



News & Notes

Issued confidentially to members and friends

No. 107 January-February, 1987

Not for publication

LETTER FROM TURKEY

Greetings:

This is written at the end of another good season of excavation at Çayönü, our early village site in southeastern Turkey.

We gave much attention to the so-called "skull building" that we've already talked about for several years. We really thought that we could expose it completely this season, but it turned out to be far more complicated architecturally than we'd anticipated. There appear to have been at least three instances of renovation of the original rectangular building plan. In previous years, we'd only exposed the uppermost (latest) of these. Further, the apparently apse-like wall on the northern end of the plan *may* be the remains of an original round building, over the southern portions of which the later rectilinear plan was constructed.

Some human skulls and long bones did continue to appear, but the building's surprise this season was a cluster of wild cattle horns, centered against the rear wall of the large front room of the "skull building." The cluster lay in a depression in the plastered floor, deeper than the floors we'd exposed in our earlier season's work. For some time now it has been known that—a thousand years or more later—the *bukranium* motif (the head and horns of cattle) had some very special meaning for the people living in the plateau-piedmont regions of the upper Tigris-Euphrates drainage area and beyond. Now, here at Çayönü, before 7,000 B.C., we find the *bukranium* symbol in a building clearly dedicated to some special purpose. This adds to our fascination concerning what the building's purpose

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Consultation over how next to proceed in clearance of the skull building's smaller back rooms. In full background, the apse-like loop of wall; in the foreground, Murat draws the cattle-horn cluster.

LETTERS FROM EGYPT

**A Working Honeymoon on the Nile:
The Breasteds at El-Amarna,
January 10-17, 1895**

Our readers will be familiar with a regular feature of *News & Notes*, the "letters from the field", usually written by Oriental Institute archaeologists and scholars to report on their recent experiences while excavating or doing research in the Near East. The following "report" from the site of El-Amarna is a little unusual; it is 92 years old! A series of letters written from Egypt by James Henry Breasted and his wife Frances Hart Breasted to various family members and friends serves as an informal diary which records the events of their honeymoon on the Nile during the winter of 1894-1895. Their dahabiyeh, the *Olga*, was moored near El-Amarna for an entire week, from January 10-17, 1895. One of the highlights of their stay at the site was a side-trip made to the recently-discovered tomb of Akhenaten on Wednesday, January 16, 1895. The Breasteds' letters document one of the earliest visits to the Royal Tomb at El-Amarna by a professional Egyptologist. Frances Breasted's personal observations are equally interesting. While her husband spent his days recording the hieroglyphic inscriptions in the tombs of the nobles, Frances served as the unofficial chronicler of their day-to-day experiences. The Breasteds' honeymoon was truly a "busman's holiday" for the fledgling Egyptologist; to the new bride a strange, new world was revealed in the company of her husband. These excerpts are from Frances Breasted's letters:

"Dahabiyeh Olga"
Sunday A.M.,
January 13, 1895
'Tel-el-Amarna'

"... Returning from the ride to the 'Crocodile Grotto' before dark, we dropped down stream to a place called Manfalut, where we moored for the night, and continued the next morning (Thursday) our voyage to this place—Tel-el-Amarna—or 'Hagi-Kandil' as the fellahin know the place. You will not find it on the map—but it lies six miles above *Melawi el Arish* on the opposite side of the river, Melawi being on the left though the name is printed on the right on Gazes' map. As we pushed off from Shegilgil a man riding on a little donkey along the bank called out to us. He had come from the village to see the 'Howageh' about a sick man. He called to Habeeb in Arabic what the symptoms were for we were already quite a way from the bank. And we proceeded to turn over in our minds our

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stock of medicines for the proper remedy.¹ The ailment proved to be a serious case of constipation! Habeeb very nicely informed us in his queer English that the man could not go to the 'W.C.'. Not at all abashed we measured out three doses of Epsom salt and sent them with directions to the man by the sailors in the felucca.

"I think if a missionary boat would run up and down the river with a few simple remedies it would do much good. The people are utterly without medical treatment for they fear the native doctors and put trust only in the tourist who may chance to help them.

