OI NEWSLETTER - SECOND MONDAY - DECEMBER 2002

FROM THE DIRECTOR / Gil Stein

UNITS

COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders MUSEUM

NEW EXHIBITION / Karen Wilson
ARCHIVES / John Larson
EDUCATION / Carole Krucoff
REGISTRATION / Raymond Tindel
PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban
RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

WEB STATISTICS / Chuck Jones, John Sanders

INDIVIDUALS

ROBERT BIGGS
NICOLE HANSEN
HARRY HOFFNER
CHUCK JONES
WALTER KAEGI
CAROL MEYER
EMILY TEETER
JASON UR
THEO VAN DEN HOUT
DON WHITCOMB

FROM THE DIRECTOR / Gil Stein

Research Support at the Oriental Institute:

In the midst of pressing funding requirements for the museum reinstallation and other projects, it is easy to overlook the longer term, but fundamentally important need for the Oriental Institute to rebuild its capacity to fund research projects. For that reason I am happy to report that in the past month we have received two gifts, totaling a quarter of a million dollars in support of research.

The first gift, made by Joseph and Jeanette Neubauer, is \$200,000 in support of the first two seasons of Field Research at Tell Atchana/Alalakh. I want to thank the Neubauers for their generosity, and project Director Aslihan Yener, along with Associate Director David Schloen, for all their hard work in assembling, revising, and presenting the proposal to the Neubauers.

The second gift, by Dr. Arthur and Lee Herbst, is a pledge of \$50,000 over the next five years to establish the "Arthur and Lee Herbst Research Fund" as a director's discretionary endowment in general support of research. I want to express my appreciation to the Herbsts for their generosity and farsighted commitment to the fundamental mission of the OI.

Development and Membership Position Searches - Update:

Membership and Development are two of the most important aspects of the Oriental Institute's day-to-day and long term operations. The Membership position has been vacant for almost a full year, and the Development position has been open since October 3. We started advertising for both positions in early October and received eighty-five applications. After an intensive search and preliminary interviews of sixteen candidates, we have narrowed down our search to two short lists of three candidates for each position. We will be bringing in the finalists for interviews from December 10-16th. The final hiring decisions will be made shortly thereafter, with the goal of having the positions filled in early to mid January.

COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The two new Laboratory computers came out of their boxes in December:

Dell OptiPlex GX260, Pentium 4, 2.4Ghz, 750 MB RAM, DVD & CD-RW drive, 60GB harddrive

Macintosh eMac G4, 700Mhz, 512MB RAM, DVD-R & CD-RW drive, 60GB harddrive (that's right...the first DVD writer in the OI)

Both of these computers have an 8 1/2" x 14", 1200dpi scanner attached.

The Dell is now set up and ready for use and the eMac will be totally operational by mid-December.

The Chicago Demotic Dictionary portion of the OI website was updated in November with the letter B. Congratulations to Jan Johnson and the CDD staff, Tom Urban, and Tom Holland for another electronic publication in Adobe PDF format.

I want to thank Bruce Beyer Williams for the donation to the Computer Laboratory of an Iomega 2 GB Jaz drive and accessories. It will find a new home on our new Dell computer. One can never have too many forms of media for input/output!

At the suggestion and expense of Networking Services and Information Technologies (NSIT), the entire OI (all of our computers except servers) will be switched from manual IP to DHCP network connections during the month of December. Additionally, NSIT is also going to wire the public spaces in the OI for wireless connectivity to the network for those users with portable computers that are wireless capable: Breasted Hall, LaSalle Room, the two classrooms, the Research Archives, the Director's Office, the Computer Lab, and Museum registration area and, perhaps Museum storage areas.

We spent part of the month cleaning up the "computer graveyards" that have collected during the past year, deciding which old technology to discard and which we might donate.

While reinstallation proceeded behind the scenes, the museum mounted a totally new type of exhibition in the west gallery in November. "Ancient Egypt: A Hip-Hop Perspective" grew out of a collaboration between the Oriental Institute and high school students at Kenwood Academy participating in an after school program called the University of Hip-Hop. From February through April, these Kenwood students took a series of classes led by Jan Johnson, Francois Gaudard, Emily Teeter, and Justine Way in order to learn about ancient Egyptian environment, history, geography, languages, and art. They then created their own personal interpretation of the culture of ancient Egypt in vibrantly colored murals that include elements ranging from geographically accurate maps of the Nile Valley to break-dancing pharaohs.

