working for the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, and his twelfth season as Field Director. On June 3rd Ray gave an Oriental Institute Members' Lecture entitled "The Epigraphic Survey in Luxor: Change and Challenges in the Nile Valley," where he outlined the current documentation, conservation, and restoration projects of Chicago House and discussed the Government of Egypt-sponsored urban renewal program that is rapidly transforming the face of modern Luxor. This summer, in addition to overseeing the printing of Medinet Habu IX, *The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, Part 1: The Inner Sanctuaries* with the Oriental Institute Publications Office, he is writing a chapter entitled "Akhenaten in Nubia" for a book of collected essays on Nubia edited by Margie Fisher, Peter Lacovara, and Sue D'Auria. Ray is also writing a chapter on the late third-century A.D. Roman reuse of Luxor Temple for the American Research Center in Egypt-sponsored publication *The Art of Maintaining an Empire: Roman Wall Paintings in Luxor Temple*.

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### Walter E. Kaegi

Cambridge University Press accepted for publication **Walter E. Kaegi's** book manuscript, *Muslim Expansion and Byzantine Collapse in North Africa*. Kaegi published a chapter entitled "Confronting Islam: Emperors versus Caliphs, 641–c. 850)" as chapter 9 for *The Cambridge History of the Byzantine Empire*, edited by Jonathan Shepard (2008, pp. 365–94). He also published a joint article with Paul M. Cobb, "Heraclius, Shahrbarāz, and al-Ṭabarī," pp. 95–112 in *Al-Ṭabarī: A Medieval Muslim Historian and His Work*, edited by Hugh N. Kennedy, *Studies in Late Antiquity and Early Islam* 15 (Princeton: Darwin Press, 2008).

Kaegi delivered two papers: (1) January 9, 2009: "Reassessing Late Antique Warfare" in a panel on "New Approaches to the Political and Military History of the Greek, Roman, and Late Roman Worlds," sponsored by the American Philological Association Committee on Ancient History at the annual meeting of the American Philological Association in Philadelphia, PA (now published online at <http://www.apaclassics.org/education/CAH/2009panel.html>, or go to [www.apaclassics.org](http://www.apaclassics.org) and click on the rubric "New Approaches to the Political & Military History of the Greek, Roman, and Late Roman Worlds.") (2) June 17, 2009: "Seventh-century Identities: A Reassessment," at the international congress *Visions of Community: Ethnicity, Religion and Power in the Early Medieval West, Byzantium and the Islamic World*, sponsored by the Akademie der Wissenschaften, in Vienna, Austria.

On April 3, 2009, Walter Kaegi chaired Session V: "Roman and Non-Roman Identity," at the Society for Late Antiquity's biennial conference *Shifting Frontiers VIII: Shifting Cultural Frontiers in Late Antiquity*, held at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

He completed an article of memories about a former director of the Oriental Institute: “Carl Hermann Kraeling: A Reminiscence,” to be published in the forthcoming Norman Golb festschrift.

On September 27, 2008, as President, Kaegi represented the U.S. National Committee for Byzantine Studies (USNCBS) at the preliminary meeting in Athens, Greece, to plan the 2011 International Congress in Sofia, Bulgaria. He subsequently prepared and posted online the 2009 report of the U.S. National Committee for Byzantine Studies for the Association Internationale des Études Byzantines, Athens.

Kaegi engaged in professional travel to Egyptian archaeological sites, monasteries, and museums, March 6–21, 2009.

Kaegi also completed four book reviews.

Kaegi served as President of the University of Chicago Phi Beta Kappa Chapter 2008/09 and, on April 29, 2009, spoke at the memorial service for history Professor Richard Hellie. In September 2008 Kaegi made an interview for the University of Chicago that has been posted on YouTube and on the Oriental Institute blog: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3-V9g8ybUo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3-V9g8ybUo) = [oihistory.blogspot.com/2008/11/walter-kaegi-on-hyde-park.html](http://oihistory.blogspot.com/2008/11/walter-kaegi-on-hyde-park.html).

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### Carol Meyer

In September and October 2008 **Carol Meyer** participated in the Tell Hamoukar expedition in Syria to analyze the ground-stone artifacts from the 2005 and 2006 seasons. Her new database table for stone artifacts includes the petrological identification and other basic data for each item and will link to the line drawings and sorted and formatted photographs. The next step will be establishing a chronological typology that can be used for dating surface finds and to address more complicated problems, such as changing trade patterns and technology. Meyer also completed an article on “Coptus/Coptos” for the new *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*. Final top plans, sections, and Harris matrices for the 1999 Bir Umm Fawakhir excavations are nearly complete, but work was curtailed by family concerns.

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### Nadine Moeller

As last year, **Nadine Moeller** directed the excavations at Tell Edfu in Upper Egypt during most of autumn quarter. The summary of results of this season are described in detail in the *Tell Edfu Project Report*. In August 2008 she was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Startup Grant for a project entitled “Digital Documentation of a Provincial Town in Ancient Egypt,” with the aim to develop new digital image-capturing techniques that will enable researchers to process data from archaeological excavations more accurately and efficiently. Also involved in this project is Lec Maj, Assistant Director for Research Computing of the Humanities Division, who is providing the technology support. Furthermore, there is a new Web site being set up with the help of Maj for the Tell Edfu project at [www.telledfu.org](http://www.telledfu.org) that shows some of the results.

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In June the Oriental Institute received the complete Mendes archives, which holds the documentation of several excavation seasons from the 1960s and 1970s directed by Donald P. Hansen, Karen Wilson, and Bernard Bothmer. The preparation of a final publication will be part of Moeller's research projects for the next three years. The material provides important information on early settlement remains dating to the First Intermediate Period as well as an underlying Old Kingdom cemetery. Since archaeological data of these periods are still pretty scarce, the publication will be an important contribution for the understanding of settlements in the Delta region and thus complement the records available from Upper Egyptian sites.

Additionally, Nadine has finished an article with the title "A New Royal Name Sealing from Tell Edfu," which has been accepted for publication by the *Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde*. Moeller is currently preparing the manuscript for the first volume of the Tell Edfu Reports, which includes the results from the 2001–2004 survey of the site as well as various chapters dealing with the history of excavations, the objectives then and now, and the wall remains of the buildings above the silo area.

In March Moeller gave an Oriental Institute Members' Lecture in Washington, D.C., on the latest results of the 2008 season at Tell Edfu; the lecture was well received and the newly appointed Egyptian Ambassador and his wife were among the audience members.

She has also recently been invited to the Global Creative Workshop taking place in London, July 13–14, which has been organized by Lord Cultural Resources for the newly planned Museum of the March of Man at Abu Dhabi.

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### Seth Richardson

This was a year of many conference papers and much behind-the-scenes work for **Seth Richardson**. Pushing forward toward completion of his monograph on the end of the Old Babylonian period, he completed a database of almost 14,000 personal names from published and unpublished texts, polished off the last of ninety-five copies of tablets from the period, and finished archival, prosopographic, and thematic studies critical to writing a history of the decline of this seventeenth-century state. Two longish notes emerged during the year. First was a re-analysis of a New Kingdom Egyptian wooden "furniture attachment" as part of the base for an enthroned divine image (for James Romano's memorial volume). The second was the publication of data supporting substantial and functioning temple estates at the old Sumerian city of Lagaš well into the Old Babylonian period, still in control of over 40 sq. km of productive land centuries after their last-attested moment of political dominance (for Marcel Sigrist's festschrift). Meantime, he enjoyed three weeks writing at a summer house in Maine and managed to climb every mountain in Acadia National Park while he was at it.

On the conference circuit, in November Seth spoke at the Boston meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research on harmonies between ancient state collapse studies and modern political science work on "failed states," borderlands, non-state actors, and the ideological failures of "disenchanted communities." In March he participated in the highly successful two-day Oriental Institute Seminar on divination, delivering a paper he has been writing and revising over almost eight years, to appear in the published conference proceedings as "On Seeing and Believing." A week later, Seth was in Albuquerque at the American Oriental Society meeting to talk about the last vestiges of Old Assyrian trade in Babylonia. There was also time for a side



**Figure 1. Seth Richardson at the Chicago Humanities Festival**

trip out to the desert with pals Steve Garfinkle, Alhena Gadotti, Alexandra Kleinerman, and Lance Allred: an effervescent cocktail of mesas, chaparral, Indian fry bread, and Ur III shop talk.

In May, Seth flew to Seattle and drove up to Vancouver, B.C., with Garfinkle to deliver a paper at the annual meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians. The paper there was “*Ex Oriente flux: Problems and Preconditions in Transmission*,” a discussion of theoretical and methodological problems in positing the diffusion of “Oriental wisdom” to Greece in the mid-first millennium B.C. These points were reinforced on the Greek side by a very sympathetic lecture from Kurt Raaflaub — a very enjoyable conference. Back in Chicago, Seth also delivered two public lectures in October. The first was on the image of the Tower of Babylon in historical imagination, as part of a Chicago Humanities Festival panel (fig. 1). The other addressed the role of divine idols in Mesopotamian society called “Idols without Anxiety” in conjunction with the exhibition entitled *Idol Anxiety* at the Smart Museum of Art. His most demanding audience all year, though, without doubt, was his son Benjamin’s first-grade class, which came for a tour of the Oriental Institute Museum galleries in June.

Seth looks forward to a year in which he will conclude his work on Old Babylonian state collapse and liver divination, as well as articles on ancient state competition and the role of geography; on rebellion in the ancient Near East; on a “new” military history of Mesopotamia; and a number of smaller projects.

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## Robert K. Ritner

**Robert K. Ritner** was the annual Invited Professor in “Sciences Religieuses,” for the *École Pratique des Hautes Études* in Paris. In the month of May, he delivered eight hours of lectures at the Sorbonne and (due to university strikes) at the private Institut Khéops. His topics included “Heka: The Origin and Nature of Magic,” “Curses and Love Charms,” “Implements of Magic,” “New Approaches to Magical Literature,” and a final discussion of “Medicine and Demons.” The first lecture treated issues of varying creation myths, the significance of the term “god” in ancient Egypt, trinities and the issues of polytheism, monotheism, and pantheism, the appearance of Heka, god of Magic, as well as the role of magic in theology, iconography, architecture, and script. The significance of domination magic served as the basis of the talk on curses, execration magic, and “love” and separation rites. Implements of magic included serpent wands and snake charming, magical knives used to draw defensive perimeters, Bes images and Horus stelae against animal and reptile bites, and the Egyptian origin of the “Hermes” caduceus symbol in modern American medicine. New magical literature surveyed Ritner’s forthcoming publications

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on the topic, including an unrecognized serpent ritual in the Pyramid Texts (with critical passages in Semitic, to be published by Richard Steiner), Pyramid Text influence on the Demotic “Romance of Setna and the Mummies,” overlooked theological insights from the mummy case of Meresamun in the Oriental Institute, Demotic graffiti at the Theban tomb of Nespakashuty and at Medinet Habu, funerary texts of Third Intermediate Period chantessees and the conscious omission of male relatives (husbands and fathers), and a forthcoming, complete edition of the papyri once acquired (and partially “translated”) by Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The final lecture surveyed the practice and theory of Egyptian medicine, a contrast with Greek practices, associated magical spells and iconography, gynecology, his new edition of the Bentresh tale preserved in blocks at Luxor, and the nature of demonic possession as described in Egyptian texts.

Earlier in the year Ritner presented “An Evening with Akhenaton” at the home of David and Mari Terman in Wilmette on behalf of the Oriental Institute Presents Series, Research Endowment Campaign (October 17). Ritner’s study of “Fragmentation and Re-integration in the Third Intermediate Period” appeared in *The Libyan Period in Egypt: Historical and Cultural Studies into the 21st–24th Dynasties; Proceedings of a Conference at Leiden University, 25–27 October 2007*, edited by G. P. F. Broekman, R. J. Demarée, and O. E. Kaper (Leiden); and his 1998 translations of “Practical Egyptian Magical Spells” — created for the re-opening of the Egyptian Gallery — were reprinted for the *North Texas ARCE Newsletter* 16/5 (Dallas).

During the year he completed manuscripts for “The Possession of Bentresh: A Parallel Text from the Luxor Blockyard,” to be included in a future publication of The Epigraphic Survey’s Luxor Project. Two festschrift articles (for a German and an American scholar) comprise “Setna’s Spell of Taking Security (Setna I, col. IV/31–34),” and “Two Third Intermediate Period Books of the Dead: P. Houston 31.72 and P. Brooklyn 37.1801E.” Ritner’s “Forward: An Egyptological Perspective,” will open Richard C. Steiner’s volume *Proto-Canaanite Serpent Spells in the Pyramid Texts: A First Look at the Ancestor of Phoenician and Hebrew in the Third Millennium B.C.E.*, to be published in Harvard Semitic Studies. Ritner has also completed an article for the Persepolis Fortification Tablet publications: “Egyptian Elements in the Persepolis Fortification Tablets (and other Achaemenid Seals and Sealings),” and a review and addition to the Meresamun publications, “Reading the Coffin of Meresamun.” Dr. Ritner’s publication “Cultural Exchanges between Egyptian and Greek Medicine” appeared in *Moving Across Borders: Foreign Relations, Religion and Cultural Interactions in the Ancient Mediterranean*, edited by P. Kousoulis and K. Magliveras in the series *Orientalia Lovaniensa Analecta*, number 159.

When otherwise unclaimed, he served on multiple committees and taught courses on “An Introduction to Middle Egyptian Hieroglyphs” I–II, “Animal Cults in a Wider Context: Social, Political and Economic Ramifications,” and “The Religion of Graeco-Roman Egypt.”

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## Yorke Rowan

During this academic year, several new publications appeared by newly appointed Research Associate **Yorke Rowan**. “The Chalcolithic Period of the Southern Levant: A Synthetic Review” (with J. Golden) appeared as an entire issue of the *Journal of World Prehistory* (issue 22: 1–92), providing the first comprehensive synthesis of the period in over twenty years. In addition, he edited (with J. Ebeling) *New Approaches to Old Stones: Recent Studies of Ground Stone*

*Artifacts* (London, Equinox); Rowan and Ebeling also wrote the introductory chapter, “The Potential of Ground Stone Studies.” Two other volumes were submitted to reviewers; one, co-edited with J. Lovell (Director of the Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem), *Culture, Chronology and the Chalcolithic: Theory and Transition*, the result of a workshop organized by the editors for the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE) meetings in Madrid, will be published by the Council for British Research in the Levant as part of their Levant Supplementary Series. The other volume, *Beyond Belief: The Archaeology of Religion and Ritual* will appear as part of the Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropology Association.

Rowan participated in two major conferences, the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) annual meeting and the inaugural Department of Antiquities of Jordan Prehistory Conference in Amman, Jordan, in May 2009. At ASOR, he completed his third and final year as co-chair of the Annual Meetings Program Committee and presented a paper entitled “Southern Levantine and Predynastic Egyptian Connections: Evidence for Late 5th–early 4th Millennium Relations” in the Prehistory Session.

In Amman, he presented two papers: “Maitland’s Mesa: A Basalt Capped Plateau in the Eastern Badia of Jordan” and “The Necropolis at Wisad Pools, Eastern Badia,” both co-authored with G. Rollefson and A. Wasse. Also with Rollefson and Wasse, Rowan co-authored “Images of the Environment: Rock Art and the Exploitation of the Jordanian Badiah,” concerning research at Wisad Pools, a necropolis with a concentration of rock art in the basalt desert of eastern Jordan. This appeared in the Department of Antiquities new publication, *Journal of Epigraphy and Rock Drawings* (issue 2: 17–51). In June 2009, Rowan and Rollefson returned to Wisad Pools for a second field season to map major structures, primarily tower tombs, cairns, and enclosures in the central area around the pools. Lastly, his review of *More than Meets the Eye: Studies on Upper Paleolithic Diversity in the Near East*, edited by A. Nigel Goring-Morris and A. Belfer-Cohen (2003) appeared in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (issue 68/2: 109–10).

In August, Rowan visited Israel for preliminary archaeological site visits with colleagues, in order to plan the new Oriental Institute research initiative in the Lower Galilee. Visits to Chalcolithic (ca. 4500–3600 B.C.) sites narrowed the possible choices for the Oriental Institute field research project. During a follow-up visit, the site Marj Rabba (Har ha-Sha’avi, west) was chosen for initial excavations in a regional investigation of Chalcolithic sites. En route to Tel Aviv, a week was spent on the island of Koufinissi in the Cyclades working with geologist John Dixon on the final report of ground-stone material from Keros, the Early Bronze Age site recently excavated by Colin Renfrew’s team (during 2006–08).

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## Foy Scalf

Yet again, **Foy Scalf** found himself relentlessly busy throughout the 2008–2009 academic year. The Research Archives and his dissertation occupied much of his time, but he still managed to present several lectures and publish a number of articles. On August 29, Foy presented a paper entitled “Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online (O.I.D.O.O.)” at the 10th International Congress of Demotic Studies in Leuven, Belgium. On December 6, he gave a talk for the Chicago Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt on “Repelling the Enemies of Osiris: The Use of Magical Bricks in Ancient Egypt.” Foy’s article on the magical bricks from the Oriental

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Institute collection is scheduled to appear in the pages of the journal *Studien zur altägyptische Kultur* in 2009.

Foy continued to collaborate with recent NELC graduate Dr. Jackie Jay, now at Eastern Kentucky University, on the Oriental Institute Demotic ostraca, co-authoring a short article for the *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 200 (Winter) entitled “Accounting for Life in Ptolemaic and Roman Thebes: Online Access to Ancient Archives.” They co-authored and submitted a manuscript entitled “Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online (O.I.D.O.O.): Merging Text Publication and Research Tools” for publication in the proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Demotic Studies, to be published by Peeters in the series *Studia Demotica*. After being submitted to several colleagues for review, the O.I.D.O.O. database of Oriental Institute Demotic ostraca is set for an official launch in late summer. For updates, check the Web site <http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/oidoo/>.

During the year, several articles which had been in press appeared. March saw the appearance of Foy’s article “Rereading the 7th Count of Sneferu in the Palermo Stone” in *Göttinger Miszellen* 220 (2009), pp. 89–93. In June, his article “Statements of Identity and the *m* of Predication” appeared in *Lingua Aegyptia* 16 (2009), pp. 135–51. Another article, “Is That a Rhetorical Question? Shipwrecked Sailor (pHermitage 1115), 150 Reconsidered,” was accepted for publication in *Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde* 136/2 (2009), concerning the interpretation of a passage in the well-known Middle Egyptian literary work known as the Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor.

Foy is currently working on several articles. “The Gods Piercing of Gaze” concerns an ogdoad of deities charged with caring for Osiris featured in Ptolemaic temple scenes, the First Book of Breathing, the *Studenwachen*, Late Period coffins, the Book of the Dead, and the Coffin Texts. “An Enthographic Parallel for Egyptian Oracular Practice and the Maintenance of Cosmic Order” details a divinatory practice still held in a modern Indian village that very closely parallels the methods and motivations of traditional Egyptian oracles involving divine barks. Foy continued work editing several texts as mentioned in last year’s *Annual Report*, including Papyrus Rylands Hieratic 6 for his article “A Manuscript Containing the First and Second Books of Breathing in the John Rylands Library: Papyrus John Rylands Hieratic 6” and Notre Dame Hieratic Fragments 1–2 for his article “Two Hieratic Book of the Dead Texts on Linen from the Hesburgh Library of the University of Notre Dame.” Foy has also been invited to contribute an article to the 10th anniversary volume of *Cahiers Caribéens d’Égyptologie* 13–14.

## Andrea Seri

**Andrea Seri** joined the Oriental Institute in September 2008. During the academic year she made considerable progress on her book project “The House of Prisoners: Slavery and State in Uruk during the Revolt against Samsu-iluna.” This book studies the *bīt asīri* (“house of prisoners”) at the city of Uruk during the reign of king Rīm-Anum. The analysis is based on over 350 tablets covering a period of about two years (from ca. 1742 to 1740 B.C.). The archive is exceptional in that it offers an unparalleled opportunity to reconstruct certain bureaucratic procedures of the institution and therefore to investigate its function and role. The tablets also cast light on state management of forced labor and on the fate of men, women, and children taken as captives and brought to the city of Uruk during the revolts against the ruler of Babylon. The information



contained in these documents is fundamental to trace the status transition of captives turned into slaves. Since a section of the archive deals with flour allocated to messengers and emissaries from other kingdoms, it is also possible to investigate the diplomatic dealings of rebel kings and therefore aspects of the poorly known political history of the period.

Andrea is also working on the prosopography of texts dated to king Rīm-Anum of Uruk and preparing an edition of a group of cuneiform tablets from the Princeton Theological Seminary dealing with slaves. In the spring quarter she was invited to the University of California at Berkeley, where she conducted a workshop on “The House of Prisoners in Uruk.” At Berkeley Andrea also gave a lecture entitled “Borrowings to Create Anew: Intertextuality in the Babylonian Poem of Creation.” This lecture will be turned into an article for publication. She will spend the last two weeks of August working on Old Babylonian tablets in the British Museum.

## Oğuz Soysal

In 2008/2009 **Oğuz Soysal** continued his job with the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project. Much of his time has been spent writing articles on words beginning with *te / ti, tu* and editing the first drafts of the words *da-*, *dai-*, *tiya-*, also preparing the transliterations of the recent cuneiform editions *Keilschrifttexte aus Boğazköy*, vol. 47 and vol. 58, for the CHD files. His personal research has continued to focus on Hittite history/culture and the Hattian language. Soysal published the article “Philological Contributions to Hattian — Hittite Religion (I)” in the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 8/1 (2008): 45–46.

Furthermore, six more articles including four contributions for two European festschrifts and for the German series *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*, as well as two book reviews to be submitted to American journals have been prepared and are awaiting publication.

In 2008 Soysal continued to devote time to research activities for international representations as well. At the 7th Hittitological Congress in Çorum (Turkey) he read a paper on the designations of the drinking vessels and cult drinking practice among the Hittites. In further connection to this subject, since March 2009 Soysal has intensified his research on the Hittite animal-shaped cultic vessels according to the written sources. The philological results will be made public as part of a future co-operation with the German archaeologists in the frame of a dedicated study, and a brief summary of this will constitute the entry “Tiergefäß (Philologisch)” in the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*.

In addition, Soysal, in co-operation with Dr. Rukiye Akdoğan, the curator of the Museum of Ancient Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara, has edited nearly 400 unpublished tablets from Boğazköy with the siglum “AnAr” in a cuneiform publication entitled *Ankara Arkeoloji Müzesinde Bulunan Boğazköy Tabletleri II (ABoT II)*, which was successfully completed in May 2008 and submitted to the Oriental Institute in October 2008 for publication.

## Gil J. Stein

In July–August 2008 **Gil J. Stein** began a new field project in Syria, the Joint Syrian-American excavations at Tell Zeidan. Tell Zeidan is a large, prehistoric site spanning the sixth though the

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fifth millennia B.C., that is, Halaf, Ubaid, and Late Chalcolithic 1–2 periods. Tell Zeidan seems to have been a major town or regional center in the Ubaid period, roughly 5300–4500 B.C. The excavations are seeking to understand how the Ubaid culture spread from its original homeland into neighboring areas such as north Syria, while also examining the social, political, and economic organization of Ubaid society. A fuller description of the excavations is presented in the *Tell Zeidan Project Report* in this *Annual Report*.

Gil has also been continuing with the analysis of materials from his 1992–97 excavations at the fourth-millennium B.C. town of Hacinebi, in the Euphrates Valley of southeast Turkey. Hacinebi was a local Anatolian town where merchants from the Uruk culture of southern Mesopotamia established a trading colony in about 3700 B.C. Oriental Institute Volunteer Irene Glasner has helped us make major progress in scanning the slides of the Late Chalcolithic small finds from the site. Irene has scanned more than 2,500 slides and checked their numbers and captions against the photo logs. She has reached the halfway point in this massive undertaking, which should be completed in the coming year.

In April 2009 Gil was invited to present a lecture at the Anthropology Department of the University of California, San Diego; the topic of his talk was “The Emergence of Complexity in the Ubaid Period of Greater Mesopotamia: Local Identities and Inter-Regional Interaction in the 5th Millennium B.C.” On May 12, 2009, he presented the keynote lecture at the annual Rall Symposium at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. It was a special pleasure to re-affirm the ties between the Oriental Institute and North Central College, since the latter institution is the alma mater of Oriental Institute founder James Henry Breasted. On June 22, 2009, Gil presented the preliminary results of the 2008 excavations at Tell Zeidan at a “brown-bag” lunchtime lecture at the Oriental Institute. He also conducted a training workshop on archaeological excavation methods for a group of six Iraqi archaeological conservators and cultural heritage specialists who were participating in a six-month training program as part of the Iraqi Cultural Heritage Program (ICHP), sponsored by the Field Museum in co-operation with the Oriental Institute.

In 2008, Gil published one article, “A Theoretical Model for Political Economy and Social Identity in the Old Assyrian Trading Colonies of Anatolia,” in the Turkish Academy of Sciences journal of archaeology, *TÜBA-AR*.

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## Emily Teeter

**Emily Teeter** continues to work on the small finds from Medinet Habu and to finalize a book on ancient Egyptian religion for Cambridge University Press. The Medinet Habu volume should be at the printer by the time you read this, and the religion manuscript will also have been delivered, so she is looking forward to moving on to new projects. In the old projects column is her continuing collaboration with Branislav Anđelković, working on the Egyptian collection at the University of Belgrade.

Publications for the year included co-editing the catalog *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt* for the Oriental Institute special exhibit of the same name, a festschrift article on a Middle Kingdom statue head in our collection, and another on the connections between the Oriental Institute, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Field Museum. Several articles on Meresamun also appeared in the journal *KMT*.

Conferences and meetings for the year included two with CIPEG (Comité international pour l'égyptologie = International Committee for Egyptology, in the International Council of Museums [ICOM]), the first in Hannover and Hildesheim, the second in Atlanta, where Emily gave the keynote speech on the Meresamun exhibit. At the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Dallas, she was elected President of the organization, leading to a serious uptick in the volume of e-mail. She continues to be very active in the local chapter of ARCE.

She spoke in the Art Institute's Boshell Foundation Lecture Series on her research on a Late Period coffin and mummy in the Art Institute's collection, showing that the mummy, thought to be Weni-hotep, is not original to the coffin. She was invited to speak in Dallas, Indianapolis, and Atlanta in conjunction with the two "Tut" shows that are touring the United States, and she also spoke in Atlanta, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, and Seattle for the University of Chicago Alumni Association.

A highlight of independent travel was going to Beirut for Professor Emeritus Peter Dorman's inauguration as President of the American University of Beirut.

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## Theo van den Hout

On July 1, 2008, **Theo van den Hout** took over from Peter Dorman the chairmanship of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Of course, this task along with the editorship of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (see separate report) dominated his time. There was nevertheless some time also for personal research. During the summer he traveled to the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara, where he collated some 250 Hittite fragments in preparation for a volume of hand copies. He wrote a detailed entry on "Schreiber" for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*, and submitted two articles. One is entitled "A Century of Hittite Text Dating and Theories on the dating of the Hittite Cuneiform Script" for a thematic issue of the Italian journal *Incontri Linguistici*, and (together with Cem Karasu) "A Note on Hittite Envelopes and HKM 86" for the festschrift of a colleague. Clay envelopes as they can be seen in the Oriental Institute's Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery were a well-known way of transporting documents in the ancient Near East. Such covers were not yet known from Anatolia except for one possible example. Collation of the original in Ankara has now shown that this is not an envelope either. If the Hittites transported clay tablets they may have done so in, for instance, leather bags, but there is still no evidence for envelopes made of clay.

At a "brown-bag" lunch at the Oriental Institute, Theo presented his new ideas on Hittite text dating and the rise of literacy in Hittite society. It has been traditionally assumed that Hittites started to write their own language around 1650 B.C., immediately after having acquired the cuneiform script, but according to him this did not start until the beginning of the fifteenth century and literacy correspondingly developed later and much more gradually.

Theo delivered three outside lectures: "Scribes and Literacy in the Hittite Kingdom and Empire," during the 5<sup>es</sup> Journées de l'Orient, Entre Mer de Chine et Mer du Nord: Migrations des savoirs, transfert des connaissances, transmissions des sagesses; De l'antiquité à nos jours, in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, 11–13 March; "Some Thoughts on Hittite Writing and Administration in the Hittite Kingdom and Empire," at a conference devoted to Archivi, Depositi, Magazzini: Nuovi materiali e nuove ricerche sulle procedure di conservazione dei beni e di registrazione dei dati presso gli Ittiti, in Pavia, Italy, held on June 18; and "Die Frage der

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Existenz althethitischer Texte,” during the Internationaler Workshop: Neue Entwicklungen in der hethitologischen Forschung, at the Institut für Altorientalistik der Freien Universität Berlin, Germany, on July 2–3.

Since the previous *Annual Report* the following publications have appeared in print: “Seals and Sealing Practices in Hatti-Land: Remarks à propos the Seal Impressions from the *Westbau* in Ḫattuša” (*Journal of the American Oriental Society* 127/3 [2007]: 339–48); “Verwaltung der Vergangenheit. Record Management im Reiche der Hethiter” (in *Ḫattuša-Boğazköy: Das Hethiterreich im Spannungsfeld des alten Orients*, edited by G. Wilhelm, pp. 87–94. Colloquien der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft 6. Würzburg, 2006). Besides these, the entry “Sammeltafel” appeared in the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* as well as three reviews for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, *Kratylos*, and the *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*.

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## Donald Whitcomb

After a quiet summer, the year began in a most unusual way with two visitors. The first was Kristoffer Damgaard, an advanced doctoral student from Copenhagen, whom I had met at several conferences. He is now pursuing his dissertation subject on the Early Islamic cityscape, the archaeology of Aqaba (Ayla). This is a subject of great interest to me; indeed, we had intentionally left one quadrant of the site for the future. It appears that the future has arrived and is most welcome. Kristoffer and I spent the next two months reviewing the excavation seasons at Aqaba, the recording systems, and the artifacts in the Oriental Institute. Kristoffer has made extensive copies and photographs and the result should be a seamless transition to his new excavations. Alas, I fear that he will find approaches differing from what I might suggest but the result will be fascinating regardless. He has already offered a perspective on the role of this port in the cultural history of the Red Sea which greatly enhances my earlier suggestions.

My second visitor was Katia Cytryn-Silverman, from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. I was familiar with her research on Islamic archaeology of the north Sinai, and more directly as a reader for her dissertation, which she took summa cum laude. She came to Chicago with a new project, an idea for the location of the Congregational mosque (the *masjid jam'a*) in Tiberias. The site of Tiberias (Islamic al-Tabariya) has suffered through many excavations and salvage projects. Katia suggested a large covered market was actually the mosque, an idea we debated and she has now proven. Not to get too far ahead of my story, but since her return to Jerusalem, she has conducted excavations which prove her ideas, received a large multi-year grant to continue the research, and, most wonderful, received a tenure-track position in Islamic archaeology at Hebrew University.