"Thursday P.M. husband started off for the 'South Tombs', but taking no guide with him and depending upon a map which Mr. Petrie had drawn for him *quite wrongly*, he did not find them and returned tired and discouraged from having lost so much time. Dinner and wife cheered him up, and Friday A.M. [January 11, 1895] he started off for the day in the right direction and with the keys to the tombs, for the tombs for protection have iron gratings before them.² He copied also yesterday but I did not go as we shall be here some days and I had the "occassion." I am going over to him after lunch today. It is Sunday but husband feels he is doing right to use the time in copying and so he is. We have Sunday in our hearts and there is no church to attend and it costs \$10 a day on the dahabiyeh!

"On Friday the wind whistled up the river. A fleet of native cargo boats took advantage of it and looked like white-winged birds as lateen sails came round the bend below and passed the dahabiyeh. These boats are so light that they simply fly through the water in a good wind, cutting the water with their bows and giving a crisp sound as they move by.

"Yesterday A.M. was so cold that I filled my hot water bottle and put it to my feet as I sat reading. The sky was covered with gray clouds and pretty soon I saw bubbles in the river. I thought how many fish there must be about here! But the bubbles thickened so, I soon discovered it was raining. We had quite a shower. The afternoon was pleasant and warm and the sunset fine. I watched the sun as it dropped, a great red ball, down in the west, tinting a few clouds over head. Then came the glorious afterglow, so familiar in pictures of Egypt. The west filled with an orange light, which reflects in this water until the river is a flood of color. Gradually it fades away after a long while.

"Monday A.M., January 14, 1895—It lacks two minutes of being half past eight and husband & I are already at the tombs, having breakfasted at 6:30 and taken the long ride from the river across the desert. It is an hour's walk or ride. Husband has always walked both morning and evening but he rubbed his

heel yesterday and thought best to save it today for in this climate even a scratch is likely to make trouble if not cared for.

"I joined husband yesterday after my lunch and upon arriving here found husband had not yet had his, the sailor with the basket not having made his appearance. It was the old sailor Muhammed, a good old chap, and he had started off early so we concluded he had missed the way, which is so easily done here where the surrounding cliffs look all alike & the long stretch of desert between.

"After a while we saw a speck on the plain. The sailors with us called and the speck grew larger and moved towards us. It proved to be Muhammed with the basket. He had gone in the wrong direction and met some Bedouins from the desert, who told him they would guide him and thus led him astray till the old man fearing they would harm him, left them and wandered back. This A.M. the mist was so thick against the cliffs that we could not distinguish them at all, until the sun, which rose at seven, pierced through it. Now the mist is rising from the plain and I can just distinguish some lateen sails in the distance where the river is. I never tire of the different bits of country, the desert or the fertile plain, the palm-trees or the mudhuts or the dirty people in their brown, oriental gowns. They suffer these cold mornings & evenings. In this place I find the children looking so pale. Habeeb asked a man why & he said it is because there is not much food to be had here, which is undoubtedly true.

"Yesterday, husband made out the name of a man in a tomb which the French had never been able to identify.³ I was very proud of him and took part of the glory myself as I was the means of his persisting in tackling the mutilated tomb when he was well nigh discouraged with it. He had no ladder either and had to stand on a chair turned upside down on a stone against the wall with a board on top of it.

"Tel-el-Amarna, Egypt

Thursday, January 17, 1895

"Tuesday [January 15, 1895] we spent over here at the 'North Tombs'—I reading and husband as usual, copying. Yesterday (Wednesday) we made an all day excursion to the tomb of Amenophis IV, discovered four years ago, but not yet entered into Baedeker.⁴ We went on donkeys accompanied by Habeeb, two donkey-men, the guardian and two sailors, and made quite a procession.

"The tomb lies at the end of a little gorge leading off of a larger one or valley between the cliffs or rocks. This valley's entrance is between the 'North and South Tombs.' We started at 7:30, arriving at the tomb at 10:15. It was an interesting way through the rocky valley, showing how the water had worn it out of the rock. Our donkeys, as usual in these small places, were most provokingly slow creatures, and mine proceeded to lower his hind legs every time I mounted him, so that one of the donkey-men had to poke him from behind (or rather on his behind!) whilst I got on. The mode of keeping their creatures

¹ Having graduated from the Chicago College of Pharmacy in 1886, James Henry Breasted was a full-fledged, registered pharmacist. Exactly one hundred years ago, during the winter of 1886-1887, he was working as a prescription clerk in a drugstore in Omaha, Nebraska. See: Charles Breasted, *Pioneer to the Past: The Story of James Henry Breasted Archaeologist* (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1943; The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1977), pages 14-17.