A 48-foot mural is dominated by a stylized pharaoh; four smaller portable murals feature hieroglyphs and other Egyptian motifs. The murals, along with photographs of the student artists at work, will be exhibited through March 2, 2003.

Wendy Ennes, Teacher Services and Family Projects Coordinator, coordinated the program that gave rise to the exhibition along with with Lavie Raven, Kenwood Academy social studies teacher and minister of education at the University of Hip-Hop. The University of Hip-Hop (Healthy Independent People Helping Other People) is a Chicago Public Schools-sponsored group that involves artists and students in after-school programs in which students explore artistic expressions such as rapping, break dancing, emceeing, deejaying, and graffiti art. The collaboration was funded by the Regent's Park/University of Chicago Fine Arts Partnership.

The opening of "Ancient Egypt: A Hip-Hop Perspective" on November 18 generated media interest thanks to the efforts of our friend Bill Harms in University News & Information. Bill wrote an article that appeared in The University of Chicago Chronicle, a Chicago Tribune writer and photographer visited the exhibition to begin work on a story about the project, and Wendy was interviewed on WHPK by Dina Weinstein just before Thanksgiving.

After the exhibition here, the 48-foot mural will be mounted on the exterior of Kenwood Academy and the small, portable murals will be exhibited in neighborhood elementary schools during the academic year.

If you haven't done so already, please drop by the west gallery to see these truly extraordinary (and fun-filled) murals.

MUSEUM - ARCHIVES / John Larson

John Larson will be on vacation from December 9 through December 30, 2002 and the Oriental Institute Archives will be closed for appointments until January 6, 2003. Prof. Jeffrey Abt (Wayne State University, Detroit) was here from December 4-6 to continue his Breasted research.

On December 4, the Oriental Institute Archives received two original 19th-century photographs of Egypt, the generous gift of Mr. A. Dale Northrup of

Douglas, Michigan. One is a picture of the obelisk of Senwesret I at Heliopolis, number 120 by Maison Bonfils; the other, by an unknown photographer, records a "Baptism of Pharaoh" scene at the Temple of Kom Ombo, in which Ptolemy XII Neos Dionysos, the father of Cleopatra the Great, is shown between the gods Thoth and Horus. The latter is an original print from the same negative as Gr. Inst. 780, which can be seen on the Griffith Institute Website at URL: http://www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk/Griffith.html by using the link "Egyptian Mirage. 19th-c. photographs of Egypt."

MUSEUM - EDUCATION / Carole Krucoff

The Oriental Institute has just been awarded two grants that will enable Museum Education to reach out to two important museum audiences-teachers and students in the Chicago Public Schools and to children and their families in the metropolitan Chicago area.

The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation has awarded Museum Education \$25,000 for "Teacher Training On Campus and Online," a professional development program focusing on ancient Mesopotamia that will be modeled on the highly successful teacher training seminars Museum Education has been offering on ancient Egypt for the past three years.

Like the seminars on Egypt, the Mesopotamian program will offer lectures by Oriental Institute scholars, curriculum development for the classroom and the museum, with emphasis on our new Mesopotamian Gallery, and expansion and enhancement of online resources for teachers on the Oriental Institute website. These resources will become part of our new online Teacher Resource Center, which is accessible from the Institute's homepage. If you haven't viewed it already, please visit the Teacher Resource Center-we'd welcome your comments and suggestions.

The second grant is from the Polk Bros. Foundation, which has awarded Museum Education \$50,000 for "Exploring the Cradle of Civilization: Families in the Museum." This research and development project will focus on ways parents and children can explore the new Mesopotamian Gallery using self-guided learning experiences that will be available whenever families visit the Oriental Institute. Modeled after the activities now in use for the Egyptian Gallery, the new project will concentrate on creating:

- --Family Activity Cards that direct parents and children to search for and make discoveries about specific artifacts
 - --Gallery Treasure Hunts related to specific topics or ideas
- --Brightly colored, large-sized, family-friendly exhibit labeling for featured objects, such as the Khorsabad bull
- --New computer kiosk activities so that children and their parents can take part in "hands-on" interactive experiences highlighting ancient Mesopotamia.