I decided to find a common denominator between these guests and the interests of my students in Islamic archaeology. This was a seminar on “The Archaeology of Travel.” This would begin with a focus on “travel” in Islamic cultures, which would turn on four concepts: *hijra*, an idea of movement for a new religious life; *hajj*, the idea of pilgrimage found also in Christianity and Judaism; *rihla*, the idea of travel in search of knowledge and dispersion of scholarship; and *tijara*, another kind of profit, that of mercantile commerce which came to bind the entire Islamic world. This last aspect of travel may be the most susceptible to archaeological research. Commercial practice would seem to bind together the Red Sea ports for Kristoffer with the “road khans” or caravanserais which were the subject of Katia’s dissertation.

In late November, the American Schools of Oriental Research annual meeting was held in Boston; and this year proved exceptional, a turning point for Islamic archaeology. Over twenty papers were presented covering a wide variety of subjects. There were special papers on Islamic aspects of large excavations and special papers on Ottoman archaeology. A roundtable of the “Role of Empires” featured discussions of the Islamic periods organized by Bethany Walker, who also presented a special section on “ASOR at 40 Years” and its long history of Islamic research from the beginnings with Jim Sauer. Asa Eger and Debra Foran organized another of their panels on Byzantine and Islamic archaeology featuring work in Turkey. Finally, there was another session on “Landscape Archaeology,” in which I offered a paper on the urban landscape of Fustat utilizing the methodology suggested in Tony Wilkinson’s new book. It would appear that breadth and variety of Islamic subjects at ASOR have made it the equivalent of the MESA meetings for Islamicists interested in material culture in the Near East.

Then, in the middle of February, I traveled to Jerusalem where I lived for the next six months. This was at the invitation of Gideon Avni, who was taking a sabbatical from his position as director of antiquities to co-direct a research program in urbanism (see *Archaeology of Islamic Cities Project Report*). Though I had visited the West Bank briefly last year, my only visit to Jerusalem was some fifteen years ago (when I met a young student, Tracy Hoffman, who followed me back to Chicago and became my first doctoral student). As Gideon had guessed, after working in Egypt, Jordan, and Syria I was ready to see the archaeological sites in Israel.

My students have no doubt wearied of hearing me preach that one doesn’t understand an archaeological site until one stands on it. Now was an opportunity to put this into practice. Our research group held a seminar each week balanced with a visit to an archaeological site. As an example, we first went to Tel Aviv and visited Tell Qasile, a famous Bronze Age site. The tour was led by Amihai Mazar, its long-time excavator, who carefully pointed out to me the remains of an Islamic caravanserai (as well as some late “disturbances” near his ancient temples). There followed a succession of tours at urban sites such as Beth Shean (Baysan), lead by Yoram Tsafrir, who pointed out



**Figure 1.** Michael Eisenberg describes the site of Sussita (classical Hippos)



**Figure 2.** Right to left, Ken Holum and his wife Marsha, Yael Arnon, and Jan Johnson in the amphitheater on Caesarea



**Figure 3.** The qibla wall of the White Mosque at Ramla

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

to me the changes in the classical city in the early Islamic period; and Sussita in the Golan, where Michael Eisenberg discussed the history of this city, which at the time of my visit was completely covered with spring flowers (fig. 1). Then there was the trip to Akko, with standing Crusader and later buildings explained by Edna and Eliezer Stern. The list goes on (fig. 2) and the frustration is that, in this densely packed ancient land, there are always more sites to see and people ready to explain the past than one has time to experience.

This brings me to the second, even more pleasant aspect of my research in Israel. When I was finally able to visit Ramla (fig. 3), the early Islamic capital of the Jund Filastin (after trying to study the city for many years), I was guided by Ofer Sion, who was engaged in some salvage excavations in the modern town. As we sat in his temporary camp, I met Ron Toueg and Moti Haiman, both experienced archaeologists dealing with Islamic remains. Indeed, meeting young archaeologists who are either specializing in or seriously pursuing evidence for the Islamic periods is a wonderful revelation. One might even suggest that fieldwork in Islamic archaeology may be advancing faster here than anywhere else in the Middle East. The irony is not lost on some archaeologists, like Rafi Greenberg, who excavates at Beit Yerak (Khirbat Karak, first excavated by the Oriental Institute) and who is active in co-operation with Palestinian archaeologists and, in his words, multi-vocular interpretations of archaeological sites.

One of the more pleasurable aspects of my time in Jerusalem has been the continuing interaction with my students, both past and present. I was able to visit Tracy Hoffman at her excavations in Ashkelon. We put together a provisional type series of Islamic ceramics, from the earliest through Fatimid, which will make her famous when she refines and publishes it. I also visited Katherine Strange Burke, who with her husband Aaron is excavating Tell Jaffa; she has an amazing range of Mamluk through Ottoman materials which have at least as great potential. During my time at the Institute in Jerusalem, she and Edna Stern organized an Islamic ceramic workshop which brought together at least thirty interested scholars to observe (and handle) ceramics from a dozen sites. The co-operation and excitement led to calls for more such meetings.

While she is engaged in her dissertation research in Cairo, Tanya Treptow made the trip to Jerusalem (by bus across the Sinai, which proves that adventure is not gone for students). We toured the Old City, but the Rockefeller Museum really seemed to be the highlight. She appreciated the Khirbet Mafjar collection of stuccoes and the library, where I often work. It is very reminiscent of the Oriental Institute Research Archives. Rockefeller was a generous man but he seems to have used the same architect: even the window hardware is identical to that in Chicago. Slightly earlier, Asa Eger came to Jerusalem from Istanbul, where he holds a postdoctoral position at Koç University. He accompanied us on several site tours and even visited the site of Khirbet Mafjar near Jericho, his curiosity aroused by my constant references to its marvels during his studies.

I will save my further activities for the next *Annual Report*, as they will fall into the next “year,” and close only remembering the early expeditions that Breasted sent out to the Near East stayed for many more months and must have also been ready to return to Chicago.

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### Karen L. Wilson

During the past year, **Karen L. Wilson** continued to work on the final publication of the Oriental Institute excavations in the late 1950s and early 1960s at the sites of Nippur and Abu Salabikh in

Iraq. This work, sponsored by a grant awarded to McGuire Gibson by the National Endowment for the Humanities, is a joint project undertaken with Robert Biggs, Jean Evans, McGuire Gibson (University of Chicago), and Richard Zettler (University of Pennsylvania). The project so far has included the preparation of a digital catalog of finds plus the scanning of all negatives and drawings as well as most of the field records generated by work on the sites. A draft of a final publication covering the results of the excavation of the Inanna Temple at Nippur is planned to be completed by the end of 2010.

Karen also continued to serve as Kish Project Coordinator at the Field Museum, preparing the final publication of the results of the Joint Field Museum and Oxford University Expedition to Kish in 1923–1933. She organized a symposium in early November concerning ongoing research as part of the Kish project, which featured papers not only by American scholars but also by participants from England, Germany, and Japan. At the Field Museum Karen also curated a temporary exhibition, *Masterpieces of Ancient Jewelry*, that ran from February through July. In addition to pieces from the Levant, Iran, and the Islamic world, the exhibition included items from the Field Museum's Egyptian collection as well as two display cases featuring material from ancient Kish.

Karen's book, *Bismaya: Recovering the Lost City of Adab*, is currently in press at the Oriental Institute Publications Office.

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## Christopher Woods

**Christopher Woods** devoted this past year primarily to resurrecting and finishing a number of article-length projects, mainly in the area of Sumerian language and grammar. With the publication of his book, *The Grammar of Perspective: The Sumerian Conjugation Prefixes as a System of Grammatical Voice* in July 2008, the time was ripe to begin tying up these loose ends. One of these pieces represents, in part, a continuation of Chris's work on voice in Sumerian, offering a new grammatical understanding of the problematic first lines of the famous Sumerian creation myth, Enki and Ninhursag ("Grammar and Context: Enki and Ninhursag ll. 1–3 and a Curious Sumerian Construction"), rooting this understanding within the broader thematic and literary contexts. A second article explores an old system of spatial deixis in Sumerian, suggesting that the language, at some early point, made spatial distinctions with a three-degree set of contrastive adverbs of location with riverine referential origins. This distance-based system, visually perceived with respect to the location of the speaker, is conceptualized in terms of watercourses of varying widths, the dominant topographical feature of southern Mesopotamia. The essentials of this paper were presented at this year's meeting of the American Oriental Society in March. Other projects have included a long-unfinished study of demonstratives in Sumerian designated for a festschrift, and a paper detailing indigenous traditions of grammatical thought in Sumerian and Akkadian for the Cambridge History of Linguistics. Most ambitiously, and dauntingly, Chris has agreed to write a full-scale grammar of Sumerian for a new series edited by Josef Tropper and John Huehnergard for Ugarit-Verlag.

In September Chris gave a paper before the Chicago-Paris working group, *Rendre visible l'invisible: Pratiques religieuses de la représentation*, on the physical manifestations of the Sumerian concepts of *me* 'essence,' *nam-tar* 'fate,' and *me-lam* 'aura.' In October he gave a talk on recent advances and prospects in Sumerian grammar before the Canadian Society of

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Mesopotamian Studies at the University of Toronto. And in April Chris became the editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, succeeding Prof. Wadad Kadi. The editors are in the process of instituting a number of exciting changes that will take effect with the 2010 issue and will substantially alter the format and organization of the journal. Seth Sanders of Trinity College succeeds Chris as the editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Religions*, although Chris remains active on the editorial board.

There are two further exciting projects in the works for next year. With Andréas Stauder, Chris is organizing a conference for next April on “Linguistic Method and Theory and the Languages of the Ancient Near East.” The goal is for the many scholars, recent graduates, and students affiliated with the Oriental Institute, who make use of modern linguistic method and theory in their research, to present their work to a wider audience; a selection of the papers will be published through the Oriental Institute. Chris will also curate a Special Collections exhibit, set to open in fall 2010, which will be concerned with the invention of writing from a cross-cultural perspective, comparing the indigenous origins of writing in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Mesoamerica, and China. In addition to the general series of lectures, which will accompany the opening of the exhibit, the organizers are planning an academic-oriented conference on the topic, with, again, the goal of publishing the proceedings through the Oriental Institute.

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# RESEARCH SUPPORT

## COMPUTER LABORATORY

John C. Sanders

### PROJECTS

#### *The Oriental Institute Web Site*

I am asked every so often about access statistics for the Oriental Institute's Web site: are they up or down from last month? last year? etc. So I take this opportunity to present and compare several overall categories of access statistics for our Web site since 2004, when the University's Web Services Division began to host our Web site. Going back before 2004 for the comparison would be complicated by differences in the statistical software used on our Web site pre-2004 and the program Web Services operates today to generate access statistics. The three most telling numbers, and the ones least susceptible to manipulation due to the specific design of our Web pages, are: total number of visits; total number of unique visitors; and total number of pages served.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Visits</i>	<i>Number of Unique Visitors</i>	<i>Number of Pages Served</i>
2009 (January–June)	658,628	467,450	2,389,702
All of 2008	1,114,023	826,805	3,982,345
All of 2007	900,513	648,534	3,034,531
All of 2006	1,799,795	1,222,188	6,703,885
All of 2005	1,825,126	1,266,735	6,938,389
All of 2004	1,099,329	737,826	4,082,131

By way of partial explanation, the single largest reason for the spike in numbers across all three categories for 2004, 2005, and 2006 was the development and publication of our Iraq Museum Database on the Institute's Web site in late 2003. Under the direction of Dr. Clemens Reichel, the descriptions and photographs of possible objects stolen from the Iraq National Museum during its looting April 10–13, 2003, at the start of the Iraq War, was information which ancient Near Eastern scholars, students, and the general public worldwide were eager to obtain.

Overall, the numbers show gradual but steady growth in the past few years. The Institute's Web site continues to be a major, if not the major, portal for disseminating to the world at large the progress and results of Institute research projects and other scholarly endeavors by our faculty and staff. This fact is made even more pronounced through the efforts of our Electronic Publications Initiative (EPI), whereby all the Institute's print publications, going back to our founding in 1919, are being made available for free download from our Web site. Read more about the EPI below, as well as in the Publications Office portion of this *Annual Report*.

### ***Migration from the Eudora E-mail Program***

For the past dozen or so years the Eudora program has been the preferred choice by faculty and staff throughout the Institute for accessing university e-mail accounts. There were always gripes and issues, but overall Eudora functioned adequately. A built-in software limitation within the program's operations, however, foretold the end of Eudora's use on the University of Chicago network this past year when the University announced that due to security concerns it would no longer allow "unauthenticated" e-mails to be sent via the University's e-mail servers. The Eudora program could not accommodate the required changes to its "port" settings. Faced with a certain but unknown date for the mandatory switch to only "authenticated" e-mails, I spent most of October through February installing new e-mail software on the computers of all Eudora users throughout the building. The switch involved moving their e-mail accounts and address books from Eudora to one of several newer e-mail programs of the users' choosing. Migrating the mail accounts was not a major problem for most faculty and staff, but the same cannot be said of their respective address books. Let's just say I wasn't the happiest of campers for large portions of the winter months. We did get everyone converted, however, without any complete disasters, and with only one or two embarrassing faux pas on my part.

### ***Integrated Database***

After thorough review of the Integrated Database (IDB) Request for Information (RFI) documents returned by vendors, and their respective on-site demonstrations in fall 2008, the Institute's IDB committee this past year created a short list of three vendors whose software solutions best met our specifications for an integrated database of our Museum Registration records, Conservation records, and Museum Archives documentation; the Research Archives catalog; and various Research Project materials. With these specific solutions in mind, several avenues for obtaining financial underwriting for our IDB initiative were pursued. Both University of Chicago funding sources and outside, Federal, grant applications were submitted in fall and winter 2008, and we'll learn if our IDB initiative receives financial support from these agencies about the time this *Annual Report* goes to press. Being an optimist, I'll report of our choice of software vendor and product, its installation, and the process of initial data migration from our existing databases, textual documents, and image collections into the new IDB solution in next year's *Annual Report*.

### ***Oriental Institute Terabyte Storage Initiative***

As I write this *Annual Report* submission, the Institute's terabyte storage system, the OIA (Oriental Institute Archive), now totals 15.8 terabytes (15,800,000,000,000 bytes). For comparison purposes, a typed, double-spaced, 8 × 11" piece of paper is roughly 2,000 bytes! More than one hundred faculty, staff, and research project personnel have access to the OIA for archival storage of computer files and images, as well as for daily computer backup. As more of the Institute's historical records, cards, documents, photographs, and publications are converted to digital format the size of our terabyte storage system will continue to expand. I want to take this opportunity to thank Scott Branting, Robert Tate, Josh Trampier, and the entire CAMEL staff for their assistance in the maintenance and monitoring of this off-site computer storage space.

### ***Persepolis Fortification Archive***

During this past year, the Computer Lab continued to assist an ongoing collaboration of scholars imaging and recording of the Persepolis Fortification Archive (PFA) tablets: Matthew Stolper, the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project Director; the University's Humanities Computing department, especially Arno Bosse and Lec Maj; West Semitic Research Project at the University of Southern California; David and Sandra Schloen, and their On-Line Cultural Heritage Environment (OCHRE) program; and a small army of graduate students from the University of Chicago.

An additional computer scanning and image-capture station was set up in the project's basement facilities, and I stayed abreast of the scanning operations as they progressed throughout the year. And thanks to the generosity of Paula Manzuk, Secretary of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the project now has the loan of a department Hewlett-Packard laser printer, which I set up in their basement laboratory.

For additional information regarding this project, please read the Persepolis Fortification Archive section of this *Annual Report*, where Professor Stolper outlines in detail the current progress of the scanning and cataloging of these most important ancient texts. Also, up-to-date information about the project's work is available in the Persepolis Fortification Archive component on the Oriental Institute Web site.

### ***Building-wide Document Printing and Scanning***

The workable solution for student printing in the Research Archives, identified in summer 2008, turned out to have several unforeseen drawbacks that would complicate, not facilitate, our plans for Institute-wide printing to our current Xerox copiers. During the fall and winter I went back to the drawing boards and took a fresh look at our needs and funding. We will find a solution, but the particular combination of hardware, software, and configuration needed to implement ALL our printing and scanning goals has yet to be found. I will continue to search because the redundant or errant printing that has plagued the standalone Hewlett-Packard laser printers on the third floor and in the Research Archives continues, though admittedly at a reduced level throughout 2008–2009.

### ***Electronic Publications Initiative***

This past year saw major progress with the Institute's Electronic Publications Initiative. Seventy-five electronic versions of current or past Institute publications, in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), were made available for free download on the Institute's Web site. The vast majority of these new downloadable publications pertain to ancient Egypt, and the costs for their electronic preparation were offset through a most generous gift from Misty and Lewis Gruber. Their support of our Egyptological research is greatly appreciated.

The Institute's Electronic Publications Initiative dictates that current and future print publications produced by the Oriental Institute Publications Office are also made available electronically through the Institute's Web site. I encourage everyone to read that portion of the Publications Office section of this *Annual Report* regarding the status of the Institute's Electronic Publications Initiative, then visit the Catalog of Publications page on our Web site, where you will be able to download many past and current titles of our publications in electronic form:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/>

## COMPUTER LABORATORY

A list of the volume titles that were processed into digital format and made available to the public on the Institute's Web site during this past year can be found in the Electronic Resources section of this *Annual Report*.

Currently, 202 Oriental Institute publications are available as Adobe PDF. When fully implemented our Electronic Publications Initiative will make accessible all 400+ titles in our Publications Office catalog.

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For further information concerning the above-mentioned research projects and other electronic resources in general, refer to the What's New page on the Oriental Institute's Web site, at

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/news/>

See the *Electronic Resources* section of this *Annual Report* for the complete URL to each of the Web site resources mentioned in this article.

## ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

John C. Sanders

### Oriental Institute World-Wide Web Site

#### *New And Developing Resources*

(NOTE: all Web addresses below are case-sensitive)

Several Oriental Institute units and projects either updated existing pages or became a new presence on the Institute's Web site during the past year.

#### **ARCHAEOLOGY: Zincirli (ancient Sam'al) Project**

New Alphabetic Inscription from Zincirli (ancient Sam'al) in Southeast Turkey. On July 21, 2008, the Neubauer Expedition to Zincirli, directed by Professor David Schloen of the University of Chicago and by Associate Director Amir Fink, found an inscribed basalt stela at the site of Zincirli (pronounced zin-JEER-lee) in Gaziantep province in southeastern Turkey. The remarkably well-preserved stela, 70 cm wide × 95 cm tall, was found intact in its original location.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/news/zincirli.html>

<http://ochre.lib.uchicago.edu/zincirli/index.htm>

#### **MUSEUM: Special Exhibits**

Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/museum/special/catastrophe/>

The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/oimp29.html>

**PUBLICATIONS OFFICE: Electronic Publications**

MAD 2. *Old Akkadian Writing and Grammar*, by I. J. Gelb. Originally published in 1952.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/mad/mad2.html>

OIC 5. Medinet Habu 1924–28. Part 1: *The Epigraphic Survey of the Great Temple of Medinet Habu (Seasons 1924–25 to 1927–28)*. By Harold H. Nelson. Part 2: *The Architectural Survey of the Great Temple and Palace of Medinet Habu (Season 1927–28)*. By Uvo Hölscher. Originally published in 1929.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oic/oic5.html>

OIC 7. *Medinet Habu 1928–29*. Part 1: *The Architectural Survey*. By Uvo Hölscher. Part 2: *The Language of the Historical Texts Commemorating Ramses III*. By John A. Wilson. Originally published in 1930.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oic/oic7.html>

OIC 10. Medinet Habu Reports. Part 1. *The Epigraphic Survey, 1928–31*. By Harold H. Nelson. Part 2. *The Architectural Survey, 1929/30: Third Preliminary Report*. By Uvo Hölscher. Originally published in 1931.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oic/oic10.html>

OIC 12. *The Alphabet: Its Rise and Development from the Sinai Inscriptions*. By Martin Sprengling. Originally published in 1931.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oic/oic12.html>

OIC 15. *Excavations at Ancient Thebes, 1930/31*. By Uvo Hölscher. Originally published in 1932.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oic/oic15.html>

OIC 18. *Work in Western Thebes, 1931–33*. By Harold H. Nelson and Uvo Hölscher with a chapter by Siegfried Schott. Originally published in 1934.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oic/oic18.html>

OIC 27. *The Registry of the Photographic Archives of the Epigraphic Survey, with Plates from Key Plans Showing Locations of Theban Temple Decorations (H. H. Nelson)*. The Epigraphic Survey. Originally published in 1995.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oic/oic27.html>

OIC 28. *Bir Umm Fawakhir Survey Project 1993: A Byzantine Gold-Mining Town in Egypt*. C. Meyer, L. A. Heidorn, W. E. Kaegi, and T. Wilfong. Originally published in 2000.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oic/oic28.html>

OINE 2. *Ausgrabungen von Khor-Dehmit bis Bet El-Wali*. H. Ricke. Originally published in 1967.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oine/oine2.html>

OINE 6. Excavations Between Abu Simbel and the Sudan Frontier, Part 6. *New Kingdom Remains from Cemeteries R, V, S, and W at Qustul and Cemetery K at Adindan*. B. B. Williams. Originally published in 1992.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oine/oine6.html>

## ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

OIP 3. The Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus 1. *Hieroglyphic Transliteration, Translation, and Commentary*. J. H. Breasted. Originally published in 1930.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip3.html>

OIP 4. The Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus 2. *Facsimile Plates and Line for Line Hieroglyphic Transliteration*. J. H. Breasted. Originally published in 1930.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip4.html>

OIP 10. *Paleolithic Man and the Nile-Faiyum Divide: A Study of the Region during Pliocene and Pleistocene Times*. K.S. Sandford and W.J. Arkell. Originally published in 1929.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip10.html>

OIP 17. *Paleolithic Man and the Nile-Faiyum Divide in Nubia and Upper Egypt: A Study of the Region during Pliocene and Pleistocene Times*. By K. S. Sandford and W. J. Arkell. Originally published in 1933.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip17.html>

OIP 18. *Paleolithic Man and the Nile Valley in Upper and Middle Egypt: A Study of the Region during Pliocene and Pleistocene Times*. By K. S. Sandford. Prehistoric Survey of Egypt and Western Asia 3. Originally published in 1934.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip18.html>

OIP 34. The Egyptian Coffin Texts 1. *Texts of Spells 1–75*. By Adriaan de Buck. Originally published in 1935.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip34.html>

OIP 41. The Excavation of Medinet Habu 2. *The Temples of the Eighteenth Dynasty*. By Uvo Hölscher. Originally published in 1939.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip41.html>

OIP 46. *Paleolithic Man and the Nile Valley in Lower Egypt with Some Notes upon a Part of the Red Sea Littoral: A Study of the Regions during Pliocene and Pleistocene Times*. By K. S. Sandford and W. J. Arkell. Prehistoric Survey of Egypt and Western Asia 4. Originally published in 1939.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip46.html>

OIP 49. The Egyptian Coffin Texts 2. *Texts of Spells 76–163*. By Adriaan de Buck. Originally published in 1929.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip49.html>

OIP 54. The Excavation of Medinet Habu 3. *The Mortuary Temple of Ramses III, Part 1*. By Uvo Hölscher. Originally published in 1941.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip54.html>

OIP 64. The Egyptian Coffin Texts 3. *Texts of Spells 164–267*. By Adriaan de Buck. Originally published in 1947.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip64.html>

OIP 66. The Excavation of Medinet Habu 5. *Post-Ramessid Remains*. By Uvo Hölscher. Originally published in 1954.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip66.html>

OIP 67. The Egyptian Coffin Texts 4. *Texts of Spells 268–354*. By Adriaan de Buck. Originally published in 1951.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip67.html>

OIP 71. *Coptic Ostraca from Medinet Habu*. By Elizabeth Stefanski and Miriam Lichtheim. Originally published in 1952.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip71.html>

OIP 73. The Egyptian Coffin Texts 5. *Texts of Spells 355–471*. By Adriaan de Buck. Originally published in 1954.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip73.html>

OIP 80. *Demotic Ostraca from Medinet Habu*. By Miriam Lichtheim. Originally published in 1957.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip80.html>

OIP 81. The Egyptian Coffin Texts 6. *Texts of Spells 472–787*. By Adriaan de Buck. Originally published in 1956.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip81.html>

OIP 82. *The Egyptian Book of the Dead: Documents in the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago*. Edited by Thomas George Allen. Originally published in 1960.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip82.html>

OIP 86. *The Tomb of Tjanefer at Thebes*. By Keith C. Seele. Originally published in 1959.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip86.html>

OIP 87. The Egyptian Coffin Texts 7. *Texts of Spells 787–1185*. By Adriaan de Buck. Originally published in 1961.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip87.html>

OIP 94. Medinet Habu 8. *The Eastern High Gate with Translations of Texts*. The Epigraphic Survey. Originally published in 1970.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip94.html>

OIP 106. The Great Hypostyle Hall at Karnak 1. Part 1: *The Wall Reliefs*. By Harold H. Nelson. Edited by William J. Murnane. Originally published in 1981.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip106.html>

OIP 113. *The Oriental Institute Hawara Papyri: Demotic and Greek Texts from an Egyptian Family Archive in the Fayum (Fourth to Third Century B.C.)*. G. R. Hughes and R. Jasnow. Originally published in 1997.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip113.html>

## ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

OIP 130. Chogha Mish 2. *The Development of a Prehistoric Regional Center in Lowland Susiana, Southwestern Iran: Final Report on the Last Six Seasons of Excavations, 1972–1978*. Abbas Alizadeh. 2008.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip130.html>

OIP 132. The Egyptian Coffin Texts 8. *Middle Kingdom Copies of Pyramid Texts*. James P. Allen. 2006.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip132.html>

OIP 134. The Archaeology and Geography of Ancient Transcaucasian Societies 1. *The Foundations of Research and Regional Survey in the Tsaghkahovit Plain, Armenia*. Adam T. Smith, Ruben S. Badalyan, Pavel Avetisyan. With contributions by Alan Greene and Leah Minc. 2009.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip134.html>

OIP 135. Kerkenes Special Studies 1. *Sculpture and Inscriptions from the Monumental Entrance to the Palatial Complex at Kerkenes Dağ, Turkey*. Catherine M. Draycott and Geoffrey D. Summers, with contribution by Claude Brixhe and Turkish summary translated by G. Bike Yazicioglu. 2008.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip135.html>

OIS 5. *Nomads, Tribes, and the State in the Ancient Near East: Cross-disciplinary Perspectives*. Edited by Jeffrey Szuchman. 2009.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/ois/ois5.html>

SAOC 1. *Notes on Egyptian Marriage Chiefly in the Ptolemaic Period*. William F. Edgerton. Originally published in 1931.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc1.html>

SAOC 8. *The Thutmosid Succession*. William F. Edgerton. Originally published in 1933.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc8.html>

SAOC 12. *Historical Records of Ramses III: The Texts in Medinet Habu*, volumes 1 and 2. Translated with Explanatory Notes. William F. Edgerton and John A. Wilson. Originally published in 1936.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc12.html>

SAOC 16. *The Monasteries of the Fayyum*. Nabia Abbott. Originally published in 1937.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc16.html>

SAOC 19. *The Coregency of Ramses II with Seti I and the Date of the Great Hypostyle Hall at Karnak*. Keith C. Seele. Originally published in 1940.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc19.html>

SAOC 26. *The Calendars of Ancient Egypt*. Richard A. Parker. Originally published in 1950.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc26.html>

SAOC 27. *Occurrences of Pyramid Texts with Cross Indexes of These and Other Egyptian Mortuary Texts*. Thomas George Allen. Originally published in 1950.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc27.html>



- SAOC 28. *Saite Demotic Land Leases*. George Robert Hughes. Originally published in 1952.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc28.html>
- SAOC 30. *Wall Scenes from the Mortuary Chapel of the Mayor Paser at Medinet Habu*. By Siegfried Schott. Translated By Elizabeth B. Hauser. Originally published in 1957.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc30.html>
- SAOC 33. *Late Ramesside Letters*. Edward F. Wente. Originally published in 1967.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc33.html>
- SAOC 34. *A Study of the Ba Concept in Ancient Egyptian Texts*. Louis V. Zabkar. Originally published in 1968.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc34.html>
- SAOC 35. *Studies in Honor of John A. Wilson*. E. B. Hauser, ed. Originally published in 1969.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc35.html>
- SAOC 37. *The Book of the Dead or Going Forth by Day: Ideas of the Ancient Egyptians Concerning the Hereafter as Expressed in Their Own Terms*. Translated by Thomas George Allen. Originally published in 1974.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc37.html>
- SAOC 39. *Studies in Honor of George R. Hughes, January 12, 1977*. J. H. Johnson and E. F. Wente, eds. Originally published in 1976.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc39.html>
- SAOC 40. *Ancient Egyptian Coregencies*. William J. Murnane. Originally published in 1977.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc40.html>
- SAOC 47. *Essays in Ancient Civilization Presented to Helene J. Kantor*. A. Leonard, Jr., and B. B. Williams, eds. Originally published in 1989.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc47.html>
- SAOC 48. *Egyptian Phyles in the Old Kingdom: The Evolution of a System of Social Organization*. By Ann Macy Roth. Originally published in 1991.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc48.html>
- SAOC 52. *A Late Period Hieratic Wisdom Text (P. Brooklyn 47.218.135)*. R. Jasnow. Originally published in 1992.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc52.html>
- SAOC 55. *For His Ka: Essays Offered in Memory of Klaus Baer*. D. P. Silverman, ed. Originally published in 1994.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc55.html>
- SAOC 56. *Portrait Mummies from Roman Egypt (I–IV Centuries A.D.) with a Catalog of Portrait Mummies in Egyptian Museums*. Lorelei H. Corcoran. Originally published in 1995.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc56.html>

## ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

SAOC 57. *The Presentation of Maat: Ritual and Legitimacy in Ancient Egypt*. Emily Teeter. Originally published in 1997.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc57.html>

SAOC 58. *Gold of Praise: Studies on Ancient Egypt in Honor of Edward F. Wente*. E. Teeter and J. A. Larson, eds.. Originally published in 2000.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc58.html>

*Ancient Egyptian Paintings Selected, Copied, and Described 3: Descriptive Text*. Nina M. Davies with the Editorial Assistance of Alan H. Gardiner. Originally published in 1936.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/paintings3.html>

*Ancient Textiles from Nubia: Meroitic, X-Group, and Christian Fabrics from Ballana and Qustul*. Christa C. Mayer Thurman and Bruce Williams. Originally published in 1979.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/textiles.html>

*Early Hydraulic Civilization in Egypt: A Study in Cultural Ecology*. Karl W. Butzer. Originally published in 1976.