² For a synopsis of previous work at El-Amarna, see *The Rock Tombs of El Amarna, Part I.—The Tomb of Meryra*, by Norman de Garis Davies, Thirteenth Memoir of the Archaeological Survey of Egypt, The Egypt Exploration Fund, (London, 1903), pages 3-6. Frances Breasted testifies to the presence of iron doors in front of the nobles' tombs at El-Amarna as of January, 1895. Davies dates the installation of the iron doors to 1893 (*sic*), under the administration of Eugène Grébaut as Director-General of the Egyptian Antiquities Service. But Grébaut served from 1886-1892; in 1893, he was back in Paris, permanently.

³ This was the tomb of May, No. 14, for which the owner name had not been located in Daressy. See: Georges Daressy, "Tombeaux et stèles-limites de Hagi-Qandil in *Recueil de travaux relatifs à la philologie et à l'archéologie égyptiennes*, année 15 (Paris, 1893), pages 36-62.

⁴ Karl Baedeker's *Egypt and the Sudan, A Handbook for Travellers*, was one of the more popular and better-written travel guides for Egypt. It has gone through a number of revised editions over the years. The official discovery of the Royal Tomb was made by Alessandro Barsanti for the Egyptian Antiquities Services on December 28, 1891. The Breasteds probably had the 3rd (English) Edition of Baedeker (Leipzig, 1892); the 4th Edition was published in 1898.

going in Tel-el-Amarna (or Hagi-Kandil) is to keep up an incessant poking with a stick of palm wood pointed on one end. I found that switching my donkey's ears with the end of the reins added a trifle to his velocity, but husband kept to the pointed stick, beating a 'tattoo' to his numerous, merry college-songs.

"Started at two for 'home', stopping when nearly there to see the remains of a pavement of a room in the palace. Mr. Petrie found it and built a rough house over it. Enough remains to show how large the room was and that there were columns supporting the room. The designs on the pavement are beautiful, being swamp-scenes in colors. The ducks are perfectly executed and a bull represented in three different positions is true to nature in both attitude and form. I should not want any better decorations on my floors, so you may know what art was in these ancient times, thousands of years ago.⁵

James Henry Breasted's sole contribution to the family correspondence dealing with the visit to El-Amarna is the following brief letter, which illustrates the passion and exuberance of the twenty-nine-year-old Egyptologist, with his new Ph.D. in hand, on his first trip to Egypt.

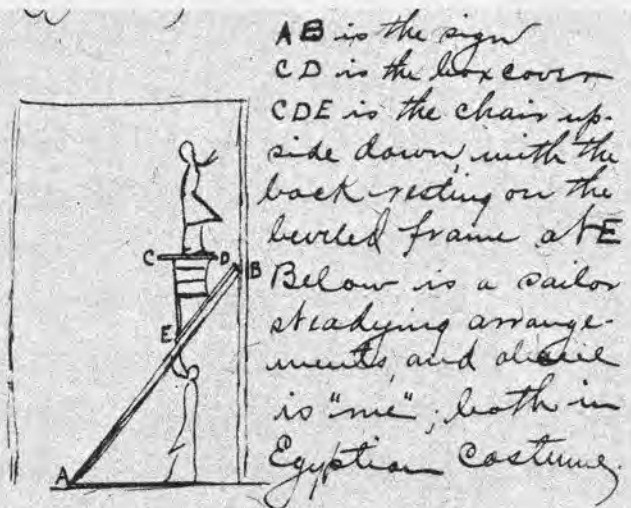
"Cairo, January 24, 1895

My dear "Family":-

Well, here we are in Cairo again and are now on the third day since our return, and in vain I have sought a moment to send you a respectable line, not wishing to resort to postals again. I fear it is hopeless to try and catch up and Miss Edwards⁶ must supply the deficiency as to the last fortnight of the voyage which I am so sorry I have failed to tell you of, but it was simply impossible. I spent a full week in Tel-el-Amarna working night and day. At dawn I was away to the tombs, standing on a ladder all day long till it was no longer light enough to see. The entire evening was then necessary to correct and annotate what I had copied. At first I was unable to procure a ladder and you would have been amused to see how I overcame the difficulty. I found a sign put up by the French about 7 ft. high and shaped thus, having around the edge a frame with a deep bevel. I had the sailors bring a chain from the dahabiyeh & a piece of box cover, & then I constructed the following scaffold:

⁵ Petrie published the painted pavement in his *Tell el Amarna* (Methuen & Co., London, 1894), pages 12-14, sections 23-25, Plates II-IV. The discovery and subsequent conservation of the painted palace pavement is described by Margaret S. Drower in her recent biography of Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie, entitled *Flinders Petrie: A Life in Archaeology* (Victor Gollancz Ltd., London, 1985), Chapter VIII: 'Tussles with M. Grébaud (1890-2)', pages 168-198, and especially pages 187-198. The sad fate of the pavement is recounted on page 197, 'With infinite care he covered the whole surface of the plaster with a thin coat of tapioca water, applying it gently with his forefinger; as it dried the glutinous mixture formed a thin protective film over the paint. For some years to come the pavement was a great tourist attraction; Cook's steamers stopped there and the Society for the Preservation of the Monuments of Egypt paid the cost of a proper shed to afford further protection. Its very popularity proved its undoing, for the authorities failed to provide an access path from its landing stage through the cultivation, and one night about twenty years later the pavement was hacked to pieces by the irate villager who owned the trampled fields. Petrie's copies, and the descriptions of those who saw it, are all that is left of one of the masterpieces of the ancient world.' The entire episode served as the historical setting for Barbara Mertz's mystery novel, *Crocodile on the Sandbank*, written under the pseudonym Elizabeth Peters.

⁶ The 2nd revised edition of Amelia B. Edwards' popular travel book, *A Thousand Miles Up the Nile* appeared in 1888.



Later I secured a ladder from a neighboring village for the last two days. Unfortunately, and to the shame & disgrace of French administration, I find the finest inscriptions in Amarna so mutilated by the fellahin that I can hardly use them. I told Brugsch of it at the Museum to-day—he was greatly surprised, having known nothing of it.⁷ I am so filled with indignation against the French and their empty, blatant boasting, 'la gloire de la France', that I can hardly contain myself. I could have wept my eyes out in Amarna. Scarcely less indignant must one feel against the English who are here only for the commerce & the politics of it, and who might reform matters if they would. A combination of French rascality, of English Philistine indifference, & of German lack of money is gradually allowing Egypt to be pillaged and plundered from end to end. In another generation there will be nothing to be had or saved."

In *Pioneer to the Past*, Charles Breasted records the events of his parents' honeymoon trip on the Nile.⁸ No mention whatsoever is made of the visit to the site of El-Amarna. The only published reference to the Breasteds' stay at El-Amarna appears in a footnote to Volume II of James Henry Breasted's pioneering *Ancient Records of Egypt*: "For the following translations, I had also my own copies of all the hymns at Amarna, made during the winter of 1894-95."⁹

Breasted's Ph.D. dissertation, in Latin, at the University of Berlin, 1894, had dealt with the subject of the ancient Egyptian hymns in honor of the sun-god Aten, during the reign of the Pharaoh Akhenaten. Breasted had been able to utilize only published sources for his dissertation; now his honeymoon in Egypt provided him with a perfect opportunity to check the published copies against the original hieroglyphic inscriptions *in situ*.

Edited with notes by John A. Larson, Oriental Institute Museum Archivist.

⁷ The noted Egyptologist Heinrich Brugsch died at Charlottenburg (now in West Berlin) on September 9, 1894. His younger brother Émile must be meant here; Émile Brugsch was assistant conservator in the Bulaq and Cairo Museums from 1881-1914.

⁸ Chapter III, pages 58-86.

⁹ James Henry Breasted *Ancient Records of Egypt: Historical Documents from the Earliest Times to the Persian Conquest*, Collected, Edited and Translated with Commentary by James Henry Breasted, Ph.D. (The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1906), Volume II: The Eighteenth Dynasty, page 402, § 977, footnote a in Breasted's commentary for his translations of the solar-hymns from the tombs of the nobles at El-Amarna.



