OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - DECEMBER 2004

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THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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IN THE NEWS

The OI Newsletter appears by way of the automated mailing list: https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/oi-newsletter The archive of all issues of the newsletter dating back to early 1998 is accessible only to members of the list. If you wish to have access to the archive, please request your password from: oinews@babylon-orinst.uchicago.edu Please send any other inquiries about the newsletter to the same address.

We hope that everyone had an opportunity to spend time with family and friends during the Thanksgiving holiday. With the first quarter of classes ending, we hope that everyone is able to take some time off at the end of the year to recharge and prepare for the upcoming quarter.

Annual Budget Meeting

The OI reviewed its year-end budget with the Provost on November 11th. The Provost was provided with an overview of major ongoing projects such as key research projects, museum reinstallation, and significant grants and gifts received during the previous fiscal year. Additionally, time was spent discussing the significant number of ANF and staff positions that had turned over during the past year and that were now filled. Time was also spent updating the Provost on the current faculty search. Last but not least, parking was again a major subject of the meeting. In the end, the Provost stated that he would personally become involved in helping us move forward in acquiring a specific number of parking spaces in the Lexington lot, exclusively for the use of the OI. Regarding capital projects, facilities informed us that they are proceeding with their plans to upgrade the loading dock area on the east side of the building. We also received a positive response for funding to finish the internal electrical upgrade of the OI building. The Provost was not supportive of additional infrastructure upgrades to the archaeology lab space in the basement. Alternative methods for funding these improvements are being looked into. In summary, the Provost was pleased with the sound financial condition of the OI and its plans for the near term.

Comparative Semitist Search - Progress Report

The joint OI-NELC search committee chaired by Walter Farber has made much progress over the past month in the search for a Comparative Semitist. Ads were placed in the Chronicle of Higher Education, and the electronic version of Women in Higher Education. Position announcement flyers were mailed to a multitude of institutes of higher education and it has been sent to ancient near east listservs such as ANE. The end date for acceptance of applications is December 31st and we now have five applicants who've responded. Interviews are set to begin at the end of February 2004.

Holiday Party

We hope you are able to attend Friday December 10th for a Holiday party in the Director's Office. Food, drink and Santa will be on hand to help us celebrate the season and give us a brief opportunity to bring OI families and coworkers together to enjoy each other's company. The party begins at 3:00pm.

Employee Service Awards

Congratulations to the following OI staff who received service pin awards at the OI Quarterly meeting. As you will see from the list, the OI is privileged to have such a dedicated and diverse group of individuals in its midst. Please join us in thanking each one of them for their exemplary service over the years and looking forward to continued success in the future.

Catherine Duenas (began in 1997): 5 year pin Terry Friedman (began in 1997): 5 year pin Jean Grant (began in 1973): 30 year pin Thomas Holland (began in 1984): 20 year pin Carla Hosein (began in 1999): 5 year pin Charles Jones (began in 1983): 20 year pin Carole Krucoff (began in 1982): 10 year pin John Larson (began in 1980): 20 year pin Linda McLarnan (began in 1984): 20 year pin Emily Napolitano (began in 1998): 5 year pin Emily Teeter (began in 1990): 10 year pin

Collectively this rewards more than one hundred and fifty years of service.

COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The biggest news from the Computer Lab during November was the start of the Lab's renovation, in conjunction with CAMEL. The Lab was temporarily closed during the last week of November, and four of the Lab's five computers were moved to the basement Archaeology Lab, including: Macintosh G4 with large format scanner; Macintosh G3 with slide scanner; Macintosh eMac with scanner; and the Dell Windows computer with scanner. The fifth Lab computer is temporarily being housed in the Hittite Dictionary office.

The renovations are moving along on schedule, and we hope to be able to return the Lab's five computers to the new facility in Rm. 202 by Christmas. When the new Computer Lab/CAMEL reopens in Rm. 202 it will be by key access only, in order to avoid the problems we have experienced lately with outsiders using our facilities for web surfing, email, and printing. The precise nature of how access to the Lab will function for those without keys is still being determined. So stay tuned, and don't panic. Qualified users of the Lab will have access to it.

The issue of printing in the building was discussed in November, and several alternatives for public printing/scanning/copying are under consideration. Steve Camp and I hope to be able to make a choice amongst vendors and hardware by the beginning of the new year. Regardless of which solution we choose, printing/scanning/copying within the building will be more efficient and convenient shortly, although printing for most people in the building will, in the future, be handled the way copying currently operates: a user or project code will be required to print the job before it is actually printed, so that all public printing will be traceable to the person doing the printing.