[http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/early\\_hydraulic.html](http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/early_hydraulic.html)

*Egyptology at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*. The Oriental Institute. Originally published in 1983.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/egyptology.html>

*Kingship and the Gods: A Study of Ancient Near Eastern Religion as the Integration of Society and Nature*. Henri Frankfort. Originally published in 1948.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/kingship.html>

*Letters from Egypt and Iraq, 1954*. Margaret Bell Cameron. Originally published in 2001.

[http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/cameron\\_letters.html](http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/cameron_letters.html)

*Most Ancient Egypt*. William C. Hayes. Originally published in 1965.

[http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/most\\_ancient.html](http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/most_ancient.html)

*Quseir al-Qadim 1978: Preliminary Report*. Donald S. Whitcomb and Janet H. Johnson. Originally published in 1979.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/quseir.html>

*Quseir al-Qadim 1980: Preliminary Report*. Donald S. Whitcomb and Janet H. Johnson. Originally published in 1982.

[http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/quseir\\_1980.html](http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/quseir_1980.html)

*Signs and Wonders upon Pharaoh: A History of American Egyptology*. John A. Wilson. Originally published in 1964.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/signs.html>

*The Burden of Egypt: An Interpretation of Ancient Egyptian Culture*. John A. Wilson. Originally published in 1951.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/culture.html>

*The Culture of Egypt*. By John A. Wilson. Originally published in 1956.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/burden.html>

*United with Eternity: A Concise Guide to the Monuments of Medinet Habu.* William J. Murnane. Originally published in 1980.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/united.html>

*When Egypt Ruled the East.* By George Steindorff and Keith C. Seele, Revised by Keith C. Seele. Originally published as second edition in 1957.

[http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/when\\_egypt.html](http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/when_egypt.html)

## **PUBLICATIONS OFFICE: Oriental Institute Annual Reports**

2003–2004

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/ar/03-04/>

2004–2005

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/ar/04-05/>

2005–2006

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/ar/05-06/>

2006–2007

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/ar/06-07/>

2007–2008

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/ar/07-08/>

## **RESEARCH ARCHIVES: Research Archives Catalog Online**

The Oriental Institute's on-line catalogue of the Research Archives has significantly increased the retrospective cataloging of material from before 1990. The total number of records stands at 322,000+.

<http://oilib.uchicago.edu>

Oriental Institute Research Archives Acquisitions Lists

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/AcquisitionsList-May2009.pdf>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/AcquisitionsList-April2009.pdf>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/AcquisitionsList-March2009.pdf>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/AcquisitionsList-February2009.pdf>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/AcquisitionsList-January2009.pdf>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/AcquisitionsList-December2008.pdf>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/AcquisitionsList-November2008.pdf>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/AcquisitionsList-October2008.pdf>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/AcquisitionsList-September2008.pdf>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/AcquisitionsList-August2008.pdf>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/AcquisitionsList-July2008.pdf>

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

Archaeological Texts and Contexts on the Red Sea: The Sheikh's House at Quseir al-Qadim: A Dissertation Presented to The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations by Katherine Strange Burke. The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago, June 2007.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/dissertation/strangeburke.html>

**SYMPOSIA**

Science and Superstition: Interpretation of Signs in the Ancient World

March 6–7, 2009.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/symposia/2009.html>

**INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP: John Brinkman**

Mesopotamian Directory 2009

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/MesDir.pdf>

**INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP: Norman Golb**

Guide to the Current New York Exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls

[http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/dds\\_new\\_york\\_exhibit\\_2008.html](http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/dds_new_york_exhibit_2008.html)

On the Jerusalem Origin of the Dead Sea Scrolls

[http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/is/jerusalem\\_origin\\_diss.html](http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/is/jerusalem_origin_diss.html)

**INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP: Seth Richardson**

A database of Late Old Babylonian personal names derived from cuneiform texts chiefly dating to the reigns of the last three kings of the First Dynasty of Babylon, 1683–1595 B.C.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/lobpni>

**INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP: Foy Scalf and Jacqueline Jay**

The Oriental Institute Museum houses a large collection of nearly 900 Demotic ostraca, pottery sherds upon which ancient scribes recorded a wide variety of text types. The vast majority of the corpus concerns economic matters and consists of receipts, contracts, memos, and lists, but there is a small selection of other genres such as votive and astrological texts. The O.I.D.O.O database was developed as both a scholarly research tool and a means for the publication of the unpublished Oriental Institute Demotic ostraca.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/oidoo/>

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Although Charles Jones is no longer in charge of the Oriental Institute's Research Archives, he still actively maintains several vital electronic resources for ancient Near Eastern studies just as he had done during his tenure in Chicago. Thank you, Chuck, for your continuing service to the field, and our faculty, staff, and students.

ABZU: Guide to Resources for the Study of the Ancient Near East Available on the Internet

<http://www.etana.org/abzu>

### **ETANA: Electronic Tools and Ancient Near Eastern Archives: Core Texts**

A substantial selection of digitized titles from the collections of the Research Archives has been added to the ETANA Core Texts this year.

<http://www.etana.org/coretexts.shtml>

### **IRAQCRISIS**

A moderated list for communicating substantive information on cultural property damaged, destroyed, or lost from libraries and museums in Iraq during and after the war in April 2003, and on the worldwide response to the crisis. A component of the Oriental Institute's response to the cultural heritage crisis in the aftermath of the war in Iraq, this list provides a moderated forum for the distribution of information.

<http://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/iraqcrisis>

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## **PUBLICATIONS OFFICE**

### **Thomas G. Urban**

The full-time staff of the Publications Office consisted of Thomas G. Urban and Leslie Schramer. After six years of extremely careful and attentive work, Senior Editorial Assistant Katie L. Johnson resigned. New to the team this year are Sabahat Adil, Aliya Bagewadi, and Felicia Whitcomb.

The Publications Office continues to assist the Membership and Development Offices with the publication of *News & Notes*, *Annual Report*, and miscellaneous postcards, brochures, and posters. While the print publication of this year's *Annual Report* is once again in black and white, we have posted a full-color PDF version online. View it at the Oriental Institute Web site: <http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/ar/>. Also, this year saw the Publications Office increase its role in the postdoctoral seminar, now keeping and producing the seminar documentation. We very much enjoyed working with this year's Postdoctoral Fellow Amar Annus.

### **Sales**

The David Brown Book Company and Oxbow Books, Ltd., U.K., continue to represent the Institute for its book distribution. Although a limited number of titles are available for in-house sales in the Suq shop, please note that all external orders for Institute publications should be addressed to: The David Brown Book Company, P.O. Box 511, Oakville, CT 06779; Telephone Toll Free: 1-800-791-9354; Fax: 1-860-945-9468; E-mail: [david.brown.bk.co@snet.net](mailto:david.brown.bk.co@snet.net); Web site: [www.oxbowbooks.com](http://www.oxbowbooks.com).

## PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

Information related to the sales of Oriental Institute titles may be obtained via e-mail:

oi-publications@uchicago.edu

## Electronic Publications

As part of the Oriental Institute's Electronic Initiative, all new titles are simultaneously issued in print and as Adobe Acrobat PDF (Portable Document Format) files delivered through the Oriental Institute's Web site. Older titles are scanned, saved as .tif and .pdf files, with the latter being posted online, as time and funds permit. This year the Oriental Institute was very fortunate to receive generous support from Misty and Lewis Gruber that will allow every Egyptological title published by the Institute — 124 books — since its inception to be scanned and distributed on the Internet at no cost to the end user.

This year, due to the generous support of Misty and Lewis Gruber, the Publications Office oversaw the scanning of the following seventy older Egyptological titles: Oriental Institute Communications (OIC) 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 18, 27, 28; Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition (OINE) 2, 6; Oriental Institute Publications (OIP) 3, 4, 10, 17, 18, 34, 41, 46, 49, 54, 64, 66, 67, 71, 73, 80, 81, 82, 86, 87, 94, 106, 113; Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization (SAOC) 1, 8, 12, 16, 19, 26, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 35, 37, 39, 40, 47, 48, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58; and the following miscellaneous titles: *Early Hydraulic Civilization in Egypt: A Study in Cultural Ecology*, by Karl W. Butzer; *Egyptology at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*, by Oriental Institute Egyptologists; *United with Eternity: A Concise Guide to the Monuments of Medinet Habu*, by William J. Murnane; *Letters from Egypt and Iraq, 1954*, by Margaret Bell Cameron; *Signs and Wonders upon Pharaoh: A History of American Egyptology*, by John A. Wilson; *The Burden of Egypt: An Interpretation of Ancient Egyptian Culture*, by John A. Wilson; *Quseir Al-Qadim 1978: Preliminary Report*, by D. S. Whitcomb and J. H. Johnson; *Quseir al-Qadim 1980: Preliminary Report*, by Donald S. Whitcomb and Janet H. Johnson; *Ancient Textiles from Nubia: Meroitic, X-Group, and Christian Fabrics from Ballana and Qustul*, by Christa C. Mayer Thurman and Bruce Williams; *Most Ancient Egypt*, by William C. Hayes; *When Egypt Ruled the East*, by George Steindorff and Keith C. Seele, revised by Keith C. Seele; *The Culture of Egypt*, by John A. Wilson; *Kingship and the Gods: A Study of Ancient Near Eastern Religion as the Integration of Society and Nature*, by Henri Frankfort; *Ancient Egyptian Paintings Selected, Copied, and Described. Volume 3: Descriptive Text*, by Nina M. Davies with the editorial assistance of Alan H. Gardiner; and *The Culture of Ancient Egypt: An Interpretation of Ancient Egyptian Culture*, by John A. Wilson. The URLs for these titles are listed in *Electronic Resources*, above. The final batch of fifty-six Egyptological titles have been scanned and are being prepared for distribution.

To do the book scanning, the Oriental Institute chose Northern MicroGraphics (NMT Corporation, <http://normicro.com>), located in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The Electronic Initiative has already proved to be very successful. The posted PDFs are available wherever the Internet reaches, and our older titles, as well as new titles, are especially appreciated in countries that do not have our books on their library shelves. The following comment was received from a senior research associate at the Armenian Egyptology Centre:

“I just wanted to drop you a line to say how much I appreciate your and the Oriental Institute's continued uploads of the digital publications. They are a true goldmine of information and making these freely available for all is one of the most generous and useful feats of any Egyptological institution I've ever seen.”

### Volumes Printed (In Print and Online)

1. Chogha Mish 2. *A Prehistoric Regional Center in Lowland Susiana, Southwestern Iran: Final Report on the Last Six Seasons of Excavations, 1972–1978*. Abbas Alizadeh. OIP 130.
2. *The Mechanics of Ancient Egyptian Magical Practice*. Robert K. Ritner. SAOC 54. Fourth printing.
3. *Performing Death: Social Analyses of Funerary Traditions in the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean*. Edited by Nicola Laneri. OIS 3. Second printing.
4. Kerkenes Special Studies 1. *Sculpture and Inscriptions from the Monumental Entrance to the Palatial Complex at Kerkenes, Turkey*. Catherine M. Draycott and Geoffrey D. Summers. OIP 135
5. *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*. Edited by Emily Teeter and Janet H. Johnson. OIMP 29
6. *Nomads, Tribes, and the State in the Ancient Near East: Cross-disciplinary Perspectives*. Edited by Jeffrey Szuchman. OIS 5
7. The Archaeology and Geography of Ancient Transcaucasian Societies 1. *The Foundations of Research and Regional Survey in the Tsaghkahovit Plain, Armenia*. Adam T. Smith, Ruben S. Badalyan, and Pavel Avetisyan. OIP 134

### Volumes in Preparation

1. *Baked Clay Figurines and Votive Beds from Medinet Habu*. Emily Teeter.
2. *The Monumental Complex of King Ahmose at Abydos, Volume 1. The Pyramid Temple of Ahmose and Its Environs: Architecture and Decoration*. Stephen P. Harvey.
3. *The 1996–1997 Survey Seasons at Bir Umm Fawakhir*. Carol A. Meyer.
4. *Bismaya: Recovering the Lost City of Adab*. Karen L. Wilson.
5. Hamoukar, Volume 1. *Urbanism and Cultural Landscapes in Northeastern Syria: The Tell Hamoukar Survey, 1999–2001*. Jason A. Ur.
6. Medinet Habu, Volume IX. *The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, Part 1: The Inner Sanctuaries. The Epigraphic Survey*.
7. *Megiddo: Cultural Crossroads of the Ancient Near East*. Gabrielle Novacek.
8. *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Volume U/W*.

## RESEARCH ARCHIVES

Foy Scalf

### Introduction

The collection of the Research Archives today is approaching 50,000 volumes. To date, we have processed 330,000 records into our online catalog. It's hard to believe that forty years ago, prior to the 1970 consolidation of University library materials into the Joseph Regenstein library, the Oriental Institute library had approximately 50,000 volumes in its collection and 400,000 index cards in its card catalog. It has taken nearly forty years to rebuild the collection. After the 1972–73 foundation of the Research Archives under the directorship of John A. Brinkman, the greatest library transformation came in the form of electronic library catalogs and the launching of the Research Archives online catalog in 1990 (<http://oilib.uchicago.edu>). From 1990 until 2004, 130,00 records were cataloged. In only the past five years, however, we have more than doubled that number.

Our online catalog has always been a leader in the field of ancient Near Eastern studies. Not only is it a book-finding tool for the library, it also serves as an interface to bibliographic research, indexing the ever-increasing volume of publications appearing in our fields of study. Fortunately, my predecessors in the Research Archives have been quite forward-thinking and made this catalog accessible to the public as well as to the scholarly community. While the collection of the Research Archives is not publicly accessible, being open only to members, students, staff, and faculty of the Oriental Institute, our public face remains the Oriental Institute Web site and our online catalog. This relationship is becoming more important as information quickly turns digital, allowing for instant publication and distribution across the globe.

Contemplating our user base, it is immediately apparent that the number of our internal patrons is rather limited to the “regulars”: long-time faculty, Ph.D. students, and project staff. However, our public presence on the Web has a potentially limitless pool of researchers, restricted only by the size of the fields of ancient Near Eastern studies and the public's interest. When it comes to making our work available, the Oriental Institute is truly leading the field. Through generous help from our supporters, the Oriental Institute has begun offering digital copies of its publications for free over the Internet. This means that scholars and the general public alike can conduct research through Oriental Institute publications anytime and anywhere an Internet connection is available.

As the head of the premier research library for the ancient Near East in the Western Hemisphere, I believe open access to our research materials is a crucial step toward increasing public awareness of our science as well as leveling the playing field for scholars who may not have access to collections such as the Research Archives. In that vein, the Research Archives has begun scanning out of copyright material and making it available for download through our online catalog. Within the last year, we have scanned over 100 volumes which are now freely accessible. Through these efforts, we hope not only to advance knowledge within our fields, but also to make it possible for anyone with the desire to share in our passion for all things ancient Near East.

### Acquisitions

Our acquisition efforts were strong again in 2008–2009 and we saw a 15 percent increase over last year in the number of volumes acquired. However, this number fluctuates depending upon the increasing cost of books and shipping as well as the number of books published in any given



year. The increase is mostly the result of the sale of our duplicate material to Dove Book Publishers, providing us with additional purchasing revenue; acquisition of de-accessioned Regenstein material; processing of volumes long held in storage; and an increase in donations, which also constituted an important portion of our acquisitions this year. The following numbers reflect our monthly acquisitions over the past twelve months:

	<i>Monographs, Series, Pamphlets</i>	<i>Journals</i>	<i>Total</i>
July 2008	122	66	188
August 2008	154	38	192
September 2008	92	25	117
October 2008	111	36	147
November 2008	33	32	65
December 2008	20	34	54
January 2009	46	26	72
February 2009	28	39	67
March 2009	42	20	62
April 2009	47	18	65
May 2009	41	23	64
June 2009	126	31	157
<b>Totals</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>1,250</b>

## Online Catalog

As described briefly in the introduction above, the online catalog of the Research Archives continues to be an indispensable tool for bibliographic information concerning ancient Near Eastern studies. In the past year, we have added approximately 35,000 new records to the catalog, bringing the total number of records in the catalog to 330,000. All new material acquired by the Research Archives has been cataloged and we are currently working our way through the retrospective cataloging. The monographs are now finally nearing completion, with only twenty shelves or three columns from Pa to Pr to go. By the time you read this report, we should be completely finished cataloging the monographs, bringing us one step closer to complete coverage of the Oriental Institute's library collection.

Only the pamphlets and the journals remain in our retrospective cataloging project. Perhaps 40 percent of the journals have been cataloged and less than 20 percent of the pamphlets, leaving a massive job ahead that will easily take five to seven years to complete at our current pace. Only a sudden influx of funds or volunteers will reduce this estimate. However, we have been very successful at incorporating links to online material into our catalog. We now have approximately 65,000 links to online publications. The majority of these links connect to journal articles, a list of which you will find below. This allows researchers the incredible convenience of going straight to an article or book from our catalog from any Internet connection in the world. Twenty percent of our catalog records already link to online files and as we continue to compile such links, more

## RESEARCH ARCHIVES

and more patron searches of our catalog will not only result in bibliographic information, but the item itself! In the near future, we will be adding the 581 links to articles from *Studien zur ägyptischen Kultur*, the many thousands of links to reviews from *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung*, and the large collection of articles from *Biblica*.

Call Number	Journal Title	Links	Access
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>	14,303	JSTOR
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>	10,690	JSTOR/AJA
Syria	<i>Syria</i>	5,351	JSTOR
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>	4,854	JSTOR/JNES
JEA	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>	3,950	JSTOR
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research</i>	3,646	JSTOR
ZDMG	<i>Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft</i>	2,835	Open
BIAR	<i>Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly Biblical Archaeologist)</i>	2,006	JSTOR
ZA	<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>	1,476	Open
JESHO	<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>	1,444	JSTOR
CRAIBL	<i>Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres. Comptes rendus</i>	1,168	Open
BIFAO	<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale</i>	1,133	Open
JCS	<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>	1,132	JSTOR
JARCE	<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>	1,053	JSTOR
RBL	<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>	925	Open
IRQ	<i>Iraq</i>	876	JSTOR
ANS	<i>Anatolian Studies</i>	683	JSTOR
FUB	<i>Forschungen und Berichte</i>	673	JSTOR
IRN	<i>Iran</i>	601	JSTOR
JANES	<i>Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society</i>	322	Open
Orj	<i>Orient: Report of the Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan</i>	299	Open
ARO	<i>Ars Orientalis</i>	206	JSTOR
BSEG	<i>Bulletin: Société d'Égyptologie Genève</i>	135	Open
LingAeg	<i>Lingua Aegyptia</i>	46	Open

<i>Call Number</i>	<i>Journal Title</i>	<i>Links</i>	<i>Access</i>
StOr	<i>Studia Orontica</i>	32	Open
ARTA	<i>Achaemenid Research on Texts and Archaeology</i>	29	Open
CDLJ	<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Journal</i>	21	Open
CDLB	<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Bulletin</i>	17	Open
ENiM	<i>Égypte Nilotique et Méditerranéenne</i>	6	Open
CDLN	<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Notes</i>	4	Open
<b>Total</b>		<b>59,916</b>	

## Resources on the Web

In addition to the online catalog, the Research Archives maintains a series of open access online resources.

### *Dissertations*

With the permission of the authors, we make available dissertations completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago (<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/dissertation/>). In the past year we added the following:

Sociolinguistics of the Luvian Language: A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations by Ilya Yakubovich. The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago, June 2008.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/dissertation/yakubovich.html>

The Sacrificial Economy: On the Management of Sacrificial Sheep and Goats at the Neo-Babylonian/Achaemenid Eanna Temple of Uruk (c. 625–520 B.C.): A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations by Michael Kozuh. The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago, March 2006.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/dissertation/kozuh.html>

### *Acquisitions Lists*

The acquisitions reports of the Research Archives are distributed in .pdf format on a monthly basis. This process has been active and continuative since September 2007.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/acquisitions.html>

### *Annual Reports*

Annual Reports for the Research Archives are available from 1991–2008.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/annualreports.html>

**Monographs**

Our biggest addition to online resources this year has been the collection of books available through links in the online catalog. The following books are now available:

- Balkan, Kemal. *Ankara arkeoloji müzesinde bulunan Bogazköy tabletleri. Bogazköy-Tafeln im archäologischen Museum zu Ankara*. Eski Eserler ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü yayınlarından, Seri 3, sayı 3. Istanbul: Millî Eğitim Basimevi, 1948.
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## Visitors

The Research Archives is a popular place for visiting scholars and we have had the pleasure to accommodate the research trips of many individuals, including (in alphabetical order): Tzvi Absuch, Jeff Blakley, Roman Gundacher, Hiroshi Hirayama, Chuck Jones, Isaac Kalimi, Jake Lauinger, Michel al-Maqdissi, John Nielsen, Luigi Prada, Seth Sanders, Andreas Schachner, Andreas Stauder, Julie Stauder, Sami Uljas, Steve Vinson, Avi Winitzer.

## Acknowledgments

We continue to foster a very active exchange program with sister institutions worldwide. Our exchange relationships rely heavily on the dedicated staff of the *Journal for Near Eastern Studies* and I would like to especially thank Drew Baumann, Wadad Kadi, Chris Woods, and Kathy



Mineck. Year in and year out, Tom Urban, Leslie Schramer, and the entire Publications Department are steadfast in their support of the Research Archives, continually finding extra copies of Oriental Institute publications for exchange. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to Emily Teeter, a most thoughtful and conscientious donor. Emily believes that the Research Archives is at the heart of the Institute and her support has been unwavering.

Despite the cringing of some among the senior generation within the building, we have had a very close and beneficial relationship with Catherine Mardikes and the Regenstein Library. In fact, Catherine sends us material de-accessioned from the Regenstein. Many of these volumes had been housed in the Oriental Institute prior to the 1970 consolidation and she has been generous in their return. Visiting scholars Dr. Michel al-Maqdissi donated several important volumes concerning Syrian archaeology and Dr. Andreas Schachner donated very useful offprints of the Hattusha preliminary reports. Chuck Jones and Magnus Widell, my predecessors in the Research Archives, continued to be of immense help, answering any sort of esoteric library mystery I could not solve.

Of course, my hardworking staff members are the cogs in the machine that is the Research Archives. Their help not only makes working here a joy, but it further enables us to constantly improve our library, maintaining its status as a premier research collection. Laura Holzweg, NELC graduate student studying Islamic archaeology, has been working her way backwards through the retrospective cataloging of monographs. Kayo Anthony, who has since left to continue graduate work at the Art Institute of Chicago, processed many new acquisitions as well as worked her way forwards through the retrospective cataloging of monographs. Lori Calabria, NELC graduate student studying Egyptology, has been a most versatile employee, cataloging, adding links, and taking over for Kayo in processing new material. Their work is crucial to the maintenance of the Research Archives and it is appreciated.

This year we have been lucky enough to have the help and support of several wonderful volunteers — a new development in the Research Archives. Having become friends with this new crop of volunteers and having truly enjoyed their company in the library, I wonder why we have not tapped into these resources earlier. Stephanie Duran, a local artist and knitter extraordinaire, has done an incredible job in her retrospective cataloging of journals as well as adding links to online material. Many of you will know Suzan Barzagan who is a docent at the Oriental Institute. Suzan has begun the monumental task of cataloging the reviews from *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung*. Also a familiar face around the OI, known from his perch in the Suq, Ray Broms spent many hours scanning books from our collection so that they can be placed online with open access. Their generosity and hard work help make the Oriental Institute Research Archives what it is today.

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***MUSEUM***

*Overleaf: Strainer jug; ceramic. Iron I period, 1200–975 B.C. Megiddo, Israel.  
Photo by Anna Ressler*

# MUSEUM

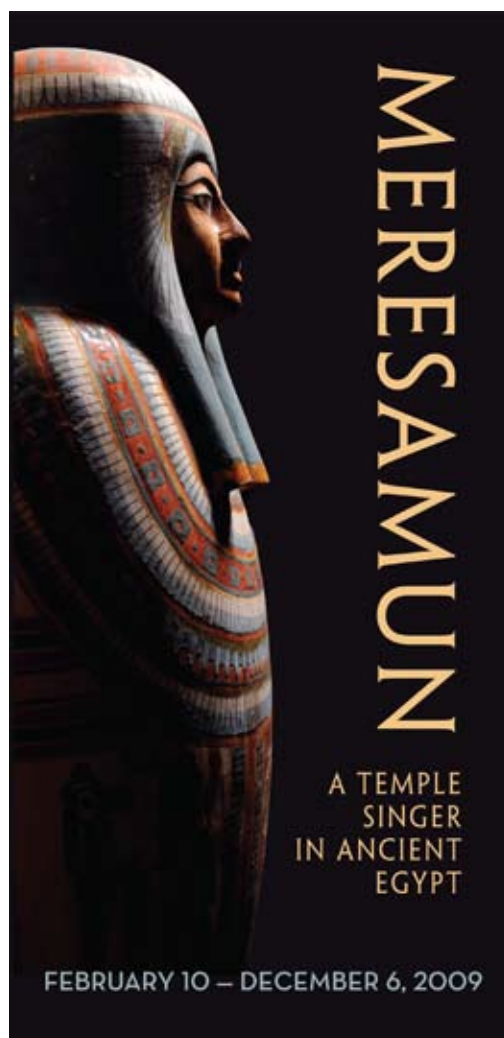
**Geoff Emberling**

The Museum has had a another successful year in the midst of these difficult economic times. We continue to welcome about 50,000 visitors annually to the Oriental Institute to introduce them to the history, written traditions, and art of the ancient cultures of the Middle East. We generate widespread publicity and interest in the Oriental Institute at the same time as we work to improve access to our amazing collection. The Museum also contributes in many ways to the financial support of the Institute, through donations at the front desk, sales in the Suq, a wide range of grants, and by serving as a venue for a variety of events.

As you will see in the sections that follow, our special exhibits, education programs, and docent tours have had great success this past year, and we have taken some significant steps in publicity and marketing that we hope will lead to greater attendance in the future. Our collections staff has also made numerous improvements to cataloging and storage that enhanced our ability to facilitate use of the collection for research, teaching, and exhibits.

As usual, the successes of the Museum are inevitably joint projects relying on cooperation of many staff members, and I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has made it such a pleasure to work in the Oriental Institute over the past year. In addition to staff, we have been assisted by a number of interns this year. Our active internship program in the Museum has accepted interns from the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences program at the University of Chicago, as well as museum studies programs and even the French national curatorial training program.

Our special exhibits this past year have both had extraordinary impact. *Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past* has appeared in an all-poster version at a number of sites internationally and has even been translated into Japanese. We are currently preparing a bilingual Arabic-English version. This exhibit also won recognition from the regional and national museum communities when it received the Best Practices in Exhibits and Programming Award from the Association of Midwest Museums and was a winner in the Excellence in Exhibition Label Writing competition of the American Association of Museums.



*Figure 1. Door banner for the Meresamun exhibit*

## MUSEUM

The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt (fig. 1), curated by Emily Teeter, has generated international publicity that sets a new high standard for our exhibits. There are a number of reasons for this — the combination of CT scanning and mummies proved intriguing and indeed irresistible; a new collaboration within the Institute on marketing generated a number of new approaches that proved successful; and we were fortunate to have full funding that allowed us to implement our marketing plan. Many, many thanks to Rita and Kitty Picken, all our contacts at Philips Healthcare (especially Beverly Plost), Exelon Corporation, and other donors for their generous support.

We launched the Community Focus Group for special exhibits this year that has helped us craft exhibit themes, develop marketing to different audiences, and evaluate how well our installations convey our exhibit ideas. We expect that continuing meetings with this outstanding group, coordinated by Emily Teeter, will continue to give us ideas about ways to develop exhibits that are meaningful, interesting, and even exciting.

Another significant development in the Museum galleries this past year has been the introduction of iPod audio tours (fig. 2), generously supported by a gift from Roger and Joyce Isaacs; one of the audio tours was conceived and developed by their grandson, Adam Hemmings (a current University of Chicago undergraduate in NELC). Our current offerings include a highlights tour, a kids' view of ancient Egypt, and "The Ancient Near East in the Time of Tutankhamun." The iPods are available for rental (\$5 each, free for members), and we have had almost 400 rentals since the introduction of the program in December 2008. Four other tours, including one on the ancient Near Eastern context of the Bible, are currently in advanced stages of development.



*Figure 2. A king from Bismaya listens raptly to an Oriental Institute audio tour (OIM A173)*

Visitors to the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery may have noticed that we have begun to add labels that give full provenience and date information for objects on display. This project, supported by Oriental Institute volunteers, has relied on the research of Katharyn Hanson (graduate student in Mesopotamian archaeology) and volunteers Mari Terman and Sue Geshwender. These labels are important because they emphasize the importance of archaeological provenience of these objects. We will continue working on the project through much of the next year.

Sales of Museum publications continue to be outstanding, with special exhibit catalogs regularly selling out and Emily Teeter's book *Ancient Egypt: Treasures from the Collection of the Oriental Institute*, continuing to sell well.

The Education programs created and run by Carole Krucoff this past year have been even richer and more varied than usual, with a remarkable increase in attendance of more than 25 percent over last year.

This past year was the first full year of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center — the tel in the lower-level LaSalle Banks Room that allows archaeologists of all ages to experience the thrill of discovery and the challenges of interpreting and understanding archaeological finds. The Education Department, particularly Jessica Caracci, fine-tuned the program this year. They developed training for graduate students who ran the sessions, and Terry Friedman and Cathy Dueñas led experiments with docents to develop the associated gallery tour. Morris Fred, formerly director of the Spertus Museum and now professor in the MAPSS program at the University, has been a constant source of inspiration. This program has indeed been transformative for the

Oriental Institute in several ways. It has fostered interesting new connections between Education programs and Museum exhibits, and it dramatically enhances the museum experience. The look of fascination and delight on young excavators' faces is remarkable and inspiring.

Another major Education program has been a new Web resource about the ancient and modern Middle East for high-school teachers. Developed under an National Endowment for the Humanities grant obtained by Wendy Ennes, this innovative project has involved a number of NELC faculty over the past year and is scheduled to be released in the coming year.

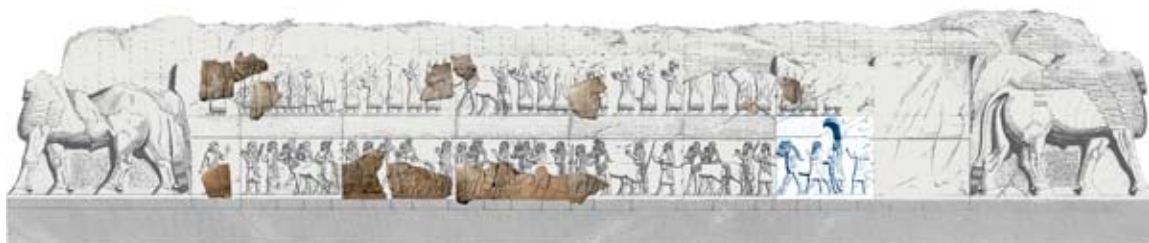
Our informal program of concerts in the Yelda Khorsabad Court has shown that the Museum is a magical place to hear music. A beautiful setting, obviously, but also one with remarkably clear, pure sound. Concerts by the Newberry Consort, violinist Rachel Barton Pine, and guitarist Roberto Belinic were highlights of the year.