Murat clearing the cattle-horn cluster in the skull building.

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may have been, in that the building also showed much interest in human skulls, a feature manifested in sites of the same general time in the southern Levant.

Çayönü does not hand us evidence that is easy to interpret!

We were also fortunate in new work that cleared substantial areas of the transitional sub-phase, that fits between the so-called “grill” and “cell” plan domestic structures. It was especially fortunate that this happened to be the season when Dr. Tamara Stech, of the University of Pennsylvania’s Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology could be with us for part of the season. The transitional levels yielded more objects of copper and malachite than we’ve ever had before. We kept Tammy busy!

During the season, half of the people in camp were gradually afflicted with a strange, worrisome illness marked by a chilly feeling followed swiftly by a sudden high rise in temperature (102°-104.5°), accompanied by dizziness, severe headaches, pains in the joints, etc. The knowledgeable young doctor in Ergani, our closest town, was clearly baffled—had never seen anything like it, but immediately put each patient to bed in the hospital and treated him/her to intravenous feedings to counter dehydration. After a day or two, the fever subsided, but great tiredness and weakness persisted, so that it took from one to several weeks for the patient to recover. Halet—and Bob too—finally recalled having had such a condition many years earlier. Now at home we find that it was probably Pappataci fever, so called after the particular sand fly that transmits the virus. Sand flies were certainly present and we tried to spray to get rid of them, but what was really needed was DDT or something equally toxic. It’s still a mystery as to where the female sand fly who started the condition in camp, picked up the virus—necessarily from biting an infected person.

Before we left Turkey to come home, Mehmet Özdoğan (now the formal active field director at Çayönü since both Halet and Bob are emeritus) took us out to the Yarimburgaz cave, 30 kms. west of Istanbul. Mehmet’s fascination is with

the early village materials of European Turkey (Thrace) and he knew “chalcolithic” pottery had once been recovered in Yarimburgaz cave. He and some 40 students recovered all they could find in three weeks, but the students begged Mehmet for a week more of digging. So they dug down through layers of breccia (limestone-like rock) and uncovered very old fossilized bones, traces of fire, and coarse flint tools such as those the late Louis Leakey first found at Oldoway in Africa. Thus, Yarimburgaz *may* have very early evidence of fossil humans newly arrived in Europe from Africa.

It’s nice to be home again in time for Thanksgiving.

Best of cheer
Bob and Linda Braidwood

COURSE FOR NEW DOCENTS

The Oriental Institute course for new docents will begin at the end of March. The course which meets on Mondays consists of lectures by Institute faculty members on the history, art and archaeology of Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, Anatolia and Syria-Palestine. Lectures are followed by gallery workshops led by experienced docents.

Docents introduce visitors to the Museum’s collection of ancient Middle Eastern artifacts. The guides lead a variety of groups including grammar school through college students, art center members and senior citizens.

There is no fee for the course, but after taking the course docents must be willing to lead tours in the Museum for half a day a week for at least a year. For more information, or to arrange for an interview, call Janet Helman, volunteer coordinator at 702-9507.

JUST PUBLISHED

SAOC 43 (Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization)

A Neolithic Village at Tell El Kowm in the Syrian Desert by Rudolph H. Dornemann. Chicago, 1986. Pp. xii + 89; 12 tables, 46 plates of line and halftone illustrations, and an appendix on plant remains by Willem van Zeist. Paperbound. Price \$28.00

SAOC 45 (Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization)

Thus Wrote 'Onchsheshonqy: An Introductory Grammar of Demotic by Janet H. Johnson. Chicago, 1986. Pp. vii + 106. Paperbound. Price \$7.00

OINE III (Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition)

Excavations Between Abu Simbel and the Sudan Frontier. Part 1: The A-Group Royal Cemetery at Qustul, Cemetery L by Bruce B. Williams. Chicago, 1986. Pp. xxxviii + 388 (including 43 tables and 190 figures) plus 110 plates of line and halftone illustrations. Hardcover. Price \$85.00

This volume in the OINE series is a detailed report on Cemetery L at Qustul. Discovered almost by accident, this A-Group cemetery contained a group of the largest tombs known to date before the Egyptian royal cemetery at Abydos. The wealth of Nubian A-Group pottery and objects is described along with evidence relating to early pharaonic art, writing, and institutions which suggests that it was a royal cemetery unique in its period.

