

# THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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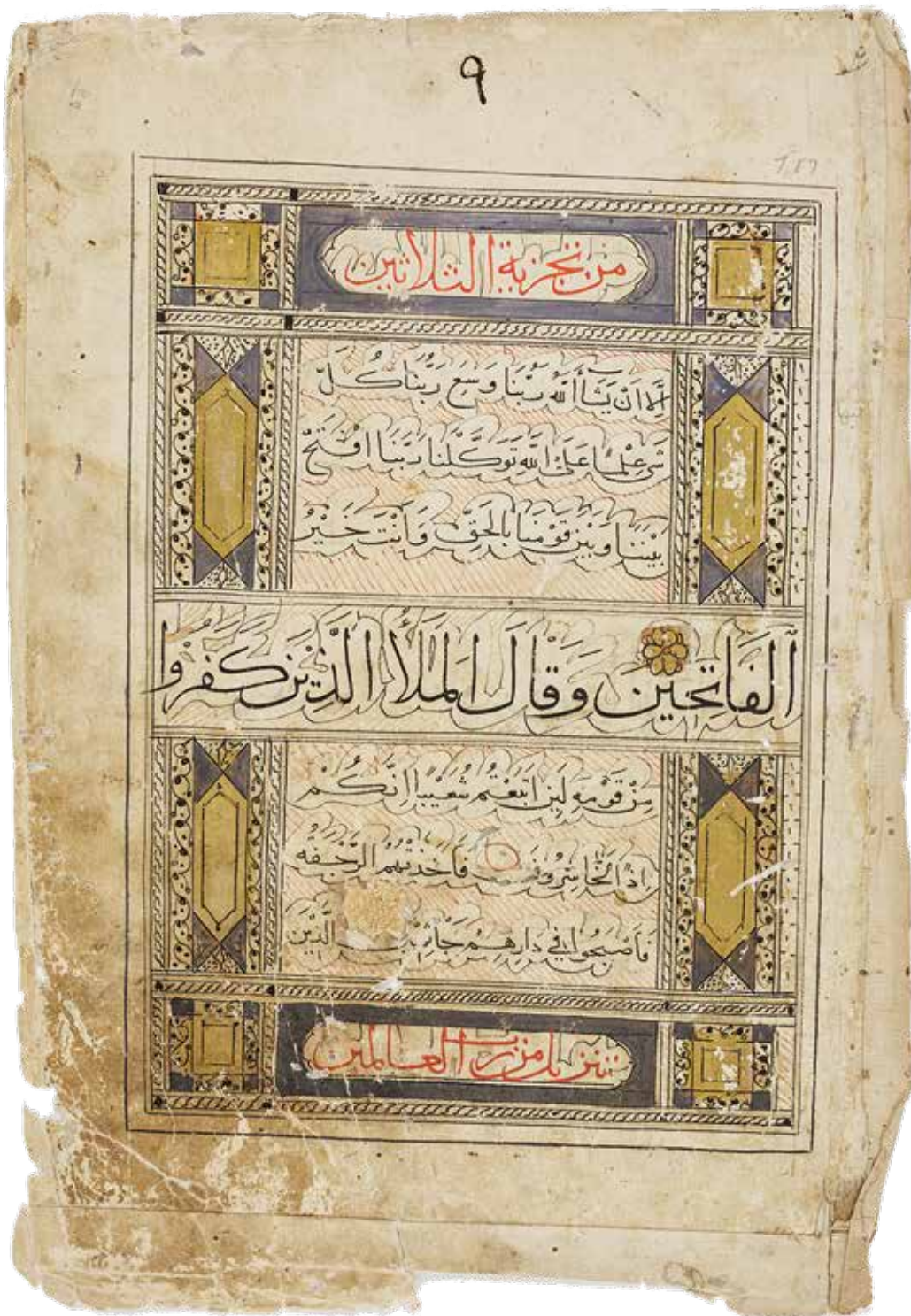
لَمَّا أَنْ يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ زِينًا وَسِعَ رَبُّنَا كُلَّ  
شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا عَلَّمْنَا اللَّهُ تَوَكُّلَنَا رَبَّنَا وَسِعَ  
بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَ قَوْمِنَا الْحَقَّ وَالْحَقِيرَ

الفاحين وقال الملائكة كفر  
مزقوه ليزابنعم شعيب انكم  
اد الخاشعوا فخذنهم الرحمة  
فأصبحوا في دارهم جاثقون الذين

منزلة منسوخ العالمين



# THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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Cover illustration: Overleaf: Folio from a Qur’an. Mamluk, 1435/6 AD. Ink on paper. 30 × 21 cm. OIM A12030A (photo D. 027328: Anna Ressman)

The pages that divide the sections of this year’s report feature images from the special exhibition *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo*, on display at the Oriental Institute from February 17 to September 13, 2015.

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Above: Bowl fragment with sgraffiato decoration. Pottery with glaze. Mamluk, early 1300s AD. Fustat, Egypt. 12.4 × 4.3 cm. OIM E25431 (photo D. 027372: Anna Ressman)

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# INTRODUCTION

Gil J. Stein

It is my honor to present you with the *Oriental Institute Annual Report* for 2014–15. Cultural and academic institutions often feel obliged to justify their existence and explain to their audiences (or critics) how what they do is relevant to modern life — and why people should care. Current events in the Middle East — most notably the savage attacks by the self-declared “Islamic State” (also called Da’ish, ISIL, and ISIS) on the irreplaceable museums, monuments, and ancient artifacts of the cradle of civilization make it painfully obvious why people should care. This horrific ongoing destruction serves as a daily reminder of the extraordinary significance and relevance of the cultural heritage of the heartlands where the world’s earliest civilizations developed. The eradication of this patrimony is erasing our own history — how we came to be who we are. All of us share the moral obligation to do whatever we can to preserve the cultural heritage of the ancient Near East. Few places feel this obligation more keenly than the researchers, staff, students, members, and supporters of the Oriental Institute. For the last ninety-six years, since its founding by James Henry Breasted in 1919, the Oriental Institute has devoted itself to exploring the origins of civilization, to preserving that heritage, and to disseminating knowledge of the ancient Near East to both scholars and the public. In the face of those who seek to destroy the heritage of Near Eastern civilization, we will do everything we can to explore, understand, preserve, and teach about that heritage.

Every page of this *Annual Report* is a testimony to that commitment. Even though many of the modern Middle Eastern countries where we have traditionally conducted our excavations, surveys, and historical studies are temporarily closed to us because of political turmoil, the Oriental Institute has continued and even expanded that research. This past year alone, we continued existing projects and began new initiatives in Egypt, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Turkey, the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. We now have a total of thirteen excavation projects in these areas. Our Demotic and Hittite dictionaries are documenting the ancient languages of Egypt and Anatolia, and are developing fundamental research tools for exploring those civilizations. Chicago House and the Epigraphic Survey are not only recording the monuments of Luxor and Medinet Habu, they are also preserving and restoring the architecture and art of this UNESCO World Heritage area. Our researchers are exploring the earliest origins of writing and mathematics in Mesopotamia. Our Integrated Database, CAMEL lab, and Achemenet and OCHRE projects are building invaluable new tools to document and organize the crucial data sets for understanding ancient Near Eastern civilizations. In Kabul, the Oriental Institute is helping to rebuild the National Museum of Afghanistan and is initiating a new project to map the archaeological sites of that country with an eye toward documenting the looting. We are making sure that knowledge of the ancient Near East is more accessible than ever before by making every publication that the Oriental Institute has ever produced — all 768 of them! — available for free from our website to anyone, anywhere in the world who wants to learn about this heritage. We are not only continuing our efforts, we are expanding them, as can be seen by our hiring three new Assyriologists (Susanne Paulus, Hervé Reculeau, and John Wee) and one new

## INTRODUCTION

Anatolian archaeologist (James Osborne). Finally, in this past year we have established the Chicago Center for Archaeological Heritage Preservation (CCAHP) to serve as a focal point for preservation efforts, and to develop new initiatives to safeguard this patrimony. There is so much more that we could do, and that I hope we will do; but this is an impressive and successful effort that is making a difference in the world. I want to express my profound respect for and gratitude to the people of the Oriental Institute community for everything they are doing to explore and protect what Assyriologist Thorkild Jacobsen called “the Treasures of Darkness,” while bringing those treasures to light for future generations. I am confident that, as you read this Annual Report, you will appreciate their efforts as much as I do.

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## IN MEMORIAM

Harry A. Hoffner, Jr.

Last March, Harry Hoffner, one of the founders of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary and a leading expert on the ancient Near East, died at the age of 80. Hoffner was the John A. Wilson Professor Emeritus of Hittitology and was internationally recognized as “one of the leading figures in the study of the Hittite language,” according to Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein.

In 1976, Harry Hoffner and Hans Güterbock co-founded the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project at the Oriental Institute to document the first Indo-European language committed to writing. Hittite civilization is important to scholars because of its history with the Old Testament Hebrews and its impact on Western thought. The project continues today under the leadership of Theo van den Hout.

“His work as editor of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary laid the foundations for the most important research tool for scholars studying the world’s oldest written Indo-European language. Scholars of linguistics and of the ancient Near East will always be in debt to him for his many contributions to these fields,” Stein said.

“He was absolutely a great scholar,” van den Hout told the *Chicago Tribune* in March. “He had an extremely sharp mind, and the Dictionary is and will be a monument in its field.”

In addition to his work on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary, Hoffner authored several foundational books on the Hittite language and culture: *Alimenta Hethaeorum*, a study of Hittite food production; *The Laws of the Hittites: A Critical Edition*, and *A Grammar of the Hittite Language*, which van den Hout describes as “a landmark publication” for the field.

Hoffner was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida. He graduated from the Hill School in Pennsylvania and received his bachelor’s degree in 1956 from Princeton University, where he initially pursued a pre-med curriculum before taking up a major in German. He subsequently earned a master’s degree from Dallas Theological Seminary in 1960 and then continued his studies at Brandeis University, where he earned a master’s degree in 1961 and a doctorate in 1963.

Hoffner briefly taught Hebrew and biblical studies at Wheaton College before returning to Brandeis to teach ancient Near Eastern languages. He taught at Yale University from 1969 until 1974, when he joined the Oriental Institute as professor of Hittitology and had the chance to work alongside Güterbock. He retired in 2000, but continued his work on the Dictionary until his death.

Along with his numerous intellectual accomplishments and his enormous contribution to Hittitology, Hoffner will be remembered as a kind and attentive colleague and as a wise advisor to many young scholars throughout the world. A deeply religious man, Hoffner also taught Bible Study classes and sang in the chancel choir at Wheaton’s College Church for two decades.

The faculty and staff of the Oriental Institute extend their deepest condolences to Harry’s wife, Winifred; their three children, David, Karen, and Leel; and two grandchildren, Samantha and Maija.



إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ ﴿١٠﴾ مَا تَبَّرَكَ

الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالْأَبَاحِقُ وَمَا كَانُوا

إِذَا مَنَظَرِينَ ﴿١١﴾ إِنْ أَخْرَجْنَا لَكَ

وَأَنَا لَخَافِظُونَ ﴿١٢﴾ وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا

مِنْ قَبْلِكَ فِي شِعَابِ الْأَوَّلِينَ ﴿١٣﴾ وَمَا

*Overleaf: Fragment from a Qur'an. Ink, gold, and colors on paper. Mamluk, reign of Sultan al-Mu'ayyad Shaykh, 1412-1421 AD. Egypt. 38.0 × 28.6 × 1.5 cm. Purchased from B. Moritz, 1929. OIM A12029B (photo D. 027326: Anna Ressman)*

## ACHEMENET PROJECT

**Jack Green and Matthew W. Stolper**

The Achemenet Project at the Oriental Institute began in April 2014 (see *Oriental Institute 2013–2014 Annual Report*, pp. 9–11, and *News & Notes* 223: 12–13). The aim of the project is to provide an online catalog of objects of the Achaemenid period (ca. 550–330 BC) in the Oriental Institute Museum’s holdings, including high-quality photographs of selected objects, such as seals and sealings, coins, architectural fragments, jewelry, stone vessels, and other objects of daily life for the achemenet.com website (e.g., figs. 1–2). From the start of the project until the end of June 2015, Achemenet has cataloged more than 600 objects, photographed 360 registered objects (many with multiple views), prepared 999 archival photographs, and scanned and uploaded 3,512 archival documents (excavation record cards). The project is scheduled to be completed by the close of 2015.

The Musée du Louvre and Professor Pierre Briant (Collège de France), are currently redesigning the Achemenet website (<http://www.achemenet.com/>), which Briant brought into existence about ten years ago to display searchable records and images of artifacts and



*Figure 1. Babylonian Daiva inscription of Xerxes (XPh), Persepolis, ca. 486–465 BC. Oriental Institute Persian Expedition, 1931–1939. OIM A24120 (photo D. O17118: Anna Ressman)*

## ACHEMENET PROJECT



*Figure 2. Handle of a pestle, made of green chert. Aramaic inscription. ca. 478–466 BC Persepolis. Oriental Institute Persian Expedition, 1931–1939. OIM A23201 (photo D. 028304: Austin M. Kramer)*

archival sources from museum collections around the world. The website's relaunch later in 2015 will incorporate digital material contributed by the Achemenet Project, as well as images and editions of selected documents contributed by the Oriental Institute's Persepolis Fortification Archive Project (as indicated in the *Oriental Institute Annual Reports for 2006–2007*, p. 101, and *2008–2009*, p. 106).

The Oriental Institute has the largest, most significant, well-documented collections from Achaemenid Iran in North America, most significantly collections from the Oriental Institute's Persian Expedition at Persepolis, Istakhr, and other sites in Iran (1931–1939). An important focus of the Achemenet Project is to better document and digitize materials in these collections, including those displayed in the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery, as well as the many items in collections storage.

The Oriental Institute Achemenet Project was made possible in its first twelve months (April 2014–March 2015) by a grant from the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute. For the period between April and December 2015, we are grateful for additional support from the France Chicago Center of the University of Chicago. These funds have permitted Project Researcher Tytus Mikołajczak (a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations) to lead the research and prepare the materials for *achemenet.com* and the Musée du Louvre, which is the main digital repository for all materials for *achemenet.com*. Funds from supporting institutions were matched in both instances by the Oriental Institute, which supports the work of our project photographer, Austin Kramer.

An agreement regarding the Achemenet Project was co-signed by Jean-Luc Martinez, director of the Musée du Louvre, and Gil Stein, director of the Oriental Institute. Our project partners at the Louvre in 2014–15 were Béatrice André-Salvini, Yannick Lintz, and Salima Amann. Marielle Pic was appointed as the new director of the Département des Antiquités Orientales at the Louvre in 2015. Julien Cuny, the newly assigned curator responsible for Achaemenid and Sasanid Iran, has recently taken responsibility for managing the Achemenet Project at the Louvre. Salima Amann of the Louvre continued to handle the data and images provided by the Oriental Institute Museum.

The project was supported by Oriental Institute staff, including Registrars Helen McDonald and Susan Allison have retrieved many batches of objects for Tytus and Austin. Conservation staff Laura D’Alessandro, Alison Whyte, and especially Simona Cristanetti, have carried out conservation assessments of objects. Our head of photography, Anna Ressman, has contributed images of a number of gold objects and continued to ensure that our images meet the standards of the project. John Larson has provided access to the archives from Persepolis, including registers compiled by Ernst Herzfeld relating to the Frataraka (also known as Fratadara) Temple.

All images and records shared with the Louvre are being added to the Oriental Institute’s Integrated Database as part of its own online collections initiative, allowing for online searches. Curatorial Assistant Kiersten Neumann has uploaded object images (made by Austin Kramer), assisted the uploading and editing of data, and facilitated the image and data sharing with the Louvre. Kiersten also transferred 999 archival photographs previously published in the microfiche edition *Persepolis and Ancient Iran* (see <https://oi.uchicago.edu/collections/photographic-archives/persepolis-and-ancient-iran>) to our collections database. Foy Scalf, head of the Research Archives, continued to support the Achemenet Project. An important development, facilitated by Foy Scalf with the assistance of J. P. Brown of the Field Museum, was the creation of a new “crystal report” from our database that summarizes object data, images, and bibliographical information in a single PDF document. Our volunteers and work-study interns, Shoshanah Spurlock, Joe Barabe, and Jeffrey Newman, have helped scan and upload Persepolis excavation record cards and photographic images.

In March, project researcher Tytus Mikołajczak presented a paper on “Newly Recovered Inscriptions from Persepolis in the OI Museum” at the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in New Orleans, describing “rediscoveries” of inscriptions from Persepolis made in the course of the Achemenet Project, including the scantily attested Elamite version of the inscription of Xerxes known as XPl, as well as Greek inscriptions from the Fratadara Temple whose whereabouts had been forgotten in the scholarly literature.

In addition to filling a gap in the detailed publication record of Persepolis and other Achaemenid-era collections, a long-term advantage of the project is the wider dissemination of information and images about fragmentary sculpture, stone vessels, small finds, jewelry, inlays, and metal objects facilitate research on the Achaemenid period.

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## AMBROYI, ARMENIA

Frina Babayan, Kathryn Franklin, and Tasha Vorderstrasse\*

### Continuing Excavations

The 2014 excavation season at the medieval settlement site known as Ambroyi continued the work started by the Project for Medieval Archaeology of the South Caucasus (MASC) in 2013: the second season expanded upon established excavations and developed ongoing research questions directed at the material contours of social life at the village level in the late medieval period (AD 1200–1500). This season’s research, undertaken with support from the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago and additional support from the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC), also broadened and developed our ongoing collaborations with scholars in Armenia and the US, thus furthering the Project’s ongoing commitment to engaged and cooperative research into the social world of the medieval South Caucasus.

The second season of excavations at Ambroyi also continued our long-term focus on the archaeological landscape of the Kasakh Valley, located within the Aragatsotn Province of central Armenia. Defined through the geophysical dynamics of Mt. Aragats, the bed of the Kasakh River, and the curve of the Tsaghkunyats mountain range to the east, the Kasakh Valley also marks a zone of transition between the broad Ararat Plain to the south, and the increasing altitude of the highlands to the north as the Lesser Caucasus build into the Caucasus ranges. The Kasakh Valley thus represented in the medieval period (as it does today) one of the primary points of passage in and out of the mountains which separate the plains on which medieval cities such as Dvin, Tbilisi, and Partaw (Barda’a) were situated. Additionally, valleys like the Kasakh were the site of locally situated social life, both for Armenian princes and lords who controlled the region, and people living in towns and villages.

In the 2013 excavation season the MASC Project successfully confirmed the existence of late medieval settlement within an area of visible architectural remains located one kilometer to the south of the contemporary village of Arai-Bazarjugh, and known ethnohistorically as Ambroyi.<sup>1</sup> The 2013 excavations at Ambroyi consisted of a 4 × 4 meter sounding in an area of the site which was designated Hin Bazarjugh (HB) for the purpose of site recording, to distinguish it from coextensive areas of later (seventeenth–eighteenth century) abandoned village contexts. The 2013 sondage (HB1) uncovered an interior space containing a cut bedrock floor and a clay oven or *tonir*; the space appeared to have been deliberately filled and then abandoned, as indicated by a problematic relation between the northwestern wall, floor, and a thick layer of fill.

The expanded excavations in 2014 also provided key data on the nature of architecture and building techniques at medieval Ambroyi. The four excavation units intersected sections of four double-faced walls, three of which were orthogonal to one another and thus judged to be roughly contemporary. These contemporary walls were constructed in the same manner: a layer of dense mudbrick (though “mud-ball” might be more accurate) laid on top of the carved bedrock surface to a variable thickness of about 40 centimeters, followed by courses of basalt stones on either side of a core of smaller stones and earth. The secondary wall, built



on top of the fill within HB1 and HB2, is notable in its lack of a mud foundation — it was laid directly on top of the room fills.

Excavations in the 2014 season consisted of three 5 × 5 meter trenches laid out on a grid to the north of the first, and situated so as to clarify architectural and stratigraphic relationships. The first trench (HB2) opened immediately north of the 2013 excavation revealed occupation very similar to that of the previous season, continuing on the other side of the wall feature and most probably constituting an original single occupation space with HB1. Notable finds from this unit included a whole pot (dating to the fourteenth century) and continued expanses of paved and cut bedrock flooring, as well as a fill event contiguous with that in HB1. Significantly, the unified stratigraphy of HB1 and HB2 indicates that the occupation space intersected by these two trenches was not filled and abandoned (as was preliminarily concluded in 2013) but was deliberately filled and packed, transected with a secondary wall, and used in some ongoing capacity.

The other two trenches exposed different types of architecture in the village, which points to the variety of activities that were going on within those village spaces. After exposing a single, chronologically and regionally typical oven in HB1, the discovery of additional ovens was not surprising. But the activity area to the north, intersected by trench HB4, was more intense than the first so-called work space or activity area with a *tonir* oven found in 2013. The exposed area of HB4 contained a number of *tonir* ovens clustered in a single floor. This included not only ovens built on top of and inside other ovens once the earlier ovens had ceased to be in use, but also a more elaborate round oven, with a specially built flue system (see figures). This specially built flue system distinguished it from the other ovens found in the excavation area, but further studies of material discovered inside this and the other ovens will be needed to determine whether they were used for different purposes. This southern *tonir* oven consisted of a solid ceramic drum with indentations on its lower rim, which indicated where poles had been used to carry it from its place of firing to its current location. All of the standing *tonirs* had been destroyed in abrupt events of stone collapse from nearby walls. The oven and oven-cluster in HB4 were accompanied by nearby “work stations”: pits of various sizes and depths dug into the bedrock floor. While one bell-shaped pit was more than 2 meters deep and was almost certainly for storage, some of the pits were quite shallow and may have been constructed for the different activities that took place in this space.

Co-extensive and eastward from this activity area of nested ovens, trench HB3 intersected an area used for storage and perhaps other forms of work. This area consisted of a narrow pavement abutting one of the thick double-faced walls which enclose the space. A bell-shaped pit, carved from the bedrock, was installed in the center of the pavement and integrated into it using stone corbelling. Based on contemporary comparanda from eastern Turkey, it is speculated that this pit was used for grain storage.<sup>2</sup> This is also suggested by the paving stones found covering the floor of this area and the stone storage cover of the pit. The flagstones would have protected the pit from any type of water damage seeping from the surface into the large pit, which would have been particularly useful if this area was not roofed. The rather heavy flagstone cover of the pit argued that it was probably not opened particularly frequently. Naturally, this did not protect the storage items in the pit against any sort of rising groundwater and when it was excavated, the pit was filled with water due to changes in water levels since the medieval period.

During the 2014 season, soil samples were taken from numerous contexts within the village exposures and floated for macrobotanical analysis. Sampled contexts included mud wall

AMBROYI, ARMENIA

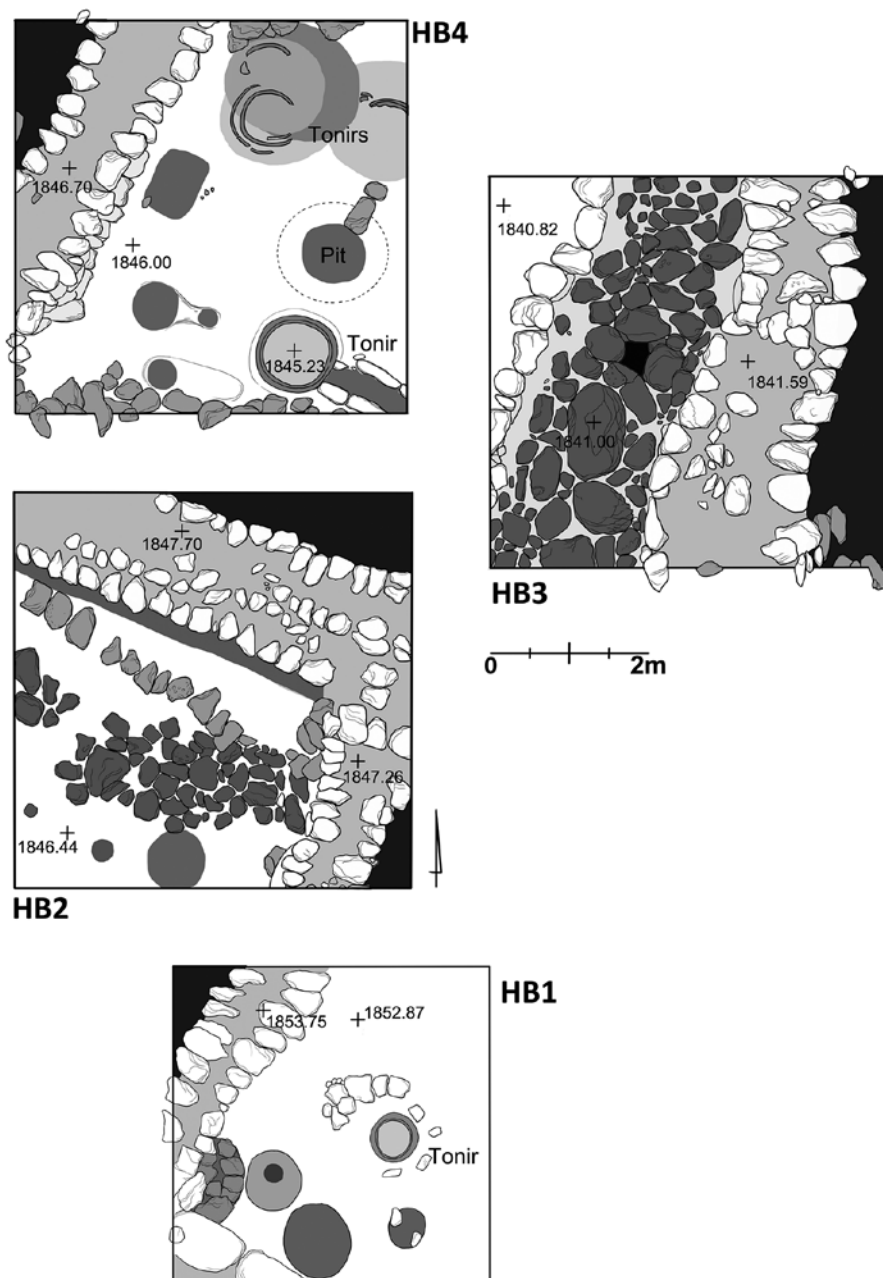


Figure 1. Plan showing total area excavated at Ambroyi, including 2013 (HB1) and 2014 seasons



*Figure 2. Completed excavations in HB2 photographed from the west, showing bedrock and paved flooring and primary (left) and secondary (upper right) walls*



*Figure 3. Completed excavation of HB3 photographed from the north. Note the bell-shaped pit opening to the right of center trench, covered with a stone lid*

## AMBROYI, ARMENIA



Figure 4. Completed excavations of HB4, photographed from the west

foundations, pre-floor deposits, pit contents, and the ashy layers within *tonirs*. The 7-liter samples were floated in the field by K. Franklin and transferred to the archaeobotanical lab of Dr. J. McCorriston at the Ohio State University for qualitative and comparative analysis. Ultimately these macrobotanical remains should contribute to the limited archaeobotanical research done in this region (Anatolia<sup>3</sup> and the South Caucasus<sup>4</sup>) for the late medieval period. Limited faunal remains were also collected and submitted for diagnostic analysis. The faunal remains were badly preserved, however, probably due to the chemistry of the soil. Therefore, this will make it difficult to reconstruct the animal remains from the site but some insights should be possible.

As in the 2013 season, the HB2, HB3, and HB4 excavated areas yielded an assemblage of ceramics, consisting primarily of red wares, which dates to the late medieval period (thirteenth–fourteenth centuries AD). The red ware assemblage includes unglazed wares (including red-slipped, applique, and stamped decorated ceramics) as well as an assortment of monochrome and polychrome sgraffiato glazed wares, primarily bowls. The ceramics are currently undergoing analysis but from a preliminary assessment a few observations are possible. The range of ware types within the relatively small exposure of the excavations is quite interesting, including both coarse-ware pans and trays as well as glazed dishes. In addition, a few of the more expensive stone-paste ceramic fragments were also found, arguing that some luxury wares imported from outside the village were also available. Secondly, the formal array recovered in 2014 contributed to the assessment that the red-ware assemblage at Ambroyi is closely comparable not only to other contemporary assemblages in Armenia and eastern Turkey, but also more acutely to the red-ware assemblage recovered from the

adjacent Arai-Bazarjugh caravanatun in 2011.<sup>5</sup> Ongoing work with this assemblage is directed at tracing regional and temporal relationships not only in ceramic production but also in the implications for cuisine practices in the South Caucasus and adjoining regions.

More fragments of dark blue glass bracelets were found in the course of the excavations as they had been in 2013. These bracelets are of a type which is commonly found throughout the Middle East as well as more locally in Armenia itself. These bracelet fragments were found in the courtyard around the ovens and activity area in HB4, which suggests that they were broken in the course of conducting domestic activities. Very few other pieces of glass were found in the course of the excavations, suggesting that glass vessels were not in common use in the parts of the site that have been excavated. That is not to say that they might not have been used elsewhere, but were not used in the activity areas that the excavations had uncovered. The other possibility is that glass items, other than bracelets, were not in use at the village itself.

Further evidence of economic activities of the village came from the presence of two very abraded coins. These coins, which had been identified by Dr. Armine Zohrabyan of the State History Museum of Armenia as being local coins dating to the early thirteenth century, suggests that the village was at least partially monetized and the villagers used coinage in some transactions. Previous publications of coinage from Armenia have focused on coins excavated from cities,<sup>6</sup> meaning that these coins, despite their condition, are important evidence of coin circulation in the countryside of medieval Armenia.

## Discussion

Ongoing analysis and exploration of the datasets from Ambroyi are focused not only on how these assemblages speak to the content of “daily life” within this village locale, but also on the ways in which the Ambroyi data contributes to a preliminary problematization of the role “the village” has long played in constructions of the medieval South Caucasus and the Near East more generally. Firstly, the Ambroyi data suggest that some of the work of craft production, which was historically presumed to have been exclusively located in urban centers, was practiced within local, village contexts. Secondly, rather than acting as a pastoral backdrop to social life centered elsewhere, the inhabitants of Ambroyi apparently consumed goods (and attendant material practices) such as glazed pottery in connection with towns and cities — and also participated in the practices of travel along the mountain roads.

## Notes

\* Frina Babayan, RA NAS Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Yerevan; Kathryn Franklin, School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Tasha Vorderstrasse, the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

<sup>1</sup> F. Babayan, K. Franklin, and T. Vorderstrasse, “Preliminary Excavations at Ambroyi Village, Armenia: A House on the Silk Road.” *Oriental Institute 2013–2014 Annual Report*, edited by Gil Stein, pp. 12–21.

<sup>2</sup> S. Redford, *The Archaeology of the Frontier in the Medieval Near East: Excavations at Gritille, Turkey*. Philadelphia: University Museum Publications, University of Pennsylvania for Archaeological Institute of America, 1998, p. 68.

<sup>3</sup> Studies of paleobotanical remains in eastern Turkey include, N. F. Miller, “The Crusader Period Fortress: Some Archaeobotanical Samples from Medieval Gritille,” *Anatolica* 18 (1992): 87–99; N. F. Miller, “Patterns of Agriculture and Land Use at Medieval Gritille,” in *The Archaeology of the Frontier in the Medieval Near East: Excavations at Gritille, Turkey*, by S. Redford, pp. 211–52 (Philadelphia: University Museum Publications, University of Pennsylvania for Archaeological Institute of America, 1998); E. Oybak

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Dönmez, “Prehistoric and Medieval Plant Remains from Two Sites on the Euphrates, South-eastern Turkey,” *Turkish Journal of Botany* 30 (2006): 11–38.

<sup>4</sup> E. Kvavadze, L. Rukhadze, V. Nikolaishvili, and L. Murnladze, “Botanical and Zoological Remains from an Early Medieval Grave at Tsitsamuri, Georgia,” *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany* 17 (2008): 217–24; A. Smith, T. Bagoyan, I. Gabrielyan, R. Pinhasi, and B. Gasparyan, “Late Chalcolithic and Medieval Archaeobotanical Remains from Areni-1 (Birds’ Cave), Armenia,” in *Stone Age of Armenia: A Guide-Book to the Stone Age Archaeology in the Republic of Armenia*, edited by B. Gasparyan and M. Arimura, pp. 233–60 (Kanazawa: JSPS-Bilateral Joint Research Project. Center for Cultural Resource Studies, Kanazawa University, Japan 2014).

<sup>5</sup> K. Franklin, “This World Is an Inn”: Cosmopolitanism and Caravan Trade in Late Medieval Armenia. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Chicago Department of Anthropology, 2014.

<sup>6</sup> K. Mousheghian, A. Mousheghian, and G. Depeyrot, *History and Coin Finds in Armenia: Coins from Ani, Capital of Armenia*. Collection Moneta 21. Wetteren: Moneta; idem, *History and Coin Finds in Armenia: Coins from Duin, Capital of Armenia* (Collection Moneta 18. Wetteren: Moneta, 2000); idem, *History and Coin Finds in Armenia: Coins from Garni* (Collection Moneta 20. Wetteren: Moneta, 2001).

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## ÇADIR HÖYÜK

Gregory McMahon

Our 2014 season was extremely successful, in large part because we benefitted from the work by Chicago students Stephanie Selover, Tony Lauricella, and Sarah Adcock. We continued excavations in all the periods represented at the site, including the Byzantine, Late Bronze Age (second millennium BCE), Iron Age (first millennium BCE), and Late Chalcolithic/Early Bronze I (fourth and third millennia BCE).

The Byzantine is represented on the North Terrace and the mound summit. We opened one new trench on the North Terrace and continued work in another, both designed to better understand the domestic architecture located in that area of the site. In Trench NTN 8, first opened in 2013, we further exposed the extensive architecture associated with the Middle Byzantine large house that was first constructed as early as the fifth century CE (fig. 1).

The new 10 × 10 meter trench NTN 5 was opened in 2014. Its location is based on magnetometry work completed in 2008. Results indicated a large anomaly at this location, possibly representing a large building. The shape of the potential structure suggested that it might have been a stable, or possibly a cistern. The first days of excavation in 2014 revealed



*Figure 1. Trench NTN 8*

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Figure 2. Trench SMT 4

numerous head and fist-sized stones lying across the eastern half of the trench. They may have served as a support for a surface that was once paved. However, proximity to the surface (only roughly 20 cm below the current surface) has probably eroded any plaster or other material that may have covered the stones. By the end of the season four poorly built stone walls had been revealed, and one small portion (40 × 50 cm) of a cobblestone surface had emerged. Our 2015 season is currently in progress, and a number of new stone foundations have come to light in this trench. We continue to believe that there may be a cistern below our current level of excavation. We will report on the final results of our 2015 season in this trench in next year's report.

On the mound summit Tony Lauricella continued work in SMT 4 (fig. 2) and opened a new trench, SMT 3. Excavation in SMT 4 has revealed an interesting building technique used in the construction of the Byzantine defensive wall. In order to account for

the significant slope of the mound toward the north, the builders constructed packed mud supports, likely contained in some sort of "box" made of organic materials such as reeds or wood. This allowed the wall to remain level rather than sloping with the mound. Below the Byzantine defensive wall an earlier building phase has been exposed. This likely dates to the later Iron Age. It seems to be an outdoor area, composed of a single rectangular room entered along a cobblestone path. The function of this room has not yet been determined.

Further excavation revealed that there was a second course of cobblestone paving underlying the first. Ceramics continue to suggest that this area and level date to the Late Iron Age. During the last week of the 2014 season two additional walls were found farther down the slope that seem to pre-date this stone cobble surface. These are also probably Late Iron Age walls, but dating to slightly earlier in this phase. Work has continued in this trench in the early part of the 2015 season, with little new to report at this stage. No significant small finds were recovered from this trench to date.

We decided to reopen Trench SMT 15 on the east side of the mound summit (fig. 3); the trench was last excavated in 2008. Excavation was ably supervised by Jon Clindaniel, a former Chicago student now at Harvard. This trench includes part of the Byzantine defensive wall, below which, on the eastern side, 2008 excavations revealed Iron Age remains. In 2014 we excavated on both sides of the wall to reveal both the Byzantine occupation on the western side of the wall, and more Iron Age, and potentially Late Bronze Age, on the eastern side.

By the end of the season the western half of the trench had revealed no new architecture, but only a few layers were removed in this area. The eastern half, below the Byzantine wall, was very productive. The Late Iron Age remains last revealed in 2008 turned out to



be a wall with an associated paving of flat-topped stones. It is interesting that this paving extends to the very edge of the eastern extent of the Iron Age period mound summit. This paving may be associated with a formal entryway into the Late Iron Age settlement on top of the mound. At present we estimate that this occupation east of and below the Byzantine defensive wall dates to approximately the sixth century BCE. There were no significant finds from this trench.

Our second-millennium excavations are mainly found in the east side Step Trench in ST 7 and ST 2 (figs. 4–5). The goal in these trenches was to further expose the second-millennium domestic occupation that was first revealed in the southern half of ST 7 in 2005 and 2006. In the northern area of ST 7 three walls, two courses wide and at present three courses deep, have been revealed; these form a portion of a rectangular room. To the north is what may be an exterior surface. This appears to be a set of courtyards in which outdoor activities took place. In the very northwest corner of ST 2 some downward-sloping stones and mudbrick rubble appeared earlier in the 2014 season. We believed that this might be the very top of the Hittite tower exposed in 2013. By the end of the season we had confirmed that this rubble is both part of the 2013 Hittite tower, as well as a short extension of the casemate wall discovered in 2012.

Our Iron Age excavations in Trench USS 4, on the upper southern slope, continued in 2014. Radiocarbon dating from 2013, and ongoing ceramic analysis, indicate



Figure 3. Trench SMT 15



Figure 4. ST 2 southeast area with Hittite tower



Figure 5. ST 2 and 7 area with outdoor rooms



Figure 6. Trench USS 4

that the present occupational level dates to the Early Iron Age (ca. 1000–1100 BCE) (fig. 6). The goal in this trench is to reach Late Bronze Age levels that will document the material culture changes through the Hittite collapse and the rebuilding of society in the Early Iron Age. The trench continued to produce circular plastered pits which we believe were dedicated to some type of industry, perhaps textile production. The plastered pits had also been lined in clay, presumably for waterproofing. It is possible that they held

water and may have been for soaking wool or other fibers before processing them. Some of the circular features excavated in previous years, particularly in 2013, seem to have been domestic structures, or at least not dedicated to industry. All of those excavated in 2014, however, appear to have been used for working rather than living. Most of the lower level of circular pits and structures had been cut into a mudbrick platform that covers much of the trench, certainly the northern and eastern quadrants. It is possible that this mudbrick platform actually dates to the Late Bronze Age and is the “dividing line” between the Early Iron Age and the Late Bronze periods.

By the end of the season we had removed the mudbrick platform. In the center of the trench several ash pits, a significant quantity of slag, and a plastered area suggest that metal production might have taken place in this area. Other architecture including mudbrick and stone walls were also found underneath the mudbrick platform. Early stages of excavation in 2015 have revealed continuation of some pits and a continued conviction that this area was primarily used for production purposes.

### **USS 9 and USS 10 (Late 4th/Early 3rd Millennium BCE/ Southern Slope)**

Our Late Chalcolithic/Early Bronze I excavations in USS 9 and USS 10 (figs. 7–8) are supervised by Stephanie Selover. Early in the 2014 season the trench continued to demonstrate a strong Early Bronze I occupation of the site in the form of a 1.5-meter-wide wall enclosing the settlement and a series of mudbrick walls and fire installations attached to the outside of the city wall. These are likely related to industrial activities, but exactly what these activities are is as yet unclear. A child burial was excavated which seems to date to a post-Early Bronze I period when the area may have been unused. The burial was placed in an inter-wall area in a small, previously existing mudbrick enclosed space. There were no material goods available to date the burial, but it may be contemporary with early third-millennium jar burials placed elsewhere on the site that date to the late Early Bronze I period. The goal in this



Figure 7. Early Bronze I vessels in USS 10



Figure 8. USS 9 and USS 10

trench is to further expose the Early Bronze I occupation at the site and document the transition from the Late Chalcolithic fourth-millennium period.

During the 2014 season more plastered floors were revealed in the small rooms located in the eastern half of these trenches. We have continued excavation in the southern region of the trenches, which continues to be almost entirely slope wash. We may be coming down on to cultural levels in this outer region as we continue to excavate here in the 2015 season. We are slowly uncovering the next earliest phase in the western half of the trench. We hope that we will be able to document the transition between Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze I period across the northern portion of the two trenches where the slope wash is nonexistent. One additional infant burial, inside a pottery vessel, was uncovered since the last report. The burial was not well preserved, and the remains were fragmentary.

By the end of the 2014 season most of the small walls and other architectural phases described above had been removed to reveal the occupational phase beneath. In the eastern half of the trenches a number of plaster features emerged that probably are associated with industrial activities. In the western half of the trenches two new mudbrick walls and one possible stone wall emerged. These were left unexcavated in 2014 and have begun to be explored in the 2015 season. Radiocarbon dating will allow us to understand whether we have excavated down to the Late Chalcolithic levels or are still in the late fourth/early third millennium and thus the Early Bronze I period. Significant finds include several vessels from an oven/hearth and several small animal figurines (poorly made and broken) found in an ash pit near the oven/hearth.

The Late Chalcolithic occupation, dating to the mid-fourth millennium, is found in Trenches SES 1 and SES 2 (fig. 9), supervised by Laurel Hackley of Brown University, and LSS 3, supervised by Burcu Yildirim of METU (Middle East Technical University).

In trenches SES 1 and 2 the two mudbrick apsidal rooms left in place at the end of the 2013 season were cleaned and re-evaluated in the 2014 season. We then excavated the apsidal room level to reveal the earlier phase of occupation. The apsidal room level dates to ca. 3400–3200 BCE.

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Figure 9. Late Chalcolithic structure with stone wall, SES 1-2



Figure 10. Child burial under pot emplacement

During the mid-season we removed the apsidal structures to reveal the underlying layer. Careful examination of the building of the apsidal houses has revealed that they were semi-subterranean structures. They were dug into the earlier Late Chalcolithic levels. This has helped us understand the stratigraphy and the architectural phasing in both trenches. Remaining in the trenches at present is a courtyard associated with the westernmost apsidal structure and a stone and mudbrick wall that once separated the two apsidal structures but pre-dates them. We now believe this wall belongs to a larger Late Chalcolithic structure (in the phase prior to the apsidal structure phase), that is rectilinear and possibly quite large (ca. 5 × 4 m). We hope to further define this structure in the coming days.

By the end of the 2014 season we had discovered three pot emplacements inside what appears to be a Late Chalcolithic structure defined by the large stone wall. Beneath two of these pot emplacements were child burials,

each covered by ceramics, a bowl in one case and a storage jar in the other (fig. 10). These were intentional burials. The lack of domestic items in this structure, and the unusual architecture, leads us to believe that this is not a house but rather a public building of some sort. Further work in 2015 has begun to define this building, although more remains to be done in this part of the trench. There were no significant small finds from this trench in 2014.

Our goal in Trench LSS 3 was to recover whatever remained of the “Omphalos Building” first excavated in 2001 (fig. 11). By the end of the 2014 season this Omphalos Building had been exposed and defined. Its most western wall was built of mudbrick and stone, and the floor was thin plaster with ashy deposits within it. There was very little pottery on the floor, suggesting that pottery storage was to the west. The excavations in LSS 3 allowed us



Figure 11. Trench LSS 3



Figure 12. Late Chalcolithic  
Figurine from LSS 3

to discover that the size of the Ompholos Building was quite large, perhaps  $4.5 \times 3.0$  meters in extent, which is larger than average for Late Chalcolithic structures at Çadır Höyük. This building was completely excavated so that we could

thoroughly understand it and its relationship to the very large wall to its west. We believe the most western wall (which remains in the trench) was a Late Chalcolithic wall defining the western limits of the settlement. In the early part of the 2015 season we have dramatically expanded this trench to the east and have begun to find an exceptional amount of pottery in this area. The only significant small find in 2014 was a small animal figurine, partially broken (fig. 12). It is our first Late Chalcolithic figurine at Çadır Höyük.

We had a very successful 2014 season and are now in the midst of our 2015 season, which will be reported more fully in next year's publication. We are pleased that Oriental Institute doctoral student Josh Cannon is with us once again working diligently on the second-millennium ceramics. Stephanie Selover, who received her doctorate from the University in May, is now an assistant professor at the University of Washington and has brought two undergraduates from that school to learn about Anatolian archaeology. Sarah Adcock and Tony Lauricella are with us again as well. The 2015 season to date has yielded the kinds of results we were expecting, and we look forward to sharing those results in our next report.

## CHICAGO DEMOTIC DICTIONARY

**Janet H. Johnson with the assistance of Kate Lockhart,  
Jonathan Winnerman, and Ariel Singer**

In July 2014, the beginning of this academic year, we posted online the files for “Months,” “Days of the Month,” and “Numbers,” the last appendices of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/publications/demotic-dictionary-oriental-institute-university-chicago>). This means we have completed what we now refer to as “stage 1”: compiling a supplement to the Demotisches Glossar assembled by Wolja Erichsen and published in 1954. All the letter files and all the supporting appendices are now written and posted online as PDF files. They will never, however, be “done” because there are always new texts being published with new words or new usages for old words. At the 12th International Congress of Demotic Studies, held in September 2014, in Würzburg, Germany, Jan Johnson gave a lecture entitled “The CDD [Chicago Demotic Dictionary] Is ‘Done’. Where Do We Go from Here?” in which she talked about our plans for publication and goals for the future.

Most of this year’s work reflects these two aspects of this project. Publication will take two forms: updated PDF files posted online for free download and a printed hard copy publication based on those files. The latter is intended for institutional use while the former is aimed more at individual users. Both formats will provide the same content; the only change is the medium of publication. Further in the future, we will try to transfer all the information contained in these files to an online searchable database which will offer more flexible opportunities for the collection and organization of data. Such a database will allow scholars around the world to carry out simple searches for two or more “connections” between words or a word or example of a word with two or more elements/aspects. For more about the proposed online searchable database, see the CDD report in last year’s *Annual Report*.

Our first task has been to convert the dictionary Word files to a Unicode font<sup>1</sup> in order to bring our files into compliance with current online and digital standards. Since this is the third time we have had to convert the Dictionary files because of developing computer technology, we knew that there would be issues. We had not, however, anticipated the severity of the complications that arose in what should have been a simple conversion. We first needed to identify a Unicode font that has all the necessary characters for writing Egyptian in transliteration; Hebrew and Aramaic in transliteration; Greek and Coptic in their original scripts; the occasional symbol from other scripts, such as Meroitic; as well as various conventional symbols used to express relationships among words, etc. We thought we had found such a font, but once the conversions began, we discovered that the font does not display well on some computers, making it impossible to use. We found a second font which displayed correctly but still didn’t have all the signs and symbols we need. Finally, Tom Urban, the managing editor of the OI Publications Office (see separate report), identified a good Unicode font called Gentium Plus which has most of what we need. There are also no restrictions on making modifications, for example, adding additional characters as well as bold and bold-italic versions of the letters. He is currently modifying this font so that it has every character (including Egyptian hieroglyphs, thanks to a font created for the OI many years ago by Cleo Huggins) that the Publications Office needs to publish its very wide range

of books and which can be posted on the OI website for users to download as our “standard.” We are very appreciative of his support!

We are also very appreciative of the efforts of Sandy Schloen and Miller Prosser, of OCHRE Data Service (see separate report), for the actual conversion of the Word files from our old system to the new Unicode font and DOCX format. Sandy wrote a program for the conversion, the CDD student employees Kate Lockhart, Ariel Singer, and Jonathan Winnerman “stripped” some of the format coding from the letter files, and Miller began applying Sandy’s conversion program to them. Then the students had to proofread every converted file. Difficulties were encountered almost immediately with the conversion of the tens of thousands of images, both scans from photographs and line drawings, illustrating the orthography (“spelling”) of all the words we cite. Because Demotic is a very cursive script (visually not unlike Arabic), these images of the photographs and “hand copies” are an essential part of the Dictionary. For this reason, we have decided that we shall prioritize immediately the recovery of every image in the “old” version of the CDD, which will be manually added to the new file after conversion to the Unicode font. In addition, we shall convert the (Microsoft) Word documents to (Adobe) InDesign, a desktop-publishing program used for years by the Publications Office, which is more stable than Word (meaning that scans don’t “slip” around the page) and which can better handle the higher-resolution scans we are using. This will entail a bit more learning on our part and a bit of additional font work by the Publications Office, but we think the final product will be superior. We anticipate that the remaining conversion of old Word files should proceed with many fewer problems. It also means that all the individual images of all the citations in the CDD will be available for input directly into the online database when we move in that direction. For more on these image-related problems and their resolution, but from the point of view of one of the students actually doing much of the work, see the last section of this report.

It is nice to see the conversion take place and realize we are moving forward, but it is also frustrating how computers, which ideally are tools to simplify such tasks, actually add their own dimension of problems. We are very fortunate to have so many skilled people in the OI to help us with these problems. Both Jan and Brian Muhs, the associate editor/associate director of the CDD, would like to thank Sandy, Miller, Tom, Leslie Schramer (associate editor in the Publication Office), and Paul Ruffin, the Oriental Institute IT person, for all their assistance. We couldn’t have done it without you! Despite all this help, we are very sorry to have had to work without the assistance of François Gaudard this year. After eighteen years of extremely valuable and dedicated service to the CDD, first as research assistant, then as research associate, and ultimately as associate editor, François took the completion of our letter files and appendices as the opportunity to resign and concentrate on his own research (see under *Individual Research*). He comes into the OI regularly and seems to be getting a lot of work done, so we are delighted for him. Since so much of the work on the CDD this year has fallen on the shoulders of our very capable student employees, we thought it might be useful and interesting to get their perspective on “life on an OI project.” And so, the rest of this report emanates from Kate, Jonathan, and Ariel.

*From Kate:* Joining a decades-long project like the Demotic Dictionary at its tail end presents a certain set of challenges; all the heavy lifting has been done, but little details remain to be sorted out — and “the devil is in the details,” as the saying goes.

The bulk of the three years that I have worked as a research assistant for the Dictionary have been spent double-checking and cleaning up the bibliographic information in our

appendices, particularly “Text Information.” Text Information records the thousands of Demotic texts cited in the Dictionary itself: their date and provenance, their inventory numbers, where they have been published, and so on. But the volume of data in the file has been less of a problem than the length of time over which it accumulated and the number of people involved in gathering it. Many entries had not been updated in years, and new publications needed to be added. Other texts had duplicate entries or mismatched cross-references, the sort of thing that easily happens when many different individuals add information to a document over a long period of time.

Working with Text Information also put me in the position of dealing with larger problems that had not been resolved by anyone before me, usually because they involved difficult or thankless tasks. Sometimes those problems boiled down to the tiniest of errors. In my first week on the job, I searched frantically for a facsimile of a Demotic graffito in an early nineteenth-century book on the monuments of Nubia, only to find out that the book had two separate sets of plates with different numbering systems; our entry for the text pointed to the wrong set of plates. Other problems have required more detective work: for example, reconciling the inventory numbers given in Wilhelm Spiegelberg’s unpublished papers with those given in modern publications, or tracking down the publication of a text in Russian, a language that I and most other American Egyptologists do not know. Resolving these bibliographic glitches may not seem terribly exciting, but it is an essential part of providing users with access to the data behind the Dictionary.

*From Jonathan:* Work at the Chicago Demotic Dictionary has changed greatly since I first joined the project in the summer of 2011. This is true not only regarding the different tasks or aspects of the project on which I focus, but also regarding the people alongside whom I work. When I first entered the Dictionary office, I had the pleasure of working with an entirely different group of student employees and, of course, François and Jan. Since then, most of these coworkers have moved on, most noticeably François, whose regular presence and expertise is definitely missed around the office. As the Dictionary project contracts, changes, and expands in new directions, I have had the opportunity to work with a whole new group of student employees, research associates, and technical experts. Yet what I have always admired about the Dictionary is the connection that it maintains with the past. Here I am not just referring to the “ancient past” of Late Period and Greco-Roman Egypt but more so to the history of the project itself and, most noticeably, those who have contributed to it.

When I first entered the office, I had taken two quarters of Demotic and was generally familiar with the history of scholarship in the field, yet I had very little knowledge of the personalities behind this history. From my first day in the office, this began to change. First, I was struck by the presence of multiple portraits which had been taped to the walls. After asking François, he revealed that these pictures represented a selected “genealogy” of some of the most influential Demotic scholars. Notably, these included Wilhelm Spiegelberg, one of (if not the founding member of) the field, and George Hughes, a professor at the University of Chicago who supported Jan when she initiated the project and remained her mentor for the rest of his life.

As my duties at the Dictionary changed, it became clear that the personal legacy of everyone who worked on or contributed to the project was an inseparable part of it. Most of my work over the years has focused on writing and checking the appendices, some of which contain very obscure references. This meant it was not long before I was digging through the copious number of old records in the Dictionary office. Some of these, like the handwritten,



unpublished dictionaries of Spiegelberg and Herbert Thompson, were regularly consulted, well organized, and written in a somewhat accessible manner. Others, however, were never intended for a “professional” audience and contain unique (if hard to decipher) glimpses into these scholars’ more personal lives. The scattered notes and correspondences of Spiegelberg’s *Nachlass* are one such collection. Though difficult to navigate, these files contain a wealth of otherwise unpublished texts and information, many of which take the form of Spiegelberg’s notes or personal writings.

As my work expanded in scope, I began making changes to the letter files as well. It was in this way that I first began working with “the cards,” the original, pre-computer data-storage system used by the Dictionary. Essentially a giant card catalog, these notes were unlike the personal materials mentioned above in that they were created specifically for the Dictionary project and did not mention authorship. Yet, even here it is possible to recognize the personalities of past contributors, for example, through a few choice words, phrases, or interpretations.

Despite being surrounded by these and similar materials on a daily basis, the item that best represents for me the uniquely personal dimension of the Dictionary was found not during work on any letter file or appendix but during the course of reorganizing the office as we prepare to transition to an online database. While cleaning out one cabinet, my co-worker, Ariel Singer, and I were surprised to discover a box containing a Demotic ostrakon wrapped in an old newspaper. The Demotic, written in an uncommonly legible hand on a rather well-preserved “sherd,” can be paraphrased as follows:

The words which we write by hand on  
an ostrakon in order to give it as divine praise  
to a wise man, a good scribe and a good teacher,  
George Robert Hughes.  
May his name be excellent for eternity!

After a casual investigation, I discovered that the author of this touching tribute was most likely Robert Ritner, former Dictionary employee and current professor of Egyptology (as well as my advisor and the chair of my dissertation committee). Of all the old files and objects, this stands out to me as the strongest mark of the legacy of those who once worked on the Dictionary.

As the project undergoes one of the most dramatic changes since its inception, the shift from the PDF format to an online, searchable database, I strongly believe that this personal connection will not be lost. On the one hand, most of the materials mentioned above will eventually be scanned and included as metadata for each entry. In other words, users will finally get to see the older backbone of data and research lurking behind the neatly displayed final product. On the other hand, staff members can make changes to the Dictionary in real time. This not only allows users to directly share in the results of our work, but it also allows staff members to answer queries immediately or see contributions in action. In this way, the format of the Dictionary might change, but its general approach and personal connections will remain intact.

*The most recent addition to our team, Ariel, contributes:* I became a part of the CDD just as the last stage of compilation had been completed and the new effort to convert the Dictionary files to Unicode had begun. Our process starts after the files have been run through the conversion program in order to transform them from their original fonts (some of which

were even designed by Jan!) into the New Athena Unicode font. The editing involves reading the file with the proverbial fine-toothed comb. There are some obvious problems (such as hieroglyphic signs turning into small empty boxes), but many issues are harder to spot and require a near-obsessive attention to detail. The editing moved along surely at first; however it soon became clear that the New Athena font would not work properly in all platforms and would have to be changed. We tried a number of different options, each with intractable flaws. We finally decided on an “OI” version of the Unicode font Gentium Plus, which has been modified to contain all of our (and all the OI Publications Office’s) special characters and still allows room to expand.

The resolution of the “great font debacle” was a relief; however, we have now run into a serious issue with our images of the Demotic texts, as hinted at above. Jan realized that somewhere in the conversion process all of the image files had been degraded to a resolution that left many unreadable. This was the first portent that Microsoft Office might not be up to the job. It was decided that the problem should be tabled until the editing had been completed and we had investigated a method for swapping out all of the images for their higher-resolution counterparts. That approach worked until the day that I opened up the first of the M files and realized to my dismay that previously well-ordered images had been scattered haphazardly throughout the document by some mysterious technological force. This required us to begin a precipitous shift to the much more stable platform of Adobe InDesign. We are only in the nascent stages of this switch; however we have begun one of the most important components, the extraction and naming of over 40,000 image files.

The first step was figuring out how to move the high-resolution images out from our old documents with their legibility intact — this turned out to be rather more complicated than anticipated. After many trials (and much time Googling the problem), we ended up with a folder of over 1,600 images for first M file, all without useful names. The next step was to design a naming system that would be flexible, unique, and contain all necessary information about the images so that they could be found and used with relative ease in the future. The solution is effective titles, which contain a plethora of data but are unfortunately long and unattractive. Thanks to the help of summer Publications Office interns Le’Priya White and Jalissa A. Barnslater-Hauck, this endeavor is progressing and, when finished, will ensure that the images published are of the best possible quality, that they are archived in a sustainable fashion and that, hopefully, they will be easy to adapt to an online interface.

Once all of the images have been extracted and named, the next step of our plan is to replace each old image file with the new one, while concurrently shifting the new Unicode files into InDesign. This will undoubtedly hold new and unexpected challenges yet also provide us with further opportunities to build on and fine-tune the monumental work of the CDD. For me personally, it has been a real pleasure to work with the staff of the CDD and the Publications Office. I have been amazed at the openness to new ideas that I have found working here and the dedication to the Dictionary project as a whole.

### **Note**

<sup>1</sup> According to Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unicode\\_font](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unicode_font)), “A Unicode font (also known as UCS font and Unicode typeface) is a computer font that contains a wide range of characters, letters, digits, glyphs, symbols, ideograms, logograms, etc., which are collectively mapped into the standard Universal Character Set, derived from many different languages and scripts from around the world.”

## CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY AND ELECTRONIC HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD AND eCHD)

Theo van den Hout

On March 10, 2015, our colleague Harry Hoffner passed away, completely unexpectedly, in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Retired in 2000, he and his wife Wini used to spend in recent years the harshest months of the Chicago winter there. His death is an enormous blow to our project: together with Hans Güterbock, Harry Hoffner was the founder of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary and was still active as Senior Editor. Just the week before his death he had still exchanged emails with Theo van den Hout on Dictionary matters.

Hoffner did his BA at Princeton, received an MA in theology from the Dallas Theological Seminary, and finally got his PhD at Brandeis with a dissertation on “The Laws of the Hittites,” a topic he would return to later on in his career. He taught at Wheaton College in Illinois, Brandeis, and Yale before coming to Chicago as full professor in 1975 where Güterbock was to retire not long after. Several years earlier, Güterbock had been asked by the German publisher of the thus far only Hittite dictionary, Johannes Friedrich’s *Hethitisches Wörterbuch*, if he could do a fully revised edition. He had collected all kinds of words and word usages but felt he had to decline since he didn’t have a really systematic card file of the then published Hittite corpus. This all changed when Hoffner joined the faculty of the Oriental Institute. Since his earliest days studying Hittite Hoffner had compiled systematic and comprehensive files, and the combination of the two scholars was ideal. The German publisher had meanwhile already contracted Annelies Kammenhuber and she started publishing in installments a completely renewed Hittite-German lexicon in 1975. However, Güterbock and Hoffner were not to be deterred: they obtained their first of many grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1976, hired two research associates and students, and started the Hittite-English CHD. The first fascicle, as they called it, appeared in 1979. The only concession they made was to start in the middle of the alphabet, with the letter L, so as not to duplicate immediately the work of the Munich project that had begun with A.

Hoffner was an extremely accomplished and wide-ranging scholar. Through his MA he had a strong biblical basis and besides Hittite he had studied Akkadian and Egyptian at Brandeis. As his many publications show, he had a wide interest in history, archaeology, lexicography, grammar, and realia. To the latter category belongs his book *Alimenta Hethaeorum* (1974) (partly founded by the Coca-Cola Company!) on foodstuffs in Hittite Anatolia, collecting everything there was to know on nutrition and food production with wonderful illustrations from the entire ancient Near Eastern world. Later monographs concerned the now standard edition of the *Hittite Laws* (1997) and two volumes in the SBL series Writings from the Ancient World on *Hittite Myths* (1990, 1998<sup>2</sup>) and *Letters from the Hittite Kingdom* (2009). Together with H. Craig Melchert he wrote the *Grammar of the Hittite Language* (2008), which is likely to be the standard for many decades to come.

Hoffner had an enormously sharp mind that benefited the CHD greatly. His experience in Hittite lexicography and grammar was immense and comes through in every entry of the Dictionary. We will miss him but carry on his spirit!



*Harry Hoffner at Hilton Head, SC, shortly before his death on March 10, 2015*

So, over the past year we continued our work on the final fascicle of the Š-volume, containing words starting in šu-. A substantial portion of that part has now been sent to our outside consultants. When their comments come back they will be incorporated in the draft and the final editing can begin. In the coming year the remaining part of the šu- volume that van den Hout and Petra Goedegebuure are currently working on will be prepared for the outside consultants and publication of this last installment will be near.

Besides their assistance on editing work for words in šu-, research associates Richard Beal and Oğuz Soysal have continued their work to update the letter L of the printed Dictionary for the benefit of our electronic CHD (see last year's report). Soysal also started working on the publication of his share of the several thousands of still unpublished Hittite fragments from the first four seasons of excavations (1906–1912) that were repatriated from Germany to Turkey in 1987. The CHD benefits from this initiative because we can use the contents of these fragments before publication if relevant to the material we are working on.

As part of this work Soysal has traveled to the museum in Ankara to collate the texts and to confirm possible joins on the original fragments. The edition of these fragments just came out as the second volume of our CHD Supplements series, *Unpublished Bo-Fragments in Transliteration I (Bo 9536–Bo 9736)*. More of these are planned.

Under the ever trusty guidance of graduate student Oya Topçuoğlu the cuneiform editions published as KBo 42, 43, and 46 have finally been entered into our files and we can start working on further volumes in the 50s range. Oya was assisted this year by graduate student Robert Marineau and undergraduate Jane Gordon. Both have done great work, for which we are deeply grateful. Jane graduated this year and will spend the coming academic year in Austria teaching English before heading to Britain for graduate studies the year after. This was also the last year for graduate student Seunghee Yie, who has done a lot of painstaking work for the eCHD: we're indebted to her for all the years that she put in hours for the Dictionary project!

As usual, we had several visitors. In the winter Valerio Pisaniello from the Sapienza University in Rome came for two months to consult our files for his dissertation research. Matteo Vigo, in recent years postdoc in Copenhagen, returned to Chicago to check our files for terms of textiles as the final stage for his upcoming publication on Hittite textile terminology.

Finally, last summer we had our big international conference of Hittitology, which is held every three years. It alternates between the city of Çorum, capital of the province that is home to the former ancient Hittite capital Ḫattuša, and some other destination. Former hosts outside of Turkey have been Pavia and Rome in Italy, Würzburg in Germany, and Warsaw in Poland. It was decided that the 2017 conference will be held in Chicago!

# EASTERN BADIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT: WISAD POOLS, JORDAN

Yorke M. Rowan

## Introduction

The Eastern Badia Archaeological Project (EBAP) examines two regions in the Black Desert of eastern Jordan, the Wadi al-Qattafi and Wisad Pools, located near the border of Saudi Arabia (fig. 1). At Wisad Pools in June of 2013, we sectioned and excavated one half of a Late Neolithic (7,000–5,000 cal. BC) structure constructed from large basalt slabs. The rich artifact and faunal assemblage was reported in the *Oriental Institute 2013–2014 Annual Report*. Structure W-80 consisted of a circular tomb built atop a collapsed Late Neolithic dwelling (Rollefson et al. 2013), but the volume of sediments and the weight of basalt blocks made it impossible to clear more than about the southern half of the complex during the four-week season. The crew returned for another four-week season (June 5–July 4) in 2014 to continue the excavation.

## The Tomb

In 2014 the crew completed the excavation of the tomb (fig. 2), a poorly preserved and hastily built structure measuring approximately 5 meters in diameter, with a wall of roughly four courses that remained about 80 centimeters high (Rollefson et al. 2013, fig. 3). The state of preservation was poor due to bioturbation, disturbing the stratigraphic integrity

of the tomb; some artifacts appear to have migrated into sediment layers of the house mound beneath the tomb, particularly small carnelian beads. White powdery bones may have been human. Within the burial layer other small finds provide the possibility of assigning the tomb to a particular period, although this assignment remains tentative. Finds from this upper layer of slabs and loose sediment included a finger ring of copper, an earring, possibly of silver, and a bronze arrowhead. A small sculpted bead of greenish stone is identical to one from 2013 (figs. 3–4). The bronze arrowhead and silver earring have close parallels to late Late Bronze IIA finds, at 'Ara (Yahalom-Mack 2014, p. 213 and fig. 10.4; p. 222 and fig. 10.11:12). Two of the beads from Wisad may be glass/frit (fig. 4:a–b); they are similar to examples from 'Ara (Paz 2014, fig. 11.1:15). The sculpted beads

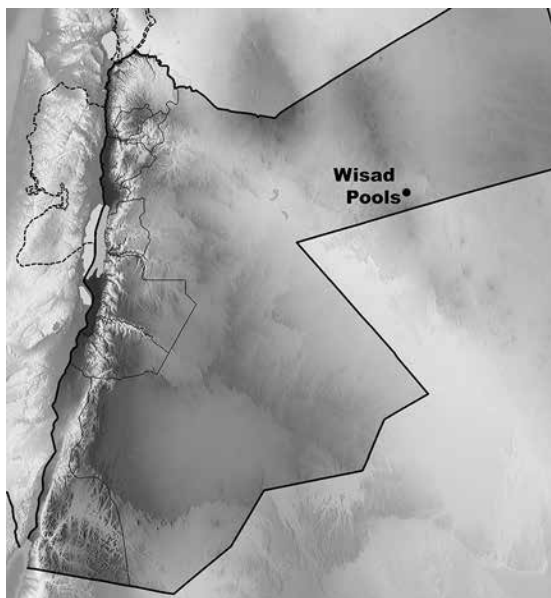


Figure 1. Map of Jordan showing the location of Wisad Pools

EASTERN BADIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT



Figure 2. Aerial view from 2013 of the tomb atop W-80. View toward the northeast (photo: A. C. Hill)



Figure 3. Objects recovered from inside the tomb atop W-80 in 2014. a: bronze arrowhead; b: copper finger ring; c: silver earring (photo: G. Rollefson)



Figure 4. Beads ascribable to the W-80 tomb. (a) Glass/frit bead; (b) glass/frit bead; (c) Dabba marble "melon" bead (photo: G. Rollefson.)

from Wisad (fig. 4:c and Rollefson et al. 2013, fig. 21) resemble the “melon beads” from Late Bronze IIA ‘Ara (Paz 2014, fig. 11.1:22–25). In view of the probable burrowing activity in the tomb, the copper bead found in 2013 (Rollefson et al. 2013, fig. 22) may belong to this tomb assemblage even though it was found in a locus beneath the tomb.

## The Underlying Architecture

Below this tomb, structure W-80 was a corbeled building with a collapsed roof, indicated by the vertical and nearly vertical corbel slabs inside the wall (fig. 5). This is similar to structure W-66 at Wisad and structure SS-11 on Maitland’s Mesa at Wadi al-Qattafi (Rowan et al. 2015). Butchering, grinding on large slabs, chipped-stone tool production, and bead manufacture suggest the structure continued in use after the collapse. By the end of the 2014 excavation season, W-80 was clearly a building with greater architectural complexity than either W-66 or SS-11.

At the end of the 2014 season, W-80 (fig. 6) had a large room (ca. 6.5 m NW–SE × 5.5 m SW–NE). A northeastern doorway (D1) approximately 60 centimeters wide led into the main room (M). A central pillar (CP), was probably only one of several that originally supported the roofing slabs; the room interior was probably reorganized more than once during the lifecycle of the building. Within the main room, an area of very large flat ground stones each with a “cupmark” or mortar was found (GS). An alcove (A) was exposed in the southwestern area of the main room. There may have been an additional southwestern doorway (D2) leading into a semicircular “fenced porch” (P) where one large grinding slab with a cupmark/



Figure 5. Excavation along eastern edge of W-80 showing Wall 019 (right) and collapsed, nearly vertical corbel slabs (left) (photo: Y. Rowan)

## EASTERN BADIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

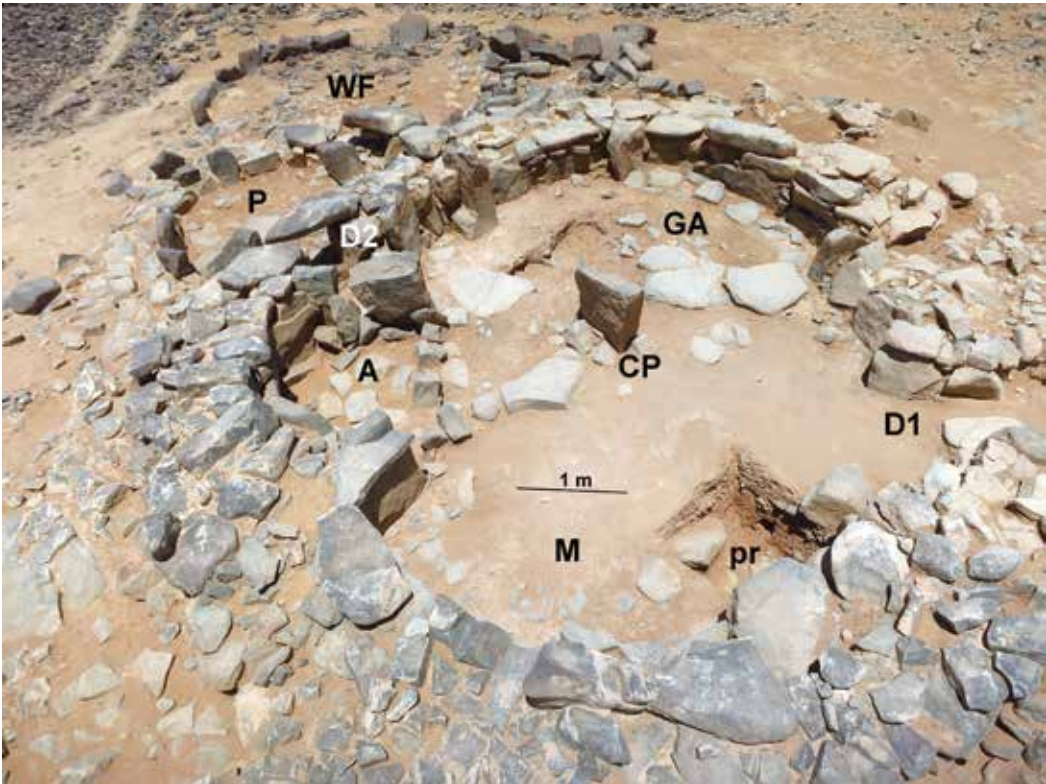


Figure 6. Overhead view of W-80 at the end of the 2014 season; see text for abbreviations. North is at upper right (photo: Y. Rowan)

mortar was located. Farther to the west was a low area delineated by small upright stones, termed the Western Forecourt (WF).

### The Southwestern Doorway (D2)

Excavations inside the doorway and in the “vestibule” (Rollefson et al. 2013, fig. 6) in 2014 revealed that the southern doorway (D2) is a later feature after the original construction of W-80, suggesting that the porch (P) and probably the vestibule itself were also later additions. This, in turn, suggests the northern wall of the alcove/southern wall of the vestibule is also relatively late. All of these later changes to W-80 might be contemporaneous with the use of the structure as a windbreak during the principal use of the grinding area (GA).