Behind the scenes, we face a number of challenges to our collection that make it less accessible than we would like and that in some cases pose threats to the condition of our objects. Ongoing cataloging of the collection supervised by Helen McDonald has added more than 5,000 records to our object database this year, and Susan Allison and one of our interns from France, Noëlle Timbart, also began updating and enhancing entries for our early Egyptian objects in preparation for exhibits in the next few years.

One particularly elaborate collections project has involved locating, moving, cleaning, photographing, and registering our collection of relief fragments from Khorsabad. Because the wet cleaning of these fragments (by conservators Laura D'Alessandro and Alison Whyte) has had to be done on our loading dock, this is a summertime project and will likely continue in summer 2010. Yet we are gradually piecing together the fragments into what we hope will be a largely reconstructed set of reliefs (fig. 3). A particularly gratifying and difficult photograph was the reconstructed stone carpet from Khorsabad which weighs thousands of pounds. Erik Lindahl and Brian Zimerle built dollies that allowed the pieces to be carefully moved into position, and Anna Ressman coordinated complex photographic equipment and produced an excellent photograph (fig. 4).

An ongoing program of federal grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services has supported rehousing of our object collection in new museum-quality cabinets and conservation-approved materials. This year, we have worked on materials from Megiddo and from Nubia, and are pleased to report that Laura D'Alessandro has obtained another grant from IMLS to support the next phase of this project, which will begin in fall 2009.

A newer initiative this year has been the development of an online version of a simple database we are using to keep track of photographs in our Archives. Although this is work that has been in progress for years, our current progress is due largely to Tom James, Margaret Schröder, John Larson, John Sanders, and a number of interns and volunteers who have scanned photos and entered information from the cards. This database is available online at <http://128.135.244.3/>



*Figure 3. Mosaic illustrating the placement of Oriental Institute fragments from Khorsabad in their original context*

## MUSEUM

fmi/iwp/res/iwp\_home.html. Users can click the link “Oriental Institute Museum Photographic Database” and log in as a guest. You can search the collection by selecting the magnifying glass icon on the left side of the screen and typing a search term directly into any field. We currently have scanned about 60,000 images, have entered about 40,000 entries into our database, and have attached about 20,000 images to their entries. This is a large-scale work in progress, and the



*Figure 4. Final photograph of the Khorsabad carpet. OIM A17597A–G. Photo by Anna Ressman*



interface may not be completely intuitive, but the images are searchable. This work is the first step toward getting our collection of archival photographs and more recent Museum photography online.

Our Conservation Department has continued what has become a tradition of training conservators from the Middle East by active participation in planning and implementing a training program for Iraqis run by the Field Museum. Gil Stein, McGuire Gibson, Chris Woods, and most of the Museum staff have also contributed to this program, which is important both as training and as cultural exchange.

Visitors to the Oriental Institute over the past few months may have noticed that our lobby signage has been completely redesigned (fig. 5). I say “may” because the new lettering is so much in keeping with the character of the building that it looks like it has been there forever. The flat-screen display, however, is clearly new. The signage was designed by Carol Naughton Associates and funded by a generous gift from the Parrillo family. One result of the new signage, with increased “suggested donations” as well as new training for front desk staff, has been an increase of nearly 40 percent in our average donation from Museum visitors.

Our marketing initiatives are spelled out in more detail below, but I want to highlight a developing connection with *Archaeology* magazine. Beginning with a feature in which I was noted, to my everlasting embarrassment, as embodying the spirit of Indiana Jones, we have spoken regularly with the editorial board of *Archaeology* and been able to develop articles about Oriental Institute projects and Museum exhibits that serve both *Archaeology* and the Oriental Institute well.

Finally, as noted below, the Suq continues to be an attractive place to shop that also contributes to the support of Oriental Institute projects, even with decreased sales.

We were sorry this year to lose a longtime staff member, Margaret Schröder, whose position was eliminated as a result of University budget cuts. Margaret has made many contributions to the Institute, most recently as Assistant Archivist, and we wish her well.

The coming year promises to be as interesting and as productive as the last. Thanks to the efforts of Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein and Executive Director Steve Camp, the University of Chicago has funded two major projects that will have significant impact on Museum staff and collections (in particular) over the next year. We have funding to install movable compact storage in the Archives, which is currently overflowing (as the only area of the Museum’s collection that continues to grow significantly). And we also have the first funding to begin a large-scale online

database that will integrate our Registration and Archives databases and be a foundation for a larger research-oriented database that will serve researchers throughout the Oriental Institute and beyond. We’ll also continue to present, interpret, preserve, and research our collections through exhibits, programs, and publications. Stay tuned!



**Figure 5.** Robert and Elizabeth Parrillo standing next to the new signage in the lobby. Photo by Anna Ressman

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS

### Emily Teeter

During this past year, the Museum presented two exhibits. *Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past* opened on April 10 and closed December 31, 2008. For details about the show, see *Annual Report 2007–2008*, pp. 178–79. The exhibit was, by all measures, very successful. During its run, the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict was passed by the U.S. Congress, and we feel as if our show contributed to raising awareness of the importance of this legislation. The exhibit also won two awards, one for Best Practices by the Midwest Association of Museums, and the other for Excellence in Label Writing by the American Association of Museums.

Our hope that this powerful and timely exhibit would be shown elsewhere was met by its presentation in a variety of venues, including the Austrian Blue Shield conference (May 2008); at a conference on Archaeology and Conflict in Cambridge, U.K. (June 2008); during the Sixth World Archaeological Congress in Dublin for the opening of the new Great North Museum in Newcastle (July 2008); at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with a conference on Iraqi heritage organized by the cultural attaché of the Iraqi Embassy (March 2009); at the Friedespalais of the Hague, Netherlands, in conjunction with a Conference on

Cultural Property sponsored by the Netherlands Ministry of Defence and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (March 2009); and at the Society of Antiquaries, London (June 2009). A version translated into Japanese was displayed in Tokyo at the Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University (February–May 2009) (fig. 1). There are plans for a version of the show to be exhibited by UNESCO in Paris. With the help of Oriental Institute Research Associate Iman Saca, Professor Wadad Kadi, and Professor Farouk Mustafa, we are now preparing a bilingual version (Arabic-English) for presentation in the Middle East.

Our next show, *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*, opened to members on February 10 (fig. 2). The exhibit reconstructs aspects of the life of Meresamun, one of our mummies, who lived in Thebes about 800 B.C. Her temple duties are explained through a selection of musical instruments, scenes of female musicians and dancers, and cult objects that women used in temples. Her personal life is illuminated through amulets and objects similar to those that would have protected her as a child, household pottery, a selection of cosmetic vessels, a hand mirror,



**Figure 1.** *Archaeologist Ken Matsumoto and the president of the Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq view the Catastrophe! exhibit as presented at Kokushikan University, Tokyo*



*Figure 2. View of the Meresamun exhibit. Photo by Emily Teeter*

a comb, and jewelry. Her duties supervising the servants on the estate of a wealthy woman are illustrated by statues of workers. A selection of objects that attest to personal devotion at home, such as a small stela incised with the ears of the god and votive figurines of women, serve to remind the visitor that religion permeated life — it was not restricted to the temple.

Our visitors' comments showed real appreciation for the interest and beauty of the exhibit. One response from our comment book to the question "What did you learn?" is typical:

Plenty! I am especially interested in music and dance of the region (ancient and modern), and there was plenty here to help me understand the special context of Meresamun and her music/dance. Great assemblages of objects — I found that the collections in each case really "conversed" well with one another.

Part of the overall plan for the exhibit included having the mummy examined with CT scans. On July 2, working with Dr. Michael Vannier, professor in the Department of Radiology at the University of Chicago Medical Center, we transferred Meresamun to the hospital, where Dr. Vannier gathered massive amounts of data on a Philips Healthcare Brilliance 64 slice scanner. Our goal was to obtain information about her health and lifestyle. Dr. Vannier was able to produce incredible 3-D reconstructions and a whole range of QuickTime movies from the scans. In the fall, Dr. Vannier suggested that we bring Meresamun back to the hospital because they had installed an even more sophisticated machine, the Philips Brilliance iCT 256 slice machine — a scanner so new it was not yet licensed for patient care. This time, on September 25, a good-natured mob accompanied Meresamun, including representatives from Philips, good friends of the Institute (Rita and Kitty Picken and Dr. Coleman Suskind), and lots of other people who crowded into the CT suite. (When asked later how many people are needed to CT a mummy, Dr. Vannier quipped "About forty.") The representatives from Philips were thrilled at the sight of the brightly painted

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS



Figure 3. The reconstructed face of Meresamun, left, by Michael Brassell, and above, by Joshua Harker

coffin on the scanner (see fig. 2 in *Publicity*, below) and at having the opportunity to compare the images from the two machines. Philips' interest in the program was expressed by their generous support of the exhibit catalog and of the interactive kiosk on which the CT data is presented in the Oriental Institute Museum. The kiosk was programmed by Doug Young of HyperActive, Inc., in Braintree, Maryland (online at [http://www.medical.philips.com/main/products/ct/products/ct\\_scanner\\_meresamun/multimedia/index.wpd](http://www.medical.philips.com/main/products/ct/products/ct_scanner_meresamun/multimedia/index.wpd)). It has selections such as "Meresamun Goes to the Radiologist" (a brief film), a selection of CT scans and reconstructions of the mummy, and a feature called "What did Meresamun Look Like?" The kiosk gave us the opportunity to share Dr. Vannier's estimate of Meresamun's height (a surprisingly tall 5' 6") and to show reconstructions of her face, literally bringing the visitor face to face with Meresamun. Joshua Harker, a forensic artist from Chicago, and Michael Brassell, a member of the Baltimore Police Department, worked with the CT data to reconstruct Meresamun's face (fig. 3). Harker, working digitally and following the established Gatliff-Snow American Tissue Depth Marker Method, superimposed fat, muscle, and tissue to reconstruct Meresamun's appearance. Working with a completely different technique, but starting from the same 3-D images of Meresamun's skull made from the CT scans, Brassell created sketches of the singer. The striking similarities between the illustrations lend credibility to their accuracy.

Dianne Hanau-Strain, of Hanau-Strain Associates, was asked to design the show. Over a series of fruitful discussions we came up with a beautiful plan that included semi-transparent scrims printed with papyrus columns, a border for the top of the wall in imitation of the *kheker* frieze that appears at the top of many ancient Egyptian buildings, and deep blue walls, a color derived from the pigment on Meresamun's coffin.

The Meresamun show gave the Museum the opportunity to continue its collaboration with faculty and students in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Professor Janet Johnson served as co-editor of the catalog and advisor to the project. Egyptology graduate students Megaera Lorenz, Elise MacArthur, Courtney Jacobson, and Jessica Henderson all wrote exhibit labels and catalog text. The catalog relied heavily upon the Institute's resources, especially images from our Archive, supplied by John Larson, and also the publications of our Epigraphic Survey.

Another benefit of the exhibit is a large selection of new photography for the catalog, all by our staff photographer, Anna Ressman. These images, we hope, will be in demand for other outside projects, thereby supporting the work of the Archive and Photo departments.

As in the past, the catalog would not have been ready on time and would not have been as successful without the efforts of Tom Urban and Leslie Schramer of our Publications Office. Leslie has been responsible for laying out most of our exhibit catalogs, and each is better and more attractive than the last. Both Leslie and Tom did a huge amount of work ensuring continuity and consistency in spellings and usage (especially when seven authors were involved). It is a real achievement to turn a manuscript into a handsome book with such tight deadlines. It is always a pleasure to work with Tom and Leslie and we don't know what we would do without them.

Museum intern Alissa Jordan undertook tracking studies of visitors with some interesting results. We were not surprised to learn that visitors who entered the Marshall and Doris Holleb Special Exhibits Gallery from the lobby spent the most time in the exhibit, while those who entered from the Robert F. Picken Family Nubia Gallery spent less, no doubt because they had already spent a considerable amount of time in the Museum. However, the demographic information surprised us — the exhibit attracted a younger audience, with about half of the visitors being in their 20s and 30s.

The Meresamun show has been extended through December 6, 2009, to take advantage of the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America, which draws 70,000 doctors and their families to Chicago.

The catalogs for the previous shows continue to sell briskly and most are sold out, but they can be downloaded free through our Web site. We are discussing plans to reprint some of them.

In the last year, our exhibits program has continued to be guided by two groups. One is the in-house Special Exhibits Committee, comprised of faculty and Museum staff, that evaluates exhibit proposals. The other is the Community Focus Group, a new organization that met four times in the last year. The Community Focus Group is vital for planning the exhibit and its accompanying book and symposium. The group includes Nathan Mason, a curator from the Chicago Cultural Center; Christine Carrino from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; Randy Adamsick of the National Museum of Mexican Arts; Dianne Hanau-Strain, a professional exhibit designer; Beverly Serrell, a noted professional exhibit evaluator; Molly Woulfe, a journalist with the *Times* of Northwest Indiana; and Andrea Adams, the director of the South Shore Cultural Center. Their opinions are instrumental in keeping us on track to make our exhibits visitor-friendly and they are an excellent sounding board to ensure that we are distilling often-complex issues into narratives that intrigue, educate, and entertain our visitors.

Our program for special exhibits is up and running in the three years since its inception in 2006. The small size of the Museum staff means that we are working on three shows simultaneously, forming and refining the concepts and design while working on catalog text and always searching for sources of funding.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS

**Upcoming Exhibits (*titles are tentative and dates are subject to change*)**

- **Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920** (January 12–August 30, 2010). Curated by Geoff Emberling and John Larson, this exhibit recounts the travels of Oriental Institute founder James Henry Breasted through Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine as he made purchases for the new Oriental Institute Museum and reconnoitered sites for excavation. Set against the historical backdrop of the political situation following World War I, this exhibit explores questions about the relationship of history and archaeology to politics. This fascinating, complex, and timely story is told through archival photographs, letters, travel diaries, and artifacts.
  - **The Origins of Writing in the Middle East** (September 2010–February 2011). This exhibit, curated by Christopher Woods, Associate Professor of Sumerology, presents texts and objects that illustrate the distinctive development of the earliest writing in Egypt and Mesopotamia, as well as the invention of alphabets.
  - **Earliest Egypt** (April–September 2011). Curated by Emily Teeter, Earliest Egypt features selections from the Institute's important collection of Predynastic and early Dynastic material, tracing the rise of the Egyptian state through the Predynastic era to rise of the first kings.
- 

**PUBLICITY****Emily Teeter**

Responsibility for publicity for Museum programs and events continues to be spread among many people. The events generated by the Education Department are handled by Jessica Caracci, who sends quarterly press packets to the media. I generally handle Museum exhibit publicity, and a new working group including Geoff Emberling, Kaye Oberhausen, Sarah Sapperstein, and myself has worked to develop and implement new strategies for attracting new audiences. William Harms continues to help in every aspect of our contacts with the media.

This last year saw a more systematic effort to plan and manage publicity and marketing. Part of this move was due to the efforts and energy of Kaye, our Development Associate, who also holds a degree in arts administration. In the past, the Museum has tended to focus on its own publicity efforts. However, it has become clear that the Museum and its programs have tremendous impact upon the Membership and Development units, because many people's first experience with the Institute is a visit to the Museum galleries. This realization led us to rethink our publicity goals in a way that will be mutually beneficial to all units of the Institute.

An important development in our marketing strategy was the result of a grant from the Chicago Community Trust and Wallace Foundation written by Carole Krucoff and Geoff Emberling. We decided that the funds should be expended to help organize the data we already have about our visitors and then develop a strategy to use these and the newly collected data more effectively. Under the grant, we met with consultant Jim Novo, who helped us recognize

the things that we were doing well and the things that need improvement. Paramount was the fact that we have a built-in constituency — our Museum visitors, and the much larger group of people who visit our Web site — yet we know virtually nothing about them and do not collect information about them in a systematic way. Each person who has made the effort to come into the Museum has the potential to become a member, a volunteer, and a donor. Jim stressed our need to capture information about our actual visitors and our Web visitors, to cultivate them, and engage them more with the Institute and its programs and research. As a result of the grant we have implemented:

- The *E-Tablet*, a monthly electronic newsletter (developed and managed by Kaye).
- Editing of our Web site metadata to increase searchability within major search engines, such as Google, Yahoo, etc.
- Redesign of the gallery map to include membership, volunteer, and programming information in an effort to get people engaged in all aspects of the Oriental Institute.

In addition, we are researching an electronic visitors' comment book that will allow visitors to not only tell us their reactions, but also to leave contact information.

While assessing our marketing with Jim Novo, the group quickly realized we were not working together to market all the Institute has to offer. The *E-Tablet* has brought all the departmental e-mail lists together to give a holistic view of the Oriental Institute. Since February we have collected over 1,000 e-mail addresses by people self-subscribing on the bottom of the Institute homepage. Now people can find out about all our offerings, from education classes to international travel opportunities, and have a clear source of communication from the Institute each month. The *E-Tablet* has been very successful in its first six months. It is now being sent to 3,872 e-mail addresses with an admirable 31 percent open rate, which is above average for the non-profit sector. This new communication allows us to reach a much larger audience, thereby adding more people to the pipeline and giving them more opportunities to become involved.

Kaye helped this effort enormously by spearheading an exhaustive and insightful "Comprehensive Marketing Report" in July 2008 that synthesized the current publicity and marketing efforts of the Oriental Institute, the strengths and challenges of marketing the Institute, and feasible recommendations for the future. Especially helpful was the effort to more clearly identify our target audiences. This was an outgrowth of a two-day workshop that Kaye and I attended on "Marketing and Money," presented by the Southside Arts and Humanities Network the previous month.

Looking toward the opening of the special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*, we realized that the show, with its centerpiece mummy, had the potential to attract significant media and public attention. A committee composed of Kaye, Sarah Sapperstein, Emily, Carole Krucoff, Geoff Emberling, and me met to develop a coordinated marketing plan for the exhibit. We identified target audiences, some very specific to this exhibit (the medical field), others of a more general nature (cultural consumers), with strategies and time lines at various budget levels. Kaye took lead on the documentation and updated the plan periodically. It has already proven to be a valuable template for marketing of our next exhibit which opens in January 2010.

## PUBLICITY

How did people hear about the Meresamun exhibit? (source: Oriental Institute Museum visitor comment book)			
Friends and Family	36	<i>E-Tablet</i>	1
<i>Archaeology Magazine</i>	19	Humanities class	1
Oriental Institute Web site	12	Banners on street	1
Dropped by	10	Word of mouth in Egyptology	1
National Public Radio	8	CNN	1
<i>Chicago Tribune</i>	7	Attend North Center College ("where Breasted went")	1
<i>University of Chicago Magazine</i>	5	Been here before	1
Facebook	3	American Research Center in Egypt	1
<i>Oriental Institute News &amp; Notes</i>	3	History Channel	1
<i>Time Out Chicago</i>	2	Dropped by after tour of Robie House	1
Tourism guide	2	MSNBC.com article	1
<i>KMT Magazine</i>	2		
University of Chicago professor recommended	2		



Figure 1. Emily and Kaye greet the media and concierges at "Spotlight on Chicago"

A review of our visitor comment book shows some interesting patterns in which types of publicity were most effective (105 respondents, some marked multiple boxes). Word of mouth clearly remains our best publicity.

Other efforts to develop awareness of the Institute, its Museum, and programs included participating in "Spotlight on Chicago" an annual art resource fair organized by the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs held at the Cultural Center on October 15, 2008. Kaye and I distributed information about the Museum and made some valuable contacts with media representatives (fig. 1). Of special interest to us were the hotel concierges who

have the potential to send visitors to the Oriental Institute. As a result of discussions with some of the concierges, Kaye hosted a reception at the Oriental Institute in April that featured a brief tour of the galleries and introduction to the Institute. A number of the concierges had never visited the Oriental Institute before and were enthusiastic about recommending the Institute to their hotel guests.

Both special exhibits were popular with the public and both received an enormous and gratifying amount of publicity. *Catastrophe!* was a timely exhibit that received attention in media as diverse as the *New York Review of Books*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, and even in media in China.

The combination of Egypt/female mummy/CT scans of the Meresamun exhibit created an avalanche of publicity. Philips Healthcare, the manufacture of the scanner was so taken with the



project that they assigned their own publicists to the project. Within weeks we were on CNN, CNBC, in medical, scientific, and general media throughout the world, from Korea to the Middle East to South America. Meresamun was featured in the *University of Chicago Magazine*, *Time Out Chicago*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Sun Times*, *Science* magazine, *KMT*, and even the cover (and centerfold!) of *Archaeology* magazine. At the time of this report, there were over 58,000 listings for Meresamun on Google.

One interesting aspect of the collaboration with Philips was their use of Meresamun in their own publicity, which they found to be at least as effective as their regular marketing (fig. 2). It was truly a collaboration that benefited both partners.



**Figure 2. Publicity for Meresamun developed by Philips Healthcare.**  
Photo by Anna Ressler

Bill Harms of the University News Office suggested that we also publicize the show through new social networking sites. To begin this venture, Kaye set up a Facebook page for Meresamun that resulted in over a thousand “friends.” Her page also gave Kaye the opportunity to more directly promote the Oriental Institute and its programs. We tried all sorts of approaches including an “I Miss my Music” contest that invited people to compose new songs for Meresamun. Notable entries were “My Mummy” (after the Al Jolson hit) and an original work written in a combination of English and Egyptian, complete with a glossary. The entire project was innovative enough that several other museums have publicized CT scans of their mummies and have even made Facebook pages for them.

As with our other special exhibits, we announced the show by means of banners on each side of the front door (see fig. 1 in the *Museum* report, above). We also were able to produce a new set of street-pole banners designed by Hanau-Strain Associates. Our promotion budget also allowed for spots on Chicago Public Radio to announce the opening of the exhibit.

The popularity of the special exhibits has allowed us to experiment with marketing approaches, allowing us to reach a broader and more diverse audience. There is just a possibility that someday we may not be referred to as a “hidden jewel of Chicago.” We hope so.

## REGISTRATION

### Helen McDonald and Susan Allison

We continue in Registration with our major long-term projects of rehousing the collection in new cabinets, registering objects, monitoring incoming and outgoing loans, making the collection accessible to Oriental Institute faculty, visiting researchers, students, and Museum staff, and making various improvements to the registration database with the ultimate aim of making it accessible online.

As our major rehousing project in the last year, Registration completed unpacking ceramics from the Nubian site of Serra that had been stored in temporary storage boxes since the mid-1990s, when the collection was packed in preparation for construction of the new wing. This was part of our current Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) cabinet grant. Over ten-and-a-half thousand pots and sherds from Serra have now been rehousing in new Delta Design cabinets and nearly three-and-a-half thousand digital images taken of the material (for eventual inclusion in the database). Assistant Registrar Susan Allison was instrumental in getting this project finished on time, assisted by our student museum assistant and volunteers. Just recently we heard that the next of Laura D'Alessandro's applications to IMLS has been approved and so we will be starting another rehousing project of Nubian material in the coming autumn.

Registration has played its part in those projects that have included the rest of the collections staff, such as the Khorsabad Relief Project and the installation of the Meresamun exhibit (both described in more detail elsewhere).

One unglamorous, but necessary, task this year has been to track down and update loans that have been out for ten years or more. A few of these loans have now been returned to us (two pots from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, casts of Assyrian reliefs returned from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business Gleacher Center, and a small loan of Egyptian stone objects from the Frank H. McClung Museum in Tennessee). Other loans have involved new condition photographs being made at the borrowing institutions and then reviewed by Oriental Institute Museum Conservation staff to ensure that the condition of our objects on loan has not altered since the loan went out. After this step and the re-evaluation of the loan objects for insurance purposes, it has been possible to renew the following loans for three more years. A loan of pots from the Tutankhamun embalmer's cache to the University Museum of Pennsylvania, Diyala objects to the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University, and a horned stone altar from Megiddo to the Jewish Museum in New York have now all been brought up to date. The most complicated loan is one made to Wheaton College of Illinois back in 1941. This large loan of sixty-four Egyptian objects required an expedition of the whole of the Oriental Institute Museum collections staff out to Wheaton. The loan objects were photographed, their condition documented, and they were relabeled with their Museum registration numbers. One bronze and three wooden objects were packed for return to the Oriental Institute and several more will need to come back here in due course for cleaning and repair. This was a very efficient team effort that enabled us to complete the work in one day.

As for more recent loans, in October the four-faced bronze god statuette from Ischali (OIM A7119) returned from being on loan to an exhibit entitled *Babylone* held at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin. A papyrus (OIM 8349) traveled to the British Museum in June for an exhibit entitled *Hadrian: Empire and Conflict*. The papyrus returned in October. A small loan of Diyala statuettes to the Smart Museum of Art on the University of Chicago for the exhibit *Idol Anxiety* came back in November. At the end of May we were finally able to return the loan of

Palestinian costumes that had been part of our special exhibit *Embroidering Identities: A Century of Palestinian Clothing* to their home, the Palestinian Heritage Center, in the West Bank. At the end of June two pots from the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery (a blue glazed lotus goblet and a wine jar from the Tut cache) went to the Art Institute of Chicago for an exhibit entitled *A Case for Wine: From King Tut to Today* that is being mounted by the Decorative Arts Department.

French curatorial intern Noëlle Timbart joined us for two months (February–March) and began a project of photographing and updating our records of the Egyptian Predynastic collection. This work is in preparation for a planned special exhibit on Early Egypt. After Noëlle's departure, Susan took over the imaging and updating of database records for these objects.

The Registration Department has moved or inventoried just over 59,000 objects this year. Nearly 3,800 were the subject of research of all kinds and 250 objects were used in teaching. Just over 43,000 were inventoried or had their locations updated. Over 5,000 objects were registered. Around 7,000 objects were rehoused and a further 300 moved to make space for organics being rehoused by Conservation. The Registrar gave a short PowerPoint lecture on the work of Registration and two backstage tours for Docent Day in June. Particular emphasis was given to recent Registration projects.

It has been a busy year for visiting researchers.

- The Amuq publication project has continued to be a main focus of activity, as our three researchers Lynn Swartz Dodd (Tell Judaidah), Marina Pucci (Chatal Höyük), and Heather Snow (Tell Tayinat, with the assistance of James Osborne) continued to work on final publications of the later levels at those sites. We have hosted visits from all the Amuq researchers this year. Marina Pucci visited in both autumn and spring, Heather Snow was with us for two weeks in October, James Osborne was with us for four weeks in late summer, and Lynn Swartz Dodd came for visits in October and May. Both Marina and Lynn have recruited NELC students to assist with digital imaging and sherd recording and drawing (Natasha Ayers for Judaidah, Tamara Leviton for Chatal Höyük, and Courtney Jacobson for both sites). Once again the Amuq office in the Archaeology Labs has been a hive of activity.
- Robert Demaree (Leiden University) visited to study 126 non-literary Hieratic ostraca.
- Christine Lilyquist of the Metropolitan Museum of Art came in January to study 237 pots from tombs at Assasif. These were excavated by the MMA in the 1920s and are now to be published. Christine has recruited University of Chicago graduate student Natasha Ayers to assist with detailed descriptions and drawings of the pots over this summer.
- Eliot Braun of the Israel Antiquities Authority visited in November to continue his study of the "Early Stages" material at Megiddo.
- Christopher Davey of the Australian Institute of Archaeology came to examine limestone statuette OIM 10631 that possibly represents a metalworker using a *tuyère* pipe.
- Alison Ohta of the Royal Asiatic Society visited in December to look at a selection of our Islamic book bindings.
- Abigail Richard of the University of Montreal visited in July to look at Egyptian marsh bowls.
- Ueno Kaori of Lumière University Lyon 2 visited in November to look at Theban stelae with images of Amun.
- Jean Li of the University of California, Berkeley, visited in August to look at objects from women's tombs at Medinet Habu.
- Alexa Bartelmus studied a selection of sealings with cuneiform inscriptions.

## REGISTRATION

- Jarett Zeman and his advisor, Gwyn Madden, of Grand Valley State University, visited in June to look at burial artifacts of various New Kingdom pharaohs.
- Maria Gatto visited in June from Yale to give a talk; while here she looked at a selection of our A-Group Nubian material from Cemetery L, Qustul.
- Willemijn Waal visited to take study photographs of the sermon of Bishop Aur of Fayyum on the miracles of Gabriel from manuscript OIM A12063, for Clara ten Hacken of Leiden University.

The collections continue to be used for teaching and research by Oriental Institute staff and NELC faculty and students. Users include the following:

- Tracy Hoffman used Islamic sherds from Rayy, Samarra, Hama, and Fustat for a class held in the spring quarter.
- Jan Johnson used one of our Demotic annuity contracts for a class in the autumn.
- Robert Ritner used some heart scarabs for the Beginning Hieroglyphs class.
- Hratch Papazian once again used two hieratic ostraca for a class in the autumn quarter.
- Jennifer Westerfeld used some Coptic ostraca for a class. She has also been studying all our Coptic ostraca and papyrus fragments.
- Foy Scalf used Demotic ostraca for a class in the autumn. The Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online database project by Foy and Jacqueline Jay will make all our Demotic ostraca available online.
- Kate Grossman borrowed a selection of Mesopotamian prehistoric sherds for an evening Museum Education class.
- François Gaudard and Jan Johnson studied and prepared for publication some of our stone mummy labels. These will also be incorporated in an online database of mummy labels.
- Andrea Seri used the Sennacherib prism for teaching in late spring.
- Karen Wilson has continued working on a publication of the pottery from the Inanna temple sounding at Nippur with McGuire Gibson, Jean Evans, and others.
- Angela Altenhofen has continued to draw seal impressions for the Diyala Project, objects for Marina Pucci's forthcoming Chatal Höyük publication, and for Eliot Braun's publication of the Early Bronze Age "Early Stages" at Megiddo.
- Benjamin Studevant-Hickman studied Bismaya tablets.
- Tynan Kelly continued to work on some of our Druze manuscripts for his undergraduate dissertation.
- Clemens Reichel visited and photographed a selection of Diyala sealings and tablets.
- Lindsay Miller studied Middle Kingdom scarabs for a paper as part of Nadine Moeller's Middle Kingdom Material Culture class.
- Jon Clindaniel measured a selection of Alishar sherds for use in an archaeological statistics paper.