MUSEUM EDUCATION / Carole Krucoff

A variety of special programs brought hundreds of visitors to the Oriental Institute in November. Breasted Hall was filled to overflowing for the Chicago premiere showing of "The Hittites." Co-sponsored by the Membership and Education Offices, with the support of many organizations from the Turkish community, this film premiere and accompanying reception was a highly successful way to introduce the great achievements of the Hittites, the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project, and the East Wing exhibits that will open this January. Many thanks to Theo van den Hout and Aslihan Yener for all their help.

For the first time, the Education Office joined with the Seminary Co-op Bookstore to co-sponsor a book discussion, as part of the on-going series the Co-op has presented in Breasted Hall for many years. This event highlighted a new rendering of the Epic of Gilgamesh by Stephen Mitchell. Along with a reading by Mitchell, the program included commentary by Seth Richardson and Chris Woods, a special feature that was very much enjoyed by the audience.

The University's Middle East Music Ensemble helped us celebrate Arab Heritage Month in November by presenting "A Musical and Poetic Portrait of Arab Culture." This wonderful concert of choral and instrumental music, interspersed with poetry selections, attracted nearly 200 people, many of whom had never visited the Oriental Institute.

Nearly 100 teachers from the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) were introduced to the Oriental Institute last month during professional development workshops given by the Docents and the Education Office. Seventy-five pre-school teachers attended a half-day workshop of gallery tours and an introduction to the best in children's books on the ancient Near East. The educators also learned ways to create and use ancient-Near-Eastern-style costuming as teaching and learning tools, and how to obtain reproduction artifacts from our "Mini-Museum" loan collection for their classes.

Twenty-one CPS science teachers attended a day long workshop on "Archaeology and the Life Sciences" led by Gabrielle Novacek and Nitzan Mekel-Bobrov. Gabrielle described how archaeology uses the techniques and processes of many scientific disciplines to learn about the past and suggested ways teachers could integrate many of these approaches into the science curriculum. Nitzan introduced ways ancient DNA is being used to investigate the past. Teacher evaluations gave both these presentations the highest rating, and one expressed the feelings of many when she wrote that she "felt privileged to be a part of such a special learning experience."

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE / Tom Urban

Tony Wilkinson's _Tell es-Sweyhat, Volume 1: Land Use Studies (OIP 124) was sent to press. We expect the volume to be completed and delivered to us the first week of January.

Tim Harrison's $_$ Megiddo 3 $_$ (OIP 127) was completed and will be sent to press within a few days.

Donald Whitcomb's _Changing Social Identity_ (OIS 1) was completed and will also be sent to press within a few days. This volume is the first in the new series called Oriental Institute Seminars.

Brian Muhs' _Taxes, Tax Payers, and Tax Receipts_ (OIP 126) is complete except for the index, which is proving to be quite a chore. The index is over sixty pages in length, with many Greek words having to be indexed; unfortunately, our manner of searching is not consistently catching all the Greek words, so we'll have to invent something to deal with them.

As soon as OIP 127 and OIS 1 are sent to press, I'll send out page proofs for Aslihan Yener's Amuq survey volume (AVRP 1).

The 2002/2003 annual report was converted to sixty-five .pdf files so John Sanders can add it to the Oriental Institute's Web-site.

The Winter 2005 issue of News & Notes was delivered; it is the fiftieth issue that the Publications Office has prepared for the Membership Office, and with thirty-two pages it is also the largest.

A complete list of titles published by the Oriental Institute was created, and we are in the process of counting the number and type of each page for each volume so we can get estimates for scanning all of the volumes and making them available on-line.

All of Mark Lehner's Giza entries from OI Annual Reports were collected into one large MSWord file and e-mailed to Wilma Wetterstrom. Mark and Wilma will look them over and re-submit them along with all the original artwork so they can be re-issued in one volume.

We continue to provide technical support to Cynthia Miller and Linda McLarnan who are putting together festschrifts for Professors Gragg and Biggs.

RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The extended hours of the Research Archives (until 6 pm Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) seem to be well received. The collection remains in continuous use right up until closing.

In November the staff of the Research Archives produced about a thousand entries in the on-line catalogue, and edited an uncountable number of existing records. At the time of writing there are 135,306 records in the catalogue.