### The Grinding Area (GA)

The grinding area dominates the northern half of the building. Altogether sixty-seven milling stones came from the area, including forty-six handstones and twenty-one grinding slabs. These numbers contrast with the total of only thirteen grinding slabs, thirty handstones, and four pestles recovered in 2013, including those from outside the main room (Rollefson et al. 2013, p. 18). Four of the large slabs found during 2014 included central mortars ranging





Figure 7. Hearths 058, 055, and 061 among grinding slab/mortars; door D1 is at upper right (photo: Y. Rowan)

between 7 and 11 cm in diameter (fig. 7). The largest of the slab/mortars has dimensions of  $89 \times 76 \times 11$  cm (140 kg) and the smallest  $38 \times 29 \times 13$  cm (54 kg). It is perhaps important that four hearths were found in the northern half of W-80 in 2014 in close proximity to the grinding stones whereas only one diffuse area of burning was found in the southern half in 2013.

A feature that might be related to the use of the grinding area is a rectangular “bin” (Locus 068) along the western wall 070, approximately 60 cm west of the grinding slab/mortar complex in figure 8. Measuring 170 cm N-S  $\times$  69 cm E-W, the bin is outlined by basalt, including one long block on edge and another on end (fig. 8). Elsewhere in the grinding area two caches of gazelle and caprine astragali were found just inside and to the west of the northeastern doorway D1 (fig. 9) and next to the eastern face of the central pillar CP.

A clear example of the renovations that structure W-80 underwent is shown in the north wall of the building (fig. 10). At some time an opening measuring 2.3 m had been created in wall 070 that extended eastward to wall



Figure 8. The rectangular bin along the western wall of W-80 (photo: Y. Rowan)

## EASTERN BADIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

019, which was an original part of W-80. Sometime later the opening was closed with blocking stones Locus 071, creating at the same time doorway D1. The timing of the blockage may have coincided with the construction of the alcove, the southwestern doorway D2, and the vestibule. A platform of rocks (Locus 062) accumulated to the north of the blocking.

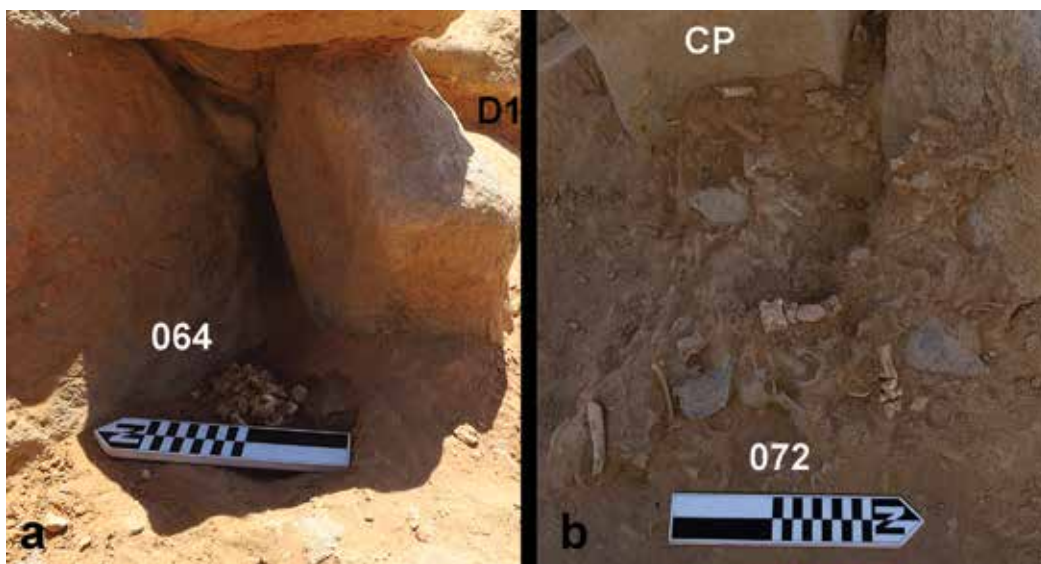


Figure 9. (a) Cache of gazelle/caprine astragali 064 inside doorway D1; (b) cache of gazelle/caprine astragali adjacent to east edge of central pillar CP (photos: Y. Rowan)



Figure 10. Renovations in the north wall of W-80. An opening was made in wall 070, then blocked sometime later using basalt slabs placed on edge (071), creating doorway D1 at the same time. Platform 062 was built to the north of 070. The original eastern wall 019 of W-80 is just off the photo to the right (photo: G. Rollefson)

## The Probe (PR)

Without sufficient time to excavate all areas to sterile soil, we decided to open a 1 × 1 meter probe adjacent to the eastern wall 019 down to bedrock (fig. 6). The structure was not built on bedrock, but on a culturally sterile, gritty, and porous reddish brown sandy silt. We wonder if this might represent an early/Middle Holocene topsoil protected from deflation by the presence of W-80. A similar sediment was found beneath the walls of structure W-66, excavated in 2011 (Rollefson et al. 2012). Cores drilled into the sediments of the *qa* (mudflat) to the southeast of W-80 show a layer of similar sediment.

## Botanical Analysis

Charcoal recovered from the hearths in W-80 has been identified as *Tamarix* sp. and deciduous *Quercus* sp., components of a forest-steppe vegetation (cf. Willcox 1999). If the basal sediment layer under the walls of W-80 absorbed and retained winter rainfall better than at present, this might explain the presence of oak. Samples have been sent to determine if pollen and phytoliths are present in the reddish brown sediment, and OSL (optically stimulated luminescence) samples have been taken from the soils under W-80 and W-66 as well as the *qa* south of Wisad Pools.

## Faunal Remains

Animal bones were numerous and well preserved. According to initial analyses by Alexander Wasse, based on a sample of more than 250 NISP (number of identified specimens) bones from three loci in the 2013 season, gazelle dominate at around 50 percent, hare at about 25 percent, with caprines around 10 percent of the mammals. Large and small felids occur rarely, as does domestic dog and fox. Bird bones are numerous. We expect the ratios of taxa will remain similar for the 2014 assemblage. Among the abundant faunal remains, three bone awls were identified, but more bone tools will undoubtedly come to light as faunal analysis continues.

## Chipped-Stone Tools

A total of 1,437 chipped-stone tools came from the W-80 excavations in 2014. This includes forty-six bead drills and 108 borers, as well as eight cortical knives and twenty tabular scrapers.

A total of 620 arrowheads were recovered from the structure over the past two seasons. More than 85 percent are transverse arrowheads, and in view of the small size as well as the ease and rapidity of their manufacture, it is likely that the ratio of transverse arrowheads to other types might reflect the ratio of smaller mammals and birds to larger mammals in the faunal remains. The total of 620 arrowheads is astonishing, but the recurrent occupation of W-80 spanned a time period of possibly a thousand years (cf. Rollefson et al. 2014, p. 291), so the rate is low on an absolute scale. At the same time, the actual rate of deposition may have been periodically high. The amount of lithic debris inside W-80 is very high, indicating that stone tool manufacture was a major activity inside the structure, including the production of arrowheads. The presence of so many arrowheads in the building, however, might also have been partly due to their presence in the carcasses that were butchered inside the building.

## Small Finds

Items that were probably associated with the tomb were discussed above, and a few small finds from the 2013 season probably also belong to this assemblage, including several biconical carnelian beads, a tiny carnelian tubular bead, a copper bead, two cowrie shell beads, and a sculpted “melon” bead (Rollefson et al. 2013, figs. 21 and 22). The same may be true for the “mace-head” fragments: six from 2014 and three from 2013; however, mace-heads are known from the Late Neolithic (Rosenberg 2010), even as far back as the Late Pre-Pottery Neolithic B and C (Rollefson and Kafafi 1996; Rollefson, Kafafi, and Simmons 1990; Rollefson, Simmons, and Kafafi 1990).

The burned “grooved stone” appears to be a piece of chalky limestone roughly formed by direct percussion to a subrectangular shape (fig. 11). One surface was smoothed and then incised with at least eight parallel grooves. These may have been used for sharpening bone needles and awls, and are known from other sites, such as ‘Ain Ghazal.

The common perception of the eastern badia of Jordan is one of a forbidding landscape constraining occupation of the area during later prehistory, that is, Late Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Early Bronze Age. Intensified interdisciplinary field research over the past six years is beginning to reveal a different perspective of the opportunities available for hunter-herder groups during later prehistory. The identification of arboreal charcoal paints a very different late prehistoric landscape, and we hope that sediments preserved under the Late Neolithic buildings at Wisad Pools hold promise for detailing what the conditions were like in the seventh millennium and later. We hope that additional excavation of structures at Wisad Pools will disclose whether or not a porous topsoil existed and disappeared, providing clear insights into the process of desertification and its consequences on human presence in the eastern badia.



Figure 11. Burned grooved stone of uncertain function (photo: G. Rollefson)

## Acknowledgments

The Eastern Badia Archaeological Project received fundamental financial support from the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago as well as continued commitment from the Louis B. Perry Scholarship fund at Whitman College, Washington; additional funding was contributed by the co-directors of the project. Our thanks are extended to the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and to our departmental representative Wesam as-Said for their considerable help, as well as to American Center of Oriental Research Director Dr. Barbara Porter for logistical assistance and research facilities. Student volunteers Madeline Dupenthaler, Blair Heidkamp, Tariq Judeh, and Emma McCullough-Stearns, worked devotedly under harsh desert conditions, for which we are grateful. The Badia Police are also thanked for their assistance in obtaining water for the project.

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## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

**W. Raymond Johnson**

On April 15, 2015, the Epigraphic Survey, in cooperation with the Ministry of Antiquities and Heritage (MAH) and Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) completed its ninety-first, six-month field season in Luxor; Chicago House's activities ran from October 15, 2014, through April 15, 2015. Projects included epigraphic documentation, conservation, restoration, and an Egyptian conservation-student training program at Medinet Habu; epigraphic documentation of walls and fragments and blockyard management work at Luxor Temple; epigraphic documentation of the portico reliefs in Theban Tomb 107; and epigraphic documentation of reused blocks in the upper walls of Khonsu Temple, Karnak. Much of the work was supported by a grant from USAID Egypt.

### Medinet Habu

Projects in Medinet Habu included epigraphic documentation, conservation, and restoration work in the small Amun temple of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III; the Domitian Gate; the Ramesses III southern well, the House of Butehamun, the destroyed western High Gate, and the Medinet Habu Blockyard; as well as an Egyptian conservation student training program.



*Figure 1. Johannes shaping stone for the Domitian Gate restoration, Medinet Habu (photo: Ray Johnson)*



Figure 2. Ray, Brett, and inspectors Fatma and Ghada reviewing Margaret's lintel drawings, November 2014 (photo: Margaret De Jong)

MSA Inspectors at Medinet Habu with whom we worked this season included Miss Fatma Ahmed Salem, Miss Sana Youssef Ahmed Ali, Mr. Atitoo Mohammed Hassan, Miss Shereen Mohammed Hosni, Mrs. Ebtahag Ahmed Ali, and Mr. Mahmoud Fawzy Ibrahim.

## Epigraphy

### ***Small Amun Temple***

Documentation under the supervision of senior epigrapher Brett McClain and the epigraphic team epigrapher Jen Kimpton, co-senior artists Margaret De Jong and Sue Osgood, artists Krisztián Vértés and Keli Alberts, continued for the full six-month season in the small Amun temple of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III, with the goal of completing our drawings of the ambulatory and the façade, destined for publication in *Medinet Habu X: The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, Part 2: The Façade, Pillars, and Architrave Inscriptions*. We also continued work on the late additions to the temple exterior and marginal inscriptions for *Medinet Habu XI*, and the interior and exterior bark shrine for *Medinet Habu XII*. We have now completed all drawing enlargements for *Medinet Habu X*, which will contain the documentation of the following portions of the temple:

## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

- the entire façade (including the Eighteenth Dynasty decoration as well as all later revisions of the decorative scheme)
- the pillars of the Thutmosid peripteros (including the interior and lateral pillar faces, but excluding the exterior Ramesses III decoration)
- the interior architraves of the Thutmosid peripteros

All enlargements destined for *Medinet Habu X* have been approved by the Director, digitized, and transported back to the US, along with all of the photographic negatives for the volume, and field checks of the translations and epigraphic commentary have been completed.

In the course of the 2014–2015 season, the following drawings have passed through the indicated stages of the Chicago House process:

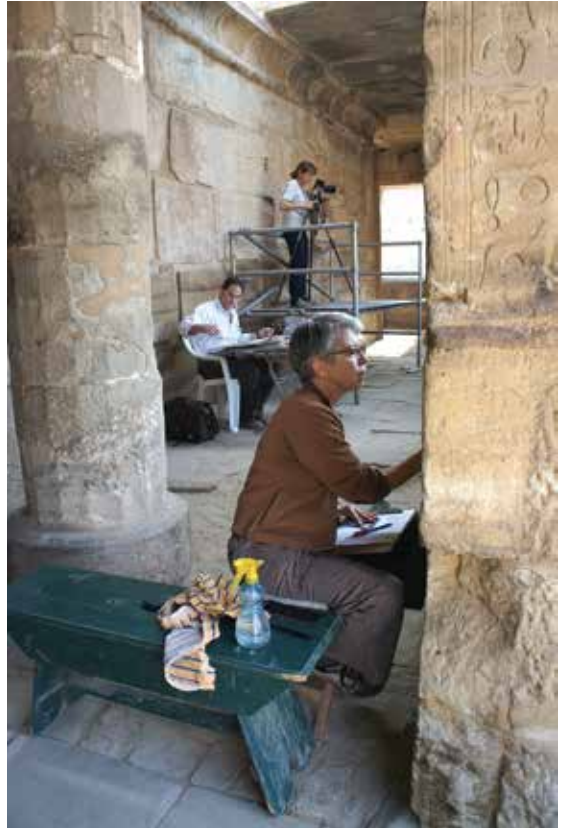
- Pencilng completed: 15
- Inking completed (incl. summer 2014): 22
- Transfer Check completed: 3
- Director Check completed: 5

### ***Graffiti Project***

Tina Di Cerbo assisted by Richard Jasnow continued their graffiti recording on the small Amun temple Ptolemaic pylon; Kushite Court walls C, D, and the west wall; the west wall of the Eighteenth Dynasty temple; and west interior wall of the Ptolemaic northern annex. Graffiti documented included Demotic inked texts, numbers, and “setting marks” next to the gate of Padiamenope on the Kushite west wall exterior.

### ***House of Butehamun***

This season preliminary condition studies and documentation were initiated on the Twenty-first Dynasty House of Butehamun, excavated by Chicago House and Uvo Hölscher in 1932–33. Photographer Yarko took reference photographs of all of the parts of the house prior to the conservation and consolidation work that will begin next season.



*Figure 3. Brett, Tina, and Sue documenting reliefs at the small Amun temple, December 2014 (photo: Ray Johnson)*



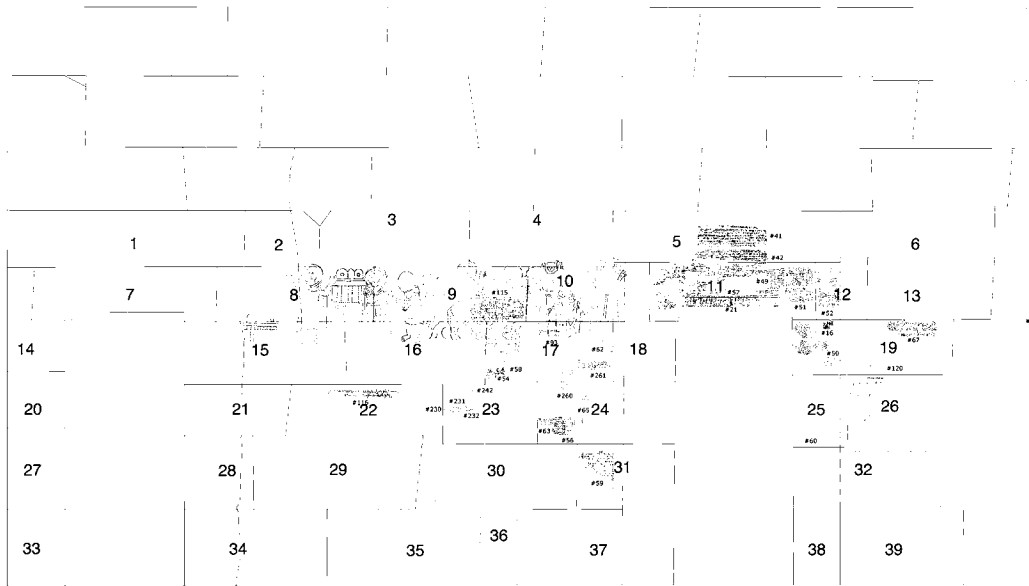


Figure 4. Drawing of graffiti on Ptolemaic Annex R, west wall interior (by Tina Di Cerbo)



Figure 5. Brett copying texts in the House of Butehamon, Medinet Habu, November 2014 (photo: Ray Johnson)

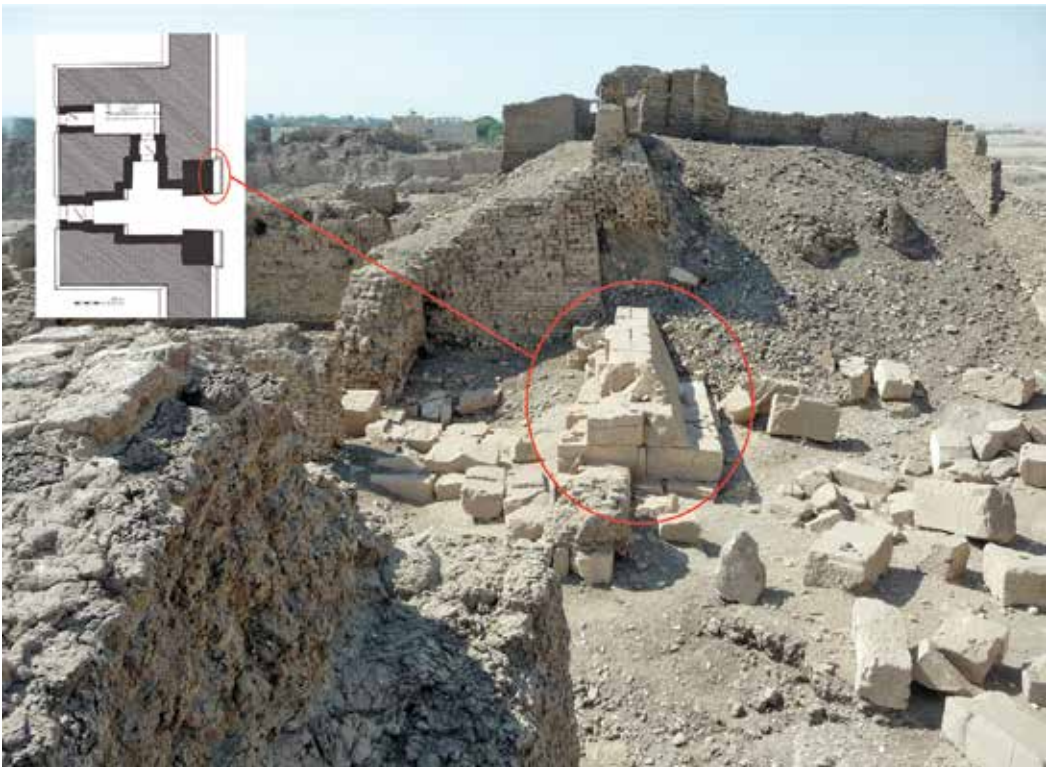
## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

**Western High Gate**

The activities this season at the Western High Gate (WHG) at Medinet Habu were undertaken by Jen Kimpton assisted by Anait Helmholz. They consisted of continuing the preliminary catalog of blocks and fragments in the vicinity of the WHG, surveying the positions of the large blocks in the immediate area of the WHG, and producing detailed isometric drawings of the blocks belonging to the WHG.

446 new blocks and fragments were added to the catalog this season, for a total of 630 separate pieces. Each block or fragment included in the catalog is photographed and provided with the following preliminary information: dimensions, material, location (original and current, if moved), condition, description of content when present, and description of architectural features when present. Some blocks are also provided with annotated photographs with more detailed notes. The cataloging is almost finished, and will be completed early next season.

In December 2014, in consultation with Nadine Moeller (who gave us tips on the use of the total station), a survey was begun of those blocks in the WHG that might be close to their original findspots. This project includes all the blocks present in three separate zones (west of gate, passageway and pit), as well as selected blocks in the WHG axis. The total number of blocks surveyed is 137. All of this data was processed in AutoCAD and joined with Hölscher's original survey map of the WHG area in an Adobe Illustrator file (see fig. 7).



*Figure 6. The base of the gate's southern tower (circled above in the photo and reconstructed plan) comprises some of the few stones belonging to that edifice that are still in their original positions. The remainder — excepting those that have been quarried for reuse in other buildings — lie scattered about the immediate area of the gate*

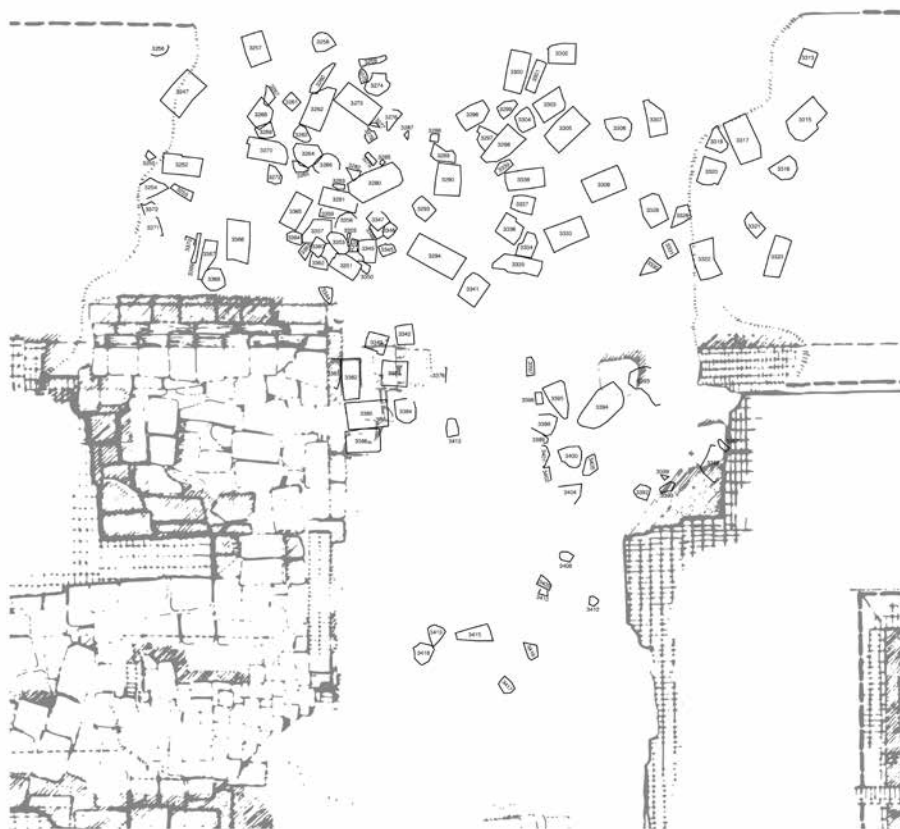


Figure 7. Survey of Western High Gate block locations (sketch plan: Hölscher and Kimpton)

During the latter half of January 2015 Yarko Kobylecky, assisted by Ellie Smith, photographed thirty-eight separate blocks, including seven that had two decorated surfaces, resulting in forty-five photographs. These photographs represent the entire group of blocks thought to belong to the large-scale exterior scenes of the WHG towers as well as a few other blocks of particular interest. These blocks were photographed in film and in digital formats, and can be used immediately as drawing enlargements.

### ***The Domitian Gate***

This season marks the fifth season in our Medinet Habu Domitian Gate restoration project. Five years ago we noted that the first-century AD sandstone Gate of the Roman Emperor Domitian, reassembled by George Daressy from scattered blocks in the late nineteenth century behind the small Amun temple was in danger of collapse due to groundwater salt decay of its foundations. After consultation with the MSA/SCA, conservator Lotfi Hassan, master mason Frank Helmholz, and our structural engineer, Conor Power, it was decided that the gate had to be completely dismantled in order to properly replace the foundations with new sandstone, specially damp-coursed against any future groundwater problems. Permission was granted by the MSA/SCA to begin that work in 2011, and dismantling began then.

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Figure 8. Medinet Habu Domitian Gate cornice raising, March 22, 2015 (photo: Yarko Kobylecky)



Figure 9. Medinet Habu review visit March 22, 2015. From center to right, Minister Dr. Mamdouh el-Damaty, Luxor governor Mohamed Sayed Badr, Frank, SCA Chairman Mustafa Amin (photo: Yarko Kobylecky)

This season master stone mason Frank Helmholz and the Chicago House workmen coordinated the dry set and adjustment of courses 4 through 11 before final mortaring. Lotfi and the conservation team (including the fourteen Egyptian conservation students) assisted in the consolidation of the blocks before restoration. Three blocks required doweling (stainless steel and fiberglass). The final block, a lintel block on the south side, was winched into place on March 22, 2015, the day the site was visited by Antiquities Minister Dr. Mamdouh el-Damaty, SCA Chairman Dr. Mustafa Amin, and their office staff; the governor of Luxor Dr. Mohamed Sayed Badr; and USAID Egypt mission director Sherry Carlin.

DOMITIAN GATE SUMMARY OF DATA:	
Overall height of the gate:	5.92 m
Width:	3.16 m
Length:	3.15 m
Total number of stones:	69
Total number of original Domitian Gate stones	45
Total number of fill stones	24
<b>Domitian Gate Season 2014–2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
Courses dry set	6 (6 through 11)
Courses set in mortar	8 (4 through 11)
<b>Total no. of stones set with mortar this season</b>	<b>35</b>



Figure 10. Domitian Gate, March 10, 2015 (photo: Ray Johnson)

## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

***Medinet Habu Conservation***

The conservation team supervised by senior conservator Lotfi Khaled Hassan assisted by Nahed Samir continued condition-monitoring, documentation, conservation, and consolidation throughout the Medinet Habu precinct. This season as part of our USAID funding, we also sponsored an Egyptian conservation-student training program from November 15, 2014, to March 15, 2015. The participants included six Egyptian conservation students who worked with us last year (Hany Mahmoud Diab, Safaa Saad El Nuby, Nehad Hassan Badry, Doaa Mohamed El Sadek, Sikina Mohamed Rady, and Magda Hassaan Abo el Hagag), and eight more who joined us this year (Eman Ezz El Din Abdallah, Fatma Abdel Rehim Ahmed, Anhar Hasaan Ahmed, Mona Helmy Ahmed, Fatma Ahmed Mahmoud, Nemat Ahmed Mohamed, Gaber Ibrahim Mohamed, and El Azab Ahmed Mahmoud) for hands-on training and field experience that will enhance their prospects for future employment (with the Egyptian government or the private sector). Their training included conservation documentation and maintenance work all over the Medinet Habu site: fragments and blocks in the Medinet Habu blockyard; shattered blocks from the Ramesses III southern well; a condition study of the House of Butehamun; desalination of the western wall of the small Amun temple; and treatment of decayed walls inside and outside of the small Amun temple that required repair/infilling. They learned a lot and were a big help. Mabruk to you all!



*Figure 11. Medinet Habu conservation students at Ramesses III well (photo: Nahed Samir)*



Figure 12. Conservation students graduation in the Chicago House Library, March 14, 2015 (photo: Frank Helmholz)

### ***TT 107, the Theban Tomb of Nefersekheru***

This winter the Epigraphic Survey continued documentation and collation at the tomb of Nefersekheru (TT 107). The work was supervised by MSA Inspector Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Kamal and was undertaken at the site from February 11 through March 12, 2015.

During this period, Brett continued to review and collate the facsimile drawings, all of which Margaret and Sue have now inked, bleached, cleaned, and blueprinted. First collation on the following drawings was completed: TT 107 01, 02, 03a, 03b, 03c, 03d, 03e, 04a. This comprises most of the drawings of the upper register of the façade. Brett also made a complete set of high-resolution scans of the uncorrected drawings for backup and study purposes. The plan for next season will be to complete all outstanding first collations, including the drawings of the lower register, to collate the drawings of the inscribed fragments from the tomb, and then to undertake second collations of all of the drawings. It is also hoped that clearance of the court and preliminary conservation work on the façade can be initiated in 2015–2016.

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Figure 13. Theben Tomb 107 site, February 2015 (photo: Ray Johnson)



Figure 14. Brett collating drawings in the portico of TT 107 (photo: Ray Johnson)



## Luxor Temple

Projects at Luxor Temple ran from November 12, 2014, until April 12, 2015, and included documentation of Roman-period frescos in the Imperial Cult Chamber; conservation, restoration, and maintenance of the blockyard and open-air museum; documentation of architectural blocks from the Basilica of St. Thecla in front of the Ramesses II eastern pylon; documentation of Ptolemy I blocks reused in the church; entering of data on a new blockyard management database; photography of miscellaneous blocks, and an annual condition study of the Luxor Temple structure. The Luxor Temple work was partly covered by a grant from USAID Egypt and was supervised by MSA Inspectors Ms. Samia Gamal Mohammed Ahmed, Ms. Nadia Ahmed Abdellatif, Mr. Ahmed Badreddin Gadelmawala Soliman, Ms. Ebtihag Ahmed Ali Ahmed, Ms. Marwa Nabil Rasheed, and Tayseer Saad el-Din.

### *Epigraphy and Blockyard Data Management*

Epigraphic work in Luxor Temple in 2014–2015 involved two main areas of focus: the documentation of fragments in the blockyard, undertaken by Jay Heidel, and the facsimile copying of the Late Roman fresco paintings in the Imperial Chamber (Room V), by Krisztián Vértés. Each of these is the continuation of work in progress from the previous season (2013–2014). Additional, miscellaneous block photography was done by Yarko Kobylecky assisted by Ellie Smith.

In the Luxor Temple blockyard, Jay inked sixteen of the fragments from the Bentresh group (from among the thirty-nine that were penciled in 2013–2014) and penciled an additional forty fragments from the Ptolemy I group, while scanning the photographs for an-



*Figure 15. Luxor Temple eastern blockyard and Colonnade Hall (photo: Ray Johnson)*

## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY



Figure 16. Luxor Temple blockyard. Yarko and Ellie documenting blocks (photo: Ray Johnson)

other 101 of these fragments at 1200 dpi in preparation for drawing next season. Jay also continued development of the Luxor Temple Fragment Database, making significant progress with final field testing of the system, as well as data entry and field location checks, with the result that there are now 2,627 records for fragments entered into the database. Moreover, this season fifty-one inked drawings of deteriorating fragments, made during the 1990s as an emergency backup measure, were scanned at high resolution; these will be blueprinted

and prepared for collation as time permits. Jay worked with blockyard conservator Hiroko Kariya to reconcile the tracking systems for fragments in the blockyard and continued to develop and finalize signage for the various components of the Luxor Temple complex. Finally, Jay also provided unofficial training for several MAH inspectors in epigraphic drawing techniques.

In the Imperial Chamber, meanwhile, Krisztián Vértés continued his work of copying the Roman Imperial fresco



Figure 17. Jay documenting blockyard fragments, February 2015 (photo: Ray Johnson)



Figure 18. Krisztián documenting Roman frescos in the Imperial Cult Chamber, Luxor Temple (photo: Ray Johnson)



Figure 19. Detail of Roman fresco drawing by Krisztián (photo: Krisztián Vértés)

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Figure 20. Luxor Temple sign installation, first court, April 11, 2015, designed by Jay, Ahmed, Reis Badawy, Nashet, Mohamed, Saoud, and Said

paintings depicting the assembly of the Tetrarchs. A total of fourteen enlargements were penciled on site, bleached, scanned, and prepared for digital inking. The paintings from the entire southeast wall of the chamber have now all been penciled; Krisztián will complete the inking of these during the summer, resulting in the complete facsimile record of the largest of the painted wall sections, and documentation of the frescos on the east wall will continue this coming winter.

Last year three educational signs were designed by Jay and prepared for production: the “Ancient Luxor” orientation sign, the “Pylon of Ramesses II” sign, and the “Ramesses II Court” sign. They were fabricated this season, and a display armature for each was constructed in Cairo. Two signs were mounted and erected on April 11, an orientation sign for Thebes in front of the Nectanebo wall in front of the Sphinx Road, and one in the First Court of Ramesses II. An additional small sign commemorating Robert Wilson, a major WMF donor for the open-air museum construction who passed away last year, was also designed this season and is being fabricated now.

### ***Luxor Temple Structural Condition Study***

On March 7 structural engineer Conor Power, P.E., joined us and spent several days at Luxor Temple doing his annual assessment of the Luxor Temple structure. He checked the three plumb bobs that Chicago House set up on the south side of the east pylon and determined that there was no discernable movement of the pylon during the last year. He also checked the calibrated telltale monitoring device installed over a crack on the west side of the eastern pylon at the top of the interior stairs, and determined that there were no signs of any

movement there, either. This means that the MAH/USAID dewatering program for Luxor and Karnak temples, activated in 2007, is effective and doing its job well. The foundations of the temple are now drier, and stable.

### ***Luxor Temple Conservation and Site Management***

Between January 12 and March 27, 2015, conservator Hiroko Kariya conducted her annual condition survey in the Luxor Temple blockyard, did maintenance work in the open-air museum with the temple workmen (including lighting repair), did emergency treatment on eight fragments, and inventoried the entire collection of the eastern blockyard in coordination with Jay. Small fragments on several mastaba platforms were moved to covered shelving along the enclosure wall for their protection, and canvas of the some of the “hospital” mastabas was replaced or repaired.

At the request of Luxor Temple director Mr. Gamal, a ramp for a wheel chair and baby stroller access in the open-air museum was modified and opened to the public. The work included installation of additional railing and pavement as well as extension of the ramp. A proposal for possible new buildings including a conservation office, inspector’s office and two guard stations was discussed and will be constructed next season.



*Figure 21. The new access ramp (photo: Ray Johnson)*



*Figure 22. Luxor Temple MAH Inspector Marwan, Ray, and Jay (photo: Hiroko Kariya)*

### ***Khonsu Temple, Karnak***

Our activities at Khonsu Temple began on February 9, 2015, and continued until the end of the season. The work there exclusively consisted of the production of new drawings of in-wall reused material by artist Keli Alberts. Our work at Khonsu Temple this season was supervised by MSA Inspectors Mr. Hassan el-Twab Mousa and Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Sayed el-Nasseh.

Keli completed the in-wall reused material in Room 11, including: KhF0345 left and right (penciled using the Chicago House method on photos, and including both the original and

## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY



Figure 23. Keli working in room 11, Khonsu temple, March 1, 2015 (photo: Ray Johnson)

the Ramesses III decoration); KhF0344B (traced on plastic); KhF0344C (traced on plastic); and KhF0346 (traced on plastic).

Keli then focused on the in-wall reused material in Room 1, including KhF0316 left and right (penciled using the Chicago House method on photos, and including both the original and Ramesside decoration); KhF0321 (penciled on a photo); KhF0329A and KhF0329B (traced in plastic); KhF0330 (traced on plastic); and KhF0375 (traced on plastic).

Keli used the final days of the season to focus on the lintel blocks of the Hypostyle Hall, including KhF0371 (in progress, traced on plastic); and KhF0314B, in the interior joint of the lintel over the SW entrance. In addition to her drawing activities, Keli also tutored both MSA inspectors in basic drawing techniques, discovered another reused block in Room 6, and digitally inked twelve fragment drawings from the previous season.



Figure 24. Keli's drawing in Room 11, Khonsu Temple 2015 (photo: Ray Johnson)

## Chicago House

### *The Marjorie M. Fisher Library*

The Chicago House Marjorie M. Fisher Library reopened on Friday, October 24, 2014, and closed on April 10, 2015, under the direction of Librarian Marie Bryan and Assistant Librarian Anait Helmholz. From the day the library opened it remained unusually busy all season, with 855 recorded visitors, colleagues, students, and friends. This year 162 titles (167 volumes) were added to the collection, of which 67 were monographs/books, 58 were journals, 30 were series volumes, and 2 were parts of sets. 72 of these were gifts from 36 individuals and institutions. 153 volumes were repaired by Anait during the season, and 25 spine labels replaced. Marie conducted several library orientation sessions for several groups: Peter Brand's University of Memphis students; a student group from Munich; the ARCE conservation field school; and the ARCE epigraphy school led by J. J. Shirley and Will Schenck. The library conversion to the Library of Congress classification system is complete, and all of the books were shifted to their new positions in the library stacks at the end of the previous season. This season library volunteer Gina Salama returned and kindly sorted and inventoried the pamphlets and offprints of Henri Riad's library, donated to us by his family after Henri's death. She also created databases for Henri's collection as well as the Arabic titles in our collection, helping to create order out of a lot of chaos. Thank you, Gina!



Figure 25. Gina sorting pamphlets in the Chicago House Library (photo: Marie Bryan)

### ***The Tom and Linda Heagy Photographic Archives***

This season Chicago House Tom and Linda Heagy Photographic Archives registrar Ellie Smith assisted photographer Yarko Kobylecky with the field photography at Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple; registered 170 new large-format negatives; numbered, sleeved, and filed the negatives and prints; and assisted library patrons who needed access to our photo files. Tina Di Cerbo continued to tweak and update the Photo Archives data storage and backup systems (including our LaCie 5 network system), organized and scanned over 200 slides, entered data on the slide database, and continued scanning negatives after Ellie left. She also assisted Yarko in the photography of archival Chicago House architectural plans. Archivist Sue Lezon worked with Tina on data storage upgrades, optimized 250 scanned Jacquet archive 35mm slides, and consulted with Brett on the photographic images that will be published in *Medinet Habu X*, and carried back to the US the photos, scans, and drawings for that volume. Yarko Kobylecky did large-format film and digital reference photography at the Medinet Habu House of Butehamun and western High Gate as well as the small Amun temple. He plugged some holes in our documentation of the Roman frescos at Luxor Temple, produced drawing enlargements of the frescos for Krisztián, photographed 20 additional fragments and blocks in the Luxor Temple blockyard (including eight Amarna limestone talatat); did his annual reference photography of the Colonnade Hall column bases; produced photographic drawing enlargements for the art team; bleached inked drawings for collation; and coordinated blueprinting with assistant Gharib. During the month of March, Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudies worked in the Photo Archives with Tina, Sue, and Brett on the Chicago House master database, focusing on the work of the Epigraphic Survey in Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple, Chicago House staff history, as well as the Helen and Jean Jacquet database. They upgraded the 4D software and added new features that will improve the keywording of the Nelson number classification system that first director Harold Nelson and the Epigraphic Survey developed for the inscribed walls of all the monuments of Thebes. This spring Alain worked with Foy Scalf on the integration of the Chicago House large-format image database of over 22,000 images into the OI's Integrated Database (IDB) system that will allow easy access of these images through the Oriental Institute's website.

### ***Chicago House***

Tina and the workmen accomplished a tremendous amount of maintenance work at the house after our closing last season and at the beginning of this one, in addition to closing, opening, and cleaning the entire facility: new plumbing was laid down in the courtyard, the repainting of the dining room including all of the window frames, fixing the pavement between the residence and work wings, re-routing the ventilation system in the kitchen, fixing the library window shutters, and re-routing Internet cables, etc., etc. These are just a few of the myriad tasks that Tina and the guys have all finished and perfect before we arrive, God bless them.

On November 17 we marked a significant milestone. That day, ninety years before, the Epigraphic Survey began its work in Luxor supported by a generous gift from John D. Rockefeller Jr. and his family; Chicago House was launched. Because I was obliged to be in Cairo that night, we postponed the Chicago House 90th birthday dinner until a few days later, and on November 20 we had a warm, in-house celebration that included members of some of the earliest staff of Chicago House. Yes, as a surprise, Jen passed out masks of previous Chicago House staff members that she had beautifully crafted out of the 1927 staff photograph, digitally enlarging the faces. I was given first director Harold Nelson's face; Brett was given John





Figure 26. Chicago House 90th birthday party, masked and unmasked (photos: Yarko Kobylecky)

Wilson's face; librarian Marie was given original librarian Phoebe Biles' face; Jen had first female epigrapher Caroline Ransom Williams' mask; Jay got architect Üvo Hölscher's face; Yarko received former photographer Hans Lichter's face, etc. Our predecessors felt very close to us that night, and I think that wherever they are now, they were pleased to be included.

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The Epigraphic Survey professional staff this season, besides the director, consisted of J. Brett McClain as senior epigrapher; Jen Kimpton and Christina Di Cerbo as epigraphers; Boyo Ockinga and Susanne Binder as archaeologist/epigraphers; Margaret De Jong and Susan Osgood as senior artists, Krisztián Vértés and Keli Alberts as artists; Julia Schmied as blockyard supervisor; Jay Heidel as architect/artist/data manager; Yarko Kobylecky as staff photog-

## EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

rapher; Susan Lezon as photo archivist and photographer; Elinor Smith as photo archives registrar and photography assistant; Carlotta Maher as assistant to the director; Essam El Sayed as senior accountant; Samir Guindy as administrator; Samwell Maher as administrative assistant; Marie Bryan as librarian; Anait Helmholtz as assistant librarian; Frank Helmholtz as master mason; Johannes Weninger as mason; Lotfi K. Hassan as conservation supervisor; Nahed Samir as conservation supervisor at Medinet Habu; and Hiroko Kariya as Luxor Temple conservator. Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudière worked on the Chicago House Digital Archives database; Conor Power worked as structural engineer; and Giris Samwell worked with us as chief engineer.

We would like to thank the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities and Heritage for another excellent collaboration this season: especially to Dr. Mamdouh el-Damaty, Minister of Antiquities and Heritage; Dr. Mustafa Amin, SCA Chairman; Mr. Hany Abu El Azm, General Director of Foreign Missions; Dr. Adel Hosein and Dr. Ali Asfar, Heads of the Pharaonic Sector for the SCA respectively; Drs. Mustafa Waziri, General Director of Luxor and Abdel Hakim Karrar, former General Director of Luxor; Sultan Eid, Director of Upper Egypt; Dr. Talat Abdel Azziz, Director General of Gurna and the West Bank; Dr. Mohamed Abdel Azziz, General Director of Karnak and Luxor Temples; Mr. Gamal Mohamed Mostafa Husein, Director of Luxor Temple; Dr. Amin Ammar, Director of Karnak; and Mme. Sanaa Ahmed Ali, Director of Museums in Upper Egypt. Sincerest thanks go to all the inspectors with whom we worked this season, listed above, site by site. It has been a pleasure working with them all.

It is always a pleasure to acknowledge the many friends of the Oriental Institute whose generous support allows Chicago House to maintain its documentation, conservation, and restoration programs in Luxor. Very special thanks must go to USAID Egypt for the grant — now concluded — that has supported a major part of the fieldwork, local staff, and operating costs of the Epigraphic Survey for the last ten years. USAID Egypt has allowed us to raise our bar high. Heartfelt thanks must go to Ward and Diane Zumsteg who have made the first major contribution toward the Epigraphic Survey's new endowment campaign; bless you for leading the way! Thanks must go to the Honorable US Ambassador to Egypt R. Stephen Beecroft; to former US Ambassador to Egypt, the Honorable Anne Patterson; former US Ambassador to Egypt the Honorable Margaret Scobey; US Embassy Cultural Attaché Mark L. Wenig; US Embassy Counselor for Public Affairs, Adnan Siddiqi; Sherry Carlin, mission director of the United States Agency for International Development in Egypt; former USAID Egypt directors Mary Ott, Walter North, Jim Bever, Hilda (Bambi) Arellano, Ken Ellis, and Bill Pearson; Anne Patterson, Bill Patterson, and Sylvia Atalla, USAID Egypt; Curt Ferguson and Coca-Cola Egypt (Atlantic Industries); Dr. Marjorie M. Fisher; David and Carlotta Maher; O. J. and Angie Sopranos; Misty and Lewis Gruber; Nassef Sawiris; Mark Rudkin; Kitty Picken; Daniel Lindley and Lucia Woods Lindley; Eric and Andrea Colombel; Piers and Jenny Litherland; Dr. Fred Giles; Tom Van Eynde; Jean Jacquet; Marjorie B. Kiewit; Nancy N. Lassalle; Tom and Linda Heagy; Shafik Gabr, ARTOC Group, Cairo; Judge and Mrs. Warren Siegel; Norman Lyster; Bonnie Sampsell; Julius Lewis; Solon and Anita Stone; Richard and Mary Gray; James and Anita Dulak; Alice Sgourakis; Mary Schloerb; Barbara Breasted Whitesides and George Whitesides; Miriam Reitz Baer; Andrea Dudek; Beth Noujaim; James Lichtenstein; Jack Josephson and Magda Saleh; Priscilla (Peppy) Bath; the Secchia Family; Emily Fine; Nan Ray; Anna White; Janet and Karim Mostafa; Waheeb and Christine Kamil; Caroline Lynch; Polly Kelly; Howard and Diane Zumsteg; Louise Grunwald; Lowri Lee Sprung; Andrew Nourse and Patty Hardy, Kate Pitcairn; Drs. Francis and Lorna Straus; Dr. William Kelly Simpson; Dr. Ben Harer; Dr.



Figure 27. Chicago House staff portrait 2014–2015 season (photo: Sue Lezon and Yarko Kobylecky)

Roxie Walker; Tony and Lawrie Dean; Mr. Charles L. Michod Jr; Dr. Gerry Scott, Kathleen Scott, Mary Sadek, Amira Khattab, and Jane Smythe of the American Research Center in Egypt; Dr. Michael Jones; and all of our friends and colleagues at the Oriental Institute. I must also express our special gratitude to the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities and Heritage (formerly the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities – MSA); USAID Egypt, British Petroleum, the Getty Grant Program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, Mobil Oil, Vodafone Egypt, and the World Monuments Fund for their support of our work. Sincerest thanks to you all!

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### ADDRESSES OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

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# THE GIZA PLATEAU MAPPING PROJECT

Mark Lehner,  
Ancient Egypt Research Associates (AERA)

## Introduction to Season 2015

During Season 2015, from January 31 to March 26, the AERA team returned to excavations in the site named Heit el-Ghurab (HeG), the name in Arabic of its most distinguishing feature: the 200-meter-long, 10-meter-tall, limestone Wall of the Crow, 400 meters south of the Great Sphinx.

After twenty-seven years of excavating this and adjacent settlement sites at Giza and twenty-five years of reporting for the *Oriental Institute Annual Report*, I would like to take this year's report as an opportunity to sum up our results at Heit el-Ghurab.

This season we worked two areas at the far southern boundary of the 7-hectare site. In Area SWI (Standing Wall Island), 300 meters south of the Wall of the Crow, we excavated a



Figure 1. The Standing Wall Island (SWI) compound, enclosed by a fieldstone wall, with the Wall of the Crow and the pyramids of Khufu and Khafre in the background. View to the northwest

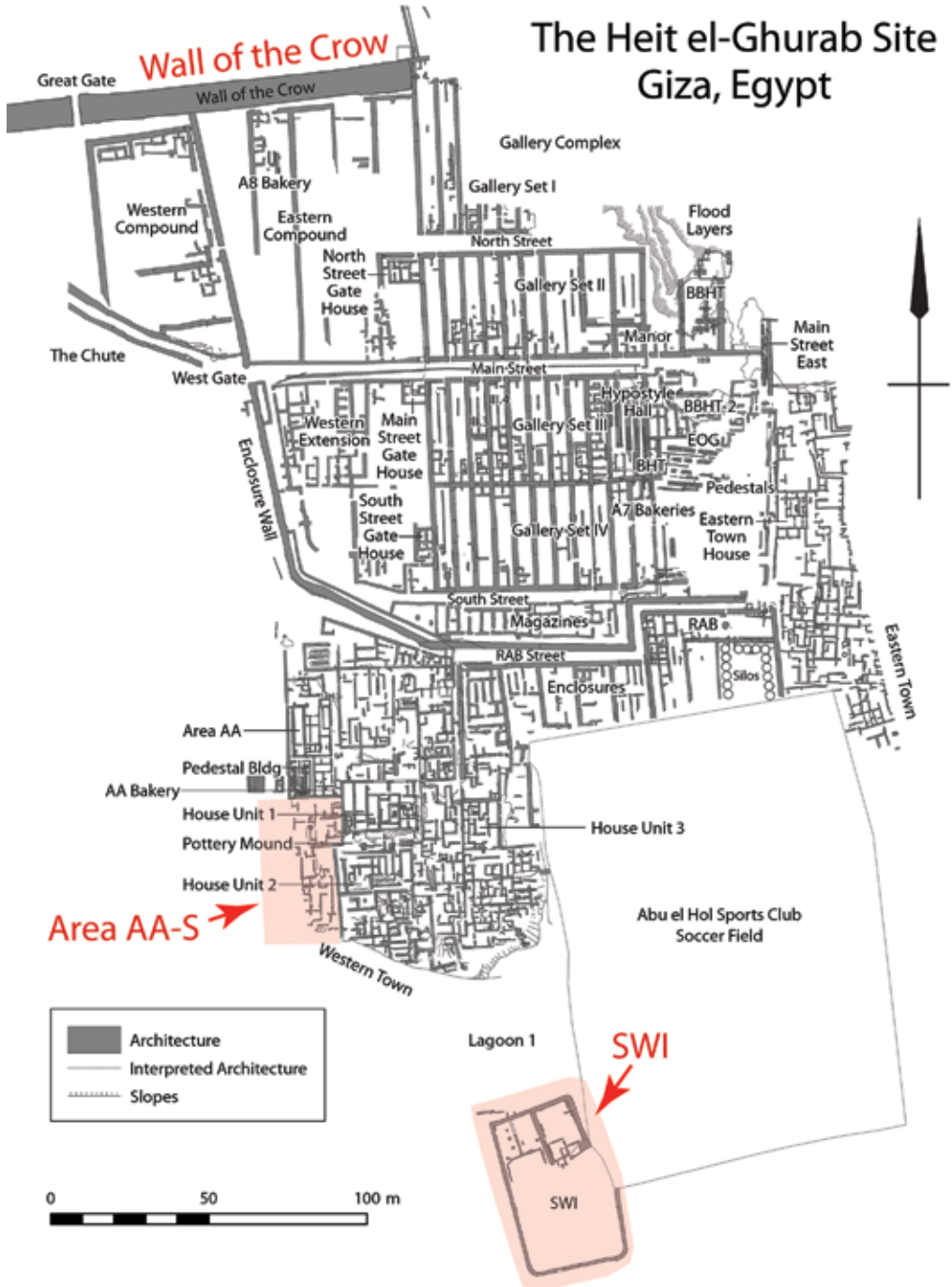


Figure 2. Map of the Heit el-Ghurab site at the beginning of Season 2015. Red highlights mark areas where we worked during Season 2015: AA-S (AA-South) and SWI (Standing Wall Island)

## GIZA PLATEAU MAPPING PROJECT

compound we have dubbed the “OK (Old Kingdom) Corral” on the hypothesis it served as the stockyard for cattle, a source of large quantities of meat consumed across the site, based on Richard Redding’s faunal analysis (figs. 1–2).<sup>1</sup> In the northeastern corner of this compound, we found a residence of a prominent person who must have been in charge. In Area AA-S (AA South), we were on the lookout for evidence of beer brewing in an area of food-processing facilities (fig. 2). Here too, we found another residence, probably of an overseer.

We excavated these areas during Season 2015 while conducting a Beginners Archaeology Field School for inspectors of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities (MoA). A generous grant from the Antiquities Endowment Fund (AEF) of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) secured the positions of ten MoA Inspectors in the field school. In partnership with the American University in Cairo (AUC), we opened the Archaeology Field Training (AFT) program to non-MoA students for academic course credit. Inaugural students Debra Karbawski and Rahel Glanzmann joined twelve Inspectors from the Giza and Cairo areas. One goal of the AFT is to promote integration of MoA Inspectors with archaeologists and Egyptologists from universities abroad.

This season we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the field schools that AERA directed with ARCE sponsorship and USAID funding. Each Beginners Field School is the first phase of a comprehensive training program that includes Advanced, Salvage, and Analysis and Publication Field Schools. On March 21, alumnae from all over Egypt gathered with other MoA colleagues at the AERA Egypt Center, near the north entrance to the Giza Plateau, to celebrate.

Ana Tavares, Joint Field Director with Mohsen Kamel, organized trainees into three field school groups working under professional archaeologists as supervisors. The maps and records of these discoveries were made by beginner field school students under the supervision of these veteran archaeologists who bring thousands of hours of experience at sites all over Egypt and around the world. Some are graduates of the ARCE field school program who went on to become teachers. See the acknowledgments for the full staff list.

In this summary, I want to suggest how our 2015 findings cap off a bigger picture of administration in the Old Kingdom settlements at the southeastern base of the Giza Plateau, touching on both the HeG and Khentkawes Town (KKT) sites.<sup>2</sup>

### **Standing Wall Island as a *Hwt*?**

We named Standing Wall Island in 2004 because we found the northern fieldstone wall of two enclosures (ES1 and ES2) standing a meter high on an “island” of compact ancient settlement that rose between low depressions on the north and south. We called the depressions Lagoons 1 and 2.<sup>3</sup>

In 2011 we found that the western boundary wall of these enclosures extends 35 meters south, then loops round to enclose the southern depression (Lagoon 2) in a larger compound with a paperclip ground plan, leaving on the east a corridor that opens north (fig. 3). Richard Redding, who has devoted a career to the archaeology of people and animals, recognized in the paperclip pattern and rounded corners a corral. In their art, the ancient Egyptians depicted corrals with just these features. So at the beginning of Season 2015 we asked if the inhabitants slaughtered and butchered cattle in the two side-by-side enclosures at the northern end. That is, do we have here both corral and abattoir?

Our hypothesis that inhabitants penned and processed cattle in the wider compound and in the western enclosure, ES1, survives our Season 2015. We need more evidence to confirm

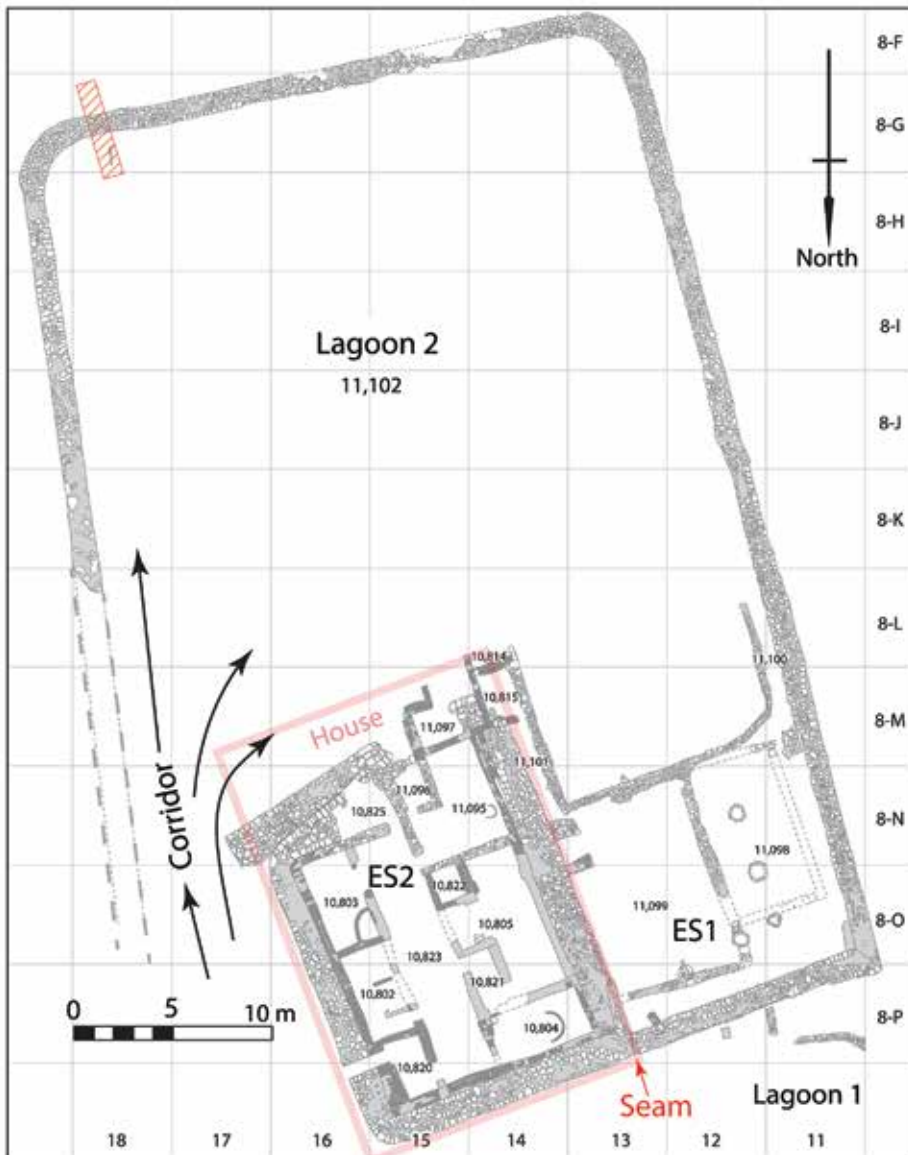



Figure 3. The compound in Area SWI, with south to the top, the orientation privileged by the ancient Egyptians, in contrast to north privileged on most of our maps

it. But we now know that people did not slaughter animals in the eastern enclosure, ES2. Here we found a house-like room structure, a residence, probably of a person of elevated, official status (fig. 3).

With a house in ES2, the ground plan of the SWI compound matches the hieroglyph for *hwt*, a tall rectangle with a smaller rectangle in one corner, often in the lower left (unlike the font that follows, with small rectangle in lower right): <sup>4</sup> We see the match when we look at the SWI ground plan with north to the bottom, as in figure 3, which is proper, because the

## GIZA PLATEAU MAPPING PROJECT

ancient Egyptians privileged south in listing cardinal directions. They used the same word, *imnt* for “west” and “right,” as though facing south,<sup>5</sup> unlike us, who take “north” as properly “up” in most of our maps.

When texts refer to *ḥwwt* (plural) as settlements in the country, often in contrast to *nīwt* “village” or “town,” Egyptologists translate *ḥwt* as “estate,” “domain,” “foundation,” or “plantation.” They see such estates as large ranches or plantations for agriculture and animal husbandry, similar to the Egyptian hamlet called *ezba* of recent times. But a temple or an urban establishment could also be a *ḥwt*. For example, the abattoir in front of the Raneferef Pyramid at Abusir was named the *ḥwt-nmt* “The House of the Knife.”<sup>6</sup>

In 1962 Helen Jacquet-Gordon published a survey of all the Old Kingdom estates known at that time from ancient Egyptian texts. She suggested the larger rectangle of the *ḥwt* hieroglyph represented a wall enclosing a piece of property. The smaller rectangle represented a house, a “*maison seigneuriale*.”<sup>7</sup> She cited Labib Habachi’s discovery at Tell Basta of an edifice in the northeastern corner of a walled enclosure, 87.5 meters long.<sup>8</sup> In her view, the ground plan of the Tell Basta compound matches the *ḥwt* hieroglyph. In addition, on the northern face of the compound, Habachi found an inscription that named this enclosure: *Ḥwt-k*, literally a “house of the *ka*” (life force or spirit) of the Sixth Dynasty king Pepi I. Like the edifice in Pepi’s *ḥwt-k*; (as Jacquet-Gordon interpreted it), the ES2 house is in the northeast corner of the larger enclosure, which, at 60 meters long, is smaller than Pepi I’s Tell Basta *ḥwt*, but not by an order of magnitude.

## ES2 House Parts

At the beginning of Season 2015, we wanted to excavate all of ES1 and ES2. But field school students had to learn basic excavation and recording skills as they carefully removed debris from the collapsed walls. Through teaching, learning, and practice, the team revealed enough of the walls in ES2 to map its ground plan. Although we did not reach floor level, the ground plan and features very near the floor provided telltale evidence of an official residence.

We can take the main entrance into ES2 as one of the residence-like components, because it is off-axis and requires three turns (fig. 4). Like many of the doorways in the Khentkawes Town, this access is close to 0.70 meters wide (0.67 m) as it runs for a length of 2.27 meters through the limestone accretion against the original mudbrick wall.

This corridor delivered one into the first vestibule (space 10,820), about 3 meters long and 1.84 meters wide. We interpret a low block of bricks in the northeast corner as a bench (*mastaba* in Arabic). This putative *mastaba* rises around 0.45 meters, but extends only 0.30 meters wide from the wall.

From the first vestibule one entered a central aisle (10,823), a feature we have not seen in any of the other buildings that we call houses in the HeG and Khentkawes Town sites. The aisle (10,823) runs 12.85 meters, most of the interior length of ES2, at a width of 2.64 to 2.83 meters. The builders doubtless intended 2.62 meters — five royal cubits, a measurement we find again and again across the HeG site.

Two chambers (10,802–803) east of the central aisle included bins for storage. A small silo, perhaps for storing the grain allotment for the official and his staff, stood directly across the central aisle from the entrance, where the guard in the first vestibule could keep an eye on it. A chamber (11,095) in the southwest corner of ES2 may have been the household kitchen.



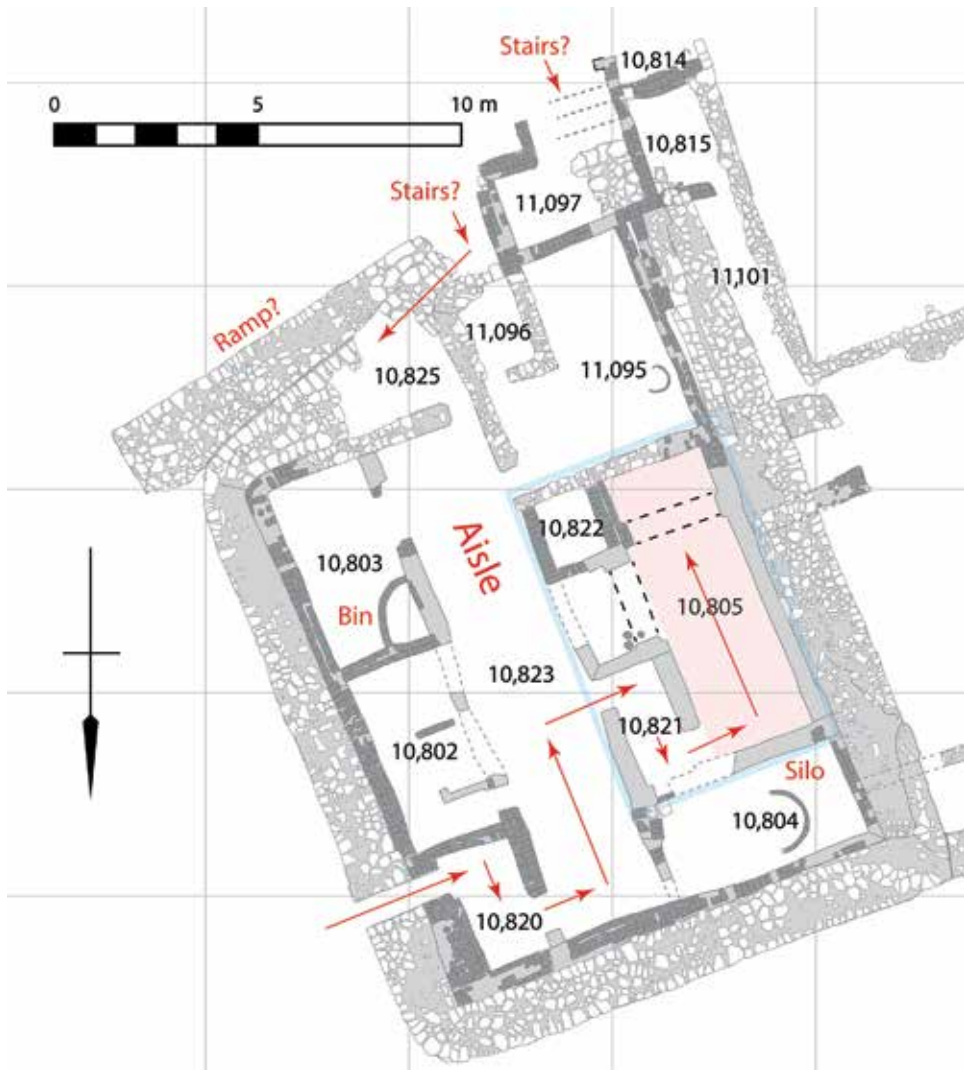


Figure 4. Internal structure of ES2. Red arrows indicate access from the main entrance on the northeast through a first, exterior vestibule, into the central aisle, into a second, interior vestibule, and then into the southern end of the long room with pilasters at the southern end. Plotted by members of 2015 Field School Group 3. Generated from AERA GIS by Rebekah Miracle

Builders added a massive fieldstone girdle around the original mudbrick building (fig. 4), as they did to the so-called Royal Administrative Building (RAB) to the northeast, across Lagoon 1, from SWI.<sup>9</sup> They thickened the eastern end around the southeast corner of ES2, and then they ended the girdle by framing in a rear vestibule (10,825). Steps appear to lead up into this space from the south and west, from Lagoon 2, the hypothetical corral. Steps may have continued from this space (10,825) upon the thicker girdle onto a rooftop.

Later, builders added a second stone accretion against the girdle on the south. This trapezoidal mass widens and slopes up to a squared end on the east that overlooks the chute-like

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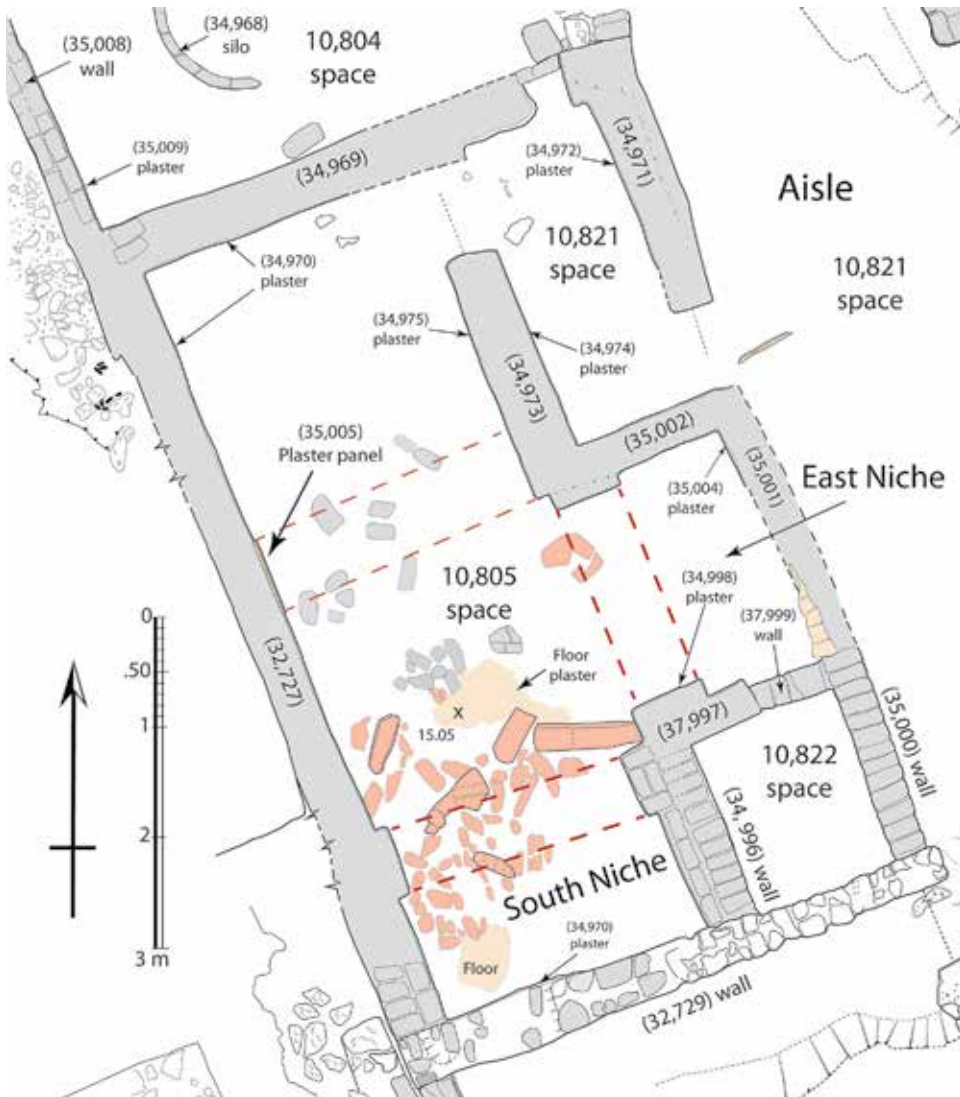


Figure 5. Plan of the “core house” in ES2. Red-colored pieces represent red-painted, molded, marl plaster on mudbrick, collapsed from an architrave that spanned the pilasters of the south niche. From original 1:20 Post-X field drawings by Hanan Mahmoud, Reham Mahmoud Zaky el-Sayed, Kirk Roberts, Mai Samir, Hossam Mokhtar, and Ayman Youssef Toukhy Mohamed. AERA GIS director Rebekah Miracle “stitched” the field drawings into a comprehensive Post-X map of ES2

corridor where we hypothesize cattle were driven into the corral (figs. 3–4). On the cattle hypothesis, we imagine someone standing at the top of this ramp to safely count the cattle on their way into the corral.

Three rooms form an inner core to the ES2 residence (figs. 4–5). From the central aisle, a second zigzag entrance through a second vestibule opens into a large rectangular chamber, 2.6 meters (5 cubits) wide.

We take this room as the signature of an official’s residence. Pilasters project from the sides of the southern end to define a niche, about one meter deep across the width of the



Figure 6. Painted, molded plaster and collapsed mudbrick pieces near floor level between the pilasters at the southern end of space 10,805 in ES2

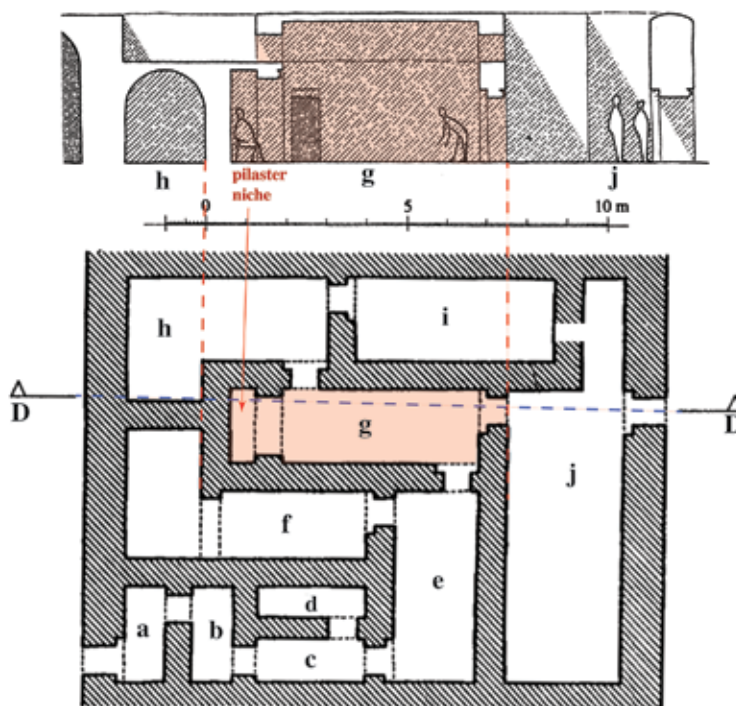


Figure 7. Schematic plan of a “priest’s house” north of the causeway in the Khentkawes Town with one of Felix Arnold’s reconstructed profiles across the central room (g, highlighted red). Pilasters define a niche at the southern end of room g (from Arnold 1998, figs. 7–8)

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room. Between the pilasters in ES2, our excavators found large chunks of red-painted, molded plaster on mudbrick (figs. 5–6).

