CAROL MEYER

In August Carol Meyer attended the meeting of the Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre in Vienna, and presented a paper, "Glass from Quseir al-Qadim," which is being published by the Annales du A.I.H.V. In the fall an article entitled "From Zanzibar to Zagros: A Copal Pendant from Eshnunna" co-authored with Joan Markley Todd, an amber specialist, and Curt Beck of the Vassar College Amber Research Laboratory appeared in the Journal of Near Eastern Studies. The article deals with a unique pendant of copal, a resin that looks like amber, found in a grave at Eshnunna (Tell Asmar). Identification by infrared spectroscopy indicates that the copal came from the Zanzibar/Mozambique region. The best available date, approximately Akkadian or Ur III, makes it the earliest documented evidence of contact (probably indirect) between East Africa and Mesopotamia. In January Meyer directed an archaeological survey project at Bir Umm Fawakhir in the Eastern Desert of Egypt (see separate report). A long-term effort, the manuscript of Glass from Quseir al-Qadim and the Indian Ocean Trade, was completed, revised, and will be published in the Oriental Institute's Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization series. The book is not only a description of the first-second century A.D. Roman and thirteenth-fourteenth century Islamic glass from the Oriental Institute excavations at Quseir al-Qadim, but it is also a study of the glass trade from Egypt to Yemen, East Africa, and western India.