These accomplishments have been made possible by the capable and efficient efforts of our Museum Assistant Courtney Jacobson, with the assistance of a wonderful group of volunteers, including Kate Anderson, Joan Barghusen, Gretel Braidwood, Joe Diamond, Janet Helman, Daila Shefner, Toni Smith, O. J. Sopranos, and Raymond Tindel. The volunteers have altogether contributed well over a thousand hours of their time to Museum Registration and we are grateful for all their help.

## ARCHIVES

### John A. Larson

As of December 2008, John Larson has served as Museum Archivist for twenty-eight years.

#### Photographic Services

Margaret Schröder served as Assistant Archivist until the end of the fiscal year; she was chiefly responsible for preparing the paperwork and handling all the other details that are involved in processing the requests that we receive for Oriental Institute proprietary images and reproduction permissions. Thomas James will be taking on some of Margaret's functions for the foreseeable future. Between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009, Margaret logged in 62 requests. This represents a decrease of 12.68 percent from the total for the previous fiscal year. Income for 2008–2009 totaled \$10,378.00, a decline of 14.39 percent from last year's figure. The income from photographic image sales and reproduction fees enables us to purchase archival supplies and equipment for the Archives and for Photography.

Margaret also scanned thousands of the black-and-white negatives in the Archives and entered the data from our card catalog for the images into our photo image database.

#### Archives

Visiting scholars during fiscal year 2008–2009 included Jeffrey Abt, Lindsay Ambridge, Gwenda Blair, Eliot Braun, Lynn Schwarz Dodd, Eleanor Guralnick, Michael Jones, Christian Loeben, Jean Li, Christine Lilyquist, James Osborne, Luigi Prada, Marina Pucci, and Heather Snow. From within our own Oriental Institute community, Geoff Emberling, Brett McClain and Ginger Emery, Jean Evans, Morag Kersel, Robert Ritner, Gil Stein, Emily Teeter, Karen L. Wilson, and Ali Witsell have conducted research using Archives materials. We would especially like to single out Thomas James for his many contributions to the operation of the Archives.

#### Recent Acquisitions

Several additions were made during the course of this fiscal year to our holdings of records and photographs relating to Egypt: a major edition to the Papers of Charles Francis Nims entered the Archives from the estate of Charlie's widow Myrtle; Egypt travel slides taken by former docent Lawrence Scheff were donated to the Archives by Larry's widow Dorothy through the good offices of Archives volunteer Carole Yoshida; in memory of her husband Marshall, Doris Holleb donated an album of magnificent black-and-white photographs given to Marshall's father by the king of Egypt during the first half of the twentieth century. Gordon Loud's daughter presented the visitors' book from the Khorsabad dig house for 1930–1933. We would also like to thank Professor Emeritus Robert Biggs for his contributions of Oriental Institute-related ephemera to the Archives during the past year.

#### Volunteers and Student Assistants

The following people have contributed their time during fiscal year 2008–2009 and have made it possible for us to begin, continue, and complete a number of projects in the Oriental Institute Archives that would not have been possible without their generosity and dedication: Hazel Cramer, Peggy Grant, Patricia Hume, Sandra Jacobsohn, Roberta Kovitz, Lillian Schwartz, Robert

## ARCHIVES

Wagner, and Carole Yoshida. We are very grateful for the services of these volunteers, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge them here for their efforts on behalf of the Archives. It is with sadness that we note the retirement of three long-time Archives volunteers during this fiscal year: Hazel Cramer, Patricia Hume, and Lillian Schwartz; we extend to these three great ladies our sincere thanks for their years of volunteer service to the Archives, and we hope that they will continue to visit us as often as they can. We would like to welcome a new Archives volunteer, Jean Fincher, who joined us in April 2009. We also acknowledge the services of Aleksandra Hallmann, who volunteered in the Archives before joining the volunteer team in Museum Registration.

The Archives has also been supported this year by the hard work of three student interns and volunteers: Betsy Giles, Adam Stebbins, and Elizabeth Wolfson.

Lastly, we would like to report briefly on a long-term project to maximize the use of storage space in the Archives Storage Room. Through the efforts of Gil Stein and Steve Camp, the Oriental Institute has been granted the sum of \$250,000 by the Capital Projects Budget of the University of Chicago, which will enable us to install compact storage units in the Archives Storage Room. This will help us to maintain our archives collections in-house in climate-controlled storage for a while longer.

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## CONSERVATION

**Laura D'Alessandro**

Early in the year, the Conservation Laboratory completed the long-awaited purchase of a laser cleaning system — the Compact Phoenix Laser from Lynton Lasers in Cheshire, England. This new and exciting addition to Conservation's repertoire of treatment options was made possible by a generous grant from the University of Chicago Women's Board. This cutting-edge technology necessitated some modifications to the Conservation Laboratory. The laser uses a high-energy source to remove surface deposits from materials, but it is a two-edged sword (pun intended). The high energy and small beam size allows the conservation staff to delicately remove material with a high degree of control, but the high energy comes with a price. As with most high-energy sources, appropriate safety equipment and precautions must be followed. The Conservation staff have worked closely with the University of Chicago's Office of Radiation Safety and the manufacturer of the laser to ensure that the laser system is contained in a safe, modified area of the laboratory and is only used after following rigorous safety protocols.

In December, the Conservation staff attended a course on laser cleaning for conservators at the National Conservation Centre in Liverpool, England. The course covered the scientific theory behind laser technology as well as safety issues and regulations. A significant portion of the coursework also included hands-on training, using several different laser systems on a variety of materials. While in Liverpool, we also met with the CEO and senior engineer of Lynton Lasers; we were pleased to have this opportunity to discuss specific technical issues pertaining to the Compact Phoenix.

As we incorporate the laser into the laboratory operations, we have learned that the Compact Phoenix laser is extremely versatile and can be safely used on a wide range of materials. First

and foremost have been the Persepolis Fortification tablets. Under the highly skilled care of Contract Conservator Monica Hudak, the numbers of treated tablets continues to grow, providing legible, repaired tablets for the final stage in the imaging and recording process. Monica, with the assistance of part-time conservator Jeanne Mandel, continues to focus conservation attention on these very important and fragile artifacts. The laser cleaning system is a welcome tool in their conservation arsenal that allows them to remove very fine layers of surface accretions that are almost impossible to remove mechanically without damaging the inscribed surface. Monica and Jeanne have answered many questions from visitors to the laboratory who express amazement at the time-consuming, delicate nature of their work. In the meantime, the laser's usefulness continues to grow. The list of treated objects includes a gypsum stone fragment from Khorsabad, a limestone stela fragment from Denderah, Egypt, glazed ceramics from Rayy, and textile fragments from Nubia.

Alison Whyte, Oriental Institute Assistant Conservator, has been kept busy working on a variety of projects. As lead conservator for the special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*, Alison coordinated the conservation activities and treated a wide variety of materials. She also carried out analytical work on several projects for scholars and graduate students working on the collection, using the Department of Geophysical Sciences JEOL scanning electron microscope and coordinating efforts with the Department of Chemistry to have x-ray diffraction studies performed where necessary. Alison continues to pursue the study of the microenvironment within display cases in the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery, which saw an outbreak of salt crystals on objects within two of the cases last year.

Conservation was also involved in two more long-term projects: the Khorsabad Relief Project and the ongoing rehousing of the Museum's collections. Conservation has been working with Registration, Preparation, and Photography as the fragments of gypsum stone from Khorsabad are registered, cleaned, and photographed so that they can be studied as part of a larger research project. And thanks to a 2007 IMLS Conservation Project Support grant, the Museum has been able to rehouse its collection of Serra ceramics and Nubian organics, as well as the human remains from Alishar, Megiddo, and Nippur. While Registration staff were responsible for the rehousing of the ceramic material, Conservation was responsible for the organic objects, which require more customized supports.

As part of the Oriental Institute's farsighted policy of allowing staff to pursue professional development opportunities, both Alison and Laura were able to take part in excavations abroad. Alison spent part of last summer in Italy as the head conservator at the University of Cincinnati's Pompeii Archaeological Research Project. Laura was able to spend a week at the Tel Kabri Bronze Age excavations in northern Israel, working with a team of Americans and Israelis from the George Washington University, Washington, D.C., and the University of California at Santa Cruz.

The Conservation staff continues to maintain contact with their Iraqi colleagues. As part of the Field Museum's Iraqi training initiative, a group of archaeologists and conservators are in Chicago this year as part of a State Department initiative that was modeled on the Oriental Institute's own training programs. The conservation staff is teaching two modules within the Field Museum's program as part of the Oriental Institute's contribution. We are very pleased that supporting the cultural heritage of Iraq continues to be a focus for both the Oriental Institute and other agencies.

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## PREP SHOP

### Erik Lindahl

This year began with the addition of Brian Zimerle to the Prep Shop as permanent part-time Assistant Preparator. He has been an integral part of many projects over the last three years as a temporary preparator, but we are glad he can be a part of our team in a more consistent manner. His presence proved helpful right away with the construction of a crate for the transfer of Meresamun's mummy to the University of Chicago Medical Center to be CT scanned by Dr. Vannier for the special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*. Later, the Museum staff had to move her to the hospital a second time to be scanned on the next generation of CT scanning technology at the request and with the cooperation of Phillips Medical.

Throughout this past year the Prep Shop has been working with the Conservation lab, Registration, the Photography department, and a visiting scholar on what we call the Khorsabad Relief Project. This is the uncrating, cleaning, registering, photographing, and rehousing of hundreds of fragments — weighing in total tens of thousands of pounds — from the Oriental Institute's excavations at Khorsabad. The Museum staff has a weekly schedule we follow — first, Brian Zimerle and I select for the week's work two to three large fragments based mostly on accessibility. The pieces are then removed from their crates and the backs of the fragments are checked for inscriptions. In some cases this task requires our engine hoist and some careful rigging. Next the pieces are registered into the Museum's database by Susan Allison and cleaned by the Conservation staff. The cleaning process involves Alison Whyte taking pre-cleaning record photos, dry cleaning the fragments, and then taking a trip outside to the loading dock for a wet cleaning with help from Laura D'Alessandro. After this, Anna Ressler photographs the pieces for eventual publication. Once all the cleaning and photography is completed, Research Associate Eleanor Guralnick examines the pieces, writes descriptions, and attempts to identify fragments that may join. The pieces are then rehoused and the cycle starts again. Last summer, at the beginning of the project, Brian and I consulted with Registration to come up with a better long-term arrangement of basement storage. Since it was going to be necessary to access all the Khorsabad materials, which at the time were in several locations throughout the basement, we thought that it would be a good idea to plan on relocating all the fragments to a permanent home in the same location. This involved moving all non-Assyrian material out of heavy objects storage (HOS) and moving all the large Assyrian material into HOS. The result of this process was that we were able to better organize the basement so that large pieces are grouped more by origin than convenience. This was a substantial amount of work, but in the end has led to a better-organized collection.

February brought the opening of *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*. This exhibit was a lot of fun to put together and the amount of press it received was a reflection of the quality of work done by all involved. This exhibit allowed us to experiment with some new design elements. With help of Philips Healthcare we were able to construct an interactive computer kiosk. We also tried to convey a sense of ancient Egyptian architecture through the hanging of sheer banners with temple columns printed on them and a wallpaper border of an Egyptian motif. The exhibit is very attractive and its installation went smoothly.

After several months of testing, refinement, and the remodeling of the LaSalle Banks Room, the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center opened in November. The physical tel used in the Kipper Center was built by the Prep Shop last year and after testing of the Kipper Center



Program and the replacement of the floor in the LaSalle Banks Room, the tel underwent a few minor refinements and modifications. The tel functioned all year without damage or mechanical failure.

This spring, the Museum staff made a trip to Wheaton College to check up on a long-standing loan of Egyptian material. Registrar Helen McDonald did a splendid job coordinating the project. Brian Zimerle and I provided the crates, artifact transportation, and took most of the photos. Archivist John Larson acted as art handler, while Susan Allison numbered the artifacts and the Conservation lab wrote condition reports and packed the artifacts that they felt needed to come back to the Oriental Institute. It was exciting to work together as a team on such a focused project in a different environment.

The Prep Shop is always involved in several projects outside of basic Museum maintenance, exhibit construction, and collections management. This year we have been systematically replacing some of the light fixtures in the Museum with a new system that is less prone to failure. With Tom James, we assisted Anna Ressman with cleaning and rearranging the photo studio as part of a larger Museum storage cleanup project.

The beginning of next year will involve the preparation of photographs, objects, and graphics to relate the story of James Henry Breasted's travels to the Near East in 1919–1920. It will be a challenge to produce an exhibit that illuminates the complex narrative that would steer the Oriental Institute's activities for years to come. We are also working on a reorganizing project of the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. This will involve the fabrication of a few new mounts and the printing and formatting of additional labels for individual objects. There are also plans to add artwork to the basement lobby and the LaSalle Banks Room as additional content for the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center.

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## SUQ

### Denise Browning

The Suq was thrilled to welcome five new volunteers this year: James Tillapaugh, Jo Ellen Urban, Jane Meloy, Katia Chaterji, John Baird, plus returning volunteer Barbara Baird have been wonderful additions to the Suq. Unfortunately, we had to say good-bye to Erika Coleman, but we wish her well at her new job!

With the opening of the Meresamun exhibit this year, the Suq transformed the lobby of the Institute into a real bazaar filled with lots of merchandise imported directly from Egypt for this exhibit. We again transformed the Suq for the Gala this spring. It was great to see the lobby filled with so much color.

In December, for the first time ever, we began offering iPod audio tours. These tours developed by the Museum staff have been an instant hit! We installed a much-needed glass shelf under the window of the Suq to help display our many beautiful glass vases and lanterns. We also have on order a three-quarter-length mirror for the use of our customers to try on their new purchases.

Outside auditors were brought in to help us coordinate our POS system with the University's ledger system. Therefore, much of our year was spent behind a computer fine-tuning our accounting system.

During these troubled economic times, the Suq for the first time ever recorded an 8 percent loss in net sales. Nevertheless, our profits actually increased this year, allowing us to continue our support of the Oriental Institute's research and the Museum's activities. This success is due to our wonderful staff and volunteers; they are what truly make the Suq such an interesting place. Their knowledge and enthusiasm contribute to the excellent service we provide our visitors. We are very lucky to have our long time loyal volunteers Peggy Grant and Norma van der Meulen, as well as our now-seasoned volunteers, Ray Broms and Judy Bell-Qualls. A special thank-you to Norma, who designs and creates such beautiful and unique jewelry for the shop!

Jennifer Westerfeld continues as our book buyer, Web guru, and marketing designer. Thanks to Florence Ovadia, who makes such beautifully meticulous displays. Our student staff also contribute their many talents. Many thanks to Alycia Hesse, Ashley Stanton, Maureen Hsia, and Lauren Bayne.

The sad news of the death of Barbara Watson gives us a chance to acknowledge the wonderful contributions she has made during her long tenure as a Suq docent. I will treasure our long conversations about the history of beads and the trickle of her laughter filling the lobby.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

### Anna R. Ressman



This has been an extremely busy and productive year for the Photography Department. Much of what has been accomplished was done with the help of three excellent assistants and one summer intern. Bryce Lowry, also an assistant during the 2007–2008 school year, worked through the summer 2008 quarter before he graduated from the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS) program. Meggie Shortle, a student in the Center for Middle East Studies program who also volunteered through the spring and summer 2008 quarters, became an assistant during the fall 2008 and winter 2009 quarters. Ian Randall, a MAPSS student, was hired during the fall 2008

*Figure 1. OIM E701, mummified crocodile. Egypt. Late Period, Dynasties 25–31, 747–332 B.C. Organic remains, linen. Length: 29.4; Width: 2.5 cm. Purchased in Shegilil, Egypt, 1894–1895*

quarter and will continue to work as my main assistant through the end of the summer 2009 quarter. Finally, we have had the pleasure of welcoming Claire Barker, a graduate student from George Washington University, as a summer intern.

I am happy to report that the Photography Department has been operating for almost two years as an exclusively digital imaging studio that is capable of producing professional images at today's technological standards. Throughout the last year we have been continuing our modernization effort to bring all equipment, studio spaces, processing stations, and procedures in line with current technology. The studio and processing spaces are being cleaned and reorganized as time allows. This spring the studio underwent a major cleaning and organization project that was accomplished by Photography Assistant Ian Randall, Curatorial Assistant Tom James, and Preparator Erik Lindahl.

Although we have not been able to replace most of the Department's film-based equipment with analogous digital equipment, I have written a grant proposal and hopefully we will be able to secure funding to fulfill the rest of the departmental needs in the coming year. Last fall the Photography Department did acquire a new state-of-the-art laptop that has been critical to the success of many of the complicated photographs created in the past year. I am now able to conduct all object shoots by tethering the camera to the laptop, a method which allows a photographer to control the camera through the laptop and eliminates the need to physically look through the viewfinder, resulting in quicker and less convoluted shoots. This one new piece of equipment has reduced the risk of damage to all objects being photographed by dramatically decreasing their time spent in the studio and under photographic lights.

We have also been able to add a few smaller but equally critical tools to the Photography Department's tool kit, including the purchase of an additional macro lens, a professional graphics tablet, as well as three new software packages. In lieu of additional funds, I've focused on creative problem solving to use available resources in such a way that our studio can efficiently create high-quality imagery. This has included the modification and repair of older equipment, repurposing materials for studio use, and designing faster methods of image processing.

All these upgrades have taken place while the department worked on numerous projects in the past year. The end of last summer and most of the fall was spent completing new object photography (fig. 1) for the catalog *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*, which accompanies the special exhibit of the same name, on display in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery through December 2009. Work for this exhibit also included two very exciting photo shoots, the first of which documented an additional CT scan of the mummy Meresamun at the University of Chicago Medical Center on a new CT machine that employs cutting-edge technology (figs. 2–3). The second was an in situ shoot of the mummy in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery to capture studio-quality full-length and detail shots of the coffin. This project required coordination with Conservation, the Prep Shop, Registration, Tom James, and Emily Teeter, special exhibits coordinator and the curator of the Meresamun exhibit. With assistance from all these people, we constructed a temporary photo studio in the gallery, removed the glass case covering the mummy, and suspended the camera on a boom about twelve feet above the center of the mummy, while I myself stood on an elevated platform and operated the camera controls through the department's laptop. An image from this shoot was published on the cover of the March/April 2009 issue of *Archaeology* magazine and multiple photographs taken during the CT scan as well as some of the object photography made for the catalog were published inside the magazine and alongside additional articles on their Web site. Photographs from the Meresamun project were also published in print and online in

## PHOTOGRAPHY



**Figure 2.** The mummy Meresamun, OIM E10797, on the gantry of a CT machine at the University of Chicago Medical Center on September 25, 2008. Photo by Anna Ressler



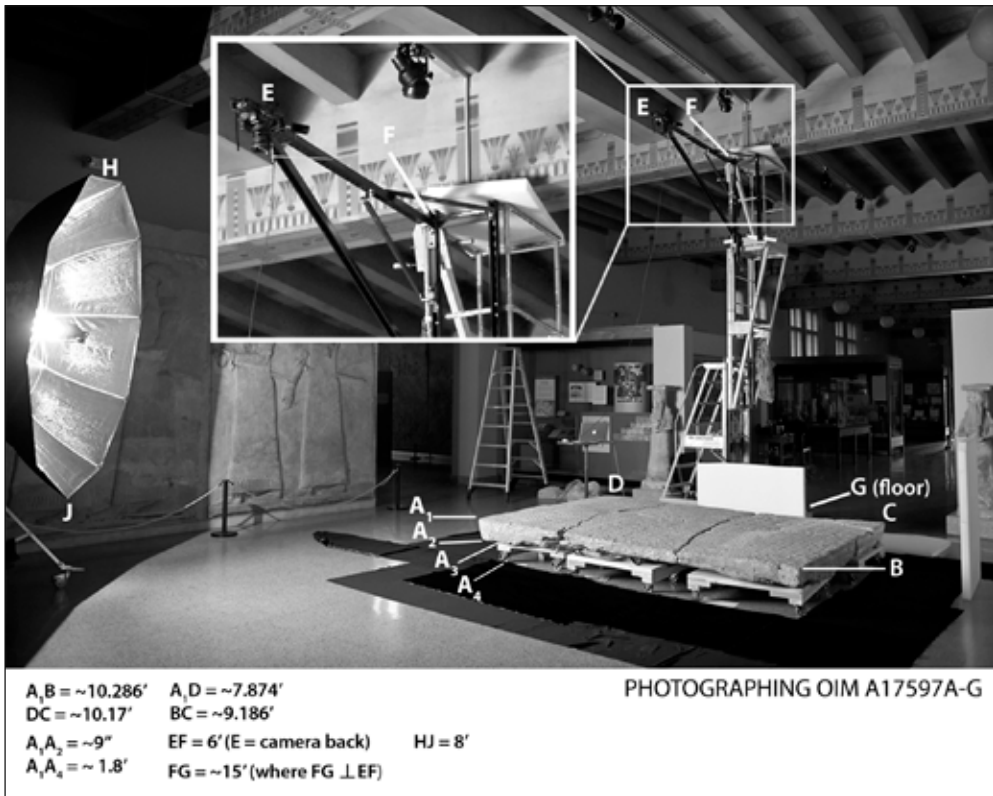
**Figure 3.** Conservators Monica Hudak (lower left, partially out of frame) and Alison Whyte (center) prepare the mummy Meresamun, OIM E10797, with the assistance of preparators Erik Lindahl (left) and Brian Zimerle (right) to travel back to the Oriental Institute Museum after a CT scan at the University of Chicago Medical Center on September 25, 2008. Photo by Anna Ressler

numerous other national and international media outlets, including the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, CNN, and *Time Out Chicago*.

New photography was completed for the upcoming book of highlights from the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery, which resulted in seventy-two new images for publication. Photography was also completed for the upcoming book of highlights from the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery, which produced ninety-four new images for publication. Most recently, the department finished all new photography for Karen Wilson's upcoming monograph on the 1903–1905 University of Chicago expedition to the ancient Mesopotamian site of Bismaya; new images of fifty objects were created for this book.

The other large project we have been working on is the Khorsabad Relief Project, which has the aim of cataloging, cleaning, photographing, and studying previously unpublished fragments from the royal palace of the Assyrian King Sargon II at Khorsabad. Photography of the large fragments began in the summer of 2008 and ran through the fall, and began again late this spring. The first work done on the Khorsabad Relief Project in 2009 led to the most complicated photographic shoot to be attempted by the Museum in at least a few decades. On Monday, April 20, 2009, six large carpet slabs were moved into the Yelda Khorsabad Court and fitted together in order to take a studio-quality photograph as they would have looked on the floor of the royal palace (figs. 4–5).

Altogether, the slabs measured almost eight feet wide and over ten feet long, and the Yelda Khorsabad Court was the only space in the Museum large enough to accommodate the slabs and the photographic equipment. Erik Lindahl and Brian Zimerle built individual dollies to move the heavy slabs from storage into the gallery. The camera lens needed to be almost fifteen feet above the center of the surface of the slabs in order to fit them all in one frame, which required a boom arm of about six feet in length that was both powerful enough to hold the camera still while it was



*Figure 4. Photographing OIM A17597A-G in the Yelda Khorsabad Court, April 20, 2009. Photo by Anna Ressman*



*Figure 5. Preparing to photograph OIM A17597A-G: Brian Zimerle (left) and Erik Lindahl (right) add a stabilizing bar to the boom arm with the assistance of Tom James (standing below) April 20, 2009. Photo by Anna Ressman*

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suspended over the slabs, and adjustable enough to accommodate any unforeseen issues which might arise during the shoot. Erik and Brian made a brilliant modification to the Museum's Hi-Jacker, an industrial lift on wheels, so that it could be used as a massive tripod. They welded a track onto the side of the structure and created a hinged boom arm out of three pieces of the same steel used to create the track. In order to ensure the rig would remain absolutely still, so as not to introduce any vibration into the exposures, the Hi-Jacker was extended all the way to a post in the gallery ceiling, where a piece of ethafoam was wedged between the platform railings and the ceiling to protect the ceiling's decorative paint.

The dimensions of the Khorsabad relief, OIM A17597A–G, and the rigors of archaeological photography demanded photographic equipment that was more advanced and larger than what the Museum owns. This was a great opportunity to test some of the equipment I want to buy for the department and I had the pleasure of renting some high-end commercial strobes, a reflector umbrella, radio controllers, a new Canon 5D Mark II camera, and two top-of-the-line lenses. Everything was remote-controlled by laptop, enabling me to trigger a camera 18 feet above and 16 feet diagonally away from the laptop, and in turn the camera triggered a strobe light source that was 8 feet in diameter, about 15 feet high, and about 22 feet diagonally away from the camera.

This shoot was accomplished after intensive research and planning that occurred over the span of a few months. It also required the coordinated efforts of the Prep Shop, Registration, Conservation, Tom James, Geoff Emberling, Steve Camp, Carla Hosein, Security (because a considerable amount of set-up time was done after hours in the studio and gallery on the weekend before the shoot), and extra hours from both my assistants, Ian Randall and Meggie Shortle. The Rental and Technical Sales departments at Calumet Photographic went above and beyond the call of customer service with their advice and help in brainstorming solutions — sometimes months before we rented anything. Lastly, two people who have no obligation to the Museum, David Ressler and Damian Lawson, each volunteered over four hours of their precious free time during the weekend before this shoot to help me pick up, transport, and set up the rented equipment, which altogether must have been at least as heavy as one of the stone fragments.

Overall, the Photography Department has had an exciting and demanding year. Major improvements in efficiency were made, several important projects were completed, including four books worth of images, our photographs of Museum objects were published in multiple internationally acclaimed media outlets which brought the Oriental Institute to a wide and diverse audience, and two very complicated shoots were successfully conducted which demonstrates that with hard work and cooperation our Museum staff can create accurate and beautiful images of some of the Museum's most thrilling objects that otherwise wouldn't be seen by the public because their size limits our ability to display them. The work was hard and required some long hours, but it was another fantastic year working with everyone at the Oriental Institute.

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## MUSEUM EDUCATION

### Carole Krucoff

Collaboration has long been a watchword for Museum Education. In this economically challenging year, collaborations with long-time associates and new partners from across the city and around the nation have been crucial in helping us shape meaningful and innovative programs to serve old friends and attract new audiences. Examples include a staging of the Epic of Gilgamesh, scripted by Pulitzer Prize-winner Yusef Komunyakaa; a remarkable concert featuring violin virtuosa Rachel Barton Pine (fig. 1), and a PBS NOVA film premiere on the Hebrew Bible introduced by the entire production staff from Boston. Many who came to programs like these had never visited the Oriental Institute, and their participation increased our adult education attendance by more than 25 percent from last year.

Support from the Kipper Family, the Polk Bros. Foundation, the Chicago Public Schools, and Science Chicago, a city-sponsored initiative to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers, are helping us provide in-depth museum learning for Chicago's teachers and families, another growing audience. A major award from the National Endowment for the Humanities is supporting our pioneering efforts in online education by enabling us to create Web resources that will help high-school teachers build student understanding of the ancient and contemporary Middle East.



*Figure 1. Violin virtuosa Rachel Barton Pine poses with an admirer of her music during intermission at a Newberry Consort concert held in the Yelda Khorsabad Court. Photo by Carole Krucoff*

## Adult Education

### Courses

For many years the Oriental Institute's on-campus adult education courses have been offered in partnership with the University of Chicago's Graham School of General Studies. This past year, our multi-session courses included:

- The World's First Cities, taught by Geoff Emberling
- From the Nile to the Indus: The Ancient Persian Empire; Troy and the Trojan War: A Story Not Told by Homer; and When East First Met West: Greek and Roman Exploration of the Orient, all taught by Ilya Yakubovich
- Before the Pharaohs: The Origins of Ancient Egypt, taught by Elise V. MacArthur
- Before History Began: The Earliest Cultures of Ancient Mesopotamia, taught by Kate Grossman
- Pharaoh's Menagerie: The Science and Art of Animals in Ancient Egypt, also taught by Grossman. This was the first time one of our adult education courses took place behind the

## MUSEUM EDUCATION

scenes. It was held in the Oriental Institute Zooarchaeology Lab, where participants were fascinated by their introduction to hands-on examination and analysis of ancient specimens.

Our two correspondence courses continue to attract students from across the nation and around the world. Hieroglyphs by Mail, taught by Andrew Baumann and Mary Szabady, and Cuneiform by Mail, taught by Monica Crews and Seunghee Yie, brought us more than 100 registrants whose locations ranged from New York to California and from South America to Eastern Europe.

### ***Special Adult Education Events***

Beyond formal courses, Museum Education offered a broad spectrum of special adult education events throughout the year. Most were presented in partnership with long-time collaborators or new associates. Each program strove to inform and engage the audience, arouse interest in future programming, and provide avenues for learning about becoming part of the Oriental Institute family as members.

In September, the Boston-based Elderhostel organization, which provides educational programming for senior citizens nationwide, invited us to present a Day of Discovery with them for the fifth year in a row. This year's event focused on the special exhibit Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past and featured lectures by McGuire Gibson, professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology, and Donny George, former director of the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad (fig. 2). The program, which sold out at 150 participants, also included a docent-led tour of the Museum as well as a luncheon at the Quadrangle Club.

Jazz band performances in Breasted Hall as part of the second annual Hyde Park Jazz Festival were another September highlight. This year, the Festival attracted 15,000 visitors to our neighborhood, and nearly 500 of those visitors came to the Oriental Institute to hear cool jazz sounds presented by the U-High School Jazz Band (fig. 3) and the music of critically acclaimed jazz guitarist Peter Lerner. All who attended were invited to sign up for the *E-Tablet*, the Institute's new monthly electronic newsletter. Tracking has shown that more than 100 people signed up and are now regularly receiving program and membership information from the Institute.



***Figure 2. Donny George, former director of the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad, speaks to a sold-out crowd during the Elderhostel Day of Discovery that focused on the looting of the Baghdad Museum and the destruction of archaeological sites in Iraq. Photo by Wendy Ennes***



***Figure 3. The U-High School Jazz Band filled Breasted Hall with cool jazz sounds during the second annual Hyde Park Jazz Festival***

Our series of Cuisine and Cookery of the Middle East events, offered in partnership with the Graham School of General Studies, continued this year with two new dining experiences. At Masouleh: A Unique Taste of Persia (fig. 4), owner and chef Azim Nassiri-Masouleh and his wife Goly introduced a sold-





**Figure 4.** Diners enjoy a unique “taste of Persia” during the Cuisine and Cookery of the Near East event at Masouleh Restaurant. Photo by Goly Nassiri

out crowd to the exquisite cuisine of their homeland in the mountains of northern Iran. At Turkish Delights at Turquoise Café, master chef Michael Güler presented a sumptuous array of dishes highlighting the Anatolian and Mediterranean influences that have made Turkish cookery one of the world’s great cuisines. This event proved so popular that we hosted it twice, once in fall and once in spring.