In 2006 Yukinori Kawae made a similar find between the pilasters at the southern end of the large central room in House 1 of the Western Town.<sup>10</sup> These painted plaster moldings fell from an architrave that spanned the tops of the pilasters and completed a frame around the southern niche. They confirm Felix Arnold's reconstruction of framed niches in the southern ends of the central rooms of the KKT houses (fig. 7).<sup>11</sup>

## **Official Residence Marker? Pilaster and Niche Room as Audience Hall**

According to Felix Arnold, the master of the house received visitors and conducted business in the framed niche at the southern end of the central room. A projecting, red-painted frame, possibly topped with a rounded drum roll that hearkened back to a rolled-up reed-mat screen in a wood-frame prototype, put the focus on the proprietor, setting this individual apart as the head of the household/office. The frame established formality and decorum.

On Arnold's idea, this central long room was the Old Kingdom predecessor to the central hall with a dais in the classic Eighteenth Dynasty Amarna house, "where the owner and his wife would receive guests."<sup>12</sup> Painted relief scenes of that period show the owner seated on a chair elevated upon the dais.<sup>13</sup> At least some actual doors and faux doors in New Kingdom houses of prominent officials at Amarna are painted, sometimes with yellow panels. Doors that opened from an outer to the inner columned reception hall could be double width, or framed with stone jambs and lintels. In some cases they bore the name and titles of the proprietor carved in relief and painted, like false doors of any period.<sup>14</sup>

For the Amarna houses, Barry Kemp pointed out that this wall and doorway between the outer, transverse waiting hall and the inner, square reception hall was the true "front" of the house, "intended to make its mark on the visitor."<sup>15</sup> In ES2, we can envision the central aisle as an outer hall and waiting area (fig. 4). The large adjacent court (fig. 7, j) in some of the Khentkawes Town priests' houses must have also served as waiting areas.

We have seen such a large central room with pilasters defining a southern niche in three other houses at the HeG; in 12, possibly 14, houses of the Khentkawes Town (fig. 8); and in the official residence in the Silo Building Complex (SBC), making 17 to 19 houses with this feature in the southeastern settlements of Giza, including the house we have now found in AA-S (see below).

The lengths of the pilaster-and-niche rooms range from 6.1 to 8.46 meters; the widths range from 2.10 to 3.09 meters. Arnold explained how the width made these rooms suitable for vaulted roofs. The pilasters define niches ranging in width from 0.70 to 1.34 meters. Perhaps the builders had an ideal of 2 cubits (1.05 m), slightly wider than a modern office desk. Access into these rooms varies.

Arnold reconstructed clerestory window openings above the niche and pilasters. In similar fashion, thickenings or pilasters that defined bedroom alcoves in Amarna houses probably supported "a triangular wooden hood over a roof aperture that would funnel down a cool breeze during summer."<sup>16</sup> We find only the bases of the pilasters. So far, we cannot confirm from the fragments that a rounded cross bar, a drum roll, topped the frame, as in Arnold's reconstruction, but it is very possible, because this was a very common motif, carried over into tombs and chapels as the magical "false door" frame.

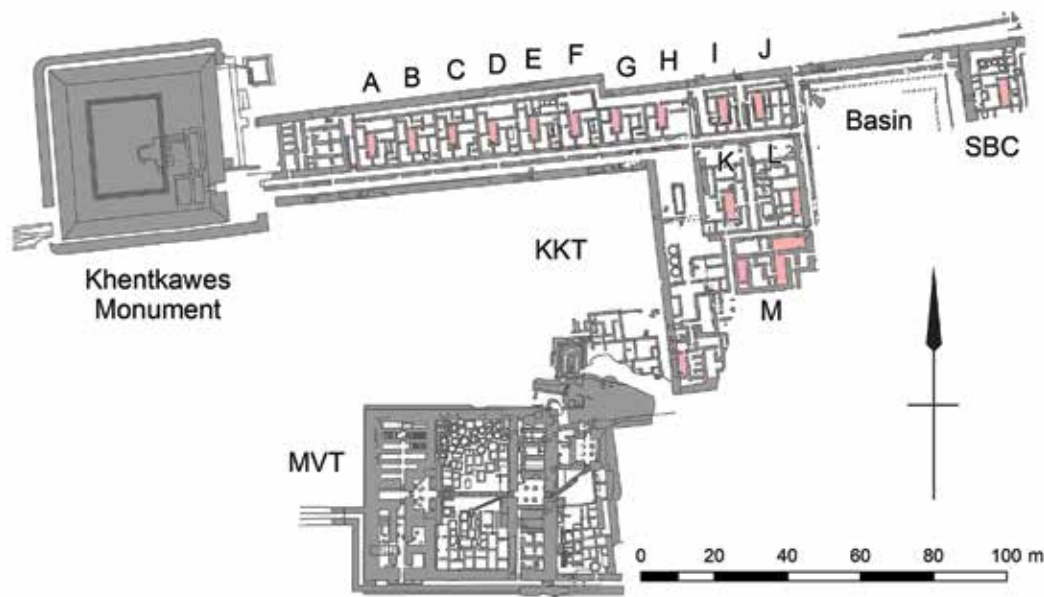


Figure 8. Plan of the Khentkawes Town and the Silo Building Complex with the central pilaster-and-niche rooms highlighted in red. It is not certain that the rooms highlighted in Building L and in the southwestern magazines belong to this class of rooms. From Hassan's plan we see two, possibly three such rooms in Building M, but we have not studied these on the ground. From Hassan 1943, fig. 1; AERA GIS by Rebekah Miracle

In all cases but one, the rooms are oriented north-south, with the pilasters and niche in the southern end. The exception is the largest room in Building M in the Khentkawes Town (fig. 8), which is oriented east-west with the niche on the east. With extra thick walls and three pilaster-niche rooms, there is something special about this building. We think of the occasional presence of royalty or a higher-status royal representative. House 3 in the “Western Town” of the HeG site also has two pilaster-and-niche rooms, end to end, taking up the whole eastern side of this building.<sup>17</sup>

### The East Niche in ES2: Bed Frame?

Although broadly similar, no two of the large pilaster-niche rooms are identical. The ES2 central room features a second set of pilasters that frames an oblong niche that opens immediately left (east) of the set of pilasters and niche at the far south end (figs. 4-5). The eastern niche spans 2.21 meters, for a depth of 0.98 to 1.05 meters.

Immediately in front of the northern pilaster of the east niche, Field School Group 3 found three limestone objects in the form of truncated pyramids, each with a square rebate on the top (fig. 9). The complete set must have numbered four, because we know from tomb scenes and from such objects found in other ancient Egyptian contexts that they served as supports for the legs of either a bed or a chair (fig. 9b).<sup>18</sup>

Kemp reports that such stone leg supports were a common find in houses large and small at Amarna. They protected the ends of wooden chair and bed legs from termites and damp.<sup>19</sup>

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Figure 9. Clockwise from top left: (a) Mohamed Shaltoot, Hanan Mahmoud, and Reham Mahmoud Zaky el-Sayed find the limestone furniture supports as they excavate the east niche of Room 10,805 in ES2. View to the south (photo 616589); (b) Chair leg with animal-paw base on furniture support as depicted in Sixth Dynasty tomb of Meruruka; (c) The three limestone furniture supports (photo 714152: Yaser Mahmoud)

Remarkably, in some houses excavators found these supports still in place where they once supported a bed or chair.<sup>20</sup>

For an Old Kingdom example, French archaeologists, working under Georges Soukiasian, found two sets of four stone supports in situ where they supported the legs of wooden beds or baldaquins in the Sixth Dynasty Governors' Palace at 'Ayn Asil in the Dakhla Oasis. They found the supports at the southern ends of two long halls on either side of a central vestibule. A fire destroyed the palace. The archaeologists could see the carbonized remains of baldaquins that stood upon four stone supports. Each of these baldaquins would have blocked a niche that opened east off the west chamber and west off the east chamber.<sup>21</sup>

In the Governor's Palace, we could understand the baldaquins as bed canopies, but I would like to ask if the privileged inhabitants might not have slept in the alcoves, or side-niches, which measure 2.40 meters long. They open off the main hall like the eastern niche in room 10,805. In the Governor's Palace, the hall and niche are larger than those of the western set. The plan shows that a double rebate framed the outer corners of the eastern niche. The walls thicken at southern end of the main eastern hall, making a southern niche like those defined by pilasters in the houses at Giza. The eastern niche and chamber were clearly for a person of higher status than the inhabitant of the west chamber.

A baldaquin could serve as a bed canopy or as "a canopy of state over an altar or throne."<sup>22</sup> Is it possible that these long chambers served as both audience halls and bedrooms, with the side niches as sleeping chambers? Soukiassian pointed out that a frame inlaid with bone hieroglyphs, giving the name and titles of Khentika, the governor and probable founder of the palace, decorated the doorway into the vestibule and dual baldaquin halls.<sup>23</sup> This doorway functioned like those that gave access to the audience halls in the houses of high-status officials at Amarna; those doorways also displayed the names and titles of the proprietor just before one entered the audience hall.

## Diwan, Home, and Office

We then hold dual, or dueling, hypotheses. On the one hand we envision the side niche for the rather private act of sleeping. We see it as a parallel to bed niches and alcoves in ancient Egyptian houses from other sites and periods.<sup>24</sup> In the large central room of House 1 in the Western Town, we actually found within the southern niche defined by pilasters a sloping platform that we understood as a bed platform.<sup>25</sup> On the other hand, we see the main, southern niche, on axis with the room, as framing a proprietor during formal, official meetings.

It's hard to imagine an ancient Egyptian official conducting business reclining, given the formality of the chair of office in representations. Or could these seemingly opposite postures combine in the southern end of the ES2 central room with pilasters, and perhaps as well in House 1 and in the above-mentioned Governor's Palace (although not in the other, similar rooms of Old Kingdom houses at Giza where we do not see the additional niche on one side)?

Could bedchamber and audience hall exist side by side, insofar as these rooms served as parlors? The word derives from an Old French term, *parloir* or *parler* "to speak" and denoted originally an audience room.<sup>26</sup> The spacious, open length and width of these halls allowed visitors to sit on mats and cushions along the sides, close to the proprietor's seat. Farther down the sides, household members could place chests containing documents needed to transact business, or linen and clothing, when and if they served as master bedrooms.

As we endeavor to understand these rooms and the house layouts in which they occur, I can see the possibility that proprietors used them for particular, more formal meetings, and for receiving and entertaining visitors. But I also see the possibility that inhabitants used the rooms, at least the far ends, for casual, private relaxation, lounging, and more familiar, intimate visits, as shown, for example, in the scene of Wa'etekethtor playing the harp for her husband, the high official Mereruka, upon a wooden bed, from Mereruka's Sixth Dynasty tomb at Saqqara.<sup>27</sup> The pair lounge upon a bed/couch, with pyramidal supports under the legs, like those we found.

Formal, more public, and informal, more private, interactions might have taken place in these large rooms if they functioned within the range of meaning of the Persian word *diwan*:

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a kind of couch or bed, a type of audience hall, a guest house, a government council, and a number of titles and high governmental bodies in Islamic administration.

What Arnold suggested for the pilaster-and-niche rooms in the large houses at Giza — that the niche framed a chair or divan where the proprietor could receive visitors and conduct official business — may relate to the Egyptian word *st*, written with the “seat” or throne sign (𓄿). The basic meaning is “place.” Egyptians used the word for a wide range of meanings.<sup>28</sup> When combined with the house sign (𓄿) in certain New Kingdom titles, Egyptologists translate *st* as “office.”<sup>29</sup> In the Fifth Dynasty papyrus archive of the pyramid of Raneferef, scribes used *st* 𓄿 combined with the arm 𓏏 and book roll 𓏏 to write *st-ꜥ* to refer to some kind of administrative office, something like “department of documents,” or “archive,” while the exact meaning is not certain.<sup>30</sup>

### Area AA-S: Another Official’s House?

Before Season 2015, we hypothesized that in Area AA-S (AA South) people brewed beer. We saw much ash and other evidence of pyro-production extending south of the enigmatic Pedestal Building.

We found the Pedestal Building in 1988 during our first excavations on the HeG site.<sup>31</sup> Its name reflects the two rows of pedestals east and west of a central dividing wall. That it remains enigmatic is frustrating. That we are still investigating its environs reflects, hopefully, the persistence of our project at this one site, HeG, over twenty-seven years and twenty-five years of reporting for the *Oriental Institute Annual Report*. The results of our 2006–2007 excavations immediately outside the north, east, and southern sides of the Pedestal Building made me think the inhabitants might have used the whole complex for malting.<sup>32</sup> In Area AA-S, we wondered if two circular, burnt mudbrick structures served as sockets for large vats in which brewers heated malt soaked in water. Our work during season 2015 showed them to be ovens.

During Season 2015, Field School Group 1 excavated structures south of the Pedestal Building around a small court (fig. 10). The court (10,810) measures 5.25 meters (10 cubits) from east to west and 4.70 meters north to south. It is reminiscent of a square court in the center of House 3 in the Western Town.

Attached to the west side of the court, walls of broken limestone and mudbrick form a long and narrow foundation, about 1.20 meters wide. A buttress projects from the southeast corner. A partition divided the interior into what might be two bins. But the fact that the inner side of the east wall is irregular indicates that the builders intended to fill it to make a solid foundation. With the fill, they threw in much broken pottery, a cache of hammer stones, and a broken limestone headrest. The excavators removed much concentrated limestone debris from above this structure. They believe it derived from a collapsed stairway that rose from this foundation up onto to a roof over the western and eastern rooms of the complex.

In the southeast corner of the court we found a set of pedestals within a closet-sized chamber (fig. 11). We have found many similar pedestals across the Heit el-Ghurab site. The pedestals occur in series, from two to more than a dozen, all lined up. As I mentioned in regards to the Pedestal Building, their function remains uncertain.

Here a central pedestal is flanked by two half pedestals to form two slots (fig. 11). A thin partition wall rises on the center of the center pedestal. The partition creates two compartments. Whatever sat upon these pedestals sat within the compartments directly over the slots. (At first glance, everyone says this structure looks like a squat toilet, which it certainly



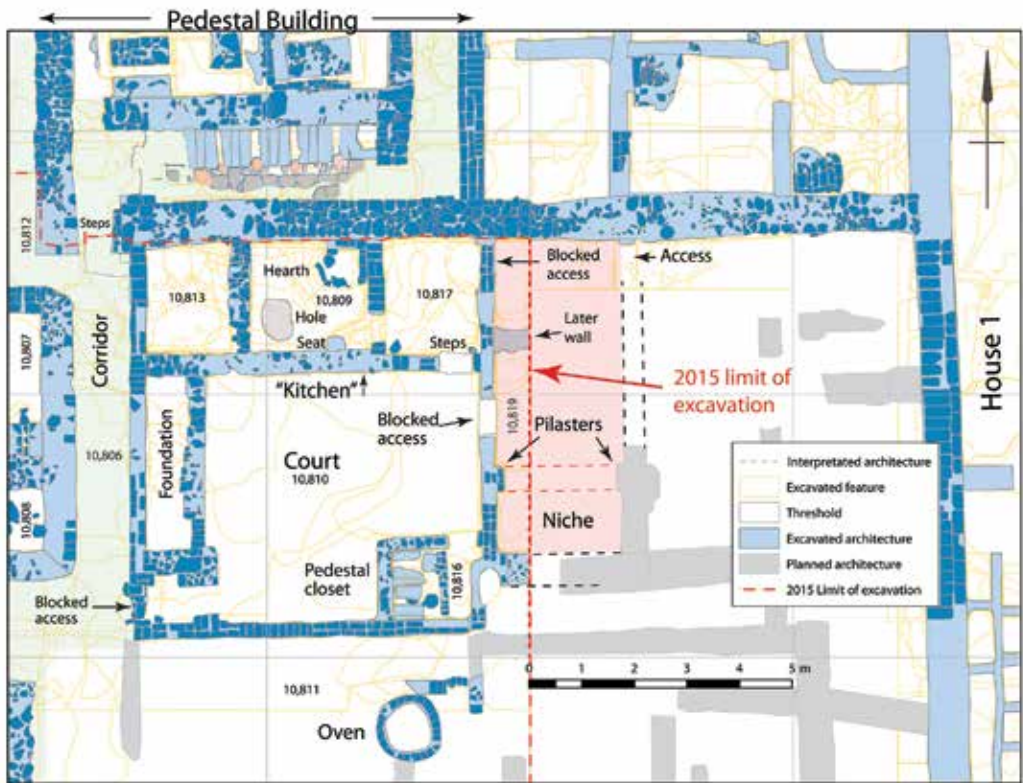


Figure 10. Area AA-S after excavation in 2015. Plan generated from AERA GIS by Rebekah Miracle from field drawings by Kholoud Abd el-Nady Hassen, Freya Sadarangani, Rahel Glanzmann, Hanaa Hagag Sayed Fayed, Virág Pabeschitz, Mohamed Mahmoud Arefa, Mohammed Abd el-Maksoud, Aly Ahmed Aly Abdel-Latif, Ibrahim Samir Ibrahim, Rabee Eissa, and Ashraf Abd El Aziz



Figure 11. The pedestal closet in the southeast corner of the court in Area AA-S, with a datum tape measure stretched across. Rabee Eissa takes notes. View to the west

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is not.) In the southern corridor of the Pedestal Building, immediately north of AA-S (fig. 10, top), we found beer jars still in place, standing upright in front of the pedestals, leaned slightly into the slots.<sup>33</sup> The slots do not form conduits down to these jars. In the AA-S pedestal closet, we found a ceramic bowl embedded in the floor in front of the southern slot, and a hole where a vessel was removed from the floor in front of the northern slot.

As for the purpose of the pedestal assemblages, theories range from a cooling chamber to some kind of press or drip function for oil or whey. We found many peg and string sealings in the vicinity of the Pedestal Building, which contained two linear series of seven such pedestals as well as a pedestal closet in the northeast corner similar in size and form to the one we excavated this season in AA-S. One idea is that these sealings derive from closing and opening peg and string locks on chests that fitted into the compartments above the slots between the two adjacent pedestals.<sup>34</sup> This pedestal closet is the most striking find in Area AA-S this season. Solving the puzzle of its purpose would unlock insights to other areas where we found the odd pedestal assemblages.

Three chambers on the north of the court served as a kitchen (fig. 10). Two steps lead down to the floor of the eastern chamber (10,817), where the team found a complete storage jar and a piece of worked limestone. The walls showed effects of burning before someone applied a coat of plaster. The second room (10,809) featured a hearth, lined with broken stone and mudbrick, built into the northeast corner. An upside-down bread mold formed a corner post, just as we have seen in hearths at other bakeries. Bakers used these corner hearths for preheating the bread molds.<sup>35</sup> A hole in the floor of the southwest corner must have once held a dough-mixing vat. A worn, rounded limestone boulder against the southern wall allowed someone to sit and turn left to reach into the vat or right to stoke the hearth. In the back, western chamber (10,813), the inhabitants also built hearths that scorched the walls, before they dumped ashy waste and broken clay sealings into this room. Eventually they blocked access from the bakery, leaving this room as dead space.

Along the west of the court, the team excavated a corridor, around a meter wide, running north-south at a higher level than the court. This is a continuation of a narrow through-way that runs up into the Western Town from the north and circumvents the Pedestal Building. This is one of only two tube-like conduits running north-south through this dense part of the settlement, which is why delivery on a large scale had to come from the east, via the draw of Lagoon 1 (see below).

The most tantalizing 2015 find in Area AA-S was another large, oblong room, with southern pilasters defining a niche (fig. 10), like the pilaster-and-niche chamber that we found this season in ES2. The team excavated only the western side of this room. We mapped the eastern walls as they show in the surface of the ruins, but we have yet to excavate most of the width of this room. A wall, added later than the original building, divided the room into two spaces (10,818 and 10,819). Originally, these spaces belonged to a single room, 6 meters long and 2.40 meters wide — close in size to the large pilaster-and-niche rooms in other houses at Giza. Pilasters project from the interior faces to form a niche, about 1.12 meters wide north to south and spanning the width of the room east to west. The niche framed a low platform for sitting or sleeping. The team exposed the western side of this platform. As a parallel, in 2007 we found a bed platform in the niche between the pilasters in House 1.<sup>36</sup> Also like the large rooms in House 1, black paint still shows at the base of the walls, here in the northern end of the room, where a black band projects forward of pink mortar just above. These bands probably belonged to a dado, topped by strips of red and white above. Such dados are depicted in tomb scenes of domestic settings by bands of the same color sequence.<sup>37</sup>

## Heit el-Ghurab and Household

In Area AA-S we have found yet another large house, situated up the slope of the escarpment on a higher terrace than the Western Town, which sprawls below and to the east. We interpret this house as another official residence, that is, office and residence, of the person in charge of production on the upper slope, while the person in the ES2 house took charge of the activity, possibly cattle processing, in SWI. Our 2015 findings add to an impression that houses served as administrative nodes of the Heit el-Ghurab.

As we pan back to look at the place of houses in the whole Heit el-Ghurab site we need to keep in mind that this site was the southwestern zone of a larger urban layout, a royal city that extended north and east, which we must infer from evidence that is best laid out elsewhere.

Although Eighteenth Dynasty Amarna in Middle Egypt and Fourth Dynasty Heit el-Ghurab at the Delta apex date more than a millennium apart, the sites bear some broad similarities — as well as enormous differences, of course. Like Amarna, the larger settlement developed linearly along the bank of a Nile branch. Like Amarna, the king founded the settlement at the location of the royal tomb. Government abandoned both settlements after decades — not more than twenty years in the case of Amarna, and between thirty and fifty years at the Heit el-Ghurab. (Maybe as many as eighty years if the lower, mostly unexcavated phase was founded already under Khufu.)

By organizing people and production around leading persons and large houses, as at Amarna, Heit el-Ghurab presents an early version of a basic social order that lasted millennia. Barry Kemp envisions people coming to settle the Amarna suburbs from hometowns or villages, where they belonged to group networks bound to patrons and to each other through kinship and household dependencies. Kemp described Amarna as a city of villages, with the senior officials — including those who decorated the doors into their houses and audience halls with their names and titles — as the village headmen. At Amarna, suburban villages emerged as dependents clustered their houses around the large urban estates of officials.<sup>38</sup>

I compare the inscribed doorframes of Amarna headmen to Arnold's interpretation of the pilaster, architrave, and niche "door" frames at the southern ends of large rooms in Old Kingdom houses at Giza. As yet, we have from Giza no evidence of titles inscribed on such frames. But in the Old Kingdom Governors' Palace at 'Ayn Asil, French archaeologists found evidence that the name and titles of the founder, Khentika, once graced the lintel of the doorway into the dual chambers with baldaquins, which might have functioned as audience or reception rooms, as well as bedrooms.<sup>39</sup> Colony and town emerged around this Governors' Palace.<sup>40</sup> At Heit el-Ghurab, the eastern and western suburbs emerged around several large houses.

Panning back to our map of the whole HeG, I highlighted in red those structures we hypothesize as residences of persons responsible for underlings in their midst (fig. 12). These "houses" show a fairly even distribution across the site. They do not show a dramatic difference in the size of the footprint, nothing like the order-of-magnitude difference in the Middle Kingdom town at Kahun, attached to the Senwosret II Pyramid, where the large houses occupy 2,520 square meters, and the ratio of small to large houses is about 1:20.<sup>41</sup>

In the so-called Western Town we have identified only four or five large houses. (We have doubts about "House 2.") These stand out in the midst of smaller structures because of boundary walls of greater thickness and longer run and because of internal features, such as large rooms. The set of five includes the "houses" we found this season in ES2 and AA-S. It is possible that with further excavation we might identify more large houses in the maze of

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walls showing in the ruin surface of this western area. So far, I believe the other structures are ancillary to Houses 1 and 3, and the house in AA-S.

I imagine four or five high-status administrators had their houses built as the first, core structures of the neighborhood we call, for convenience, the Western Town. These houses served as their official residences and offices when they came to Giza to be on the job at the site of the royal building works. But we also know that the “town” extended up the slope, beyond what we have mapped. Stratigraphically, the settlement ruins run under the lower tombs of the “Workers’ Cemetery.” This season we found the house in Area AA-S on a higher terrace — the next highest level above House 1. This was a terraced town, and more large houses could have been established up the slope.

What compelled administrators to build their official residences up the slope of the escarpment? Why are these large houses — and the whole of the “elite” Western Town — stuck between the RAB complex and the escarpment? The answer depends on whether the Lagoon 1 bay was part of the topography during the time, 4,500 year ago, when people occupied the site, or whether erosion created Lagoon 1 after people abandoned the site.

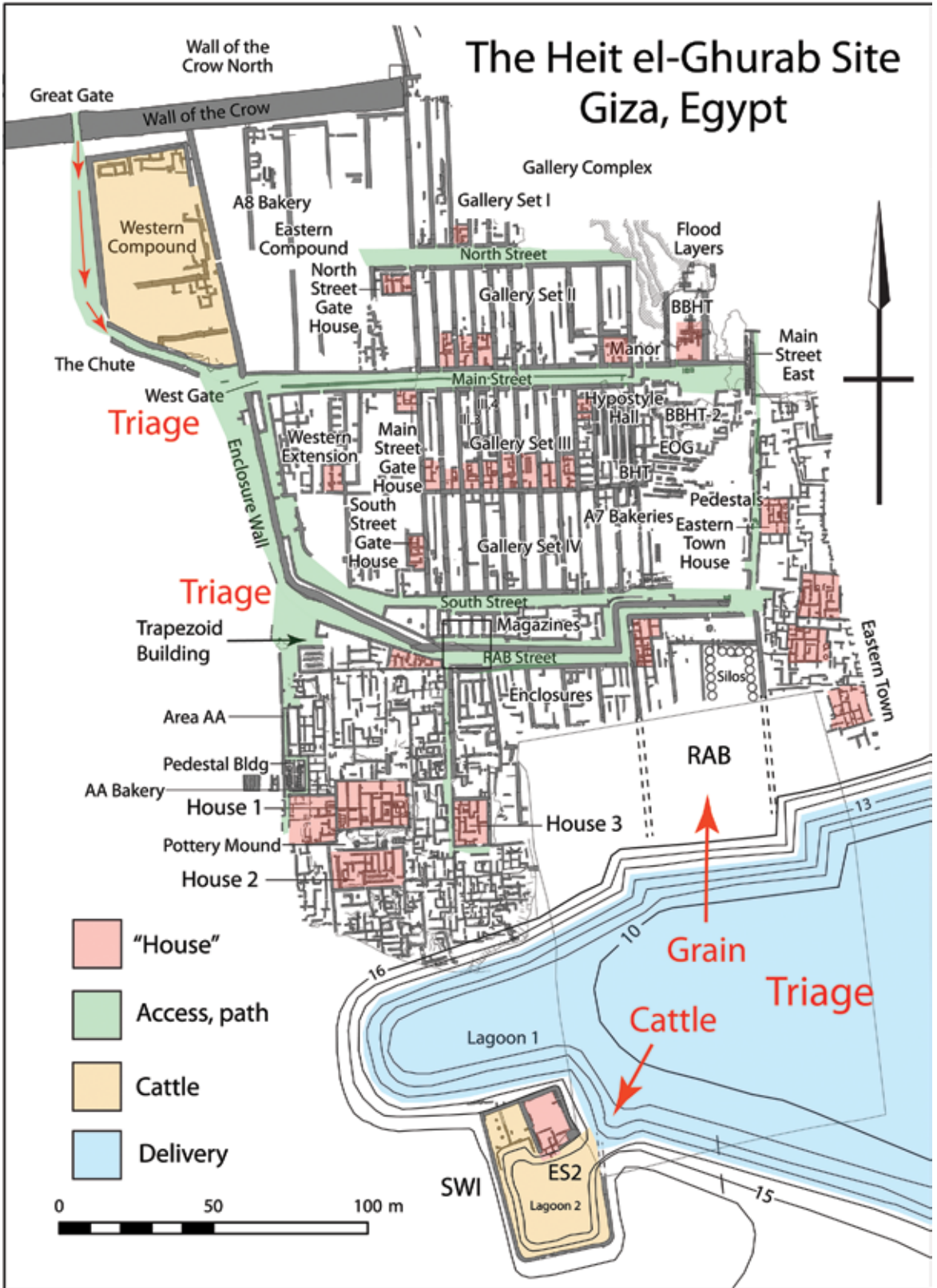
We are not certain, but evidence points to the antiquity of this bay.<sup>42</sup> The rim on either side of Lagoon 1 shows an abundance of broken pottery, which suggests people dumped settlement waste over this edge in the Fourth Dynasty. Lagoon 1 extends east under the modern soccer field. On the other side, northeast of the soccer field, we found in 2004 that the surface of the settlement ruins slope dramatically south, into this depression.<sup>43</sup> In a deep probe along the eastern wall of the RAB, as well as in pits in the RAB interior, we saw interleaved layers of clay and sand that the Fourth Dynasty settlement builders dumped to fill in the northern edge of Lagoon 1 and to raise the surface before building the RAB walls. Again, this suggests Lagoon 1 featured in the Fourth Dynasty topography.

If the annual, six-to-eight-week (generally August–October) inundation rose from 7.0 to 13.5 meters above sea level (colored blue in fig. 12), the Lagoon 1 depression could have served as a put-in bay for deliveries by water. The rest of the year, it would have formed a dry ravine for delivery on foot by human, donkey, or for cattle on foot.

Now we see the reason that proprietors fitted their large houses and their dense ancillary structures between the RAB and the escarpment. These houses stood at the head of the southern bay through which commodities were delivered. If, like the ancient Egyptians, we privilege south as “up,” or at the “front,” the hypothetical corral and the large houses of the Western Town stood at the head of the Heit el-Ghurab, gathered round the delivery bay, like custom houses at the ends of harbors.

By placing their houses at head of the bay, HeG headmen could supervise the delivery and allocation of commodities — goods that satisfied the needs of the royal works and city

*Figure 12 (following page). Map of the Heit el-Ghurab site, with Lagoon 1 contour lines reconstructed at elevations of the time of occupation (ca. 2500 BC). Color key: Red = spaces hypothesized as houses; Green = access routes; Yellow = areas hypothesized as cattle holding and processing; Blue = delivery zone. If the annual, 6–8 week inundation rose from 7 to 13.5 meters above sea level (blue), the Lagoon 1 depression could have served as a put-in bay for deliveries by water. The rest of the year, it would have formed a dry ravine for delivery on foot (human, donkey, or cattle). In the galleries, only the known rear domiciles are highlighted as “houses.” More galleries probably include house-like structures in the rear. At the same time, each entire gallery, with rear domicile, could be considered a “house,” stretched out to a ratio of 7:1, length to width. The front parts, with colonnades, are equivalent to the more spacious areas for visitors at the fronts of houses*



## GIZA PLATEAU MAPPING PROJECT

infrastructure. Protein, in the form of cattle, went up into the SWI; carbohydrates, in the form of grain, went down into the RAB and its western enclosures (fig. 12). SWI and RAB, as courtyard establishments,<sup>44</sup> show similar early mudbrick walls reinforced by thick girdle walls of broken limestone. We see the two enclosures — RAB and SWI — as a pair, flanking either side of the southern service and delivery track.

Certainly, delivery and triage areas existed also on the north, through the gate in the Wall of the Crow itself, and possibly out north and east of the Wall. Unfortunately, we lost the northern frontage of the Gallery Complex to erosion (fig. 12). In 2009 we excavated the Western Compound and “Chute” in northwestern HeG on the hypothesis that these served as a cattle holding area and animal chute,<sup>45</sup> which they might be. Results were suggestive, but inconclusive. From here, all routes (fig. 12, green) channel traffic south and east through the Gallery Complex, ultimately dumping it into the EOG production yard north of the RAB.

It could very well be that the northern galleries opened onto the central Giza waterways, and that a more open, north-to-south passage existed east of what we have mapped of the HeG site. However, we believe a substantial Nile channel flowed south-to-north only a kilometer or less east of the HeG, giving overland passage south to north on the higher western river levee. The Lagoon 1 bay, if it existed, would have cut across any north-south overland passage at the lower level of the floodplain, while providing access from the east, from the river. Visualizing the greater Giza access, via basins and waterways, based on evidence that has come to light in the last thirty years, is a topic for another forum.<sup>46</sup>

## Acknowledgments

For a successful 2015 field season we would like to thank Dr. Mamdouh El-Damati, Minister of State for Antiquities; Dr. Mustafa Amin, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Antiquities; Yusuf Khalifa, Director of Pharaonic Monuments; Dr. Mahmoud Affifi, Director of Central Administration and Middle Egypt; Shaaban Abd El-Gawad, Director of the Department of Egyptology and Museums in the Minister’s Office; Hani Abu Azm, Director of Foreign Missions and Secretary of Permanent Committees; Kamel Waheed, General Director for Cairo and Giza; Sayeed Hassan, Director of Giza; Fedai Helmi, Chief Inspector of Giza; and Giza Inspectors Mohamed Saidi and Ahmed Eiz.

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## Notes

<sup>1</sup> *Oriental Institute 2011-2012 Annual Report*, pp. 52–53.

<sup>2</sup> For this summary I draw from field reports by Freya Sadarangani, Hanan Mahmoud, Daniel Jones, Rabea Aissa, Kirk Roberts, Essam Mahmoud, Afaf Wahab, Ahmed Gabr, Claire Malleson, Richard Redding, Mahmoud el-Shafey, Sherif Abdel Moneim, Sarah Chapman, Ali Witsell, Ana Tavares, and Mark Lehner.

<sup>3</sup> *Oriental Institute 2003-2004 Annual Report*, pp. 77–79.

<sup>4</sup> This is not the first time we have seen the *hwt* ground plan at this site. I suggested in 2002 that the thick-walled, house-like “Manor” formed a *hwt* pattern within the larger enclosure on the east of the northern block of galleries, Gallery Set I; *Oriental Institute 2001-2002 Annual Report*, pp. 59–60.

<sup>5</sup> Hannig 2003, pp. 142–44.

<sup>6</sup> Verner et al., 2006, pp. 87–99; Posener-Kriéger, Verner, and Vymazalová 2006, pp. 341, 347–50, 358–59.

<sup>7</sup> Jacquet-Gordon 1962, p. 4. While I am prone to Jacquet-Gordon's idea, not all scholars agree that the small rectangle in the hieroglyph represents a house. For a full discussion of the glyph, its variations, interpretations, and references, see Moreno García 1999, pp. 18ff. See, more recently, Moreno García, 2013. On the *hwt*, there is an extensive bibliography.

<sup>8</sup> Habachi 1957, pp. 11–32.

<sup>9</sup> *Oriental Institute 2001-2002 Annual Report*, pp. 53–55; *Oriental Institute 2003-2004 Annual Report*, pp. 69–73; and note in *Oriental Institute 2005-2006 Annual Report*, pp. 56–59 that, like the residence in the northeast corner of SW1/ES2, a mudbrick house-like residence occupies the northwest corner of RAB. We see RAB and SW1 as contemporary and connected institutions.

<sup>10</sup> *Oriental Institute 2007-2008 Annual Report*, p. 73.

<sup>11</sup> Arnold 1998, pp. 11–12, figs. 7–8.

<sup>12</sup> Kemp 1989a, p. 294

<sup>13</sup> Kemp 1989a, p. 297, fig. 99. However, the owner conducts business with scribes in a separate room (no. 3).

<sup>14</sup> Kemp 2012, p. 175, pls. 27–30.

<sup>15</sup> Kemp 2012, p. 183.

<sup>16</sup> Kemp 2012, p. 186, fig. 5.6.

<sup>17</sup> *Oriental Institute 2005-2006 Annual Report*, p. 53, fig. 7, rooms P and Q on the east. I thank Mohsen Kamel for this observation.

<sup>18</sup> Vercoutter 1978.

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- <sup>19</sup> Kemp 2012, pp. 202–03.
- <sup>20</sup> Kemp 2012, pp. 186, 196, fig. 6.1, 202–203, fig. 6.6, citing Frankfort and Pendlebury 1933, p. 8, pl. 18.2.
- <sup>21</sup> Soukiassian 1997, pp. 15–17.
- <sup>22</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baldachin>.
- <sup>23</sup> Soukiassian 1997, p. 16. I thank Aude Gräzer Ohare, via Ana Tavares and Dan Jones, for this reference.
- <sup>24</sup> In what Kemp 2012, p. 202, called “the archaeology of sleeping.”
- <sup>25</sup> *Oriental Institute 2007–2008 Annual Report*, p. 73, fig. 33. The bed platform in House 1 could have been installed as a modification, when doorways were blocked and new doorways installed.
- <sup>26</sup> “Parlour ... entered English around the turn of the 13th century. In its original usage it denoted a place set aside for speaking with someone, an ‘audience chamber.’” Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parlour> (April 30, 2015).
- <sup>27</sup> Sakkarah Expedition 1938, pl. 95.
- <sup>28</sup> For this term in the Old Kingdom, see Hannig 2003, pp. 1033–37. The term is sometimes determined by a chair with legs rather than by a block-throne. For its meaning as Verwaltungsbüro (administrative office) as well as Wohnsitz (residence), see Hannig 2003, p. 1034.
- <sup>29</sup> Kemp 2012, pp. 125–31, section on “The Accommodation of Office.”
- <sup>30</sup> Posener-Kriéger, Verner, and Vymazalová 2006, p. 284 n. 173, p. 357 n. 102.
- <sup>31</sup> *Oriental Institute 1990–1991 Annual Report*, pp. 24–25, fig. 3; *Oriental Institute 1991–1992 Annual Report*, pp. 56–58, fig. 1.
- <sup>32</sup> *Oriental Institute 2007–2008 Annual Report*, pp. 65–70; Lehner 2009.
- <sup>33</sup> *Oriental Institute 2007–2008 Annual Report*, pp. 65–68.
- <sup>34</sup> Witsell 2014, p. 24.
- <sup>35</sup> *Oriental Institute 1991–1992 Annual Report*, pp. 62–63; *Oriental Institute 1992–1993 Annual Report*, pp. 28–29; Lehner 1992, pp. 5–9.
- <sup>36</sup> *Oriental Institute 2007–2008 Annual Report*, p. 73.
- <sup>37</sup> For example, in the tomb chapel of the Sixth Dynasty official Mereruka, at Saqqara; Sakkarah Expedition 1938, pl. 95.
- <sup>38</sup> Kemp 2008a, pp. 31–36; 2008b, pp. 41–46; 2008c, pp. 33–38; 2012, pp. 20, 41–44, 125–31, 161–81. The emergence of the Amarna city from series of self-organized villages is not entirely unique. London itself emerged from the “villages of London,” as Bill Hillier and Julienne Hanson noted (1984, p. 18). They begin their influential analysis with a discussion of self organized settlements, a theme that Kemp now interlaces throughout his recent book on the city of Amarna (Kemp 2012).
- <sup>39</sup> Soukiassian 1997, p. 16.
- <sup>40</sup> Kemp 2006, pp. 201–02, fig. 71.
- <sup>41</sup> Kemp 2006, p. 217.
- <sup>42</sup> *Oriental Institute 2003–2004 Annual Report*, p. 77.
- <sup>43</sup> Lehner 2002, p. 66–67.
- <sup>44</sup> Kemp 1989b.
- <sup>45</sup> *Oriental Institute 2009–2010 Annual Report*, pp. 42–46.
- <sup>46</sup> For the latest attempt at modeling Fourth Dynasty water transport infrastructure at Giza, see Lehner 2014, pp. 14–23.



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## JERICHO MAFJAR PROJECT

**Donald Whitcomb**

The last report for the Jericho Mafjar Project began with an explanation of the substitution of “remote sensing” instead of excavations. We proceeded to find amazing information on structures located beneath the surface in virtually every part of the site. In October my co-director, and Director of the Department of Antiquities, Hamdan Taha, retired after twenty years of leading the new department for the Palestinian Authority. We celebrated this event with a symposium in Jericho and the publication of our book on the Khirbet al-Mafjar mosaics. The new director is his long-time assistant, Jihad Yasin, who has been our field director for the project. I thought that Jihad would want to slow the research during this transition. I was pleased to find that Jihad came to Mafjar with his senior staff and we had a normal season of excavations, albeit somewhat shortened.



*Figure 1. Greg Williams on the balk*

## 2015 Excavations

As in the past seasons of this project, we discussed the goals and procedures for these excavations. The concern of Jihad was the continued clearance and beautification of Qasr Hisham as an archeological park (see below). Our agenda for archaeological discoveries placed less concern with the mess we might make. And so we compromised, as we had done for the previous four seasons.

The old excavations of the 1950s by Awni Dajani had left no records or reports (or even artifacts); but they did leave massive baulks (the meter-wide unexcavated earth between his trenches). We have been removing them and using their stratified materials as best we could. Jihad asked us now to remove a massive baulk crossing an open area between the Abbasid house and the stables, making both buildings more visible for visitors and giving a better sense of the Abbasid estate. The winter rains had been abundant and there was thick vegetation to knee height, and new trees towering over us. All this greenery had to be removed first; then Greg Williams and Mohammad Shalalda, the most talented of a group of students from al-Quds University, began careful excavation of the baulk, layer by layer (fig. 1).

Meanwhile, our main attention was focused on the long-neglected northwestern corner of the Red Building, as we call the original Umayyad estate. Again there had been some excavations of the 1950s leaving vague walls and baulks. Michael Jennings went to work on a large baulk next to an early wall, where he consulted with Ignacio Arce, our Spanish architect archaeologist about the complex sequence of walls and rebuilds as the building changed over time. For the most precise and talented digging I could rely on Awni Shawamra, who had worked with us since 2011. He began uncovering a large room in which he patiently revealed the burnt beams and fallen bricks of the roof. He was also teaching his skills to Nabila Barham, a young woman from Jericho who had just finished her degree in archaeology from al-Quds University (fig. 2).

As we expanded our excavations to the south, the sharp-eyed Awni saw some colored materials in the grass. We cleared the loose surface debris around a small baulk and an



*Figure 2. Nabila excavates materials on a burnt floor, including sherds, iron tools, and tesserae*

interior room. We gave the responsibility to Nabila, who cleared burnt debris from the floor, in which were broken vessels and iron tools — perhaps chisels. Next to the ash were piles of tesserae, which she sifted into numerous buckets. These were not the stone cubes used for floors, such as those in the Audience Hall; the tesserae here were small pieces of colored glass, including some gold-leaf pieces, prepared for fine wall mosaics. While visions of wonderful church mosaics of Constantinople danced in our imaginations,

Nabila quietly collected the small tesserae and debitage (the waste flakes when the cubes were cut), and then she washed them and began sorting the colors. This was a formidable task and not finished before we had to leave. Likewise, it remains unclear whether this was an Umayyad workshop, or materials collected for reuse in the Abbasid period.

Greg Williams and his team finished the large baulk and began removing small remnants of the old excavations. We asked him to clear a small baulk labeled B2d, just east of the new walkway, where there were some Abbasid structures. He cleared the vegetation and removed the soil down to a floor. In the middle of the room was a nicely constructed toilet, not unlike the ornate one we found within the Abbasid House. The walls and floor were made of tightly fitted stones and there was a drain in the corner suggesting the room was also used for bathing (fig. 3). This bath(room) was similar to one we found about 10 meters to the northeast, and south of the small mosque. One begins to picture a sophisticated community living in the Abbasid estate, rehabilitated from the older Umayyad palace complex.



*Figure 3. The new toilet and bath discovered in the Abbasid town*

## And New Technologies

After a season of “remote sensing” at Khirbet al-Mafjar, Michael Jennings suggested that we follow the “remote sensing” of last season with the new recording possibilities of an “unmanned aerial vehicle” (UAV) or drone. He had learned to use a Phantom (DJI) at Aqaba and so brought this noisy but extremely valuable research tool to Jericho. The impact of these high-definition photos of the site was amazing. We now had precise, vertical photos of each building and each trench, and even more details of interesting features and objects. The drone can take angled photos showing relationships of buildings, structures, and trenches. Further, it can move out over the landscape surrounding the site, bringing new visualizations of its physical contexts. Perhaps the most sensational are the films of slow fly-overs, moving into a close-up of a special find or building. The recording possibilities are limited only by one’s imagination in expressing and analyzing the archaeology. As with any new technology used in the Jericho Mafjar Project, the emphasis was on training the Palestinian staff and students — in effect, creating a transfer of knowledge that will outlive the project. And the results are shared and printed immediately!

After we left in 2014, the department had finished a new series of signs, pictures, and information baked onto ceramic tile for tourists. There is now a well-marked pathway and,

## JERICHO MAFJAR PROJECT

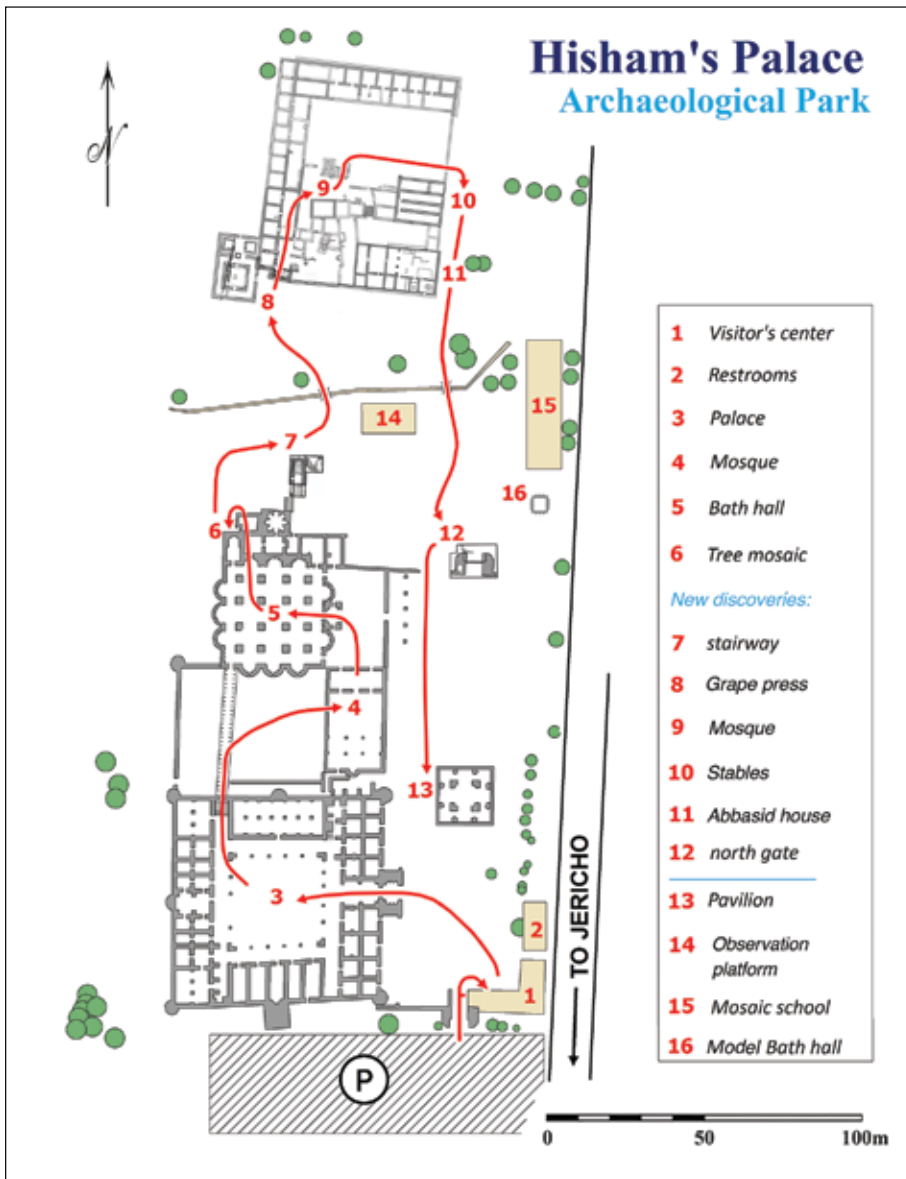


Figure 4. Tourist map of Hisham's Palace Archaeological Park

across the excavations of the northern area, a raised wooden walkway (fig. 4). The placement is perfect and allows for a close view of the structures without damage. In short, with the new museum completed last year, we are well underway to having this iconic, monumental site as an interpreted archaeological park. And we can claim this a triumph of Palestine and Chicago cooperation. The understanding of Qasr Hisham, or Khirbet al-Mafjar, continues to become more complicated, and the archaeological park more interesting. Now the visitor may tread along the walkway, looking left to see a fine example of a grape (or wine) press, and to the right to see a fine toilet and bath — that may need a new sign.



## KERKENES DAĞ PROJECT

Scott Branting

The 2014 season marks an important moment in research at Kerkenes Dağ. In 1928, Erich Schmidt from the Oriental Institute came to this enormous ancient city for nearly two weeks of excavation. He brought with him the team from nearby Alişar Höyük, with the entire group crossing the 23 km distance between Alişar Höyük and Kerkenes Dağ (fig. 1). The purpose of the excavations, authorized by Breasted, was to date the site and see if it was perhaps the capital of a rival of the Hittite Empire. With only a brief time at their disposal, they nonetheless were able to achieve this important objective. They found that the material for the site was nearly all Iron Age with a Byzantine castle covering only a small portion of the city. In 2014, our new team from the Oriental Institute and partner institutions was likewise presented with a short amount of time in which to accomplish our objectives within this enormous city. We too were able to achieve our objectives and in the process set ourselves up for years of productive excavations yet to come.

Our return to the site in 2014 was both very welcomed and a bit unexpected. After a two-year hiatus, during the transition of the permit from the former director of the project, we were once again asked to come and work at the site under a museum permit in the late spring. Issuing the permit took several weeks, and it wasn't until the very end of June that the permission was issued, research visas collected, and the government representative available to come to the site. By the first of July we were back on site and pushing ahead with our long-term plans for research and development at Kerkenes Dağ, making the most of the three and a half weeks that we had before our research visas expired in the last week of July. During this time we accomplished a number of priorities including: excavation, facilities maintenance, conservation, and the expansion of our new program of site monitoring. We also were able to assist other projects in the region, during our spare time, through the use of the Kerkenes Dağ drone for undertaking aerial photography.

### Geophysical Survey

Kerkenes Dağ is known for its early adoption and extensive use of geophysical techniques to reveal the buried plan of this enormous city. The ongoing geophysical surveys are, and will continue to be, an extremely im-



*Figure 1. Original Oriental Institute excavation team led by Erich Schmidt at Kerkenes Dağ in 1928 (courtesy of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago)*

## KERKENES DAĞ PROJECT

portant part of the research at Kerkenes Dağ moving forward. They are critical to our efforts to understand the urban dynamics of this city and they also afford a unique opportunity for students and researchers to learn existing techniques and to experiment with newly developing technologies. Unfortunately, the resistivity survey that was planned for 2014 was unable to take place due to the late start to the season. The survey requires a certain amount of soil moisture in order to insert the probes and conduct the necessary electricity through the soil. At Kerkenes Dağ, there is a narrow window of time between April and early June when the conditions are sufficient to undertake this sort of survey. Consequently, with the start of the season in late June, we have shifted our plans for continuing the survey to next spring.

## Excavation

Excavations in 2011 and 2012 focused on Urban Block 8, one of the 757 urban blocks that greatly define the structure and organization of this city (fig. 2). While previous excavations at Kerkenes Dağ have sampled parts of various different urban blocks or the spaces between them, we still know very little about who lived in an urban block or how the large area contained within the block was used. Were these walled areas the habitation and work spaces for a single or extended family group? Or did more than one family inhabit each block? Were some of these urban blocks not for habitation at all, but instead held workshops or storage facilities that served a neighborhood or the entire city? Only by excavating the full extents of at least one of these blocks, and then clearing or sampling some additional blocks to test what we learn, will we begin to answer these basic questions and larger questions concerning

the number of people that lived in this city, its social organization, and the broad range of its connections to the world outside the city walls.

During the three and a half week season, we were able to more than double the total area of Urban Block 8 that has been excavated. The focus of both trenches excavated in 2014, Trench 33 (TR33) and Trench 40 (TR40), were a large columned building that dominates the block as well as the area directly around the building (fig. 3). This includes expanding a stretch of stone paving at the front of the building, which was initially uncovered in 2012. Stone paving is a common feature found around many structures in the city and may have served as a surface upon which different activities were accomplished as well as a nice surface to walk over when the rains turn the heavy clay soil into a very messy mud.

TR33 expanded the exposure of this stone paving from 40 sq. m to 190 sq. m and out to a distance of 8.5 m from the front of

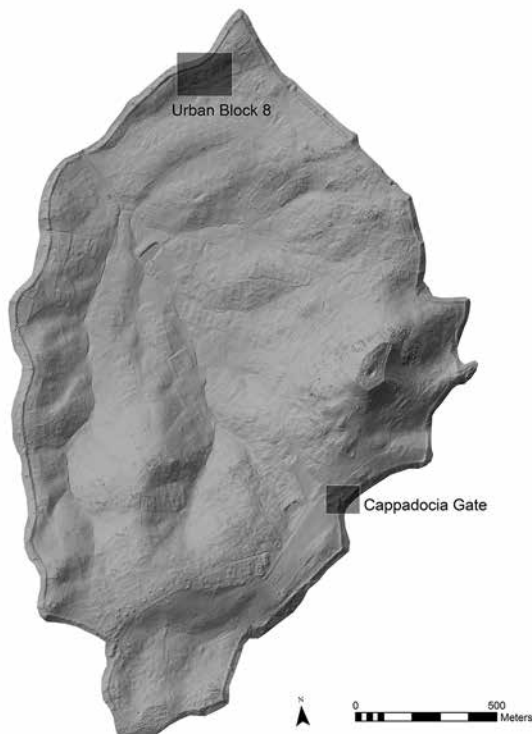


Figure 2. Map of Kerkenes Dağ showing major areas of work in 2014



the building. Evidence of the structure and adornment of the almost completely incinerated wooden superstructure of the building, which collapsed over this paving, was found in the presence of several iron nails and some pieces of bronze sheet, including one found with a nail, among the ashy deposit. Other evidence that was found pointed to the people that inhabited this area including a plain bead, a pin, a spiral, an iron arrowhead (fig. 4), and scattered pieces of pottery. One piece of worked bone, perhaps an inlay was also found in front of the building, portending things to come once excavations began within the building.

TR33 also included an extension of the trench to the east of the front corner of the building, an extension intended to uncover the continuation of the stone paving running between the building and a multi-roomed structure that curls around the north and east side of the building. One of the back rooms of this multi-roomed structure yielded, during test excavations in 1996, the important carved ivory plaque that is now on display in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara. It was subsequently the focus of further limited excavations in 1997, 2011, and 2012. Future excavations are planned to complete this structure as well as the entire area between it and the main building.

The most notable find from the excavation within this area of TR33 in 2014 was a covered stone drain running beneath the pavement. It runs north-south immediately beside the large building and likely links up with a smaller open drain found in TR31 in 2012. We know that water management was an important part of the planning of the city, as evidenced in the large ponds and channels seen throughout the city, and it is exciting to see aspects of construction and planning tying together different areas within a single urban block. Future excavations might reveal more about how individuals in urban blocks managed storm runoff and the melting of the winter snows in order to provide themselves with the water necessary to live within the city through the dryer summer months.

TR40 extended along part of the northern edge of TR33, exposing a 216 sq. m area of the columned building. This included a majority of the antechamber at the front of the building and a large part of the interior columned hall. Both areas exhibited ample evidence of the heavy burning that consumed this building during the destruction of the city, including flows of vitrified material over and around some of the stone column bases. The burning also preserved

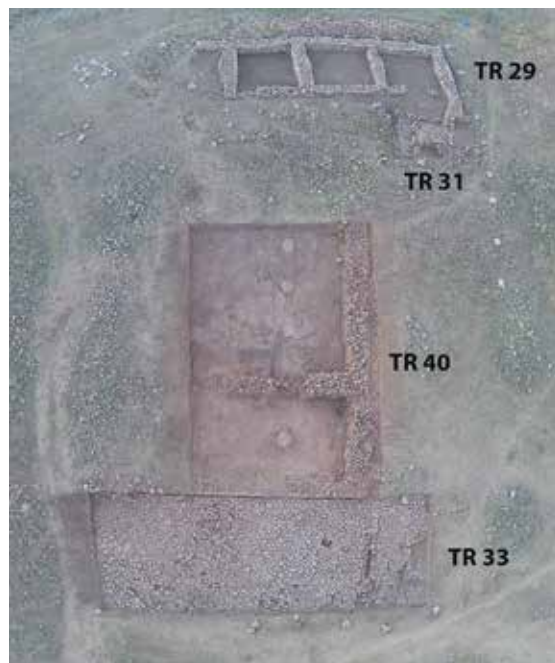


Figure 3. Final photograph of Trenches 33 and 40 excavated in 2014



14TR33U19met02

Figure 4. Iron arrowhead found on the stone paving in Trench 33

## KERKENES DAĞ PROJECT



Figure 5. Selection of the over 500 ivory and bone inlays found in Trench 40

possible human figures in framed relief (fig. 6), and a single example of a carved palmette (fig. 7). This is, as noted above, not the first time that worked ivory has been found in this urban block. The ivory plaque and additional pieces of worked bone and ivory were found in 1996 and two small pieces of worked ivory were found in 2012. However, the quantity of the inlays and the context, suggesting that they did not come from a single object or group



Figure 6. Fragments of inlays with possible human figures in a framed area

of objects, could indicate that some level of ivory production or assembly was taking place within the urban block. This would be a very exciting result, one that our intensive soil sampling strategy paired with further excavation is designed to better reveal. Other finds from within TR40 include a sherd with an incised marking (fig. 8), an iron ax head in the eastern wall collapse (fig. 9), an iron awl and pin, and an iron hand-scythe with a serrated edge (fig. 10).

Following excavation, plastered surfaces and walls were covered with geotextile and the floors and lower wall courses were back-filled in order to preserve them during the cold winter months. Stone paved surfaces in TR33 were left open in order to provide visitors with the visual impact that they provide, and because they are less susceptible to the changing seasons and temperatures on the site. Fencing was then installed around the entire excavation area within Urban Block 8.

## Site Monitoring

On a site the size of Kerkenes Dağ, technology is necessary to understand the city as a whole. The geophysical survey is a perfect example, exposing the full plan of the city through years of hard work. However, the use of technology to deal with this issue is not limited to understanding what happened in antiquity. Conservation and restoration work, as well as other aspects of site management, can also benefit from the use of new technologies for enhanced monitoring and planning. Sometimes this is done using satellite imagery, as was discussed last year in the annual report, particularly when the team is not physically present at the site. However, starting in 2012 we began to actively incorporate the use of drones into our research. In 2014, more extensive use was made of a DJI Phantom for aerial photography of areas of previous and current excavations and areas of restoration (fig. 11). In addition, overlapping photographs taken by the drone can be processed in order to generate clouds of point data along the surfaces and edges of features seen in the photographs. In the Cappadocia Gate, this point data can be compared with earlier total station surveys of the restoration work in the gate, and similar data from future seasons can be used to monitor shifts in the stonework (fig. 12). In partnership with Abdullah Gül University in Kayseri, we hope to use this new data in future seasons to monitor and guide future restoration work in this gate and elsewhere in the city.

While the drone was used to great effect within the walls of Kerkenes Dağ, we also found time to share our resources with other projects in the Sorgun region. Aerial photography has always been an excellent way to provide an overview of the latest results of excavations. Indeed in 1993 and 1994, when the project was undertaking balloon photography, a number of excavations benefited from Geoff and Françoise Summers bringing the balloon to the different sites being excavated and taking photographs for the directors of these Turkish and foreign projects. In 2014, we were able to carry on with this legacy and were invited to take imagery with



Figure 7. Carved palmette inlay

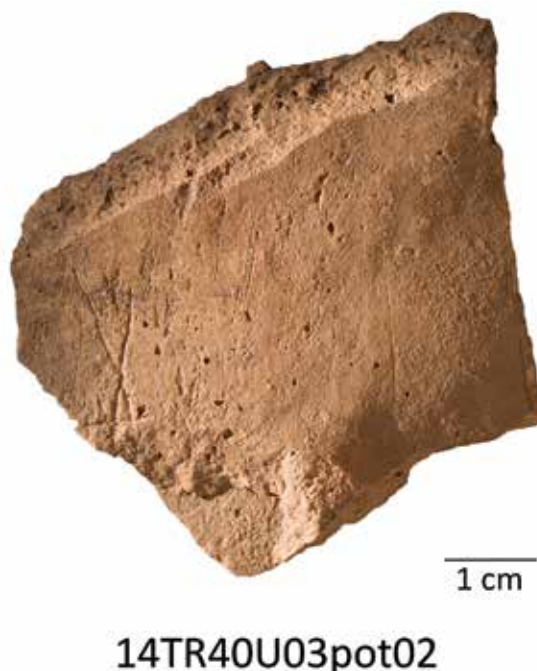


Figure 8. Sherd with incised marking above the handle attachment

## KERKENES DAĞ PROJECT



Figure 9. Iron ax head after conservation

field season and some additional work on objects from earlier seasons. Iron objects, like the ax head, proved particularly challenging. But the years of work on similar objects at the site by our conservator Noël Siver, allowed them to be successfully stabilized in the short amount of time that she had at her disposal. She was also able to continue the program started in 2010 of encasing iron objects in custom made bags of specialized sealing material. With the oxygen removed from within these bags, these objects can be stabilized and preserved for the long-term. For example, iron bands that we first encased in 2010 continue to remain remarkable stable compared to those fragments that have not yet been so encased. More of these earlier iron objects were also encased this year, and we plan to continue to work through encasing this material from earlier seasons.

## Excavation House Maintenance

Our return to the excavation compound after the hiatus was not without some surprises. One of the first days back a torrential downpour revealed numerous leaks in the roof of the main house, and we ran out of buckets while frantically trying to collect the water pouring down inside most of the rooms. In addition, a few of the windows were damaged and in need of repair or replacement. Without more time and constrained by the museum permit we were limited in what we could accomplish, but emergency repairs were carried out as needed to various parts of the facilities. Next year, with the help of our gracious sponsors, we hope to be

able to accelerate and expand these repairs in order to set the project up with the facilities it needs to undertake all aspects of the work before us for years to come.

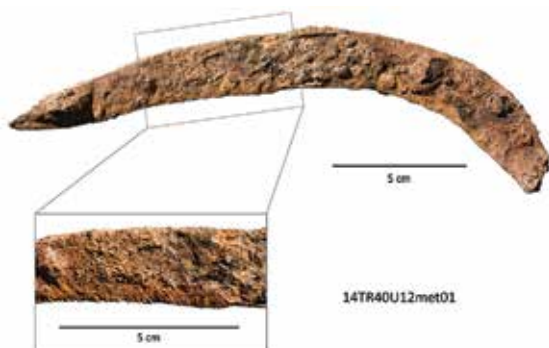


Figure 10. Iron hand-scythe with a serrated edge

our drone on behalf of three projects in the region: the Yozgat Museum project at the roman bath at Sarıkaya, Dr. Stefania Mazzoni's project at Uşaklı Höyük, and Dr. Gregory McMahon's project at Çadır Höyük. With the Çadır Höyük imagery we were also able to assist by undertaking basic 3D modeling for display and analysis.

## Conservation

Conservation and registration work in 2014 included the cleaning, stabilization, recording, and processing of all the finds from the

## Acknowledgments

The 2014 season at Kerkenes Dağ was only possible with the gracious support of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture of Turkey and especially the Yozgat Museum which facilitated the issuance of the permit. We are

very grateful to both Hasan K. Şenyurt, Director of the Yozgat Museum, and the museum's staff. Adem Bedir of the Sivas Museum served as the Ministry Representative, and we thank him for all his assistance. The Yozgat Governor Abdulkadir Yazıcı, the Sorgun District Governor Levent Kılıç, the Sorgun Mayor Ahmet Şimşek, and the Yozgat Director of Culture and Tourism Lütfi İbiş were all instrumental in facilitating and supporting the work of the project during this season. We are very grateful to each of them and to our team of collaborators and students from the University of Chicago, Istanbul Technical University, Abdullah Gül University, Koç University, UCLA, the University of Toronto, and Anadolu University in Eskişehir.



*Figure 11. University of Chicago student Susan Penacho flying the drone for aerial photography at Kerkenes Dağ*



*Figure 12. Low oblique aerial photograph of the Cappadocia Gate taken by the drone*

In addition, our financial supporters are critical members of our team. The 2014 season would not have been possible without the generous financial support of the Oriental Institute, the Merops Foundation, the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, the Archaeocommunity Foundation, Catherine Novotny Brehm, Hazel Bertz, Andrea Dudek, and Virginia O'Neill.



## 2014 Season

The major focus of the short 2014 season was the excavation of the interior of Building 1 (fig. 1). Even with our limited crew size, there was enough labor for targeted excavation around the exterior of Building 1 in order to define better the architectural relationships. This included examining the builders' trenches more completely, removing late walls to reveal earlier phasing, and attempting to clarify connections between Room 1 and other areas.

To the northwest of Building 1 there were late phase walls that had been constructed abutting the corner of Building 1. Previously labeled w914 and w915, these walls, along with the very large and earlier w335B, were at significantly higher elevation and thus later construction than Building 1. Removal of w914 and w915 exposed the northwest corner of Building 1 (partially obscured by w914) and the continuation of the builders' trench. A similar late wall abutting the southwest corner of Building 1 (w304B) was also removed in order to see the construction of Building 1. With the removal of w304B, and the fill levels below, the surprising construction of the southwest corner of Building 1 was revealed (fig. 2). The corner was carefully constructed using clearly selected alternating long limestone blocks (similar to a header bond), unlike the rest of the site.

In previous seasons we observed a smaller builders' trench along the south wall of the Building in H2 (w315B) previously identified as w393B. This very narrow builders' trench was identified by small cobbles clinging close to the lower courses of stone in w315B, clearly disappearing into the east section. Removal of this small rubble builders' trench fill (L418B), revealed a lower continuation of the same construction feature consisting of larger uniform cobbles laid flat along the base of the wall. These stones are not part of wall w315B, but rather were laid right up against it. Probably this is the base of the builders' trench, and these stones



*Figure 2. Southwest corner of Building 1, corner of walls w904 and w315/368*

MARJ RABBA

are part of the construction of the foundation. A probe, opened at the end of the season along the eastern edge of H2 (excavated as L.434B) revealed no lower course of the foundation.

Because the final excavation levels of 2013 in square G2 were higher than the final excavation levels in H2, the lowest courses of the well-constructed SW corner of Building 1 was not visible. With limited field time, we could not excavate all of G2 down to the same level as H2. Instead, we opened a probe around the corner of the building (intersection of walls w904 and w315). This probe (L.428B) had two goals: first, to expose the entire corner down to the base of the construction and second, to provide a section view of both builders' trenches (along w904 and along w315). Although locus 326B (the builders' trench) clearly cut earlier architecture and coincided well with the construction of the wall, finding a shared bottom to both the rubble fill in L.326B and the bottom of the wall would bolster our interpretation of this feature as a builders' trench. Indeed, as we removed the cobble fill of L.326B, we found that the nice header bond construction of the corner gave way to more haphazard construction, fitting well with an interpretation of these lower courses as subsurface foundations. The end of the dense cobble fill at the bottom of L.326B did indeed coincide with the last course of w904, lending credence to the interpretation as a builders' trench.

At the end of 2013, the main room in Building 1 (room 4), was still covered by dense cobble fill (L.391b) that was very difficult to excavate. In the southwest corner of the room there was a round feature with a central standing stone (L.392B) and a small square feature was just beginning to emerge (fig. 3; L.398/422B, including w400b, w401b, and w402b). The primary goal for 2014 was to get below the dense cobble and expose a floor level in Building 1. Early in the season we hit the beginning of a change in the southern half of the room, demarcated by a significant decrease in cobble fill and the emergence of large patches of



Figure 3. Small square feature, L.398B/422B



phytolith rich, whitish material with a very clearly defined upper and lower surface. We initially interpreted these patches as a disturbed floor level that might have been damaged by the collapse of the building. However, this “floor” was very patchy and immediately below it was flat lying pottery in several clusters. We now believe that the initial patchy phytolith rich material is, instead, the remains of the collapse of a mud-lined roof (fig. 4). Patches of this material were inverted, supporting interpretation of roof collapse rather than a disturbed floor. Below the collapsed roof was flat lying pottery; this is the beginning of the actual floor below the collapsed roof. Eventually this floor was identified in almost the entirety of Room 4.

The nicely preserved floor level included the articulated portions of at least four nearly complete vessels. Two large pithoi type vessels were lying in the center (B.6696) and north east of the room (B.6697). One large storage vessel seemed to have been set into the floor (L.431B) and may have had a small intentionally constructed stone lined pit to support it. A smaller storage vessel was found sunk into the western central area of the room (B.6721). Very few tools were found on or near the floor level, with the exception of a slingstone (ballista) found near the southern door to Room 1 (B.6728). However, there was an odd collection of material on the floor that may reflect something about the function of the room. A large concentration of burnt gazelle phalanges was identified sitting just on or above the L.417B floor level, mostly in the northeast corner of the room, under “feature” L.429B (fig. 5). Gazelle bones have been identified in small numbers in other seasons and other areas of the site, but this clustering of gazelle bones is notable for several reasons. First, these bones are all burned in or near a fire. All are charred to some degree, and some have been calcined by direct exposure to fire. This is significantly more burning than is found on other bones at the site, which may have a burning rate below 10%. Second, there are very few total bones



*Figure 4. Close-up photograph of possible roof material on floor in Building 1 (photo: A. C. Hill)*



Figure 5. Burned gazelle phalanges on the floor level (L.417B) of Building 1 (photo: A. C. Hill)

from these levels, so the relative abundance and total number of gazelle bones is exceptional. For the rest of the site the relative percentage of gazelle bones is only a few percent. For locus 417B it is likely well into the double digits. The total number of gazelle bones identified from thousands of identified bones from previous seasons was 44. There are nearly 100 identifiable gazelle bones from this limited area of L.417B, more than double the rest of the site combined. Finally, there are a few other gazelle parts from L.417B and adjacent loci, primarily metapodia, but the vast majority of gazelle bones in L.417b consist of phalanges and sesamoids. That is, feet are massively over represented in this context. Many of these bones were found in the screen, but at least a few were exposed in situ and in one case there was a nearly complete articulated foot. All of the above suggests that gazelle feet are not ending up on this surface as part of the general palimpsest accumulation of animal remains found elsewhere on site. Like the *bos* (cow) pit found in Area CC, this concentration of a specific species and body part region must represent a specific short-term activity in Room 4 that is not occurring elsewhere. Unfortunately, the behavior represented by this material is less clear than the accumulation of meat rich parts in the *bos* pit from Area CC. In the absence of other data, this seems likely to represent some kind of ritual accumulation.

With a small crew and limited field time, we were not able to excavate the entirety of Room 4 below the level of floor L.417B. The lowest levels of Room 1 (see below) suggested that there should be at least one more floor level in Room 4. To test this, we opened a 1 × 1 meter probe in the southeast corner of H1, abutting both w368B and the east section. The goal of this probe was to expose the lowest course of w368B and find the earliest floor level. After the removal of the packed earth floor of 417B, we came to an intermediate fill level (L.433B). This fill level was notable for containing significantly more human remains than anywhere else



*Figure 6. Partially articulated human feet found in probe (photo: A. C. Hill)*

at the site. Initially we found a completely articulated pair of human feet (fig. 6) that seemed like they would disappear into the north section of the probe. This would have represented the first human burial discovered at the site. However, they were found not be articulated with a complete skeleton. In fact the left foot did not appear to have articulated metatarsals and phalanges. Instead, these are two feet that were buried before decomposition; either these were removed from the body or the whole individual was initially buried but the rest of the body was later dug up and removed for secondary burial. Additionally, there were several further portions of human in this small probe that were not articulated with these feet and are likely to derive from other individuals. This includes several phalanges and rib fragments. One set of three rib fragments may have also been articulated and represent another body that was dug up for secondary burial with some elements being left behind. We continued down in the probe in H1 to a lower floor level that contained a plastered cup mark (L.436B) similar to those found in areas AA and CC. This lower floor level is at the same elevation as the bottom of the walls outside of the building (probes in H2 and G2) and the lowest floor in Room 1 (see below). It is likely that this represents the earliest use of room 4 and that if any lower anthropogenic layers exist, they would have been the layers predating the construction of the building.