We also catalogued many entries in Abzu, for which see below sub "WEBSITE"

We received our copies of Layard, Austen Henry, Monuments of Nineveh. From Drawings Made on the Spot by Austen Henry Layard, Esq. C.D.L. First Series: Illustrated in One Hundred Plates. London, 1853, and, A Second Series of The Monuments of Nineveh; Including Bas-Reliefs from the Palace of Sennacherib and Bronzes from the Ruins of Nimroud from Drawings Made on the Spot, During a Second Expedition to Assyria by Austen Henry Layard, M.P., Author of "Nineveh and Its Remains," "Discoveries at Nineveh and Babylon". London, 1853, back from the scanner. We expect these to be accessible on-line in ETANA shortly. The scanning and serving of these volumes and the remaining volumes of "Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum" (which will make the set complete) in ETANA has been made possible by as grant from the American Theological Library Association.

WEBSITE / Chuck Jones - John Sanders

The redesign of the OI's website is progressing. The website redesign committee was reviewed six design concepts in mid-November. The committee has discussed them, making suggestions to the NSIT design team working on the project, and we expect to have 2 or 3 revised designs schemes by mid-December.

Heads of projects and units of the Oriental Institute should review their appropriate home page, and provide changes, additions, and corrections. If the changes you need are simply editorial, please print the page, edited it, and pass along the corrected version to John or Chuck. If you have major changes, come talk to one or both of us.

Statistics: During November 2004, 115,953 unique visitors came to the site 169,493 times. The web server delivered 31,233 unique documents one or more times each, accounting altogether for 2,651,111 files. The web server was linked to by 76,446 distinct pages on 4,742 distinct web sites. The top nine keywords/keyphrases which found documents at our site were: mummies (1,804 times) 1 2 persepolis (1,786 times) 3 dead sea scrolls (1,321 times) 4 oriental institute (1,245 times) 5 pazuzu (1,026 times) 6 map of Egypt (1,002 times) giza (915 times) 7 map of mesopotamia (661 times) 8 oi (625 times) 9

Additions to the website in November include the following:

Documents associated with the ETANA-Abzu-News mailing list (materials catalogues in Abzu from July-November 2004): http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/AbzuNew7-8.2004.html http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/AbzuNew9.2004.html http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/AbzuNew10.2004.html http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/AbzuNew11.2004.html

The Demotic Verbal System. By Janet H. Johnson. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, Number 38 (Second Printing, with Corrections, 2004): http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/SAOC/38/SAOC38.html

Urbanism and Society in the Third Millennium Upper Khabur Basin: A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of the Division of the Humanities in Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, By Jason Alik Ur, Chicago, Illinois, December 2004. http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/DISPROP/urj.html

The Architecture Of Defense: Fortified Settlements Of The Levant During The Middle Bronze Age: A Dissertation Presented to The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations by Aaron Alexander Burke. The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago, June 2004. http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/DISPROP/burkea.html

As announced in The Oriental Institute 2003-2004 Annual Report, a demonstration version of the "P" volume of the eCHD is now available on-line at XSTAR (on the Humanities Division server). Follow the links from the Chicago Hittite Dictionary home page: http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/HIT/Hittite.html The eCHD requires a high-speed Internet connection and Java 1.4.2. (For Macintosh platforms, requires Mac OS X; select Apple menu - Software Update for latest version.)

Announcements of the 51st Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale and the Tenure-track position in Comparative Semitics were published on-line in November, as were links to major notices of the OI in the news media:

http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/OI_Announcements.html

CHD / Theo van den Hout

On November 30 the CHD team invited Harry and Wini Hoffner to a lunch in the Quad Club to celebrate his 70th birthday! We wish him many happy and healthy returns of the day and we hope to write many more letters with him!

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

On November 27, Dany Roy successfully moved the red-granite Ptolemaic naos in the small Amun temple sanctuary 'naos room' from its original location against the western wall to the eastern side of the chamber. The weight of the naos, estimated at about five and half tons, had caused considerable subsidence of the flooring beneath it, and the naos itself had suffered some damage in the medieval period from burning, particularly on the right side. Moving the granite naos will now allow us to restore the floor to its original height while adding a more substantial footing for the naos at the correct floor level. Dany began the restoration of the naos itself before moving it, for stability (and balance) which would facilitate the move. He erected special, floor to ceiling I-beam scaffolding in the chamber, and carefully removed several large sections of the right-hand side of the shrine (stuck together with cement in the 19th century). He then drilled two dowel emplacements in the back section, reattached the largest broken section with two stainless steel dowels and epoxy, a large fragment which attached to that with another dowel, and the smaller front sections with epoxy alone. Dany then was able to jack and winch the naos up in preparation for the move, a process which took several days, and move it across the room, which took about an hour. Hats off to Dany and his workmen Ali, Hassan, and Sayid; the naos looked big enough before from the front; from behind it looks absolutely enormous. And it is. (You will recall that it is so much bigger than the door to the chamber, the back wall had to be taken down in the Ptolemaic period to insert it). The backside is extremely interesting: roughly shaped and unfinished, and preserving quarrying marks invisible from the front, all of which can now be documented. Dany secured and stabilized the naos in its new position in preparation for the next phases of work and dismantled his scaffolding.