All of us in Museum Education appreciate the generous support of these foundations and their confidence in our work.

MUSEUM - REGISTRATION / Raymond Tindel

Notice - - -

I will be in only irregularly during the period December 19 through January 1, so please bring any requests to us prior to that period.

David Schloen and Robert Ritner continued using various pieces from the collections for their classes.

Eliezer Oren spent an afternoon with Megiddo material.

The climate control gear was fretful and took rather more attention than usual this month.

Otherwise, we continued with or completed a number of ongoing projects. Joey Corbett finished updating loci on some 8000 Megiddo objects while Jim Sopranos continued recording the Broneer collection, and Janet Helman continued reorganizing the Bakun sherds - some 2600+ pieces so far - while Toni Smith has been working with Jarmo figurines and Betsy Kramers has continued photographing tablets for Clemens Reichel. And we continue with the ebb and flow of materials in preparation for the gallery installations. Leon Drolet has solved some but not all of the complexities required to incorporate images into the collections management database, and Joey Corbett continues, inter alia, with the imaging of objects.

January promises to be hectic; in addition to the usual activities we are expecting Kathleen Birney who will be looking at Iron Age material from Judaidah and Chatal Huyuk, and Hatice Pamir who will be looking for Greek imports in the Iron Age Tayinat material.

PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

All of our effort was directed to finishing OIP 118 (Teeter's scarab manuscript) and OIP 121 (Hilgert's second volume of cuneiform administrative documents).

OIP 118 (Teeter): All of the artwork was completed and the author and contributor returned final corrected page proofs. Two items remain to be completed: (1) Entering and checking the final corrections. (2) Creating the index.

OIP 121 (Hilgert): The first draft of the index for the introduction and text sections was prepared. Five items remain to be completed: (1) Formatting of the back matter. (2) Entering author's corrections, checking them here, and then sending them to the author for checking. (3) Cleaning up the pencil-drawn cuneiform texts. (4) Completing the index, which will also involve a bit more bibliographic work. (5) Setting the appendix.

Aside from that, we heard from Abbas Alizadeh regarding his manuscript on Chogha Bonut (OIP 120). Abbas asked us to send him a little more information that he needed as he worked his way through the manuscript. Abbas also hopes to submit a report on his archaeological work in Iran for the next News & Notes.

We were also pleased to hear from David Weisberg, author of a manuscript on Neo-Babylonian cuneiform texts (OIP 122), who will be lecturing in China this month. As one recalls, the author's corrections to the conversion draft of the manuscript need to be entered and then the manuscript must be formatted in PageMaker.

RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

NEW ON-LINE PUBLICATION

A new edition of the Oriental Institute Research Archives Serials List is now available. This is the third edition of a unified listing of serials held by the Oriental Institute Research Archives. It includes serials identified in the Research Archives as 'Series'; 'Journals'; reference works (i.e. encyclopaedias, dictionaries, etc.); as well as serials in which the Research Archives has holdings, but which are not shelved together. It also includes cross references to alternate titles. It is the first edition of the Serials List to appear online. A hard copy is also available in the Research Archives. This list is not a substitute for the card catalogue, or for the On-line Catalogue of the Research Archives (http://oilib.uchicago.edu/oilibcat.html) - it is intended as a guide and finding aid. If you do not find what you are looking for in this list, it does not necessarily mean that we do not have it. Conversely, if a serial is listed here, it does not necessarily mean that we hold a complete run. The list is a work in progress. There may be mistakes. I would appreciate being informed (at oi-library@uchicago.edu) of errors, problems or inadequacies when you encounter them. At present there are 1886 records in the database.

You will find it on-line at: http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ResArchSerials.html

ETANA

Scans of thirty-two titles from the Research Archives collections which were chosen for inclusion in the first cycle books published on-line by the ETANA project are now available. There are more to come.

You can gain access to all of these from any place you have a web connection. Initially you can find the links by following the "recently added" link in Abzu (http://www.etana.org/abzu/), or by going to the Core Texts component of ETANA (http://www.etana.org/coretexts.shtml). There are (at this moment) 111 titles available in ETANA.

If you should encounter any problems, please let me know and we'll have them fixed ASAP.

The Research Archives titles are listed below in two lists: Egyptological and Assyriological.