### **Other Features in Room 4**

As mentioned above, we identified an odd small square feature (fig. 3) in the northwest corner of room 4 at the end of 2013 (L.398B, consisting of walls w400b, 401b, 402b). The interior of this feature was further excavated as L.422B, but there was no clear floor surface, and

the “walls” were only standing a single course above the floor. The function of this feature remains unclear. The square feature L.422B mentioned above is abutting the small cell previously excavated in 2013 as L.390B. This feature is interesting for several reasons. First, it is built against a nicely blocked door (door 1) that was intentionally blocked around the earliest use of the building. Subsequently it was built into the small niche formed by the blocked door, the northern wall of Building 1 (w925B) and a small stub wall (w357B). When first defined, it seemed possible that this was some sort of raised platform sitting above the floor in the main room of the building (room 4) for two reasons. First, dense small cobble fill lined the interior. Second, the “retaining wall” creating this feature (w358B) had a nicely finished face on the exterior (into the main room) but a poorly constructed interior face. However, a mace-head (B.6457) was found inside, located near the conjunction of the blocked door, and continued excavation (L.427B) revealed flat lying pottery at a level coinciding with the base of the walls and the floor levels in room 4 (L.417B). Thus this feature may have been a storage area of some variety, rather than a platform.

### **Room 1**

Although Doorway 1 was closed between Room 1 and Room 4 at some early stage of use, the second, Doorway 2 was closed later in the use of the building, probably coinciding with the late addition of walls w304B and w914B. Blocked with larger wall-sized stones at the highest preserved course, below that course the blockage was indiscriminate, relying on medium cobbles similar to that found everywhere else in Building 1. This late blockage was removed and the doorway excavated (L.420B) to the early floor levels. After the doorway was open, a threshold between Room 4 and Room 1 (L.425B) was exposed. During previous seasons, we attempted to expose floor levels in Room 1 despite the dense cobble collapse, similar to that of Room 4. One fragment of a later floor level (L.404B) was encountered in 2013, well above the lowest courses of stone in the walls. That later floor level, occurring somewhere between the initial construction of the building and the late blockage of Doorway 2 and late wall reuse, probably also goes with the two small platforms in the north corners of the room (L.387B and L.388B). This intermediate floor was found only in one small paved patch in the center of the room, along with some flat lying pottery, and some ashy lenses. Dense cobble fill interspersed with the floor level material continued throughout the middle of the room at this level. At the beginning of the 2014 season the remnants of that late floor were removed along with the two platforms (L.413B, L.416B). Excavation of the entire room (minus a small probe in the south from 2013) continued below the floor as L.425B. This locus continued for several centimeters of fill down to the surface of the earliest preserved floor in Room 1 which was not well preserved, sloped from north to south with the first course of construction, and contained only small quantities of flat lying pottery.

This lowest preserved floor in Room 1 (L.425B) was not the earliest anthropogenic level in Room 1. In the northern half of Room 1, the earliest floor level was sitting on sterile clay-rich soil. In the southern half, however, anthropogenic deposits continued below the base of the walls. These anthropogenic deposits had clearly defined margins that did not relate to the extant architecture of Building 1. Since we know that the construction of Building 1 cut down into earlier phasing, as seen by the builders’ trench, it is unsurprising to find disturbed earlier contexts sitting immediately below the earliest floor levels in some places. Additionally, in the northeast corner of the room, below the last floor level was the bottom of an earlier pit (L.430B) cutting into the sterile soil levels. Only the very bottom of this rubble

filled pit was preserved as it was also cut by the construction of Building 1. Charred botanical remains may allow dating of this earliest level of the site.

## Discussion

The goals of the 2014 Marj Rabba excavation season were modest and our crew was small. We knew that we had not reached the bottom of Building 1, so our primary goal was finding intact floor levels, identifying the earliest levels of the building, and recovering datable material at those levels. Unlike in previous seasons and areas, there were no complex stratigraphic relationships to decipher. Almost all loci excavated this season related to Building 1, with the exception of some earlier phases at the bottom of Room 1. One interesting outcome of the 2014 season in Building 1 is the potential evidence for ritual practices in this area of the site, which might testify to differential use of Building 1 versus other buildings. Although a few random human remains (several phalanges and a mandible) were found in different areas of the site during past seasons of excavation, Building 1 had the only articulated remains, and significantly more total human bones than the rest of the site combined. The fact that we only dug a subfloor locus inside of Room 4 in a small 1 × 1 m probe, but still found so much human material suggests that the subfloor in the rest of the room would likely have yielded significantly more remains. This higher density of human remains, along with the evidence for intentional retention of low utility, wild animal remains (gazelle feet) suggest that there is something going on in Building 1 out of the ordinary for the rest of the site. Additionally, the evidence for burial practices from this room that suggests complete individuals may have been buried and then dug back up may tie Marj Rabba to the regional burial customs we know of from secondary burial sites like Peqi'in.

Although there is much that could be explored further with continued excavation at Marj Rabba, the conclusion of the 2014 season is a very good stopping point for the current excavation. We have uncovered a significant portion of extant architecture, across 362.5 square meters, recovered a significant material cultural assemblage of stone tools, pottery, animal bone, bone tools, etc., and intensively surveyed the unexcavated extent of the site. Answering additional questions about architectural and social differentiation across the site and between phases would require significant additional investment in time, as well as access to excavation permission for other areas of the site.

### ***Har ha-Sha'avi (West): Conservation and Re-burial of Site***

After the sixth and final season of excavations at Har ha-Sha'avi (west), the decision was made to cover up the excavated areas of the site. In past seasons, the opened excavation areas in the west area (among the trees, in the large stone mound) and Area DD (a single 5 × 5 m square) were re-filled at the end of the season.

With completion of drawing, photography, and notes, a local labor force was hired, who filled sand bags with the sieved sediment from the site. The filled sand bags were used to support the tops and sides of walls, particularly those preserved at more than a single course (fig. 7). Some walls were also covered with the finer sediment using the work force, particularly walls that were deemed most delicate. In addition, body sherds, which had been collected for all six seasons, were returned to square B1 (excavated, but without architecture), and reburied during the process described below. After the walls were supported, and the fencing and barbed wire were removed, a JCB loader was hired. The JCB operator has worked for the



*Figure 7. Sandbagged walls and features prior to reburial of the site*

Israel Antiquities Authority, and thus was very experienced and knowledgeable about the steps necessary. First, the fine sediment from sieving, which lacks rocks, was used to pour around the walls and cover the smaller features. This minimized damage to the architectural features as they were covered. Next, the JCB operator removed piles of rock that collected on tops of the back dirt piles. In this way, the less rocky back dirt was used to fill in the spaces between the walls. Finally, the JCB operator pushed the remaining back dirt across the site in order to level the field.

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## MUMMY LABEL DATABASE (MLD)

François Gaudard

The MLD team is pleased to announce that the Mummy Label Database is now available online and is currently being developed further.<sup>1</sup>

### Major Upgrades to the Death on the Nile and Mummy Label Database Websites

During the past academic year, significant upgrades were made to improve the Death on the Nile website and the Mummy Label Database webpages. The new URLs are now:

<http://deathonthenile.upf.edu/>  
<http://deathonthenile.upf.edu/database/>  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/mummy-label-database-mlD>

The planning and preparation of these changes required several meetings with the technical support team of Pompeu Fabra University and the INERCIA website programmers to discuss various issues. Sofía Torallas Tovar, Alberto Nodar Domínguez, and Sergio Carro met

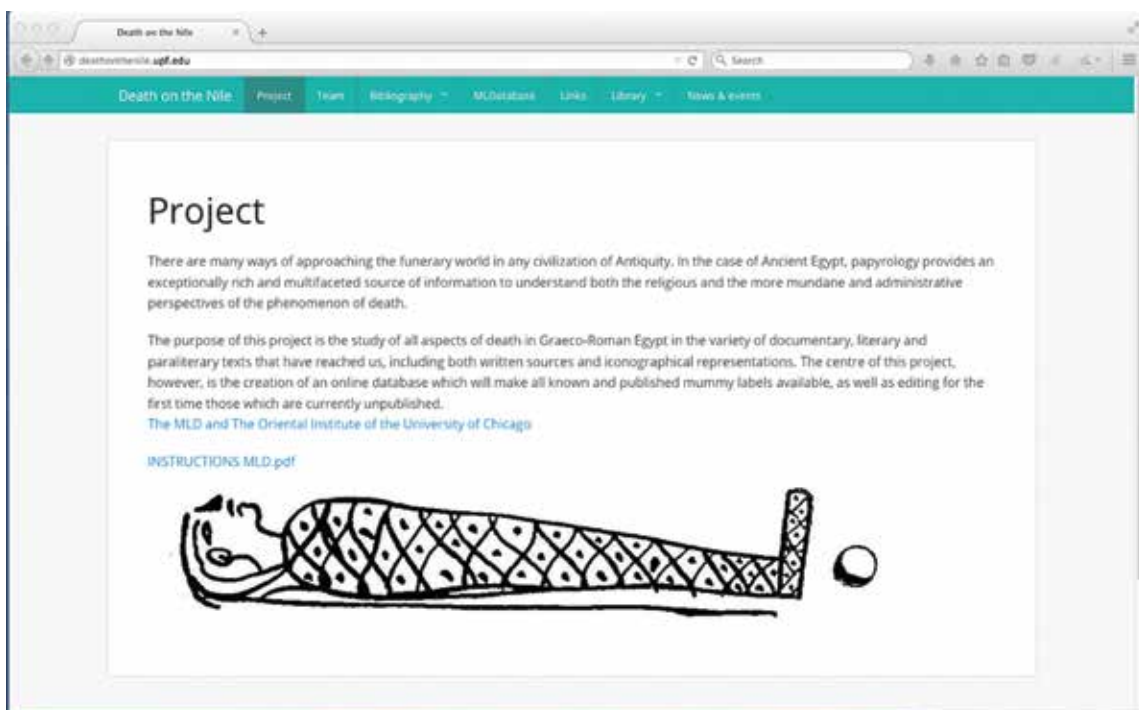


Figure 1. The new homepage of the Death on the Nile project hosting the Mummy Label Database

MUMMY LABEL DATABASE

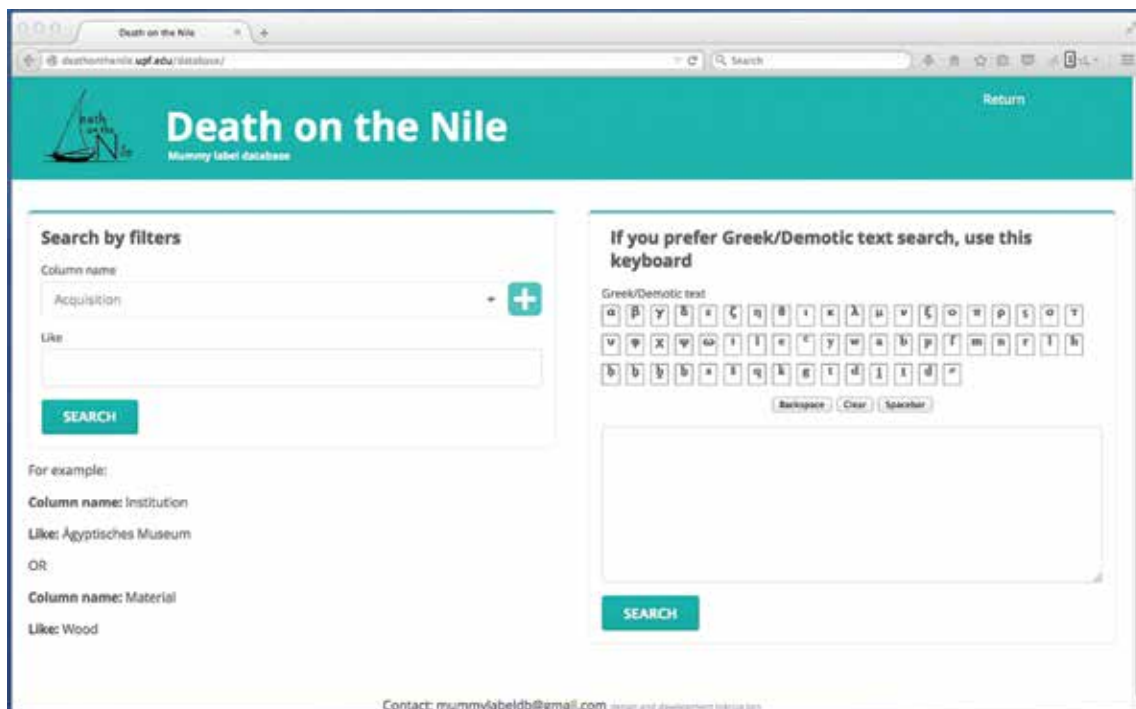


Figure 2. The new homepage of the Mummy Label Database



Figure 3. The new homepage of the Oriental Institute website dedicated to the Mummy Label Database



with them in July and November 2014, and during the latter month, Alberto and Sergio also organized two working sessions with INERCIA, where the encoding system for the text was tested by uploading some XML/HTML files to the database. Then, in March 2015, Alberto and Sergio furthered these talks with the programmers. Later that spring, Sergio moved to Barcelona, and now he is closer to both the technical support team of Pompeu Fabra University and INERCIA.

The main changes to the website consisted in:

- transferring the Death on the Nile website to the Wordpress platform (for operational purposes), which was the most time-consuming task.
- revamping the Mummy Label Database. Now, various search criteria can be used to find, select, and visualize data, and the search results are currently displayed in a more user-friendly manner. Moreover, the database will also be searchable by using a Greek/Demotic keyboard, but it is not operational yet.
- making the bibliography searchable by author, title, journal, and series (general bibliography), or by country (bibliography by country).
- improving and facilitating the addition of new data to the website and the database.

As for the homepage of the Oriental Institute website dedicated to the Mummy Label Database, it has also been revamped by the OI and it includes a description of the project, all the MLD annual reports since 2008–2009 downloadable in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), as well as a direct link to the Mummy Label Database.

### **Grant from the Fundación la Caixa for the Papyrological Digitization of Images and Texts**

We are also glad to announce that we have been awarded a grant by the Fundación la Caixa, which started in April 2015 and will continue for two years. This grant will support a new project headed by Alberto Nodar Domínguez and called “Tratamiento tecnológico de archivos digitales (imágenes y textos) de documentación papiácea antigua,” which deals with the development of technologies to digitize papyri (enhancement of images and texts), and focuses especially on the treatment of carbonized papyri. The MLD will benefit directly from the aspect of the project devoted to the treatment of digital text files of ancient documents, such as, in the case of mummy labels, those written in Greek, in Demotic, or in both languages. This research will involve the close collaboration of expert programmers from the INERCIA team with philologists, especially Hellenists and Demotists. Marina Escolano Poveda has just gotten involved with this aspect of the project, in order to collaborate on the Demotic XML. The part of the project dealing with the treatment of images will focus on reassembling the fragments belonging to the Greek papyri in the Palau Ribes collection.

### **Virtual Exhibition on Mummy Labels**

In November 2014, Sergio Carro and Alba de Frutos García, in collaboration with the Death on the Nile and MLD team, organized a virtual exhibition entitled “At the Gates of Death: Mummy Labels.” In addition to presenting several mummy labels from various collections,

## MUMMY LABEL DATABASE

there was also an introduction discussing death in Graeco-Roman Egypt, as well as a brief description of the mummification process.

<http://expopapiros.wix.com/inicio#!mummy-labels/cev6>



Figure 4. Homepage of the virtual exhibition “At the Gates of Death: Mummy Labels”

## Publications by Team Members, Related to the Project

The following articles have been published, or are in press, forthcoming, or in preparation:

- Willy Clarysse, Margaret Maitland, and Klaas A. Worp “Mummy Labels from Graeco-Roman Egypt in National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh,” *Chronique d’Égypte* 89 (2014): 356–75.
- François Gaudard, “A Demotic-Hieratic Mummy Label in the Museu de Montserrat.” In *Mélanges offerts à Ola el-Aguizy*, edited by Fayza Haikal, pp. 159-68. Bibliothèque d’Étude 164. Cairo: Institut français d’archéologie orientale, 2015.
- François Gaudard, “On a Disputed Aspect of the God Seth,” to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (forthcoming).
- François Gaudard, “A Greek-Demotic Mummy Label,” to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (in preparation).
- François Gaudard, “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago,” to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (in preparation).

- Raquel Martín Hernández and Sofía Torallas Tovar, “Unpublished Greek Mummy-labels from the British Museum,” *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* (in preparation).
- Irene Pajón Leyra, “Little Horror Stories in an Oxyrhynchus Papyrus: A Re-Edition and a Commentary of *P.Oxy.* II 218,” *Archiv für Papyrusforschung und verwandte Gebiete* 60/2 (2014): 304–30.

### **Individual Research by Team Members, Related to the Project**

- Alba de Frutos García continued working on her dissertation on the social networks of funerary workers in Ptolemaic Egypt, and, on July 9, 2014, she presented a paper entitled “The Social Networks of Necropolis-workers in Ptolemaic Egypt” at the Copenhagen Associations Project Seminars, University of Copenhagen.
- François Gaudard prepared the publication of more mummy labels from various collections worldwide. He also started a new project focusing on the publication of several Oriental Institute Museum funerary shrouds from the Graeco-Roman period.
- Raquel Martín Hernández and Sofía Torallas Tovar prepared the edition of unpublished Greek mummy labels from the British Museum.
- During the Spring quarter 2015, Sofía Torallas Tovar taught a course entitled “Death in the Classical World” (CLCV 26914) in the Department of Classics at the University of Chicago.

### **Acknowledgments**

The Death on the Nile and MLD team members would like to thank the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN)<sup>2</sup> and the Fundación la Caixa, supported by the Fundación Bancaria Caixa d’Estalvis i Pensions de Barcelona, “la Caixa,” for awarding them grants, which will allow them to make significant progress. Special thanks also go to Paul Ruffin at the Oriental Institute for his technical support.

### **Notes**

<sup>1</sup> For details on this 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, readers can consult the *Oriental Institute 2008–2009 Annual Report*, as well as the other annual reports, available online in PDF format: <http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/mummy-label-database-mld>.

<sup>2</sup> Grant ACI-PRO-2011-1132.

## NIPPUR

### McGuire Gibson

Despite the continuing uncertainties about the situation in Iraq, there has been continued archaeological activity in the northern area, with Iraq and foreign groups carrying out a variety of excavations and surveys that are transforming our knowledge of the Assyrian heartland and the mountains in monumental ways. But there has also been some activity in the south also. Iraqi, French, Italian, and British expeditions have initiated excavations around Ur, at Girsu and Nina (parts of the Lagash kingdom), and there are reports that an Italian team will begin work at Eridu, while Elizabeth Stone and Paul Zimansky of Stony Brook have been given permission to work at Ur itself. And more important for us, Carrie Hritz, an Oriental Institute Research Associate, who carried out one season of work at Girsu a few years ago, has been given permission to conduct a survey in the Nippur area.

In anticipation of the work that Carrie and her small team will do, I contacted my agent in Baghdad to tell him to put into motion a plan that we had agreed on a couple of years ago when I was last at Nippur. At that time, I met with a local contractor, Ziara Abid, who happens to be the son of our old foreman and who was himself a pickman on the dig twenty-five years ago, and we discussed what would be needed to make the Nippur dig house livable. The house has not been occupied since 1990, and it was partially burned and repaired cheaply but fast in 1996. But the house badly needed to have its mud plaster walls and roof redone, and because much of the electrical system and the plumbing had been stolen by the people who set fire to the house in 1996, a more general, thorough repair was called for.



*Ziara (left) inspects outer court of Nippur dig house*



*Bedrooms with restored doors*



*Workroom looking to architect's room with surveying equipment*



*Workroom burned in 1996, new roof and electricity*

## NIPPUR



*Workroom with equipment*



*Workroom painted during house repair, May 2015*

Because Carrie was to begin work in June 2015, Ziara put a crew on the job and had the house in good shape in May, complete with the plaster job, a re-engineering of part of the roof to make it drain better, new cement walkways, new doors where needed, new electrical wiring and lights, and a new water system.

As it turns out, although there was a permit for Carrie to do the work in June, she could not obtain visas. She now intends to do the work in October, which is the best time to begin any project in southern Iraq. It will still be hot in the middle of the day, but the nights will be cool and the local fauna (insects, scorpions, snakes) will start going into hibernation.

We hope that this initial survey is only the beginning of a new phase of Oriental Institute commitment to Nippur, and that excavations can start soon. It is a giant mound, whose history we have only begun to uncover. As one site that has not been extensively looted, it takes on added significance for future research.

## ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION (OINE) PUBLICATION PROJECT

**Bruce B. Williams, Lisa Heidorn, Alexandros Tsakos,  
and Joanna Then-Obłuska**

### **Introduction.** *Bruce Williams*

This year, the publication project largely shifted its emphasis from assembling teams, raising resources, and research to the preparation of manuscripts, which entails research as much as before. All parts of the project have made strides toward publication, but not all have news. In one remarkable event, the Oriental Institute received permission from the United States government to take a long-term renewable loan of antiquities from its work as part of the Merowe Dam Archaeological Salvage Project in the Fourth Cataract during 2007 and 2008. In January, I presented a contract from the University of Chicago to Dr. Abd el-Rahman Ali Mohamed, the director general of the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums, which he readily signed. In early March, I retrieved a lorry load of boxes of antiquities from the Khalifa House Museum with the kind help of the curator, Mrs. Sabah el-Sirag and her staff (see *News & Notes* 219, pp. 8–9 with fig. 5). A few weeks later, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Abd el-Rahman and our inspector from the field, Dr. Mahmud Suleiman el-Beshir, thirty-six metal boxes of antiquities and samples weighing 776 kilograms arrived in Chicago, a most unusual event in these times. Last September, I visited Jim Knudstad and Rosa in Cornwall to talk about the dig and he kindly arranged to have over 300 of his excellent personal slides from the period scanned. Unfaded, these slides not only enhance the publication of Serra East (fig. 1) and Dorginarti, they vividly document a Nubia that is now lost (fig. 2).



*Figure 1. View inside Serra East town during excavation from the southeast with a train entering the enclosure from the north (photo: James E. Knudstad)*



*Figure 2. View of an Ottoman period fortification in the Second Cataract. Forts and fortified houses were common in the Second and Third Cataract areas between 1500 and 1820 because this region was an active frontier area between the Funj and Ottoman empires (photo: James E. Knudstad)*

### **Dorginarti.** *Lisa Heidorn*

The excavation at Dorginarti lasted for five and a half months in 1964. It was a huge undertaking made only slightly easier because the flood swept center on its west had no remains (fig. 3). To fully excavate this site would have entailed a multi-year project. Under the direction of James E. Knudstad, the supervisor of the excavation from January to April was Richard H. Pierce. When the project was extended beyond its allotted time, James Knudstad and a team of archaeologists kept working until the rising waters, behind the Aswan High Dam, caused the work to halt on June 8.

The extent of the site measured approximately 160 × 65 meters maximum, requiring between 52 and 130 workmen for every day of excavation. The external walls of the 33 × 33 meter Level II citadel atop the bedrock heights in the Central Sector were left unexcavated, but the lower official residences were centered in the middle of the later citadel walls and could be cleared. The test pits excavated below the Level IV residence found no earlier levels, and came upon a sterile sand foundation layer.

The circuit of the fortified enclosure was fully traced and its glacis construction explored, and a huge amount of clearance along the north and south walls around and within the fort's circumference was accomplished. A coherent plan for the lower level of structures, which went under at least one of fort's main walls, was not obtained due to the time constraints.

Clearance of the Central Sector remains had taken precedence at the beginning of the excavation, but attention was soon directed at the debris-covered surface of the West Sec-



## ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION

tor (fig. 4). The ruins were only preserved along the north and south walls and consisted of thin-walled houses, official buildings, silos, and ovens, all indicating a constant state of flux, because of sporadic occupation or the frequent arrivals of troop replacements. Like any small village in use over time, earlier walls were reused or dismantled, areas blocked off with short partitions, and any space available was fixed to suit the needs of the soldiers, support staff, and their families.

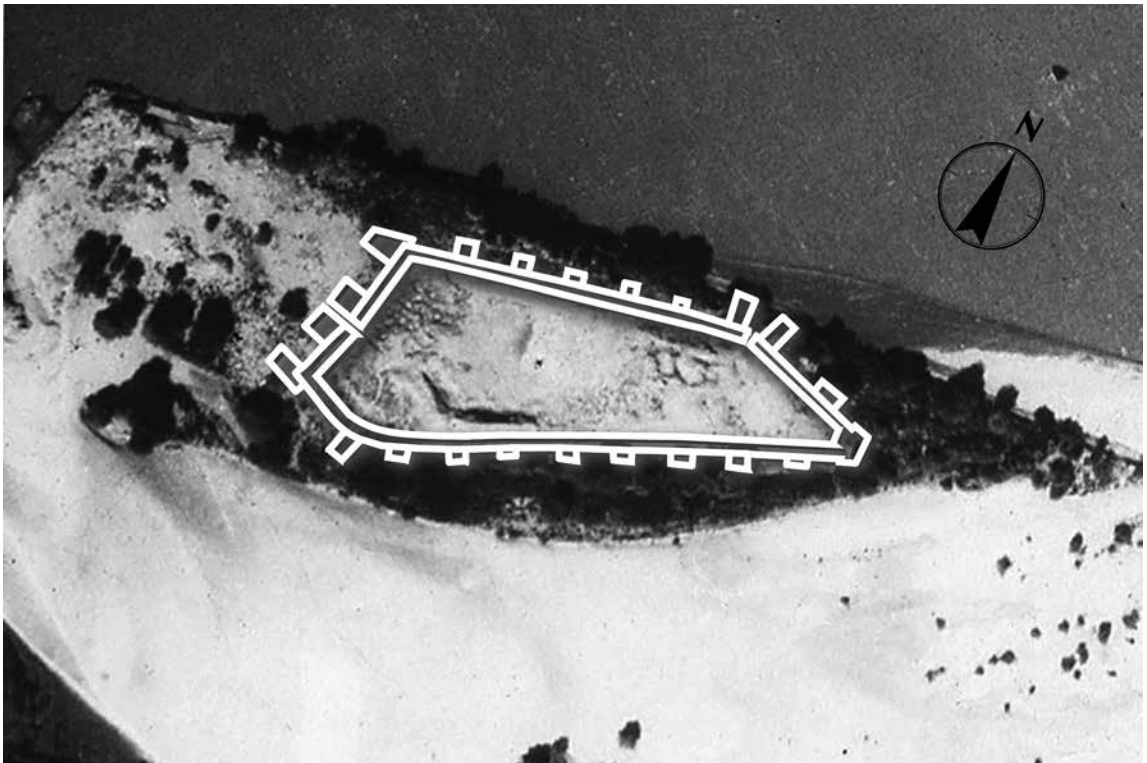


Figure 3. Aerial view of Dorginarti before excavation with the fortress wall outlined



Figure 4. View of the West Sector of the fort from the southwest, Central Sector in the background with the height of Abd el-Qadir in the distance. Panorama from photographs by James E. Knudstad



Figure 5. View of the northwest corner buildings of Level III from the south (photo: James E. Knudstad)



Figure 6. Detail of northwest corner housing in Level III, with some Level IV walls. Preliminary plan by Nadejda Reshetnikova

The deterioration of the enclosure walls of the fortress from floodwaters also brought about changes. The thick relining added to the interior of the main walls covered over houses beneath it and walls to the south were then reconfigured to make new accommodations.

The buildings shown in the final plan were a maze of informal, often improvised, buildings and the remnants of crooked lanes (fig. 5). The rooms of the houses and workrooms measured at most no more than 3–4 meters per side and there were usually no more than two rooms per house (fig. 6).

The use of brick support pilasters along the interior of the thin walls was common, and walls were typically placed on a sand surface or an earlier wall. Staircases were uncommon

## ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION

and appear only in public areas. Large silos 4 meters in circumference characterize a later Level III phase, showing the importance of a large amount of grain storage for personnel working in the desert and along the river for whoever controlled the trade and traffic at the Second Cataract.

The northern half of the Level III settlement encompassed residential buildings and domestic space, interspersed unevenly with small ovens, bins, and hearths. Many wheelmade sherds of Egyptian storage, food preparation, and eating vessels were found here, along with numerous handmade bread plates for baking dough, and Nubian handmade pottery for eating and cooking (fig. 7). The bread plates were often found around silos and ovens. Grinding stones and pounders were also frequent and represent other common activities in the residential areas. A number of stone net weights attest to fishing activity, and the stone arrowheads distributed thinly throughout the fort indicate the presence of archers.

The southern part of the West Sector accommodated small workrooms, large silos, bins, ovens, a few possible houses, and two larger buildings that were clearly official in nature. Unfortunately, objects that might indicate their function were not common in the buildings along the southern wall, and the preservation was especially poor along the southern wall of the fortress.

The pottery assemblage throughout all levels dates to sometime within the eighth century BC, though none of the published parallels from Nubia or Egypt are well dated by independent epigraphic materials. The pottery from the royal tombs of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty at Napata and the private cemetery at Sanam tombs were sometimes dated by associated royal names, and there are some similarities to Dorginarti pots. But the fort has none of the latest eighth and seventh centuries BC Upper Egyptian marl jar types, produced around Thebes, found in the royal tombs. The historical context of the site, that is, who built, maintained, and manned the fort remains uncertain.

The current work is focused on editing and finalizing the plans produced by our talented architect, Nadejda Reshetnikova, one of whose illustrations is shown here. Reviewing the plans as they arrive has provided an opportunity to verify the phasing of the site and the architectural details. As the publication of OINE 14 draws near, the operation of finalizing its details is heartening. After such a long time waiting, the important finds from Dorginarti will shed light on a period of history and a region that is still poorly known.

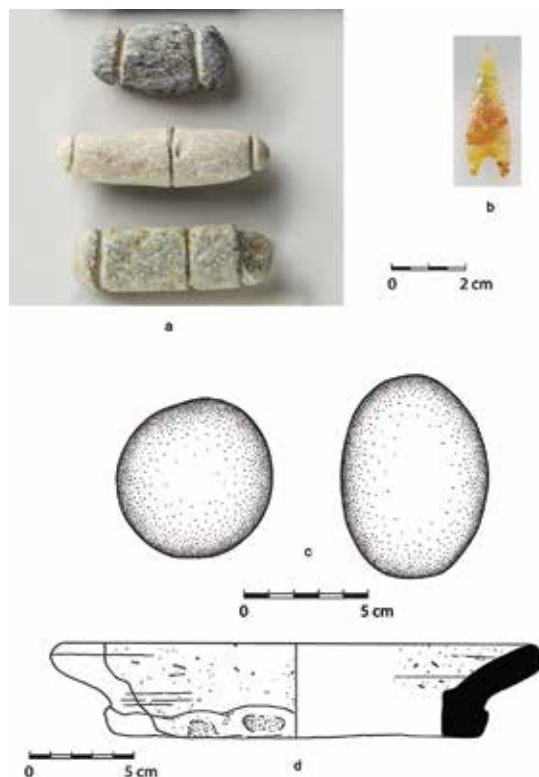


Figure 7. Objects of daily life from West Sector buildings: (a) Soapstone and talc net weights, OIM E24331, E24328, and E24349; (b) Agate arrowhead OIM E24349E; (c) Soapstone and quartz pounders; (d) Pottery bread plate (photos: Austin Kramer, drawings: Carol Abraczinskas and Lisa Heidorn)

## Cerre Matto, the Christian Town at Serra East. *Bruce Williams*

“... and Serra Mattu was a drowned city”<sup>1</sup>

The complex work is now in two parts, one on the town’s buildings, and one on the finds. A manuscript nears completion on the town, and another is in progress for the finds. This year, as part of the publication program Dr. Alexandros Tsakos visited Chicago to review and collate the known inscriptions and look at some magical signs and symbols found on the pottery.

Serra was not a large town, but with more than twenty-five buildings and a cemetery of more than 100 graves in an area of about 160 × 80 meters, it is a large site. Planning it originally by James Knudstad was challenging, but reconstructing his survey to extract information to present it in three dimensions was a challenge renewed. Using coordinates calculated by volunteer Larry Lissak and me, the architect Nadejda Reshetnikova has completed a ground plan for the entire site in the Christian Period. As with the plan of the fortress discussed last year, one version includes descriptive notes and comments Knudstad put on his plans, and the other omits them.

In the earlier twentieth-century, work on Serra East’s Christian period concentrated on the churches, to the neglect of the other structures — until many of them were destroyed for the mud in their bricks. James Knudstad, on the other hand, painstakingly recorded them all, often with details overlooked elsewhere. The houses, booths, and workshops were in fact quite complex and differed from each other even more than the churches. The houses (figs. 3, 8) were mostly of two, and a few, perhaps, of three stories. They were slightly oblong, almost square and very solidly built, with walls 53 or more centimeters thick, or a brick length and width or even wider. The ground floors had vaulted rooms and corridors, the vaults made with leaning rings of brick without centering. To continue walls to an upper floor, the masons completed the vaults for the first floor, resting them on an upper or spring course. Outer walls could be continued upward, but inner partitions were built by simply inserting a new wall between the vaults of the ground floor. Rooms and corridors in the upper floors were vaulted, but open space was created over two rooms or more which was then covered with a flat roof, and most indoor living must have taken place there. The ground-floor rooms had only tiny slits for windows and must have been quite dark. Their doors were also tiny, as small as 65 × 45 centimeters, barely enough for a child to squeeze through today. Where preserved, some houses had entry doors on the ground floor, but none had a stairway. A few of the vaults preserve square holes or hatches about half a meter on the side with wear that shows they were used for access, presumably using a ladder or notched log. Although this improved security, and saved space, another feature did not. Most houses with upper floors had a privy, reached at the end of a long, L-shaped corridor (briefly mentioned in *Oriental Institute 2011–2012 Annual Report*, p. 133). It dropped through a hole into a small, blind chamber below with a stone-lined clean out window to the outside; the chamber had a brick ventilation flue that went to the roof. Although none were found complete at Serra East, and none have been found in place, the privy apparently had a ceramic toilet, with seat, receptacle, and drain. This concern for privacy and sanitation in the twelfth century is arresting, the more so because many of our grandparents were raised without such amenities! Passages between some of the houses were covered by vaults, as seen earlier in Nubia, but also today in some of the towns of the oases.

The houses and churches were professionally built, but each unique, often even in orientation, but with few right angles; the Central Church needed a thick buttress to keep it

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION

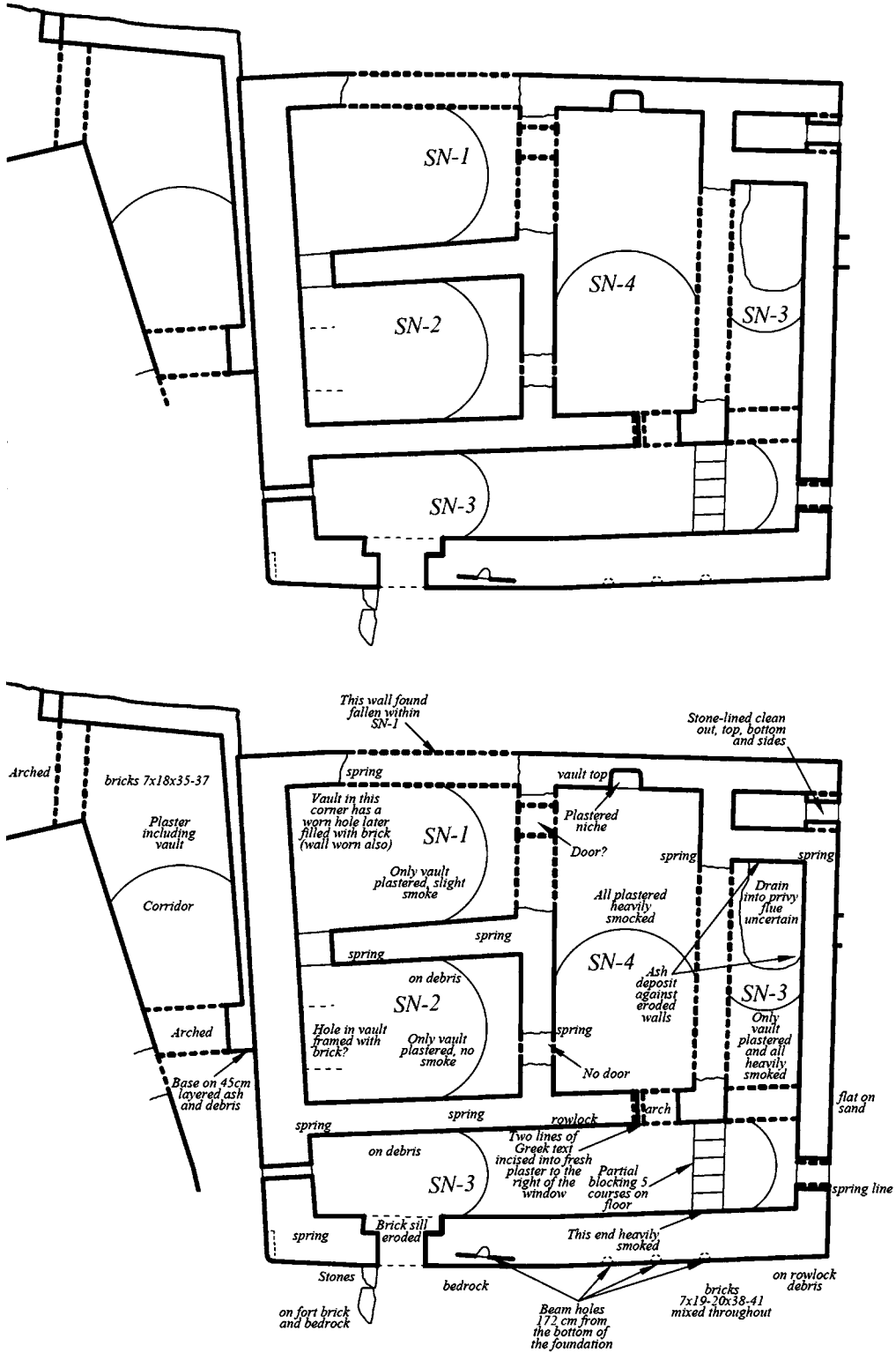


Figure 8. Ground plan of house SN inside the north wall of Medieval Cerre Matto (extracted from the base plan by Nadejda Reshetnikova)

from falling over. They are somewhere between a fully formal planned architecture and the work of a village builder. Other structures, booths and workshops, were much more casual, and could be quite complicated, being built and rebuilt. Sometimes the builders used stones, sometimes bricks and mixes of brick, brickbats, and mud, as now done for animal pens. They were located away from the houses by a space, in the lower part of the old fort. Here, there were kilns and ovens, and deposits of ash (figs. 9 and 4). Not only baking, but probably slaughtering and cooking took place here.

A high point in this year's activity was a study trip to the Oriental Institute by Dr. Alexandros Tsakos of Bergen (Norway). In addition to his knowledge of languages and epigraphy, he came bearing an unexpected gift. In the days before even very reliable copy machines, it was a practice to transfer records to remote scholars for study, with the assumption that they would sooner or later return; in the field some even made private notes that offer new knowledge. Often, these lay unseen after a while, left in the huge piles of pages and files kept by most academics. It happened that Dr. Tsakos has been curating the papers of Prof. Richard Pierce at the University of Bergen, who worked at Serra East in 1963-64 and was primary supervisor for Dorginarti in 1964 for most of the excavation. When corresponding with Dr. Tsakos about his visit, I mentioned some records we did not have, especially Polaroid views

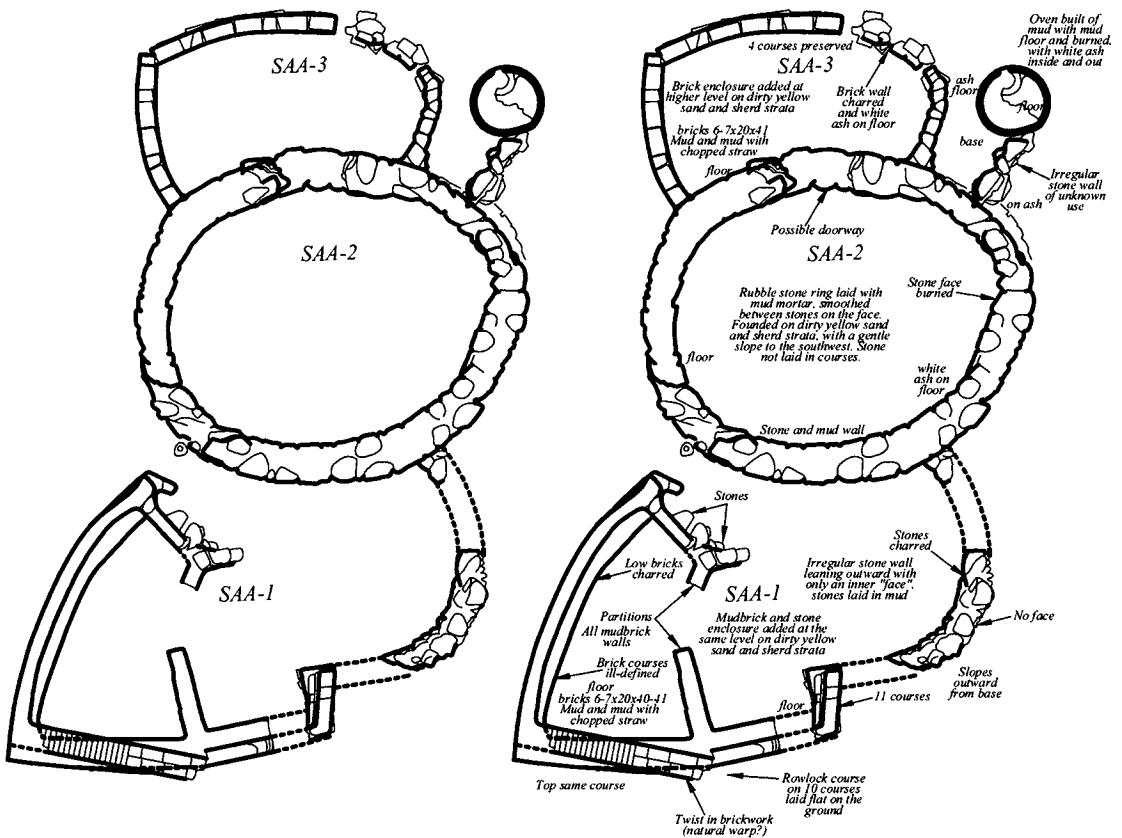


Figure 9. Ground plan of complex SAA in the lower town. Built in several stages, it was used for baking and probably cooking (extracted from the base plan by Nadejda Reshetnikova)

## ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION

for which there were no other records. He went through the papers and found not only the photos, but other papers and diaries which will be valuable for both Serra East and Dorginarti, and he brought them home to the Oriental Institute.

### **Cerre Matto, Serra East Epigraphy.** *Alexandros Tsakos*

During my stay in Chicago between the 15th and the 28th of June, I managed with the help of Bruce Williams to confirm the identification of the inscribed objects found at Serra East, to improve or to correct object descriptions and text readings by inspecting the original, and to gain priceless insights by intense discussions about the way the textual finds can be contextualized against the archaeological record and the overall understanding of the site's medieval history.

As highlights from my stay, I wish to mention the progress made with the reading of monumental epigraphy (partly thanks to autoptic examination, see fig. 10, and partly thanks to new help offered by Miller Prosser who returned for a moment to his old occupation of photographing Oriental Institute objects with polynomial texture mapping); the apprehension of the role of magic texts/texts of ritual power in the form of Christian cult practiced at Cerre Matto; and the launching of an investigation of the meaning behind non-letter carvings on the surfaces of pots (our material covers ceramic finds ranging from simple body sherds to qadus knobs, fig. 11).



Figure 10. Two fragments of a stela from different parts of Serra Town (OIM E19567 and E19832). They were found to join during Alexandros Tsakos' visit (photos: Austin Kramer)



Figure 11. Qadus knob (from the bottom of jar attached to a saqiya or water-wheel) incised with a pentagram and crosses or X's within a circle. Many knobs have magical symbols, but the purpose remains unknown (OIM E32611)

## Cerre Matto, Material Culture. *Bruce Williams*

The medieval town did not end with a catastrophe, which would have left much in the way of property under the rubble of violence, but was deserted, after being systematically emptied of its valuables, except some left underground. Most were groups of pots, but one, the Old Nubian Serra East Codex, was verification that some highly important texts from this period in Berlin and London originated at Serra East (see *News & Notes* 214, p. 9). Our remains are mostly fragments of pottery. The material is quite rich, however, and its variation will be reflected in a publication that will systematically use color photographs in its presentation, even when depicting thumbnail samples of decoration. This has proved appropriate in the study of glazed ceramics, where broad brush strokes and varied glazes make drawing alone an inadequate approach to conveying reality. We have here an advantage of a site that existed for a limited time, a number of whose buildings have foundation deposits of diagnostic pottery (fig. 12). These may be connected by chains of reasoning to two documents connected to Serra East including the stela of Eparch and Nauarch Philoxenos in the Oriental Institute Museum (AD 1025) that are clearly dated in the first half of the eleventh century AD. Other deposits were made in the houses at a much later date (fig. 13).



Figure 12. Bowl from a foundation deposit below the corner of a house. A drawing was published in the *Oriental Institute 2012-2013 Annual Report* (OIM E24776; photo: Bruce Williams)



Figure 13. Fine painted jar from a deposit made below the floor of a house (OIM E24649, on display in the Oriental Institute). It was found with several other vessels including a glazed jug now in Khartoum with an exact parallel found at Fustat in Egypt and now in the Oriental Institute (see *News & Notes* 219, p. 8, figs. 1-2) (photo: Austin Kramer)



## Beads from Nubia and Quseir. *Joanna Then-Obluska*

The project established in 2012 (Then-Obluska 2012) aims to restudy and color catalog the vast bead collection from OINE excavations and has generated some results for publication. The first volume will publish almost 360 numbered bead and pendant objects from Early Nubian, Middle Nubian, and New Kingdom sites. The Early Nubian part includes beads from A-Group (Qustul, Adindan, Serra East) (fig. 14) and post A-Group sites (Serra East). C-Group sites (Adindan, Serra East), including P-Type (Serra East) (fig. 15) and N-Type (Serra East), and in addition to Pan-Grave (Qustul, Serra East) (fig. 16) provide the Middle Nubian collection. Although some Middle Nubian graves are contemporary with the New Kingdom period, well defined Egyptian New Kingdom tombs are treated separately (Qustul, Adindan, Serra East) (fig. 17).

Although a subsequent volume providing the beads and pendants of the Napatan, Meroitic, post-Meroitic, Christian, Islamic, and modern date is under construction, some results have already contributed in comparative bead studies for assemblages from the Red Sea and the Nile Valley sites (Then-Obluska in press a, b; forthcoming a, b). Among other, the Indo-Pacific glass beads coming from Nobadian and Blemmyan graves (fig. 18) were presented during the 13th International Conference for Nubian Studies in Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and during the Seventh International Conference on the Peoples of the Red Sea Region and Their Environment in Naples-Procida, Italy (Then-Obluska forthcoming c, d).

The restudy of Quseir glass beads from the OIM collection provided the first laboratory confirmed evidence of broad overseas contacts of the Red Sea ports in both Early Roman and Late Ayyubid/Mamluk periods of occupation (Then-Obluska and Dussubieux forthcoming). The results inspired a new project that looks for trade contacts of Meroitic and post-Meroitic Nubia. It uses macroscopic and chemical compositional analysis of glass beads from Nubian collections in Europe and Sudan. The ongoing project has been granted by the NSC, Poland (UMO-2013/09/D/HS3/04508). Similar work is planned to be proposed for glass beads which will be published in the second volume of the OINE assemblages.

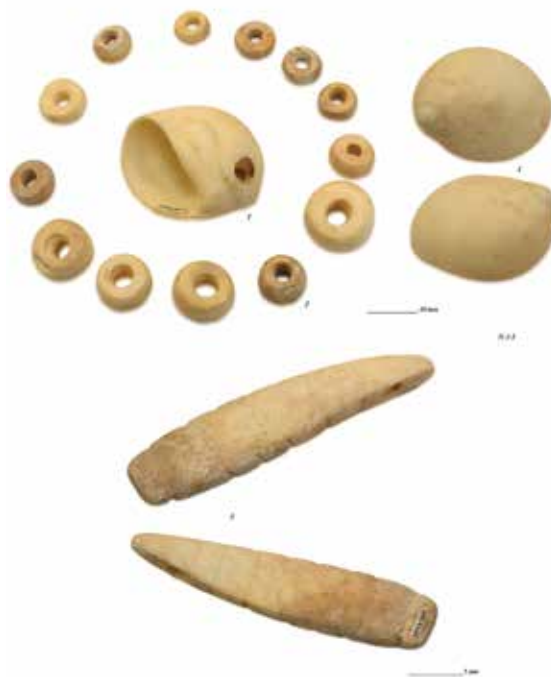


Figure 14. The Red Sea mollusk shell beads and pendants (cat. no. 11) from A-Group Qustul grave L 17 (OIM E23718) (photos: Joanna Then-Obluska)

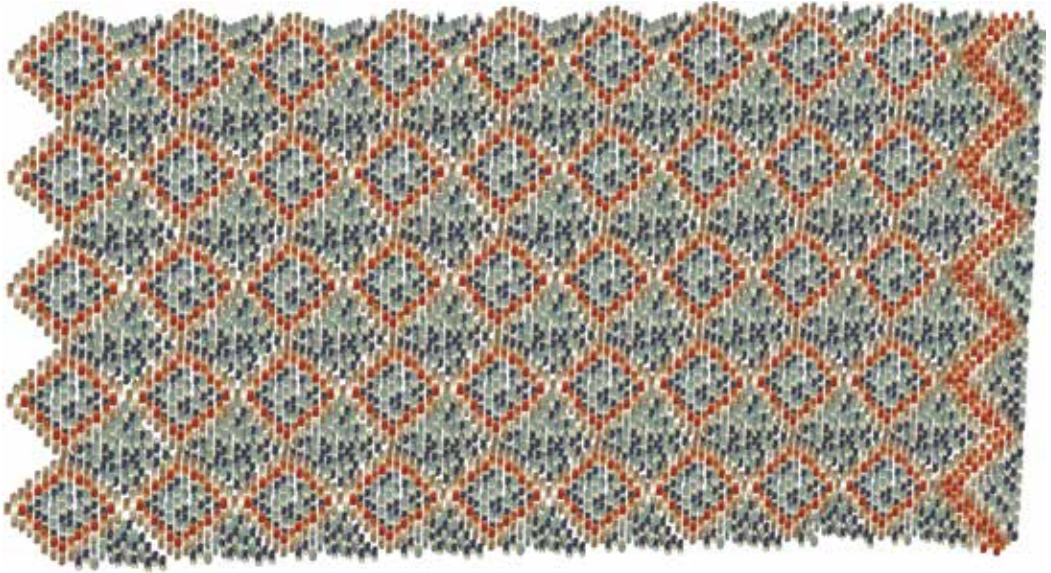


Figure 15. Reconstruction of faience, carnelian, and ostrich eggshell bead pattern of a leather kilt (cat. no. 259) based on a drawing given in the excavation sheet of Serra East grave B 73 (OIM E19582A-G) (photos and processing: Joanna Then-Obłuska)



Figure 16. Wristlet (cat. no. 273) and *Conus* sp. pendants (cat. no. 274) from Pan-Grave burial K 95 at Adindan (OIM E23911B, C) (photos: Joanna. Then-Obłuska)

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Figure 17. Necklace (cat. no. 315) from New Kingdom grave R 45 at Qustul (OIM E21310) (photos: Joanna Then-Obluska)



Figure 18. Indo-Pacific drawn and rounded glass beads from Qustul grave Q 41; original stringing fragments (OIM E20058) (photo: Joanna Then-Obluska)

## Note

<sup>1</sup> "The Solemn Moans," in *Morning in Serra Mattu, a Nubian Ode*, by Arif Gamal, pp. 136–37 (San Francisco: McSweeney's, 2014).

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forthcoming c "Short and Long Distance Contacts of the Late Antique Nubia: A View through the Bead Hole." In *Proceedings of the 13th International Conference for Nubian Studies, University of Neuchâtel, Monday 1st to Saturday 6th of September 2014*, edited by M. Honegger.

forthcoming d "Bead Trade in the Roman Ports: A View from the Red Sea Port Marsa Nakari." In *The Red Sea and the Gulf: Two Alternative Maritime Routes in the Development of Global Economy, from the Late Prehistory to Modern Times* (proceedings of the Seventh International Conference on the Peoples of the Red Sea Region and Their Environment, 26–30 May, Naples – Procida), edited by A. Manzo and C. Zazzaro.

Then-Obluska, Joanna, and L. Dussubieux

forthcoming *Glass Bead Trade in the Early Roman and Mamluk Quseir Ports: A View According to the Oriental Institute Museum Assemblage*, *Archaeological Research in Asia*

## PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

Matthew W. Stolper

As we await the result of the plaintiffs' appeal against the summary judgment handed down in March 2014 in the lawsuit over possession of the Fortification tablets (*Oriental Institute 2013–2014 Annual Report*, p. 136), the PFA Project continues to make and display new images, new editions, and new catalog entries, but also begins to review and correct accumulated results.

As last year's *Annual Report* mentioned, a grant from the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute enabled graduate students Christina Chandler (Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology, Bryn Mawr) and Erin Daly (Classics, University of Chicago) to continue their work with Project editor Mark Garrison (Trinity University) on recording seals on the Fortification tablets. They recorded the seals impressed on the last ca. 550 PF-NN tablets, documents with Elamite texts that the late Richard Hallock recorded and that Wouter Henkelman (*École Pratique des Hautes Études*, Paris) is editing for authoritative publication under the auspices of the PFA Project. In addition, they identified the seals on ca. 150 Elamite Fortification tablets now in Tehran, drawing on photographs made in the 1940s (by a project sponsored by the New Deal's Works Progress Administration) to supplement published information (Arfaee 2008). Chandler, Daly, and Garrison identified ca. 230 new seals, for a total of more than 700 new distinct, analytically legible seals found only on these tablets. To look at these numbers in another way, not only do the texts on the PF-NN tablets roughly double the corpus of Elamite administrative records, and not only do they yield, as expected, much information that overlaps with information from published texts, but the associated seals also mark a roughly 50 percent increase in the number of individuals and offices whose activity is recorded by this enlarged corpus (fig. 1).

By the end of summer 2014, Chandler and Daly finished collated drawings of twenty of the new seals. Collated drawings of the balance are the first priority of their work during summer 2015, made possible by a second grant from the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute.

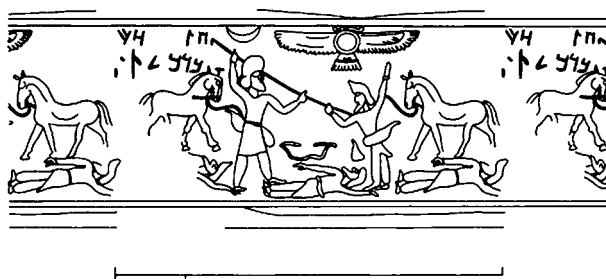


Figure 1. PFS 2899\*, the seal of Arsames (Elamite *Iršama*), son of Artystone (Elamite *Irtašduna*), the "favorite wife" of Darius (Herodotus 7.69.2), identified on PF-NN 0958 and Fort. 0965–201 (see *Oriental Institute 2012–2013 Annual Report*, pp. 105f., and *Garrison 2014a*, p. 499)

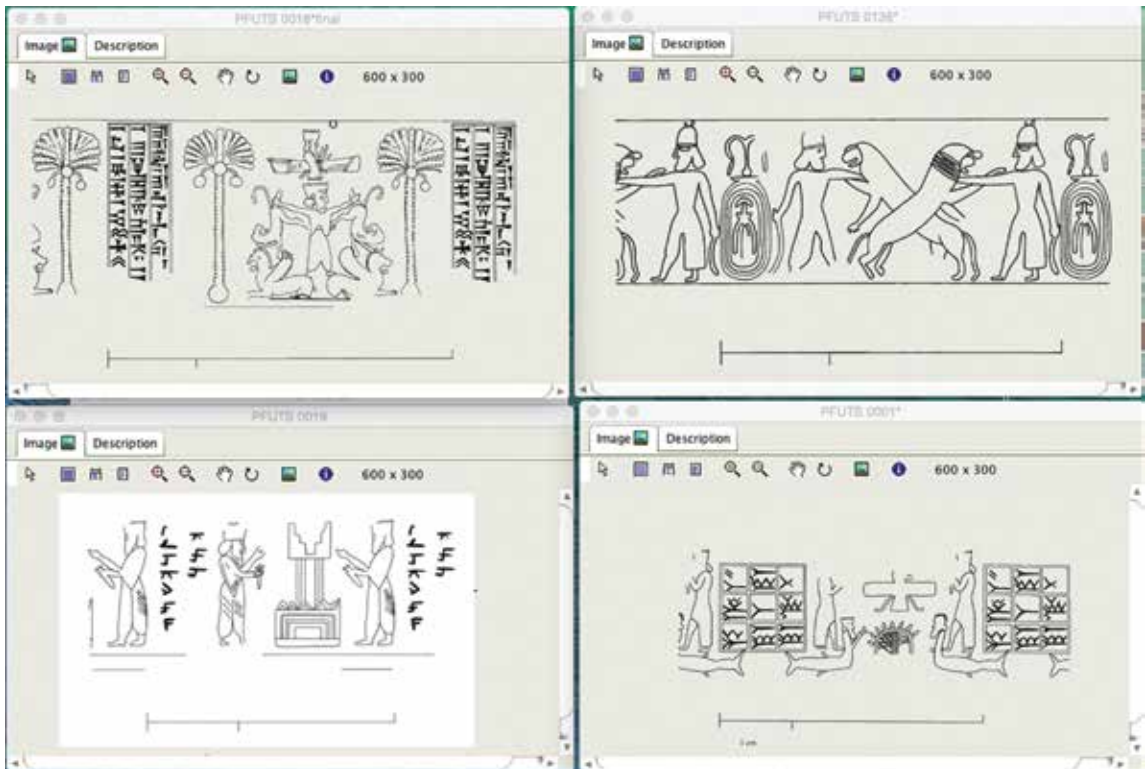


Figure 2. Selection of seals impressed on uninscribed Persepolis Fortification tablets. Above left PFUTS 0018\*, with trilingual inscription naming King Darius (see Garrison 2014b, pp. 75f.); below left, PFUTS 0019\*, worship scene with Aramaic inscription (Garrison 2015, pp. 205–07); above right, PFUTS 0136\*, with Egyptian hieroglyphic cartouche of Pharaoh Amasis (Garrison and Ritner 2010, pp. 28–33); below right, PFUTS 0001\* (= PFS 3035\*), with pseudo-cuneiform inscription (Garrison 2008, pp. 158f., 173ff.; Garrison n.d.)

Their second immediate priority is to resume cataloging seals on ca. 3,500 uninscribed Fortification tablets, a corpus that promises a still greater enlargement of the field of view that the Archive opens, not only on Achaemenid imagery, but also on Achaemenid administration (fig. 2).

PFA Project editor Elspeth Dusinberre (University of Colorado) completed final drawings of about 540 of the 591 legible seals on the monolingual Aramaic tablets, and student worker Emily Wilson (Classics) finished recording measurements and seal-usage patterns for about 520 of them (fig. 3).

All of this information is now public via the Online Cultural and Historical Research Environment (OCHRE).

In addition to his ongoing recollection of the Elamite PF-NN texts, Project editor Henkelman also collated the texts in Tehran (published in Arfaee 2008), leading to recognition of new interconnections among these documents and the rest of the PFA Elamite corpus.

Project editor Annalisa Azzoni (Vanderbilt University) reviewed and updated readings on more than 250 Aramaic epigraphs on Elamite Fortification documents and 120 monolingual Aramaic Fortification documents, leading to final readings of about 80 more of these terse, difficult texts (fig. 4).

## PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

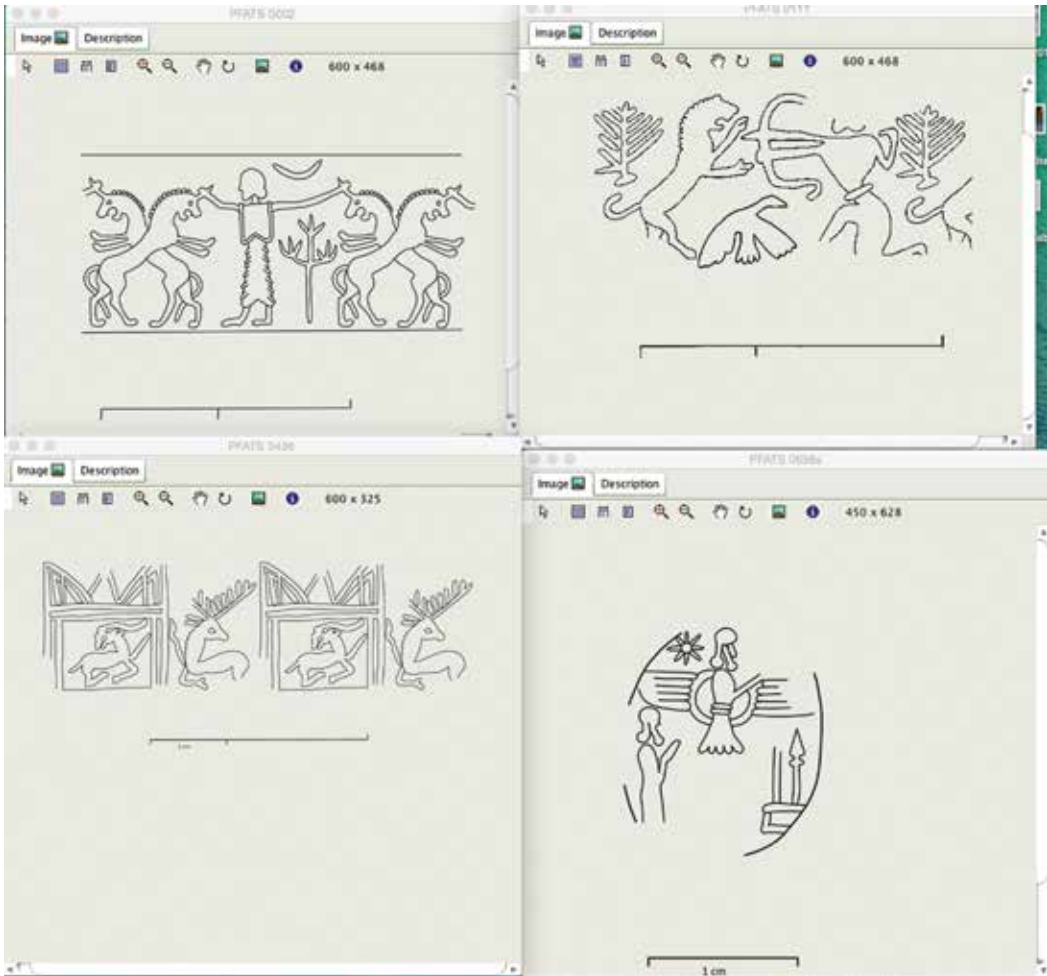


Figure 3. Selection of seals impressed on Persepolis Fortification tablets with monolingual Aramaic texts. Above left PFATS 0002 (Azzoni and Dusinberre 2014, pp. 2ff.); below left PFATS 0436 (Garrison 2015, pp. 299f.); above right, PFATS 0111 (Azzoni and Dusinberre 2014, fig. 1.6); below right PFATS 0656s (Garrison n.d.)

I recorded first-draft editions of Elamite texts on about 75 Fortification tablets and fragments and entered them in OCHRE, for a running total of about 1,525 draft editions of previously undocumented Elamite texts (Fort.), increasing the known corpus by more than 30 percent (fig. 5).

With reduced funding and continuing staff turnover, image capture and processing continued at reduced rates. Student workers Ami Huang (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations) and Theo Kassebaum (Anthropology) made conventional digital images of about 185 more Elamite documents, including 33 from the Persepolis Treasury Archive in the Oriental Institute collections (fig. 6).

Student workers Edward Fernandez (Center for Middle Eastern Studies) and Adam Bierstedt (Medieval Studies) made about 1,200 Polynomial Texture Mapping (PTM) sets to record about 275 more objects, most of them sealed, unscribed Fortification tablets; they also made about 550 high-resolution scans to record about 25 items with Aramaic texts. Student work-

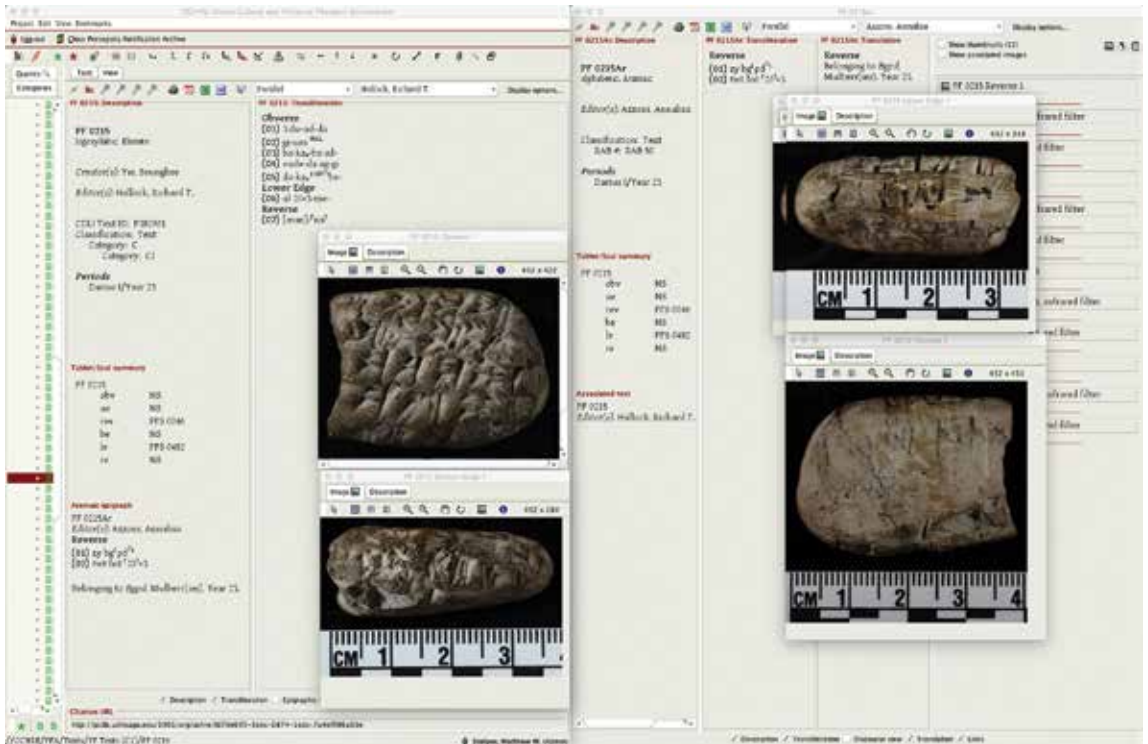


Figure 4. PF 0215, Elamite text and Aramaic epigraph (Azzoni and Stolper 2015, pp. 9ff.)

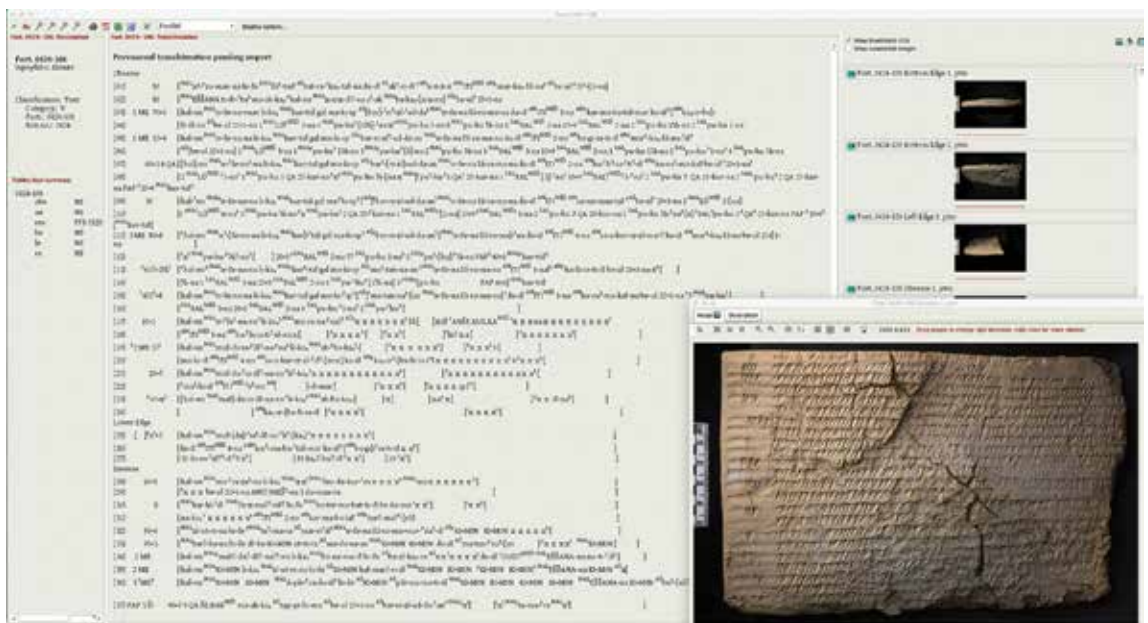


Figure 5. Fort. 0424-106, first draft edition and PTM image of obverse



## PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT



Figure 6. Theo Kassebaum photographs Elamite tablets

ers Aimee Genova (History), Robert Marinneau (NELC), and Timothy Clark (Classics) processed about 1,200 PTM sets to produce dynamic images of about 140 objects (fig. 7). At the University of Southern California, our partners at the InscriptiFact Project (Marilyn Melzian, Leta Hunt, and student worker Claire Shriver) processed another 330 PTM sets, representing 40 more objects.

John Nielsen (PhD, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, now on the faculty of history at Bradley University) and Teagan Wolter (Center for Middle Eastern Studies) processed draft editions of about 140 previously unedited Elamite Fortification texts for import and display in the Online Cultural and Historical Research Environment (fig. 8). Dennis Campbell (PhD, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, now on the

faculty of history at San Francisco State University) entered editions of another 30 texts and reviewed and revised the entries in the OCHRE click-through Elamite glossary, highlighting the urgent need to update the English glosses and the associated bibliography. An aid to that update will be a new tool made available by OCHRE Data Services (ODS) specialist Miller Prosser and ODS director Sandra Schloen, allowing OCHRE to link to items in Zotero bibliographies. To facilitate collation and revision of text editions, Prosser and Schloen also added tools for importing content from Word documents to OCHRE notes, and for exporting processed texts from OCHRE to Word documents.