Now that the back wall is fully exposed for the first time since at least the reign of Ptolemy IX, photographic documentation and conservation of the Thutmoside-inscribed wall area formerly hidden behind the naos is now possible and has already begun. Photographer Yarko Kobylecky spent all day Monday photographing large- and small-format condition / record shots of the wall and naos foundation area. Archaeologist Lisa Giddy (contracted by us especially for this phase of the project) and Tina Di Cerbo carefully cleaned and planned the naos foundation area, which was sunk through Hatshepsut's original flooring (sandstone slabs on packed sand), and have begun to excavate. So far they have found that the foundation emplacement was more carefully laid than we previously

thought and consists of stone slabs set in brown, artifact-rich mortar. I will report on our intrepid archaeological team's additional findings in the next Newsletter. I should remark that the contract for the two-year extension of our ARCE / EAP grant supporting the conservation and documentation of the Medinet Habu small Amun temple has been finished and sent by EAP to the University for signing. This extension will support the naos room work, the ongoing cleaning of the painted reliefs outside of the main sanctuaries, and the epigraphic documentation of those reliefs, and is most gratefully acknowledged here.

We discovered recently that while we were away during the summer the SCA had cleaned out the King's bark sanctuary in the main temple, utilized as a locked storage magazine since at least the 1960s. They even removed the iron grill door, so the chamber is now accessible to the public. This room housed a hodgepodge of material from western Thebes excavated by the SCA - nothing from Medinet Habu (we checked) - including numerous sculpture and relief fragments excavated at Amenhotep III's mortuary temple by Labib Habachi in 1965. Our colleagues Hourig Sourouzian and her husband Rainer Stadelmann are currently undertaking the excavation of Amenhotep III's mortuary complex, and last season at our invitation, Hourig reviewed all of the material in the room and catalogued every piece from the Amenhotep III excavations. All of this material was isolated and moved to an adjoining locked storage room for eventual moving to their on-site magazine. We found that the remainder of the material had been moved this past summer to two locations: the locked room next door, and to a series of open-air display platforms to the south of the God's Wives chapels. Because much of this material is fragile limestone, some of it pocket-size, Yarko and Tina have been photographing and cataloguing it, and the smaller bits have been moved into the small temple for safekeeping. Later this week I will request permission to transfer all of the material to the locked storeroom in the mortuary temple until more permanent storage arrangements can be made.

The epigraphic recording at the small Amun temple is going very well, aided by the creation of our flatbed blueprint machine, which has made blueprint-making (for collation) a much faster process. Epigraphers Brett McClain and Harold Hays and artists Margaret DeJong and Sue Osgood are presently working inside the bark sanctuary, while epigrapher Jen Kimpton is working in the ambulatory collating Akoris column drawings done by Tina Di Cerbo. Tina herself has been continuing her documentation and database of the graffiti in the small Amun temple, as well as the main mortuary temple. In reviewing the material for our proposed Volume 2, which we originally envisioned as comprising the Eighteenth Dynasty temple bark sanctuary, ambulatory and exteriors, it has been pointed out to me that we have enough material for a publication twice the size of the first volume of our Luxor Temple series dedicated to the Opet reliefs in the Colonnade Hall (OIP 112), our largest (and most unwieldy) publication ever. The density of information in the small Amun temple is truly extraordinary, but the thought of a publication larger than the Opet volume is pretty horrifying. Therefore, we are now considering dividing this part of the Eighteenth Dynasty temple into two volumes, one (Volume 2) dedicated to the decorated pillars, architraves, exterior scenes, façade, marginal inscriptions, and Akoris modifications; and the other (Volume 3) dedicated to the bark sanctuary proper (interior and exterior scenes), upper marginal inscription of Ptolemy VIII, and ceiling decoration. Priority will be given to the Volume 2 material, already mostly collated, which should closely follow the publication of Volume 1, currently in production.