Another highly successful programming partnership continued this year when the Newberry Consort returned to present three new performances in Yelda Khorsabad Court. The music critic from the *Hyde Park Herald* newspaper attended Handel in Miniature, the

fall concert. She told staff what an extraordinary experience it was to hear beautiful music in such a remarkable setting, and she wrote a glowing review of our series for the *Herald*. The winter concert featured the work of fourteenth-century composer Francesco Landini and highlighted violin virtuosa Rachel Barton Pine as guest artist making her Chicago debut on the *vielle* and *rebec*, two ancestors of the violin. Spring brought us the utopian pastoral fantasies of such seventeenth-century British composers as Henry Purcell. All the concerts this year were sold out almost as soon as they were announced.

Collaborations with partners on campus to serve the University of Chicago and the wider community remain an important aspect of our programming. During Student Orientation Week in September the Wednesday docents led gallery tours that introduced seventy incoming freshmen to the Oriental Institute. Our Saturday docents led highly popular museum tours for Humanities Day in October. Jessica Caracci, Museum Education Programs Assistant, ran a booth at the Graduate Students’ Resource Fair, where she introduced the cultural experiences and internship opportunities available at the Oriental Institute.

We also joined with the Smart Museum of Art to present two special programs this past year. Seth Richardson, Assistant Professor of Ancient Near Eastern History, presented “Idols without Anxiety,” a lunchtime lecture at the Smart Museum. This program was offered in conjunction with the Smart’s exhibit *Idol Anxiety* and the Oriental Institute’s collection of artifacts related to ancient religious practices. “Displacement,” a cross-campus program, featured a tour of a Smart Museum exhibit of the same name that explored the impact of the Three Gorges Dam in China. The Oriental Institute offered a special film showing of *Nubia ‘64*, which documents the international campaign to salvage ancient Egyptian and Nubian monuments threatened by the building of the Aswan Dam.

Our partnership of musical programming with University of Chicago Presents also continued this year. Renowned Croatian guitarist Robert Belinic made his Chicago debut with works by Bach, Brower, and more amid the treasures of the Yelda Khorsabad Court.

Along with established collaborations, we joined with new partners to expand our audiences and our horizons this past year. We worked with the Culinary Historians of Chicago to arrange for a special guided gallery tour on the Haute Cuisine of Ancient Mesopotamia, led by Research Associate Karen Wilson. All who took part received translations of ancient recipes to try at home. This winter program, which attracted many people who had never visited the Oriental Institute, was so popular that it sold out and Karen offered it again in the spring.

## MUSEUM EDUCATION

This year saw our first collaboration with the Chicago Humanities Festival when we joined forces with them to present a Saturday afternoon staging of the *Epic of Gilgamesh* in Breasted Hall (fig. 5). Performed by Chicago's Silk Road Theater Project, this version of the story of Gilgamesh was scripted by the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa in partnership with dramaturge Chad Garcia. After the play, both joined Jennifer Shook, the play's director, to discuss the performance with the audience. Breasted Hall was filled to overflowing for this event, with ticket hopefuls lined up around the block. Many of the playgoers stayed to visit the Museum, where our Saturday afternoon docents stayed right up until closing time to answer countless questions from these new visitors. Special thanks to Christopher Woods, Associate Professor of Sumerology, who served as academic advisor for the production.



*Figure 5. The Silk Road Theater Project performs the Epic of Gilgamesh to a full house in Breasted Hall during this Chicago Humanities Festival event at the Oriental Institute. Photo by Robert F. Carl*

The Chicago Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) became a new collaborator when we jointly presented the public symposium “A Mummy Comes to Life: Science and Art Resurrect an Ancient Egyptian Priestess.” This event, offered in conjunction with the special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*, featured lectures/discussions by Janet H. Johnson, Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology, Oriental Institute (fig. 6); Hratch Papazian, Instructor in Egyptology, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute Coordinator of Special Exhibits and Curator of the Meresamun exhibit; and Dr. Michael Vannier, Professor of Radiology, University of Chicago Medical Center. Special thanks to Steven Bono, ARCE President, and Dennis Kelley, ARCE Vice-President, who helped shape this event, and to ARCE members Zuleikhah Black, Michael and Kathy Lisle, Demetria Nanos, Jim Stola, Amanda Trumbull, and Nancy Trumbull

for their help in making the symposium run smoothly and successfully.

The Meresamun exhibit inspired another new collaboration, this time with the Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA). We jointly presented “Ancient Egypt in Chicago,” a half-day excursion that featured a guided tour of the Meresamun exhibit led by Megaera Lorenz, Egyptology graduate student, and a guided tour of LUMA's special exhibit *The Eternal Light of Egypt: The Photography of Sarite Sanders*, led by LUMA Curator Jonathan Canning. Catherine Dueñas, Oriental Institute Volunteer Coordinator, supervised this event, and she introduced our programs and opportunities to all the LUMA participants,



*Figure 6. Janet H. Johnson, Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology (left), answers a question from the audience while Emily Teeter, Special Exhibits Coordinator, listens during the “A Mummy Comes to Life” symposium in February. Photo by Steven Bono*

most of whom had never visited the Oriental Institute.

We were honored when WGBH Boston, the Public Broadcasting System station that produces the PBS NOVA series, invited us to be the venue for a preview showing of *The Bible's Buried Secrets*, a landmark new NOVA film. WTTW, Chicago's own public television station, publicized this event to its entire membership and NOVA produced full-color posters, which we were able to share with religious institutions throughout the community. These efforts brought us a large crowd of people from neighboring churches and synagogues, as well as many other interested members of the general public. All were fascinated by the preview and by the discussion with the stellar panel connected with the film. Panelists included renowned archaeologist and biblical scholar William Dever (fig. 7); Paula Apsell, Senior Executive Producer from NOVA; and Ron E. Tappy, Professor of Bible and Archaeology at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and discoverer of the earliest known rendering of the Hebrew alphabet.



*Figure 7. Visitors listen intently as archaeologist and biblical scholar William Dever makes a point about his appearance in *The Bible's Buried Secrets*, a PBS NOVA film previewed at the Oriental Institute in November. Photo by Bill Richert*

Film screenings in Breasted Hall have long been popular programming events at the Oriental Institute, as shown by the ongoing interest in our free Sunday afternoon documentary and feature film series. This past year two showings and discussion sessions in conjunction with special exhibits aroused new interest. In the fall, Katharyn Hanson, graduate student in Mesopotamian archaeology and co-curator of the Catastrophe! special exhibit, led discussion of *Robbing the Cradle of Civilization: The Looting of Iraq's Ancient Treasures*, a highly praised documentary from Canada. In spring, Emily Teeter led discussion of *Under Wraps: An Autopsy of Three Egyptian Mummies*, comparing the technology used at the time of this 1998 film to the advances that led to the amazing scientific studies on view in the Oriental Institute Meresamun exhibit. In addition, the release this past year of a new Indiana Jones film encouraged us to bring back the original. We showed *Raiders of the Lost Ark* on the big screen, as it was always meant to be seen.

## Youth and Family Programming

Museum Education presented long-time favorites as well as new programs for youth and families this past year. All were in partnership with local organizations or with citywide initiatives. Three of our programs used off-site outreach formats to reach new audiences while three major events brought hundreds of families with young children to the Museum.

### *Outreach Events*

During the summer we traveled to Lill Street Art Center on the city's north side to present Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist, a week-long day camp for children ages 8–12 that was offered in both June and August. Teaching artist Meg Peterson, Education Programs Assistant Jessica Caracci, and Brian Pihuleac, our summer intern from Northern Illinois University in De Kalb, were the instructors this year. Both camp sessions included a visit to the Oriental Institute for guided gallery tours and art-making activities. In fall, we ventured out to the 57th Street Children's Book

## MUSEUM EDUCATION

Fair, where volunteers Bill and Terry Gillespie and Clare Brody invited more than 200 children and their parents to make and take home an ancient Egyptian-style scroll.

We reached our biggest outreach audience at Dia del Niño, an annual spring event hosted by Chicago's National Museum of Mexican Art. At this event we introduced the Spanish-language services now available at the Oriental Institute Museum. These include bilingual activity cards located throughout the galleries and computer interactives in Spanish that will soon be available on all the Museum's computer kiosks. Volunteer Coordinator Catherine Dueñas, along with Karina Chavarria and Amelia Newcomer-Leas, interns from the University's Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS), staffed the Oriental Institute booth. While all are fluent in Spanish, it was impossible for them to speak to the approximately 10,000 people who attended Dia del Niño. However, more than 1,000 visitors lined up at our table to fold origami pyramids as souvenirs (fig. 8), receive samples of our bilingual activity cards, and take home directions on how to find the Oriental Institute, which was new to almost everyone our staff encountered. We are hopeful our participation in Dia del Niño will encourage members of the Spanish-speaking community to visit the Oriental Institute and we are delighted that we have been invited to take part again next year. See the *Volunteer Section* of this *Annual Report* for a more complete description of Dia del Niño.

### At the Museum



*Figure 8. Even Batman folded an origami pyramid with MAPSS intern Amelia Newcomer-Leas at the Oriental Institute booth during the Dia del Niño event sponsored by the National Museum of Mexican Art. Photo by Catherine Dueñas*



*Figure 9. NELC student Max Price introduces a family to the many things zooarchaeologists can learn from ancient animal bones during Mummies Night: A Super Science Adventure in October. Photo by Wendy Ennes*

Mummies played a starring role in October, during our annual free pre-Halloween celebration of “Mummies Night,” which was supported this year by Science Chicago, a year-long citywide initiative designed to inspire the next generation of scientists. We called this year's Mummies Night a Super Science Adventure, with staff, interns, and docents focusing on three special science activities. Parents and children could get “up close and personal” with our reproduction mummy to discover that mummification was a scientific process which taught the ancient Egyptians much about human anatomy. At our computer kiosks everyone had the opportunity to “scan” a mummy with CT technology and see what

lay within the coffin without ever having to remove the wrappings. The scientific study of ancient animal bones was a special highlight of the evening (fig. 9). Brittany Jackson, Max Price, and Ashley Stanton, University of Chicago students with a special interest in zooarchaeology, introduced fascinated visitors to the many ways animal remains can tell us about what ancient peoples hunted, raised agriculturally, and even what they had for dinner! Hands-on crafts, a “Guess the Mummy Lollipops” contest, and a rousing interactive performance of *The Pharaoh*, *The Sphinx*, and *the Mummy* by Kidworks Children’s Theater Company rounded out the program, which brought us close to 500 visitors. An informal survey showed that nearly two-thirds of the families had never come to the Oriental Institute before and many had heard about Mummies Night through our collaboration with Science Chicago.

Holiday Adventures, a citywide initiative in December, gave us widespread publicity for “Holiday Adventures in Ancient Lands.” This free event featured a museum treasure hunt prepared by MAPSS intern Lindsay James, docent-led tours throughout the Museum, a special showing of the animated film *The Prince of Egypt*, and wonderful shopping opportunities during the Suq Holiday Sale.



**Figure 10.** Children crowd around MAPSS intern Kate Anderson to write their names in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs during the *Mysteries and Mummies* event held in conjunction with the opening of the *Life of Meresamun* special exhibit in February. Photo by Owen Berliner



**Figure 11.** MAPSS interns Kim Gouz (left) and Lindsay James help children get “up-close and personal” with our reproduction mummy during the *Mysteries and Mummies* event. Photo by Owen Berliner

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In February, mummies once again took center stage at “Mysteries and Mummies,” a free family festival presented for African-American Heritage Month in conjunction with the Meresamun special exhibit. During this afternoon of fun and learning, staff, docents, and interns invited children and their parents to create ancient Egyptian-style pottery, learn how to write their names in hieroglyphs (fig. 10), test our new Kids’ iPod audio tour of the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery, and view *Mummies Made in Egypt*, an award-winning children’s film from the Reading Rainbow series. Our reproduction mummy also made an appearance (fig. 11). Like Mummies Night, this event brought us close to 500 visitors. All were invited to sign up for the *E-Tablet* electronic newsletter to learn more about programs and activities at the Oriental Institute.

## Initiatives for Teachers and Students

### *The Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center*

Last year, the Oriental Institute became the home of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center, a simulated archaeological dig that recreates an ancient Near Eastern excavation site. Located in the LaSalle Banks Room, this exciting hands-on learning environment, which builds on



**Figure 12.** David and Barbara Kipper make an exciting find at the opening ceremony for the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center. Photo by Wendy Ennes



**Figure 13.** Jessica Caracci, Coordinator for the Kipper Center, explains how students will excavate and record their finds during the opening ceremony for the Center. Photo by Wendy Ennes

the concepts of the Rosenbaum ARTIFACT Center formerly at Chicago’s Spertus Museum, was designed to involve teachers, students, and others in experiencing the joys and challenges of archaeological discovery. Constructing our simulated excavation; modeling it as a “tel” (an artificial hillock or mound, usually one covering the ruins of an ancient city) in ancient Israel to connect with the Museum’s exhibit on Oriental Institute excavations at Megiddo; selecting reproduction artifacts for the tel’s trenches; and then developing educational programming to connect the excavation experience with the archaeological artifacts on view in the Museum was a year-long faculty/museum staff and intern/volunteer project that is explained in detail the 2007–2008 Annual Report.

This year we focused on bringing the Kipper Center program into full operation for middle-school teachers and students. Jessica Caracci, who is serving as Kipper Center Coordinator, began by recruiting and training four graduate student interns to serve as facilitators for the Kipper Center excavation program. Owen Berliner, Tony Sutton, and Amelia Newcomer-Leas from the University’s MAPSS program, and Tamara Leviton, a Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

graduate student, all joined us, each bringing wide-ranging experience in working with children as well as backgrounds in archaeology or anthropology. They worked with Jessica and with Katie Pawlicki, last year's intern from the University of Oklahoma who rejoined us this year, to shape presentation approaches that would engage students in thinking like scientists while uncovering, recording, and analyzing their finds. Jessica and Katie, along with Volunteer Coordinators Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman, worked together to develop training sessions for the docents who would take students on guided tours following their excavation experience. The goal of these tours is to help students discover how artifacts go "from ground to gallery," bringing the ancient world to life. As a final step Jessica and Katie developed a widespread publicity campaign that included mailings and e-mail announcements about the program to all teachers on our educator lists and an updating of our Web site to announce the program and how to register for it.

By November, the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center was ready for its first school groups. This milestone was marked on November 17 with a special opening event honoring David and Barbara Kipper and their family (figs. 12 and 13). Since that date, more than 400 sixth-grade students and their teachers have taken part in Kipper Center programming. Participants have come from the city and suburbs, have ranged from gifted classes to students with special needs, and almost all have had insightful things to say about their experience. One student spoke for many when she wrote on her evaluation that "I enjoyed so many aspects of this visit! My favorite was digging replicas of artifacts because it helped you get the experience of being an archaeologist. Plus there were so many cool real artifacts there!" Another student was inspired to write like a poet when he said, "I really enjoyed the archaeological dig because I liked digging for pieces of the past."



*Figure 14. Moms, dads, and even grandparents join the kids during Dig It!, the Kipper Center archaeology program for families presented in collaboration with Science Chicago. Photo by Katie Pawlicki*

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While schools were our main focus this year, support from Science Chicago enabled us to develop and present an extraordinarily successful Kipper Center program for families. Publicized widely by Science Chicago as part of their Science Saturdays program, our event, which we called “Dig It!,” sold out for both its morning and afternoon sessions. Each session included a PowerPoint presentation on how archaeologists apply many aspects of science in their work and a dig experience with mothers, fathers, grandparents, and kids all working together (fig. 14). The dig was followed by an interactive tour and scavenger hunt developed by Katie Pawlicki and MAPSS intern Kate Anderson, which invited the families to find and then make observations about real artifacts that were similar to the reproductions they had uncovered during their dig. Special thanks to Laura D’Alessandro, Head of the Conservation Laboratory, and conservators Monica Hudak and Alison Whyte for sharing ways they use scientific processes and principles to conserve the collections visitors see in the Museum. The success of this program reinforces our vision of the Kipper Center as the springboard for a broad range of programs and activities that can serve families, youth groups, and special-needs visitors throughout the region in the years to come.

### ***Major Multi-year Projects***

The past year we made progress on two major grant-funded initiatives that will empower teachers to enrich student learning about ancient civilizations. In February 2008 we received a major grant from the Polk Bros. Foundation for Interactive Learning and the Ancient Near East: Serving Schools and the Latino Community. This project is allowing us to develop a Spanish-language version for the interactive learning experiences on the computer kiosks in our galleries, which will turn our Museum into a truly welcoming environment for families from Chicago’s Latino community. However, this project also addresses another vital audience — underserved teachers and students in Chicago’s public schools.

Last year an advisory panel of middle-school teachers representing a broad range of student needs joined us to help transform our computer interactives into curriculum-related DVDs that will become available in both English and Spanish for classroom use. Translating into Spanish all the written and spoken information that accompanies each computer interactive, a herculean process that began last year, was completed this year, thanks to the translation and editing efforts of:

- Maria Theresa Chagnon, who holds a degree in Romance Languages from the University of Chicago;
- Ninfa Flores, a bilingual education specialist who serves on our teacher advisory panel;
- Catherine Dueñas, Oriental Institute Volunteer Coordinator, whose fluency in Spanish and familiarity with our collection has been crucial to the project; and
- Karina Chavarria, MAPSS intern, whose fluency in Spanish has made her an ideal editor.

Wendy Ennes, Senior Manager of Teacher and e-Learning Programs, is serving as this project’s art director and teacher liaison. Last year she facilitated the teacher advisory panel meetings and their development of supplementary materials and lesson plans for the DVDs. This year she scheduled and supervised the Spanish-language translation and editing processes and worked with Teresa Vazquez, the project’s Spanish-speaking voice-over specialist, to record all Spanish-language sections for the computer kiosks and DVDs. This summer, Nitzan Mekel-Bobrov, our computer programmer and multimedia architect, will join Wendy to shape a bilingual



format and design for the kiosks and DVDs. We envision all the Museum's kiosks will have both Spanish and English options by the end of the summer, and that the bilingual, curriculum-related DVDs will be available by year's end. We will then promote the Museum's interactives to local residents and the unique DVD resources to teachers locally, regionally, and nationally, as well as to educators in Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

Wendy Ennes is also the driving force behind *Teaching the Middle East: A Resource for High School Educators*, a major online education initiative supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Since 2007, the Oriental Institute, along with two on-campus partners — the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) and the eCUIP Digital Library Project — have been working together to create this project's extensive online teacher resource on the history and culture of the ancient and contemporary Middle East. The goal of this multi-year initiative is to provide high-school world-history teachers with the best in humanities scholarship to help build student understanding of Middle Eastern history. At present, such material is in short supply, fragmented, or, in many cases, does not even exist.

The project's educational materials are being created by fourteen faculty members from the University of Chicago and seventeen graduate student assistants from CMES. Eight high-school teachers are serving as advisors. The eCUIP team is designing the *Teaching the Middle East* Web site. A complete list of all participants in this unique partnership appears in last year's *Annual Report*.

Wendy Ennes manages all aspects of this wide-ranging project. She supervises the work of the CMES students, organizes meetings with faculty and with teachers, handles budgetary concerns, and creates and coordinates the timetable for the entire project.

This past year, faculty members completed several of the project's eighteen modules, which focus on various aspects of ancient and contemporary Middle Eastern archaeology, history, and culture. These modules have been read and edited by the project's Faculty Review Committee. Graduate student assistants are researching the supplementary Web resources, including images, video, and sound recordings that will accompany each module. All these materials will soon be sent to the advisory board teachers, who will create discussion questions and sample lesson plans to accompany each module. We envision the entire project will be ready for launch by year's end, providing high-school educators nationwide with a unique resource that will enhance teaching and learning about the Middle East for years to come.

### ***Other Teacher Services***

We are always seeking avenues to introduce elementary- and high-school teachers near and far to ways that Oriental Institute resources can help enrich student learning about the ancient world. This past year we had the opportunity to show how ancient Near Eastern art can be a vital learning resource for students when the Visual Understanding in Education (VUE) organization of New York invited us to partner with them and the Smart Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Loyola University Museum of Art to present a three-day teacher practicum on developing facilitation skills for Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS). This special teaching strategy uses art to develop the language literacy and critical-thinking skills that are so central to students' academic achievement.

Thirty-two teachers from across the city, the state, and the nation attended this practicum. Wendy Ennes, who has used VTS with great success in our teacher training programs over the years, led the session at the Oriental Institute (fig. 15). She used art and artifacts on view in our Museum to examine the learning theory that underpins VTS, helped teachers practice facilitating

## MUSEUM EDUCATION



**Figure 15.** Wendy Ennes, Senior Manager of Teacher and e-Learning Programs, introduces educators to the many ways Oriental Institute Museum resources can be used to enrich the arts, social studies, and science curriculum. Photo by Kendra Grimmert



**Figure 16.** Docents Dan McConnell, Christel Betz, and Mary McConnell show young visitors how to hand-build ancient Egyptian-style pottery during the *Mysteries and Mummies* event. These volunteers were among the many who contributed their time and talents to public programs this past year. Photo by Owen Berliner

VTS discussion, and presented ways VTS discussions can become tools for collaborative learning in the classroom.

Wendy also turned her attention to ways our Museum can empower teachers to help their students develop the science content and skills that will be so essential for twenty-first-century learning. In collaboration with the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Mathematics and Science Department and the Oriental Institute's Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL) she organized and helped lead two innovative professional-development CPS workshops on ways archeologists use scientific techniques to identify archaeological sites, discover the age and material composition of artifacts, and determine the technological processes and approaches used in ancient times. These workshops hold promise for ways science concepts can be more fully integrated into the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center program.

### Behind the Scenes

Looking back on all that has been accomplished this past year, I'd like to say how much Museum Education appreciates the ongoing interest, expertise, and support of Oriental Institute faculty, staff, and students. In a year when collaboration has been so vital to our success, you have been our most important partners. A special thank-you to Geoff Emberling, who provides us with guidance, encouragement, and assistance at every turn. Heartfelt thanks also go to the Museum Education and Family Programs Volunteers who worked with us this past year. Each of our special programs for adult learners, families, and the University community could not have taken place without the time and talents of these dedicated people (fig. 16). A record of all their names appears in the *Volunteer Program* section of this report.

This year we were fortunate to have the involvement and assistance of a spirited corps of volunteer and work-study interns who aided us in countless ways. Several have already



*Figure 17. Children learn Kipper Center excavation techniques from MAPSS interns Tony Sutton (left) and Owen Berliner, Kipper Center facilitators. They were part of the corps of interns who provided invaluable support for Museum Education this past year. Photo by Katie Pawlicki*

been mentioned in this report, but all deserve special recognition here as key support staff members. Katie Pawlicki was central to administration of the Kipper Center program. MAPSS interns Owen Berliner, Amelia Newcomer-Leas, and Tony Sutton did an outstanding job as Kipper Center facilitators (fig. 17), as did NELC graduate student Tamara Leviton. MAPSS interns Kim Gouz and Lindsay James provided invaluable support for office management, public relations, materials development, and program presentation, as did summer intern Brian Pihuleac from Northern Illinois University and high-school intern Clare Brody from the University of Chicago Laboratory School. While MAPSS interns Kate Anderson and Karina Chavarria mainly served the Volunteer Program, Kate's family program and Kipper Center support and Karina's Spanish-language assistance were invaluable. We could not have managed without each and every one of these very special interns!

Jessica Caracci, Education Programs Assistant, is Museum Education's internship program supervisor. Her guidance ensures the program offers the interns a meaningful experience that combines important administrative and programmatic assistance for our office with an introduction to the role museum education can play at a major university museum.

As this report indicates, Jessica has also assumed a vital role as coordinator of Kipper Center programming. To gain hands-on experience in archaeological processes, she, along with MAPSS intern Katie Pawlicki, traveled to the Center for American Archaeology in Kampsville, Illinois, to take part in a two-day archaeology immersion experience led by Center staff (fig. 18). Catherine Dueñas and I also joined them for this very worthwhile experience.



*Figure 18. Jessica Caracci, left, and Katie Pawlicki screen for artifacts during their archaeology immersion experience at the Center for American Archaeology in Kampsville, Illinois. Photo by Patricia Martin*

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Along with professional development at Kampsville, Jessica joined me and Wendy Ennes to attend Science and Technology in Afterschool Time. At this national conference, we all sought information about science programming that could provide a focus for long-term Kipper Center applications and possibilities.

In addition to the Kipper Center, Jessica is central to every other aspect of our programming for adults, youth, school groups, and families. She serves all these audiences with poise, professionalism, and a genuine concern for the needs and interests of others. Among the many responsibilities of her multi-faceted position, Jessica supervises the registration, confirmation, and financial record-keeping for all our adult education, family, and guided tour programs. She is also our public relations officer, graphic designer, and media specialist. The in-print and online publicity materials she generates have been key to this year's increase in public program attendance, as the detailed records she keeps show:

Category	Number of Participants	
	2007-08	2008-09
Adult Education and Films	2,205	2,797
Programs for the University	248	368
Family Programs	1,904	2,327
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,357</b>	<b>5,492</b>

The only public programs area that did not increase this past year is use of our self-guided Gallery Activity Cards. Their total use by 10,787 visitors did not reach last year's record high of 12,955.



Figure 19. Chosen from artifacts on view in the Oriental Institute Museum's Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery, the Learning Collection in the Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History section of the Institute's Web site is being used by hundreds of thousands of online visitors annually

This may be due to the economic environment; while the cards are free, we do suggest a donation of \$1 per card.

Wendy Ennes, Senior Manager of Teacher and e-Learning Programs, is the key figure in all our grant-funded initiatives for educators. Her vision, creativity, and drive, along with her grant-writing skills, dedication to excellence in educational programming, and her expertise in online education make her a vital asset to Museum Education and the Institute as a whole. Along with the accomplishments already described in this report, Wendy serves as advisor for Kipper Center programming. The comic book-style pre-visit guide she designed for teachers to prepare students for a Kipper Center visit was honored this past year by the American Association of Museums, which displayed the packet as an example of excellence in educational materials at its 2009 annual conference.

Wendy is always on the alert for innovative new avenues to reach teachers and students. Along with attending the Science and Technology in Afterschool Time conference she enrolled in the StarLogo TNG Workshop for Educators, a computer-modeling program offered online by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is exploring the StarLogo program as a possible Museum Education collaboration with the Oriental Institute's CAMEL project. In addition, Wendy is the developer and custodian of the online Teacher Resource Center; Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History; and Kids' Corner sections of the Oriental Institute's Web site, which reach hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. Statistics show that in 2008 the "Prepare a Mummy for Burial" section of Kid's Corner had 246,444 visitors, second only to the 463,306 people who visited the homepage for the entire Oriental Institute. Additionally, Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History (fig. 19), which was funded by a major national grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is meeting its goal to reach a broad and far-flung audience of educators. In 2008–2009 this online resource had 539,255 visits from across the nation and around the world.

The following section presents the many achievements of the Oriental Institute Volunteer Program, supervised by Volunteer Coordinators Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman, our colleagues in the Museum Education Office. This year our collegial relationship became even closer as we continued working together with Terry and Cathy and the docents to refine and enhance the programming for the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center. Read on to see how the Institute and the community have benefited from the work of our remarkable volunteers, and all that Terry and Cathy have helped them accomplish.

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## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

### Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman

Since its inception forty-three years ago, the Oriental Institute Volunteer Program has remained committed to its mission to bring the archaeology, history, and art of the ancient Near East alive to audiences of all ages. This past year the Volunteer Program continued to evolve in order to meet the demands of an ever-changing world. It is our hope that through this report you will understand

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in greater depth what makes this program unique and exciting to the volunteers whose dedication has been the key to its longevity.

This year the Volunteer Program concentrated much of its efforts on exploring innovative approaches to the museum experience for visitors of all ages. With the opening of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center in November, a whole new dimension of interactive touring options was introduced to the docents. Students and teachers alike were thrilled to be a part of the tel experience and to learn more about the processes of archaeological discovery.

### Database and Information Retrieval Systems

We truly came of age this year, fully embracing technology. Under the guidance and supervision of Tuesday Museum Docent and Faculty Assistant Sue Geshwender, decades of accumulated volunteer lists and records were systematically edited and entered into a centralized database



*Figure 1. Museum Docent and Faculty Assistant Sue Geshwender (right) and Volunteer Services Coordinator Terry Friedman smile as they work diligently to develop a new, efficient, and user-friendly database for the Volunteer Program. Photograph by Jessica Caracci*



*Figure 2. MAPSS intern Kate Anderson spent much of the fall and winter quarters reorganizing the office filing system as well as cleaning up the Docent Library. Photograph by Terry Friedman*



*Figure 3. MAPSS interns Kate Andersen and Karina Chavarria tracked tour statistics throughout the academic year. With the information gathered, they produced detailed graphs of visitor demographics and emerging trends. Photograph by Terry Friedman*



*Figure 4. Karina Chavarria sits busily attempting to format graphs for the 2008–2009 Annual Report. Photograph by Wendy Ennes*

(fig. 1). Detailed Excel spreadsheets were customized to link and consolidate records from a variety of sources. The new database has already proven to be more accessible and offers numerous options for efficient and accurate data retrieval. Thank-you, Sue, for being instrumental in the successful realization of this extensive project.

### Reorganization of Filing Systems and Tracking Statistics

Katherine Andersen, an intern from the University of Chicago Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS), devoted much of her time purging and reorganizing our office filing system (fig. 2). All papers and folders from file cabinets were removed and reviewed. The relevant information was re-filed into appropriate folders and clearly relabeled. Our file drawers are now neat and organized. At the end of this labor-intensive project, Kate produced an extensive spreadsheet meticulously cataloging the content of each file drawer. Bravo, Kate, for a job well done!

MAPSS intern Karina Chavarria joined Kate Andersen to work throughout the year on two additional major projects: the updating of all pertinent volunteer tour information and the careful documentation of tour statistics and service hours. They further examined tour information, integrating more detailed data such as school names, teacher contacts, and number of visits since the reopening of the Museum in 1999.

In our efforts to understand and expand the patronage of the Museum, the Volunteer Office continues to compile visitor tour statistics. Interns Kate Andersen and Karina Chavarria worked in tandem to track and analyze the demographics of visiting tour groups (figs. 3–4). By analyzing these statistics, the Volunteer Office is able to observe changes in visitor demographics and therefore make adjustments to the types of tours that we offer, so that visitors will have a more rewarding experience. The following graphs illustrate the fiscal period from July 2008 to June 2009.