Figure 7. Edward Fernandez (left) and Timothy Clark (right) process high-resolution images of Persepolis Fortification tablets



Figure 8. Teagan Wolter imports editions of new Elamite texts into OCHRE

OCHRE includes records (catalog, seal information, and/or editions) of about 11,300 tablets and fragments (including about 7,100 Elamite documents, about 860 Aramaic documents, and about 3,200 sealed, uninscribed tablets) and about 3,300 analytically legible seals represented by impressions on the tablets. OCHRE also includes images (including about 82,000 conventional images, 27,000 high-resolution scans and 23,000 dynamic PTM images) of about 10,500 tablets and fragments, and final drawings of more than 2,000 of the seals reconstructed from collations of multiple impressions. The Elamite glossary of more than 4,150 lemmas (including more than 2,100 proper names) and the Aramaic glossary of more than 180 lemmas include morpheme-level parsing of each attested form, counts of each form, and click-

through to views of texts where the glossed form appears. More than 12,000 seal impressions are identified with cataloged seals, linked in turn to the thematic typology described in last year's report, searchable by Project personnel though not yet public (fig. 9).

Figure 9. PFS 2707\*, newly identified from an impression on PF-NN 1554: thematic typology and final drawing

## PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

Thoughtful users of this material will quickly recognize that much of it, compiled under emergency priorities, is in rough draft form, with attendant errors and glitches (incorrectly labeled tablet surfaces, inconsistently represented transliterations, redundant notes, and so on). This is the price of the Project's commitment to making its records available quickly and continuously, in the expectation of later publication of fully corrected and edited versions. Priorities for the coming years include collation and correction of these lapses.

Conservator Simona Cristanetti treated 55 more Fortification tablets. Cristanetti, along with OI conservators Laura D'Alessandro and Alison Whyte, developed a protocol for portable X-ray fluorescence (pXRF) scanning of Fortification tablets. Scans of a first sample of 28 Fortification tablets were analyzed by Lee Drake, senior application scientist at Bruker Elemental. This first analysis, blind to the contents of the tablets, distinguished two main sorts of clay fabric, encouraging the prospects of distinguishing tablets made at Persepolis from those made in the regions around Persepolis. One of the large tablets (of a type from the late stage of information processing, believed to be made at Persepolis), was mapped, that is, analyzed at intervals across the surface, confirming largely consistent composition of the clay across the width of the tablet, which in turn encourages the expectation that spot-scanning of such large tablets will not produce sampling errors. Whether the PFA Project will be able to characterize a significant number of Fortification tablets in this way will depend on the eventual arrangements made for the expected return of the Fortification tablets to Iran.

Notable among PFA-related public lectures and papers at academic meetings delivered by Project members during the last year were Henkelman's talks on the PFA and funerary sacrifices at the Shiraz University of the Arts and on Achaemenid royal women (highlighting new information found by connecting texts in Chicago with texts in Tehran) at National Museum of Iran; Tytus Mikołajczak's paper at the *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* in Warsaw, on the correlations of seals and contents in accounting documents in the Archive; and my presentation on language and writing at Persepolis to a conference at the University of Chicago Center in Beijing and the Department of History at Fudan University in Shanghai, in connection with the Neubauer Collegium's "Signs of Writing" project organized by colleagues Christopher Woods and Edward Shaughnessy.

With eleven new postings during the last year, the Project weblog (<http://persepolis-tablets.blogspot.com>) maintained by Charles E. Jones (Pennsylvania State University) includes 234 entries, viewed by more than 4,300 unique visitors. Hockey fans among them could take special satisfaction from the posting about the return of the Stanley Cup to Chicago, recalling that legendary Chicago Blackhawks star Bobby Hull was the brother-in-law of the father of the Persepolis Fortification Archive, Richard T. Hallock. The newsfeed associated with the blog has 80 email subscribers, and the growing PFA Project presence on Facebook has 965 members, up about 50 percent in the last year.

Notable among fifteen PFA-related articles published or submitted during the last year are Garrison's "Beyond Auramazdā and the Winged Symbol: Imagery of the Divine and Numinous at Persepolis," and Henkelman's "Humban and Auramazdā: Royal Gods in a Persian Landscape," both in the proceedings (co-edited by Henkelman) of the conference on Achaemenid Persian religion mentioned in last year's *Annual Report*; "Fragments from Old Kandahar and Afghanistan," by Michael Fisher and me ([http://www.achemenet.com/document/ARTA\\_2015.001-Fisher-Stolper.pdf](http://www.achemenet.com/document/ARTA_2015.001-Fisher-Stolper.pdf)), on a discovery also mentioned in last year's *Annual Report*; "The Aramaic Epigraph *ns(y)h* on Elamite Persepolis Fortification Documents," by Azzoni and me ([http://www.achemenet.com/ARTA\\_2015.004-Azzoni-Stolper.pdf](http://www.achemenet.com/ARTA_2015.004-Azzoni-Stolper.pdf)), and

my “‘His Own Death’ in Bisotun and Persepolis” ([http://www.achemenet.com/document/ARTA\\_2015.002-Stolper.pdf](http://www.achemenet.com/document/ARTA_2015.002-Stolper.pdf)). In about 50 books and articles published or in press to date, amounting to more 2,000 printed pages, Project personnel have included full editions of about 50 previously unavailable Elamite and Aramaic Fortification texts and fully illustrated discussions of about 115 seals impressed on Fortification tablets.

If the summary judgment of March 2014 is upheld on appeal, the Oriental Institute expects cultural heritage authorities in Iran to call for the repatriation of all the tablets with all deliberate speed. The logistics will be complex. As last year’s report stressed, a corollary process will be to correct and consolidate Project data, the contents that will accompany the objects. In the meantime, a timely and generous new grant from the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute will support student workers in continuing efforts to make and process images of the tablets, and to edit, display, and correct editorial information, building the record that will sustain ongoing revelations of the Achaemenid world.

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# Structures of Power: Law and Gender across the Ancient Near East and Beyond

Ilan Peled

Ilan arrived at the Oriental Institute in September 2014 as a Postdoctoral Fellow, with the main goal to organize the eleventh annual Oriental Institute postdoctoral seminar. Titled “Structures of Power: Law and Gender across the Ancient Near East and Beyond,” the seminar was held in March 6–7, 2015. It was meant to contribute new dimensions to the study of gender relations and law in the ancient world as a whole, and particularly in the ancient Near East. It thus hosted a varied group of experts who discussed the ancient Near Eastern cultures of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Hatti, the classical world of Greece and Rome, ancient China, Zoroastrianism, and the monotheistic religions of Judaism and Islam. Four main themes were addressed by the conference participants: “Formal Law and Informal Custom,” “Law, Religion and Cult,” “Law, Administration and Economy,” and “Family, Kin Relations and Marriage.” In the broader sense, the issue of cross-cultural parallels and particularities stood at the center of the discussion. What was common to all cultures examined? What was unique to each of them? These questions, as well as many others, were addressed by the conference participants, in establishing a broad conversation of law and gender in the ancient world. All this will be reflected in the published conference volume, as, since March 2015, Ilan has been editing the conference proceedings, to appear as Oriental Institute Seminars 12 in 2016. About half the papers have been submitted thus far, and the rest are due July 2015.

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## TELL EDFU

Nadine Moeller and Gregory Marouard

### The 2014 Season

After having had to cancel the 2013 season due to the political situation in Egypt, the excavations at Tell Edfu, directed by Nadine Moeller and Gregory Marouard, were able to continue during October–November 2014. The main research objectives for this campaign were closely related to investigating the origins of the town of Edfu in order to better understand its development during the third millennium BCE and the possible relationship with the other two major towns in the region, Hierakonpolis and Elkab, which are situated about 30 kilometers north of Edfu. The team consisted of Natasha Ayers (ceramics), Kathryn Bandy (hieratic ostraca and small finds), Rose Campbell (anthropology), Julia Gorecka (pottery assistant), Brendan Hainline (blockyard), Clara Jeuthe (lithics), Valerie Le Provost (pottery), Kate Lockhart (pottery assistant), Oren Siegel (archaeology), and Jonathan Winnerman (blockyard).

Previously, the work conducted in 2010 and 2011 at the Edfu South pyramid situated close to the village of El-Ghoneameya provided a first indication for a possible existence of the town of Edfu already during the late Third Dynasty–early Fourth Dynasty (ca. 2637–2589 BCE; see *News & Notes* 213 for further details). This season the fieldwork concentrated mainly in two areas, Zone 2 with Old Kingdom settlement remains, which is located to the west of the Ptolemaic temple, and Zone 3, which is situated along the northern side of Tell Edfu (fig. 1). It was possible to complete the excavation and recording of the settlement remains along the northern town walls in Zone 3, which can be dated from the end of the Old Kingdom until the early Middle Kingdom (ca. 2200–2000 BCE). Several test trenches were dug next to the town walls in order to investigate their foundations and any underlying settlement remains down to the geological strata and bedrock. In addition, much effort was put into the study and organization of the inscribed stone blocks in the recently constructed blockyard area. The analysis of lithics, ostraca, and three human skeletons discovered during the 2012 season, all of which are currently stored in the magazine at Elkab, was continued as well.

### Zone 2: The Old Kingdom Settlement Remains

Zone 2 has been cleaned in previous years from several meters of *sebakh*<sup>1</sup> debris and old excavation spoils, which covered much of this zone. In 2012 it became possible to start excavations in the northern half of Zone 2, which led to the discovery of three successive town walls and a large building of which only the entrance area has been preserved (see the Tell Edfu report in the *Oriental Institute 2012–2013 Annual Report*). The whole zone has suffered much by *sebakh* diggers more than 100 years ago, but luckily enough of the ancient remains are still preserved to make the investigation of the Old Kingdom settlement remains worthwhile. This is especially important since only few settlements of the early Old Kingdom (Elkab, Hierakonpolis, and Elephantine) are known in the south of Egypt while the majority of information for this time period comes from the Memphite region.

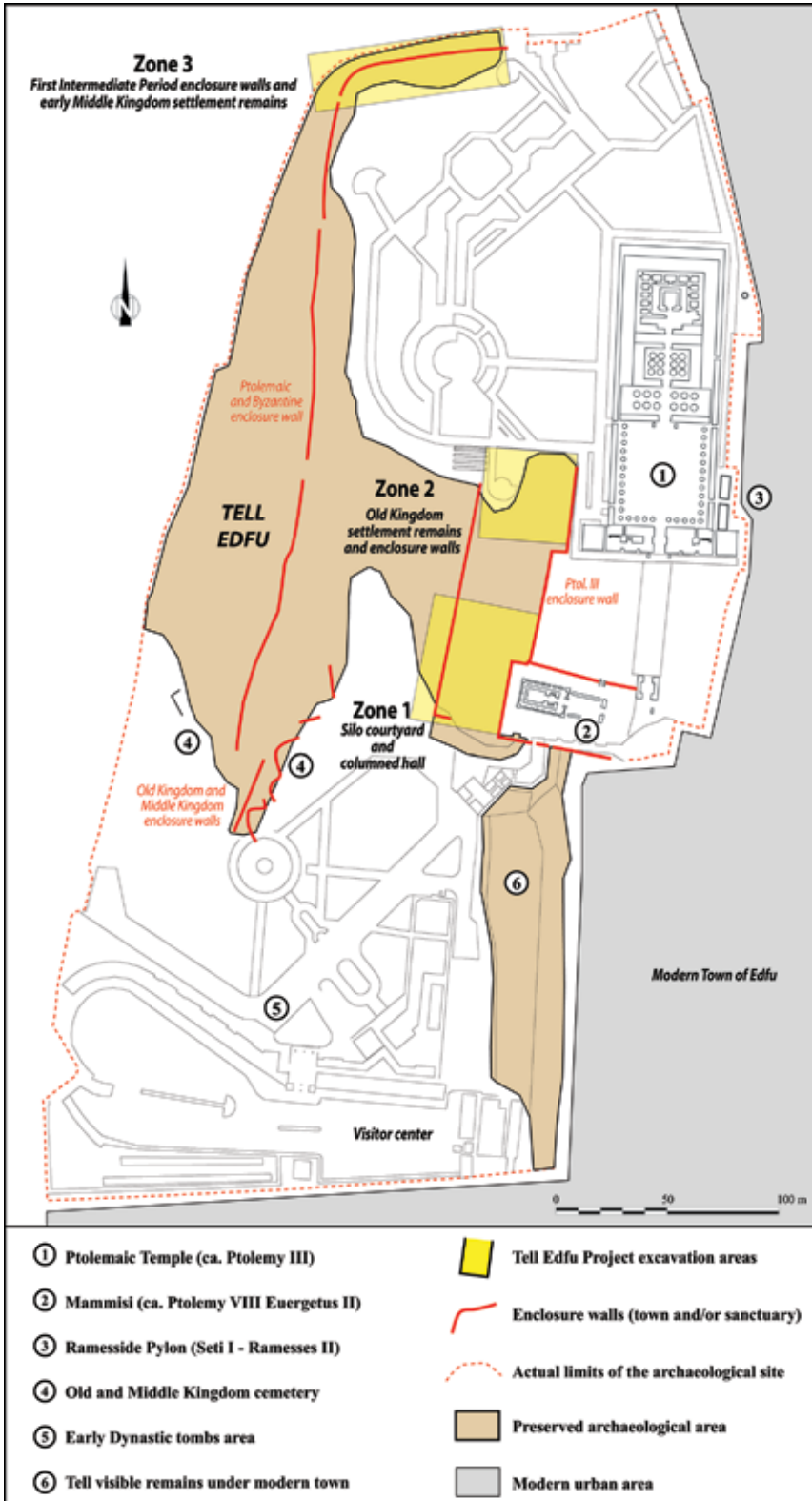


Figure 1. General plan of Tell Edfu showing the various excavation zones



*Figure 2. Aerial view of ongoing excavations in Zone 2*



*Figure 3. View of Zone 2 and the tell in the background taken from the roof of the Ptolemaic temple*



## TELL EDFU

At the beginning of the season, several small round and oval silos were cleared of interior fill. These silos belong to the last preserved phase of occupation in this area and were severely affected by the extraction of soil for fertilizer (fig. 4). The silos are small (diameters between 1.2 and 2.8 m) and were most likely intended for domestic food storage. They had originally been built underground, below the corresponding floor levels, and seem to be part of a domestic settlement quarter that took over this zone after the earlier town walls had fallen out of use and the ground was leveled for new installations during the Sixth Dynasty.

This preparation of the ground involved the dismantlement of older wall systems, and the leveling operations can be witnessed by a thick layer of mudbrick demolition fill covering much of the surface in this area. The small silos contained different kinds of settlement debris, in some cases a lot of ash and mixed pottery fragments (fig. 5). No traces of the original material stored in them has been found and it is evident that they were filled in by old settlement trash when they fell out of use at the end of the Old Kingdom. According to a preliminary analysis of the ceramics found in these fill layers, it is relatively homogeneous and suggests the relatively rapid dumping of material to fill up the by then unused silos. The irregular shapes of these silos is quite noticeable, ranging from the better-known round examples with a small circular opening on top that would have corresponded to the height of the ground level from which these storage installations could be filled and emptied, to more unusual oval shapes. The latter are probably the result of the underlying wall systems these silos were built into, and which restricted the available space underground.



*Figure 4. Old Kingdom enclosure walls and silos in Zone 2*

This season saw also the continuation of the excavation and cleaning of the three phases of Old Kingdom enclosure walls in this area, first discovered in 2012 (see *News & Notes* 220, pp. 5–7). This season a particular focus was the excavation beneath the foundations of these enclosure walls and the older underlying settlement remains. These levels were reached in several deep trenches dug along the northern part in Zone 2 (figs. 6 and 7). It was possible to find out that even the oldest enclosure

walls were not built on previously unsettled ground as originally expected but are in fact covering older mudbrick walls. Most of those are rather thin, in several cases only one brick thick (ca. 15 cm; fig. 6) and the pottery fragments recovered from the associated floor levels can be dated to the late Fourth Dynasty according to a preliminary analysis. Among the discovered objects were several limestone fragments that were once part of seated and standing male figures.



*Figure 5. Profile view through one of the silos showing the dense fill of ash deposits*



*Figure 6. Ahmed excavating wall remains underneath the enclosure walls*



Figure 7. Three phases of Old Kingdom enclosure walls in Zone 2

Excavations also continued at the large building complex, of which the entrance area with a fully preserved wooden lintel and door we discovered in situ during the 2012 season (see *News & Notes* 220, p. 7, fig. 5). The extremely thick mudbrick walls (more than 2 m wide) of this complex suggest that this was some kind of official or cultic building, certainly not one of a simple domestic character.

Unfortunately, most of this complex was destroyed by *sebakh* diggers a long time ago and therefore only the door and entrance room have been found intact. The entrance room or vestibule has two doorways in addition to the main entrance on the eastern side, one leading to the north and one providing further access to the west. A small test trench was dug into this entrance room in order to find the corresponding floor level, which appeared in a depth of about 2 meters below the preserved lintel of the main doorway (fig. 8). A layer of natural sand has been found underneath this floor, revealing only scant traces of settlement activity before the foundation of the building.

The finds from excavating through various trash layers of different phases of settlement debris filling the vestibule once it had fallen out of use included many beer jars, bread-molds, and fineware vessels, specifically red polished, carinated bowls, which are also known as “Meidum bowls” after their first discovery at the site of Meidum in the Memphite region. The shapes are typical for the second half of the Fifth Dynasty according to the preliminary analysis of the assemblage. The building should therefore be slightly older than that and was probably constructed some time during to the first half of the Fifth Dynasty (ca. 2490–2440 BCE); a detailed ceramic study in the near future will verify this hypothesis. The entrance area also revealed some traces for low-level metallurgy, which happened probably during the final stage of occupation. These traces included fragments of crucibles and small pieces of copper and copper slag. These finds in addition to the architectural features such as the



Figure 8. Occupation level and doorways of the entrance room, large building complex



Figure 9. Old Kingdom enclosure walls along western side of Zone 2



Figure 10. Greg using the kite for aerial photos

very thick walls and the presence of a small vestibule are good evidence for the official nature of this building.

Along the western limits of Zone 2, several large enclosure walls dating to the Old Kingdom can be seen in the almost vertical cuts through the tell that were created by quarrying activity with the aim to extract fertile soil for agriculture (fig. 9). They are preserved much higher here than farther to the east. We dug a deep trench below these walls down to the natural sand and bedrock formations in order to find out more about the stratigraphy of human occupation and the foundation level of these enclosures in addition to investigating the geological substrata free of any signs for settlement activity. The enclosures were not built into any significantly deep foundation trenches but seem to have been constructed almost directly on top of the natural sand deposited

by former alluvial processes. Very few pottery sherds were recovered in a couple of layers (less than 20 cm thick) with few traces of human activity (ceramic fragments, small pieces of charcoal). At a depth of about 1.5 meters, the natural bedrock was reached. Deeply eroded lines in the rock were created by strong water currents, indicating that at some point the Nile River flowed here. However, it is currently not possible to determine the exact time line of this activity since no traces for any settlement were observed at this low level.

This is also the first season that we engaged in aerial photography using a kite (fig. 10). It turned out to be extremely useful for taking larger site photos of the various excavations areas (see, for example, fig. 2).

### **Zone 3: Fieldwork along the Interior of the Northern Town Walls**

Most of this settlement area (Zone 3), which is located along the northern limits of the tell, has been excavated in 2012 (fig. 1). Several phases of storage installations and buildings dating to the early Middle Kingdom had been constructed against the interior of these town walls (see the Tell Edfu report in *Oriental Institute 2012–2013 Annual Report* for details). This season we were able to complete the missing profile drawings in addition to the excavation of three test trenches directly against the interior face of each of the three enclosure wall phases in order to investigate the foundation techniques and underlying layers that predate those enclosures. This work is part of the larger research program of studying the long-term evolution and architectural features of the existing town walls in order to determine how the ancient town developed over time and gradually expanded northward (fig. 1). In addition, the geomorphological characteristics of the site and changes in the river floodplain are also being investigated.

The first trench was dug along the interior of the oldest town wall at a place where it curves from a north–south direction toward the east. This test trench revealed the first mudbrick structures that were constructed in this area, some of which lean against the interior face of the enclosure wall, which also helped to clarify the precise time of its construction (fig. 11). The pottery from the lowest occupation levels detected in this test trench dates to the end of the Old Kingdom and indicates that the first town wall here was built at the very end of the Old Kingdom (Sixth Dynasty) or beginning of the First Intermediate Period (ca. 2160 BCE) on



*Figure 11. First deep trench in Zone 3 showing foundations of enclosure wall and underlying bedrock formation*

previously unsettled ground. This confirms that Zone 3 is part of a major expansion of the ancient town of Edfu to the northeast during the end of the third millennium BCE. A detailed study of all the ceramic material from this area is currently being completed by Valerie Le Provost (Institut français d'archéologie orientale, IFAO). The test trench also revealed the presence of several geological layers of sand and clay, which cover the natural sandstone bedrock formation that is very characteristic for Tell Edfu. Interestingly, no signs for any water erosion on the bedrock were noticeable in contrast to the results of the deep trench in Zone 2 described above.

The second trench in Zone 3 was excavated along the current eastern limits of the town walls where it has been possible to investigate the foundations of the first, second, and third wall phases. A second enclosure was built against the exterior of the first wall increasing its width to a total of about 4 meters. Some time during the early Middle Kingdom a third wall was constructed leaning against the exterior face of the second wall addition, which led to a total thickness of about 6 meters. The second test trench shows that the foundations of the first wall phase were built about 90–100 centimeters higher than in the first test trench located about 50 meters to the west. This is probably related to the thickness of the geological sand deposits overlying the natural bedrock, which increase toward the east. This second addition as well as the final Middle Kingdom wall were constructed approximately on the same elevation higher up. The natural sand and bedrock were also attained in this trench; they are almost identical to those seen in the first test trench; there were no signs of water erosion but the sand deposits are much thicker.

The third test trench was excavated along the interior of the first town wall at a point where two large wall segments form a straight line, visible in the brick layout (fig. 12). We were again able to record the layers of occupation leaning against this wall, the depth of its foundations, and the geological layers underneath it.

The three test trenches in Zone 3 have not only provided a complete ceramic sequence from well-stratified archaeological layers dating back to the foundations of the various town walls, they have also revealed the characteristics of geological formations pre-dating human activity. These factors reinforce Tell Edfu's significance as a site that is important for the study of site formation processes and environmental change. In terms of settlement development, it is now clear that the first enclosure wall to the north of the Old Kingdom town center was founded in a previously unsettled area and therefore it can be considered a major enlargement in this direction. It is also evident that this new wall enclosed a part of the town that had developed previously *extra muros*.



Figure 12. Oren drawing a profile in the second trench of Zone 3

## Study of the Ceramic Assemblages from the Excavations

During the whole season the analysis of pottery from Zones 1, 2 and 3 was continued by Natasha Ayers and Valerie Le Provost with the help of Kate Lockhart and Julia Gorecka, who were in charge of preparing the drawings of the selected material (figs. 13 and 14). Several large storage jars and *zirs* (water jars) were reconstructed from the sherds, which was our only conservation work this season. Natasha focused her analysis on the ceramics excavated during the previous seasons in the silo area (Zone 1), which is part of her dissertation research. This concerned especially the pottery from the various fill layers of the silos dating to the late Seventeenth and early Eighteenth Dynasties.

Valerie mainly worked on the ceramic assemblages excavated in Zone 3, which contains the complete pottery sequence from the late Old Kingdom up to the early Middle Kingdom. She was also able to study the pottery of the three test trenches excavated this season. With the results from the ceramic analysis in addition to the archaeological recording it is now possible to date the foundations of the first town wall in Zone 3 along the northern side of the tell to the very end of the Old Kingdom, confirming the previously published hypothesis that the town had expanded considerably at the end of the third millennium BCE, a development paralleled at other towns in Upper Egypt such as Elephantine and Dendera. Multiple samples of the pottery were sent to the laboratory of the French Institute in Cairo for further analysis.



Figure 13. Kate drawing pottery



Figure 14. Ceramic analysis and recording in progress under tents on site

## Work in the Blockyard Area

Jonathan Winnerman and Brendan Hainline continued to copy the inscriptions and to add all the relevant information into our project database using iPads. With the help of Gregory Marouard they also organized the blocks and placed them on the platforms that had been constructed in 2012 (fig. 14). The largest blocks, which could not be placed on the platforms because of their weight and size, were moved to the northern end of the blockyard, where they are newly organized as well as protected from groundwater (figs. 15 and 16). Some cleaning of the blocks was also carried out. A large amount of hand copies were made with a special focus on a group of inscribed and decorated blocks belonging to a small late Ptolemaic/early



*Figure 15. The Edfu blockyard area with the platforms at the end of the season*



*Figure 16. The Egyptian team moving a large granite statue piece*





Figure 17. Brendan recording an inscription on one of the blocks



Figure 18. Inspectors working in the blockyard for training

Roman sanctuary (fig. 17). Furthermore, the work at the blockyard involved the training of several inspectors from the local Edfu inspectorate (fig. 18).

### Study of Objects in the Elkab Magazine

For two weeks, the study of various unregistered and registered objects was carried out at the Elkab magazine. Rose Campbell (UCLA) studied three human skeletons that had been found in 2012 in one of the Zone 3 silos without any traces for a proper burial (fig. 19). The preliminary results indicate that these three individuals were female. So far there is no specific information that could be obtained about the exact cause of death. This analysis will continue next year.

Kathryn Bandy was able to take the final photographs and check some additional details of the hieratic ostraca that were excavated in previous seasons in the silo area (Zone 1) for her dissertation research. Clara Jeuthe completed the recording and study of the lithic material excavated in Zones 1 and 3. She also prepared a number of samples that were sent to the French Institute in Cairo for further analysis and to be added to a larger database on the flint sources of Egypt.



Figure 19. Rose analyzing one of the human skeletons in the Elkab magazine

### Acknowledgments

In the name of the directors and all the members of the Edfu mission, we would like

to sincerely thank the representatives of the Ministry of Antiquities and Heritage, especially Hani Abu el-Asm, Director of Foreign Missions, and the members of the Edfu inspectorate, foremost Chief Inspector Susi Samir Labib, for their support and collaboration. A big thank-you also goes to our two inspectors, Zanaa Ramadan Mohamed Khalifa and Heidi Fathi Abu Zeid, who were very helpful and supportive throughout the season. We would also like to thank ARCE, especially Amira Khattab and Jane Smythe, for all their help with the administrative side of things such as the preparation and submission of the paperwork to the Ministry. We owe a special thank-you to all our supporters, notably the Oriental Institute and numerous members, foremost Andrea Dudek for her continuous enthusiasm and interest including the generous gift of a new Leica total station to the Tell Edfu project (fig. 20). Nicole Williams and Larry Becker generously supported the new accommodations for the Tell Edfu team, which made a big difference for everybody's comfort and well-being. With Nicole and Larry's help, we were able to live in a small country hotel situated on the edge of a village about half an hour north of Edfu (figs. 21–23). Last but not least we would like to thank Ray Johnson and the team of the Epigraphic Survey for their advice in relation to the ongoing epigraphy training at the Edfu blockyard in addition to offering us the possibility to store a large amount of equipment in Chicago House, which in the absence of an excavation house at Edfu is of immense help.



Figure 20. Nadine using the new total station donated to the Tell Edfu project by Andrea Dudek

### Note

<sup>1</sup> The Arabic term *sebakh* is used for the rich soil quarried off abandoned tell sites in Egypt at the turn of last century, which was used as fertilizer for agriculture. The desired soil from ancient sites was usually cleaned from any non-organic materials such as stones and pottery, which were often left in thick heaps at the ancient settlement sites.

TELL EDFU



Figure 21. The inner courtyard of our new accommodations



Figure 22. Students working on their computers after returning from the field



Figure 23. The Tell Edfu team, including our hosts Mohamed and Ulrike, at the end of the season

# WRITING IN EARLY MESOPOTAMIA

Christopher Woods and Massimo Maiocchi

## Introduction

At the root of the Writing in Early Mesopotamia project is a database that endeavors to analyze the development of the cuneiform writing system and its relation to speech. The database provides extended search capabilities, at both word and sign levels, which enables users to search for the presence or absence of grammatical morphemes and their distribution in relation to other morphological elements. The database also facilitates the analysis of the frequency and distribution of textual variants in the epigraphical record through time and space. The database is housed on a FileMaker platform and is manipulated with a series of Perl scripts.

During the last year, the database has been further expanded in terms of both text encoding and additional features. The core of the database remains the encoding of the compositions known as the “Decade.” These are ten literary texts that were copied as part of elementary scribal curriculum. On account of this, each composition is typically known from numerous exemplars, each usually providing interesting variants in terms of linguistic analysis. In addition, the database features the composition known as the Instructions of Shuruppak, which offers a substantial array of diachronic variants, from both the third and the second millennia BC. As of September 2015, we finished the complete encoding of the composition Shulgi A, which is now searchable in terms of its morphographemic features, matrixes (see below), and sign distribution (statistics on the frequency of logograms, syllabograms, and determinatives). Two other compositions, namely Gilgamesh and Huwawa A and the above-mentioned Instructions of Shuruppak, are presently being finalized. In its actual state, the database is articulated in several sections, all designed to achieve a better understanding of the strategies adopted by ancient scribes to write down the Sumerian language. Specifically, the database has the following structure: 1) a catalog of all texts (including links where applicable to CDLI, i.e., the largest online repository of cuneiform texts); 2) a transliteration table (cumulative table of all texts in the database); 3) a composite transliteration layout (providing transliterations arranged by compositions); 4) an encoding layout; 5) a search layout; 6) matrixes (used to provide a view at a glance of the variants; see below); 6) a table of signs; 7) a graphemic list (used to display what readings are attached to the individual signs with what frequency); 8) a phonographical variation layout (based on lexical texts, meant to spot variations in phonemes, such as m/n or b/g); 9) a syllabographical variation layout (again based on lexical texts, meant to spot variations in syllabic clusters, for instance a CVC sign, where C = consonant, V = vowel, alternating with a CV-VC sequence). When taken together, the various sections provide great flexibility and diverse access to data, thus promoting research from different complementary perspectives.

## Migration to FileMaker Server

During this year, we finalized the migration to the new FileMaker Server platform. The software is now running on a dedicated server hosted at the Oriental Institute. Despite some minor bugs, the new platform has proved to be solid. Most importantly, the database can now accommodate multiple users simultaneously altering records belonging to a given table. This feature has solved the issue of coordinating access for multiple users encoding or adding data within the database. In addition, the database now features different levels of administrative privileges, in order to better deal with different levels of access, from guest access to administrator. The beta version of the database, including a selection of compositions, is expected to be freely available online in the near future.

## Color Encoding

In order to increase readability, a system of color encoding was implemented (see fig. 1). Accordingly, strings of text belonging to the composite of the individual compositions are marked in orange. In addition, variant lines are now marked with a yellow background. These small improvements vastly facilitate the navigation within the composite view of the manuscripts. Minor bugs in the calculation field used to automatically apply the color coding have been fixed.

Line	Text	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5	Field 6	Field 7
1	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
2	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
3	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
4	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
5	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
6	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
7	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
8	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
9	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
10	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
11	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
12	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
13	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
14	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
15	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
16	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
17	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
18	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
19	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
20	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
21	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
22	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
23	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
24	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
25	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
26	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
27	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
28	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
29	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
30	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
31	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
32	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
33	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
34	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
35	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
36	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
37	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
38	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
39	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
40	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
41	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
42	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
43	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
44	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
45	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
46	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
47	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
48	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
49	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
50	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
51	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
52	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
53	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
54	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
55	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
56	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
57	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
58	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
59	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
60	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
61	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
62	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
63	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
64	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
65	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l
66	am-ki-ku2	muqad	l	l	l	l	l	l

Figure 1. Composite view of the composition *Gilgamesh and Huwawa A*, with color encoding

## Matrixes

The term matrix is used here to refer to a conventional way of representing score transliterations of a given composition in a compact way (see fig. 2). The power of this type of data visualization lies in the fact that the users can achieve an understanding at a glance of the complex variation schemes within the individual compositions. This feature complements the data that the users can extract from the database by means of advanced textual research, at the level of words, or at the level of encoding – or both. Whereas regular queries imply

an interactive exploration of data, producing a list of results that involves active analysis, matrixes are predominantly passive in nature, in the sense that they are meant to be quickly scrolled in order to spot interesting variation patterns. However, users can also perform quick searches on matrixes, to jump to a given segment of special interest. As for the specific encoding used in matrixes, we relied on the conventions introduced by M. Civil to represent variant signs or sequences of signs. Morphographemic writings are especially interesting for the scope of this project, as they may shed some light on both the language and the conventions used by ancient scribes to represent it. These can be easily spotted by simply scrolling through the text, and maintaining the context in which they occur. As of September 2015, the scores of the compositions known as Shulgi A, Gilgamesh and Huwawa A, as well as of the Instructions of Shuruppak are available in the database.

	W01002	W01003	W01004	W01005	W01006	W01007	W01008	W01009
30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Figure 2. Matrix view of the composition Gilgamesh and Huwawa A, with color encoding

## Encoding of Signs by Relative Typology

The encoding of the Instructions of Shuruppak by the relative typology of signs is currently in progress. When finished, it will provide a minimal contrastive dataset to evaluate the distribution of logograms and syllabograms in compositions, such as Shulgi A, the encoding of which is otherwise complete (see fig. 3). We maintained the conventions introduced last year, namely we distinguish six broad categories of signs: 1) signs that stand for words (logograms); 2) signs that stand for syllables (syllabograms); 3) signs that are not meant to be read, but provide semantic information (determinatives); 4) signs standing for personal names, or part of personal names (this category is motivated by the fact that personal names tend to show peculiar features that are otherwise missing in spelling); 5) unclear (when a sign is physically present on a tablet, but its reading is difficult); 6) unknown (used for broken signs). The purpose of encoding texts according to the relative typology of signs is to detect patterns in the overall use of logography within different compositions or textual corpora, thus improving our understanding of how this structural feature of the writing system evolved through time and space.

## WRITING IN EARLY MESOPOTAMIA

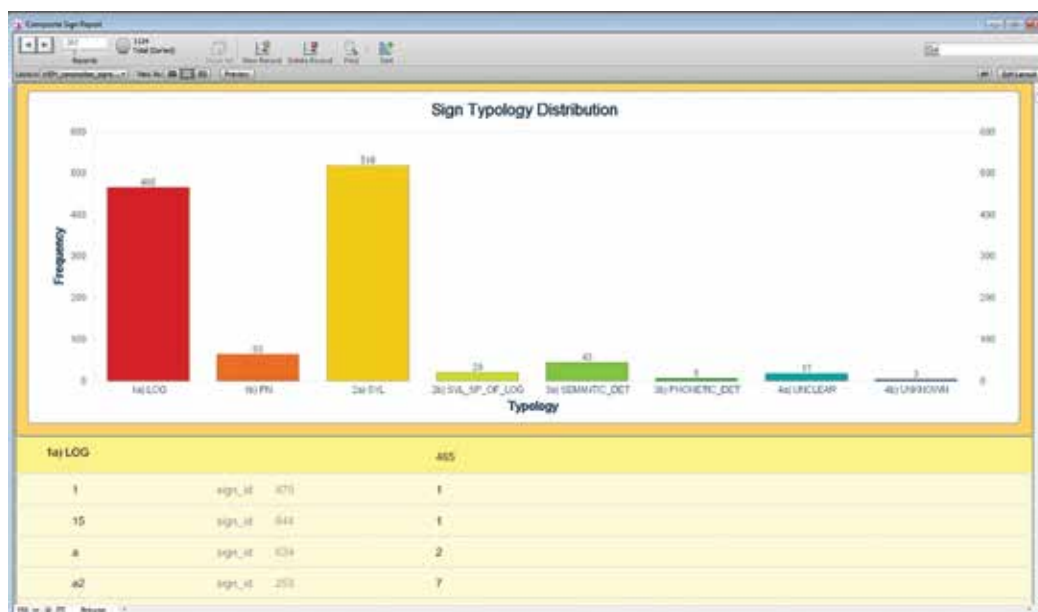


Figure 3. Chart showing the distribution of logograms and syllabograms in the composition *Shulgi A*

## New Texts

As the publication of new cuneiform texts continues apace, each year brings new exemplars of the compositions to be included in our database. This year we added nine new exemplars (including fragments) to our database. One of the new texts, belonging to the composition *Gilgamesh and Huwawa A*, is particularly interesting for the history of the composition, as well as for the reconstruction of the composite. The latter is either based on the most commonly attested variant, or on the variant that is expected on the basis of our understanding of the underlying grammar. The addition of new texts to the database may fill critical lacunae in a given composition, lead to the reconsideration of difficult passages, or may attest important new variants. In this way, the database may serve as an up-to-date, online score of all the textual witnesses for a given composition.

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*Overleaf: Illuminated Gospel of evangelist Matthew written in Arabic with illustration of evangelist painted against a gold background facing the opening page of gospel. Ink, gold, and colors on paper with bindings. Ottoman, 1600s. Egypt or Syria. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Hans von Marwitz, 1960. 11.0 × 7.0 × 2.5 cm. OIM A31403 (photo D. 027334: Anna Ressman)*

## Richard H. Beal

**Richard H. Beal** spent his time updating, reference checking, and copy editing articles for the fourth fascicle of the Š volume and the beginning of the T volume of the Hittite Dictionary. He has also been transliterating into Roman script Hittite text fragments from the cuneiform of the hand copies produced by our German colleagues, then checking to see if anyone has worked on the fragment, and finally producing a Dictionary card to be duplicated and filed by our student assistants. He has also begun revising the entries in the L volume (published in 1979) for inclusion on the e-CHD. This means looking for newly found or newly published references, new studies on the works we have already cited, adding new or differently understood meanings, adding dates to texts not previously dated, and rearranging the articles in accordance with the way we did things in later volumes.

This year saw the publication of a review of Johan de Roos' "Hittite Votive Texts" in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 73. These are a record of vows made to deities by Hittite royalty, often in the course of a dream. They are recorded so that should the deity fulfill his/her promise, the human will not fail to give the deity what the human had promised the deity. These include requests for such things as military success, or the curing of an illness, or the extinguishing of a conflagration. Most curious is a vow made by the queen when in a dream she was cornered at the bathhouse by some young toughs and wished to escape. Also appearing at long last was "Hittite Reluctance to Go to War," which concerns Hittite attempts to avoid war through diplomatic means. This was a paper read at the 52nd Rencontre Assyriologique in Münster in 2006, the proceedings of which have now come out as volume 401 in the series *Alter Orient und Altes Testament*. This year also saw the death of Beal's Doktorvater, Oriental Institute professor of Hittitology and co-founder of the Hittite Dictionary, Harry A. Hoffner, Jr., healthy, vigorous, and productive until suddenly cut down at a still youthful eighty. Beal has written an obituary, which will appear in the next issue of *Archiv für Orientforschung*. He also wrote "Disabilities from Head to Foot in Hittite Civilization" for a volume on disabilities in antiquity, edited by Christien Laes, to be published by Routledge. Finally, his years of reference checking and proofreading came to fruition when his wife and OI/NELC alumna JoAnn Scurlock's massive *Sourcebook for Ancient Mesopotamian Medicine* appeared as number 36 in the series *Writings from the Ancient World* by the Society for Biblical Literature. This contains transliterations and translations of all types of Mesopotamian diagnostic and therapeutic texts.

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## Robert D. Biggs

**Robert Biggs** completed two articles, one for a Festschrift for his Oriental Institute colleague, McGuire Gibson, and the other for a volume honoring Nicholas Postgate, with whom he worked on the British excavations at Abu Šalabikh in 1976. He spent considerable time in

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

the winter months fulfilling his responsibilities as co-editor of the series *Die babylonisch-assyrische Medizin in Texten und Untersuchungen*.

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## Fred M. Donner

**Fred M. Donner** spent the academic year 2014–2015 on sabbatical, in the wonderfully supportive setting of the Stanford Humanities Center at Stanford University, where he was appointed Marta Sutton Weeks Fellow for the year. After five years as director of the University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, it was a delight to be able to return full-time to reading, research, and writing — the pace of new publications in every field, including early Islamic history and Qur'anic studies, seems to quicken each year, and he had some serious catching up to do in recent literature on these subjects. It was also great to be part of a vibrant group of about thirty Fellows, from Stanford and other institutions, who formed an intellectually stimulating and highly collegial cohort.

During the year Donner continued work on an Arabic papyrus in the Oriental Institute collection — E17861 — which he believes may be the earliest Arabic letter known. He arranged with Laura D'Alessandro of the OI Conservation department to have the document subjected to a second radiocarbon (C14) dating, at a different lab, since the results of a first test (made last year) appeared to be implausible; but the radiocarbon dating of papyri is, it is said, notoriously tricky. He is hoping for C14 confirmation of a date in the first half of the seventh century CE, which is the date-range to which all indications in the text seem to point. Donner gave public lectures on this document and its implications for early Islamic history at the University of Oregon (Feb. 20), and Carelton College (Feb. 27).

Donner also prepared two papers on the Qur'an, for presentation at conferences. The first, entitled "The Peoples of the Book and the Qur'an," was read at the annual meeting of the International Qur'anic Studies Association, held in conjunction with the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, California, in November. The second, "Islam, Muslimūn, und Dīn im Qur'ān," was presented as the keynote lecture at a conference on "Kritische Koranhermeneutik: Günter Lüling in Memoriam," held at the Friedrich-Alexander Universität in Erlangen, Germany, in June. Donner studied at the University of Erlangen many years ago (1970–1971) and at that time took classes with Günter Lüling, the author of numerous highly controversial works on the Qur'an, who passed away last summer (September 2014).

The proceedings of a conference organized several years ago by Donner and his colleague Antoine Borrut of the University of Maryland on "Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians in the Umayyad State" is now finally nearing publication. Donner and Borrut spent considerable time this year editing the various contributions and suggesting revisions to their authors. The completed manuscript is now on the verge of submission to the Oriental Institute, where it will form the initial volume in a new OI series, the Late Antique and Medieval Islamic Near East (LAMINE). Donner and Borrut have been busily soliciting further manuscripts (not a few from Chicago colleagues and recent graduates) to identify further volumes for the series.



Although on leave of absence, the usual duties associated with life in an active teaching department (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations) continued to need attention, and Donner wrote his usual long list of recommendations and saw five students on whose committees he served defend their dissertations (one a student not at Chicago, but at the

University of Texas, another at INALCO (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales) in Paris. He also did an external tenure/promotion review for the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and manuscript reviews for various publishers of six book manuscripts or proposals dealing with early Islamic history — also in line with the normal burden of such requests.

A year's leave at Stanford was great, but Donner is looking forward to being back in Chicago full time in 2015–2016, and to be working more actively with students again.

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## François Gaudard

During the past academic year, **François Gaudard** started a new project focusing on the publication of several Oriental Institute Museum funerary shrouds from the Graeco-Roman period. These shrouds were originally offered to the Haskell Oriental Museum of the University of Chicago by the Egypt Exploration Fund on November 15, 1898, together with 654 miscellaneous Egyptian objects from Flinders Petrie's excavations at Dendera, during the winter of 1897/1898. After having been stored in a drawer for decades, these shrouds will now come back to light and help illuminate the richness and variety of the Oriental Institute collection. According to a letter from Flinders Petrie to James Henry Breasted dated July 29, 1898, they were selected specifically for their inscriptions. What makes them distinctive is that they exhibit some good examples of cryptographic writings, also called sportive writings, characteristic of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. On this subject, Gaudard was pleased to make a noteworthy contribution to the study of Ptolemaic hieroglyphs. Indeed, his discoveries of the new sound value *imn* for the sign , and of the use of the group  as the phonogram *tyw*, have now been added to the newly published volume by Dieter Kurth, *Einführung ins Ptolemäische: Eine Grammatik mit Zeichenliste und Übungsstücken*, Teil 3: *Nachträge und Wörterlisten* (Hützel: Backe-Verlag, 2015), p. 20, note to page 323, no. 71, and p. 27, note to page 417, no. 29, where he refers to Gaudard's publication of funerary shroud OIM E4788 (= E42046) as the unique source of these two readings. For these readings, see François Gaudard, "Fragment of a Funerary Shroud (OIM E42046)," in *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond*, edited by Christopher Woods, with Emily Teeter and Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Publications 32 (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2010), pp. 176–77, no. 86; and François Gaudard, "Individual Research," in *The Oriental Institute 2010–2011 Annual Report*, edited by Gil Stein (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2011), pp. 142–43. Both were previously unrecorded in standard publications such as François Dumas et al., *Valeurs phonétiques des signes hiéroglyphiques d'époque gréco-romaine*, 4 volumes (Montpellier: Université de Montpellier, 1988–1995).

Moreover, Gaudard continued his work as a co-editor of the Mummy Label Database (MLD) (see separate report) and of the Death on the Nile Project, identifying and publishing more mummy labels from various collections worldwide.

On behalf of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD), he also held talks with Professor Frédéric Colin from the Université de Strasbourg, in order to initiate an exchange of high-resolution digital photographs of Demotic documents, which will be profitable to both institutions.

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

From August 31 to September 4, 2014, Gaudard attended the 12th International Congress for Demotic Studies, which took place in Würzburg, Germany, where he chaired the session *Ägypten im internationalen Kontext*.

On January 8, 2015, as a longtime collaborator of Professor Janet H. Johnson on the Chicago Demotic Dictionary, Gaudard was invited to deliver a speech in her honor to mark the announcement of her Festschrift, entitled *Essays for the Library of Seshat: Studies Presented to Janet H. Johnson on the Occasion of Her 70th Birthday*.

He also continued to serve as an editorial consultant for Egyptology articles published in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and the *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities*.

Three of Gaudard's articles have been published or submitted this past year:

- "A Demotic-Hieratic Mummy Label in the Museu de Montserrat." In *Mélanges offerts à Ola el-Aguizy*, edited by Fayza Haikal, pp. 159–68. Bibliothèque d'Étude 164. Cairo: Institut français d'archéologie orientale, 2015.
- "The Camel as a Sethian Creature." In *Essays for the Library of Seshat: Studies Presented to Janet H. Johnson on the Occasion of Her 70th Birthday*, edited by Robert K. Ritner, pp. 39–51. *Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization* 70. Chicago: The Oriental Institute (in press).
- "On a Disputed Aspect of the God Seth," to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (forthcoming).

In addition, Gaudard spent part of the year revising his dissertation for publication, and he has been working on the following articles:

- "Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago," to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (in preparation).
- "A Greek-Demotic Mummy Label," for another Festschrift (in preparation).

Gaudard also furthered his research on several of his long-term publication projects mentioned in earlier *Annual Reports*.

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## McGuire Gibson

The news coming out of Iraq, Syria, and Yemen has been devastating to anyone who has invested time, effort, and funding in exposing the cultural heritage of these countries. Having excavated in all three countries, **McGuire Gibson** has a personal stake in trying to prevent or at least to gauge the destruction that we see on TV and the Internet. Knowing the great effort that Iraqis have expended on very good restorations of the Nimrud palace and Hatra, as well as the installation of the Mosul Museum, and knowing personally the Iraqi staff who oversaw that work, it is especially distressing to see it being destroyed. Gibson acts as an advisor to two groups in the U.S. who are recording the destruction that can be seen on satellite images. Several of his former students are engaged on these projects. During the year, he took part in meetings on the use of satellite imagery for such projects at the University of Arkansas and in Washington D.C. He also participated in a conference on Iraqi heritage at the University of Maryland. He has occasionally appeared on TV and given radio interviews

about the destruction of sites, but the interest has not been as intense as it was in 1991 and 2003, when the U.S. was more directly involved on the ground in Iraq.

The entire field of archaeology was saddened by the news of the death of Tony Wilkinson, who carried out innovative research and teaching at the Oriental Institute for a decade before returning to Britain. Wilkinson and Gibson conducted projects together in Yemen and Syria. In early January, Gibson represented the Oriental Institute at the memorial service for Wilkinson in Durham, England.

In terms of publication, Gibson continued to work with Karen Wilson, Richard Zettler, and Jean Evans to get the Nippur Inanna Temple manuscript submitted to the OI editorial office. He is also once again working on other Nippur publication backlog, having now finished the basic work on two publications that he has been editing for Iraqi colleagues for several years now. Muzahim Hussein's *Assyrian Queens' Tombs at Nimrud* is undergoing final polishing in the OI editorial office and should be out later this year. The combined reports of Salah Rmeidh and Hussein Ali Hamza on two sites they dug in the Diyala region as long ago as 1979 are now in a state that they can be submitted for publication to the OI editorial office. As with the Queen's Tombs, these reports were translated by Mark Altaweel, a former student who now teaches at University College London. Gibson edited and added commentary to all these reports. The importance of the two Diyala reports is that one is on Tell Asmar, ancient Eshnunna, which was one of the premier sites dug by the OI in the 1930s. The other site, Tell Muqdadiyah, is fairly close to Eshnunna and was under its rule. The two sites, then, complement the Institute's own work and add important evidence on the Diyala region.

Gibson spent a lot of time this past year on search committees. The Oriental Institute went through the second year of an exhaustive search to hire three Assyriologists and a new search for an Anatolian archaeologist, and he served on both those committees. This entailed reading a lot of articles and books, listening to public presentations, and attending hours of committee meetings. Happily, the searches resulted in four hires.

Gibson continues to represent the University of Chicago on the boards of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS) and The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII). AIYS was forced to withdraw its American resident director from Sana'a more than a year ago, but the institute still functions under a Yemeni replacement. The headquarters, located in an older renovated building with a newly constructed annex in traditional Yemeni style, is still intact, but with the Saudis bombing the city of Sana'a, there is no telling whether or not it will escape untouched. TAARII has still not established a base in Baghdad, so there is no danger to a structure there.

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## Petra M. Goedegebuure

**Petra M. Goedegebuure's** monograph *The Hittite Demonstratives: Studies in Deixis, Topics and Focus* (Studien zu den Boghazköy-Texten 55; Harrassowitz, 610 pp.) was published in September 2014. She has now resumed working on her second book, with the preliminary title *The Anatolian Core Cases* (to be published in the Languages of the Ancient Near East series of Eisenbrauns). Compared to the dimensional cases (expressing position, goal, and origin), which all have been treated in monographs, the core cases have received surprisingly little attention, whether from a traditional or linguistic point of view. Petra's new project will fill

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this gap in the linguistic description of not only Hittite but of all Indo-European Anatolian languages. One of the chapters deals with split-ergativity. The presence of split-ergativity in the Anatolian languages is currently one of the most debated topics of Anatolian syntax. The question is whether certain Hittite morphemes are genuine ergative case endings or markers of personification or individualization. What the proponents of each option have not fully taken into account is the chronological distribution of the relevant forms. Using a chronologically ordered corpus, Petra shows how the Hittite ergatives developed out of individualization markers. As a result, Hittite can no longer be used to reconstruct ergativity for Proto-Anatolian and certainly not for Proto-Indo-European. She has presented the results “The Rise of Split-Ergativity in Hittite” at several venues, including at the 225th annual meeting of the American Oriental Society (New Orleans).

Another area of Petra’s research is Luwian, a sister language of Hittite. Together with Vincent van Exel, she is revising an article that analyzes how the vesicularity of basalt influences the spatial distribution of Hieroglyphic Luwian signs. Sometimes the scribe avoided vesicular areas, but this has not been recognized in the text editions. Petra and Vincent are now proposing new readings for several Hieroglyphic Luwian texts (“The Medium Matters: The Impact of Basalt Quality on Writing (and Reading) Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscriptions,” accepted after revision for publication in the journal *Anatolian Studies*). Hieroglyphic Luwian signs were also the topic of two presentations, one delivered to the volunteers of the Oriental Institute (“Luwian Hieroglyphs: An Indigenous Anatolian Writing System,” February 2015), and one delivered at the 9th international congress of Hittitology (“The Hieroglyphic Luwian Signs \*128 (AVIS ‘bird’) = wa and \*30 = HAPA,” September 2014, Çorum, Turkey). Even though most Luwian signs can be read, there are still some undeciphered hieroglyphs that prevent a full understanding of the words and passages in which they occur. With the proposed readings for two such hieroglyphs, Petra could add four new lexemes to the Luwian lexicon. She is now preparing this presentation for publication.

Petra furthermore participated in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project, (see separate report).

This year Petra was invited to serve on the board of a new journal (*Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Languages*, Walter de Gruyter and De Gruyter Mouton) and the advisory board of the Hethitologie Portal Mainz. She also served on the Assyriology omnibus-search committee, the Anatolian archaeology search committee, and the annual postdoc committee of the Oriental Institute.

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## Gene Gragg

**Gene Gragg’s** work on the Afroasiatic (still, more appropriately, Cushitic-Omotiic) Morphological Archive project continues to pursue its three-fold objective:

1. development of a prototype tool for recording, querying, and manipulating morphological material in paradigm format;
2. presented in the form of a searchable archive of morphological information on some 40 Cushitic-Omotiic languages;

3. which, fleshed out with appropriate documentation and annotation provides the core of a comparative-historical morphology of this branch of the Afroasiatic language family – and eventually, with the collaboration of appropriate domain experts, beyond.

With usable tools in place, work this year has centered on an archive-wide proofreading of the encoded data, addition of bibliographic and basic geographic-demographic information to the searchable datastore, and development of a maximally consistent set of morphological property and value terms. Useful feedback resulted from presentation of the project at a morphology workshop in the linguistic department.

Information about the current state of the project, with instructions for consulting the data files on line and/or downloading the data files and installing a local datastore, can be found at <https://github.com/gbagg/aama-data/>. We are currently exploring ways to provide a capability for querying and manipulating the data online.

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## Jack Green

It was a busy year for exhibits and multiple projects in the Museum, which has had an undoubted impact on personal research outputs in the past year. Nevertheless, **Jack Green** produced a number of publications and gave several lectures. Work progressed on the Oriental Institute Museum's highlights book, which Jack is co-editing with Emily Teeter. We intend to have this volume in press this year now that photography is nearing completion.

Two *Oriental Institute News & Notes* articles appeared over the past year: "Behind the Scenes at the Oriental Institute Museum: Egyptian Coffin Conservation Project" (no. 224, pp. 14–15), and "Lending the Collections: From Ancient to Modern in New York" (no. 225, pp. 14–17). The latter article relates to an exhibition held at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, which included a number of objects and archival documents on loan from the Oriental Institute. A chapter co-authored with Jean M. Evans, entitled "Ground to Gallery: Discovery, Interpretation, and Display of Early Dynastic Sculpture from the Iraq Expedition of the Oriental Institute," was published in the exhibit catalog *From Ancient to Modern: Archaeology and Aesthetics*, edited by J. Chi and P. Azara (Princeton, 2015, pp. 162–93).

Green responded to Morag M. Kersel's forum article "Storage Wars: Solving the Archaeological Curation Crisis?" in the *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies* 3/1. Entitled "Building Capacity, Sharing Knowledge" (2015, pp. 63–71), the response focused on the role of archaeological collections within university museums and opportunities that they provide for scholarly engagement and the international sharing of collections, data, and expertise.

A chapter related to Green's PhD thesis and continued research on Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Southern Levant entitled "Objects, People, and Ritual Sequences: The Cemetery at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, Jordan" appeared in the conference proceedings *Contextualising Grave Inventories in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Peter Pfälzner, Herbert Niehr, Ernst Pernicka, Sarah Lange, and Tina Köster (Qatna Studien Supplementum 3. Wiesbaden, 2014, pp. 157–70).

In June, Green published a review of M. H. Feldman's book *Communities of Style* in *The Art Newspaper* (no. 296, p. 94). A more detailed review was submitted to the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.



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Two catalog entries for Oriental Institute Museum objects, “Four-horned Altar” (cat. no. 72) and “Horse Frontlet with Master of Animals” (cat. no. 167) were published in the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s exhibit catalog *Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age*, edited by Joan Aruz, Sarah Graff, and Yelena Rakic (New Haven and London, 2014, pp. 182, 297–98).

Several conference papers and public talks were given over the past year including “Negotiating Ritual in the Jordan Valley during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages” at the American Schools of Oriental Research annual meeting in San Diego (November 20), “Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Near Eastern Art” for the Chicago Archaeological Society in Evanston (April 26). A paper entitled “Relocation and Reinterpretation: The Neo-Assyrian Reliefs from Khorsabad at the Oriental Institute Museum” was co-presented with Kiersten Neumann at the Theoretical Archaeology Group meeting at New York University (May 24). Green presented on “The Hisham’s Palace Site and Museum Project” as part of the “Digging Up Jericho” conference held at University College London (June 29–30).

Progress was made on the preparation (with Ros Henry) of a volume of letters and photographs of British Near Eastern archaeologist Olga Tufnell, including a research visit to access the archives of the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, in June 2015. Finally, long-term preparations continued on the Tell es-Sa‘idiyeh Cemetery Publication Project, including work on the beads and pottery chapters.

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## Emily Hammer

**Emily Hammer** joined the Oriental Institute in August 2014 as director of the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL). In her first year in Chicago, she took CAMEL in the new research-oriented directions described earlier in the *Annual Report* and continued her personal research on marginal landscapes and pastoral nomadism in Turkey and Azerbaijan. Two articles on her fieldwork appeared in September 2014. The first, “Local Landscape Organization of Mobile Pastoralists in Southeastern Turkey” (*Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 35), drew on archaeological survey data in order to analyze pastoral landscapes along the Tigris River over the last 600–700 years. This data provides the largest body of empirical evidence concerning pre-modern mobile pastoral land use in Mesopotamia. The article describes how certain features like cisterns structured the spatial organization of camping and herding areas. The second article, “Highland Fortress-Polities and Their Settlement Systems in the South Caucasus” (*Antiquity* 88) presents data from Emily’s first two seasons of survey in Naxçivan, Azerbaijan, which resulted in the identification of large settlement complexes surrounding Iron Age fortresses contemporary with the eastward expansion of Urartu. These complexes are important for understanding the timing and characteristics of the earliest urban centers and polities in South Caucasia. Emily also completed writing two new articles on 10,000 years of pastoralism in Anatolia (co-authored with Benjamin Arbuckle) and on water management by mobile pastoralists; both of these have been accepted in peer-reviewed venues and will appear next year. Along with Guillermo Algaze, she is working to publish final reports of salvage surveys that show major settlement pattern changes over 8,000 years along the Tigris River and its tributaries in Turkey. She is also currently in the process of writing several methodological articles with collaborators on new GIS methodologies and a new geological dating technique that she previously applied to cisterns in Turkey.

During the autumn and winter quarters, Emily taught a course sequence on landscape archaeology and GIS which drew students from the departments of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Anthropology, and Geography. These courses culminated in a poster session, where students had the opportunity to discuss their independent GIS projects with faculty, staff, and peers.

Emily presented conference papers at the American Schools of Oriental Research in November and at the Society for American Archaeology in April on topics related to her fieldwork in Azerbaijan and Turkey. In early April, she participated in an invited conference at SUNY Buffalo on “Water and Power in the Ancient World,” where she discussed how mobile pastoralists manage water. In late April, she gave an invited lecture at the Smithsonian Freer-Sackler Galleries entitled “Digital Technologies and Archaeology in the Modern Middle East.” This lecture was part of a public series related to the exhibit *Unearthing Arabia: The Archaeological Adventures of Wendell Phillips*, and highlighted continuity and changes in archaeological practice between 1950s Yemen and today.

At the time of writing, Emily finds herself again in Naxçıvan, Azerbaijan, continuing her National Science Foundation–funded survey of Bronze and Iron Age fortress-settlement complexes.

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## Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee

**Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee** was on maternity leave during the fall quarter of 2015. After she returned to the Oriental Institute in January 2016, she worked on several projects. One of Hasselbach-Andee’s continuing projects is the translation and, more importantly, revision, of Josef Tropper’s grammar of Classical Ethiopic (Geʿez), for which she intends to complete a first draft by the end of summer. Hasselbach-Andee has also started working on a new book project. This project consists of editing a *Companion of Ancient Near Eastern Languages* for Wiley Blackwell. This companion will contain descriptions of the writing systems and languages of the ancient Near East attested during the time period of cuneiform writing. The focus, however, is not purely on language description but also on sociolinguistic factors, such as the historical and political settings of the languages and language and literary contact. The volume will thus have a different scope than other books on ancient Near Eastern languages and be accessible to a wider readership. Besides these two book projects, Hasselbach-Andee has worked on several articles and book reviews. She has written and submitted an article on the “Classification of Akkadian within the Semitic Language Family” for a volume on Akkadian edited by Juan Pablo Vita. This article looks at Akkadian in the context of Semitic in general and describes its unique position as both the most ancient Semitic language in terms of chronology and certain morphological features such as the verbal system, and also as a very innovative language in terms of linguistic changes that Akkadian underwent after it branched off from its ancestor Proto-Semitic. Hasselbach-Andee is also finishing an article on the origin of the third-person markers on the suffix conjugation in Semitic, which argues that the common “person” markers of the third persons on this verbal form are not, as suggested by some scholars, derived from original pronouns, but constitute inflectional endings instead. This means the third-person markers have their origin in the nominal, not pronominal, system. In addition to these articles, Hasselbach-Andee has written and submit-

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ted two book reviews, one on *Altakkadisches Elementarbuch*, by Francis Breyer (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2014), for the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, and the other on *La grammatica della lingua di Ebla*, by Amalia Catagnoti (Florence: Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità, 2012), for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. This year has further seen the publication of Hasselbach-Andee's article "Agreement and the Development of Gender in Semitic," which was published in two parts in *Zeitschrift der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 164 (2014, pp. 33–64, 319–44). Hasselbach-Andee further served on various committees for the Oriental Institute, including the Assyriology search committee, which suggested the hire of three Assyriologists, who all have now accepted their positions; the committee for the selection of the annual postdoctoral fellow, which equally selected an excellent young scholar who will join the Oriental Institute next year; and the Publications committee, which looks at publications submitted to the Oriental Institute editorial office.

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### Janet H. Johnson

In September, **Janet H. Johnson** gave a lecture entitled "The CDD [Chicago Demotic Dictionary] Is 'Done'. Where Do We Go from Here?" at the 12th international conference of Demotic studies (see also Chicago Demotic Dictionary project report). She also presented "Why Write a Dictionary?" for the MA Orientation course "Approaches to the Study of the Ancient Near East." She gave her paper entitled "Cleo(pat)ra as CEO: The Hostile Takeover of a 1st Millennium Multinational" for the 2015 conference Poles on the Nile sponsored by the University of Warsaw. She was in Warsaw to participate in the dissertation defense of a fine young student who had written an excellent dissertation on the representation of clothing in Late Period Egypt. Johnson also served as a panel chair and respondent for the 2015 Oriental Institute Postdoc symposium entitled "Structures of Power: Law and Gender across the Ancient Near East and Beyond."

She completed an article entitled "Compound Nouns, especially Abstracts, in Demotic" for a *Festschrift* for a colleague; her article on "The Range of Private Property Envisioned in Demotic Documents Pertaining to Marriage and Inheritance" appeared in the *Festschrift* for Egyptian colleague Ola el-Aguizy, which was published through the French Institute in Cairo.

She learned a great deal serving on the OI Museum Collections Research Grants Committee and the search committee to hire a specialist in "The Literatures of Modern Muslim Societies" in the context of the Mellon Islamic Studies Initiative. She was proud to have two students defend their dissertations and looks forward to several more finishing within the next year; she enjoyed meeting the newest cohort of Egyptology students while teaching the Introduction to Middle Egyptian course. She also enjoyed two Skype conversations with fifth-grade students at the Science and Art Academy in Des Plaines, Illinois, who were just finishing their "module" on ancient Egypt and had a very wide range of interests and questions.

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## W. Raymond Johnson

This year **W. Raymond Johnson** completed his thirty-seventh year working in Egypt, his thirty-sixth full year working for the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, and his eighteenth season as Chicago House Field Director. In May Ray was made an official member of the Akhenaten Museum (Minya) Committee by the Minister of Antiquities and Heritage (MAH) Dr. Mamdouh el-Damaty, and in July was appointed a member of the Scientific and Architectural Committee for the Study of the Ramesseum Pylon Restoration by the minister. Publications this year include: "A Relief Head of Amenhotep III in Leiden from the Tomb of Kheruef in Thebes (TT 192)" and "Horemheb's Saqqara Tomb: A New Discovery," in *Antiquities from Bologna and Leiden, Exhibition Catalog* (Bologna, forthcoming 2015); "An Amarna Royal Head at Hanover's Museum August Kestner," in *KMT: A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt* 26/3 (Fall 2015): 22–29; "A Recently Rediscovered Amarna Princess Head in Red Quartzite," with Magdy Shaker, in *A Festschrift Offered to Zoltan Fabian on the Occasion of His 60th Birthday*, edited by Bori Németh (Károli Gáspár University, Budapest; forthcoming 2015); "The Abusir Tutankhamun Blocks: Origin and Context," with Zahi Hawass, in *Studies Presented to Geoffrey Thorndike Martin*, edited by Jacobus van Dijk (forthcoming 2015). "An Indurated-Limestone Sphinx Fragment of Nefer-titi in the Luxor Temple Blockyard," in *Essays for the Library of Seshat: Studies Presented to Janet H. Johnson on the Occasion of Her 70th Birthday*, edited by Robert K. Ritner (Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 70; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, forthcoming); "The Duck-Throttling Scene from Amarna: A New Metropolitan Museum of Art/Copenhagen Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek Amarna Talatat Join," in *Joyful in Thebes: Studies Presented to Betsy Bryan* (2015); and "Further on Berlin Bust AM 20496," in *KMT: A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt* 26/1 (Spring 2015): 57–58.

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## Charles E. Jones

As I set out to write this report, news that it is the first anniversary of the proclamation of the caliphate in Iraq and Syria peppers the media. The surprise appearance, astonishing success, and numbing brutality of this movement has dominated the thought of all of us who study antiquity and the Near East. The IraqCrisis mailing list (<https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/info/iraqcrisis>), established at the Oriental Institute a dozen years ago to communicate substantive information on cultural property damaged, destroyed, or lost from libraries, museums, and archaeological sites in Iraq during and after the war in April 2003, and on the worldwide response to the crisis, has come back to life. In a world where much of scholarly communication is now dominated by social media networks, emailing lists play a less central role than they did in 2003, but the more than eight hundred subscribers appear to find it a useful tool. List traffic is also syndicated to Twitter (@IraqCrisis), where there are 131 followers, and to Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/IraqCrisis/131622046891319>) where there are 332 connections. Those interested are invited to participate in any media they choose. As this year's crisis has progressed the scope of IraqCrisis has expanded to include Syria and Yemen.

AWOL: The Ancient World Online (<http://ancientworldonline.blogspot.com/>) continues to grow as a central place providing access to open access and digitized scholarship on antiquity. The list of 7,468 subscribers to the daily digest has grown by 800 over the past year, and about 1,400 items have been added to AWOL — about four per day over the past year. The list of open-access journals in ancient studies (<http://ancientworldonline.blogspot.com/>)

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com/2012/07/alphabetical-list-of-open-access.html) now holds 1,527 titles. I am pleased to report that AWOL and its sister project Access to Mideast and Islamic Resources (AMIR) (<http://amirmideast.blogspot.com/>) have been selected for long-term preservation by Columbia University's Web Resources Collection Program (Web Archiving) ([https://library.columbia.edu/bts/web\\_resources\\_collection.html](https://library.columbia.edu/bts/web_resources_collection.html)), which gives me a better sense of the security of the data collected by our projects. In December I was delighted to hear that AWOL had been given the Award for Outstanding Work in Digital Archaeology by the Archaeological Institute of America (<https://www.archaeological.org/awards/digitalarch>).

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## Walter Kaegi

**Walter Kaegi** published or prepared several items for publication. Cambridge University Press has now produced a long-promised paperback edition, with very minor corrections, of his 2010 book *Muslim Expansion and Byzantine Collapse in North Africa*. He published a chapter entitled "Byzantium in the Seventh Century" in the *Oxford Handbook of Maximus the Confessor*, edited by P. Allen and Bronwen Neil (2015, pp. 84–105). He corrected page proofs for a chapter "The Islamic Conquest and the Defense of Byzantine Africa: Campaigns and Conquests in Context, Reconsiderations," in press for publication in a collective volume for Dumbarton Oaks/Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies, entitled *North Africa under Byzantium and Early Islam, ca. 500-ca. 800*, edited by Susan T. Stevens and Jonathan P. Conant (Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, forthcoming).

He delivered a paper on January 15, 2015, entitled "Constantine I, Babylon, and Julian's Expedition to Mesopotamia Once More," Oriental Institute and University of Chicago Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium, held at the Oriental Institute. He is grateful for the indispensable technical assistance for this project provided by Emily Hammer, director of the Oriental Institute Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL), and equally important advice from McGuire Gibson. Kaegi is preparing this paper for eventual publication.

He continued to serve as co-chair, with Michael Allen (Classics) and Karin Krause (Divinity School) of the Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium. He also attended and participated in discussion in several other workshops, including the Ancient Studies Workshop, the Medieval Workshop, and Middle East/Islamic workshops.

He prepared a review of *Approaches to the Byzantine Family*, which the journal *Historian* will publish.

On November 7, 2014, he served as a speaker, delivering opening remarks, at the initial session entitled "A 40 Year Retrospective," at the Annual Meeting of the Byzantine Studies/Byzantine Studies Association North America (BSANA), at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

He presided as session chair at the Medieval Academy Annual Meeting, Notre Dame University, on March 13, 2015.

He continued to serve as editor of *Byzantinische Forschungen* and as a reporter of history bibliography for *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*.

He is preparing an article "Seventh-Century North Africa: Military and Political Convergences and Divergences," for the German Archaeological Society in Rome (DAIRom) collective volume, edited by R. Bockmann, Anna Leone, and Philipp von Rummel.

He intensively visited and studied the exhibition “Heaven and Earth: Art of Byzantium in Greek Collections” at the Getty Villa in Malibu, California, in summer 2014 (only 30% of this exposition was subsequently exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago although the smaller exhibit provided another opportunity to study some objects).

He read widely on comparative contemporary historical material (seventh–tenth century CE) from Tang Dynasty China. He is investigating several other historiographical problems and controversies in Byzantine and Near Eastern history, for publication.

He continued to consult with Social Sciences Division Technical Services for recovery of audiotapes of his course lectures on Byzantine Imperial History from the 1980s and 1990s.

He developed materials for a new seminar and colloquium course on the Late Antique Mediterranean, which he will teach in academic year 2015–2016.

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## Morag M. Kersel

The summer of 2014 marked the final season of the excavations at Marj Rabba in the lower Galilee of Israel. The small, intensive season focused on an area (see Marj Rabba report) with an intrepid team of four students and four staff, including Oriental Institute Visiting Committee member Andrea Dudek as the project registrar. **Morag Kersel** and co-director Yorke Rowan found the final season at Marj Rabba bittersweet — six seasons of great results but a difficult good-bye to the site. Moving forward the focus of 2014–2015 was working on the analyses of the material culture, figuring out the stratigraphy, and the creation of a series of maps, plans, and sections of the site. In the winter and spring quarters Morag and DePaul University anthropology student Maggie Baker received a DePaul Undergraduate Research Award to digitize the remaining site plans and to create a series of plans with the different phases of habitation at Marj Rabba.

In November 2014 Kersel and Rowan presented the results of this field season at the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research. Project participants Joyce Fountain, Gabrielle Borenstein, and Blair Heidkamp presented a poster entitled “The Final Season: Marj Rabba 2014,” which was the recipient of the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting Poster Award.

Articles by Kersel appeared in the *Journal of Social Archaeology* (“Fractured Oversight: The ABCs of Cultural Heritage in Palestine After the Oslo Accords”) and in the *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies* (“Storage Wars: Solving the Archaeological Curation Crisis?” and “An Issue of Ethics? Curation and the Obligations of Archaeology”), the result of the research carried out while a Council of American Overseas Research Center Fellow and an Associate Fellow at the W. F. Albright Institute for Archaeological Research, Jerusalem.