Members of the Oriental Institute receive a 20% discount on Oriental Institute publications. Members, faculty, staff, and students may order one copy of each of the above books at a discount of 50% on the prices listed if the book is purchased by March 31, 1987. Please send your request to the Publications Sales Office at the Oriental Institute and an invoice detailing the price, discount, and postage and handling fees will be sent to you. Book lists of the current publications are also available from the Publications Sales Office upon request.

CHD 3/3 (Chicago Hittite Dictionary)

The Hittite Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, volume 3, fascicle 3, edited by Hans G. Güterbock and Harry A. Hoffner, Jr. Chicago, 1986. Pp. 128 (pages 225-352 of volume 3). Paperbound. Price \$19.00

Oriental Institute members, faculty, and staff receive a 20% discount on the Hittite Dictionary, and University of Chicago students receive a 30% discount.

"EBLA TO DAMASCUS" TOUR

The "Ebla to Damascus" exhibition is coming to the Detroit Institute of Art in the spring of 1987. We are planning to run a day trip (or several) for Oriental Institute members to view this important show. Thomas McClellan, Oriental Institute archaeologist currently excavating in Syria, will give an evening orientation on the exhibit before the trip and will also accompany the group to Detroit. At this writing the Detroit Museum was not yet accepting bookings, but we hope one date will be Saturday, April 4th. If you are interested in receiving information on this trip, please write a postcard with your

name, address, and daytime telephone number to the Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. We would also appreciate knowing if you are able to make such a trip on a weekday (and if you would prefer to do so).

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS WINTER 1987

CROWNS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

Saturday, January 10 (10 a.m. - 12 noon)

A tour of the galleries will look at some of the many different kinds of crowns and head dresses worn by kings and queens, gods and goddesses in the ancient Near East.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: Participants will make a crown like the one worn by King Tut or Queen Nefertiti.

THE SHIPWRECKED SAILOR

Saturday, January 17 (10 a.m. - 12 noon)

Participants will hear the ancient Egyptian story of a sailor who is shipwrecked on a magical island where he meets a god, both terrifying and helpful, and is finally returned home again safely to his family. We will tour the galleries to see Egyptian boats and sailors and the "comforts" of an Egyptian life of long ago.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: Participants will make hand puppet replicas of the serpent god of the story.

HOW HORUS BECAME KING OF EGYPT: THE BATTLES OF HORUS AND SETH

Saturday, January 31 (10 a.m. - 12 noon)

We will hear stories of the contests between Horus, the son of Osiris, and Seth, the brother of Osiris, both of whom claim the throne of ancient Egypt, left vacant when Osiris died and went to rule the land of the dead. In the galleries we will see artifacts related to the stories, including statues of the gods and sacred eye amulets.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: Participants will make a cartouche, the royal ring that contains the name of the king written in hieroglyphs.

GODS AT WAR: HOW MARDUK BECAME KING OF THE GODS

Saturday, February 7 (10 a.m. - 12 noon)

Participants will hear the story of how Marduk is promised the kingship of the gods in return for defeating Tiamat, the powerful goddess who threatens to destroy them all. A tour of the galleries will look at artifacts related to the story, including representations of Marduk and of his famous ziggurat at Babylon.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: Participants will make a three dimensional cardboard model of Marduk in his chariot drawn by four chargers.

Each workshop includes a tour and a craft activity, which results in an object for the participant to take home. Workshop participants must register in advance. The fee for each workshop is \$5. Call the Education Office, 702-9507 to register or for more information.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Lectures will be presented at 8 p.m. in Breasted Hall at the Oriental Institute.

Institute members may make dinner reservations at the Quadrangle Club, 1155 East 57th Street, 753-3696 before membership lectures. They will bill the Oriental Institute and we, in turn, will bill you. Please print your name and address at the bottom of your dinner check, as well as signing it, so that we know where to send your bill.