1) Egyptological

Griffith, F. Ll.. The Petrie Papyri: Hieratic Papyri from Kahun and Gurob (principally of the Middle Kingdom) Plates

Griffith, F. Ll. The Petrie Papyri: Hieratic Papyri from Kahun and Gurob (principally of the Middle Kingdom) Text

Griffith, F. Ll.. Stories of the High Priests of Memphis; the Sethon of Herodotus and the demotic tales of Khamuas

Griffith, F. Ll. and Thompson, Herbert, editors. The demotic magical papyrus of London and Leiden (v. 1)

Griffith, F. Ll. and Thompson, Herbert, editors. The demotic magical papyrus of London and Leiden (v. 2)

Griffith, F. Ll. and Thompson, Herbert, editors. The demotic magical papyrus of London and Leiden (v. 3)

Murray, Margaret Alice. The Osireion at Abydos

Murray, Margaret Alice. Saggara Mastabas, Part 1

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Athribis

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Gerar

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Gizeh and Rifeh

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. The Hawara Portfolio: Paintings of the Roman Age

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Hyksos and Israelite Cities

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Memphis I

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Scarabs and Cylinders with Names

Petrie, W. M. Flinders; Gardiner, Alan; Petrie, Hilda; Murray, M.A. Tombs of the Courtiers and Oxyrhynkhos

Petrie, W. M. Flinders; Mackay, Ernest; Wainwright, Gerald. Meydum and Memphis (III)

Petrie, W. M. Flinders; Wainwright, G. A.; Gardiner, A. H.. Tarkhan I and Memphis V

Quibell, J. E. El Kab

Sethe, Kurt. Urkunden der 18. Dynastie, Erster Band

2) Assyriological:

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part II [King]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part IV [Pinches]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XV [King]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XVI [Thompson]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XVII [Thompson]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXIV [King]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXV [Leeper]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXVI [Gadd]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXVII [Smith]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXVIII [Gadd]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXIX [Gadd]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XL [Gadd]

(CT I [King] has been available in ETANA Core Texts since May 2002)

WEB STATISTICS / Chuck Jones, John Sanders

The OI currently has three Web presences:

•The Main Website: http://www-oi.uchicago.edu

In the four weeks ending October 27th 2002 the website delivered 2,154,465 documents to users who visited 86,662 times

In the four weeks ending November 24th 2002 the website delivered 2,537,077 documents to users who visited 86,502 times.

•The Research Archives On-Line Catalogue: http://oilib.uchicago.edu/oilibcat.html

In October 2002 the On-Line Catalogue delivered

26,755 documents to users who visited 3,590 times

In November 2002 the On-Line Catalogue delivered 37,537 documents to users who visited 4,443 times

•Abzu:

http://www.etana.org/abzu/

In October 2002 the Abzu server delivered 53,092 documents to users who visited 29,929 times

In November 2002 the Abzu server delivered 53,594 documents to users who visited 35,355 times

ROBERT BIGGS

Robert Biggs presented a paper, "The Human Body and Sexuality in the Babylonian Medical Texts" at the international conference "Médecine et médecins au Proche-Orient ancien" held at the Maison de l'Orient méditerranéen at the University of Lyon November 8-9. He also chaired the opening session.

NICOLE HANSEN

It's been more than a year since I contributed to this newsletter and because I am halfway around the world in Cairo, what I have been up to will be new news for everyone and so I apologize in advance if it is a bit chatty. Of course, the number one thing everyone wants to know (and often is afraid to ask) is: How is the dissertation coming? My research is winding down now, although I still have some to carry out, mostly Arabic sources. I have begun writing every chapter and most have reached the point where most of the notes I still need to write up will simply be fleshing out the structure that is already in place, adding additional references to already existing footnotes and the like. It stands at 150 pages now (without bibliography) but I am certain it won't become overly long even though it will probably include nearly 1000 sources by the time I am through. I don't know how I would have ever done it without EndNote software; it has made organizing my research and writing a breeze. I plan to go to Luxor for a week or ten days later this month, hole myself up in our house, and let my mother-in-law relieve me of the day-to-day tasks for a bit, and get some writing done!