In March of 2015 the project entitled Landscapes of the Dead: Aerial and Pedestrian Site Monitoring at Fifa an Early Bronze Age I Cemetery On the Dead Sea Plain, Jordan, (part of the Follow the Pots Project) continued. The primary objective of this research is to assess (through aerial photography and a pedestrian survey) the Early Bronze Age (EBA, ca. 3500–2000 BCE) archaeological landscape at Fifa in order to better understand both the ancient and modern uses of a mortuary site. Kersel and colleague Austin C. Hill presented some preliminary results of this research at the annual meetings of the Society of American Archaeology, the Archaeological Institute of America, and at conferences on cultural heritage protection

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in times of crisis in Arkansas and Chicago. As part of the Follow the Pots [[www.followthepotsproject.org](http://www.followthepotsproject.org)] project, Kersel continued to track Early Bronze Age grave goods from Jordan to the antiquities market in Israel and then on to collectors (museums, private individuals, and educational institutions) in Europe and North America, spending some time tracking tomb groups to various museums and educational institutions throughout North America.

In the spring of 2015 Kersel, along with Gil Stein, was a panelist in the Music Box Theatre premiere of *Saving Mes Aynak*. Panelists and the audience discussed the threat of a Chinese mining company's actions to the archaeological site of Mes Aynak in Afghanistan. She also participated in a post-production discussion with the actors in *Inana* at the TimeLine Theatre in Chicago. *Inana* is a love story set against the backdrop of the impending invasion of Baghdad in 2003 by coalition forces. The story centers on an Iraqi museum curator who plots to save treasured antiquities from destruction — including the statue of ancient mother goddess Inana. The panel discussed the various threats to artifacts and sites in the Middle East.

Kersel recently worked with Oriental Institute chief curator Jack Green on developing a museum exhibit entitled *Heritage Under Threat*, showcasing the threatened landscape of Fifa. In 2015–2016 Kersel will be a visiting fellow with the *Past for Sale: New Approaches to the Study of Archaeological Looting*, at the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society at the University of Chicago.

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## Massimo Maiocchi

In the last year, **Massimo Maiocchi** kept working on the Writing in Early Mesopotamia project. The database at the core of this project has been expanded to include new texts and fragments, which have been encoded in order for users to perform morphological and grammatical queries. As Instructor at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, he taught introductory and advanced classes in Akkadian (Old Akkadian and Old Babylonian) and Eblaite. Massimo also took part in several conferences and workshops, where he offered papers on various topics related to early Mesopotamian writing and history. In October 2014, Massimo was invited to the workshop *Beyond the Meme*, organized by W. Wimsatt and A. Love at the Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science (Minneapolis). There, he presented a paper titled “Writing in Early Mesopotamia: The Historical Interplay of Technology, Cognition, and Environment,” in which he explored the connection between cuneiform writing and the environment in which it emerged. In November, Massimo was in Paris for the final conference of the series *Rôle Économique des Femmes en Mésopotamie Ancienne*, organized by C. Michel and B. Lion. The topic of his presentation was “Women and Production in Sargonid Adab,” and focused on social and economic history of the so-called first world empire. In the same month, Massimo also presented a paper at the conference *Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World's First Writing Systems*, organized in Chicago by C. Woods and E. Shaughnessy. His presentation was titled “Approaching the Earliest Cuneiform Texts: Sign Network Analysis of Late Fourth and Early Third Millennium BC Archives,” offering new data based on computational analysis of the earliest lexical lists from Mesopotamia. In June, Massimo took part in the second session of the *Signs of Writing* conference, held in Beijing and Shanghai, with a talk titled “Writing Cuneiform on Perishable Media,” discussing the textual evidence supporting the idea that cuneiform, besides clay,

might have been written quite frequently on wooden boards. All the papers presented in the last year are presently being finalized and are going to be published in the forthcoming proceedings of the individual conferences. In addition, in July Massimo worked on an article titled “Reading History through Lexicography: The Weavers of Sargonic Adab in Comparative Perspective,” to be published in a forthcoming volume of the series *Alter Orient und Altes Testament*, edited by A. Garcia Ventura.

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## Gregory Marouard

This year, again, **Gregory Marouard** devoted a large part of his time to archaeological fieldwork in order to bring to an end three of the projects that he had started a few years ago, before his arrival as a research associate at the Oriental Institute.

During summer 2014, he focused his research on the completion and redaction of several articles and on the processing of archaeological data from the last excavations of the Tell Edfu Project, conducted in 2012. He submitted in particular an article entitled “New Evidence for a Middle Kingdom Harbor Basin at Dahshur” for the peer-reviewed journal *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Abteilung Kairo* (no. 69, forthcoming).

From early October until the end of November 2014, Gregory supervised, as co-director together with Nadine Moeller, the latest campaign at Tell Edfu (see the *Tell Edfu* project report). He was in charge of Zone 2, focusing on the Old Kingdom settlement remains occupied between the early Fifth Dynasty to the early First Intermediate Period. Several deep trenches were dug to reach the natural bedrock, which also revealed possible remains from the Fourth Dynasty in this area. He continued the study of the Old Kingdom enclosure walls located in the same sector with the support of Oren Siegel (NELC graduate student).

Last autumn Gregory gave a joint paper at the HeRMA-IFAO international colloquium *Les mobiliers archéologiques dans leur contexte, de la Gaule à l’Orient Méditerranéen / Archaeological Artifacts in Context, from Gaul to the Eastern Mediterranean*, held at the University of Poitiers, France (October 27–29, 2014).

In December, Gregory conducted his first campaign at the temple of Dendara in Upper Egypt, as co-director of a new archaeological project of the Oriental Institute on the concession of the IFAO (French Archeological Institute in Cairo, directed by Dr. Pierre Zignani, CNRS) and in close collaboration with the Macquarie University in Sydney (represented by Dr. Yann Tristant, senior lecturer).

His goal in this new collaborative research program is to focus on the study of the enclosure walls and the settlement area in the internal and external parts of the Hathor sanctuary precinct, the sister site of Edfu, located 40 miles north of Luxor. During three weeks, he excavated several stratigraphic trenches; some situated less than 60 feet away from the main temple (rebuilt during the Roman period). Most



*Greg preparing a photogrammetry with a kite at Dendara*



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of these operations led to the discovery of Old Kingdom settlement remains, some clearly dated to the late Third or early Fourth Dynasty (ca. 2650–2550 BC). For the first time, he also located Early Dynastic settlement remains from the First and Second Dynasties, possibly in relation with the synchronous graves discovered by C. Fisher in 1915–17 during the University of Pennsylvania excavations in the cemetery area. Gregory also supervised a trench on the northwestern corner of the Roman Mammisi in order to study its foundation system and to confirm the existence of an earlier enclosure wall in this area.

In January 2015, Gregory joined Yann Tristant (Macquarie University) for three weeks in the Wadi Araba in the northern Eastern Desert. This campaign marks the final season of this diachronic extensive survey engaged in this area since 2008. They focused on the southern part of the Wadi Araba, discovering several Coptic eremitic installations near the St. Antony monastery and two new Neolithic sites from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B period (PPNB). The use of satellite images led to the discovery a 25-foot-wide pathway that runs through the southern Wadi Araba from west to east over several dozens of kilometers. The ceramics found all along indicate clearly the beginning of the Fourth Dynasty and, the discovery of some sherds of the pottery production from the Wadi al-Jarf underlines that this ancient trail was certainly used to reach Khufu's port site on the Red Sea.

Between mid-March and the end of April, Gregory joined as senior archaeologist the annual mission at the Wadi al-Jarf (IFAO, MAEE, CNRS). He was in charge of the harbor area at the site, located along the coast and dating back to the early Fourth Dynasty (ca. 2600–2550 BC). This was the final season there, in order to complete the excavation of a large administrative storage building and adjacent installations. He also unearthed the emerged part of the pier on the seashore extending about 145 feet in length. With Dr. Pierre Tallet (director, University of Paris Sorbonne), he engaged the work on the first monograph about the archaeological results from the coastline occupations. Gregory has also continued his investigations on the pottery production at the main part of the site by excavating two new pottery kilns and unprecedented workshop installations.

In April, Gregory joined the harbor site at Ayn Sokhna on the Red Sea coast for a short study season, excavated by the IFAO since 2001. He completed the study of the Old and Middle Kingdom pottery and supervised the study of the macro-faunal remains (performed by Dr. Joséphine Lesur) from the excavation of the boatyard area (Kom 14) that he directed between 2006 and 2012. This was his final season on the site and he is now organizing the edition of a collective monograph on this area. He also submitted a final version of a chapter for the forthcoming third monograph on the archaeological results: *Ayn Sokhna III: le complexe de galeries-magasins. Rapport Archéologique*.

Gregory attended the 66th annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt (April 24–26, 2015), where he presented a paper about his recent work at Dendara: “Re-Excavating Dendara: Preliminary Results of the 2014 Oriental Institute-IFAO-Macquarie University Joint Mission.”

At the end of April, he also received the concession and the official permit to engage an extensive pottery and a geomagnetic survey at the site of Kom ed-Dahab, a large Hellenistic and Roman emporion settlement — an *ex-nihilo* harbor site — which he had recently discovered in the Lake Menzala area (eastern Delta) by using remote sensing on satellite images. Supported by the Oriental Institute, this program also received a significant grant from the Delta Survey Project of the Egypt Exploration Society, an institution that is now a partner of the project. Hopefully, the survey will be carried out for two or three weeks next September

2015. Gregory published a brief paper about this new site: “Kom el-Dahab Interpreted” in *Egyptian Archaeology* 45 (2014): 25–27.

In early May, he gave a lecture series in California about the recent discoveries at the Wadi el-Jarf for the Orange County ARCE chapter, the EEO Southern California chapter in Los Angeles, and the Northern California ARCE chapter at Berkeley.

Finally, from mid-May to the end of June 2015, as associate director and senior archeologist, Gregory conducted the excavation of the French mission at Buto (joint project of the University of Poitiers and the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo, DAIK), in the western Delta area. Gregory excavated this season an area about 8,000 square feet (sector P16) located immediately to the south of the Late Period enclosure wall of the temple of Wadjet where, in 2013, a geomagnetic survey revealed extensive archaeological remains. This excavation revealed here the foundations of several major mudbrick constructions from the middle to the late Ptolemaic period, and Gregory supervised the excavation of a dozen pottery kilns and workshop remains from the same period. For the first time since 1968, it can now be shown that some of these installations were clearly used for firing the famous fine production of Black Slip Ware dishes from Buto, which imitate Hellenistic productions imported from the Eastern Mediterranean such as the Pergamon or Antioch areas. This campaign was the last one of two successive four-year programs of the French Foreign Office (MAEE) and the final publication of eight years of excavations — since 2007 — will be engaged soon.

To celebrate the Festschrift of Janet H. Johnson, Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology, Gregory participated in the forthcoming volume dedicated to her incredible career with an article about the major Greco-Roman site of Philadelphia in the Fayum: “‘Completamente distrutte’, réévaluation archéologique de Philadelphie du Fayoum, Égypte.”

Subsequent to the OI-AAI international workshop *The Hyksos King Khayan: New Insights on the Chronology of the 13th and 15th Dynasties*, organized by Nadine Moeller and Irene Forstner-Müller in Vienna in July 2014, a joint article with Nadine Moeller is currently being finalized for the upcoming volume of conference proceedings: “The Context of the Khayan Sealings from Tell Edfu and Further Implications for the Second Intermediate Period in Upper Egypt.’

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## Carol Meyer

With the last review of page proofs and the publication of *Bir Umm Fawakhir 3, Excavations 1999–2001*, Oriental Institute Publications 141, the last of the final reports on the site, work on this project should be finished. Or maybe not. Site preservation during the current gold rush in the Eastern Desert and the need for further dissemination of the results of the Bir Umm Fawakhir excavations are ongoing concerns.

As noted in last year’s *Annual Report*, however, much of Meyer’s current research is now devoted to research on glass, a seriously underutilized category of archaeological finds. All of the glass sherds from Donald Whitcomb’s excavations at Aqaba, Jordan, from the 1986 and 1987 seasons have now been analyzed, tabulated, several hundred drawn, and a dozen or so photographed. (Ancient, highly weathered glass sherds rarely photograph well.) The corpus was sorted into a preliminary typology that proved invaluable when Meyer joined the

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University of Copenhagen's Ancient Aylah Project at Aqaba in November and December 2014 to study their glass. This resulted in the inclusion of all the 2014 glass finds and as much of the 2008, 2010, and 2011 finds as could be retrieved from storage. These data have now been incorporated into a revised glass typology that, together with the material from the 1988 excavations, will form the core of a hefty chapter on glass from Medieval Aqaba in the final report on the Oriental Institute and University of Copenhagen excavations. As of now, there are 6,360 entries on the two master database tables, and 743 drawings and several dozen photographs in keyed, related files. The chapter is intended to be a basic reference for other excavators; as of writing there are very few large, published Islamic glass corpora and none from this time span and region. This very basic, descriptive work is stage one. After that, the data can be used to address some rather interesting questions. One of the hallmarks of Islam is abstinence. How long did it take for the Byzantine wine goblets to be replaced by the very distinctive Islamic drinking cups? Among other early Islamic inventions, a new type of glass decoration, pincering from both sides with tongs, came into use and quickly became widespread in the East, but we have no idea where the invention started. A rich, emerald green, lead-rich glass came into use. It is very distinctive and elegant, but we do not know where it was made; both Iran and Raqqa in Syria have been suggested. The well-stratified glass finds from Aqaba and new analytic techniques may permit us to address such questions. Already one group of early Abbasid glass has been identified for specialized study and publication.

Finally, Meyer continued drafting for the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition publication on the Christian period at Serra East in Nubia (see Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition project report) and wrote the short section on the glass finds. The Serra East remains date to about the same time as the late occupation of Medieval Aqaba, ca. AD 1000–1200, but very few of the material remains are similar — except the glass.

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## Nadine Moeller

Just before leaving for fieldwork in Egypt, **Nadine Moeller** gave a lecture and seminar at the Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies, Cornell University. In the fall, Moeller co-directed the excavations at Tell Edfu together with Gregory Marouard (for details, see the Tell Edfu project report). After the work at Tell Edfu, she spent a week visiting monuments on the Theban west bank with the aim to take new photos and videos for teaching and for the textbook she is preparing on the New Kingdom empire (see below). In March, Moeller had been invited to give a lecture and seminar at Brown University within the framework of the Ancient Egypt / Future Tense series that was co-sponsored by the Department of Egyptology and Assyriology and the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World in addition to the ARCE New England chapter. Also in March, Moeller presented a Lunchtime Gallery Talk at the Oriental Institute Museum on “Models of Daily Life in Ancient Egypt.” At the beginning of April, she gave an evening lecture and taught a study day of four seminars at the North Texas ARCE chapter in Dallas, which was well received by a group of enthusiastic members. Moeller also attended the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), which was held in Houston this year. During the meeting she was elected to the Board of Governors.

At the end of May, Moeller presented on her ongoing research focusing on urbanism in ancient Egypt at the Connections Seminar organized by Ilan Peled and Felix Höflmayer which resulted in an interesting discussion with colleagues from the Oriental Institute. Also in May, she was awarded a fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) for her next book project entitled *The Archaeology of Urbanism in Ancient Egypt: The Settlements from the Second Intermediate Period to the End of the Third Intermediate Period*, which is the second volume on urban society in ancient Egypt and which will be the main focus of her upcoming sabbatical year. The first volume of *The Archaeology of Urbanism* is currently in press with Cambridge University Press and will be published at the end of summer 2015. Moeller is also currently preparing a textbook on the New Kingdom Empire, which will be published by Cognella Publishers. This book will be the main textbook for her College Core course in the Ancient Empires sequence. Following the workshop on the Hyksos ruler Khayan, which she had co-organized with Irene Forstner-Müller in July 2014 at the Austrian Archaeological Institute (ÖAI) in Vienna, the proceedings of this workshop are now being prepared for publication and will appear in a volume edited by Moeller and Forstner-Müller.

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## Brian Muhs

**Brian Muhs** received readers' reports on his book manuscript, *The Ancient Egyptian Economy, 3000-30 BCE*, in August 2014, and based on these Cambridge University Press issued a book contract in October. Brian made requested changes and submitted the revised manuscript in February 2015, a clearance review approved it in March, and the manuscript went into pre-production in May. In June Brian also completed an article on "Gender Relations and Inheritance in Legal Codes and Legal Practice in Ancient Egypt," based on the paper that he presented at the 12th Oriental Institute Postdoc Seminar, Structures of Power, Law and Gender across the Ancient Near East and Beyond, held March 6-7, 2015.

In addition, several articles that Brian submitted in previous years appeared, including an entry on "Egyptian Legal Texts," pp. 253-61, in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Law*, vol. 1, edited by Brent A. Strawn (Oxford: University Press, 2015); an edition of "Some Early Ptolemaic Tax Receipts from Cambridge University Library," pp. 303-09, in *Mélanges offerts à Ola el-Aguizy*, edited by Fayza Haikal (Bibliothèque d'Étude 164; Cairo: Institut français d'archéologie orientale, 2015); and an article on "Property Title, Domestic Architecture, and Household Lifecycles in Egypt," pp. 321-47, in *Household Studies in Complex Societies: (Micro) Archaeological and Textual Approaches*, edited by Miriam Muller (Oriental Institute Seminars 10; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2015), based on a paper that he presented in April 2013.

Brian also presented several other lectures, beside the one he gave for the 12th Oriental Institute Postdoc Seminar. He gave a paper on "The Institutional Models for Ptolemaic Banks and Granaries" at the 12th International Congress for Demotic Studies in Würzburg in September 2014; he gave a short presentation on "The Purposes of Writing and Documentation in Ancient Bureaucracies and Economies" for discussion at the Oriental Institute Connections Seminar in December; he talked about "Legal Pluralism and Forum Shopping in Ptolemaic Egypt" during the opening plenary session Negotiating Diversity at the Joint Meeting of the Midwest branches of the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Oriental Society, and the American Schools of Oriental Research, at Bourbonnais in February 2015; and he discussed

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“Old Kingdom Estates and Towns: Properties or Tax Districts?” at the 66th annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt at Houston in April.

Brian gave a lecture and gallery tour as part of the Oriental Institute docent training program in June, and then he traveled to Paris and Prague to check readings of ostraca in the Louvre and the Naprstek Museum in preparation for his next book project on accounting in ancient Egypt and the Nag' el-Mesheikh ostraca.

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## Hratch Papazian

In September (and briefly also in December) of 2014, **Hratch Papazian** returned to south Abydos to continue his work at the site of the Old Kingdom step pyramid of Sinki, focusing exclusively on a site-preservation initiative across an extended area surrounding the monument. This course of action was necessitated by the urgency of halting the incursion of expanding agricultural and habitation zones that threatened the integrity of the archaeological area. The mission was successful in putting an end to all such unauthorized activity and, more encouragingly, in reclaiming land lost to encroachment in 2012, thus establishing a set perimeter around the concession and demarcating it as a protected zone. A viability study will now be conducted regarding conservation matters connected to the structure of the pyramid itself. With respect to other research activities, Papazian's article titled “The State of Egypt in the Eighth Dynasty” has appeared in the inaugural Harvard Egyptological Studies series. He has also submitted a contribution analyzing the use of converters in Old Egyptian to the forthcoming volume in honor of Janet Johnson. In February 2015, Papazian took part in a workshop entitled Administrative Archives in the Old Kingdom, organized jointly by the Sorbonne and the University of Geneva and held at the Collège de France in Paris, where he presented a paper on his ongoing research on the Old Kingdom Gebelein archive and also chaired one of the sessions.

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## Richard Payne

During the 2014–2015 academic year, **Richard Payne** enjoyed a sabbatical, thanks to the Neubauer Family Foundation. He focused primarily on the ongoing research and writing of a book on the role of Zoroastrianism in Iranian imperialism, tentatively entitled *Cosmological Politics: The Zoroastrian Institutions of Iranian Imperialism in Late Antiquity*. Scholars have long recognized the importance of the Zoroastrian religion to the formation and organization of an empire whose very name — Ērānšahr, or “Iran” — was drawn from the Avesta, emphasizing the ideological or propagandistic function of the religion as a source of political legitimacy for the kings of kings. *Cosmological Politics*, by contrast, argues the religion was a source not simply of imperial ideology, but also of imperial infrastructure, religious officials, fire temples as major landowning institutions, and a juridical framework. The book brings together Zoroastrian judicial texts, the literatures of provincial populations in Syriac and Armenian, the Iranian historiographical tradition, and archaeology to show how the infrastructural and ideological resources of Zoroastrianism augmented the power of the Iranian court, without weakening the positions of the aristocracy on which the kings of kings depended for their

military might. The result was the most extensive, longest lasting of ancient Near Eastern empires.

In the course of research and writing, Payne prepared and submitted two articles on topics ancillary to the book, on the territorial infrastructures of the empire and on the organization of sex and reproduction in Zoroastrian jurisprudence. He also completed an article on the emergence of a hybrid Irano-Turkic political culture in Iranian regions of Central Asia that the Huns and Turks conquered and transformed, entitled “The Making of Turan: The Fall and Transformation of the Iranian East.” Articles on East Syrian jurisprudence in the first Islamic century and on the state of Sasanian archaeology appeared in the journal *Iranian Studies* and the *Journal of Ancient History* respectively. The *Journal of Ancient History* formed a special issue entitled “The Archaeology of Sasanian Politics” that Payne prepared and co-edited together with Mehrnoush Soroush. With Myles Lavan and John Weiweiler, he continued to co-edit a book on ancient cosmopolitan practices and their role in empire formation that is now under contract with Oxford University Press. Payne also put the finishing touches on a book that appeared this summer: *A State of Mixture: Christians, Zoroastrians, and Iranian Political Culture in Late Antiquity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015).

On various topics arising from these projects, Payne gave lectures at the Humboldt Universität in Berlin, Princeton University, Duke University, and the Freie Universität in Berlin. He traveled to Kabul in May to offer workshops on the historical interpretation of Iranian, Hun, and Turk coins at the National Museum of Afghanistan, and was able to visit several sites relevant to his ongoing work on the transition from Iranian to Hun and Turk rule in the region. In an effort to build interest in the Iranian world in late antiquity, a field new to the Oriental Institute and the University, he organized a series of lectures that brought some of its leading scholars to Hyde Park.

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## Ilan Peled

**Ilan Peled** arrived at the Oriental Institute in September 2014 as a Postdoctoral Fellow, with the main goal to organize the eleventh annual Oriental Institute symposium. The first part of the 2014–2015 academic year was mainly dedicated to organizing all aspects of the conference, which took place in March 6–7, 2015. The conference, entitled Structures of Power: Law and Gender across the Ancient Near East and Beyond, brought together scholars of various historical disciplines, from all over the world, to discuss several topics pertaining to the intersection between law and gender relations in human history. Since then, Ilan has been editing the conference proceedings, to appear in 2016 as OIS 12. As of this writing about half the papers have been submitted. Other than organizing the conference and editing its volume, Ilan has published or submitted for publication several articles in peer-reviewed journals during this year. “*assinnu* and *kurgarrû* Revisited,” published in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, presented a new interpretation of the gender image of the *assinnu* and the *kurgarrû*, two members of the Ishtar cult, while “A New Manuscript of the Lament for Eridu,” published in the *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, presented a newly identified manuscript of the Sumerian composition known as the “Lament for Eridu” in transliteration and translation, followed by a brief philological commentary. Ilan further contributed an encyclopedia entry on “Religious Leaders in the Ancient Near East” to *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and*

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*Gender Studies*. Ilan further submitted two articles, to appear later in 2015: “Crime and Sexual Offense in Hatti,” to be published in a special issue of *Near Eastern Archaeology*, discusses the notion of sexual offense in Hatti as reflected through the collection of Hittite laws, and focuses on prohibitions of incest and kin relations. “Men in Question: Parallel Aspects of Ambiguous Masculinities in Mesopotamian and Biblical Sources” is a contribution to Aaron Demsky’s Festschrift, to appear in *MAARAV, A Journal for the Study of the Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures*, which surveys several aspects of the topic of male gender ambiguity in the ancient Near East, by focusing on cross-cultural parallels between Mesopotamia and ancient Israel. This paper treats three main points: the employment of eunuchs at royal courts, the meaning of the term “holder of spindle,” and the social attitude to homosexuality.

Since he has arrived, Ilan has presented three lectures at the University of Chicago: “Writing Cultural (Mis)conceptions: Hittite Borrowing of Mesopotamian Third Gender Terminology” (at the Ancient Societies Workshop, Department of Classics), “A New Fragment of the “Lament for Eridu” and Its Relation to Mesopotamian Third Gender” (at the Oriental Institute) and “Gender and Sex Crimes in the Ancient Near East: Law and Custom” (at the 11th annual Oriental Institute Postdoc Seminar). Ilan has also been revising his first monograph, on Mesopotamian “third gender,” in preparing it for publication. This monograph is a heavily revised version of Ilan’s PhD dissertation. Ilan also began writing his second monograph, on law and custom in Mesopotamia. In between all the above, Ilan has been editing several unpublished cuneiform tablets from the OI collection, mainly of Sumerian literary compositions.

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### Robert K. Ritner

During the last academic year, **Robert Ritner** served as participant and discussant at the Khayan Workshop in Vienna (July 4–5), an exploration of Hyksos Egypt organized by Nadine Moeller and Irene Forstner-Müller. For a similar theme of Ages of Chaos: Demystifying Ancient Egypt’s Intermediate Periods, he gave two invited presentations for the 40th annual symposium of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities in Toronto, speaking on “The Ahmose Tempest Stela” and “Libyan-era Egypt” (November 15). In association with Chicago’s Humanities Day, Ritner provided an introductory public talk “A Game of Thrones and Coffins: The Death and Resurrection of Osiris,” before a ballet performance of *Osiris and Isis* in the Institute’s gallery, for which he also compiled, translated, and recorded thirty-one pivotal Egyptian religious texts spoken at intervals during the performance (October 17). At the 66th convention of the American Research Center in Egypt, held for the first time in his home city of Houston, Ritner provided more in-depth analysis of Osiris and his worship: “Becoming Osiris: A Response to ‘Osiris NN or Osiris of NN.’” For docent training at the Oriental Institute, he offered a two-hour lecture and gallery tour surveying “11 Dynasties of Egyptian History: The Origins of the New Kingdom through the Third Intermediate Period. Dynasty 16 to Dynasty 26, ca. 1665 BC to 589 BC” (June 15).

Ritner’s publications on the Joseph Smith Papyri and derived Mormon scripture continue to generate serious attention. In late summer, an official essay posted by the LDS church (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) prompted Ritner to offer in August “A Response to ‘Translation and Historicity of the Book of Abraham,’” in which he detailed the precise methods used by Smith to compose the disputed text. Surviving manuscripts

prove conclusively that Smith inaccurately “translated” individual Egyptian hieratic signs as lengthy narratives so that over half of his new scripture was invented from only two incomplete Egyptian lines. Ritner’s online publication on the Oriental Institute website (<https://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/oi.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/Translation%20and%20Historicity%20of%20the%20Book%20of%20Abraham.pdf>) has been copied by several “mirror sites” including that of his publisher Signature Books (<http://signaturebooks.com/2014/08/a-response-to-translation-and-historicity-of-the-book-of-abraham-by-dr-robert-ritner/>). Ritner’s work on the Mormon materials and this online essay in particular have in turn produced a website with more than fifty testimonials thanking him for research that has “a direct and positive effect”: “you may never know how much impact your honest scholarship has had on my life and the lives of many just like me” ([http://www.reddit.com/r/exmormon/comments/2exr8l/can\\_we\\_get\\_a\\_big\\_public\\_thank\\_you\\_for\\_dr\\_robert/](http://www.reddit.com/r/exmormon/comments/2exr8l/can_we_get_a_big_public_thank_you_for_dr_robert/)).

At the beginning of the New Year (January 8), he organized a Festschrift presentation for his Egyptological colleague Janet H. Johnson, with a pre-publication copy of *Essays for the Library of Seshat: Studies Presented to Janet H. Johnson on the Occasion of Her 70th Birthday*, which he edited for the Oriental Institute Press. Through the assistance of Brittany Mullins, the program began in Breasted Hall with a “Welcome and Introduction” by Ritner, then “Remarks” by Nadine Moeller, Brian Muhs, François Gaudard, and Terry Friedman, followed by a video by W. Raymond Johnson and the Chicago House Team, the program “Closing” by Gil Stein, and a reception in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.

Ritner continued to serve as Egyptological reviewer for the University of Pennsylvania Press and the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. When not writing, lecturing, and reviewing, Ritner taught four courses on Coptic grammar and texts, Egyptian medical texts (Old Egyptian through Coptic), and Ptolemaic and Roman hieroglyphic texts. He also served as chair of the Admissions Committee for the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

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## Yorke Rowan

The past year saw the sixth season of excavations at Marj Rabba, bringing to a close the initial phase of the Galilee Prehistory Project (see *Marj Rabba* report). Work on publication of Marj Rabba has begun, while planning for the next phase of the Galilee Prehistory Project is underway. With Chad Hill and Morag Kersel, **Yorke Rowan** published a popular article “Aerial Photographs: Recording the Past, the Present, and the Invisible at Marj Rabba, Israel” in *Near Eastern Archaeology* (77/3: 182–86). As part of the ongoing survey and excavation research program of the Eastern Badia Archaeological Project, Yorke returned to complete the excavation of W-80, a Late Neolithic structure at Wisad Pools in the Black Desert of eastern Jordan (see *Eastern Badia Archaeological Project* report). A number of articles related to the Black Desert research program appeared, most notably “Revelations in the ‘Land of Conjecture’: New Late Prehistoric Discoveries at Maitland’s Mesa and Wisad Pools. The Eastern Badia Archaeological Project, Jordan” appearing in the *Journal of Field Archaeology* (40/2: 175–88) with Yorke as lead author. Other journal articles related to this project included “The Late Neolithic Colonization of the Eastern Badia of Jordan” in *Levant* (46/2: 285–301), co-authored with G. Rollefson and A. Wasse; two chapters related to the project appeared in *Jordan’s Prehistory: Past and Future Research* (Amman, pp. 295), and another appeared in *Proceedings of the 8th International Congress*



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of the, *Archaeology of the Ancient Near East*, 30 April–4 May, 2012, University of Warsaw, Vol. 2. Rowan co-authored with A. C. Hill “Pecking at Basalt: Photogrammetric Documentation of Petroglyphs in the Black Desert, Jordan,” which appeared in a festschrift for Gary Rollefson titled *Settlement, Survey, and Stone: Essays on Near Eastern Prehistory in Honour of Gary Rollefson* (Berlin: Ex Oriente, pp. 209–17).

During January and February, he spent time in Jerusalem studying the flint from Marj Rabba. Returning in early March, he stopped in Berlin to deliver a lecture titled “New Discoveries in the Black Desert of Jordan: Late Prehistoric Occupation at Wisad Pools and Maitland’s Mesa” at the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut. Earlier in the year, at the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meetings in San Diego, he delivered papers on both the Marj Rabba and Eastern Badia Archaeological Project. With A. C. Hill, M. Price, and M. Kersel, he presented “Special Consumption Deposits and Feasting at the Chalcolithic Site of Marj Rabba, Israel,” a paper focused on evidence for a feasting deposit. With G. Rollefson, A. Wasse, and M. Kersel, he presented “Late Neolithic Complexity in Jordan’s Black Desert.” Also in November, as the Annual Helen Diller Family Lecturer for Archaeological Discoveries in Israel, he delivered a lecture “New Rituals, New Religion? Death’s Dominion during the Copper Age of the Southern Levant” at the Legion of Honor Museum, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. In March 2015, he delivered a similar talk for the Machteld Mellink Lecture in Near Eastern Archaeology for the Westchester American Institute of Archaeology Society. Yorke also gave talks locally, for the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, and at Wheaton College.

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## Foy Scalf

Academic year 2014–2015 was another extremely busy, but also very rewarding year for **Foy Scalf** with top priority devoted to the responsibilities of managing the Research Archives and ushering the Integrated Database into a new grant phase. Despite these burdens, Foy was able to make additional contributions by teaching, lecturing, and publishing. Foy taught four classes over the year. In winter quarter, he led four eager NELC students through an Introduction to Old Egyptian. A group of continuing education students from Foy’s autumn class on Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Museum Goers were so thrilled with Egyptian that they demanded a second class on Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Beginners in the winter. In the spring, he taught an online version of the beginning hieroglyphs class to over twenty students from the US and abroad. He also appeared as a guest lecturer for NELC’s Approaches to the Study of the Ancient Near East course for incoming graduate students.

Over two days in March, Foy served as an Egyptology consultant on an interdisciplinary advisory board of scholars in the history of science as part of the Adler Planetarium’s Digital Skies project. The project seeks to use digitized material from the Adler’s extensive archives to produce a series of digital tools for public education, including sky maps from ancient civilizations. In March, he participated with several Oriental Institute colleagues in a well-attended and productive panel on How to Build a Long-Term Text in the Ancient Near East at the 225th annual meeting of the American Oriental Society. Preliminary versions of several of the conference papers, including Foy’s “From the Beginning to the End: How to Generate and Transmit Funerary Texts in Ancient Egypt,” will be published in a special issue

of the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions*. Revised and expanded versions of all the papers from the panel with additional contributions are planned for a volume in the coming year.

Foy wrote thirteen dictionary entries for *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, due to be published in 2015. His chapter on “Magic” mentioned in last year’s report for the *Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-Biblical Antiquity* is now in press. He wrote an article studying a group of embalmers’ bowls with Demotic inscriptions, one of which is in the Oriental Institute, for the Festschrift for Janet Johnson. An article on “Demotic and Hieratic Scholia in Funerary Papyri and Their Implications for the Manufacturing Process” is currently undergoing peer review for the *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities*. His article on a corpus of Demotic votive texts from the Oriental Institute dedicated to Thoth, the ibis, mentioned in previous reports finally appeared as “Resurrecting an Ibis Cult: A Collection of Demotic Votive Texts from the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago” in *Mélanges offerts à Ola el-Aguizy* (Bibliothèque d’Étude 164; Cairo: Institut français d’archéologie orientale, 2015). He is also preparing a book proposal for a revised and expanded version of his dissertation on Demotic funerary literature. After copious delay, *Demotistische Literaturübersicht 34* was completed by the collaborators (Friedhelm Hoffmann, Franziska Naether, Foy Scalf, and Ghislaine Widmer) and is now in press for the next issue of *Enchoria*. Finally, the Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online (OIDOO) project, founded by Foy and Jackie Jay, was migrated to the OCHRE platform during the last two years. The data is currently being updated to prepare for a re-launch in its new and more sophisticated home.

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## Oğuz Soysal

**Oğuz Soysal** continued his job with the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD) Project. Much of his time was spent preparing additions and corrections to the early CHD volumes starting from the letter L.

As personal study Soysal published in 2014–2015 three articles: “Tiergefäß. A. II. Philologisch. Bei den Hethitern” in *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* 14 (2014), pp. 2–4; “A New Join to the Mita-Text (Bo 8742) and a Duplicate of the Zannanza-Affair (Bo 8757)” in *Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires*, 2014 no. 4 (2014), pp. 145–48; and “Einige Beispiele mit abweichender Position und Funktion des Zeichens L. 312 ‘VIR’ in den hieroglyphischen Siegelinschriften” in *Saeculum: Gedenkschrift für Heinrich Otten anlässlich seines 100. Geburtstags* (2015), pp. 269–78.

Furthermore, three articles for European/Turkish Festschrifts and eight contributions for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*, as well as a review article to be submitted to the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* have been prepared and are awaiting publication.

In addition, Soysal continued in 2014–2015 a project involved with the unpublished Hittite texts bearing the siglum “Bo”. As part of his duties in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project, he prepared transliterations of 170 cuneiform fragments from the range between Bo 9536 and Bo 9736. The pictures, transliterations, and other textual treatments of the entire material are now available in the monograph entitled *Unpublished Bo-Fragments in Transliteration I (Bo 9536–Bo 9736)*, which was published in May 2015 as Chicago Hittite Dictionary Supplements 2.

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After an agreement with the Museum of Ancient Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara, Soysal continued in 2014–2015 to take digital pictures and transliterate another group of tablets (Bo 8695–Bo 9535) considered to be published in the second volume of *Unpublished Bo-Fragments in Transliteration* in co-operation with Ms. Başak Yıldız.

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## Matthew W. Stolper

**Matthew W. Stolper's** research in connection with the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project is described elsewhere in this *Annual Report*. His other recent publications also deal with Achaemenid texts and history. Some of them look back on his earliest research efforts.

A note on “A Murašû Tablet Sold at Sotheby's, New York, December, 2014,” in *NABU* 2015 (2)/53, adds another document to the archive at the center of Stolper's 1974 dissertation. Only a few months after the Murašû Archive was discovered at Nippur in 1893, the tablet was given to E. W. Clark, one of the supporters of early excavations at Nippur and of Assyriology at the University of Pennsylvania, and it has remained out of sight in private hands ever since.

An article on “Three Personal Reflections on Elias Bickerman,” responding to Pierre Briant's 2011 Rostovtzeff Lecture at Yale, appeared in *Writing History in Time of War: Michael Rostovtzeff, Elias J. Bickerman and the 'Hellenization of Asia': From Alexander the Great to World War II*, edited by J. G. Manning (Oriens et Occidens 24. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2015, pp. 45–61). It recalls Bickerman's interest in Stolper's dissertation in connection with his own work on Judean exiles in Achaemenid Babylonia. It also highlights Bickerman's uncannily perspicacious use of one of the first published Persepolis Fortification texts (Fort. 06764, published by George G. Cameron in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 1 [1942]: 214–18), as early as 1946.

A review of the French and English versions of a volume on the palace of Darius at Susa edited by the late Jean Perrot (*Le palais de Darius à Suse*, Paris 2010; *The Palace of Darius at Susa*, London 2013), in *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 72 (2015): 518–32, is tinged, as the



*The Saklatvala tomb at Woodlawn Cemetery, New York City*

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reviewed volumes are, with a hint of memoir. It considers work done when the archaeologists and epigraphers who worked under Perrot's supervision between 1969 and 1989, Stolper's contemporaries, were in the first flush of their scholarly maturity and ambition.

A note on "An Old Persian Cuneiform Inscription on a Tomb in the Woodlawn Cemetery, New York City," for the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, is co-authored with Rüdiger Schmitt, who literally wrote the book on modern Old Persian texts composed as forgeries, amusements, and commemorations. The inscription, brought to our attention by Helen Rosner, is a deft combination of attested Old Persian elements and philologically accurate coinages based on Avestan. It commemorates the family of Phirozshaw D. Saklatvala, a prominent member of the then tiny Parsi community of New York and a benefactor of Iranian studies; it may have been composed by A. V. Williams Jackson, then professor emeritus of Indo-Iranian languages at Columbia University, who was closely connected to Parsi communities in India and New York and acquainted with Saklatvala.

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## Emily Teeter

**Emily Teeter** continues to work on objects in our Egyptian collection, concentrating on the stelae from Medinet Habu and an enigmatic embalming cache.

She spoke in the Oriental Institute's Dining with the Dead symposium. More popular talks included popular religion in Toronto, Breasted and the Chicago collections at the Contemporary Club, "Egypt: the Center of the World" at the Seattle Art Museum, statue cults at the Denver Museum of Natural History, and "What the Treasures of King Tut Tell us about Ancient Egypt" at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. She participated in a panel on mummies at the Art Institute with Michael Vannier and Mary Greuel.

Consulting projects included working with Terry Wilfong (University of Michigan) to survey the Egyptian collection of the St Louis Art Museum (curator Lisa Çakmak) and to advise on plans for their new permanent gallery. Emily also has been working with the Field Museum on their show "Mummies: Images of the Afterlife" that will travel to several museums in the United States before returning to Chicago in early 2018. She has also been working on a project for the Art Institute of Chicago to check the identification and date of Egyptian objects before they are put online. Two graduate students in Egyptology, Rozenn Bailleul-LeSeur and Kierra Foley, were able to join the team. The group works collaboratively, dividing each section of material among them so the each has to deal with shabtis, ceramics, statuary, etc., then meeting to compare notes and discuss issues of dating and identification. Even early in the project, they were able to make significant improvements to the data that will make it much easier and functional for researchers to use the collection online.

Publications for the year included articles "A Coffin Dispersed: Case Study of 21st Dynasty Coffin Fragments" (with Branislav Anđelković, University of Belgrade), in *Issues in Ethnology and Anthropology* n.s. 10/1 (Belgrade), and "A Stela of Khaemtir and Qenherkhepshef (Chicago OIM E14315)," in the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 50 (published in honor of Professor Janet Johnson). A chapter "Religion and Ritual" appeared in *A Companion to Ancient Egyptian Art*, edited by Melinda Hartwig (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015). Emily also published "Collecting for Chicago: James Henry Breasted and the Chicago Egyptian Collections,"

in *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 226, and an article on our Cosmopolitan City exhibit in the CIPEG (International Committee for Egyptology) newsletter.

Meetings included a CIPEG conference in August in Copenhagen, where Emily gave a paper on Medinet Habu material, and she continued to Oxford for a conference on the conservation of Egyptian objects.

Emily was re-elected as vice president of the American Research Center in Egypt, and she continues to be active in the Chicago chapter of ARCE. She continues to serve on the board of CIPEG. In the fall, she acted as a lecturer on a cruise from Athens to Dubai. When the ship developed engine problems, Emily and her co-lecturer were forced to dig deep into their laptops for topics to keep the passengers amused.

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## Theo van den Hout

On July 1, 2015, **Theo van den Hout** concluded his last year as chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. It was an extremely busy year with five searches that fortunately all came to a successful conclusion. Effective July 1, 2015, he holds the Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professorship of Western Civilization.

In the course of the past year Theo submitted the entries “Wache, Wächter” (watch, guard, sentinel) and “Walwazidi” (a personal name) to the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*. He also submitted three articles, one to the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, co-authored with Virginia Rimmer Herrmann and Ahmet Beyazlar, with the edition of a new Hieroglyphic Luwian inscription in the context of David Schloen’s excavations at Zincirli; one on the scholarly circles at the Hittite court and their social position in Hittite society for a volume to be edited by Seth Richardson; and one for a volume in honor of a colleague on “The Art of Writing: Remarks on the When and How of Hittite Cuneiform.” He continued work on a new volume of Hittite cuneiform fragments to be published this year as *Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköy* 68.

Theo gave several lectures: “L. 326/SCRIBA: A Re-Evaluation of His Status” at the 9th International Congress of Hittitology in Çorum (Turkey) in September; “Ready to Write: The Case of Second Millennium Hittite Anatolia” at the conference organized by Chris Woods and Ed Shaughnessy entitled *Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World’s First Writing Systems*, Neubauer Collegium Conference, here at the University of Chicago in November; “The Sumerogram GIŠ.ĪUR: Its Meaning and Uses as Both a Sumerogram and Determinative,” at a workshop on Hethitische Logogramme at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, likewise in November; and “A is for Anatolia: Aspects of Writing and Literacy in Hittite Anatolia (2000–1200 BC),” at the second *Signs of Writing* conference held in Beijing and Shanghai in June.

The following publications have appeared in print since July 2014: “‘Jong, maar ... belangrijk’ Korte Geschiedenis van de Nederlandse Hethitologie,” in *Waar de geschiedenis begon. Nederlandse onderzoekers in de ban van spijkerschrift, hiërogliefen en aardewerk. Uitgave naar aanleiding van het 75-jarig bestaan van het Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 1939–2014*, O. E. Kaper and J. G. Dercksen, eds. (Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 2014), pp. 63–72 (a short history of Dutch Hittitology); “Zu einer Stratigraphie der hethitischen Totenrituale,” in *Saeculum: Gedenkschrift für Heinrich Otten anlässlich seines 100. Geburtstags*, A. Müller-Karpe, E. Rieken, and W. Sommerfeld, eds. (*Studien zu den Boğazköy-Texten* 58. Wiesbaden:

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Harrassowitz, 2015), pp. 301–06; “Greek and Carian,” in *Encyclopedia of Ancient Greek Language and Linguistics*, G. K. Giannakis, ed. (Leiden and Boston: Brill), pp. 40–43 (print publication of an earlier digital one); and three entries in *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* 14: “Tod. B. Bei den Hethitern” (pp. 75–79), “Tutḫalija IV.” (pp. 227–33), and “Ulmi-Teššub” (pp. 310–11).

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## Tasha Vorderstrasse

In 2014–2015, **Tasha Vorderstrasse** was co-curator of the Oriental Institute Museum exhibition *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo*. She also co-edited the exhibition catalog, writing or co-writing most of the catalog entries, in addition to three chapters: “Childhood at Fustat: Archaeological and Textual Sources,” “Linguistic Diversity at Fustat,” and (with Michael Wechsler) “Oriental Institute Cairo Genizah Fragments.” She is also the curator of the Oriental Institute mini-exhibition *Cairo in Chicago*, about the “Street in Cairo” that was a part of the Chicago World’s Columbian Exposition in 1893. She has also given numerous lectures and tours based on these exhibitions. An article, co-written with Oriental Institute Associate Conservator Alison Whyte, on two tableaux that were ultimately not used in the *Cosmopolitan City* exhibition was published in *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 226.

Tasha participated in two excavations during 2014–2015. She continued her work in Armenia with Kathryn Franklin at Ambroyi Village, Armenia (see separate report). The excavation season was longer than the first season, consisting of six weeks, and excavations took place in three areas. This work resulted in an article in *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 225, and a lecture on both seasons was co-presented with Kate Franklin at the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, in San Diego, California. She also visited the Komana excavations near the city of Tokat in Turkey to work on the medieval pottery at the site.

In September 2014 and May 2015 Tasha led two Oriental Institute tours to Georgia and Armenia. She also made a research trip in June 2015 to work on the Islamic material from the Qoueiq (Syria) Survey now in the Louvre Museum. This will be part of a forthcoming book that will be co-written by Tasha and Asa Eger.

Besides her lectures on the exhibitions, she gave the following talks: “The Noble Families of Armenia and the Creation of Historical Memory: The Artsrunis in Vaspurakan,” Armenian Circle, University of Chicago, March 2015; “Chinese Sources for Balkh,” Balkh Art and Cultural Heritage conference, University of Oxford, January 2015; and “Multiculturalism and Islamic Material Culture,” Bard College Graduate Center, January 2015.

In addition to the publications associated with the exhibitions, the following articles appeared: “Reconstructing House and Archives in Early Islamic Jēme,” in *Household Studies in Complex Societies: (Micro) Archaeological and Textual Approaches*, edited by Miriam Müller, pp. 409–36 (Oriental Institute Seminars 10; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2015); “Byzantine and Early Islamic Coinage at Excavations in Jericho,” in *Coinage and History in the Seventh Century Near East 4: Proceedings of the 14th Seventh Century Syria Numismatic Round Table Held at the Hive, Worcester, on 28th and 29th September 2013*, edited A. Oddy, I. Schulze, and W. Schulze, pp. 37–51 (Exeter: Short Run Press); “Continued Excavation at Ambroyi, Armenia,” by Kathryn Franklin, Tasha Vorderstrasse, and Frina Babayan, *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 225 (2015): 18–20; “An Overview of the Medieval Pottery from the Antiochene Region Excavated by Mécérian,”

*Mélanges de Université de Saint-Joseph* 65 (2013–2014): 437–54; “The Archaeology of the Ottoman Empire and Its Aftermath in the Middle East,” *Near Eastern Archaeology* 77/4 (2014): 292–98; “Terms for Vessels in Arabic and Coptic Documentary Texts and Their Archaeological and Ethnographic Correlates,” in *Documents and History of the Early Islamic World*, edited by A. Schubert and P. Sijpesteijn (Leiden: Brill, 2015), pp. 195–234.

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## John Z. Wee

**John Z. Wee** is author of the following articles and essays in 2015: “Phenomena in Writing: Creating and Interpreting Variants of the Diagnostic Series Sa-gig” (Science, Technology, and Medicine in Ancient Cultures series, De Gruyter) and “Discovery of the Zodiac Man in Cuneiform” (*Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 67: 217–33). An essay on “Virtual Moons Over Babylonia: The Calendar Text System, Its Micro-Zodiac of 13, and the Making of Medical Zodiology” is forthcoming in *The Circulation of Astronomical Knowledge in the Ancient World*, edited by J. M. Steele (Time, Astronomy, and Calendars series, Brill). An article on “A Late Babylonian Astral Commentary on Marduk’s Address to the Demons” is under review at the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

John is currently editing papers from his interdisciplinary symposium on “Body and Metaphor in Ancient Medicine” (May 1–3, 2014) at the Oriental Institute. The edited volume will be published as *The Comparable Body: Imagination and Analogy in Ancient Anatomy and Physiology* (Studies in Ancient Medicine series, Brill).

In the past year, John presented the following lectures and conference papers: “Mathematical Models for the Micro-Zodiac” and “A Choice of Microcosms: Dodekatemoria Models and the Calendar Text System” as an invited seminar and lecture on General Mathematical Practices in the Astral Sciences and Their Relation to / Contrast with Mathematical Sources by the Mathematical Sciences in the Ancient World (SAW) Project at the Université Paris Diderot (October 15 and 17, 2014); “The Roots of Commentary: From the Ancient Near East to Alexandria to Rabbinic Palestine” as an invited lecture sponsored by the Liss Lectures in Judaica Fund at the University of Notre Dame (January 28, 2015); “Straight from the Ummânu’s Mouth: Serialization, Classification, and Cuneiform Text Commentary” at a session on How to Build a Long-Term Text in the Ancient Near East at the 225th meeting of the American Oriental Society (New Orleans, March 13–16, 2015); and “Houses of Secret and the Meanings of Planetary Exaltations” at a session on The Heavenly Bodies in Image and Text at the 61st Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (Geneva and Bern, June 22–26, 2015). An article on “A Late Babylonian Astral Commentary on Marduk’s Address to the Demons” has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. In addition, John is preparing to present a paper at a workshop for the project on Pre-Medieval Commentaries in Medicine and Mathematical Sciences at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin, August 25–27, 2016).

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## Donald Whitcomb

**Don Whitcomb** returned from the Jericho Mafjar Project 2014 with “remote sensing” data (as reported last year). He also brought back hundreds of high-quality images of the mosaics of Mafjar, photographed in 2010, just before his visit and negotiation for the new excavations. In 2012 Ḥamdān Tāhā had suggested that they produce a book together on the mosaics and he gave him a preliminary manuscript. So his summer was spent organizing a presentation of these mosaics and re-writing the accompanying text, keeping close to Ḥamdān’s original. The final text and plates were given to the publisher in Ramallah in mid-October. They had a beautiful volume presented by Ḥamdān on the occasion of his retirement at the end of October. The book, *The Mosaics of Khirbet el-Mafjar: Hisham’s Palace*, cannot have distribution outside of Palestine, so we have produced a second edition at the Oriental Institute, in collaboration with the Palestinian Authority, for wider distribution and online availability.

While Don was in Jericho for Ḥamdān’s retirement symposium in October, he made return trip to Aqaba (which felt almost like a pilgrimage). He had not visited the scene of his ten-year-long excavations in some twenty years! Needless to say, Aqaba is no longer the quiet little town he knew and enjoyed; just the opposite, it has become large and bustling. The excavations, located in the center of the city, are very well preserved and are now expanded with the new Danish excavations. Kristoffer Damgaard began serious work on the site in 2008 and has since conducted a new series of excavations, with the capable assistance of Michael Jennings (who performs the same functions at Mafjar). This time there was a special treat, beyond the fine Danish hospitality, to watch Kris and Michael flying their drone over the site and recording their trenches. In retrospect, this was clearly a plot by Michael to convince him to bring one of these noisy machines to Palestine (see the Jericho Mafjar Project report). Next year Kristoffer and Don plan to sit here in the Institute and combine their excavations into a final report on the early Islamic port of Ayla (Aqaba).

This renewal of his interest in Aqaba took a surprising turn in that he was invited to London for a conference on Aksum, Himyar, and the Red Sea. It turned out that he was the only archaeologist (with the partial exception of Christian Robin) and so he spoke on the pre-Islamic and Islamic trade patterns in the Red Sea. This seems to have gathered some attention because he



*Don at Istakhr, 1966*



*Don and student in Bushire*

was invited to speak on the Umayyad Red Sea at the Leeds International Medieval Congress in July (but that is for next year's report).

Much of the winter was taken with meetings and plans for the new Oriental Institute exhibition, *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo*. But in truth, he spent the time looking over the capable shoulders of two former students who were the curators, Tasha Vorderstrasse and Tanya Treptow. The exhibit opened with the deserved acknowledgment for them and a fine lecture series. Don gathered a little reflected credit in presenting the exhibit at the ARCE (American Research Center in Egypt) annual meeting. The last lecture on Fustat (the medieval name for Cairo) at the Oriental Institute was his "From Fustat to Cairo: The Many Meanings of 'Old Cairo,'" which was a pleasant summary of the urban evolution of Cairo.

Don was able to return to urban development in Iran at a conference in Harvard on Cities in Medieval Iran. He reviewed what is known about Sasanian cities and changes with the coming of Islam, entitled: "From Shahrستان to Medina, Revisited." Finally, Iran came to be recollected in a very different fashion. At the end of May there was a reunion of Peace Corps volunteers who had served in Iran. He had been a teacher in the high schools of Bushire (now Bushehr) on the Persian Gulf and spent his free time taking students to survey sites and then checking out sites such as Istakhr. It is hard to imagine this was almost fifty years ago; but Istakhr and many archaeological sites remain to be investigated in Iran.

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## Karen L. Wilson

**Karen L. Wilson** is pleased to report that *Nippur 6: The Inanna Temple* has been accepted by the Oriental Institute editorial office and will appear in the Oriental Institute Publications series. *Nippur 6* will be the final publication of the Oriental Institute excavation of the Inanna Temple at the site of Nippur, Iraq, during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The authors of the volume are Richard L. Zettler, Karen L. Wilson, Jean M. Evans, and Robert D. Biggs with contributions by R. C. Haines and Donald P. Hansen. The series editor is McGuire Gibson.

This past year, Karen also continued to serve as Kish Project Coordinator and Research Associate at the Field Museum, preparing aspects of the publication of the work of the Joint Field Museum and Oxford University Expedition to Kish in 1923–1932. She is extremely pleased that the Oriental Institute Publications Committee has agreed to publish the manuscript as a volume in the Oriental Institute Publications series. The volume presents the results of a symposium conducted in November 2008 that focused on current research and updated excavations at the site. Chapters cover studies of the human remains, textual evidence, lithics, animal figurines, seals, and stucco, as well as a catalog of the Field Museum holdings from Kish and Jamdat Nasr.

Karen began work this past year on the Oriental Institute excavations at Tell Abu Şalabikh, a site that lies approximately 12 miles northwest of Nippur. Two brief soundings by members of the Nippur Expedition took place during six weeks in the spring of 1963 and two weeks in the winter of 1965. Over 500 tablets discovered in two adjacent buildings at the site were published by Robert D. Biggs in *Inscriptions from Tell Abū Şalābīkh* (Oriental Institute Publications 99; Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1974). However, the field

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records and the pottery, seals and sealings, and other objects found still remain to be studied and published.

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## Christopher Woods

**Christopher Woods** devoted much of this past year to continuing work on several long-term projects, completing several publications, presenting papers at several international conferences, and implementing the Writing in Early Mesopotamia as well as the Signs of Writing projects. This year also saw the completion of our three-year search process to rebuild our Assyriology program, which resulted in the hiring of Susanne Paulus, Hervé Reculeau, and John Wee, all of whom join the faculty this year.

As described elsewhere (see under *Project Reports*), the Writing in Early Mesopotamia project has focused on implementing a database that will facilitate the study of Sumerian writing by capturing and categorizing orthographic variation, and allowing for complex queries. Our work has also centered upon collecting, inputting, and morphologically parsing texts for inclusion in the database. This year has also seen the launch of our Neubauer Collegium project, Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World's First Writing Systems (in collaboration with Edward Shaughnessy, of the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations). Signs of Writing is a three-year research project designed to investigate, from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective, the cultural and social contexts and structural properties of the world's oldest writing. Particular emphasis is placed on the four primary writing systems — from Mesopotamia, China, Egypt, and Mesoamerica — looking at the similarities and differences in the archaeological and paleographic records across regions and the psycho-linguistic processes by which humans first made language visible. The first of our three annual conferences took place last November 8th–9th; a second conference took place in China on June 25th–30th, 2015, and was hosted jointly by the Chicago Center in Beijing and Fudan University in Shanghai. Organized broadly around the linguistic, social, and cultural contexts of early writing, the conferences will bring together specialists in various early writing systems and cover a range of topics, including the origins and structures of writing systems, the relationship between speech and writing, reading and cognition, the adaptation of writing systems and bilingualism, scribal transmission and education, literacy, the materiality and archaeological contexts of writing, and the rise of written genres.

Chris presented at two Signs of Writing conferences this year, speaking on “Re-evaluating the Role of the Rebus Principle in Early Cuneiform” at the Chicago meeting, and on “Contingency Tables and Economic Forecasting in the Earliest Texts from Mesopotamia” at Shanghai. At the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale meeting in Warsaw in July, Chris spoke on “Economic Planning at Uruk in the Fourth Millennium.” Progress has been made this year on another overdue, long-term project, volume 18 in the series Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon, which is devoted to the lexical series Igituh, Idu, Lanu, and the Group Vocabularies; the volume should be completed this year. Chris is on leave this year, but will continue to edit the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and to oversee the Oriental Institute's Postdoctoral Scholar program.



**RESEARCH SUPPORT**

*Overleaf: Amphora with Coptic inscription. Pottery, bitumen, and ink. Early Byzantine-Abbasid, 500s-700s AD. Monastery of Epiphanius, Western Thebes. Excavated by H. Winlock (Metropolitan Museum of Art). 34 × 23 cm; thickness, 0.8 cm. OIM E27282 (photo D. 027495: Anna Ressman)*

## RESEARCH SUPPORT

# COMPUTER LABORATORY

**Paul D. Ruffin**

As I enter my second year as IT administrator, I am pleased with the progress that has been made to enhancing various technologies for the Oriental Institute. This past year consisted of three main projects: (1) improving hardware and software management solutions; (2) managing the Oriental Institute's website re-design; and (3) working with staff and KE on finishing Phase 2 of the Integrated Database project.

### **Projects**

#### ***The Oriental Institute Website***

It has been almost one year since we updated our website. As with most web migrations, some webpages break in the process. During this period, I used a program called Google Analytics to search for all the broken pages or dead links on our new website and corrected them. You will notice with our new website, we have changed our online store to be more dynamic and user friendly. Special thanks to Tommy Thomas, Sarah Schmidt, and Michael Girgis who helped make this possible.

#### ***Fresh Service Software***

The Oriental Institute has migrated to a new and improved ticketing system and hardware inventory called Fresh Service. This program is the third installment of ticketing systems for the OI. Fresh Service is an IT support and content management software that will provide management for user's requests throughout the OI. This new system will allow for increased response times and productivity for IT support. I will be able to keep records of previous computer incidents and problems, as well as monitor all the hardware at the Oriental Institute. It will also allow us to run a lifecycle management program designed to keep our IT infrastructure up to date throughout the years.

#### ***New Suq Store System***

The Oriental Institute is planning on changing store vendors for our POS system. We worked with TAM software for over ten years but we have decided to depart from their services and move to a new, up-to-date system. Our goal for the remainder of the summer is to move our POS system to a company called Shopkeep. Shopkeep uses iPads and portable card readers as their method of ringing purchases. The inventory for the Suq will now be cloud based with better security than with TAM.

#### ***Integrated Database***

For the past year, I have been working with Foy Scalf and Kiersten Neumann to add more photo records to our Integrated Database (IDB). This year we have updated the IDB to match

## COMPUTER LABORATORY

our new Oriental Institute web design. You can view the new site at [oi-idb.uchicago.edu](http://oi-idb.uchicago.edu). Our goal is to provide public access to information about our research and object-based collections that are managed by the Oriental Institute. More Museum staff members now have access to the IDB. I will be working with the web development of the IDB, checking the web statistics and see what can be done to increase its efficiency. We have agreed that Phase 3 will involve working with both ITS and KE staff to gain knowledge of a transfer session. Our goal is move two additional silos into KE (CAMEL Lab and Museum Archives data). The CAMEL Lab has roughly 70 terabytes of data and is expanding. We will need to move to new storage infrastructure to handle the file sizes needed to migrate all of CAMEL Lab's data.

### ***Computer Hardware / Software Updates***

This year our main focus was on managing our new Dell PowerEdge server and Mac OSX server. The Chicago Hittite Dictionary and OINE File Server have been migrated over to a new technology known as NAS (Network Attached Storage), which involves adding a secure hard drive that is connected directly to the Internet. This technology prevents cyber-attacks and is more secure. Both departments now have more storage at their disposal. I have created a domain that uses Active Directory for the various Windows users onsite. Using Windows Server 2012 will allow me to monitor computer accounts and deploy software and updates in a timely manner. The next phase is to move Apple users to the Mac OSX server for more stability. All users at the Oriental Institute are now on Windows 7 and are using computers that date back to 2011 models at the earliest. The goal moving forward is to keep our infrastructure and software up to date.

For further information concerning the above mentioned research projects and other electronic resources in general, refer to the News page on the Oriental Institute's website, at <http://oi.uchicago.edu/news>.

See the "Electronic Resources" section of this Annual Report for the complete URL to each of the website resources mentioned in this article.

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## **INTEGRATED DATABASE PROJECT**

**Foy Scalf**

### **Introduction**

The Integrated Database Project (IDB) has now entered its third official phase on the path toward integrating the data of the departments across the Oriental Institute. Recent vigorous progress on the project should be tempered by reflecting about the long and circuitous process by which we have arrived at our current circumstances. In the files of the Research Archives are the notes from an integrated database committee meeting from December 13, 2004. According to these notes, representatives from the Institute's faculty and staff met to discuss the idea of an integrated database in August 1990, an ongoing discussion that resulted

in a series of grant proposals, and documents outlining the potential project developed throughout the 1990s. The long-standing vision for these proposals stems directly back to the Institute's founder, James Henry Breasted, who sought close collaboration in developing a comprehensive understanding of the ancient Near East and employing modern technology to aid that mission. Breasted's comments concerning the age in which the Institute was founded are an appropriate reminder of the responsibilities faced by each generation of scholars:

This is the first generation of orientalists who have been aided by the possession of highly perfected mechanical appliances for recording and multiplying graphic reproductions on an extensive scale ... Never before, therefore, has it been so feasible to undertake the immense task of making a permanent and multiplied record of all the written monuments of the past in the Near East. It is therefore one of the great and sacred obligations resting upon the orientalists of this generation to undertake this task .... (James Henry Breasted, "The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago," *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures* 35/4 [1919]: 204)

The sentiment in Breasted's words applies well to so-called "big data" applications and the goals of many projects in the digital humanities. As part of this trend to capture and preserve as much data about the ancient Near East as possible, the Integrated Database Project has made massive strides.

Over the past year, departments that migrated into EMu during phases one and two have continued to make steady progress. The Research Archives has cataloged 500,000 books, journals, articles, and pamphlets. Museum Registration has registered over 260,000 objects. New workflow procedures now ensure that every new object registered includes basic record photography added to the database. A backlog of permits for publication has now been cataloged. Over 20,000 museum registration cards have been scanned and attached to object records in the database. Over 150,000 digital images are now recorded from our Photographic Archives, including past special exhibits, photography for researchers, and scanned photographs or negatives. The treatment and analysis of any object that undergoes conservation is tracked, with over 9,000 records from our Museum Conservation department.

Table 1. Total records in the Integrated Database

<i>Department</i>	<i>Records in EMu</i>	<i>Records on Website</i>
Research Archives	491,086	491,071
Museum Registration	264,172	223,228
Photographic Archives	156,667	59,366
Museum Conservation	9,036	—
Museum Archives	7,522	7,522

These developments bring to a close phase two of the project during which the databases and digital assets from Museum Conservation and the Photographic Archives were migrated into EMu. We should like to acknowledge here the help of all the staff involved who help make this a success (see acknowledgements section below). Three individuals who are no longer with us should be singled out for acknowledgement here. John Sanders, Scott Branting, and Angela Spinazze were all instrumental in helping get the IDB project started and ushered us through phases one and two. Although they have moved on to other endeavors, the project would not be where it is today without their leadership.



### ***Phase Three***

In October 2014 the IDB received its third consecutive Museums for America grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. During phase three of the project we will work toward integrating data from the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL) and the Museum Archives. CAMEL has a Microsoft (MS) Access database through which a large collection of digital maps and satellite images have been cataloged. Included in the CAMEL dataset is a massive set of images totaling roughly 60 terabytes. Up to this point, most of the digital information concerning the Museum Archives has been kept in the form of MS Excel spreadsheets and an incredible amount of digital scans. The move to EMu will create for the first time in the 100 year existence of the Oriental Institute a digital catalog of the incredible collections of the Museum Archives.

With the beginning of this new grant cycle, the first priority was for CAMEL and Museum Archives to work closely with software engineers at KE (now Axiell) in order to customize the client templates to suit the needs of each department. As EMu had a built-in design to handle archival data entered according to EAD (Encoded Archival Description) standards, the changes to the software were relatively minor. Planning and testing began in summer of 2014 under the supervision of John Larson, Angela Spinazze, and Jack Green, and then continuing into the fall with the help of Anne Flannery and Kiersten Neumann. By spring 2015 the Museum Archives client template was complete and the process of cataloging the Museum Archives has begun (see Table 1 for record numbers). Already, nearly 8,000 records have been created in EMu, covering over 100 collections. As part of the Achement Project, over 3,000 field registration cards from the Persepolis Expedition in the Museum Archives were scanned, cataloged, and attached in the database. New reports were also created to produce on-demand finding aids for any record in the collection. The complexity of the CAMEL database required a longer approach. CAMEL Director Emily Hammer and Assistant Director Elise MacArthur worked diligently to layout the current schema of their database and to create a series of documents detailing the mapping of the data into EMu, along with the necessary enhancements to EMu to create their desired functionality. As of summer 2015, the CAMEL template is mostly complete and the first data load has been reviewed. In the coming months, we will complete a series of data loads and reviews in preparation for the final migration into the system and eventually the development of a new tab on the online collections search to distribute CAMEL data to the public.

### ***Online Collections Search (oi-idb.uchicago.edu)***

The public face of the IDB, referred to here as the Online Collections Search, has undergone radical change in the past year. The first priority was redesign of the homepage to remove the inactive departmental boxes, streamline the user's navigation to the search by moving the search bar to the top, adding a rotating highlights slideshow, and merging the site with the design guidelines of the new Oriental Institute website (fig. 1). By December 2014, the redesign was complete and launched to the general public.

A further revision to the functionality of the site intended to make its operation more intuitive was the implementation of a smart tabs feature in February 2015. With smart tabs, inactive or empty tabs are hidden to unencumber searching and refining. Now, only tabs that include data relevant to a user's search will display. There is no longer a "Search All" tab, as each tab instantly refines all the results by department. A further search feature was

Figure 1. Redesigned homepage of the online collection search

added so that users could search only for records with associated multimedia (such as images, documents, or videos).

In coordination with the redesigned homepage, an instructional Wiki page was launched as a guide for IDB users in January 2015 (<http://oicollectionsearch.wikispaces.com>). This site will continue to be updated and improved with instructions, quick tips, frequently asked questions, and demos of how to use the Online Collections Search. It is hoped that we can add video tutorials in the coming years to better serve our community of users.

### **Museum Archives**

After the client template for Museum Archives was completed in the spring, we immediately began design of the Museum Archives tab as part of the Online Collections Search. The tab was launched in June and provides for the first time in the Institute's history a publicly accessible database covering the collections in the Museum Archives. Of course, we have only just begun to catalog these collections, so the available number of records is small (over 7,000), but in the coming years, users will see this resource grow into an amazing scholarly tool. The material in the Museum Archives is probably the largest single dataset to be migrating to the system. Records in the database for this material are joined together in a hierarchy consisting of Collection > Series > Box > Folder > Item. Collection level records provide an overview of a given collection (see fig. 2), including downloadable PDFs of finding aids for the collection, while series level records organize the data into meaningful segments (such as correspondence, field diaries, etc.). Box and folder level records help keep the physical material organized and retrievable as the box and folder numbers in the database match numbers attached to the physical boxes and folder. Item level records provide individualized descriptions about every item in the collection, down to individual sheets of paper (see fig. 3). Re-

The screenshot shows a search interface for the Museum Archives. At the top right, there is a 'Museum Archives' tab. Below it, a search bar shows 'Relevance' and '1 - 50 of 93' results. The main results area lists three collection records:

- Papers of Wilhelm Spiegelberg, --**  
 Level Attribute: Collection  
 Extent: 5 banker's boxes, 4-1/2 hollinger boxes  
 Date: 1899-1930  
 Physical Description: --  
 Media: 1 PDF  
 Unit ID: --
- Records of the Tell Abu Sarifa Expedition, --**  
 Level Attribute: Collection  
 Extent: 1 1/2 hollinger box, 1 hollinger box  
 Date: 1958-1959  
 Physical Description: --  
 Media: 1 PDF  
 Unit ID: --
- Records of the Khorsabad Expedition, --**  
 Level Attribute: Collection  
 Extent: 19 boxes  
 Date: 1928-1935  
 Physical Description: --  
 Media: 1 PDF  
 Unit ID: --

On the right side, there is a 'Refine Results' panel with the following filters:

- Collections:** 19th Century Photographs (1), Accounts (1), Alisher Hiyuk (1), All Other Countries Photographs (1), Ancient Egyptian Coffin Text Project (1), Apis Project (1), Beit Yerah (1), Bir Umm Fawakhir (1), Bismaya (1), Books of Anita Ghazmi (1), More
- Genre/Form:** No facets
- Level Attribute:** Collection (93)
- Date:** 1934-1936 (2), 1964-1965 (2), 1968-1970 (2)

Figure 2. Collection records under the Museum Archives tab

The screenshot shows a search interface for the Museum Archives. At the top right, there is a 'Museum Archives' tab. Below it, a search bar shows 'Relevance' and '1 - 50 of 3337' results. The main results area lists three item-level records:

- OI Photographic Archives: Negatives Collection, Negative**  
 Level Attribute: Item  
 Extent: 1 negative  
 Date: 1929  
 Physical Description: 1 black-and-white negative  
 Media: 1 image  
 Unit ID: N. 10540
- OI Photographic Archives: Negatives Collection, Negative**  
 Level Attribute: Item  
 Extent: 1 negative  
 Date: 25 March 1929  
 Physical Description: 1 black-and-white negative  
 Media: 1 image  
 Unit ID: N. 9841
- OI Photographic Archives: Negatives Collection, Negative**  
 Level Attribute: Item  
 Extent: 1 negative  
 Date: --  
 Physical Description: 1 black-and-white negative  
 Media: 1 image  
 Unit ID: N. 9842

On the right side, there is a 'Refine Results' panel with the following filters:

- Collections:** Records of the Persepolis Expedition (3312), OI Photographic Archives: Negative Collection (14), Records of the Khorsabad Expedition (4), Papers of James Henry Breasted (2), 19th Century Photographs (1), More
- Genre/Form:** Field Registration Card (3312), Negative (14), Photograph (2), Camera (1)
- Level Attribute:** Item (3332), Collection (5)
- Date:** 1929 (8), 1929-1935 (3), 13 March 1929 (2)

Figure 3. Item-level search results under the Museum Archives tab

Return to Search Results

**Records of the Khorsabad Expedition, Photograph**

Level Attribute: Item

Title Proper: --

Unit Title: Khorsabad Staff

Extent: 1 photograph

Dimensions: 14 x 11 inches

Date: 1929-1935

Source: --

Unit ID: P. 24149

Physical Description: 1 black-and-white glossy enlargement

Scope and Content: 1 black-and-white glossy enlargement: P. 24149/N. 14600 - Mr. Gordon Loud in the court of the expedition house.

UUID: f3e8d648-2c5b-44f0-bae8-c3e6d5ba57fe

Collection: Records of the Khorsabad Expedition

Series: Records of the Khorsabad Expedition

Box: Records of the Khorsabad Expedition

Folder: Records of the Khorsabad Expedition

Click the image to view full size

Slide 1 of 2  
P024149\_N014600  
View Photo Archive record.