- January 21, 1987 Thomas McClellan, The Oriental Institute, *Excavations at el-Qitar: Late Bronze Age Fortress on the Euphrates.*
- January 30, 1987 George Bass, Texas A & M University, *A Late Bronze Age Shipwreck near Kaş Turkey.* A joint lecture with the Chicago Society of the A.I.A. **THIS IS A FRIDAY LECTURE.**
- February 19, 1987 Richard Ellis, Bryn Mawr College, *A Village on the Euphrates: Four Seasons of Excavation at Gritille, Turkey.* A joint lecture with the Chicago Society of the A.I.A. **THIS IS A THURSDAY LECTURE.**
- March 4, 1987 Gary O. Rollefson, San Diego State University, *Neolithic Development at 'Ain Ghazal, Jordan.*
- April 1, 1987 John A. Brinkman, The Oriental Institute, *The Laws of Hammurabi.*
- April 15, 1987 Machteld J. Mellink, Bryn Mawr College, *East and West in Anatolian Art of 700 to 500 B.C.: Myth, Cult and Kingship.*
- May 6, 1987 Israel Finkelstein, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, *Shiloh Excavations.*
- May 18, 1987 Annual Oriental Institute Dinner in the Museum.

CHANGES IN TELEPHONE NUMBERS

On January 1, 1987 the University of Chicago's exchange changed from 962 to 702. The last four digits of all telephone numbers remain the same.

Recorded Museum Announcement	702-9521
Museum Office	702-9520
Suq (the Institute's museum shop)	702-9510
Suq Office	702-9509
Museum Education Programs	702-9507
Volunteer Guide Office	702-9507
Membership Office	702-9513
Publication Sales Office	702-9508
Research Archives	702-9537

NEW EXHIBITION "TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF DISCOVERY AT SARDIS"

On March 18, 1987 "Twenty-five Years of Discovery at Sardis" will open at the Oriental Institute Museum. The exhibition, consisting of photographs, drawings, watercolors and text panels, documents the field excavations and discoveries at this important site in southwestern Turkey.

Sardis, which first attained prominence as capital of the Lydian kingdom in the seventh century B.C., was the western terminus of the Persian royal road from Susa as described by Herodotus. It remained one of the great cities of Asia Minor until the late Byzantine period.

Sardis was first excavated by a team from Princeton before World War I. In 1958 a joint Cornell-Harvard excavation, co-sponsored by the Corning Museum of Glass and the American Schools of Oriental Research, resumed excavations at the site. The Sardis excavations are of particular interest to the Oriental Institute because during the 1960's they were supervised, in part, by the late Gustavus F. Swift, III, former Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum. Discoveries at Sardis included extensive Lydian gold refineries (Croesus was the last of the Lydian kings) and an enormous Roman gymnasium complex, one hall of which was given over to the Jewish community in late Roman times and converted into an enormous synagogue over 200 feet long.

A twenty-four page color booklet on Sardis by Andrew and Nancy H. Ramage accompanies the exhibition and will be available in the *Suq*.

This exhibition is supported by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Two columns supposed to belong to the "Temple of Cybele," at Sardis: O.I. archives, A.T. Olmstead, 1902.

TELL EL-AMARNA CENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM

According to the oft-repeated story, an anonymous peasant woman digging for *sebakh* (decayed brick from ancient building sites used by Egyptian farmers as a cheap source of natural fertilizer for their fields) accidentally discovered the Amarna tablets, sometime in 1887 (the exact date is unknown). Written in Akkadian cuneiform, the *lingua franca* of the 14th century B.C., the Amarna Letters comprise the remnant of a palace archive, representing the international correspondence between the Egyptian Pharaohs Amun-hotep III [reigned about 1386-1349 B.C.] and Akhenaten [reigned about 1350-1334 B.C.] and the rulers, both major and minor, of Western Asia. The "Murch Fragment of an El-Amarna Letter," OIM 9356, is one of the few examples of an Amarna tablet in the Western Hemisphere; there are two in the Department of Egyptian Art in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The majority are in the British Museum and Berlin.