This year the Oriental Institute had 9,684 visitors come to the Museum as members of a group (fig. 5). The bar graph shows us that the largest number came in October, November, and May

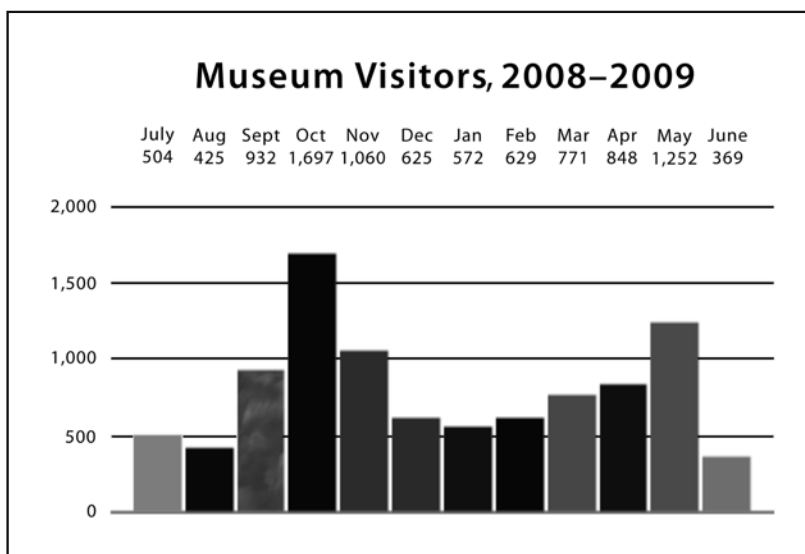


Figure 5. Numbers of visitors who came as part of a group tour, by month, 2008–2009

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

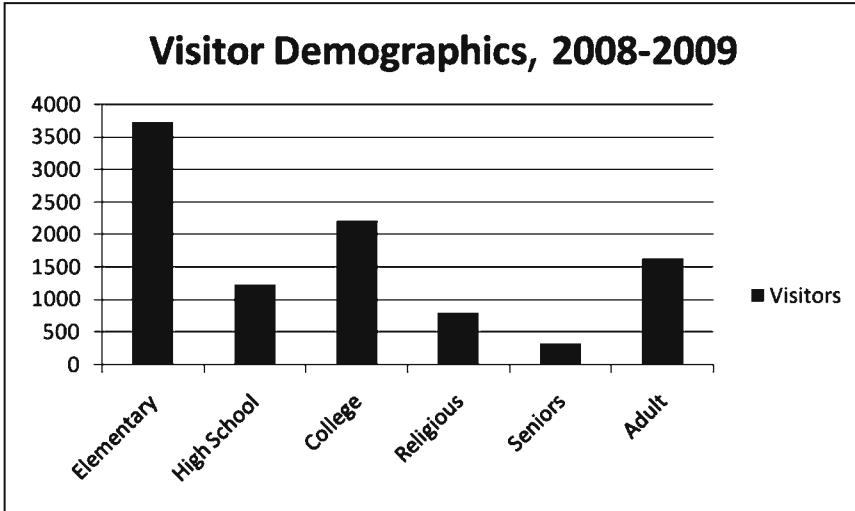


Figure 6. Visitor demographics, 2008-2009

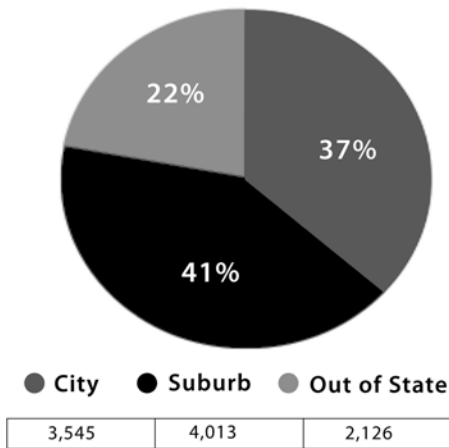


Figure 7. Geographic location of visitors

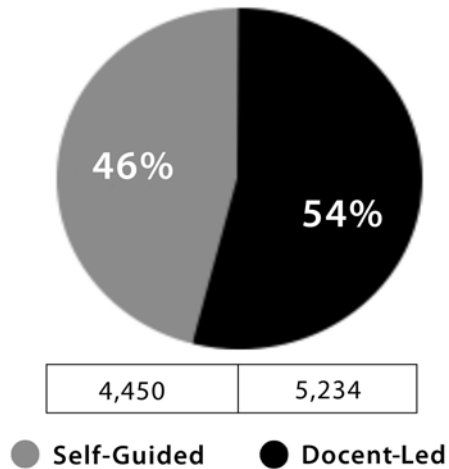


Figure 8. tour Type

(fig. 6). During the months of October and November, elementary-school children and college students made up the majority of the Museum visitors, because teachers cover the history of the ancient Near East as part of their curriculum at that time (fig. 7). After the study of these ancient civilizations in the classrooms, teachers bring their students to our Museum to explore and make connections between their own daily lives and those of the ancient peoples they have studied.

This past year, 37 percent of Museum group visitors came from Chicago. An additional 41 percent came from Chicago’s suburbs and 22 percent were out-of-state visitors (fig. 8). We were able to discern a marked increase in the numbers of out-of-state group visitors from last fiscal year to this: 1,719 in 2007–2008 to 2,126 in 2008–2009. As illustrated in figure 9, 46 percent of our group visitors took self-guided tours, while 54 percent took docent-led tours through our Museum’s galleries.



Through the dedication of our docents, 5,234 visitors were able to take a guided tour of the Oriental Institute Museum in 2008–2009, an increase of 634 visitors from the previous year's total. This increase speaks to the Institute's continued efforts to expand its programming to a larger audience.

### Volunteer Voice

The *Volunteer Voice*, the monthly newsletter for the Oriental Institute Docent and Volunteer Program, continues to serve as an important vehicle for communication between the volunteer coordinators and the volunteers. As the major source of current information about the program and other activities and happenings in the Museum and the Institute, the newsletter is a valuable resource to get an quick overview of each month's news and updates. As postal costs soared, we were able to utilize the electronic volunteer database to distribute the *Volunteer Voice* more economically to everyone via e-mail.

### Educational Opportunities

One of the major objectives of the Volunteer Program is to create substantive ongoing educational programming for all volunteers. Volunteer Days have been a cornerstone of this effort (fig. 10). This year we were pleased to have the following individuals participate in Volunteer Day programs: Kate Andersen, Susan Bazargan, Jessica Caracci, Geoff Emberling, Jan Johnson, Ray Johnson, Helen McDonald, Matt Stolper, and Emily Teeter. We thank them for providing outstanding lectures to enhance the volunteers' knowledge of the ancient Near East and the work of the Oriental Institute.

As part of the June Volunteer Day program, faculty, staff, and volunteers practiced an evacuation drill at the Oriental Institute. The volunteers were touring the galleries with Kate Andersen and Helen McDonald when the alarm sounded to evacuate the building (fig. 11). Although the entire drill only lasted a few minutes, it was a very important safety exercise. We would like to thank Adam Lubin, Head of Security and Visitor Services, for coordinating the evacuation with the help of University personnel.



**Figure 10.** Jessica Caracci, Museum Education Programs Associate, uses a PowerPoint presentation in the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center to demonstrate the new Tel Program to the Volunteers during June Volunteer Day. Photo by Terry Friedman



**Figure 11.** Faculty, staff, and volunteers participated in a successful evacuation drill during the June Volunteer Day program. Everyone exited the building safely and in a timely manner. Photo by Terry Friedman

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



**Figure 12.** *The fall miniseries on the three major religions in the Middle East was a great success. The final session featured a panel discussion with the three professors who presented the series: seated from left to right, David Schloen, Margaret Mitchell, and Donald Whitcomb. Photo by Tom James, courtesy of Chicago Media Initiatives*

During fall 2008, the Volunteer Program presented a three-part miniseries designed to study the three major religions in the Middle East: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. The emphasis of these lectures was not from a theological perspective, instead it focused on art and architecture and how these two concepts are reflected in the basic ideas and beliefs of the surrounding communities. The three professors who contributed to the series were Margaret M. Mitchell, David Schloen, and Donald Whitcomb (fig. 12). Their insightful and thought-provoking presentations helped us to truly appreciate the enormous complexity of these fascinating topics. The concept behind the miniseries was well received by the volunteers and this was reflected by the increased participation in the docent and volunteer training sessions. We are pleased to

announce that we are now in the process of developing another miniseries for this fall; this new series will be on creation myths.

Another major goal of Museum Education and the Volunteer Program has been to initiate innovative programming for the Latino community. When the National Museum of Mexican Art extended an invitation to the Oriental Institute to participate in the twelfth annual Chicago El Dia del Niño (Children's Day) Festival, this was the perfect opportunity for the Institute to reach out to the Spanish-speaking community. The staff of the Education and Volunteer offices created a presentation booth designed to increase awareness of the many Museum resources available for children and families in both English and in Spanish.

With the collaboration of Spanish-speaking MAPSS interns Amelia Newcomer-Leas and Karina Chavarria, the families felt very comfortable. Amelia and Karina not only told them about the Institute and the Museum, but they also gave them beautiful bilingual information cards with images of artifacts from our own collection. They even helped everyone make origami pyramids to take home as a souvenir of their visit. The bilingual cards and the pyramid activity captured the children's attention and they went off to tell other families about the Oriental Institute. Although it was impossible to speak to all of the approximately 10,000 people who attended the event, the festival did give us the possibility to inform more than 1,500 participants about where the Institute is located and the bilingual resources that are available to the public. Most of the participants were unaware that the Oriental Institute had a free museum and that it is located on the campus of the University of Chicago. We gave the families instructions on how to get to Hyde Park and encouraged them to visit the campus to see the Museum and its artifacts. We are hopeful that our coming to this year's festival has given us an entrée into the Spanish-speaking community and we would like to make our participation in El Dia del Niño an annual event.

### Visit to the Field Museum

In March, volunteers gathered at the Field Museum to enjoy a special viewing of The Aztec World exhibition. Prior to viewing the exhibit, we received a PowerPoint presentation about

the cultural and historical background of the collection. Our thanks to Bob Cantu, the former education and volunteer services coordinator at the Field Museum, for making the special arrangements for this visit. We are pleased to announce that since his retirement from the Field Museum, Bob will also become a Sunday Museum docent at the Oriental Institute.

## Docent Library

Under the guidance of Head Librarian Margaret Foorman (fig. 13) and Assistant Librarian Sandy Jacobsohn, the Docent Library has continued to thrive and serve as an invaluable educational resource. Our MAPSS intern Kate Andersen cataloged years of archival ephemera and organized them into binders that will be more accessible for research and study by the volunteers.

This year the Docent Library received a physical makeover. Much of the clutter was cleared away to make way for a cleaner, more welcoming environment for everyone to enjoy. Kate and Museum Preparator Erik Lindahl decorated the library walls with archival photographs from old Museum displays and a very attractive coatrack was designed and installed by docent and volunteer Larry Lissak.

## Tour Program

*The Museum is a gem, but Docents are needed to interpret the displays, especially to younger visitors. To be sure, the artifacts are well chosen and charmingly displayed, but it is the human voice, explaining and describing, which gives emphasis to what the eyes see.*

— Ida DePencier, “Reflections of a Volunteer Docent,”  
*Oriental Institute News & Notes*, April 1974

Docents are the good-will ambassadors and the public face of the Museum as the above quote from the late Ida DePencier, former long-time docent and member of the first docent training class in 1966, illustrates.

Whether school students, religious groups, community organizations, or senior citizens, the Oriental Institute Museum docents are eager to share their knowledge and pride for the Museum’s collection. The docents’ dedication and passion continue to have a long-lasting impact on Museum visitors.

Throughout the year, several docent captains encouraged their groups to organize informal study sessions that focused on the development of special-interest tour topics. These sessions helped the docents enhance their own knowledge of specific areas of the collection as well as to prepare unique approaches for engaging audiences with interactive touring methods (figs. 14–17).

A special note of thanks to Education Programs Associate Jessica Caracci, whose outstanding organization and communication skills are at the very core of the tour program’s success. Her patience and attention to detail are appreciated by everyone with whom she works.



*Figure 13. Margaret Foorman, Head Docent Librarian, carefully catalogs many of the new additions to the Docent Library collection. Photo by Terry Friedman*

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



*Figure 14. Museum docents enjoy giving tours to many groups of people. Here Museum Docent Roy Miller greets Elderhostel participants during a special program in September. Photo by Wendy Ennes*



*Figure 15. Kate Andersen points out many of the important details on the Code of Hammurabi during a tour of the galleries. Photo by Wendy Ennes*



*Figure 16. During our June tour of the Registration area, volunteer O. J. Sopranos pauses to answer questions about his work with Museum Registrar Helen McDonald. Photo by Terry Friedman*



*Figure 17. Helen McDonald, Museum Registrar, explains to volunteers how objects are registered into the Museum collection. Photo by Terry Friedman*

## Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center

The January opening of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center greatly expanded our ability to engage the community while providing the prospect for our volunteers to be at the vanguard of museum education. The Kipper Center features a four-tiered simulated tel and provides a unique and valuable opportunity for students to learn about archaeology first hand. The challenge has been to formulate a comprehensive educational program that incorporates the museum experience. Relying on the hard work of Education Programs Associate Jessica Caracci and intern Katie Pawlicki, the Tuesday and Friday docent teams have taken up the exciting challenge of developing an archaeology-focused tour of the Museum collections. The excitement of the students and their teachers is driving our efforts to expand the program and make it available to more students and a wider audience.

## Docent Captain System

The Docent Captain System serves as the vital link between the administrative staff and Museum docents. Captains assume the responsibility for overseeing the staffing of Museum tours and supervising docents. They also mentor new docents, giving them the guidance and support needed to become successful Museum guides. Through weekly e-mail tour reminders, captains are able to keep their docents up to date on the scheduling of tours. Working in tandem with Jessica Caracci, the captains enjoy using this system of communication for its ability to keep everyone in the loop. Our thanks and appreciation to these hard-working individuals whose vigilance helps the docent system run smoothly. The Docent Captains are Douglas Baldwin, Myllicent Buchanan, Gabriele DaSilva, Joe Diamond, Teresa Hintzke, Dennis Kelley, Roy Miller, Patrick Regnery, Stephen Ritzel, Lucie Sandel, Deloris Sanders, Hilda Schlatter, Siwei Wang, and Carole Yoshida.

## Volunteer Recognition

December Volunteer Day and the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony have become an annual tradition for the Volunteer Program. This festive holiday gathering incorporates a Volunteer Day lecture, a recognition ceremony for years of service, and culminates with a holiday luncheon at the Quadrangle Club (fig. 18). This year's program took place on Monday, December 8th.

Our thanks and appreciation to Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director, for an incredible double presentation during the December Volunteer Day Program (fig. 19). He



*Figure 18. The Volunteer Luncheon is a time to reconnect with old friends. Cathy Dueñas stops to chat with Bettie Dwinell, Alice James, and Anita Greenberg. Photo by Wendy Ennes*



*Figure 19. Museum Director Geoff Emberling gave a "State of the Museum" report as part of his presentation to the volunteers for December Volunteer Recognition. Photo by Wendy Ennes*

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

first presented the “State of the Museum,” highlighting the Museum’s accomplishments in the previous year and its future goals and projects. Secondly, he presented a PowerPoint presentation of his 2008 excavation season in Sudan. He shared with us his many fascinating experiences and discoveries while working on salvage excavations at the Fourth Cataract.

Immediately following Geoff’s presentation, the program continued with the Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony.

## Recognition

This year thirty-five people were recognized for their distinguished commitment to the Oriental Institute and Museum. Their combined service is over 460 years. We applaud all their contributions. This year, we have divided the group of award recipients into two categories: Active Volunteers, those who participate in the program on a consistent basis and Emeritus Volunteers, those who have remained friends and supporters of the Institute, but in recent years have not been able to be as active in the program for numerous personal reasons.

### Recognition Award Recipients, 2008

#### *Active Volunteers*

<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>	<b>15 Years</b>	<b>25 Years</b>
John Aldrin	Mylicent Buchanan	Irene Glasner	Carole Yoshida
Stephen Esposito	David Covill	Ira Hardman	
Mary Finn	Debby Halpern	Roy Miller	<b>30 Years</b>
Dennis Kelley	Lee Herbst	Kathleen Mineck	Janet Helman
David Ray	Robert McGinness	Deloris Sanders	Norma van der Meulen
Pramerudee Townsend	Donald Payne		
Robert Wagner	Lucie Sandel	<b>20 Years</b>	
	Mari Terman	Daila Shefner	
	Karen Terras		

#### *Emeritus Volunteers*

<b>10 Years</b>	<b>15 Years</b>	<b>20 Years</b>
Henriette Klawans	Bernadine Basile	John Gay
	Jane Belcher	Mary Grimshaw†
	Erl Dordal	
	Bettie Dwinell	
	Jo Lucas	
	Denise Paul†	
	Jane Thain	



*This year's volunteer recognition participants pose for a group picture immediately following the ceremony that took place on December 8th. Photo by Wendy Ennes*

## **Interns**

We were very fortunate this past academic year to have Karina Chavarria and Kate Andersen as MAPSS interns in the Volunteer Office. Through a special initiative with the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS), we were able to engage these graduate students in practical work-study opportunities throughout the Museum. From administrative tasks to assisting on special projects, all who worked with Kate and Karina appreciated their energetic spirit and excellent work ethic. Their numerous contributions have helped enrich and support many vital areas of the Volunteer Program's ongoing operations and new initiatives.

We were also delighted to have our summer intern Daniela Valdez, who came to us from Vassar College. We worked with her on many exciting and challenging projects throughout the summer months.

## **Museum Education Staff**

We would like to thank our colleagues in Museum Education for their unwavering support and prudent advice throughout this past year: Jessica Caracci, Education Programs Associate; Carole Krucoff, Head of Education and Public Programs; and Wendy Ennes, Senior Manager of Teacher and e-Learning Programs. In an office bustling with activity and interruptions, their calm demeanor and great sense of humor foster a congenial and productive work environment.

## **In Memoriam**

This year the Volunteer Program lost six devoted friends of the Oriental Institute and Volunteer Program: Ruth Goldman, Mary Grimshaw, Dorothy Mozinski, Denise Paul, Bernadette Strnad, and Barbara Watson. Despite frail health in recent years, each of these women remained a great advocate and dedicated supporter of the program. We will miss each of them greatly.

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

**Reflections**

It has been a year of discoveries, introspection, and transitions to new initiatives for the Oriental Institute Volunteer Program. Given the current turbulent economic environment, we investigated different ways to become more cost efficient, expand our audience base, and reinvigorate our office environment through technological upgrades and organization. It has been a challenging process, but the end results have been very gratifying.

All the achievements you've just read about would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteer corps. We are pleased to announce the volunteers gave 5,638 hours this fiscal year. It is with their consistent dedication and support that the accomplishments of the Volunteer Program were made possible. The volunteers have enriched so many aspects of the Oriental Institute and helped us realize many of the accomplishments of this past year.

***Volunteers: Class of 2008–2009***

Dennis Bailey	Moriah Grooms	Ljubica Sarenac
Stephanie Baness	Stuart Kleven	Margaret Shortle
Judy Bell-Qualls	Paul Mallory	Hamsini Sridharan
Ray Broms	Demetria Nanos	Patrick Strange
Noel Brusman	Sean Niewoehner	James Tillapaugh
Erika Coleman	Daniel O'Connell	James Torpy
Jean Fincher	Mary O'Connell	Monica Wood
Sue Geshwender	Harold Sanders	

***Summer Intern, 2009***

Daniela Valdez

***Volunteer Program MAPSS Interns, 2008–2009***

Kate Andersen	Karina Chavarria	Amelia Newcomer-Leas
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***Advisers to the Volunteer Program***

Peggy Grant	Janet Helman	Carlotta Maher
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***Docent Advisory Committee (Executive Board)***

Joe Diamond	Dennis Kelley	Mary Shea
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***Volunteers Emeritus***

Debbie Aliber	Mary Grimshaw†	Dorothy Mozinski†
Bernadine Basile	Cissy Haas	Muriel Nerad
Jane Belcher	Alice James	Denise Paul†
Muriel Brauer	MaryJo Khuri	Rita Picken
Charlotte Collier	Henriette Klawans	Janet Russell
Erl Dordal	Betsy Kremers	Mary Schulman
Mary D'Ouille	Nina Longley	Lillian Schwartz
Bettie Dwinell	Jo Lucas	Elizabeth Spiegel
Carol Green	Masako Matsumoto	Jane Thain



***Museum Docents (Active)***

John Aldrin	Anita Greenberg	Semra Prescott
Rebecca Binkley-Albright	Debby Halpern	Claire Pritchard
Dennis Bailey	Ira Hardman	Patrick Regnery
Stephanie Baness	Janet Helman	Stephen Ritzel
Douglas Baldwin	Lee Herbst	Geraldine Rowden
Nancy Baum	Teresa Hintzke	Lucie Sandel
Susan Bazargan	Morton Jaffee	Deloris Sanders
Christel Betz	Dennis Kelley	Hilda Schlatter
Myllicent Buchanan	Stuart Kleven	Joy Schochet
Roberta Buchanan	Lo Luong Lo	Anne Schumacher
Andrew Buncis	Paul Mallory	Mary Shea
Gabriella Cohen	Pat McLaughlin	Daila Shefner
David Covill	Sherry McGuire	Margaret Shortle
Joan Curry	Robert McGuinness	Mae Simon
Gabriele Da Silva	Roy Miller	Toni Smith
John DeWerd	Kathy Mineck	Patrick Strange
Joe Diamond	Alexander Muir	Bernadette Strnad†
Djanie Edwards	Demetria Nanos	Mari Terman
Jean Fincher	Sean Niewoehner	Karen Terras
Mary Finn	Daniel O'Connell	Ronald Wideman
Margaret Foorman	Mary O'Connell	Siwei Wang
Barbara Freidell	Mary O'Shea	Inge Winer
Sue Geshwender	Nancy Patterson	Carole Yoshida
Dario Giacomoni	Kitty Picken	
Moriah Grooms	Rita Picken	

***Affiliated Volunteers******(not active, but still part of the Oriental Institute community)***

Sylwia Aldrin	Ruth Goldman†	Donald Payne
Kristin Buskirk	Janet Kessler	David Ray
Joan Friedmann	Margaret Manteufel	Pramerudee Townsend
Marda Gross	Alice Mulberry	Arveal Turner

***Oriental Institute Archives Volunteers and Student Assistants, 2008–2009******Regular Archives Volunteers***

Hazel Cramer*	Patricia Hume*	Robert Wagner
Jean Fincher**	Sandra Jacobsohn	Carole Yoshida
Peggy Grant	Roberta Kovitz	
Aleksandra Hallmann**	Lillian Schwartz*	

\* Indicates retirement from active service during fiscal year 2008–2009

\*\* Indicates new volunteer beginning in April 2009

Please note that Aleksandra Hallmann has transferred to Museum Registration volunteers.

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

***Student Volunteers and Interns***

Betsy Giles (summer 2009)  
 Adam Stebbins (summer 2008)  
 Elizabeth Wolfson (summer 2008)

***Museum Registration***

Joan Barghusen	Janet Helman	Toni Smith
Gretel Braidwood	Barbara Levin	O. J. Sopranos
Joe Diamond	Daila Shefner	

***Museum Registration Summer Intern***

Lara Weiss

***French Interns***

Ariane Thomas	Noëlle Timbart
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***Student Volunteer***

Alison Hade

***Museum Assistant Work Study***

Courtney Jacobson

***Research Archives***

Susan Bazargan	Joe Diamond	James Tillapaugh
Ray Broms	Stephanie Duran	

***Tall i-Geser***

Susan Bazargan	Janet Helman
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***Suq***

Judy Bell-Qualls	Erica Coleman	James Tillapaugh
Roy Broms	Peggy Grant	Jo Ellen Urban
Katia Chaterjii	Jane Meloy	Norma van der Meulen

***Persepolis Tablets***

Irene Glasner	Louise Golland
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***CAMEL Lab***

James Boves	Alexander Elwyn	Harold Sanders
Gabriella Cohen	Larry Lissak	

***Photography Lab***

Maggie Shortle	Carole Yoshida
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***Hacinebi Excavations***

Irene Glassner

***Demotic Dictionary***

Larry Lissak	Janelle Pisarik
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***Conservation***

Claire Barker

**90th Jubilee Gala****Gala Committee Volunteers**

Chair: Debby Halpern

Gretel Braidwood	Kitty Picken	Mari Terman
Andrea Dudek	Sarah Sapperstein	Karen Terras
Margaret Foorman	Mary Shea	
Rita Picken	O. J. Sopranos	

**Special Event Volunteers**

Nancy Baum	Lo Luong Lo	James Tillapaugh
Susan Bazargan	Joann Putz	Siwei Wang
Gabriele Cohen	Deloris Sanders	Carole Yoshida
Sue Geshwender	Ljubica Sarenac	Agnes Zellner
Laura Grimshaw	Eudora Struble	

**Museum Education and Family Programs Volunteers**

John Aldrin	Terry Gillespie	Mary O'Shea
Rebecca Binkley-Albright	David Giba	Nancy Patterson
Susan Bazargan	Louise Golland	Rita Picken
Christel Betz	Ira Hardman	Semra Prescott
Claire Brody	Mark Hirsch	Claire Pritchard
Myllicent Buchanan	Dennis Kelley	Patrick Regnery
Roberta Buchanan	Larry Lissak	Stephen Ritzel
Andrew Buncis	Lo Luong Lo	Gerladine Rowden
Gabriele Da Silva	Sherry McGuire	Lucie Sandel
John DeWerd	Paul Mallory	Deloris Sanders
Joe Diamond	Roy Miller	Anne Schumacher
Stephen Esposito	Kathy Mineck	Toni Smith
Margaret Foorman	Alex Muir	Monica Wood
Dario Giacomoni	Daniel O'Connell	Carole Yoshida
Bill Gillespie	Mary O'Connell	

**Outreach Docents and Volunteers**

Myllicent Buchanan	Ira Hardman	Joy Schochet
Andrew Buncis	Robert McGuinness	Anne Schumacher
Janet Calkins	Roy Miller	Carole Yoshida
Joe Diamond	Kathy Mineck	Agnes Zellner
Bettie Dwinell	Mary O'Shea	
Bill and Terry Gillespie	Stephen Ritzel	





***MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT***

*Overleaf: Four-lugged polychrome jar; baked clay. Proto-Elamite, 3200–2900 B.C. Found by Donald McCown at Tall-e Geser, in southeast Khuzestan, southwest Iran, during the 1949 campaign. To be published in the forthcoming Excavations at Tall-e Geser*

# MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

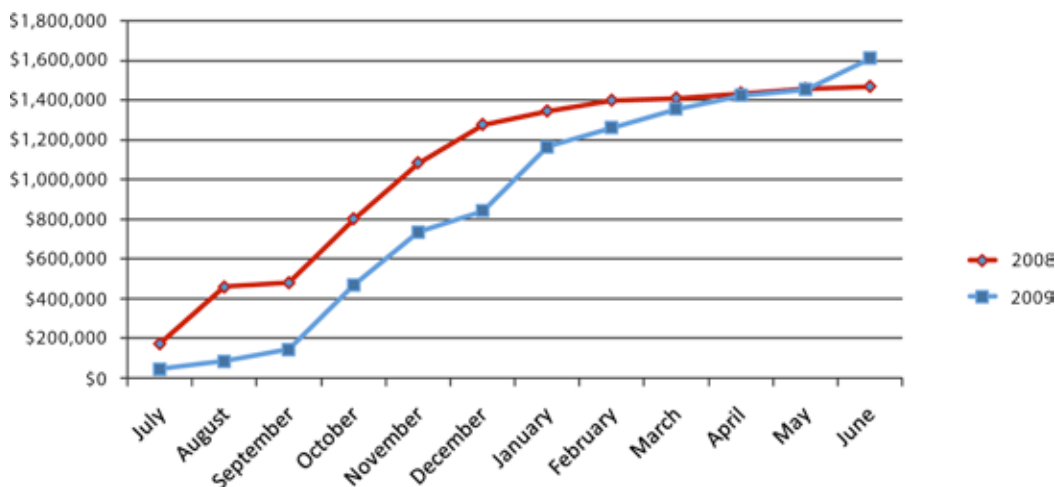
## DEVELOPMENT

### Steve Camp

The Development and Membership offices of the Oriental Institute experienced a number of changes this past year. Monica Witczak, our Development Director who served the Oriental Institute for over four years, left to pursue another career track this past November and Sarah Sapperstein, our Membership Coordinator, accepted another position within the University at the end of June. I want to thank both Monica and Sarah for their service to the Oriental Institute and its Members and wish them the very best in their new careers.

During this period of transition, we decided to re-evaluate our development and membership functions to determine if we are being efficient and productive in our efforts to serve Members and maintain and grow our core group of supporters in these difficult economic times. As with every other unit on campus, the Oriental Institute has experienced significant pressure from the University to reduce costs and we have submitted a budget that meets our target reductions. These recent changes lead us to this re-evaluation and we are close to having a viable restructuring plan as we begin the new fiscal year.

A review of our 2008–2009 fund-raising efforts presents a pleasantly surprising picture. The following chart represents total gift amounts to the Oriental Institute this past fiscal year compared to the previous fiscal year.



*Oriental Institute Gift Fund-raising 2008 vs. 2009*

Per the chart above, gifts to the Oriental Institute increased by 9.8 percent, from \$1,469,255 in 2008 to \$1,613,412 in 2009, even though the economic crisis began in the middle of fiscal year 2009. We believe this is a clear indication of the devotion and generosity of our supporters. A very challenging goal set by the Director is to continue to build on this success as the economy recovers.

## DEVELOPMENT

Federal and non-federal grants also play a critical role in our overall funding. We continued to see strong results in this area, with faculty receiving major awards from the Mellon Foundation (\$700,000), the National Endowment for the Humanities (\$950,000), and the National Science Foundation (\$350,000), among others. These awards show that the Oriental Institute is highly regarded by peers in the field and by national institutions of philanthropy and granting agencies.

In summary, we are very excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and wish to thank the members of our Visiting Committee Development Subcommittee, Toni Smith, Carlotta Maher, Neil King, Arthur Herbst, O. J. Sopranos, and former members Roger Nelson and Gretel Braidwood for all their guidance over the past year. In addition, we look forward to welcoming Andrea Dudek to the Development Subcommittee for the coming year.

Lastly, I would like to thank Kaye Oberhausen for stepping in with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm as we work our way through this transition period and a special thank-you to Maria Krasinski for coming back to the Oriental Institute on an interim basis as Membership Coordinator. She has helped us keep our Membership Office running during the transition and put us in a good position to better serve our membership going forward.

From all of us at the Oriental Institute, we thank all our donors and Members who provide the support that keeps the Institute at the forefront of research and education in the history of the ancient Near East.

## The Research Endowment Campaign

The Research Endowment Campaign, launched in 2006, finished the third year of a five-year campaign to increase funding for the core research areas of the Oriental Institute, providing a stable and predictable level of support for this work. The campaign targets five key areas that require long-term financial resources:

**Research Archives** This endowment supports the Oriental Institute's Research Archives. Containing more than 45,000 volumes, it is the foremost library on the ancient Near East in the Western Hemisphere.