Figure 4. Hyperlinks for navigating between record hierarchy

ords from every level of the hierarchy are available for searching and sorting. Because the records are attached together in a hierarchy, users can easily navigate between the various levels of the collection using simple hyperlinks within the record itself (see fig. 4). Links between collections further allow users to see connections previously invisible to scholars. Museum Archives records link to Photo Archives record through the hyperlinked “View Photo Archive Record” text and back via a hyperlink identification number (see fig. 4). Links to Research Archives records are available for any bibliographic items attached to Museum Archives records (see fig. 5).

The cataloging of the Museum Archives will represent a major improvement to how staff and scholars access and inform themselves about these materials. Many of the collections in the archives are unknown to the outside world and scholars will be excited to discover a wealth of new information about various projects and individuals involved in ancient Near East scholarship. As one can see from the description above, no longer will such material be hidden or siloed. The IDB project is truly integrating the digital assets of the Oriental Institute in exciting ways that are sure to open up new paths of scholarship, allowing scholars to see connections that would have otherwise been overlooked or even unknown.

## Acknowledgments

The IDB project requires a large and ever-growing team allied with significant resources to produce the desired results of data capture and integration. Such an undertaking is by necessity collaborative. At the core of the project team are the staff members of the Oriental Institute responsible for the preservation and care of items and data under their supervision. They are on the front lines in the trenches daily, helping to shape, curate, and share the material at the heart of the mission of the Institute. Under their watch, a community of faculty,

INTEGRATED DATABASE

[Return to Search Results](#)

**Records of the Khorsabad Expedition, --**

Level Attribute: Collection

Title Proper: Guide to the Records of the Khorsabad Expedition

Unit Title: --

Extent: 19 boxes

Dimensions: --

Date: 1928-1935

Source: Loud, Kenneth Gordon

Unit ID: --

Physical Description: --

Scope and Content: Field records, field diaries, field negatives and file prints for field seasons 1929-1935.

UUID4: 880c858d-7115-4faf-9ffd-366793687280

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[See a list of series from this collection](#)

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1. Frankfort, Henri. *Tell Asmar, Khafaje and Khorsabad: Second Preliminary Report of the Iraq Expedition*. Oriental Institute Communications 16. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1933.

See: -

[View Entry](#)

PDFs

1 PDF is available to download.

- [Finding Aid: Records of the Khorsabad Expedition](#)




Figure 5. Bibliography for the Khorsabad collection linked to Research Archives record

staff, students, and a large cadre of volunteers have been recruited to help push the project forward. Without their hard work and dedication, projects of this size would be impossible. We would like to take the time to sincerely thank them for generously donating their time and effort to further our goals. All the individuals involved in the project are described under the individual departmental reports elsewhere in this volume. We would finally like to thank the University of Chicago, the Oriental Institute, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and Aimee Drolet Rossi for their unflagging financial support.

## OCHRE DATA SERVICE

Sandra Schloen

### View from the Top

As a software developer and database consultant, it is all too easy to get bogged down in details of syntax and code, fields and values, and lose sight of the big picture. I am sure this is true for archaeologists and philologists too who must deal with the minutiae in their respective fields of study before getting to theories and ideas with grander and more far-reaching themes.

But standing on the site of Tell Keisan, Israel, with David Schloen who is starting up a new excavation there, I admired the view from the top, looking over fertile fields of peppers, cabbages, sunflowers, and fruit trees, and dry fields studded with grazing cattle and sheep. As we traveled to visit other colleagues and sites, I have also admired the view from the top of Tel Shimron, looking out on the territories of the kings of northern Canaan, once purportedly conquered by Joshua (Joshua 11:1ff.); the view from the top of Abel Beth Maacah, looking towards the hills of Lebanon to the west and Syria to the east (not to mention the view of the impressive Canada Center sports complex with its unexpected ice rink in the nearby town Metulla); the view from the top of Tell es-Safi, the site of ancient Gath of the



*David and Sandra Schloen standing on the site of Tell Keisan, Israel, a new Oriental Institute excavation*

## OCHRE DATA SERVICE

Philistines, high above the Elah Valley where Goliath met his match, or rather, his demise; the view from Mount Scopus looking down over the shining city of Jerusalem below; the view from the top at Masada, looking east over Jordan through the haze of the evaporating water of the Dead Sea. The view from the top inspires me not to lose sight of the broader research goals as we do the detailed work of the OCHRE Data Service.

One of our recent projects requiring detailed work of mind-boggling proportions was patiently moved along by research data specialist and philologist Miller Prosser of the OCHRE Data Service (NELC Ph.D. 2010) and expanded on work begun by our colleague Edward Stratford (NELC Ph.D. 2010, now teaching at Brigham Young University). This involved articulating the generally accepted cuneiform sign list in a digital format so that it can be referenced by digitized texts, linking these texts sign-by-sign to the relevant signs in this complex ancient script. Prosser has captured phonograms, logograms, synonyms, determinatives, and numbers so that they can be referenced by any of our OCHRE projects that analyze archives in Elamite, Akkadian, Old Assyrian, Sumerian, Ugaritic, or any other ancient language written using this script. This work will enhance the study of these archives and form the basis for broader investigations into the societies described therein.

Archaeological data is just as detail-oriented as philological data. Former University of Chicago student Nicole Herzog (M.A. 2014), along with summer interns Jack Hallam and Robert Schloen, put in many tedious hours tracing excavation top plans and georeferenced aerial photos stone by stone, painstakingly outlining every wall, floor, or other architectural feature of the archaeological record from the site of Zincirli, Turkey. OCHRE incorporates this georeferenced data into the project database in such a way that every archaeological artifact or architectural feature knows where to draw itself on a map. OCHRE also integrates the mapping data with everything else that is known about these archaeological items. The spatial awareness of the database items, combined with their other descriptive qualities, greatly enhances the analytical capabilities of the database environment, and allows for features like interactive, query-based, map views of excavation areas.

Whether developed sign by sign or stone by stone or through a variety of other input methods, the more than 3.2 million database items from over two dozen research projects organized within OCHRE constitute a comprehensive dataset primed for further study and interpretation. As project directors gain insights and draw conclusions from their data, our task becomes one of assisting in the digital publication of project results. To this end we plan to be focusing more in the year ahead on the presentation of project overviews, scholarly syntheses, and interpretations, well-informed by rich data underpinnings, where a community of scholars, students, and other connoisseurs of the ancient world can gain fresh perspectives and admire innovative, integrative, interactive, and informative views of the past.

For a more detailed view of the work and projects of the OCHRE Data Service, please visit us at <http://ochre.uchicago.edu>.

## PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

### Thomas G. Urban

The full-time staff of the Publications Office remains Leslie Schramer (eleventh year) and Thomas G. Urban (twenty-seventh year). Part-time staff includes Assistant Editor Rebecca Cain (sixth year), Editorial Assistants Ariel Singer and Emily Smith, and Rowe-Clark Academy Summer Interns Jalissa A. Barnslater-Hauck and Le’Priya White.

This year we published fifteen new titles and reprinted five others. Also, a good amount of time was spent assisting the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD). After the final letter of the CDD was uploaded, the Microsoft Word files were transferred to OCHRE (Sandra Schloen and Miller Prosser), where the many ASCII fonts were converted to Unicode fonts: Gentium, New Athena, and Aegyptus. However, Gentium does not have bold and bold-italic faces or styles. So, the Publications Office added Coptic, Egyptian hieroglyphs (courtesy Cleo Huggins), and Demotic script (created by Janet Johnson) to Gentium Plus and generated bold and bold-italic faces. We will upload the font to the Oriental Institute website and distribute it along with instructions on how to enter the special characters. The characters were added to Gentium Plus using the software FontForge. The Publications Office has been using an initial version of the modified Gentium Plus for several months and the font appears to be stable.

As soon as we move past the font problem, we need to remove the CDD files from Microsoft Word, which is very unstable, and place them into InDesign, which is very stable. With this transfer in mind, Ariel Singer was hired to work for Publications but in the CDD offices. The CDD files contain many thousands of scans of words from papyri written in Demotic. While the scans were easily inserted into the Word files, in InDesign the scans should be placed as individual image files — but, no individual image files were retained. So, Ariel Googled and discovered how to extract the image files from the Word documents; unfortunately, the image files were given bland names: image 001, image 002, image 003, etc. Thus, for summer 2015, Intern Le’Priya White has been renaming the image files so when we assemble the CDD in InDesign we’ll be able to place the image files in their proper places.

### Sales

Casemate Academic and Oxbow Books handle the bulk of book distribution for the Oriental Institute. Although a limited number of titles are available for in-house sales in the Suq museum gift shop, please note that all external orders for Institute publications should be addressed to: Casemate Academic, 908 Darby Road, Havertown PA 19083; telephone: 1.610.853.9131; fax: 1.610.853.9146; e-mail: [info@casemateacademic.com](mailto:info@casemateacademic.com); website: [www.oxbowbooks.com/dbbc](http://www.oxbowbooks.com/dbbc)

Information related to the sales and distribution of Oriental Institute titles may also be obtained via email: [oi-publications@uchicago.edu](mailto:oi-publications@uchicago.edu)

### Electronic Publications

In October 2013, nine years after the digital initiative was established, the scanning of older titles was completed — all titles published by the Oriental Institute since its inception have been uploaded to the Oriental Institute website as PDF files. In April 2014, we transferred 768



## PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

titles, in 130,990 files, totaling 646.08 gigabytes of data to the University of Chicago Library Digital Repository for safe storage. Our intent is to transfer new materials to the Repository on a quarterly basis. In addition to Library storage, we keep two copies of the data in the Publications Office and one copy on a secure off-site server.

To access the complete catalog of Oriental Institute titles, which includes *Annual Reports*, *News & Notes*, and *Chicago House Bulletins*, please visit:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/oriental-institute-publications-office>

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1. *Ancient Settlement Patterns and Cultures in the Ram Hormuz Plain, Southwestern Iran: Excavations at Tall-e Geser and Regional Survey in the Ram Hormuz Area*. Abbas Alizadeh, with contributions by Loghman Ahmadzadeh and Mehdi Omidfar and appendices by John R. Alden, Leah Minc, Jacques Connan, John Zumberge, and Kendra Imbus. OIP 140
2. *Bir Umm Fawakhir 3: Excavations 1999–2001*. Carol Meyer, with contributions by Lisa Heidorn, Salima Ikram, Richard Jaeschke, Thomas Roby, and Wendy Smith. OIP 141
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3. *Sacred Space and Sacred Function in Ancient Thebes*. Edited by Peter F. Dorman and Betsy M. Bryan. 2007. SAOC 61
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2. *Nimrud: A City of Golden Treasures: The Queens' Tombs*. Muzahim Mahmoud Hussein, translated by Mark Altaweel, edited by McGuire Gibson. OIP 142
3. *From Sherds to Landscapes: Studies on the Ancient Near East in Honor of McGuire Gibson*. Edited by Mark Altaweel and Carrie Hritz
4. *Essays for the Library of Seshat: Studies Presented to Janet H. Johnson on the Occasion of Her 70th Birthday*. Edited by Robert K. Ritner
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10. *Field Trip Planning Guide*. Education Office, Carol Ng-He
11. *Christians and Others in the Umayyad State*. Edited by Antoine Borrut and Fred M. Donner. Late Antiquity-Medieval Islam in the Near East 1
12. *The Sheik's House at Quseir al-Qadim: Documenting a Thirteenth Century Red Sea Port*. Katherine Strange Burke
13. *Excavations in the Plain of Antioch III: Stratigraphy, Pottery, and Small Finds from Chatal Höyük in the Amuq Plain*. By Marina Pucci, with contributions by John A. Brinkman, Günther Hölbl, Theo van den Hout, and Dominique Collon

### Volumes in Backlog

1. *Nippur VI: The Inanna Temple*. By Richard L. Zettler and Karen L. Wilson, with contributions by Jean M. Evans, Robert D. Biggs, Richard C. Haines, a Donald P. Hansen, McGuire Gibson, James Knudstad, and John C. Sanders
2. *Ancient Mesopotamia: Highlights from the Collections of the Oriental Institute*. Karen L. Wilson and Jack Green

# RESEARCH ARCHIVES

## Foy Scalf

### Introduction

It is an immense privilege to work in the Research Archives of the Oriental Institute. This is the sentiment not just of the staff, but also of the scholars and students who use our library every day. An entire collection of material devoted to the ancient Near East has been collected together and housed in three adjoining rooms. We intentionally do not follow an internationally recognized organizational scheme such as the Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal classification systems as our volumes are organized by scholars for scholars. Journals and series are kept under acronyms by which they are referred in their respective fields of study. It is not uncommon to hear colleagues inquiring with each other about the latest AOAT (Alter Orient und Altes Testament), OLA (Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta), CHANE (Culture and History of the Ancient Near East), JEA (*Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*), or ZA (*Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*) volumes. This schema allows us to keep materials together that would otherwise be separated, often on different floors or in different buildings of other institutional libraries. In few other places is it so convenient to produce the latest scholarship.

One unique area of our collection which has needed attention now for many years is our extensive pamphlet collection. Like the series and journals, the pamphlet collection is a very efficient organizational tool where offprints of articles, chapters, biographies, obituaries, and other ephemera have been gathered together under the name of the author. In some cases, pamphlets represent articles from journals to which we do not subscribe, but in other cases, the items are a convenient way to get a glimpse of the non-monographic work of a scholar. A look at the many pamphlets of James Henry Breasted, Eckhard Unger, or Wilhelm Spiegelberg immediately attests to the prodigious work of these scholars. For the last seven years of my tenure in the Research Archives the pamphlet collection has lived out its days in a series of filing cabinets in the third floor rooms off the minstrel's gallery. Unfortunately, the pamphlets have suffered over the years in that environment.

During the last few years we have embarked on a project to re-house the pamphlets for the sake of preservation as well as easier use and storage. That task is now nearing completion and the pamphlets have been moved to their new home in archival Hollinger boxes housed in the monographs stacks. We have maintained their organization by author's last name. The monographs stacks offer a more consistent climate controlled environment. More importantly, separating the pamphlets into Hollinger boxes will help preserve them, allowing scholars a much easier time to look through the material and pull only those items they need. Pre-



Figure 1. Re-housed pamphlet collection in the Research Archives

viously, a single filling cabinet drawer may have held hundreds of pamphlets, crowded together and suffering from repeated use. Now, each box contains a much smaller sample and is clearly labeled for the benefit of the researcher. We have taken these and other similar steps to increase our role in the preservation and conservation of materials under our care. These steps should help to ensure the preservation of these valuable research materials for the use of future generations of scholars.

## Acquisitions

As in previous years, the accession policy of the Research Archives has remained focused on the publication of primary source material concerning the languages and cultures of the ancient Near East as broadly defined. During 2014–2015 the Research Archives acquired over 900 volumes, a number slightly less than our historical average of 1,000 volumes (see table 1). However, a backlog of approximately 100–200 volumes remains to be processed due to time committed to other projects. As we catch up by cataloging these volumes during the summer of 2015, we will meet or slightly exceed the historical average. Acquisitions come primarily through purchases, but a significant number of volumes also derive from exchanges and donations.

*Table 1. Research Archives acquisitions July 2014–June 2015*

<i>Month</i>	<i>Number of Accession Lots</i>	<i>Monographs, Series, Pamphlets</i>	<i>Journals</i>	<i>Total Volumes</i>
July 2014	44	99	199	298
August 2014	29	25	31	56
September 2014	42	52	34	86
October 2014	19	29	3	32
November 2014	21	49	5	54
December 2014	6	12	9	21
January 2015	20	50	2	52
February 2015	31	35	47	82
March 2015	23	24	31	55
April 2015	35	41	14	55
May 2015	26	45	14	59
June 2015	13	14	44	58
Totals	309	475	433	908
		Total Volumes		<b>908</b>

## Online Catalog

Since the fall of 2007, the online catalog has grown by over 300,000 records, averaging over 30,000 records per year (see table 2). In 2014–2015, we added another 20,000 records. We have now exceeded the 500,000 mark. In 1992 Chuck Jones and Terry Wilfong estimated this

## RESEARCH ARCHIVES

number would represent a complete index of our collection (see the *1991–1992 Annual Report*, p. 133). When one considers the number of journal volumes and pamphlets that remain to be cataloged, that number of records easily represents less than half of a comprehensive catalog.

*Table 2. Catalog records*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Catalog Records Added</i>	<i>Total Number of Catalog Records</i>
2014–2015	20,000	510,000
2013–2014	30,000	490,000
2012–2013	40,000	460,000
2011–2012	30,000	420,000
2010–2011	30,000	390,000
2009–2010	40,000	360,000
2008–2009	63,000	320,000
2007–2008	62,000	257,000
2006–2007	28,000	195,000
—	—	—
2003–2004	10,000	130,000

The migration to our new EMu database platform and the restructuring of our catalog data now allows us to provide more specific analytics on the Research Archives collection, including total volumes and various breakdowns of the types of material in the collection (table 3). Readers will immediately see that journal articles represent well over half the total number of database records (290,928 of 510,000). Scholars will find especially useful our indexing of journals, conference proceedings, and Festschriften, all the records of which are available for download through our online catalog ([oi-idb.uchicago.edu](http://oi-idb.uchicago.edu)) in formats compatible with major bibliographic software platforms (e.g., EndNote, Zotero).

*Table 3. Research Archives analytics*

<i>Type</i>	<i>Total Number of Catalog Records</i>
Total Volumes	61,941
Monographs	15,340
Monograph Sections	58,524
Series	1,157
Series Volumes	19,048
Series Volume Sections	77,220
Journals	893
Journal Volumes	26,511
Journal Volume Articles	290,928
Theses	1,003

Pamphlets	1,654
Reviews	112,404
Festschriften	498
Digital Invoice Records	725
Digital Cover Art Records	997
Adobe PDF	1,951

Among those items cataloged in the past academic year, a selection of interesting material completed by Oriental Institute scholars can be highlighted.

1. Abbas Alizadeh. *Ancient Settlement Systems and Cultures in the Ram Hormuz Plain, Southwestern Iran: Excavations at Tall-e Geser and Regional Survey of the Ram Hormuz Area*. Oriental Institute Publications 140. Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2014.
2. Gertrud Farber. "Aspect Distribution in the Sumerian Verb 'to Give Birth.'" *Babel und Bibel 8: Studies in Sumerian Language and Literature, Festschrift für Joachim Krecher* (2014): 123–200.
3. Walter Farber. *Lamaštu: An Edition of the Canonical Series of Lamaštu Incantations and Rituals and Related Texts from the Second and First Millennia B.C.* Mesopotamian Civilizations 17. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2014.
4. Petra M. Goedegebuure. *The Hittite Demonstratives: Studies in Deixis, Topics and Focus*. Studien zu den Boğazköy-Texten 55. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2014.
5. Isaac Kalimi and Seth Richardson (eds.). *Sennacherib at the Gates of Jerusalem: Story, History and Historiography*. Culture and History of the Ancient Near East 71. Leiden: Brill, 2014.
6. Ilan Peled. "assinnu and kurgarrû Revisited." *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 73/2 (2014): 283–97.
7. Robert K. Ritner and Nadine Moeller. "The Ahmose Tempest Stela: An Ancient Egyptian Account of a Natural Catastrophe." In *Egyptian Curses 1*. Proceedings of the Egyptological Day Held at the National Research Council of Italy (CNR), Rome, December 3, 2012, in the International Conference Reading Catastrophes: Methodological Approaches and Historical Interpretation. Earthquakes, Floods, Famines, Epidemics between Egypt and Palestine, 3rd–1st millennium BC. Rome, December 3–4, 2012, CNR–Sapienza University of Rome, edited by Giuseppina Capriotti Vittozzi, pp. 63–81. *Archaeological Heritage and Multidisciplinary Egyptological Studies* 1. Rome: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Istituto di Studi sul Mediterraneo Antico, 2014.
8. Robert K. Ritner and Nadine Moeller. "The Ahmose 'Tempest Stela', Thera and Comparative Chronology." *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 73/1 (2014): 1–19.
9. Matthew W. Stolper. "Case in Point: The Persepolis Fortification Archive." In *Archaeologies of Text: Archaeology, Technology, and Ethics*, edited by Matthew T. Rutz and Morag Kersel, pp. 14–30. Jolkowsky Institute Publications 6. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2014.
10. Pierre Tallet and Grégory Marouard. "The Harbor of Khufu on the Red Sea Coast at Wadi al-Jarf, Egypt." *Near Eastern Archaeology* 77/1 (2014): 4–14.
11. John Z. Wee. "Grieving with the Moon: Pantheon and Politics in the Lunar Eclipse." *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 14/1 (2014): 29–67.

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12. John Z. Wee. "Lugalbanda under the Night Sky: Scenes of Celestial Healing in Ancient Mesopotamia." *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 73/1 (2014): 23–42.

We continue to add links to online material, both new and old (table 4). Currently, there are over 115,000 links to online material in the Research Archives catalog (roughly 25% of all catalog records). Journal articles available online, either through subscription or open access, constitute the bulk of these links. However, we also link to items available elsewhere on the internet, including books, dissertations, series, and manuscripts.

Table 4. Links to journal articles

Journal	Links	Access
<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>	15,328	JSTOR
<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>	12,338	Ebsco
<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>	11,523	JSTOR/AJA
<i>Antiquity</i>	11,324	Antiquity
<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>	7,366	JSTOR
<i>Syria</i>	5,891	JSTOR
<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>	5,338	JSTOR/JNES
<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>	4,312	JSTOR
<i>Biblica</i>	3,821	Open
<i>Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research</i>	3,747	JSTOR
<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>	3,476	Ebsco
<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>	3,254	Open
<i>Göttinger Miszellen</i>	3,009	DigiZeitschriften
<i>Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gesellschaft</i>	2,817	Open
<i>Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly Biblical Archaeologist)</i>	2,474	JSTOR
<i>Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres. Comptes rendus</i>	2,346	Open
<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>	1,496	JSTOR
<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale</i>	1,842	Open
<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>	1,316	JSTOR
<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>	1,100	JSTOR
<i>Iraq</i>	1,097	JSTOR
<i>Aula Orientalis</i>	1,094	Open
<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>	1,092	Open
<i>Studien zur Altägyptische Kultur</i>	887	JSTOR
<i>Bibliotheca Orientalis</i>	845	Peeters
<i>Anatolian Studies</i>	825	JSTOR
<i>Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean</i>	765	Open
<i>Iran</i>	729	JSTOR

Table 4. Links to journal articles (cont.)

Journal	Links	Access
<i>Forschungen und Berichte</i>	698	JSTOR
<i>Oriental Institute News &amp; Notes</i>	469	Open
<i>Orient: Report of the Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan</i>	447	Open
<i>Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society</i>	378	Open
<i>Sudan and Nubia</i>	317	Open
<i>Bulletin: Société d'Égyptologie Genève</i>	258	Open
<i>Ars Orientalis</i>	230	JSTOR
<i>Cahiers de Karnak</i>	189	Open
<i>Achaemenid Research on Texts and Archaeology</i>	77	Open
<i>British Museum Studies in Ancient Egypt and Sudan</i>	66	Open
<i>Égypte Nilotique et Méditerranéenne</i>	56	Open
<i>Lingua Aegyptia</i>	47	Open
<i>ASDIWAL: Revue Genevoise d'Anthropologie et d'Histoire des Religions</i>	41	Open
<i>Studia Orontica</i>	37	Open
<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Journal</i>	37	Open
<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Bulletin</i>	31	Open
<i>Mitteilungen der Sudanarchäologischen Gesellschaft zu Berlin</i>	29	Open
<i>Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum</i>	25	De Gruyter
<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Notes</i>	19	Open
<b>Total</b>	<b>114,903</b>	

## Resources on the Web

In addition to the online catalog, the Research Archives maintains a series of open access online resources.

### Introduction & Guide

[https://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/oi.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/shared/docs/research\\_archives\\_introduction%26guide.pdf](https://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/oi.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/shared/docs/research_archives_introduction%26guide.pdf)

An updated introduction and guide to the Research Archives contains a brief history, a guide to the Research Archives collection, and instructions for using the online catalog.

### Online Resources

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/online-resources>

Links to important online resources within the fields of ancient Near East studies are provided on this page with a focus on major tools and large databases.



### ***Acquisitions Lists***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/acquisitions-lists-research-archives>

The acquisitions reports of the Research Archives are distributed in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on a monthly basis. This process has been active and continuative since September 2007.

### ***Annual Reports***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/research-archives-annual-reports>

Annual Reports for the Research Archives are available from 1969-2014.

### ***Oriental Institute Staff Newsletter***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/oriental-institute-staff-newsletter>

From February 1998 until March 2005 an Oriental Institute Staff Newsletter was circulated among faculty, staff, students, and the wider academic community. In the interest of preservation, remaining copies of the newsletter have been scanned and archived online.

### ***Dissertations***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/dissertations>

With the permission of the authors, the Research Archives provides access to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) copies of dissertations completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago.

Dissertations posted on this site that have recently been published include:

- Dennis R. Campbell. *Mood and Modality in Hurrian*. Languages of the Ancient Near East 5. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2015.
- Michael Kozuh. *The Sacrificial Economy: Assessors, Contractors, and Thieves in the Management of Sacrificial Sheep at the Eanna Temple of Uruk (ca. 625-520 B.C.)*. Explorations in Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations 2. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2014.

### ***Dissertation Proposals***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/dissertations/dissertation-proposals>

With the permission of the authors, the Research Archives provides access to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) copies of dissertation proposals completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago.

### ***Adopt-a-Book Campaign***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/adopt-book-campaign>

The Research Archives has launched an “Adopt-a-Book” campaign in order to increase support for the Research Archives. Donors are recognized through personalized book plates made in their honor and placed in volumes of their choosing.

### ***Social Media Sites***

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Research-Archives-of-the-Oriental-Institute/153645450792>

The Research Archives now maintains an official page on Facebook. Information about recent publications of Oriental Institute scholars or reviews of recent Oriental Institute publications is distributed through this page. 3,377 individuals currently follow the Research Archives through this presence on Facebook.

## **Donations**

Donations continue to play an important role in the acquisition efforts of the Research Archives. Several journal subscriptions are maintained solely through donations. In the realm of preservation, tattered and aging volumes can often be replaced or supplemented through book gifts. Often donations are extremely helpful in filling past gaps in the collection. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following individuals and institutions for their generous gifts and exchange agreements this year: Bob Biggs, Kathleen Briggs, British Institute at Ankara, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Andrea Dudek, Elizabeth Fanuzzi, Norman Golb, Jean Grant, Jack Green, Institut Français du Proche-Orient, Jo-Anne Jahant, Steven Jones, National Museum of Beirut, Kiersten Neumann, Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, Roberta Schaffner, Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology, Don Whitcomb, Bruce Williams.

## **Internship and Practicum Program**

The Research Archives was proud to host three student interns over the 2014-2015 academic year. Rebecca Segall spent the summer of 2014 with us on a Metcalf Internship. After completing her internship, we were happy to welcome Rebecca onto our library staff as she transitioned into a position as library assistant. Su Hyeon Kang returned to the library in the fall from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Su Hyeon has since graduated and moved on to a full time position with the American Theological Library Association, for which we offer our congratulations. Alongside Su Hyeon, Doris Cardenas spent the fall quarter in the library on a practicum through Dominican University, graduating at the end of the quarter after a stellar practicum. I'd like to thank all of our interns for all their help, passion, and interest in the mission of the Research Archives.

## **Volunteer Program**

Ten years ago few would have imagined the resounding success of the volunteer program in the Research Archives. The team continues to expand and we have increased our capacity to six computer terminals in our office. Through their dedication and sweat our volunteers accomplish a tremendous amount on behalf of the Oriental Institute. Such labor intensive

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work would simply be impossible without them. Without them, digitization and data collection for the Research Archives and Integrated Database would grind to a halt. The occasional lunch and acknowledgement here in the annual report seem paltry in relation to the time these impressive individuals spend helping us wade through extremely large projects. We therefore would like to extend our utmost thanks to the following individuals for their generous spirit and hard work: Laura Alagna, Joe Barabe, Rebecca Binkley, Ray Broms, Betty Bush, Gaby Cohen, Kim Crawford, Yishu Deng, Andrea Dudek, Irene Glasner, David Henson, Su Hyeon Kang, Seth Kohrman, Mark Mandle, Michael McCarthy, Marge Nichols, Ken Petchenik, Dylan Peterson, Brian Porrett, Andrew Premovich, LaQueisha Robinson, Roberta Schaffner, Gabriele Correa da Silva, Margaret Schmid, Scott Vokes, Sierra Wilson, and David Zhao.

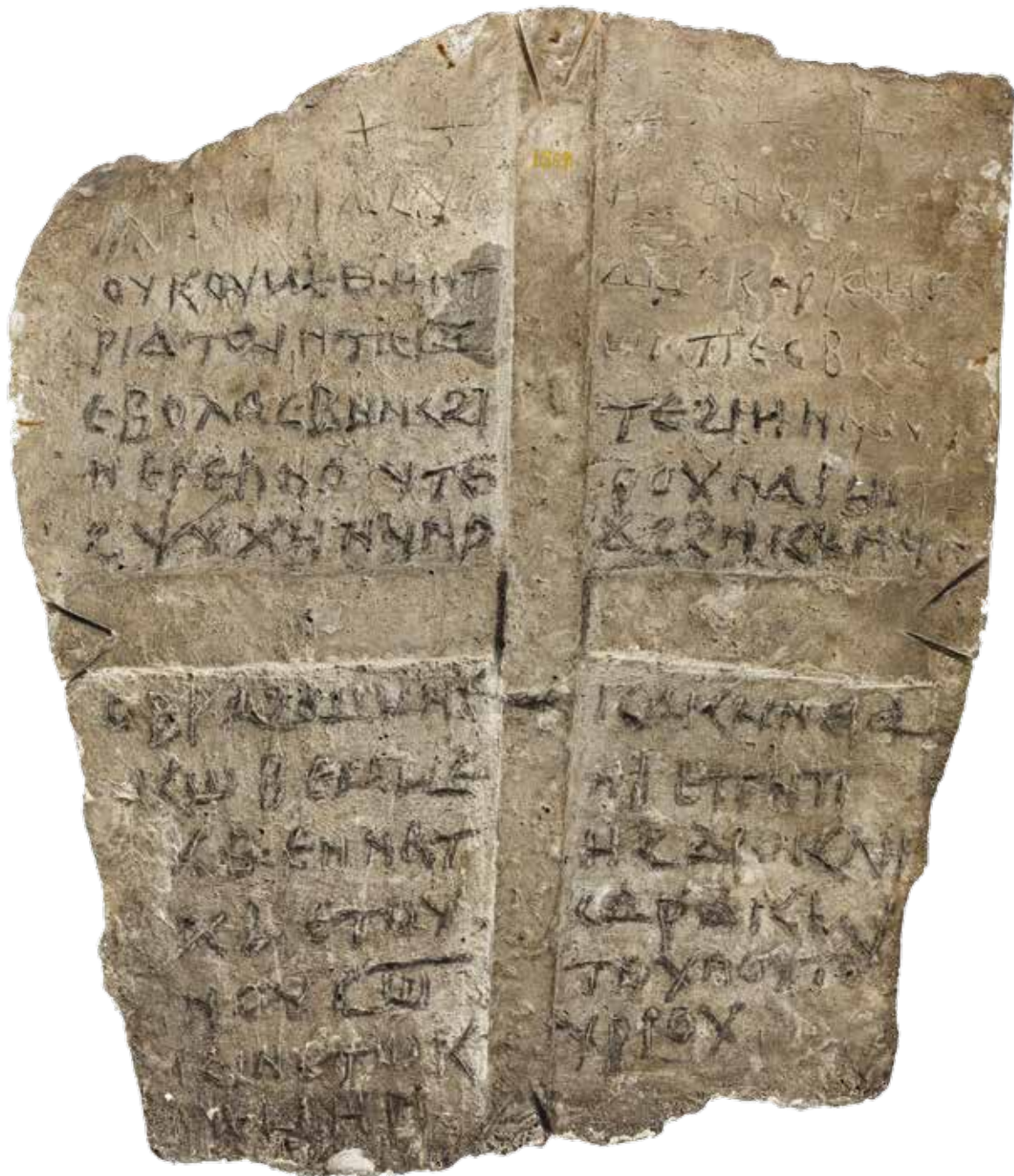
## Visitors

The Research Archives continues to be a place of international collaboration among the community of scholars studying the ancient Near East. Over the past year, we had research visits from the following individuals (in alphabetical order) and I apologize for anyone who may have been missed: Musa Burki, Ed Castle, Eugene Cruz-Uribe, Ulla Stang Dahl, James Hoffmeier, Jackie Jay, Kai Kaniuth, Rafia Khader, Daniel Master, Adam Miglio, Ellen Moore, Diana Razmerita, JoAnn Scurlock, Oswald Sobrino, Hannah Strickland, Jason Ur, William Warmus, Jennifer Westerfeld, Daniel Wiggins, Avi Winitzer, and the Great Chicago Libraries class of Elmhurst College

## Acknowledgments

In addition to those acknowledged above, I must take this opportunity to thank our library staff who run the Research Archives in my absence and perform many of the day-to-day tasks necessary to keep the library running smooth and efficiently. The Research Archives could not do the work that it does without their help. Laura Krenz continued on into her seventh year with the library and remains our senior staff member. Taylor Coplen completed his two year tenure with us and after graduation moved on to a teaching position in China where we wish him the best. We were simultaneously sad and excited to see Andrea Brown move to Oxford where her husband has a post-doctoral position. Rebecca Segall has been a great addition to the staff following her Metcalf internship last summer along with Yishu Deng who transitioned from her volunteer position to a member of our library team. All of them are deserving of my utmost thanks and gratitude.

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*Overleaf: Grave stela with Coptic inscription. Limestone with traces of red pigment. Tulunid, July 23, 891 (or 892) AD. Ramesseum, Luxor, Egypt. Excavated by the Egypt Exploration Fund, 1895/96. 36.0 × 36.0 × 4.5 cm. OIM E1569 (photo D. 027343: Anna Ressler)*

## MUSEUM

### Jack Green

It was an important year for the Oriental Institute Museum in many respects. We continued to increase our public profile and visitor engagement on multiple levels, deliver engaging exhibits, and initiated plans for a Gallery Enhancements Project. Although we have much to celebrate, it has been a tragic year for the archaeological heritage of the Middle East as events in Iraq and Syria, and now Yemen, continue to unfold. The Oriental Institute and the Museum has played its own role in raising awareness of the plight of archaeological heritage in the region.

Visitor numbers are on the rise. The total number of Museum visitors rose in the past financial year (July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015) by 18 percent to 55,308. It is worth noting that our 2013–14 figure of 46,887 represented a 10 percent drop from the three-year prior average, in large part due to the closure of 58th Street to pedestrian traffic in that year. The increase can be attributed to multiple factors: the reopening of the 58th Street streetscape (June 2014), increased marketing efforts, and a sustained increase in tours. The growing popularity of our exhibits, programs, and events must also be playing an important role. Our new poster kiosks have now been replaced and repositioned as of June 2015, with thanks to

Richard Bumstead and Kathleen Golomb of Facilities Services (fig. 1). A change to our opening hours (now 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., rather than a 6:00 p.m. closure), took place in September without significant impact on our numbers. Our average donation from non-tour visitors was \$2.73. I wish to thank Jason Barcus, head of visitor services and security, who left the Oriental Institute in May. He will be greatly missed. We warmly welcome his replacement, Adam Finefrock, who joined us in June.

An important new project initiated in 2014–15 was the Gallery Enhancements Project. This project will enable the museum to fulfil an important objective — to improve the quality of display of its collections to the public in time for the Oriental Institute centenary in 2019, made possible through the generosity of an anonymous donor, although with a portion of funds yet to be raised. There are three main objectives to this project: 1) the design and installation of new free-standing display cases throughout all the galleries that will complement the



Figure 1. One of the newly installed kiosks outside the Oriental Institute featuring a poster designed by Joshua Tulisiak (photo: Amy Weber)

## MUSEUM

Guenschel wall cases that we plan to retain; 2) improved gallery and in-case lighting, including a transition to LED lighting that will enhance the way we display our collections and result in significant staff, energy, and cost savings into the future; 3) a graphic refresh that will unify and update our labels and panels to provide greater consistency in delivery of information and our institutional voice.

We have hired exhibit designer and architect Elizabeth Kidera, whose experience includes the Field Museum's Ancient Americas Hall and the 9/11 Museum in New York. We also hired Lightswitch Architectural as our lighting consultants. We do not intend to "re-curate" our permanent galleries, but rather enhance the way that information and objects are presented, and improve the aesthetics of our displays and galleries. An advantage of our project is that we will be able to replace many of our older free-standing display cases, which are becoming difficult to access. This project will impact all the staff of the Oriental Institute Museum, and we are also grateful for the significant input and support from Associate Professor of Egyptian Archaeology Nadine Moeller and Head of Public Education and Outreach Catherine Kenyon.

Work has continued in the preparation of catalogs for our permanent collections, including *Ancient Mesopotamia* (by Kathryn Grossman) and *Highlights of the Oriental Institute Museum* (co-edited by Jack Green and Emily Teeter). We are in the midst of editing the text now that photography has been completed. Both volumes will prove to be important contributions and will make our collections more publicly accessible.

Our program of special exhibits (see *Special Exhibits*, below) continues with great success. In Remembrance of Me: Feasting with the Dead in the Ancient Middle East closed in January, and was followed in February by *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo*, curated by Tasha Vorderstrasse and Tanya Treptow, with the assistance of Donald Whitcomb. The 2015 exhibit and catalog (fig. 2) has fulfilled many of our aims by presenting and studying collections that are less well known, and supported by object loans from the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, especially the Ben Ezra Synagogue ark door. The exhibit provided an unprecedented opportunity for academic, public, and community engagement, including a series of lectures in April and May in collaboration with the Chicago Center for Jewish Studies. Our speakers were Paul Walker, Tasha Vorderstrasse, and Donald Whitcomb (University of Chicago), as well as Amy Landau (Walters Art Museum, Baltimore), and Marina Rustow (Johns Hopkins University). The lecture series generated discussion of relations between the communities of Fustat in the seventh–twelfth centuries. We were able to bring together faculty, students, and staff from varied disciplines to examine aspects of religious diversity, interaction, and economic and political life in Old Cairo. A lecture by Adina Hoffman and

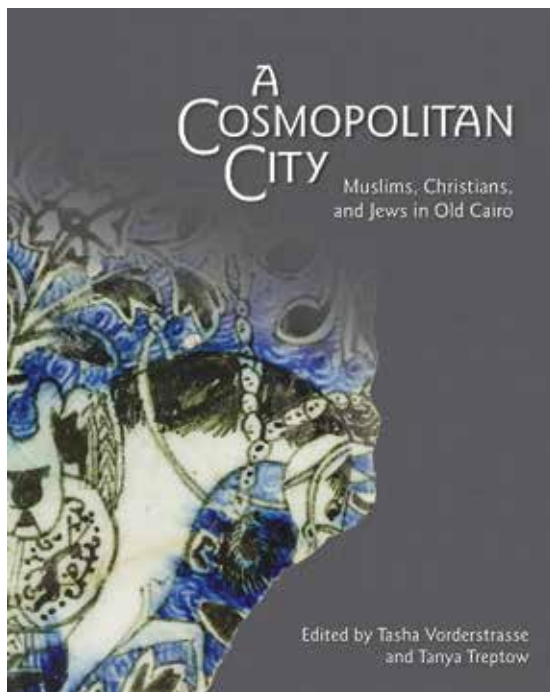


Figure 2. Cover for the exhibit catalog, *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo*. Cover design by Josh Tulisiak



Figure 3. The Oriental Institute mini-exhibit *Doing Business in the Ancient World* and adjacent touchscreen in the lobby of the Booth School of Business (photo: Erik Lindahl)

hiring outreach coordinators to invite members of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish faith communities to our exhibit. Preparations for our next special exhibit, *Persepolis: Images of an Empire*, curated by Kiersten Neumann of the Oriental Institute Museum, are currently underway. I wish to thank our colleagues in the Public Education and Outreach Department for all their help over the past year, especially the head of the department, Catherine Kenyon, for providing opportunities to work so closely together.

Three mini-exhibits were curated in the past year. *Cairo in Chicago*, curated by Tasha Vorderstrasse (see *Special Exhibits* report) complemented the *Cosmopolitan City* exhibit and was displayed in the Oriental Institute lobby this spring. A satellite exhibit, *Doing Business in the Ancient World*, was installed in the Booth School of Business within the University of Chicago. This exhibit was curated by myself and Brittany Hayden (PhD candidate, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations). The intention of this small exhibit, installed in the Booth School lobby on May 19 (fig. 3), is to draw attention to the Oriental Institute and its collections. We also show how relevant the study of ancient commerce is to present-day economics and business. The exhibit contains several objects on loan to the Booth School of Business, ranging from a Lydian coin attributed to King Croesus to an Old Assyrian merchant's letter from Kültepe, Turkey (fig. 4). We are very grateful to the dean of the Booth School of Business, Sunil Kumar, and our director, Gil Stein, for initiating the idea for this display, and to Canice Prendergast, keeper of the collection at

Peter Cole, the co-authors of the popular book *Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza*, attracted new audiences. Additional adult and family programs were facilitated by the Public Education and Outreach Department (see separate report), including the half-day event *Celebrating the History and Culture of Old Cairo*. We are grateful for the support from the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the Chicago Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and the Divinity School for these programs. We have also experimented by



Figure 4. An Old Assyrian cuneiform business letter from Kültepe, Turkey, ca. 1950–1836 BC. As featured in the mini-exhibit *Doing Business in the Ancient World*. OIM A22181 (photo D. O28172: Anna Ressman)



## MUSEUM

the Booth School. We thank the staff of the Booth School, especially Tony Gac, Rob Rhoades, and Meredith Wells, for their patience throughout the planning and implementation.

A third mini-exhibit (opened May 21), entitled *A Threatened Heritage*, consisted of seven graphic panels throughout our permanent galleries. Plans for this exhibit unfolded in fall 2014 in response to the threats to archaeological heritage in Iraq and Syria, and in preparation for a Neubauer Collegium conference entitled *The Past for Sale: New Approaches to the Study of Archaeological Looting at the University of Chicago*, coordinated by Larry Rothfield and Fiona Greenland. On February 26, just prior to the conference, a video was released that showed the destruction of objects in the Mosul Museum and at Nineveh by ISIL operatives. These images shocked the world, prompting the Oriental Institute to issue an online statement on the destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq. The Museum's response has been one of raising awareness and of cultural heritage advocacy. Our panels did not just focus on ISIL occupied regions, but also Jordan, Egypt, and Sudan. The exhibit provides links to heritage organizations and contact information for reporting suspected looted or illegally imported artifacts from the Middle East including an email address for the Art Crimes division of the FBI in Chicago. Each panel carries the message "What Can YOU Do?" (fig. 5). We hope that this provides proactive suggestions for our visitors to follow. In curating this exhibit I was grateful for contributions from Emily Teeter, Bruce Williams, Morag Kersel, Emily Hammer, and Akiva Sanders. For more information, go to: <https://oi.uchicago.edu/threatened-heritage>.

The Museum was particularly active in lending over the past year. In addition to several small-scale loans and renewals (see *Registration* report, below) we contributed our four-horned altar from the Megiddo Gallery and the Tayinat bronze plaque from the Syro-Anatolian Gallery to the Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibit *From Assyria to Iberia* (September 22–January 4). We lent to two exhibits held at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York. Firstly, the Arsinoe base and Isis and Horus statue for the exhibit *When the Greeks Ruled Egypt* (October 8–January 4). Secondly, the Oriental Institute had a major presence in the exhibit *From Ancient to Modern: Archaeology and Aesthetics* (February 12–June 7), which focused on Early Dynastic-period Mesopotamia and the impact of archaeological discoveries on art history, contemporary art, and popular culture. Early Dynastic sculpture, the Agrab cup (fig. 6), the Bilalama seal, and related archival materials were displayed in the "ancient" section of the exhibit, joined

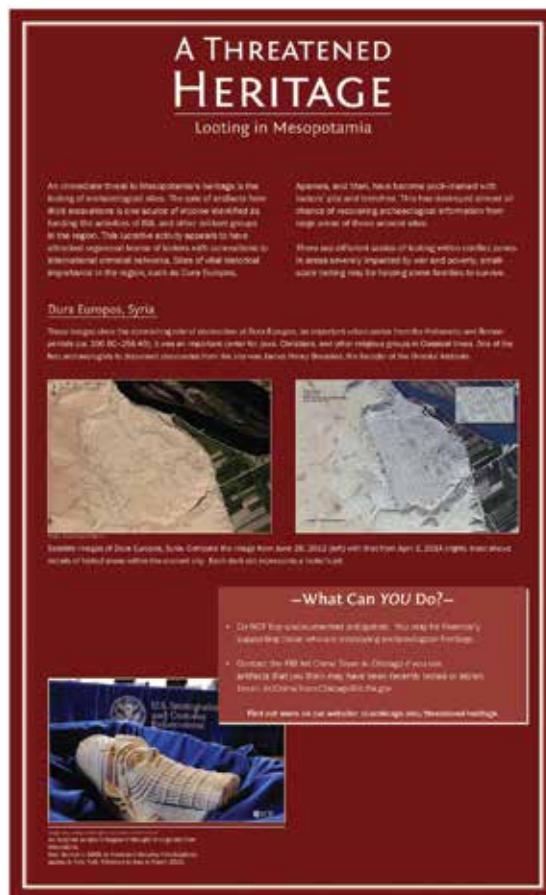


Figure 5. A panel from the mini-exhibit *A Threatened Heritage* that focuses on looting in Mesopotamia. Design by Josh Tulisak



*Figure 6. The “Agrab Cup,” a stone cup with nude hero, bulls, and lions. Tell Agrab, Shara Temple, ca. 3000–2650 BC. Iraq Expedition of the Oriental Institute, 1930–1937. OIM A17948 (photo D. 015848: Anna Ressman)*

by loans from the University of Pennsylvania Museum, the Field Museum of Natural History, and the British Museum. I am grateful to all the Museum staff who contributed the time and effort required of this exhibit collaboration as well as research associates Jean M. Evans and Clemens Reichel for their essay contributions in the exhibit publication, as well as the co-curators of the exhibit, Jennifer Chi and Pedro Azara.

An important project that the Museum has been engaged in over the past year is the Egyptian Coffin Conservation Project. Through the generous support of the Antiquities Endowment Fund of the American Research Center in Egypt, we are finally able to tackle one of our long-standing conservation and redisplay projects. This important First Intermediate Period coffin of Ipi-haishutef (OIM E12072) is currently undergoing conservation treatment and analysis of its pigments. We will be able to display it in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery this summer after many years in storage. More information is available on the project and its aim is outlined in *News & Notes* 224 (pp. 14–15), in the Conservation

report (see below), as well as in the progress reports on the Oriental Institute website (<http://oi.uchicago.edu/collections/coffin-project>). Emily Teeter, Erik Lindahl, and Josh Tulisak assisted with this project, and to Simona Cristanetti and Alison Whyte conducted conservation research and treatment of the coffin.

The Oriental Institute Achemenet Project, in collaboration with our partners at the Louvre, was able to continue for an additional several months following funding from the France Chicago Center of the University of Chicago and continued support from the Oriental Institute. This enables Tytus Mikołajczak (project researcher) and Austin Kramer (project photographer) to continue this digitization and collections characterization project focused on the Achaemenid period (ca. 550–330 BC). At the time of writing, approximately 360 objects have been photographed and 600 objects have received updated catalog entries (see Achemenet Project report).

I am grateful for all the hard work and dedication of our Museum staff, as well as a number of work-study interns, graduate students, and volunteers who contributed a huge amount of their time and effort in the past year. Josh Tulisak, who has been our part-time preparation and exhibit design assistant over the past year since Keeley Stitt left the Oriental Institute, has done excellent work and provided consistent support. Anne Flannery has been working with Foy Scalf as part of our Integrated Database (IDB) project and has provided much needed support to John Larson in labeling and rehousing the Museum Archives,

## MUSEUM

allowing the entry of 7,508 new entries on to the database (see Integrated Database and Museum Archives reports, below). Museum staff continued to play an important role in the National Museum of Afghanistan-Oriental Institute partnership project, with in-person visits and ordering of conservation supplies by our head of conservation, Laura D'Alessandro. The Museum will continue to support this heritage project into the coming year (see National Museum of Afghanistan-Oriental Institute report). Museum Curatorial Assistant Kiersten Neumann has further streamlined the processes for image-request management and the uploading of data and images to the IDB. The Museum Office fulfilled 132 image requests in the past year and 3,982 new multimedia records were created on our database.

Work-study interns from the University of Chicago (mostly from the MAPSS program) who assisted the Museum in the past year include: Alexis Faust, Terri Morris, and Jeffrey Newman (IDB project and processing image requests); Joseph Hermiz (Museum Archives); Adam Bierstedt and Christian Leavitt (Prep Shop). Kathleen Cescon's work was supported by Don Whitcomb to help work through the Aqaba Expedition material for Museum Registration. Our summer interns included Angela Spidalette (2014) and Danielle Zwang (2015). Jordan Galzynci also assisted the Registration Department. Volunteers continue to assist us, including Kiera Foley (Gallery Enhancements, Registration), and Carole Yoshida (Museum Archives). Without the support of our student workers, interns, and volunteers, only a small fragment of our output would be achieved.

We have had a number of VIP and professional visits to the Museum over the past year. The following list is by no means comprehensive. In September, we received a visit from staff working on the Field Museum of Natural History's new Cyrus Tang Hall of China. In January, we received a delegation of museum and heritage professionals from Zhejiang Province, China. In February, we received a visit from members of the US State Department in relation to our ongoing project in Afghanistan. Toward the end of that month, we hosted a reception for the Neubauer Collegium Past for Sale conference delegates. In May, we received a visit from members of the Council of the Getty Conservation Institute, hosted by its director Tim Whalen and associate director Jean-Marie Teutonico in collaboration with Andy Vaughn, Michael Danti, and Susan Penacho of the Syrian Heritage Initiative, a project of the American Schools of Oriental Research.

The Museum also provided input to the playwrights and actors of the University of Chicago's Court Theatre production of *The Good Book* (March–April) which explored the history of the Bible through complex characters and shifts forward and back in time. In addition, we provided graphics and information supporting the TimeLine Theatre's play *Inana* (May–July), about an Iraqi museum curator on the eve of the US-led invasion in 2003. Curatorial Assistant Kiersten Neumann helped provide images for both ventures and enthusiastically in supported our collaboration with TimeLine.

The Museum continues to play an active role on the University of Chicago campus and the wider South Side community. Gil Stein and Jack Green attended several meetings as part of the University of Chicago Arts Steering Committee, chaired by deputy provost for the arts, Bill Brown. The intention of this committee is to identify the direction of the arts on campus and its role in the wider Chicago community, an initiative that the Oriental Institute is very much engaged in. We have also played an active role as members of the Museum Campus South, and I especially thank Emily Teeter for her role in building up our support and presence for the group (founded August 2014; see *Publicity* report, below).

Following a number of 3D scanning trials in the Oriental Institute by staff of the Center for the Art of East Asia (Department of Art History), the Oriental Institute made a financial contribution to share ownership of its 3D imaging equipment: their Artec Eva and Spider scanners and related software. Since that time, Josh Cannon (graduate student, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations) has conducted a number of scanning trials of artifacts and replicas in our collection to prepare for a season at Çadır Höyük, Turkey, where he will scan ceramic objects excavated from the site that would take a long time to illustrate by hand. His familiarity with the equipment will provide an ideal test of how such handheld equipment can be used in the field, which we hope will lead to further 3D imaging at the Oriental Institute. Katherine Tsiang and Charles Crable of the Center for the Art of East Asia supported this collaboration.

Our sole collections acquisition in the past year was to the Museum Archives. Twenty-two early twentieth-century drawings, lithographs, and paintings were generously donated to the Oriental Institute by Margaret Green of Northern California. Named “The Lillian E. Beaumont Collection of Artworks by E. F. Beaumont,” the collection provides insights into the history of the American Colony, Jerusalem, and the reception of images of the Holy Land (see *Museum Archives* report, fig. 16 below). A forthcoming article in *News & Notes* 227 will provide further information on the artist, E. F. Beaumont (1871–1952), an archaeologist who served as a surveyor for the University of Chicago’s Expedition to Megiddo in the 1930s.

A new initiative in 2014 was Oriental Institute Collections Research Grant. Through the generous support of O. J. Sopranos, the Oriental Institute supported four researchers in their efforts to utilize our collections: Jamie Novotny (University of Pennsylvania), Katharina Streit (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Eric Cline (George Washington University), and Elon Heymans (Tel Aviv University). Our database is proving helpful in facilitating further interest in the collections, although the complexity of external research queries, often with requests for sampling or use of our handheld p-XRF machine, has increased considerably. We continue to encourage Oriental Institute and University of Chicago faculty to use our collections for teaching. A recently conducted online survey of faculty/instructors and students is providing us with important information that will help us further improve our engagement with object-based learning.

In summary, the Oriental Institute Museum continues to serve and facilitate a wide range of academic, public, and professional services that helps to build both our local and global standing as a leading collection and research hub for ancient Near Eastern archaeological research, as well as a resource for heritage initiatives. I wish to thank all our close colleagues in the Oriental Institute, and especially Director Gil Stein and Executive Director Steven Camp for their sustained support for the Museum staff in 2014–15.

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## SPECIAL EXHIBITS

### Emily Teeter

The past year saw two major exhibits here in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery: *In Remembrance of Me: Feasting with the Dead in the Ancient Middle East* (April 8, 2014–January 4, 2015) and *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo* (opened February 17 and on view through September 13, 2015). For details of the first show, see the *2013–2014 Annual Report*, pp. 222–24.

The *Cosmopolitan City* show (figs. 7–8) focuses on medieval Cairo, also known as Fustat, from the seventh to twelfth century AD. This is a time span for which the Oriental Institute is not exactly known, but the show was the result of a survey of our Islamic-period collections by Research Associate Tasha Vorderstrasse, who identified an amazing number of important and relevant objects, some of which were previously known and published years ago, and others which were unidentified. Among the most surprising things that Tasha was able to identify were Hebrew and Judaeo-Arabic manuscripts that can be traced to the Genizah of Ben Ezra Synagogue in Cairo. Among other materials were the finds from the George Scanlon excavations at Fustat in the 1960s that came to the Oriental Institute in 1983 via a circuitous route that included Princeton and the Akron Art Museum.

After discussions with Associate Professor of Islamic Archaeology Donald Whitcomb, the idea arose of doing an exhibit on Fustat. Tanya Treptow, who has a PhD in Islamic archaeology, joined Tasha as co-curator of the exhibit. Almost all of the material from the collection of the Oriental Institute has never before been on display. So the exhibit fulfills the desired goals of our special exhibits program: to reflect new scholarship, and to exhibit objects from the reserve collection in order to have them photographed, researched, and published. In addition to the seventy-one objects from our collection, three important items were borrowed from the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. Of greatest impact for the exhibit is a door from the ark of the Ben Ezra Synagogue, co-owned by the Yeshiva University Museum, dating to about 1000 AD. This piece was installed at the entrance to the exhibit. In addition, we borrowed a beautiful lusterware bowl and a fragment of a vessel painted with a scene of the deposition of Christ. We are very grateful to our lenders for their generous help with our exhibit.

The exhibit focuses on community and life in Fustat. It is divided into topics of the different religious communities, the administration of Fustat, trade and industry, dress, the home, leisure, dining and ceramics. Text panels also discuss the development of Fustat and the excavations at the site. As usual, the text on the wall panels was translated into Spanish and Mandarin thanks to Mónica Vélez and Yin Can, respectively.

A special feature of the exhibit is an audio component, “Voices from Old Cairo.” Tasha selected a series of text passages ranging from a poem of Moses ben Abraham Dari (12th century), music composed by Obadiah the Proselyte (performed on a vintage harp by Tasha), translations of several of the manuscripts on view, an account of a day in the life of the physician Moses Maimonides, and descriptions (both good and bad) of Fustat. We thank Jack Green, Wahied Helmy, Tasha, Josh Tulisiak and Emily for recording the segments at UChicago Creative (Eric Fey, engineer). Brenda López designed a very handsome interface for the nine segments that were presented on three iPads, grouped under the topics Leisure, The City, and Administration.



Figure 7. View of the Cosmopolitan City exhibit, looking toward to entrance. The door from the ark of the Ben Ezra synagogue is in the center, the pavilion with documents of the three religious communities of Fustat to the left (photo: K. Bryce Lowry)



Figure 8. View of the Cosmopolitan City exhibit. Left to right: cases on dining, daily life, dress, and adornment (photo: K. Bryce Lowry)

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Tasha and Emily curated a mini-exhibit for the Oriental Institute lobby on “A Street in Cairo,” one of the most popular attractions on the Midway of the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition, making the connection that another “Cairo” was just a couple blocks away. The case contains ephemera, including an original guide to the attraction, a stereoscope card of the “temple” (graciously loaned by Richard Fazzini and Mary McKercher), admission tickets, a cut-glass souvenir teacup, and a copy of the 1893 book *The Dream City: A Portfolio of Photographic Views of the World’s Columbian Exposition* opened to a double spread featuring on one side, a western buckaroo, and on the other, “Joseph” on his donkey “Boom-De-Ay,” “the two offering infinite amusement from morning to night by a display of their comic antics.”

Our head of preparation and exhibit design, Erik Lindahl, did an outstanding job of making an atmospheric gallery space for the *Cosmopolitan City* exhibit (figs. 7–8). Working from photos of Cairo architecture, he designed a pavilion and created walls of striped tan and maroon, so characteristic of medieval Cairo architecture. Our graphic designer, Josh Tulisiak, used motifs from the Ben Ezra ark door to decorate the very handsome text panels.

We thank Laura Krenz and Judy Brinkmann for the use of their photographs in the gallery space.

We continue to experiment with the format and timing of the members’ opening for the exhibit. Because of the winter season, we scheduled it for Sunday afternoon, February 15. One hundred thirty-nine people attended (fig. 9). We were honored to have both the Consul General of Egypt, Mr. Maged Refaat (fig. 10), and the Deputy Consul, Mrs. Heba Zaki, attend the opening. Consul Rifaat gave very touching remarks about Egyptian-American relations and his appreciation of the work of the Oriental Institute in Egypt.

In addition to the program for the Holleb Gallery, we mounted an abbreviated version of the *Our Work: Modern Jobs — Ancient Origins* photos by Jason Reblando on the lower level of the Institute (September 2, 2014–ongoing).



Figure 9. Guests at the member’s preview of *Cosmopolitan City* exhibit admire ceramics. (photo: David Turner Photography)



Figure 10. Consul General of Egypt Maged Refaat with exhibit co-curators Tanya Treptow and Tasha Vorderstrasse at the members’ reception (photo: David Turner Photography)

The Museum also produced several smaller shows, including a panel series called *A Threatened Heritage* that were put on display throughout the galleries in May, and *Doing Business in the Ancient World*, presented at the Booth School of Business. For further details of these projects, please see the *Museum* report (above).

Plans are progressing for the new special exhibit, entitled *Persepolis: Images of an Empire*, curated by Kiersten Neumann, which will open to the public on October 13, 2015. This will be a smaller show, comprised mainly of photographs and a video component produced by our CAMEL lab. The show is deliberately scaled back as the Museum staff heads into a major project to refresh all the galleries (see *Museum* report). However, we plan to continue to do smaller-scale shows as opportunity arises, and we are working with our Public Education and Outreach Department on their ideas for exhibits for the lower level. One, coordinated by Moriah Grooms-Garcia and entitled *Dream Rocket*, is an art project created by Chicago-area school children that will be presented on the lower level next year.

As usual, we thank the members of our museum advisory group for their comments about the *In Remembrance of Me* and *Cosmopolitan City* exhibits. Co-curator Tanya Treptow has special experience with focus groups, and she structured our June 24, 2014, meeting in such a way to get the impressions and expectations of the group to content and titles. Members of the group who participated are Beverly Serrell, Diane Hanau-Strain, Patty McNamara, Molly Woulfe, Nathan Mason, Matt Matcuk, and Charles Bethea, as well as Oriental Institute staff members Catherine Kenyon, Moriah Grooms-Garcia, Carol Ng-He, and Erik Lindahl.

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## PUBLICITY

### Emily Teeter

Each year, Chief Curator Jack Green seems to be able to find a little more funding for paid advertising. Our strategy is to split our resources and efforts between the goals of increasing overall awareness of the Museum and promoting the special exhibit and public programs.

Among the places that we placed print ads this year are *Footlights* (the program for Court Theatre), *UChicago Arts* quarterly magazine, *Hyde Park Herald*, *Southside Weekly*, *New City*, and we tried some new markets, like *Chicago Life*, an insert in the *New York Times*, and we assisted the Pritzker Military Library by advertising in a special program. We did several sponsorship radio campaigns on WBEZ, and we also expanded to promotions on WDCB (College of DuPage). Working with Jack, Emily has been spending more time investigating other advertising venues that might bring us to the attention of the public. The social media group did a series of paid ads on Facebook in February and March 2015.

Rack cards still play an important part of our marketing strategy. They continue to be distributed throughout the city by Wahied Helmy. This year we had three cards, two for the Museum (one featuring the Persian bull and the other featuring the statue of Tutankhamun) and the other for our special exhibit (fig. 11). Wahied noted that the response of the staff of the Chicago Visitors' Centers was far more positive to the Tut card, and so once the bull cards ran out, Tut became our public face. For the record, in the last year, we printed and distributed



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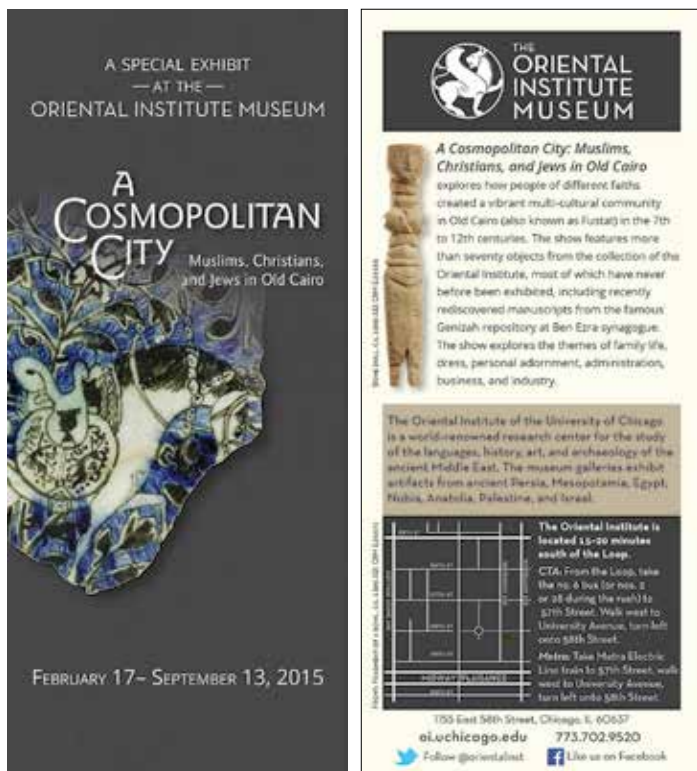


Figure 11. Rack card (front and back) for the *Cosmopolitan City* special exhibit. Designed by Josh Tulisiak

more than 12,000 cards for our special exhibits and more than 16,000 of the Tut ones.

We did not produce street-pole banners for the special exhibit, instead staying with the “Discover” series from last year (see 2013–2014 *Annual Report*, p. 226, fig. 1), and they continue to weather the months without wear and tear.

After much effort by Jack, we managed to vastly improve our outdoor signage on the new pedestrian walk that used to be busy 58th Street between University and Woodlawn. Our one existing sign kiosk that was to the east, near the loading dock, has been relocated north near the walk, and a new one has been placed near the entrance (fig. 1). This allows us to exhibit large posters that encourage drop-in traffic, and to promote public programs and our special

exhibits. With the Museum’s purchase of a large-format printer this year, we can easily change out the posters, allowing for great flexibility in the use of the kiosks.

In the last year we have become “proud partners” of Museum Campus South (MCS), a consortium of South Side museums (Museum of Science and Industry, Robie House, the Smart Museum, the Renaissance Society, the DuSable Museum of African American History, and the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts). The brainchild of Dr. Carol Adams, former director of the DuSable, the concept was to remind people of the concentration of museums on the South Side, and that there is another “museum campus” in town. Our goal is to drive visitors to all the Hyde

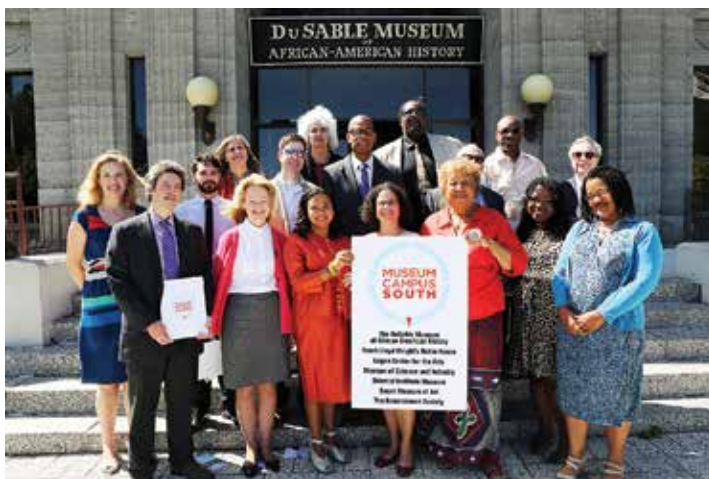


Figure 12. Press conference for the inauguration of the Museum Campus South consortium at the DuSable Museum of African American History (photo: Duane Savage)



Figure 13. Promotional materials for the Museum Campus South Passport program. Designed by Josh Tulisiak

Park-Washington Park cultural institutions. With support from Choose Chicago, our roll-out consisted of a shuttle in August 2014 that connected all the museums. We printed and distributed rack cards and had a very successful press conference at the DuSable announcing the formation of MCS and we garnered several mentions in the press (fig. 12)

We followed up this spring and early summer with the Nights at the Museum series, bundling already planned programs at members of MCS into a single marketing piece. We rolled out our Passport program, issuing “passports” that can be validated at each of the MCS venues. When “full,” the passport can be redeemed for a MCS mug (fig. 13). We are developing tracking systems for passport activity to test how effective they are. MCS has relied upon the talents of our part-time graphic designer Josh Tulisiak. We will continue our Nights at the Museum series in the summer and fall, and continue to look at ways to leverage the power of joint marketing. The MSC is now also partnered

with the South East Chicago Commission, UCarts + Public Life, and the University of Chicago Office of Civic Engagement. We also continue to be a member of the Culture Coast, another, broader, consortium of cultural and commercial attractions in the South Side area.

We continue to profit from the advice of Susie Allen and Nora Semel of the University’s Communications Office, especially about recent events in Iraq and Syria. Numerous requests were received for comments from Gil Stein and Professor McGuire Gibson about the situation. It is ironic that the tragic events in the region are making the importance of our collections even more evident and bringing us more visitors, as well as making the public aware of how important our efforts to document and preserve cultural heritage preservation are.

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## REGISTRATION

### Helen McDonald and Susan Allison

We continue to add more data to the object-related parts of the Integrated Database (IDB) and to improve the data already there. This year we have tried to get as many images as possible into the IDB. Susan has finished adding the backlog of digital images taken by the registrars in the last few years (some 3,600 images). Helen finished collecting information on

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each group of images taken by visiting researchers in the last ten years and has been handing them over to Foy Scalf and his team of volunteers, who have then added them to the IDB. Museum Registration would like to express its gratitude to Foy and his volunteers not just for this, but also for their progress in scanning and adding the original registration cards to the IDB. Cards for objects A1 to A20000 are now in the IDB. In addition, we have now modified our registration process so that anyone registering material also takes a record shot of every newly registered sherd or object and adds that to the IDB as part of the input process. A new camera allows both a JPEG and RAW format files to be taken at the same time; the JPEG goes into the IDB and the RAW file is archived. Some 36,000 registration and tablet card scans and registration images have now been added to the IDB.

One of the ways we have used the IDB this year has been to inventory the (soon-to-be-accessioned) Aqaba material that was excavated by Donald Whitcomb in Jordan between 1986 and 1993. The Aqaba material here at the Oriental Institute comprises both loan material (which will return to Jordan) and material that has been gifted to the OI. The excavations were conducted in the BC era (Before Computerization), so at present there is no site database, just a series of paper records. We realized that we could put temporary records (for which we use the prefix "T") into the IDB for each of the Aqaba field registration numbers and assign temporary numbers to the storage boxes holding the Aqaba sherds and objects, a small portion of which is a study loan from Jordan. The records could also be exported (initially to a spreadsheet like Excel) for the excavator to use and could also later be repurposed by Museum Registration when it came to register material into the collection. At present almost 6,500 Aqaba temporary records have been added and 194 new temporary storage boxes inventoried and the locations of their contents added to the IDB.

A large number of objects have been on the move for a variety of photography projects this year and Assistant Registrar Susan Allison has been particularly active in this regard. Objects have continued to be photographed for the Nubian publications in preparation (Bruce Williams' *Serra* and Lisa Heidorn's *Dorginarti* volumes) and for the Achemenet website (Persepolis objects). Objects have also moved to be photographed for the forthcoming highlights books.

Although we had only about half as many visiting researchers this year than last year, some of this year's visitors were looking at large quantities of material. (Thirty-three visitors came last year, seventeen this year.) In fact we moved over two and half times as many objects for research/analysis this year than we did last year (see below for numbers). As well as involving a larger number of objects, some visits required additional preparation. For instance, a cabinet full of beveled-rim bowls from Chogha Mish was registered in preparation for the visit of Arianna Stimpfl. When Miki Takehiro came to study all the Tall-i Bakun ceramics (150 pots and 3,600 sherds), we took the opportunity to rehouse, rebag, and relabel the complete pots. Katharina Streit (one of the collections research grantees) made two visits. In December she came to make a selection of Amuq sherds for her project. Many were unregistered Kurdu sherds, so those were registered and photographed in time for her second visit in February to carry out p-XRF (portable x-ray fluorescence) analysis on both these sherds and a selection from Research Associate Yorke Rowan's excavations at Ein el Jarba (on loan from the Israel Antiquities Authority). The visit of Raphael Angevin involved inventory and some rehousing (he studied almost 3,000 objects).

We began to look ahead to planning further unpacking of the collection as there are objects still packed up from the renovation more than ten years ago. In summer 2014 we carried

out an inventory of our temporary storage boxes (TSBs) to update their locations and check on how many had been emptied. By the end of this process we had established that we still have around 1,490 boxes to unpack; we updated the locations of just over 300 boxes. Nearly 1,200 boxes contain unregistered material leaving just over 190 boxes that contained (at least some) registered material. In total some 550 registered objects are still packed, but to put that in context we have a total of 246,000 registered objects so that it is less than 1 percent.

With regard to incoming loans, in January the special exhibit *In Remembrance of Me* was dismantled and loans returned to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Penn Museum, and the Haitian artist Kesler Pierre. The next special exhibit, *A Cosmopolitan City*, was installed in February with three loan objects from the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, including the fragile wooden door panel from the Ben-Ezra synagogue. Incoming loans always involve Museum Registration organizing object shipping/transport and courier travel and accommodation. For outgoing loans the registrars are involved in drafting the loan contracts and communicating with the borrowing institutions as to conditions, shipping, and other organizational aspects.