On February 1-3, 1987, the Oriental Institute will host a **Tell el-Amarna Centennial Symposium**, sponsored by the Middle West Branch of the American Oriental Society, the Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature, and the Middle West Membership of the American Schools of Oriental Research. All communications regarding the symposium should be addressed to the program chairmen at the addresses below:

Prof. Gordon D. Young
(Pres., Middle West AOS)
Department of History
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907
Phone: (317) 494-4151

Prof. Barry J. Beitzel
(Sec.-Treas., Middle West AOS)
Dept. of O. T. & Semitic Lang.
Trinity Evangelical Div. School
2065 Half Day Road
Deerfield, Illinois 60015
Phone: (312) 945-8800

In honor of the Centennial we take this opportunity to reproduce excerpts from the 1895 Breasted letters pertaining to El-Amarna, which are now in the Oriental Institute Archives. We are grateful to the Breasted Family, especially the late Charles Breasted and the late James Henry Breasted, Jr., for donating their family papers to the Oriental Institute.

Undocumented in the Breasted correspondence is James Henry Breasted's purchase of some 70 objects at El-Amarna for the Museum in Chicago. In addition to a fine, two-sided sculptor's model or trial piece, OIM 453, which has long been on exhibit, Breasted also acquired a group of unprepossessing "small finds." Together with subsequent acquisitions, they provide the Oriental Institute Museum with a corpus of Amarna objects which rivals in its variety that of the Petrie Collection at University College, London.

Two granite fragments which Breasted bought in Melawi, OIM 604 and 605, produced an unexpected surprise, when they proved to be fragments of the royal sarcophagi from Akhenaten's tomb at El-Amarna! The identification was made jointly by John Larson and Frank Yurco in April, 1980. The fragments, bearing the cartouches of Nefertiti and Akhenaten, respectively, will be published in the forthcoming Volume II of Geoffrey T. Martin's *The Royal Tomb at El-Amarna*, which will appear in the Archaeological Survey of Egypt series, published by the Egypt Exploration Society, London. A selection of the objects from El-Amarna in the collections of the Oriental Institute Museum will be exhibited for the symposium.

TOUR TO TURKEY

We are planning a tour to Turkey in late August of 1987. Details will be available in the March-April *News & Notes* or by contacting the Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637 at the end of January.

WINTER MEMBERS' COURSES

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HISTORY II: THE MIDDLE KINGDOM

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE HOLY LAND: A SURVEY

See November-December *News & Notes* for course descriptions.

Classes will meet on Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, for eight weeks. January 17 through March 7 at the Oriental Institute. FURTHER INFORMATION 702-9507. Tuition is \$60 plus \$25 annual membership in Oriental Institute.

COMING IN THE SPRING

ANCIENT ELAM, A Members Course in the Spring Quarter, will be taught by popular lecturer Abbas Alizadeh. Class will meet Saturday mornings March 28 through May 23. Watch for the full course description in the March-April *News & Notes*.

FREE SUNDAY MOVIES AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

All films will be shown at 2 p.m. in Breasted Hall

JANUARY	4	The Big Dig
	11	Egypt's Pyramids
	18	Rivers Of Time
	25	The Egyptologists
FEBRUARY	1	No Film Amarna Conference
	8	Turkey: Crossroads Of The Ancient World
	15	Of Time, Tombs And Treasure
MARCH	22	Iran: Landmarks In The Desert
	1	Iraq: Stairway To The Gods
	8	Egypt: Gift Of The Nile
	15	Megiddo: City Of Destruction
	22	Ancient Sardis*
	29	Preserving Egypt's Past

*This is a special film made to accompany the Sardis exhibition opening March 18th, at the Oriental Institute.

THE SUQ سوق

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have been such a great help during the last few months. Some of you spent massive amounts of time on the Museum benefit and the new shop in Harper Court. To you, as well as those who took the time to come out on the most miserable night so far this winter for the opening, thank you.

The Oriental Institute is truly a unique organization. I grow to appreciate its members more every year, and I feel honored to be a part of it.

Thank you again for all of your help.

Sincerely,
Denise Browning
Suq Manager

here at the Oriental Institute using 6 mm black onyx beads, and small rice shaped gold filled beads similar to those found near it in the excavations. It will be available later strung in many varied combinations of carnelian, amethyst and lapis. The crescent is made of vermeil and measures approximately 2 1/4" x 1 5/8" high. The necklace is 26" long. **\$51.00**
(Members 10% discount, IL residents 8% sales tax, postage \$2.00)



Canaanite 13th Century B.C.

This medallion is an exact reproduction of a piece excavated by the Oriental Institute at Megiddo and found within the Baal temple. It is thought to be a lunar crescent. We have strung it



The Oriental Institute

The University of Chicago
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