As I reported last year, I joined the staff of the Theban Mapping Project here in Cairo, working on the new TMP website:

http://www.thebanmappingproject.com

The website was launched on August 1 and contains a comprehensive and interactive database of the Valley of the Kings. The entire website is over 1

gigabyte in size. The contents are the equivalent to over 4,500 html pages and nearly 2,000 images (for which I had the sole responsibility of editing). All of us here at the TMP are proud of the work we produced, as we have been getting lots of wonderful feedback from users, many of whom have told us they consider it to be the best website on any topic they have ever seen. It has also been nominated for a prestigious technology award by the CEO of Macromedia. We will be making an update to the website on January 1.

Two conference papers I gave several years ago have been (or will be any day now) published. My paper about the Omm Sety manuscript was published in the proceedings of the Moving Matters Seminar earlier this year and any day now my paper on "poison" geckoes in ancient and modern Egypt will be appearing in the proceedings of the 2000 ICE to be published by AUC press. For those interested in the latter article, I would also recommend checking out an article written by Linda Evans in the next issue of BACE. She is an Australian biologist/Egyptologist, and she has found a completely different set of evidence that complements and supports my theory on geckoes.

I also presented papers at two conferences here in Cairo in March. At a conference held by the Association for the Study of Travel in the Near East I was finally able to publicly present material I have been collecting during the past seven years in a paper entitled "Invalids on the Nile." In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, health tourism contributed equally, if not more, to the development of the tourist industry in Egypt than the monuments. A number of guides for invalid travelers were written by doctors, who often prescribed a trip to Egypt as a cure for all sorts of invalids, from those suffering from tuberculosis to overworked American businessmen. Several of Egypt's most famous hotels, such as Mena House, were originally developed with invalids in mind, and even Thomas Cook got its start as a way of offering invalids a more comfortable and carefree alternative of sailing on the Nile. I hope to write up a longer version of the paper at some point in the future and publish it.

I also presented a paper at the First International Conference on Documentary Evidence in Early Islamic Egypt hosted by the Netherlands-Flemish Institute. Based on my dissertation and other research, I discussed the importance of texts from this period in tracing developments from earlier time periods to later time periods in Egypt, with a focus on medicine and magic. Several quotes from my lecture were taken out of context by a journalist who wrote an article about the conference published in the Middle East Times. Part of the article was censored by the government censors, including a quote from me about impotence. I was actually happy to see it censored because they had used my words to support something I didn't agree with and so I wrote a letter to the editor praising the censors for their actions. The letter was published. Wadad Kadi of the Oriental Institute also presented a paper at the conference.

I hope that puts to rest any rumors that might have been floating around there at the OI that I had stumbled into a tomb never to appear again. And for any of you who have read this far, I am starting a totally new project next month that I will report on in the next issue of this newsletter.

During the past month the composition and revising of our manuscript on Hittite Grammar by Craig Melchert and me has proceeded very well. We should be ready in another month to send sample copies of the manuscript to a select group of colleagues for review prior to formally submitting it to the publisher.

My article on "Hittite" has just appeared in John Kaltner and Steven L.
McKenzie's "Beyond Babel: A Handbook for Biblical Hebrew and Related Languages"
Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2002. Other articles in the book
include Akkadian (David Marcus), Ammonite, Edomit & Moabite (Simon Parker),
Arabic (John Kaltner), Aramaic (F. E. Greenspahn), Egyptian (Donald Redford),
Biblical Hebrew (Jo Ann Hackett), Postbiblical Hebrew (Baruch Levine),
Phoenician (Charles Krahmalkov), Ugaritic (Peggy Day).

Theo and I continue to revise pre-final copy of articles for CHD S/2, and to advise Sandy Schloen on the development of the eCHD

CHUCK JONES

I chaired a very successful session, jointly sponsored by the OI and the SBL, at the meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Toronto on November 25th. It included presentations on Ancient Near Eastern Scripts and Unicode (Deborah Anderson); Implementing the Online Edition of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (Sandra Schloen) and The West Semitic Research and InscriptiFact Projects of the University of Southern California (Bruce Zuckerman and Marilyn Lundberg). I have also been working with Matt Stolper and Wouter Henkelman to complete an article "Clay Tags with Achaemenid Seal Impressions in the Dutch Institute of the Near East (NINO) and Elsewhere" to appear in Arta - the new on-line journal of Achemenet: http://www.achemenet.com/ressources/enligne/arta/arta.htm

WALTER KAEGI

Cadmus publications has published an Arabic translation of Walter Kaegi, Byzantium and the Early Islamic Conquests (1995). I have seen an image of the cover but have not yet received a physical copy of the printed book. The New Catholic Encyclopedia, 2nd ed. (Gale) has now published two new articles by Walter Kaegi: "Byzantine Civilization" and "Byzantine Empire."