With regard to outgoing loans this year we have had quite a lot to do with the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW, New York). Two objects on loan there for the exhibit *When the Greeks Ruled Egypt*, which had traveled from the Art Institute of Chicago to ISAW, came back to us. This loan included the Arsinoe statue base that is now back on display in the Egyptian Gallery (OIM E10518). Then we lent ten Diyala objects and a selection of archival excavation records to the ISAW exhibit *From Ancient to Modern: Archaeology and Aesthetics*, which ran from February to June. An Islamic book binding (OIM A12151B-C) is currently on loan to the recently installed Islamic gallery at the Art Institute of Chicago.

This spring some Chogha Mish materials, on long-term loan to the OI, were returned to Iran with Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein acting as courier. Museum Registration's role in this case was to make lists, do inventory, check numbers, make the material available for condition photography, sort out valuations, and take out transit insurance.

We have renewed a number of outgoing loans for between a year and three years. These include: two objects (an A-Group Nubian pot and a ushebti) to the DuSable Museum of African American History (for one more year, to June 2016); a loan to the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University for some Mesopotamian, mostly Diyala, objects (three more years); some pots from the Tut cache that are on loan to the Penn Museum (one more year), and three tablets to the Adler Planetarium (three years). Two objects on loan from the Art Institute are on display in our Egyptian Gallery.

On campus we have lent objects to the Chicago Booth School of Business for a mini-exhibit in their lobby on business in the ancient world. Several loans for analysis were returned including samples taken from Dorginarti crucibles, Megiddo human teeth, and plaster fragments from Qasr el-Wizz that all went out in the previous year. This year we have received a loan request from Tristan Carter (McMaster University, Canada) to borrow a selection of obsidian tools from various Amuq sites for XRF analysis. These tools are currently being prepared for loan. This is part of an ongoing project of obsidian analysis and sourcing that has previously borrowed and analyzed Abu Hureyra obsidian from the Museum collection and is being carried out with the involvement of Yorke Rowan.

In September we had a visit from the staff of Guenschel — the company that manufactured our larger display cases — to make adjustments to the locking mechanisms of those cases. Museum Registration was also involved in a Young Professional Leaders event

## REGISTRATION

in October (a sandbox excavation where a museum registration card was filled out for each “discovered” object) and a Breasted Society event in December with tours of object storage. Recently we have done storage tours for new OI docents and the Graham School summer class for high school students, called *Insight: Ancient Egyptian Language, Culture, and History*.

The Registration Department has moved or inventoried over 32,300 objects this year (making a total of almost 50,000 object movements). Just under 4,000 objects had their locations updated, checked, or corrected. Over 8,000 objects have been registered and twenty-three temporary storage boxes of sherds were unpacked, registered, and rehoused. Just over 10,800 objects were the subject of research of all kinds (as opposed to 4,500 last year). Around 1,150 objects were moved for photography of various sorts and around 250 objects were moved for temporary exhibits that were installed, dismantled, or in preparation. Just over 1,770 objects were moved for the various Nubian publications in preparation and around 470 were moved relating to various loans.

### ***Visiting Researchers***

- Jacob Lauinger (NELC PhD, Johns Hopkins University), epigrapher for the Tayinat expedition, came in to collate the cuneiform inscriptions on the Neo-Assyrian basalt stela fragments. The fragments will be published in a future article and appear in a Tayinat volume on the cuneiform texts found by Chicago’s Syrian Hittite Expedition and the current Toronto excavations (July)
- Sue Goldschmidt (Westminster College, London) studied incantation bowls (August)
- Tevfik Emre Şerifoğlu (Fulbright scholar, University of Bitlis, Turkey) came for three months to study Robert McC. Adams’ Akkad survey sherds and Alishar ceramic material, as well as archival records (July–September)
- Oliver Watson (Khalili Research Centre, Oxford) came to examine Islamic sherds from Rayy and Istakhr (October)
- Katharina Schmidt (Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich) studied first-millennium BC glass from Khorsabad, Persepolis, and Megiddo (October)
- Jennifer Jackson (Tayinat Archaeological Project) made a visit to plan the photography of Tayinat material for the forthcoming publication (November)
- Mark Weeden (School of Oriental and African Studies, London) studied inscribed material from Tell Tayinat (November)
- Tristan Carter (McMaster University, Canada) study visit to select Amuq obsidian for an analysis loan request (December)
- Arianna Stimpfl (University of New York at Binghamton) studied beveled-rim bowls from several sites (January)
- Petros Koutoupis (independent researcher) made short visits to look at pots relating to the Hyksos period (October and January)
- Solene Klein (Oxford University) studied all of our canopic jars for her PhD (January/February)
- Katharina Streit (Hebrew University, Jerusalem; one of the collections research grantees) made two visits, one to select Amuq sherds for study/analysis and the second to carry out p-XRF analysis on both Amuq sherds from the OI collection and

- Ein el Jarba sherds here on loan from the Israel Antiquities Authority (December and February)
- Miki Takehiro (University of Tokyo) studied the ceramics from Tall i-Bakun (February/March)
  - Emilie Badel studied bitumen from a variety of sites (March)
  - Raphael Angevin studied a variety of chipped stone from Megiddo, Diyala, Nippur, Bismaya, and the Amuq sites for his PhD (March)
  - Elisa Rossberger (University of Munich) studied material from Ishchali (Diyala) and Nippur, particularly terra-cotta plaques (335 objects studied in April)
  - Marina Rustow (Johns Hopkins) made a brief visit and looked at some manuscripts referenced in *A Cosmopolitan City* (May)
  - Yael Rotem (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) studied material from Nahal Tabor (May)
  - Mark Altaweel (University College London) and Chikako Watanabe (Osaka-Gakuin College, Japan) carried out p-XRF analysis of tablets and sealings (November and May, the latter visit with Dr. Tuji, who conducted microscopic examination of the tablets)
  - Elon Heymans (Tel Aviv University; one of the collections research grantees) joined us to carry out an in-depth study of the silver fragments in two Megiddo hoards (A18295 and A23919) (May)
  - Samra Azarnouche (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Sorbonne, Paris) dropped in to have a quick look at a selection of Sasanian seals with a view to further study (May)
  - Orlene McIlpatrick (British Institute at Ankara) came to carry out p-XRF analysis on Iron Age sherds from Alishar using the Conservation Lab's Bruker Tracer III-SD (June)

### ***Oriental Institute Faculty, Staff, Researchers, and Students***

- Natasha Ayers (NELC grad student) has been down to check on details of Assasif pottery for a project with Christine Lilyquist. She borrowed a drawer of Mendes sherds for a Public Education drawing class and has been drawing Serra objects for Bruce Williams' forthcoming publication of that site
- Brian Muhs (faculty) collated the gardening inscription on jar MH Ostraca no. 4038 (field reg. no. MH 29.349) for colleague Sven Vleeming (July)
- Tasha Vorderstrasse (research associate) completed work on the Fustat objects (for the special exhibit *A Cosmopolitan City*) and she has also continued to work with us as a volunteer registering Islamic sherd material. She is also working on a publication of coins from the Amuq sites
- Lisa Heidorn (research associate) has continued to work on the Nubian site of Dorginarti for a publication. A selection of crucible fragments from the site returned from being on loan for analysis
- Karen Wilson (research associate) has completed work on the publication of the Inanna temple sounding at Nippur with McGuire Gibson, Richard Zettler, Jean Evans, and others and is working on a volume on the Kish material in the Field Museum with collaborators there
- Bruce Williams (research associate) has continued to work on Serra material for forthcoming publications

## REGISTRATION

- Carol Meyer (research associate) has joined us from time to time to draw Serra and other Nubian material and to study glass objects
- Tytus Mikołajczak (NELC grad student) has continued to study material from Persepolis as part of the Achemenet project headed by Pierre Briant of Paris (see Achemenet project report)
- Jack Green (OI Museum chief curator) used a small selection of objects for a museum studies class in January
- Foy Scalf (staff) used a selection of scarabs for a Public Education class on reading hieroglyphs in February
- Brian Muhs (faculty) used three Demotic papyri for a class in the spring term (OIM E25255, 25388, and 25262).
- Donald Whitcomb (research associate) borrowed some Islamic sherds from the site of Samarra for a class in April
- Nadine Moeller (faculty) used a variety of pots for a class on Old Kingdom pottery in January
- Nadine Moeller's students studied and wrote papers that included a variety of Museum objects in the spring term for a Middle Kingdom archaeology class as follows: Ariel Singer (Middle Kingdom stela); Sasha Rohret (bronze mirror), Emilie Sarrazin (Pan-grave material), Kierra Foley (wands for this class and Old Kingdom amulets for a class paper in the winter term) (Emily Teeter assisted with the class)
- Rachel Schine (University of Chicago student) gave a special gallery tour for Chabad House that included a viewing of some extra Genizah manuscripts brought up to the gallery for the event (November)
- Annalisa Azzoni (research associate) has continued to study a selection of sherds with inked Aramaic inscriptions
- François Gaudard (research associate) studied Egyptian shrouds for a forthcoming publication (spring 2015).

Our volunteers, interns, and work-study students have all been busy this year. Kierra Foley has registered Egyptian flints and beveled-rim bowls and has photographed obsidian tools and Qustul sherds. Following her retirement as volunteer coordinator, Terry Friedman joined us to register Nippur sherds that are being published in the forthcoming volume on the Inanna Temple sounding. Anna Moss joined us for the autumn and registered Alishar Iron Age sherds. Daila Shefner continued to inventory and label recently registered material, but has injured her shoulder and so has not been with us for a few months; we wish her all the best. Toni



*Figure 14. High school students (seated) from left to right: Umut Deniz Dinç, Emily Katsiff, and Elle Cramer with their instructor, NELC graduate student Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer, standing at right, and Registrar Helen McDonald at left. The students came in for an afternoon of labeling and inventory of sherds as part of a course organized by the Graham School*

Smith finished registering those Dorginarti sherds and objects that are to appear in the forthcoming publication, moved on to Qustul sherds, and is now registering Nippur tablet casts for the tablet collection. O. J. Sopranos has continued to register Tell es-Sweyhat sherds (Syria) from Tom Holland's published excavations at the site. Tasha Vorderstrasse has continued with the inputting of records relating to Erich Schmidt's aerial survey sherd registrations.

Museum Registration has had the assistance of two MA work-study students this academic year: Kathleen Cescon has been busy with the inventory of the Aqaba material and Jordan Galczynski completed the registration of all the sherds from the Chalcolithic site of Tepe Sohz (Iran) and has now moved on to the Behbahan survey sherds. Angela Spidalette joined us as summer intern in 2014. She carried out much of the inventory of temporary storage boxes and registered a variety of material including Nahal Tabor pottery and Nippur tablet casts. Angela also checked the proofs of the Geser publication against the objects and pots to make sure that all the registration numbers were correct and did an inventory of the Geser objects. This summer we have been joined by Danielle Morgan Zwang (Columbia University), who is presently busy registering the last of the Nahal Tabor sherds before moving on to other projects that will include the rehousing and relabeling of the Geser pots and objects. Once again it has again been a busy and productive year.



*Figure 15. Volunteer and NELC graduate student Kierra Foley labeling Nubian pot sherds*

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## ARCHIVES

### John A. Larson

As of December 2014, John Larson has served as Head of the Archives for thirty-four years.

Scholars visiting the Archives during fiscal year 2014/2015 included Richard Jasnow of the Johns Hopkins University and his wife, our own Christina (Tina) Di Cerbo of the Epigraphic Survey, who visited July 14–17, 2014, to do research on the history of Demotic Egyptian studies and Medinet Habu graffiti; Elizabeth Wolfson of Brown University who arrived on October 13, 2014, to study our files on the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem; Adina Hoffman who visited on October 22, 2014, to tie up some loose ends regarding her research on the Rockefeller Museum; Dr. Heiko Krefter who came to Chicago from Germany on November 3–4, 2014, to do research on his father Friedrich Krefter and the latter's work at Persepolis; on November 5, 2014, Kathleen Sheppard from the Missouri University of Science and Technology returned to continue her study of Egyptian hotels in Breasted's correspondence; during the week of February 23, 2015, Oriental Institute Collections Research Grant recipient Eric



## ARCHIVES

Cline of the George Washington University came to do research on a book about the excavations of Megiddo; on March 26, 2015, David Hogge of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, the National Museums of Asian Art, at the Smithsonian Institution came to see what we have on Ernst Herzfeld and Persepolis; during the week of March 30, 2015, Hipolito (Rafael) Chacon of the University of Montana at Missoula did research on moving the winged bull-man from Khorsabad to Chicago in 1929; and on June 23, 2015, Patricia Podzorski from the Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology at the University of Memphis came to look at the notebook of Janet Buttes. From within our own Oriental Institute community, Fred Donner, Sue Geshwender, Jack Green, Lisa Heidorn, Tytus Mikołajzak, Kiersten Neumann, Emily Teeter, Alison Whyte, Bruce Williams, and Karen L. Wilson have conducted research using Archives materials.

Several acquisitions were made by the Archives during this fiscal year. Twenty-two works (see fig. 16) by E. F. Beaumont (1871–1952) of the Megiddo Expedition were kindly donated to the Oriental Institute in 2014 by Maggie Green who resides in northern California. Ms. Green is E. F. Beaumont's great-granddaughter and his last living descendant. The donation



*"Ruins of Dat Ras Temple in Moab, near Kerak" [Kerak, Transjordan], undated (probably 1920s or 1930s). Pen and ink on paper. 12.8 x 14.0 cm*

is made in memory of Ms. Green's grandmother and E. F. Beaumont's only child, Lillian E. Beaumont. Professor Emeritus Robert D. Biggs donated a number of items to the Archives, including manuscripts, letters, memorabilia, and photographs.

Carole Yoshida contributed her time as an Archives volunteer during fiscal year 2014/2015 and has made it possible for us to continue a number of projects in the Oriental Institute Archives that would not have been possible without her generous assistance. We are grateful to have benefited from the help of this dedicated volunteer, and we thank her here for all of her efforts on behalf of the Archives. John has been assisted in the Oriental Institute Archives during this academic year by Middle East Center graduate work-study student Joseph Hermiz, who scanned a large number of lantern slides for the Integrated Database Project. We would like to thank him for his work.

During the past fiscal year, John Larson has continued the re-organization of the Museum Archives, working with Angela Spinnaze in July 2014 and, from November 2014 onward, with Anne Flannery on transferring data into the Ke Emu Integrated Database (IDB). Since November 2014, we have accomplished a great deal, including the IDB template for Museum Archives data-entry and website searching, as well as rehousing and labeling in the Museum Archives Storage Room itself. Though just in its initial stages, the launch online of the Museum Archives will enable greater awareness of the Archives to internal and visiting researchers. To date, we have added just over 7,500 records in the Museum Archives catalog module. Special thanks are due to Anne Flannery and Foy Scalf for a job well done.

The Oriental Institute Archives contributed materials from the Diyala (Iraq) to the special exhibition *From Ancient to Modern: Archaeology and Aesthetics* at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University from February 12, 2015, to June 7, 2015.

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## CONSERVATION

### Laura D'Alessandro

We will remember this past year as the Year of the Coffin — the coffin of Ipi-ha-ishutef, to be exact (OIM E12072A–B). From the construction of the coffin itself to the meticulous detail of the painted hieroglyphs, the coffin is one of the highlights of the Museum's collection. Due to the generosity of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), the Oriental Institute received funding to support the conservation and research of this wonderful example of a First Intermediate Period wood coffin. It has resided in the Conservation Laboratory for most of the past year where it rests on a custom designed and built platform, compliments of Preparator Erik Lindahl, and where it is literally the center of attention (fig. 17). Assistant Conservator Simona Cristanetti is the lead conservator for the project. Her position is supported by the ARCE grant and has allowed her to focus on the coffin and its complex treatment over the past year (fig. 18). Associate Conservator Alison Whyte, who undertook the conservation of the lid with its highly decorated surface and own particular set of challenges, joined Simona on the project (fig. 19). Updates on Simona's and Alison's work can be found on the Oriental



*Figure 17. The coffin of Ipi-ha-ishutef (OIM E12072B) on its custom-built platform in the Conservation Lab*

## CONSERVATION



Figure 18. Simona Cristanetti cleans the exterior of the coffin



Figure 19. Alison Whyte stabilizes pigment on the interior of the coffin lid

Institute's website in the Conservation Laboratory section: <http://oi.uchicago.edu/collections/coffin-project>.

The scope of the project includes analysis of the various pigments used in the painted decoration. The analysis will be split in two ways. McCrone Associates will carry out optical microscopy and organic and compositional analysis on the pigments and Conservation staff will carry out x-ray fluorescence (XRF) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) to examine their elemental composition and structural detail. At the conclusion of the project, Simona and Alison will share details on the analysis and conservation of Ipi-haishutef's coffin on the Oriental Institute's website.

Work proceeds in the lab at a fast pace. The Oriental Institute's handheld x-ray fluorescence spectrometer, affectionately called "The Tracer" (and officially named the Bruker Tracer III-SD), has become an integral part of the Conservation Lab's operation. It has revolutionized the way

we work in the lab, allowing us to determine, in a totally non-destructive way, the elemental composition of the objects that come to us for research or treatment. This quick picture provides us with important information on the material that an artifact is made of and can be critical in choosing the best conservation treatment. We received two training sessions from Bruker scientists over the course of the year that were extremely useful for our work.

The Tracer also allows broader questions to be answered. We began to study one such research question last year, attempting to identify groups within cuneiform tablets based on their clay composition. Preliminary analysis of the results from the initial test group by Dr. Lee Drake, senior application scientist at Bruker Elemental, determined that two main types of clay were represented. Alison and Simona conducted additional testing of the clay body of one of the largest tablets in the collection. Testing the clay at small intervals across the body of the tablet, a process known as "mapping," allowed Lee to assess the homogeneity

of the clay body. It was surprisingly similar across its face, showing only a small drift across the width of the body. The results from these two test groups will direct the next stage of the project over the course of the summer and fall.

The Tracer was also popular with visiting researchers. We hosted three groups of researchers over the course of the year: graduate student Katarina Streit, studying ceramics from the Amuq and Ein el Jarba (Israel); Orlene Mcilpatrick, studying Alishar ceramics; and Mark Altaweel and Chikako Watanabe, using the Tracer to analyze clay sealings and tablets from several sites including Bismaya and Nippur. We all enjoyed working with the researchers and took the opportunity to discuss their research and possible future collaborations.

The ongoing development of the Institute's integrated database continued to be an ongoing responsibility of Alison's over the course of the year. Alison liaised with conservator and computer specialist J. P. Brown, who created the reports that will be used for our basic recording activities, conservation treatments, and loan forms. She also oversaw the ongoing updates to the database as they affected the conservation modules, a time-consuming job.

Alison continued as the lead conservator for our special exhibits. She worked on the conservation and analysis of objects for A Cosmopolitan City and conducted the condition assessment for the objects borrowed from the Walters Art Museum with their courier. She was also kept busy over the course of the year with courier trips to New York to install and deinstall our large loan of objects to the exhibit *From Ancient to Modern: Archaeology and Aesthetics* at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW). Alison was involved in several additional loans: for the University of Chicago Booth School of Business's *Doing Business in the Ancient World*, for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibit *From Assyria to Iberia*, and the Art Institute of Chicago's *When the Greeks Ruled*, as well as their new galleries for Islamic art.

Despite Simona's primary responsibility for Ipi-ha-ishutef's coffin, she was able to continue her conservation treatment of the Persepolis tablets. Her time on this critical project was limited but she managed to treat several dozen tablets this past year. Simona also acted as a courier for the loans to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and ISAW in New York City. Simona was also able to maintain her role as the conservation liaison to the Achemenet project, advising on handling issues for both the project consultant and photographers. In June, Simona hosted Joe and Jane Barabe and friends for an afternoon with Ipi-ha-ishutef's coffin as a result of Joe's winning bid at this year's gala auction. Emily Teeter joined Simona and Alison in sharing their research and work on the coffin with Joe and Jane's friends.

An unexpected activity that came up suddenly saw the entire lab involved in preparing to return some the Chogha Mish materials to Iran. These clay tablets required careful packing to prepare them to be hand-carried by Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein. We were very pleased to hear that they had made the return trip safely.

It was a busy year for presentations. Alison co-authored and presented "Evolving



*Figure 20. Conservators Alison Whyte and Simona Cristanetti inspect coffin work platform in the Prep Shop*

## CONSERVATION

Attitudes: Past and Present Treatment of Egyptian Collections at the Oriental Institute” at Understanding Egyptian Collections: Innovative Display and Research Projects in Museums in September at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, UK.

Alison also co-authored (with Tasha Vorderstrasse) an article called “Opera Diva and Doll Maker: The Dolls and Tableaux of Baronne Sandra Belling” for *News & Notes* 226. In addition, the results of Alison’s x-ray fluorescence analysis of objects included in our A Cosmopolitan City special exhibit were published in the catalog for the exhibit.

In November, at the annual conference of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), in San Diego, Head of Conservation Laura D’Alessandro presented a poster entitled “Recent Research on Blue Pigment from Sargon II’s Palace, Khorsabad, Iraq,” co-authored with Dr. Steve Heald of the Argonne National Laboratory, Alison, Simona, and Elisabeth Fontan, chief curator (retired) at the Louvre. Laura also co-chaired “Pigments, Paints and Polychromies in the Ancient Near Eastern Context,” a workshop on ancient pigments, with Dr. Alexander Nagel, Smithsonian, at the ASOR conference.

Laura and Gil were invited to take part in the colloquium on Building Capacity for Global Protection of Cultural Property, organized by the Cultural Heritage by Archaeology and Military Panel (CHAMP) at the annual conference of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), in New Orleans. Gil was unable to attend the conference so Laura presented the talk “The National Museum of Afghanistan and the Oriental Institute: Lessons Learned for Building a Sustainable Partnership” on behalf of the project.

In March, Laura and Simona attended a round-table discussion at the British Museum on the conservation of clay tablets. The attendees were an international mix of curators, conservators, and conservation scientists responsible for the study and preservation of this fragile cultural material. At the conclusion of the two days, the group resolved to work more closely together over the next two to five years to address many of the issues that were raised.

Laura is currently serving on the Neubauer Collegium Material Matters Advisory Board and the planning committee for the Synchrotron Radiation in Art and Archaeology (SR2A) conference scheduled to take place Chicago in 2016.

I thank Alison and Simona for their contributions to this section and the busy workflow of the lab. The year has once again flown by very quickly. We look forward to seeing what the new year will bring.

## PREP SHOP

**Erik Lindahl**

The last year has been another exciting one from the perspective of the Prep Shop. The special exhibits program has continued, researchers have come and gone, and the Museum has begun a donor-funded project to replace all of the freestanding display cases, upgrade the lighting, and refresh the graphics in the galleries (see *Museum* report, above). The shop would like to thank Josh Tulisiak for all his hard work this year. His design and production work has been excellent and he has proven himself a valuable resource.

The special exhibits program focused on the closing of *In Remembrance of Me* and the opening of *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christian, and Jews in Old Cairo*. Working with Tasha Vorderstrasse, Tanya Treptow, and Donald Whitcomb to develop the exhibit was a pleasure. Matt Federico and Bartosz Gal were a great help during production and the exhibit changeover.

The Museum continued its program of mini-exhibits with the installation of *Cairo in Chicago*, *A Threatened Heritage*, and *Doing Business in the Ancient World*. The Preparation and Exhibit Design Department played an important role in designing and installing all these projects.

Some of the collections-management projects of note were the installation of more pallet racking in heavy-objects storage and the uncrating of large objects for the Achemenet project.

The Prep Shop always works closely with the Conservation Lab. One of our main collaborations this year was to design and build a height-adjustable work platform for use during the conservation of an ancient Egyptian coffin (fig. 20; and see *Conservation* report, above). We also worked together to produce object mounts for an exhibit loan to the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World.



*Figure 21. Josh Tulisiak inspects prints before delivery to the Gala*



*Figure 22. Museum activity cart near completion*

## PREP SHOP

The Oriental Institute gala was this year. In order to help bring the OI to the gala, which was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Chicago, the Prep Shop produced and delivered a series of large-format prints on canvas of key artifacts from the collections (fig. 21).

Last year the Education Department approached the Prep Shop about helping them to design and produce a museum activity cart (fig. 22; and see *Public Education* report). The Prep Shop gladly agreed and the first cart was completed and put into service this year.

As always the Prep Shop has continued with its maintenance and organizational duties. We have been maintaining the exhibit lighting and keeping the galleries clean with the assistance of our student worker Adam Bierstedt. We also enlisted the help of student worker Christian Leavitt to digitally archive all of our blueprints.

The next year will be a busy one with the gallery enhancements project in full swing, the delivery/installation of new display cases, and the production/installation of *Persepolis: Images of an Empire*.

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## SUQ

### Denise Browning

This has been a very eventful year for the Suq. It started just after the opening in June of the new streetscape in front of the Oriental Institute, which brought in many new visitors. Then in September we changed the hours of the Museum and the Suq, closing a little earlier during the week and opening earlier on Sundays. It seems to have worked very well as we cut back on our slow hours, and opening earlier on Sundays didn't even seem to need an adjustment period. The result was a healthy 15.5 percent increase in our net sales.

Of course most of our success is due to our incredible volunteers, who give our customers impeccable service. Many thanks to Judy Bell Qualls, Ray Broms, Norma van der Meulen, and Jane Meloy. Norma, thankfully, is still creating her much-sought-after jewelry for the Suq.

Unfortunately, we did say goodbye to long-time student employee Dylan Genest, and long-time volunteer Judy Bell Qualls. Dylan worked for us both as an undergraduate and as a



Figure 23. A selection of merchandise available at the Suq



Figure 24. A selection of merchandise available at the Suq

graduate student. She is now working full time in Chicago. Judy decided it was time to retire. We will all miss Judy. Her good sense of humor and knowledge was enjoyed by everyone.

During the year we hosted two book signings that were very popular with our members. Eric Cline autographed his popular book *1177 BC: The Year Civilization Collapsed*. Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole graciously autographed their book, *Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza*, in conjunction with our special exhibit, *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo*.

This special exhibit enabled us to bring in lots of new merchandise for the Suq. Since it was a more modern exhibit for us we were able to take advantage of the many wonderful handicrafts still made in the Middle East. We brought in many beautiful glass and cut-metal hanging lamps, hand-blown glass vessels, beautiful arabesque jewelry, and many interesting books from the American University Press in Cairo, including children's books (figs. 23–24). Wahied Helmy brought back from Egypt beautifully hand-painted papyrus specially made for the exhibit with either Arabic calligraphy or the Ten Commandments written in Hebrew.



SUQ

Our new lamassu t-shirts made their debut in June. They are available in black with a white, almost three-dimensional impression, or in heather tan with a black line drawing enhanced by Josh Tulisak's Photoshop expertise (fig. 24).

We are looking forward to another exciting year working with all of the volunteers, students, and customers.

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# PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Catherine Kenyon

This has been a year of watching programs in their second season mature and develop into new Oriental Institute mainstays with their own audience and following. We had special programs for temporary exhibits as well as new programs with interesting new partners. The majority of our efforts this year, however, have been focused on perfecting program models that could be replicated with new content. A few of these programs include homeschool offerings, summer family programs, Epic Wednesday, Lunchtime Traveler, and the development of new online continuing education courses based on successful onsite ones. Our department was able to sustain the program and attendance growth gained during the 2013–14 fiscal year with our total program attendance at 6,881 people attending 139 programs — this is in comparison to Fiscal Year 2013–14 with 6,420 attendees at 140 programs.

MASTER Attendance Spreadsheet FY 14-15  
All Programs

	Totals		Family Youth		Adult		Teacher Students		Volunteer Program		Outreach
	No. of Programs	Attendance	No. of Programs	Attendance	No. of Programs	Attendance	No. of Programs	Attendance	No. of Programs	Attendance	
July	15	212	8	82	3	55	3	53	1	22	
August	10	124	5	49	3	54	2	21	0	0	
September	7	157	2	0	5	157	0	0	0	0	
October	18	2053	5	444	11	1533	1	26	1	50	
November	11	475	4	148	3	70	3	182	1	75	
December	8	192	4	77	3	99	1	16	0	0	
January	8	170	2	27	5	131	0	0	1	12	
February	8	524	3	141	4	356	0	0	1	27	
March	14	352	3	117	7	168	2	30	2	37	
April	12	347	2	41	7	233	2	35	1	38	
May	14	609	3	103	8	356	1	100	2	50	
June	14	616	2	160	6	232	1	70	5	154	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>6881</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1389</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>3444</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>1050</b>

Figure 1. Master attendance for public programs by audience type, Fiscal Year 2014-15

## Adult Programs

Adult programs have always been a strong focus for the Oriental Institute and this year was no exception. We have continued to partner with faculty and staff and have involved graduate student content specialists in the development and implementation of these programs. Our content specialists this year include PhD candidates Megaera Lorenz, Sam Harris, and Joey Cross. We have collaborated more this year with the Office of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations to “get the word out” about what the Education Office does, and to communicate with students on how to become involved in our department and the benefits they will gain from participation — valuable teaching experience and using their expertise with non-academic audiences and museum program development.

### Continuing Education

This year we offered a total of eight adult continuing education courses with three online courses — one offered for the first time (\* indicates new course).

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

**Onsite Courses**

- Before the Alphabet: Writing Systems in the Ancient World, taught by Massimo Maiocchi, PhD
- Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Museum Goers, taught by Foy Scalf, PhD
- \*Mesopotamian Mythologies, taught by Sam Harris, PhD candidate
- Nubia in the Ancient World, taught by Deborah Heard, PhD candidate
- \*Temples and Palaces of Ancient Near Eastern Empires, taught by Kiersten Neumann, PhD

**Online Courses**

- Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt, taught by Megaera Lorenz, PhD candidate
- \*Before the Alphabet: Writing Systems in the Ancient World, taught by Massimo Maiocchi, PhD
- Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Beginners, taught by Foy Scalf, PhD

**Performances and Off-site Excursions**

In the fall and winter we filled the OI with the performing arts. In the fall we hosted Chicago-based Ron De Jesús Dance Company, who brought us three vignettes from their story ballet *Osiris and Isis*. The performance included recorded translations from the Egyptian Book of the Dead compiled and translated from thirty-one different sources by Professor Robert Ritner. The translated material was also used to create introductions to each vignettes that were read by PhD students Joseph Cross and Ariel Singer. In January we welcomed the east coast musical group Alba Consort, who gave a workshop celebrating the Oud, Voice, and Vielle. The workshop combined music and a discussion of early modes of Arabic music. The audience was



Figure 2. Alba Consort and audience members discuss medieval instruments

invited to handle the instruments and there was a Q&A session at the end. The concert was scheduled for two hours and the audience stayed well past the program's end asking questions.

This year the OI visited Rosehill Cemetery for a popular tour with Michael Berger as our guide. Following the success of our walking tours we offered a bus tour to view Islamic-inspired architecture in the Chicago area. Both tours are led by PhD candidate Michael Bechtel and are in association with the special exhibit *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo*.



Figure 3. Islamic architecture bus tour in Chicago

### ***Special and Recurring Programming***

Our after-hours Epic Wednesday program is going strong after two academic years, and last year we made some adjustments to ensure we are reaching the student audience. We have removed the program's 21 and over age restriction and are developing communication outlets that reach undergraduate students. Additionally, to increase our engagement with students, we formed a Graduate Student Committee (GSC) with the intent to help us develop thematic tours and identify campus outreach for the program. The GSC is comprised of six students from the Departments of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Anthropology: Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer, Debora Heard, Megaera Lorenz, Sam Harris, Kate Cescon, and Joey Cross. The group meets once a month to discuss activity ideas and promotion strategies for the program.



Figure 4. What do you enjoy most during Epic Wednesday?

*"I enjoyed the harp from the 15th century the most. I liked how she gave us multiple examples of the sound from that particular time period. There are no parts of the program that I least enjoyed."*

*"Everything — the music, the beverages, the history."*

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

We offered another full year — eleven programs in total of first Thursday’s Lunchtime Traveler series. In total 318 people attended this year; up from 293 last year. Topics and speakers included:

- Megiddo: Crossroads of Culture, by Jack Green, PhD
- Terra Firma: A Closer Look at Pottery, by Catherine Kenyon
- Recreating Zincirli: The Ancient City of Katumuwa, by Travis Saul
- Gilgamesh, by Monica Phillips, PhD candidate
- Prehistory at the OI, by Yorke Rowan, PhD
- Discovering the Katumuwa Stela, by David Schloen, PhD
- The Wide-eye Worshipers of Ancient Mesopotamia, by Kiersten Neumann, PhD
- Models of Daily Life in Ancient Egypt, by Emily Teeter, PhD
- Cylinder Seals: Miniature Masterpieces of Mesopotamia, by Kiersten Neumann, PhD
- From the Arabian Nights to Taxes: Texts from the Old Cairo Exhibit, by Tasha Vorderstrasse, PhD
- The Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead, by Foy Scalf, PhD

In October we hosted two very popular lectures. The first, entitled “Dining with the Dead in the Ancient World,” was offered in association with the special exhibit *In Remembrance of Me: Feasting with the Dead in the Ancient Middle East* and included Margaret Mitchell, Dean of the Divinity School; Jonathan M. Hall, Professor of History and Classics; David Harper, Centennial Professor of Chinese Studies; and Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute Special Exhibits Coordinator. Our second public talk, entitled “A Game of Thrones and Coffins: The Death and Resurrection of Osiris,” by Robert Ritner, was in association with University of Chicago Humanities Day and preceded the dance performance *Osiris and Isis*, by Ron De Jesús Dance.



Figure 5. Tasha Vorderstrasse (at far right) gives her Lunchtime Traveler program, *From the Arabian Nights to Taxes: Texts from the Old Cairo Exhibit*

Our final public lecture of the academic year was in association with the special exhibit *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo* and was part of a full-day program entitled *Celebrate the History and Culture of Old Cairo*. The program started with the lecture “Street Stories: Sights, Spaces, and Imaginaries in Medieval Cairo,” by Heather Badamo of the Department of Art History at the University of Chicago (fig. 6), and was followed by ancient board game activities, poetry readings (fig. 7), a gallery talk, Lego creations of famous Islamic architecture, and a performance by the Middle East Music Ensemble (fig.8).



*Clockwise from upper left: Figure 6. Heather Badamo giving her lecture “Street Stories: Sights, Spaces, and Imaginaries in Medieval Cairo.” Figure 7. Liran Yadgar reading poems of Judah Halevi in translation. Figure 8. The Middle East Music Ensemble performing in Breasted Hall, April 2015*

### **Family and Youth Programs. Moriah Grooms-Garcia**

The family and youth program has seen tremendous growth, with this past year presenting nearly 1,400 attendees and having over forty programs offered, a 32 percent increase in attendance over last year. In the 2014–2015 year we have been particularly focused on bringing out the aspects that are unique about the Oriental Institute through its family and youth programs and workshops in a sustainable, replicable manner so that those programs can be offered more frequently (fig. 9).



## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



*Figure 9. The family program Little Scribe is now offered five times a year, which is possible because it has been made easily replicable*



*Figure 10. Girl Scouts and other youth groups can now earn patches at a selection of our regularly offered family programs*

Now that we are able to offer certain programs on a regular basis, we have been able to create fun patches that can be earned by Girl Scouts and other youth groups that participate in our programs. So far over fifty Girl Scouts have earned their Junior Archaeologist patches. This year we will be creating Little Scribe and Mummy patches (fig. 10).

This year we also grew our quarterly featured family programs, including our annual Halloween event Mummies Night, which brought over 400 costumed people to the Museum (fig. 11). Ancient Game Day was offered twice this year, indoors in the winter and outdoors in spring on the new 58th Street pedestrian streetscape (fig. 12).



*Figures 11 & 12. Mummies Night and two Ancient Game Days were our biggest family events of the year, between them bringing in nearly 700 people to the Oriental Institute*



*Figure 13. The homeschool workshop All Bones About It had families analyzing a real human skeleton for evidence of nutrition and activity*



*Figure 14. Ancient Earth Day is one of our new quarterly programs that has grown each year, and which we plan to make even bigger next year. In 2015 the theme was Mesopotamia and kids made earth-deity temples out of recycled materials*

### **Homeschool Workshops Series**

Few museums in the greater Chicago area are yet offering opportunities specifically for the homeschool audience. What further sets the Oriental Institute's homeschool programs apart is that families work with a real expert in the field — an Egyptologist, Assyriologist, museum curator — while learning twenty-first century skills through ancient history. Participant evaluations have shown that this expertise, as well as the diversity of content and working with real objects, are what the homeschool audience appreciates most about these workshops. This past year we used mummies to teach science, an ancient building to teach geometry, and bioarchaeology to teach nutrition and healthy choices. Next year we will be learn about critical thinking at the workshop How to Make an Exhibit, about simple machines through the building of the pyramids, and more!

“Please keep the programs coming! They are wonderful!”

— participant evaluation

### **On the Horizon**

Some of our homeschool workshops were such a hit that people have been asking for us to run them again — and we plan to oblige. Next year we will be offering Mummy Science, All Bones About It, Not Pi, and Introduction to Hieroglyphs on weekends so that other family audiences can also participate.

The development of the Gallery Discovery Cart has come a long way this past year. This year we will be specifically recruiting volunteers to run this cart and its engaging pottery analysis activity to bring this lively interactive into the galleries.

## Teacher Programs. *Carol Ng-He*

### ***K-12 Teacher Programs***

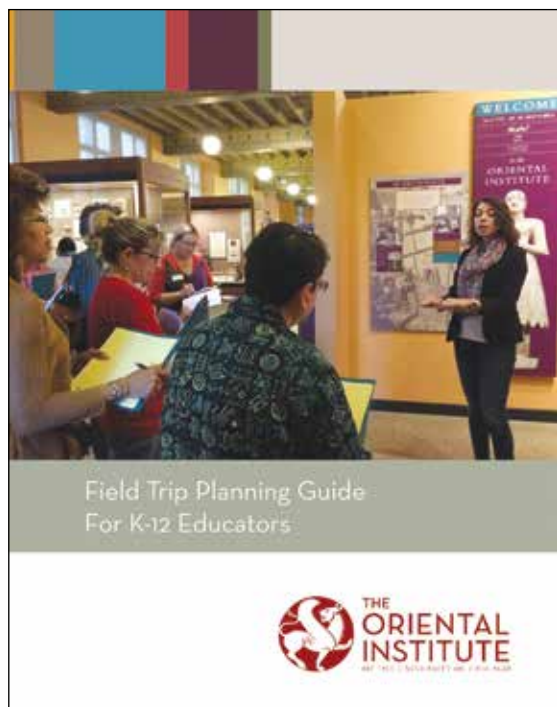
Our teacher professional development programs have reached educators across disciplines and grade levels with the focus on the alignment with the Common Core State Standards and the new Next Generation Science Standards that the state of Illinois will begin using in 2016. We have focused this year on growing our teacher outreach and deepening collaborative efforts in support of teachers. In an effort to achieve this goal we created four new initiatives:

#### ***Helping Educators Plan for a Visit***

The new Oriental Institute Field Trip Planning Guide was created to provide instructional resources to teachers in planning their field trips to the Oriental Institute (fig. 15). The guide includes an overview of the Oriental Institute Museum galleries, ready-made student worksheets, pre-and post-visit activity suggestion, and is available for free to download from our website. We know that the guide is having an impact on teachers across the Chicago area and beyond.

#### ***Teacher Professional Development***

This May we held our second Teacher Appreciation Night, which will be an annual event at the Oriental Institute. The event thanks and salutes teachers for their commitment to education, and their dedication to teaching about the ancient world. The Oriental Institute partners with multiple organizations and centers on campus to host the event, which helps to connect teachers with a broad range of resources they can use in their classrooms. This year the program highlighted a curator talk by Tanya Treptow, PhD, co-curator of the



"I really like the guide! I think the map is great and like the activities as well as the vocabulary. I think this makes a quality visit to the museum extremely easy for teachers — especially the worksheets that are included. Many schools require assignments to be submitted with a field trip request. I may use a few of yours even though I have my own developed!"

— Janet Roller-Schmidt,  
Art Department,  
Hinsdale South High School

Figure 15. Cover of the Oriental Institute Field Trip Planning Guide

special exhibit *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo*. We doubled our attendance this year with 100 teachers.

This year we continued to strengthen our cross-campus K-12 outreach partnerships with another collaboration with the Center for International Studies and other area studies centers for the annual University of Chicago International Education Conference and a Summer Teacher Institute. The Conference topic was Problem-Solving: Classroom,

Community, and the World, where teachers and Oriental Institute staff engaged educators in discussion on how to use archaeology in the classroom to solve problems and engage critical-thinking skills. The Institute was a three-day event entitled *Inequality: Conditions, Consequences, Solutions*, where Sam Harris, PhD candidate in Mesopotamian archaeology, presented on the origins of inequality in the ancient Near East (fig. 17), and Debora Heard, PhD candidate in anthropology, presented on inequality in ancient Nubia.



*Figure 16. Teachers at the annual Teacher Appreciation Night, in May 2015*



*Figure 17. Sam Harris presenting at the annual University of Chicago International Education Conference and a Summer Teacher Institute*

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

**Teacher Resources**

*Investigating Nutrition: The Advent of Agriculture in Mesopotamia*, a new teacher curriculum for grade 6, was developed by Project Archaeology staff Courtney Agenten, Cali Letts, and Jeanne Moe, EdD, and was edited and published by the Oriental Institute for release this spring. The curriculum explores the shift from hunting and gathering to the development of agriculture in the ancient world (fig. 18). Teacher professional development programs based on the curriculum will be offered on-site in the summer 2015 and online in the fall 2015.

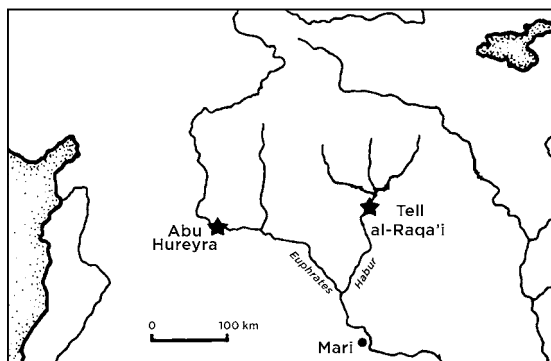


Figure 18. The Project Archaeology curriculum focuses on two Mesopotamian sites: Abu Hureyra and Tell al-Raqa'i

**New Projects on the Horizon****The Educator Pass**

Next year the Oriental Institute will offer a new teacher membership. The Educator Pass will only cost teachers \$25 per year, and provides them with benefits at the family membership rate. We hope this new pass will encourage teachers to spread the word about the incredible resources the Oriental Institute holds for them and their students.

**Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM)**

A New STEAM-focused Teacher Cohort Program begins next school year with six teachers. The teachers will participate in professional development sessions led by scholars at the Oriental Institute, and they will conceptualize as a group ways to develop object-based field trips and gallery programs to the Oriental Institute. The project is entitled Art+Engineering and it will feature a student-team design challenge focused on the tools and resources found in the ancient Middle East to design, build, and beautify. Students will use science, technology, engineering, art, and math skills to complete their in-gallery challenges.

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

### Susan Geshwender

The Volunteer Program is a vibrant and integral part of the Oriental Institute. We continue to attract intellectuals who are passionate about ancient history and committed to devoting time and energy to the Oriental Institute as either docents or in other volunteer capacities, or both.

#### *A New Chapter*

The most significant event during the past year was the October retirement of long-time volunteer manager Terry Friedman. Terry has been at the Oriental Institute for over forty years, the first twenty years as a volunteer and the last twenty as the volunteer manager, a position she shared with Cathy Dueñas. Terry and Cathy have devoted themselves to the service of the Oriental Institute and have managed and treated all volunteers with the utmost care, respect, and appreciation for the various talents each volunteer brings to the OI.

#### *Book Club*

We started something new this year, an informal, social book discussion group, a.k.a “Book Club.” Books are chosen by the members. Two books were recent publications and the authors were pleased to learn their books had been chosen for discussion and were happy to provide discussion questions. Several book club members were able to meet the authors when they came to the OI.



*Figure 19. Denise Browning, Carole Krucoff, Janet Helman, and Terry Friedman at Terry's retirement party*



*Figure 20. Eric Cline (center), author of “1177 BC,” poses with OI book club members*



*Figure 21. Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole (at left), authors of the book “Sacred Trash,” pose with OI book club members*

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

**Field Trip**

In April the volunteers were treated to a tour of the Fossil Lab, led by paleontologist and renowned University of Chicago professor Paul Sereno. Over thirty volunteers were able to see many amazing fossils.



*Figure 22. Volunteers enjoy a tour of the Fossil Lab with University of Chicago paleontologist Paul Sereno (seated)*



*Figure 23. Volunteer Gaby Cohen gets a kiss from a fossil croc in Paul Sereno's Fossil Lab*

## ***Docent Training***

In June we began New Docent Training 2015, which can be summed up by phrase “it takes a village” in that so many people have helped with this training program. Volunteer Manager Emeritus Janet Helman “came back to work” to aid in developing the format and content as well as arranging the faculty and speaker line-up, which consisted of: John Larson, Brian Muhs, Robert Ritner, McGuire Gibson, Tony Brinkman, Theo van den Hout, Abbas Alizadeh, Jack Green, and Emily Teeter. Volunteers Jean Nye and Marilyn Murray helped with candidate screening, interviewing, and selection. Volunteer manager Carlotta Maher aided in recruitment. Ralph Klein and Deloris Sanders gave the new trainees sample tours. Peer coaching and review has been a big part of this training program, and the following volunteers have served as coaches and mentors to the new trainees: Roberta Buchanan, Gaby Cohen, Deloris Sanders, Jean Nye, Margaret Schmid, Peg Romm, Nancy Baum, Stephen Ritzel, Larry Lissak, and Toni Smith. We had the aid of two graduate students, Joey Cross and Sam Harris, who also conducted teaching sessions in the galleries. Foy Scalf and Helen McDonald introduced their areas. Tom Urban and Leslie Schramer assembled the pre-reading packets each week. Kiersten Neumann also contributed to the reading selections. Ted Good provided AV and tech support. The Education Department staff — Carol Ng-He, Moriah Grooms-Garcia, and Catherine Kenyon — were great sounding-boards and collaborators, pitching in many ways at many times. Terry Friedman provided hours of advice and counsel. This training program has been a collaboration and has benefited from the guidance and wisdom of former volunteer managers Cathy Dueñas, Terry Friedman, Janet Helman, and Carlotta Maher, who have been training outstanding docents for many years.

Volunteers also have helped in several other areas. The Suq has benefited from the help of Judy Bell Qualls, Ray Broms, Jane Meloy, and Norma van der Muelen. Muse-



*Figure 24. Volunteer managers past and present. Left to right: Cathy Dueñas, Carlotta Maher, Janet Helman, Sue Geshwender, Terry Friedman*



*Figure 25. New Docent trainees, class of 2015: Barren Vilmin, Brian Porrett, Francey Smith, Luella Adan, Roberto Cepeda, Yishu Deng, Lauren Friesen, Joe Barabe*



## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

um Registration has been aided by Terry Friedman, Kierra Foley, Anna Moss, Daila Shefner, Toni Smith, Jim Sopranos, and interns Danielle Zwang and Angela Spidalette. Foy Scalf has quietly managed an army of volunteers who are primarily working on the Integrated Database, including Joe Barabe, Ray Broms, Betty Bush, Gaby Cohen, Kym Crawford, Gabriele Correa da Silva, Yishu Deng, Irene Glasner, David Henson, Su Hyeon Kang, Seth Kohrman, Mark Mandle, Michael McCarthy, Marge Nichols, Ken Petchenik, Dylan Peterson, Brian Porrett, Andres Premovich, LaQueisha Robinson, Roberta Schaffner, Margaret Schmid, Scott Vokes, Sierra Wilson, and David Zhao. These are just a few of the different areas where volunteers help out.

The volunteer program has a long history and continues to grow and enrich the lives of volunteers while adding value to faculty, staff, researchers and the visiting public at the Oriental Institute.

## Photo Gallery





## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

**In Memoriam**

The Volunteer Program lost four loyal friends and supporters this past year: Janet Calkins, Charlotte Collier, Joe Diamond, and Patricia Hume.

These individuals exemplified the true spirit of volunteerism by devoting their passion, intellect, and support to help further the goals and mission of the Oriental Institute. We are so honored to have known and worked with them over the years and it is our good fortune that they chose to spend a portion of their lives with us.

**Volunteer Recognition**

In December we held our annual recognition ceremony and holiday luncheon. This year, eleven people celebrated a milestone year in their volunteer service to the Oriental Institute.

**5 Years**

Stuart Kleven  
Panagiotis Koutsouris  
Craig Tews

**15 Years**

Gabriele DaSilva  
Bill Gillespie  
Terry Gillespie  
Shel Newman  
Agnes Zellner

**30 Years**

Rebecca Binkley-Albright  
Cathy Dueñas

**10 Years**

Mary O'Shea

**40 Years**

Terry Friedman

***Museum Docents***

*\* Denotes active docents who are also project or event volunteers*

John Aldrin	David Figiel*	Laurence Lissak*
Nancy Baum	Margaret Foorman	Paul Mallory
Susan Bazargan	Barbara Heller Friedell	Sherry McGuire
Craig Bean	Terry Friedman*	Don McVicker
Rebecca Binkley-Albright*	Dario Giacconmoni	Marilyn Murray
Daniel Bloom	Wahied Girgis	Jean Nye
Margaret Bolton	Michael Goodyear*	Nancy Patterson
Roberta Buchanan	Valerie Grabski	Semra Prescott
Ginny Clark	Lee Herbst	Stephen Ritzel
Gabriella Cohen*	Shirlee Hoffman*	Peg Romm
Kim Crawford*	Dennis Kelley	Deloris Sanders
Gabriele DaSilva	Ralph Klein	Hilda Schlatter
John DeWerd	Stuart Kleven	Margaret Schmid*
Cathy Dueñas*	Panagiotis Koutsouris	Joy Schochet
Fred Eskra*	Alfia Lambert	Stephen Scott*

Mary Shea  
Toni Smith\*

Dee Speich  
Craig Tews

Ron Wideman  
Carole Yoshida\*

### ***Volunteers***

Laura Alagna  
Jacqueline Angulo  
Rvd. Dennis Bailey  
Doug Baldwin  
Joseph Barabe  
Christel Betz  
Ray Broms  
Myllicent Buchanan  
Elizabeth Bush  
Angela Candadai  
Kathleen Cescon  
Niki Chen  
Yishu Deng  
Andrea Dudek  
Mariola Dudzicka  
Mary Finn  
Kierra Foley  
Bill Gillespie  
Terry Gillespie

Irene Glasner  
Debby Halpern  
Janet Helman  
David Henson  
Mark Hirsch  
Barbara Jillson  
Su Hyeon Kang  
Seth Kohrman  
Mathis Kreitzscheck  
Lauren Ledin  
Katherine R. Lieber  
Carlotta Maher  
Leila Makdisi  
Mark Mandle  
Aesho Matti  
Michael McCarthy  
Sara Mohr  
Anna Moss  
Marge Nichols  
Brandy Norton

Mary O'Shea  
Ken Petchenik  
Dylan Peterson  
Brian Porrett  
Andrew Premovich  
Kriti Ramakrishnan  
Karen Righeimer  
LaQueisha Robinson  
Shalene Sanker  
Roberta Schaffner  
Dalia Shefner  
Mae Simon  
O. J. Sopranos  
George Sundell  
Scott Vokes  
Sierra Wilson  
Steve Wolfgang  
Agnes Zellner  
David Zhao

### ***Suq Volunteers***

Judy Bell-Qualls  
Ray Broms

Louise Despres  
Jane Meloy

Alice Mulberry  
Norma van der Meulen





## DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

*Overleaf: Fragment of the Thousand and One Nights written in Arabic. Paper and ink. Tulunid or earlier, prior to 879 ad. Egypt or Syria (acquired in Egypt). Purchased from James E. Pullen, 1947. 26 × 24 cm. OIM E17618 (photo D. 019247: Anna Ressman)*

## DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

### Development

#### Tracy Tajbl

With the help of numerous friends and contributors, the Oriental Institute continues to make exciting new discoveries and enhance knowledge of the Ancient Near East. The Oriental Institute received more than \$6.6 million in support during the past academic year through a combination of generous current outright contributions, pledged commitments towards key initiatives, and visionary gifts from estates. As a result, the Oriental Institute was able to offer continuing support for two unique special exhibitions, a full roster of museum education programming, and six ongoing excavation projects across the Middle East. The steadfast commitment of our supporters provides the cornerstone for long-term initiatives, such as the Persepolis Fortification Archive, the Chicago Demotic Dictionary, and the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. These projects, which may take decades of work to bring to completion, would simply not be possible at typical academic departments and are the hallmark of the Institute's international reputation for excellence. We are very grateful for the continuing support of our government and foundation partners, including the United States Embassy in Kabul, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Roshan Cultural Heritage Foundation, among many others for their continuing investment in Oriental Institute research projects.

The Oriental Institute is especially honored that the loyalty of so many of our friends and supporters motivates them to make provisions for the Institute in their estate plans. Oriental Institute archaeological excavations regularly benefit from a visionary gift created by Alwin Clemens Carus, which provides support for our excavations over a twenty-year period through a mineral trust. This year, we were very honored to receive gifts from the estates of several long-time friends of the Institute, including William A. Hoffman, Neil C. Miller, and Nancy M. Sargis.

Every gift we receive will make a difference for the Oriental Institute. Thank you to each of our donors for becoming partners in our discoveries this year, and for your investments in the future of the Oriental Institute.

#### Current Income

	2015	2014	2013
<i>Outright Gifts</i>	\$839,310	\$635,753	\$861,086
<i>Realized Bequests</i>	\$1,595,689	\$686,753	\$368,382
<i>Payments on Multi-Year Pledges</i>	\$4,221,727	\$671,430	\$637,130
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$6,656,726</b>	<b>\$1,993,936</b>	<b>\$1,836,598</b>



## DEVELOPMENT

## Future Commitments

	2015	2014	2013
<i>Pledged Commitments</i>	\$2,004,400	\$2,002,500	\$71,150
<i>Planned and Deferred Gifts</i>	\$125,000	\$4,112,120	\$960,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,129,400</b>	<b>\$6,114,620</b>	<b>\$1,031,150</b>

Figures above do not include foundation and federal/nonfederal grants.

## VISITING COMMITTEE

### The Oriental Institute Visiting Committee 2014–2015

— Harvey Plotnick, Chairman —

Marilynn Alsdorf	Arthur Lee Herbst*
Guity Nashat Becker	Doris Holleb*
Gretel Braidwood*	Roger David Isaacs
Catherine A. Novotny Brehm	Neil J. King
Andrea Dudek	Carlotta Maher*
Emily H. Fine	John W. McCarter Jr.
Marjorie M. Fisher*	Kitty Picken*
Margaret E. Foorman	Crennan M. Ray
Joan Fortune	Aimee Drolet Rossi
Isak V. Gerson	John W. Rowe*
Nancy Gerson	Roberta Schaffner
Peggy Grant*	Robert G. Schloerb*
Byron Gregory	Lois M. Schwartz*
Lewis Gruber*	Charles N. Secchia
Misty Gruber*	O. J. Sopranos*
Howard G. Haas	Rebecca Wilson Stein
Howard Hallengren	Walter Vandaele
Deborah Halpern	Anna M. White
Thomas C. Heagy*	Nicole S. Williams
Janet W. Helman*	

*\*Denotes Life Member*

## Membership

### Amy Weber

Oriental Institute membership remained strong in fiscal year 2015, with over 1,500 membership households representing more than 2,600 members. The Oriental Institute is proud to have such a committed group of supporters, whose participation and generosity are integral to the Institute and to ensure the Museum remains vibrant all year long. Members enjoyed discounts in the Suq, on classes, programs, and special membership events.

The Oriental Institute greatly appreciates all of its members for their support, advocacy, and commitment to the mission of the Institute.

### Special Interest Groups

Membership also includes two special interest groups which host their own events and programs.

#### *Young Professional Leaders*

The Oriental Institute's Young Professional Leaders (YPL) group is a vibrant community of young people who support the overall mission and programs of the Oriental Institute. This special membership category is designed to give emerging civic leaders a meaningful way to engage with the Oriental Institute, one of Chicago's leading cultural institutions. Through fundraising, advocacy, and volunteering, the YPL actively strengthens the Oriental Institute's efforts to study and preserve the archaeological heritage of the Middle East. The YPL is intended for anyone between the ages of 22 and 45 who wants to learn more about the ancient Middle East while participating in exclusive educational, social, and volunteer activities with some of the world's foremost academics.

YPL members use their creativity, knowledge, innovation, and professional skills to advance the Oriental Institute. The YPL supports the Institute's programs through event-based fundraising activities. YPL members use part of the money they raise to award grants to Oriental Institute projects of their choosing. YPL members also serve as ambassadors for the Oriental Institute, increasing awareness of the Institute's work and engaging new audiences through outreach events.

On Thursday, October 16, 2014, the Young Professional Leaders sold out its second annual fundraiser; this year's theme was Beer & Wine through Ancient History: A Scavenger Hunt. We would like to thank all the sponsors, members, and patrons who attended and helped us raise over \$6,000 to



*Young Professional Leaders picking up clues at the October Scavenger Hunt, Beer & Wine through Ancient History*

MEMBERSHIP

benefit the Oriental Institute Museum’s Feature Exhibits. Special thank you to all our sponsors:

**X Marks the Spot, \$1,000+**



**Super Sleuth, \$500-\$999**



**Eagle Eye, \$250-\$499**

Uber.com

**Bloodhound \$100-\$249**

Shedd Aquarium

Adler Planetarium

White Sox

Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier

Driehaus Museum

Gino’s East of Chicago

Lyric Opera of Chicago

The Field Museum

Goodman Theatre

Nomobo Salon

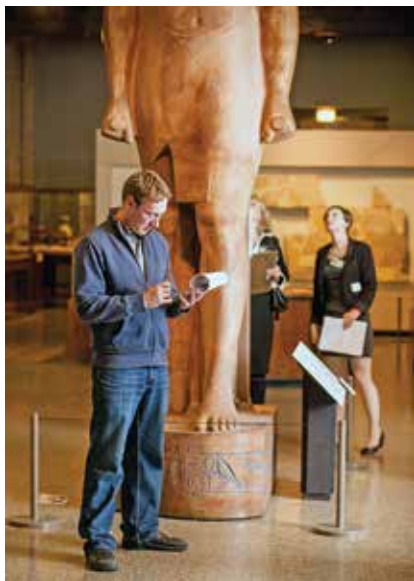
The group hosted several other successful YPL member events throughout the year:

- Cocktails in the Courtyard (Monday, August 18, 2014)
- Hookah Holiday Party (Thursday, December 11, 2014)
- Dine Around with Scholars Yorke Rowan & Morag Kersel (Monday, May 11, 2015)

***UChicago Arts Pass Student Membership***

As part of the University of Chicago’s Art Pass program, the Oriental Institute began offering free membership to all University students in May of 2010. As of June 2014, the Institute had over 1,600 University of Chicago student members, more than any other campus organization. Through partnerships with the UChicago Art Pass associates, the Membership Office was able to host several successful student member events throughout the year:

### Young Professional Leader Event Photos



## MEMBERSHIP

- Bulls and Buns (September 2014) – a tour of the Museum for new college students as part of O-Week activities (co-sponsored by Public Education, Museum, and Volunteer Program)
- Study at the Oriental Institute (December 2014, March & June 2015) – quarterly, late-night study hall hosted in the Museum galleries

Special thank-you to all our sponsors:

Kind Bars



Red Bull

In total, we hosted over 850 University students at the Institute during the academic year through these special events and programs. The student membership program aims to increase student awareness of the Oriental Institute, make the Oriental Institute an integral part of the student and campus experience at the University, and encourage active participation in student events.



*UChicago students enjoy cinnamon buns in the lobby and ancient artifacts in the galleries at Bulls and Buns*



*Students get academic advice from some ancient study buddies at Study at the OI*

## Member Events

Members enjoyed a wide variety of events in 2014–2015:

- James Henry Breasted Society Event: Beyond the Galleries (December 11, 2014)
- Members' Preview — A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo (February 15, 2015)
- 2015 Oriental Institute Gala: Bringing the Past to Light (April 30, 2015)
- James Henry Breasted Society Event: TimeLine Theater's *Inana* (July 9, 2015)

For in-depth information on the above mentioned events, please see the Special Events section of this annual report.

## MEMBERSHIP

In addition to Members' Events, Oriental Institute members supported a lecture series called *Money Matters: The Development of Money through the Ancient World*. This monthly series traced the development of economic system in the ancient world and explored how money as a financial instrument has evolved over the centuries.

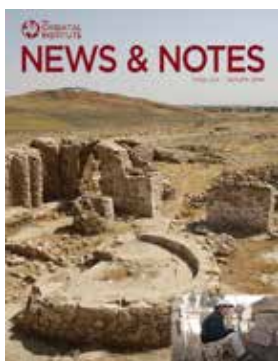
- Wednesday, October 1: "Coinage: The Greek Way of Handling Money," by Alain Bresson, Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor, Associate Member in the Department of History, University of Chicago
- Wednesday, November 5: "Monetary Networks in Graeco-Roman Antiquity," by Sitta von Reden, Department of Ancient History, University of Freiburg/Germany
- Wednesday, December 3: "Credit Markets and Economic Life in Ancient Rome," by Cameron Hawkins, Assistant Professor, History and the College, University of Chicago

A very special thank-you is in order for all of our lecturers, co-sponsors, and members for participating the 2014–2015 Oriental Institute Lecture Series. The series aims to bring a varied selection of the most recent work and scholarship on the ancient Middle East to our members and the local community. We look forward to an exciting and dynamic lecture lineup for the 2015–2016 series, which will begin in September 2015. If you missed a lecture from last season, please go to the Oriental Institute YouTube channel at [youtube.com/James-HenryBreasted](http://youtube.com/James-HenryBreasted) to view them online.

Members' Events would not be possible without the hard work of many dedicated Oriental Institute staff members and volunteers and the Membership Office is thankful for all of their assistance with a very successful 2014–2015 events season.

## Member Publications

With the assistance of the Publications Office, the Membership Office continues to publish *News & Notes*, the quarterly members' magazine. The Membership Office is greatly appreciative of the Publications Office for their hard work and guidance in producing *News & Notes*, as well as all of the authors and staff contributors who provide exciting and engaging articles and program notices each quarter for our members.



## Member Travel

The Institute offered two tours to Georgia and Armenia in 2014–2015, led by Research Associate Tasha Vorderstrasse (AM'98, PhD'04). The tours explored the archaeology, landscape, and culture of Georgia and Armenia. A total of seventeen members, University of Chicago Alumni, and patrons participated in the tours. See the highlights from our latest travel program at [flickr.com/photos/uchicagotravel](http://flickr.com/photos/uchicagotravel).

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. For more information on Oriental Institute travel programs, contact the Membership Office at [oi-membership@uchicago.edu](mailto:oi-membership@uchicago.edu) or visit our website at [oi.uchicago.edu/travel](http://oi.uchicago.edu/travel) or visit our OI Members' Travel page at [facebook.com/OIMemberTravel](http://facebook.com/OIMemberTravel).

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Brittany F. Mullins

The Oriental Institute hosted a variety of events for our members, donors, and the general public during the 2014–2015 academic year. We celebrated our largest fundraising event, the biennial Gala, in addition to hosting exhibition previews, the annual postdoctoral seminar, two book signings, two James Henry Breasted Society events, a ballet preview, and multiple other events for our constituents and the University. Several events are highlighted below, and we hope you were able to join in the festivities. We would like to thank our generous donors and members, whose support make our exhibits, programs, and special events possible.

### James Henry Breasted Society Event: Beyond the Galleries

On December 11, 2014, members of the James Henry Breasted Society (JHBS) journeyed beyond the walls of the galleries, into the lofts of the Conservation Lab, through the stacks of the Research Archives, and down into the vaults of Registration. JHBS members were able to speak with Oriental Institute conservators, registrars, and researchers regarding the science, technology, and scholarship used to preserve and protect our collections. They were also treated to a sneak peek of the upcoming exhibit, *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo*, and learned how each area works collaboratively to present a special exhibition. During the reception, guests were able to speak with Tasha Vorderstrasse about her role as exhibit co-curator and the challenges in developing the exhibit.



## SPECIAL EVENTS



Head Conservator Laura D'Alessandro demonstrates conservation techniques to the Breasted Society at *Beyond the Galleries* (photo: Spencer Bibbs)



Co-curator Tasha Vorderstrasse gives James Henry Breasted Society members a preview of artifacts from the special exhibit *A Cosmopolitan City* during the *Beyond the Galleries* event (photo: Spencer Bibbs)

## A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo Exhibition Preview

Members and their guests joined us for an exclusive preview of the special exhibit *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Old Cairo* on February 15, 2015. Guests learned how a vibrant, multicultural community made up of people from different faiths existed in Fustat (Old Cairo) from the seventh to the twelfth century. The exhibit features more than seventy never-before-exhibited objects from the Oriental Institute collections along with loaned objects from the Walters Art Museum and Yeshiva University Museum. A highlight of the exhibition is a group of manuscripts from the Cairo Genizah, which were preserved as part of a collection within the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Old Cairo. Co-curators Tasha Vorderstrasse and Tanya Treptow treated guests to a brief lecture and tours of the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery, detailing the re-discovery of a Cairo Genizah document in the Oriental Institute's own collection.

This exhibition was made possible by the generous support of members of the Oriental Institute.

## “1177 B.C.: The Year Civilization Collapsed” — Lecture by Author Eric H. Cline

On February 25, 2015, the Oriental Institute was fortunate enough to welcome Eric H. Cline, professor of Classics and Anthropology and chair of the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at The George Washington University, to give a lecture on his recent book, *1177 B.C.: The Year Civilization Collapsed*. Following the lecture, Dr. Cline answered questions regarding the collapse of the many Late Bronze Age civilizations, including the Egyptians, Mycenaeans, Minoans, Hittites, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Canaanites. After the lecture, Oriental Institute members and the public were invited to join Dr. Cline in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery for a reception and book signing.

## Eleventh Annual Oriental Institute Postdoctoral Seminar

Postdoctoral fellow Ilan Peled organized the eleventh annual seminar hosted at the Oriental Institute March 6–7, 2015. This year’s conference, titled *Structures of Power: Law and Gender Across the Ancient Near East and Beyond*, brought together domestic and international scholars to explore how gender relations were enforced by the legal system, government entities, religious institutions, and cult practices in the ancient world with a focus on the Near East. Speakers and panelists were treated to a curator-led tour of the Oriental Institute and attended a dinner hosted in the Deborah and Edgar Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. This provided the speakers and those participating in the conference with the opportunity to discuss their research with their colleagues.

Each year these lectures, presented by experts on the conference topic, are free and open to our members and the public thanks to the generous support of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee Herbst. A publication of the conference is currently in production.

## 2015 Oriental Institute Gala: Bringing the Past to Light

What a night! The 2015 Oriental Institute Gala, *Bringing the Past to Light*, was held on April 30, 2015, at the Four Seasons Hotel Ballroom in Chicago. Walls of light led our guests through swaths of diaphanous curtains into the lounge and silent-auction area. While enjoying cocktails and conversation, guests bid on specially curated treasures, not typically carried in the Suq, in addition to art and jewelry from abroad generously donated by our supporters.

As the doors opened to the ballroom, guests entered through domes of crimson into a softly lit ballroom, accented by colossal images of objects from the Oriental Institute’s collections. Director Gil Stein presented the James Henry Breasted Medallion, the Oriental Institute’s highest honor, to Thomas C. Heagy for his leadership and volunteer service as a Visiting Committee member and for his outstanding support of the Oriental Institute and our mission. Following the presentation, guests were captivated by two arias from *Aïda*, performed by tenor John Concepcion and soprano Jenny Cook. This was a surprise developed especially for Tom, which combines his love of the opera and passion for ancient Egypt.



*Sponsorship Chair Norman Bobins (in red bowtie) and guests enjoy the silent auction*



*James Henry Breasted, as portrayed by R. J. Lindsey, conducts the live auction*

SPECIAL EVENTS



*W. Ray Johnson and Nadine Moeller share how they are bringing the past to light at the Oriental Institute 2015 Gala (all Gala photos: Joel Wintermantle)*



*Honoree Thomas C. Heagy accepts the Breasted Medallion from Director Gil J. Stein*



*Guests applaud honoree Thomas C. Heagy after he received the Breasted Medallion*



*Past and present Breasted Medallion recipients Thomas C. Heagy, Jill Carlotta Maher, Orpheus J. Sopranos, and Janet Helman*



*Soprano Jenny Cook performs an aria from Giuseppe Verdi's Aïda*

Following the performances, James Henry Breasted, as portrayed by R. J. Lindsey, conducted our live auction, which included a special dinner in the galleries catered by Food for Thought, and a getaway to London with private tours of the British and Petrie Museums.

The evening concluded with dancing and a dessert buffet in the lounge, which was transformed by walls of light and music. Guests dined, danced, and imbibed until late in the evening. Overall, this was our most well-attended Gala and a groundbreaking year for generating over \$100,000 in financial support for the Oriental Institute.

A special thanks goes to Norman R. Bobins and our Gala Advisory Committee: Andrea Dudek, Jill Carlotta Maher, Harvey Plotnick, and Rebecca Wilson.

## David A. Kipper Ancient Israel Lecture Series

The Oriental Institute welcomed Jodi Magness, Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Judaism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, to deliver the third annual David A. Kipper Ancient Israel Lecture on May 4, 2015. Dr. Magness' lecture, titled "New Discoveries in the Ancient Village and Synagogue at Huqoq in Israel's Galilee," focused on recent finds during her excavations, including stunningly detailed mosaics revealing depictions of a Samson cycle from the Bible.

During a workshop, Dr. Magness met with graduate students from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Divinity School, and the Department of Anthropology to reconsider the animal bone deposits at Qumran, typically understood as the remains of ritual meals, and discuss whether sacrifices were offered there.

The David A. Kipper Ancient Israel Lecture Series focuses on the history and archaeology of ancient Israel and was established through a gift from Barbara Kipper and the Kipper family. The program includes an annual public lecture as well as a workshop for faculty, graduate, and undergraduate scholars at the Oriental Institute.

## James Henry Breasted Society Event: TimeLine Theatre's *Inana*

On July 9, 2015, our James Henry Breasted Society members gathered at the TimeLine Theatre in Lakeview for a viewing of the play *Inana*, which tells the story of an Iraqi museum curator who makes a life-altering decision to rescue antiquities from destruction during the United States' invasion of Baghdad in 2003. Breasted Society members enjoyed a reception in the theater's rehearsal space and a pre-show discussion with TimeLine's founder and associate artistic director Nick Bowling. Following the play, Gil Stein, director of the Oriental Institute, Pamela Nehring, Board Member of the Iraqi Mutual Aid Society, and Patty Gerstenblith, Distinguished Research Professor of Law at DePaul University, held a panel discussion with the audience focusing on questions of archaeological and cultural heritage.

## HONOR ROLL OF DONORS AND MEMBERS

The Oriental Institute gratefully recognizes the many donors who have furthered the mission and impact of the Oriental Institute with a gift of \$100 or more from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The following pages list the many donors whose gifts help to inspire excellence at the Oriental Institute. We celebrate your commitment and are pleased to recognize publicly the impact of your generosity on the Institute and our community. We appreciate you!

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*Overleaf: Fragment of a fritware bowl depicting a horse. Fustat. Early 14th century AD. 4.8 × 16.4 cm. OIM E25571  
(photo D. 027454: Anna Ressman)*

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— *NOTES* —

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Above: Textile fragment. Linen and wool. Early Byzantine-Umayyad, 500s-600s. Provenance unknown. Donated by the estate of James Henry Breasted, 1936. 11.1 × 32.4 cm. OIM E17010 (photo D. 027360: Anna Ressman)



## INFORMATION

The Oriental Institute  
1155 East 58th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Museum gallery hours:

Tuesday and Thursday to Saturday 10:00 AM–6:00 PM

Wednesday 10:00 AM–8:30 PM

Sunday 12:00 NOON–6:00 PM

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