**Technology** This endowment supports the growing technological and computing needs of the Institute.

**Ancient Languages** This endowment supports the writing of dictionaries such as the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, the Chicago Hittite Dictionary, and the Chicago Demotic Dictionary.

**Archaeological Fieldwork** This endowment supports current and future excavations in the Middle East.

**Museum Holdings and Special Collections** This endowment supports visiting scholars who research Museum holdings as well as the production of Museum special exhibits.

As of the end of June 2009, we are very pleased to announce that the campaign has exceeded its original three-million-dollar target; however, not all the goals for the individual endowments were funded. A list of major donors to the campaign includes:



## Research Endowment Campaign Donors

### Platinum Level (\$100,000 or more)

The Trust Estate of Marion Cowan  
 Arthur & Lee Herbst  
 The Trust Estate of Erica Reiner  
 John & Jeanne Rowe  
 The Estate of Nancy M. Sargis

### Gold Level (\$50,000 to \$99,999)

The Trust Estate of Alwin C. Carus  
 Richard & Mary Gray  
 Misty & Lewis Gruber  
 Robert & Janet Helman  
 Roger & Marjorie Nelson  
 John & Lee Ong  
 O. J. & Angeline Sopranos

### Bronze Level (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

The Brookner Estate  
 James & Margaret Foorman  
 Joan Fortune  
 Howard and Kaye Haas  
 Thomas & Linda Heagy  
 Neil King & Diana Hunt King  
 Joseph Lach  
 Lois Schwartz  
 Toni Sandor Smith  
 Francis & Lorna Straus  
 Mari & David Terman

### \$10,000 to \$24,999

Alan R. Brodie  
 Isak & Nancy Gerson  
 David & Carlotta Maher  
 Ann Roberts  
 Marjorie Webster

### Up to \$10,000

D. M. & Mary C. Abadi  
 Charles M. Adelman  
 Natalie Alberts  
 John Alden  
 Mary & Stanley Allan

Robert Andersen  
 Thomas W. Andrews  
 Julie Antelman  
 Ardell Arthur  
 Ronald R. and Marsha Baade

## DEVELOPMENT

## Up to \$10,000 (cont.)

- Miriam Reitz Baer  
 William M. Backs & Janet Rizner  
 John J. Barbie  
 Cynthia A. Bates & Kevin Francis Rock  
 Thomas & Francesca Bennett  
 Mark & Nancy Bergner  
 Julia Beringer  
 Andrea Berk  
 Charles & Helen Bidwell  
 Gretel Braidwood & Raymond Tindel  
 Catherine Novotny Brehm  
 Robert R. & Consuelo B. Brink  
 Mary Cerven  
 Bruce & Joyce Chelberg  
 Johna S. Compton  
 Helen M. Cunningham  
 Ursula Digman  
 Andrea Dudek  
 Ann R. Esse  
 Scott M. Forsythe  
 Gregory J. Gajda  
 John R. Gardner  
 Tawfik & Dorothy Girgis  
 Frederick & Patricia Graboske  
 Gene & Michele J. Gragg  
 Robert & Margaret Grant  
 David & Marsha Gratner  
 Eleanor Guralnick  
 M. Hill & Cheryl Hammock  
 H. Lawrence & Joanne S. Helfer  
 David C. & Betty Hess  
 Walter A. & Hedda Hess  
 Joan R. Hoatson  
 Christy Hoberecht  
 Ruth Horwich  
 Kamal N. & Lucy W. Ibrahim  
 Roger David Isaacs  
 Sandra Jacobsohn  
 Lise Jacobsohn  
 Pamela Jordan  
 Janet I. Kelly  
 Nicholas & Maruchi Kotcherha  
 Mark E. Lehner  
 Gary B. Lyll  
 Jan W. & Lois Mares  
 Frank & Linda Mayer  
 William B. McDonald & Glen A. Khant  
 Harriet McKay  
 Mila Meeker  
 Robert & Lois Moeller  
 Mariateresa Montanari  
 Catherine Moore  
 Suzanne Todd Morgan  
 Shirley A. Morningstar  
 William L. & Kate B. Morrison  
 Henry Moy  
 Michael Nabholz  
 Debra Navarre  
 Phil & Linda Neal  
 Muriel Kallis Newman  
 Joan Hunt Parks  
 Gloria C. Phares & Richard Dannay  
 Rita T. Picken  
 Harvey & Elizabeth Plotnick  
 Elizabeth Postell  
 R. B. Industries, Inc.  
 Crennan Ray  
 Agnes A. Roach & Ronald Allan Ferguson  
 Paul Benjamin Schechter  
 Kirk Lee Schmink  
 Albert & Jane Schwuchow  
 Vincent F. Seyfried  
 Michael Sha  
 Henry & Miriam Shapiro  
 Patrick J. Shaugnessy  
 Charles & Mary G. Shea  
 Emma Shelton & Florence Kate Millar  
 Matthew Sideman  
 Dorothy J. Speidel & Irving L. Diamond  
 Gil J. Stein  
 Jerome & Hadassah Stein  
 Herbert A. Storck  
 Gerald Sufrin  
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**Planned Gifts**

We are most grateful to those individuals who have made a gift by designating the Oriental Institute as the beneficiary of a life income gift or bequest. Gifts such as these provide expendable and endowed support for a wide variety of projects across all areas of the Institute. In the past year, we have received planned gifts from the following donors:

The Trust Estate of William Rowland Boyd  
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## 2008–2009 ORIENTAL INSTITUTE VISITING COMMITTEE

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Jill Carlotta Maher

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### Events Subcommittee

Deborah Halpern, Chair

Gretel Braidwood  
Rita T. Picken

Andrea Dudek  
Mary G. Shea

Margaret E. Foorman  
Mari Terman

## Visiting Committee Meetings

The fall meeting of the Visiting Committee was held on October 6th at the Quadrangle Club. Gil Stein discussed his first excavation season at Tell Zeidan in Syria. Cocktails and dinner followed the meeting.

The spring meeting of the Visiting Committee was held on May 4th at the Standard Club. This was the first meeting of a new format wherein a half day is set aside for annual Visiting Committee business and a number of Oriental Institute faculty present recent findings. Gil Stein introduced the focal point of this meeting which looked at current technological trends at the Oriental Institute. Theo van den Hout gave a presentation on the electronic version of the Hittite Dictionary, Matt Stolper presented on his work scanning the Persepolis Fortification Archive tablets, and lastly, Ray Johnson gave a presentation on how technology is being utilized by the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House in Luxor.

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## MEMBERSHIP

Sarah Sapperstein and Maeve Reed

### Publications

With the assistance and guidance of the Publications Office, the Membership Office continued to publish *News & Notes* on a quarterly basis. The Fall 2008 issue focused on the Institute building at the corner of 58th Street and University Avenue, examining some of its Near Eastern architectural and artistic features, and celebrated the opening of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center, an interactive dig experience for children at the Oriental Institute. In the Winter 2008 issue, Members were introduced to Kuttamuwa's stela, excavated by the Neubauer Expedition to Zincirli, Turkey. Spring 2009 featured an exclusive look at the special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt* with a special article by exhibit curator and Coordinator of Special Exhibits, Emily Teeter. In Summer 2009, we continued to celebrate Meresamun with the unveiling of a 3-D graphic reconstruction and drawings of her face by forensic artists.

Many thanks are owed to Tom Urban and Leslie Schramer in the Oriental Institute Publications Office for their enduring patience, diligence, and kindness in coordinating publication projects for Members and supporters over the past year.

### Events

We began the fiscal year with an Associate Members' event: *An Evening with Conservation*. Members were given an up-close-and-personal look at Oriental Institute conservation work in the Archives, the Museum, and the Laboratory by our wonderful conservation team.

In October, our Breasted Society Members enjoyed a presentation on "Beer and Brewing in Ancient Mesopotamia" by Kathy Mineck, Ph.D. candidate and contributor to the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary*. Members tasted sample beers brewed by Kathy and served in replica Mesopotamian-style cups made especially for the event.

In February, we welcomed 225 Members and friends to the opening of the special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*. Emily Teeter gave an in-depth presentation on Meresamun's mummy, her life, and the everyday artifacts that would have been used by her contemporaries. Dr. Michael Vannier, radiologist at the University of Chicago Medical Center, gave an illuminating talk explaining the results of a recent CT scan of Meresamun's mummy. Our guests then got to visit Meresamun herself in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery, and enjoyed a reception in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.

In May, the Oriental Institute celebrated its 90th Jubilee Gala. The event honored Rita Picken, a Life Member of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee, Oriental Institute volunteer for over thirty years, and dear friend. Over 230 people attended the formal evening with cocktails, silent auction, and a seated dinner in the Museum galleries. A special thank-you to Kaye Oberhausen, Special Events Coordinator and Development Associate, the Oriental Institute Events Committee, and the many volunteers whose hard work made this event possible.

We began our Members' Lecture series in November this year with a lecture by Mark Lehner, director of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project, on "Settlement Archaeology at Giza." Due to travel complications, December's scheduled Members' Lecture by John Curtis of the British Museum

was replaced with a presentation by Elizabeth Stone of Stony Brook University on the state of looting of antiquities sites in Iraq. I would like to extend a special thank-you to Elizabeth and our Members for their flexibility and understanding. January brought Augusta McMahon of the University of Cambridge to talk about her fascinating work on death at Tell Brak, Syria. In February we were visited by Michael Jones, Director of the American Research Center in Egypt, Cairo, who spoke on ARCE's work in Roman-era Luxor. In March, the inaugural Braidwood Visiting Scholar Naomi Miller of the University of Pennsylvania Museum presented a lecture on Gordion, Turkey. In April, we were pleased to co-sponsor a lecture by Archaeological Institute of America speaker Al Leonard of the University of Arizona, who presented on Canaanite art of the late Bronze Age. We continued into May with a presentation on crusades in the Eastern Mediterranean by Scott Redford of Koç University, Turkey, co-sponsored by the University of Chicago Department of Art History. The Members' Lecture series came to a close in June with a presentation by the Oriental Institute's own Ray Johnson, Director of the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House, who spoke of the challenges faced by the project and antiquities alike as Luxor undergoes a major urban renovation.

With the help of Irving Birkner and the University of Chicago Alumni Association, our January and March 2009 Members' Lectures were recorded (audio and video) and posted online. Members who are unable to join us on Wednesdays can now experience these lectures from home; we look forward to recording more lectures in the future. Visit us online at <https://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/member/events/> and click "Past Events" to watch or listen online. As always, we are pleased to have access to so many wonderful and willing lecturers and hope you will join us again for our 2009–2010 lecture season. These lectures are free and open to the public. Visit <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/members/events> for more information.

## Travel

In August, over forty-five Members and friends spent the day with Emily Teeter at the Indianapolis Museum of Art to see *To Live Forever: Egyptian Treasures*, a traveling exhibit from the Brooklyn Museum. Emily presented a lecture on "Deciphering Egyptian Art," discussing the aesthetics and interpretation of Egyptian art as both art and artifact. Oriental Institute Members were joined on this trip by members of the Chicago Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt, the Chicago Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America, the South Suburban Archaeological Society of Illinois, and the Chicago Archaeological Society. Thanks to all these organizations for their willingness to share this opportunity with their members.

In November 2008, thirty Members joined Mark Garrison of Trinity University at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco to explore the exhibit *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures* from the National Museum, Kabul. Garrison gave an illuminating lecture on the archaeological history of the Afghan region and its cultural influences. Members were able to enjoy the exhibit, which included many gold artifacts on display in the United States for the first time, as well as other sites in and around the city during the weekend trip.

In addition to events in the United States, travel plans for late 2009 and 2010 are currently underway. Nadine Moeller, Assistant Professor of Egyptian Archaeology at the Oriental Institute and director of excavations at Tell Edfu, will lead a travel program in November 2009. Entitled *Splendors of the Nile*, this trip is affectionately known as "Egypt 101" and will be an overview of archaeological Egypt. Members will visit some of the most well-known and important sites from Cairo to Luxor and take a seven-day cruise on the Nile. We have two international travel

## MEMBERSHIP

opportunities in the works for 2010; Abbas Alizadeh will be leading a long-awaited trip to Iran in April 2010 and Yorke Rowan will be leading a trip to Israel in fall 2010.

Oriental Institute travel programs are unique in that our passengers experience exclusive site visits and on-site learning privileges not enjoyed by other institutions or travel groups. Our Members learn directly from some of the most eminent scholars in the world, at sites the Oriental Institute has been working on and researching for almost a century. To view calendars and information on upcoming travel programs, visit <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/members/events>.

### Marketing and Communications

The Oriental Institute continues the effort to expand Membership and the Annul Fund through marketing opportunities. The endeavors of Emily Teeter as our lead marketing officer continue to pay off, with stronger than ever press coverage of our Meresamun special exhibit. The Oriental Institute has partnered with the Office of Philanthropic Affairs at the University of Chicago to identify untapped University of Chicago communities who may not have experienced the Oriental Institute Museum or programs. In 2008, the Membership Office sent out the first edition of *E-Tablet*, a monthly e-newsletter for Members. *E-Tablet* announces and provides updates for events, travel programs, and other Member opportunities, as well as links to news coverage. *E-Tablet* was made possible by the hard work of Kaye Oberhausen, John Sanders, and the Education Office. If you haven't already, please subscribe to this once-a-month e-mail by visiting us online at <http://oi.uchicago.edu>. At the bottom of the page, enter your name and e-mail address and hit the "subscribe" button.

Our 2009 Membership Calendar was a great success, featuring fourteen images from the first excavations and expeditions by James Henry Breasted in the early 1900s. Thank you to the many Institute faculty and staff who submitted images, dates, and programs for inclusion.

Lastly, a new Oriental Institute Visitor's Guide was created and distributed in the building this summer. This brochure includes membership information and a membership return envelope, so all Museum visitors have the opportunity to join the Oriental Institute.

### Benefits and Notes

In addition to the benefits already enjoyed by our Members, we are pleased to announce that the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) program, accessible to our Associate and Breasted Society Members, has expanded to include over 350 institutions across North America and several select institutions in Central America. Any Associate or Breasted Society Member needs only to present their membership card with the "North American Reciprocal" gold label on it to enjoy the benefits of a NARM institution's membership during their visit. For more information about this program and for a list of participating institutions, please contact the Membership Office, or visit us online at <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/>.

Thanks to the hard work of our IT team, both at the Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago, many Members continue to sign up and renew their memberships online at <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/member>; online renewal is secure and easy to use. As always, we continue to accept gifts, renewals, and gift memberships by phone with credit card, by mail, e-mail, and fax. Please use the Membership Office e-mail, [oi-membership@uchicago.edu](mailto:oi-membership@uchicago.edu), for all e-mail correspondence.



We are so appreciative of our Member and Donor communities who recognize the importance of the work of the Oriental Institute. We quite simply could not continue the work we are doing without your generosity and support, whether it's your advocacy, involvement, financial contribution, or participation. Thank you for all you do.

\* \* \* \* \*

*A Note from Sarah Sapperstein:* As the fiscal year draws to a close, I am preparing for my departure as Membership Coordinator. My new position as Assistant Director of Chicago and Central States Alumni Relations will keep me in touch with many of our Members who are Alumni of the University of Chicago. It has been the utmost honor and pleasure for me to be able to work in this office, with the scholars and faculty of the Oriental Institute, and with the wonderful membership and supporter communities that allow this place to do the important work it accomplishes each year. Thank you all for a wonderful two and a half years here. It's been a pleasure serving you and working with you. Best wishes to one and all.

*A Note from Maeve Reed:* As of July, 2009, I have been hired as the new Oriental Institute Membership Coordinator. I would like to thank Gil Stein and Steve Camp for this opportunity and I look forward to meeting our Members at upcoming events. Additionally, special thanks are due to Maria Krasinski, Brittany Lubarda, and Kaye Oberhausen for managing the Membership Office in the interim and for the invaluable training they have given me.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Kaye Oberhausen

This year was a busy one for the Special Events Office. The Oriental Institute celebrated its 90th anniversary, had a Breasted Society event about ancient beer brewing, opened an exciting new exhibit about a temple singer in ancient Egypt, and highlighted the work of our conservation staff to our Associate Members. We also welcomed many different groups, including the Chicago Network, Booth Executive MBA program, the concierge community, and many alumni and friends of the University of Chicago. It has been a pleasure to see so many new faces and to welcome our Members and Donors who help make the important work of the Oriental Institute possible.

#### Summer/Fall 2008

##### *The Chicago Network*

In August we welcomed twenty-five members from the Chicago Network for a tour of the special exhibit *Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past*, given by Oriental Institute Museum Director Geoff Emberling. The Chicago Network is a premier organization of diverse, professional women in the Chicago area who have reached the highest echelons of business, the arts, government, the professions, and academia. Visiting Committee member Toni S. Smith is a member of this network and extended to the group the invitation to come to the Oriental Institute. Geoff did a wonderful job explaining the archaeological issues facing Iraq since the war began and the group stayed to ask engaging questions. Thanks to Toni for bringing this great group to the Oriental Institute.

##### *Associate Members Event — Preserving the Past: An Evening with Conservation*

On September 8 the Conservation staff of the Oriental Institute presented the latest developments in technology, chemistry, conservation science, and their application to Oriental Institute artifacts in the Museum collection. Our Associate level Members visited three conservation stations set up in the Institute; two in the Museum and one in the Conservation Lab on the Institute's second floor, tucked away behind the Research Archives. For most of our members, this was the first time they had visited the conservators in their laboratory space. Against the backdrop of the Yelda Khorsabad Court, Head Conservator Laura D'Alessandro demonstrated the process of cleaning and preserving a collection of mudbricks from the Neo-Assyrian city of Khorsabad in northern Iraq. Alison Whyte, positioned in the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery, talked our members through the process of analysis and treatment of an outbreak of damaging salts discovered on two artifacts found in the Oriental Institute's collection. Monica Hudak and Contract Conservator Jeanne Mandel were



*Oriental Institute Conservation staff, left to right: Laura D'Alessandro, Monica Hudak, Jeanne Mandel, and Alison Whyte*

in the Conservation Laboratory with a display of the Persepolis Fortification Archive tablets and other artifacts, describing the process for cleaning antiquities using a laser that removes dirt and pollutants that would be unable to be removed by hand without harming the artifact. A special thanks to our Conservation staff, the Museum staff, and our Associate Members for making this event a great success.

### ***Breasted Society Event – Babylonian Brews***

On October 29 we welcomed the members of the James Henry Breasted Society to the Oriental Institute for an event in homage to Oktoberfest: Babylonian Brews. By the dawn of history the ancient Sumerians had already perfected the art of brewing beer, and we were delighted to bring history to life by explaining the brewing process and brewing the ancient recipes. Kathleen Mineck, NELC Ph.D. candidate and contributor to the Chicago Hittite Dictionary, presented an informative lecture on the archaeological and textual evidence for ancient Sumerian beer brewing. After the lecture, guests had the opportunity to taste three different ancient-style brews (wine, honey-wheat, and date beers) in replica vessels based on ancient pieces on display in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. The event was even capped off with an ancient drinking song. David Hammond of Chicago Public Radio's cultural program "Eight Forty-Eight" was at the event; if you missed the fun you can hear his report "Drink Like a Sumerian" on the program archives for November 12, 2008 ([http://www.chicagopublicradio.org/Program\\_848.aspx?episode=30121](http://www.chicagopublicradio.org/Program_848.aspx?episode=30121)).



*Rita Picken, Gil Stein, and Kitty Picken enjoy a quaff, Sumerian style, at the Babylonian Brews event. Photo by Kaye Oberhausen*

### ***Grand Opening of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center***



*David and Barbara Levy Kipper*

The fall was also a very exciting time for the Oriental Institute Education Department as we opened the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center. David and Barbara Kipper, generous donors to the project, had a fantastic grand opening celebration in the new and improved LaSalle Banks Room on the lower level of the Oriental Institute. Through their generous gift, students throughout the Chicago area can now get a hands-on archaeological experience on this simulated tel. This grand opening celebration included a "first dig" and plenty of congratulations to the entire team for making this new educational experience possible. A special thanks to David and Barbara Kipper for this lasting gift to the Oriental Institute.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Winter 2009*****Members' Opening – The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt***

The beginning of the year was a busy time for the Oriental Institute Museum as the special exhibit *Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past* closed to make way for the next exhibit, *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*. Meresamun is a familiar face to our Members, as she has been with the Oriental Institute since the 1920s and is usually on display in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. However, this exhibit has been a great way to learn about the life of this ancient woman, both inside the temple and at home, through artifacts from the collection and the newest generation of CT scans that reveal new information about her health and appearance. On February 9 we were delighted to put Meresamun in the spotlight by hosting an exclusive Members' opening for the show. Over 220 people were in attendance. Special Exhibits Coordinator Emily Teeter, curator of the exhibit, and Dr. Michael Vannier, University of Chicago Radiologist, gave two informative lectures highlighting Meresamun's life and health. Guests were welcomed to a colorful lobby transformed into an Egyptian *suq* for the evening and enjoyed delicious appetizers in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. A special thanks to Gil Stein, Emily Teeter, and Geoff Emberling for their support. Also thanks to Erik Lindahl, Sarah Sapperstein, Denise Browning, Steve Camp, and Alison Whyte for their help in making the evening a success.



*Guests at the opening of the special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*.  
Photo by Anna Ressler*

***Festschrift and Birthday Celebration for Professor Matt Stolper***

February also brought a wonderful surprise celebration for Professor Matt Stolper, the John A. Wilson Professor of Assyriology and Director of the Persepolis Fortification Archives Project. Matt celebrated his 65th birthday and the announcement of his festschrift at a surprise party held in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. Family, friends, and colleagues traveled from all over to toast Matt and all his accomplishments over his tenure at the Oriental Institute. The celebration also included a lecture by Remy Boucharlat, Senior Researcher at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, University of Lyon, and Director of the Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée. Special thanks to Chris Woods and Gil Stein for helping make this possible and keeping it a surprise.

***The Fifth Annual University of Chicago Oriental Institute Seminar***

Early March brought the Fifth Annual University of Chicago Oriental Institute Seminar — Science and Superstition: Interpretation of Signs in the Ancient World. Postdoctoral Scholar Amar Annus developed a conference that investigated how much we know about the Babylonian theory of signs and hermeneutics of omens, and the scope of their possible influences on other cultures and regions. A wide variety of scholars traveled to present interesting and thought-

provoking papers on this topic. A very special thanks to Mariana Perlinac for her invaluable assistance throughout the weekend. Also thanks to Gil Stein, Chris Woods, Tom Urban, and Leslie Schramer for helping make this conference a success. Watch for the publication of the conference proceedings next spring.

### ***Research Endowment Campaign Dinners***

The Oriental Institute also hosted two Research Endowment Campaign dinners, one in Chicago and one in Washington, D.C. All proceeds from these dinners go into the Research Endowment Campaign fund that helps support key research projects taking place at the Oriental Institute. Janet and Bob Helman hosted the Chicago dinner in their elegant home. New Oriental Institute Research Associate Yorke Rowan spoke about a new Oriental Institute expedition to the Galilee region in northern Israel. Yorke focuses his studies on the Chalcolithic period (ca. 4500–3700 B.C.) of the Southern Levant. Guests enjoyed an interesting lecture and discussion session followed by a delicious dinner. We look forward to hearing more about Yorke's exciting discoveries as he begins his expedition in summer 2009. The dinner in Washington, D.C., was hosted by Annette and Walter Vandaele in their beautiful home. Guests enjoyed a lecture and discussion with Nadine Moeller, Assistant Professor of Egyptian Archaeology, all about the latest results from her excavations in Tell Edfu, Egypt. Nadine presented for the first time the results from the 2008 dig season and discussion continued well into the dinner. The Oriental Institute wishes to express its sincere thanks to Janet and Bob Helman and Annette and Walter Vandaele for graciously opening their homes and underwriting these very special evenings.

## **Spring 2009**

### ***Chicago Society Event***

In early April the Oriental Institute opened its doors to the Chicago Society, a society of donors who give \$2,500 or more to the University of Chicago. Attendees enjoyed a presentation by Emily Teeter and Dr. Michael Vannier about the special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*. Emily and Dr. Vannier brought Meresamun to life with their in-depth research of her life and health. Guests also enjoyed a reception and special viewing of the exhibit. We were thrilled to welcome these special donors to the Oriental Institute and give them an inside look into the exhibits and research taking place at the Oriental Institute.

### ***Romancing the Past – 90th Jubilee***

On Wednesday, May 6, 2009, we welcomed 234 guests to *Romancing the Past*, our 90th Jubilee, where long-time member Rita Picken was honored with the Breasted Medallion for her over thirty years of dedicated service to the Institute. The evening started out a bit wet for some of the attendees as a massive thunderstorm swept over Hyde Park right as the Gala began. However, this did not dampen the spirits of the guests, who enjoyed cocktails, appetizers, and a Near Eastern-themed silent auction. Some highlights of the auction included a Turkish Hereke rug, beautiful jewelry, a pith helmet that once belonged to former Field Director Charles Nims, and a wooden shipping crate once used by James Henry Breasted himself. The closing of the silent auction was a race for some of the guests to put in their last bids in order to ensure their win.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

After cocktail hour attendees filed into Breasted Hall for the presentation portion of the evening. University Provost Thomas Rosenbaum extended a warm welcome on behalf of the University of Chicago; Gil Stein followed by welcoming everyone to the Oriental Institute. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Oriental Institute as a leader in the field of ancient Near Eastern research. The presentation was also the unveiling of a preview of the newest Oriental Institute film for visitors to the Museum. Len Aronson, director of the film, gave an introduction in which he spoke of the importance of the Oriental Institute. After the seventeen-minute viewing guests enjoyed a 90th retrospective presentation by Director, Gil Stein. Gil managed to fit 90 years of history into 20 minutes and presented an engaging and informative look at the Oriental Institute through the decades.



*Top: Carol Meyer, Bob Smither, and Janet Helman reunite; bottom: George Blossom and Todd Schwebel enjoy cocktails and conversation in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. Photos by Anna Ressman*

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Breasted Medallion to Rita Picken. Gretel Braidwood, Life Member of the Visiting Committee, gave a lovely talk about the impact Rita has had on the Institute in her thirty years of dedicated service. Rita has taken on many roles at the Institute including being a docent, Visiting Committee member, volunteer, and Events Committee member. She is always there to lend a helping hand, including the day of the Gala when she was helping set up decorations with her daughter Kitty.

Museum Director Geoff Emberling then took the stage to be the Oriental Institute live auctioneer. Two live auction items were on the block. The first was a dinner by a French-trained chef on handcrafted hieroglyph china; the second a trip on the Neubauer Expedition to Zincirli. Both items sold to the highest bid-

der to help support the Oriental Institute's projects and programs. Thanks to all the silent- and live-auction bidders!

Dinner was held throughout almost all the galleries in the Museum with twenty-nine tables to hold all 234 guests. Diners were seated at the feet of King Tut, nestled near the Persian Bull, and surrounded by the magnificent relief sculptures of the Yelda Khorsabad Court. The delicious meal included a special surprise: all diners received their very own Breasted Medallion. However, unlike Rita's, these were made of chocolate.

The entire evening was filled with laughter, food, fun, and plenty of wine. Guests shared stories from years past and reunited with friends they had not seen in years. Best of all, the Institute was able to honor a lifelong friend, Rita Picken, who, like the Institute, was also celebrating her 90th year.

This evening would not have been possible without the cheerful hard work and invaluable advice from the Events Committee of the Oriental Institute. Special thanks to Deborah Halpern for her leadership as chair of the committee. Thanks also to Gretel Braidwood, Andrea Dudek, Margaret Foorman, Rita Picken, Kitty Picken, Sarah Sapperstein, Mary Shea, O. J. Sopranos, Mari Terman, and Karen Terras.

A special thanks also to the many volunteers who helped make the evening a huge success. Thanks to Nancy Baum, Susan Bazargan, Gabrielle Cohen, D'Ann Condes, Sue Geshwender, Laura Grimshaw, Lo Luong Lo, Mariana Perlinac, Joann Putz, Deloris Sanders, Ljubica Sarenac, Eudora Struble, James Tillapaugh, Siwei Wang, Carole Yoshida, and Agnes Zellner.

Special thanks to Gil Stein, Steve Camp, and Geoff Emberling for all their support and guidance during this process. Thanks to John Larson for assisting in the gala presentation. Thanks to John Sanders, Erik Lindahl, Brian Zimerle, Tom James, Adam Lubin, Denise Browning, Jessica Caracci, Anna Ressman, Foy Scalf, Leslie Schramer, Tom Urban, Carol Yohanon, and Laura D'Alessandro for going above and beyond to help make the evening a success.

### ***Alumni Weekend***

The Oriental Institute was also thrilled to host two alumni weekend events the first weekend in June. While the University welcomed hundreds of alumni and friends to campus, we opened our doors to the 30th Reunion dinner and the Graham School of General Studies. On Friday evening the Reunion attendees enjoyed cocktails and appetizers in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery, followed by dinner in the breathtaking Yelda Khorsabad Court. Attendees learned about the history of the Oriental Institute from Theo van den Hout, Editor of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary and Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Saturday evening we welcomed back the Graham School alumni for the second year in a row. Attendees got special tours of the Meresamun exhibit from Emily Teeter, and of the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery from Karen Terras. They also got to view all the permanent galleries and see all the Oriental Institute has to offer the University. Special thanks to Emily Teeter, Karen Terras, Theo van den Hout, and Sarah Sapperstein for helping to make these events successful.

### **Acknowledgments**

Thanks to Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein for his guidance and support of the events at the Oriental Institute. Also a special thank-you to Steve Camp and Geoff Emberling for all their help

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

to make these events a success. Also a fond farewell and thanks to Sarah Sapperstein, who is a wonderful colleague and friend and who will be greatly missed. Thanks to Denise Browning, Jessica Caracci, D'Ann Condes, Laura D'Alessandro, Cathy Dueñas, Wendy Ennes, Terry Friedman, Carla Hosein, Monica Hudak, Tom James, Carole Krucoff, John Larson, Erik Lindahl, Adam Lubin, Kathy Mineck, Nadine Moeller, Mariana Perlinac, Anna Ressman, Yorke Rowan, John Sanders, Foy Scalf, Leslie Schramer, Emily Teeter, Karen Terras, Tom Urban, Alison Whyte, and Monica Witzak for helping ensure successful events at the Oriental Institute. Next year looks like another busy one for the Oriental Institute — we hope to see you at future events!

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## HONOR ROLL OF DONORS AND MEMBERS

### \* THE JAMES HENRY BREASTED SOCIETY \*

*Named for the founder of the Oriental Institute, the James Henry Breasted Society is an elite group of donors whose contributions are vital for the support of major research programs, as well as the day-to-day operation of the Oriental Institute. Patrons of the James Henry Breasted Society contribute \$1,000–\$2,499 annually, while we welcome donors of \$2,500 or more into the Director's Circle.*

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