CAROL MEYER

Carol Meyer presented a talk, "Gold, Granite, and Water: Six Seasons at Bir Umm Fawakhir" to the Phoenix chapter of the AIA and the Tucson and Berkeley chapters of ARCE in November. Nice audiences all of them and the opportunity was very much appreciated.

EMILY TEETER

I have been working with the publications office and their dedicated student staff on the corrections of the final page proofs for the first volume of small finds from the Institute's 1926-33 excavation at Medinet Habu. The descriptive catalogue includes 349 objects including objects like stamp seals and seal impressions which are rarely published. The catalogue also includes more than 220 scarabs, scaraboids, lentoids (etc)-one of the largest corpora of such materials excavated from any New Kingdom-Third Intermediate site. Another unusual, and valuable (at least in my opinion), feature of the publication is that the materials date from the New Kingdom (ca. 1500 B.C. for the non-Egyptologist readers) to the 8th century A.D., giving one of the few diachronic views of such material from any Egyptian site. T. G. Wilfong of the Kelsey Museum wrote the section on the Late Antique material.

JASON UR

Aside from plugging away at the dissertation, I've been spending time scanning new CORONA imagery and integrating these images into the CAMEL lab's GIS dbase of northern Mesopotamia. Some of this imagery is phenomenal: we've been amazed to see individual pistachio trees in images of the Birecik/Hacinebi area. Some of these images will be discussed in an article which will appear in Antiquity, probably mid-2003.

I chaired the Mesopotamian Archaeology session and gave a paper on third millennium road systems at ASOR in Toronto, along with Clemens Reichel and Mark Altaweel. Several other OI folks presented papers at the meeting and the Amuq session was particularly interesting and there was standing room only.

THEO VAN DEN HOUT

Over the last month I have been working for the CHD mostly: right now I am working on words in the sarl- range. In between I have updated the paper on archives and libraries that I gave at the Hittitological conference in Corum last September, which is due in January. In the evenings I am working on a translation of Mursili's so-called Plague Prayers for a collection of translated texts edited by Mark Chavalas for Blackwells and I am preparing my Carian class for next quarter. Both my Dutch students, Petra Goedegebuure and Willemijn Waal have been enjoying the unique collection of books we have in the Research Archives and the equally unique (at least to Dutch standards) scholarly atmosphere of the U of C as a whole. With Petra I discussed several chapters of her dissertation and with Willemijn the texts that are the topic of her MA thesis. I will miss them both!

DON WHITCOMB

Donald Whitcomb participated in a Symposium on the Archaeology of the Islamic Periods held in Berlin on November 16-18th. Dr. Claus-Peter Haase, Director of the Museum for Islamic Art, called this meeting to present recent discoveries in Islamic archaeology. A more important reason was a forum to discuss the future of this quickly expanding field of research.

After two stimulating experiences in workshops during ICAANE meetings (at Copenhagen and Paris), the participants realized the need to find, in Claus' words, "a continuous platform for international meetings in our field." As continuing association with ICAANE seems difficult, the symposium noted that a critical level in numbers and vigor of exchange seems to warrant the foundation of a separate organization. Alastair Northedge summarized this situation, which led to informal discussion throughout the symposium.

As a result Claus drew together a preliminary "steering committee," composed of himself, Jeremy Johns, Alan Walmsley, and Donald Whitcomb. A new organization, tentatively entitled the Association of Islamic Archaeologists, is suggested with the intention of establishing a presence through a web site and internet list, for the exchange of information and ultimately meetings organized for the field of Islamic Archaeology. The aim is, as Claus put it, an institution which may offer a "better coherency of studies and presentations ... and interchange with colleagues in the Near and Middle East."

This symposium had, of necessity, a restricted number of international participants and all were aware of a need for more inclusive future deliberations. This may be effectively achieved through the internet; several proposals were entertained on accomplishing this but with no immediate conclusion.