At Luxor Temple stone conservator Hiroko Kariya has been hitting the blockyard at 6:00 AM to take advantage of the cooler temperatures for her treatment of deteriorating sandstone blocks and block fragments with the silicate Wacker-OH. Throughout the month of November Yarko photographed in 35 mm (black & white) a corpus of reused talatat blocks of Akhenaten scattered through the blockyards which I have identified as coming from the side walls of the 8th, 9th, and 10th Pylon courts at Karnak. This material was guarried and used by Akhenaten for the construction of his Aten temples at Karnak and was dismantled and reused after Akhnaten's death by Horemheb in his construction projects at Karnak. The blocks were quarried yet again from Horemheb's walls in the medieval period and transported to Luxor for reuse in house and church constructions around the temple and were recovered during the clearance of the fore area of Luxor Temple during the late 1950s and early 1960s. So far we have identified over 300 blocks of this type in the blockyards, inscribed with ritual procession scenes from the inner walls of Horemheb's courts, or inscribed by Ramesses II in yet another version of his great Kadesh battle narrative from the exterior west wall of the 8th - 10th Pylon courts. The Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak is in the final phases of documenting the surviving lower walls of those courts for publication, and it is clear that some of our blocks preserve upper details of scenes still preserved on the standing walls. Our goal this season is to document the fragmentary material in our blockyard which came from the upper walls of those courts so that the French can include it in their study. Eventually we would like to transfer the material back to Karnak, making it the first of many stone block groups reused in medieval Luxor to be taken back 'home.'

We had a warm Thanksgiving celebration this year, made even more pleasant by the presence of Ginny Hays, Harold's mom, and the University of Memphis Hypostyle Hall crew headed by colleague Peter Brand. We've also been visited by Steve Harvey and his Abydos team, as well as former Chicago House epigrapher Hratch Papazian who is working with Steve in Abydos and will return to Luxor next week. On November 17th we had a small celebration of the Epigraphic Survey's 80th year in Luxor. Cook Tayib baked a special birthday cake inscribed for Chicago House, and while Brett cut the cake, I read Breasted's own description of the conception and founding of CH from his 'Oriental Institute' book: the first day of work (with one epigrapher, one artist and one photographer), and director Harold Nelson wiring Breasted on November 18, 1924: "Work began yesterday." We have come a long way since then, but there is a long way to go. Here's to the next 80 years!

Finally, I am sorry to report that our finance manager Safi Ouri's assistant Marlin Sarwat has moved to Cairo with her growing family for the better opportunities for her children's education there. We will miss her very much. But every cloud has a silver lining. I am very pleased to announce that we have found an excellent replacement, our old friend Samir El-Guindy, who for many years worked at the American Express office in Luxor. Many of you may remember that Samir's wife Michelle, who tragically passed away two years ago, tutored Meg and Emily Dorman in French during Peter's directorship at Chicago House. Samir has recently remarried, he and Ekbal are expecting their first child, and it is a great pleasure to have him 'back' with his Chicago House family.

When next I write it will be after the holidays, in the New Year. May 2005 be filled with every good and perfect thing for everyone. Warmest holiday wishes to you all, from all of us out here!

RENCONTRE ASSYRIOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE / Martha Roth

The 51st Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale will be hosted here at the OI and the University, July 18-22, 2005. All forms are available on the web.

Please go to: http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/rencontre/RAI 2005.html

There you will find the following links and forms: (1) Important Information, (2) Information on On-Campus Accommodations, (3) Registration & Payment Form, and (4) Accommodations Form.

Please note that EVERYONE who wishes to attend the meetings must register and pay the registration fees.

However, we will be in need of serious volunteer help, both before and during the meetings, and will be able to subsidize the full registration fee for STUDENT volunteers from funds made available from the Humanities Division. (We will need lots of help from everyone -- staff and faculty, too -- but can only subsidize the students' registrations.) Students who intend to help out during the meetings should register normally, and write "student volunteer" on the payment form.

There is a sign-up sheet for all volunteers posted outside the CAD room (324). Please help make this a great meeting!

Thank you,

Martha Roth, Walter Farber, and Jennie Myers The Organizers

ROBERT BIGGS

Robert Biggs was in England in early November to give a lecture on Babylonian medicine at the Centre for the History of Medicine and the University of Birmingham.

FRED DONNER

I attended the 38th annual MESA conference in San Francisco the weekend before Thanksgiving, where I read a paper on "The Saqifa Episode in al-Ya'qubi's History," on how this 9th century historian treated the election of Muhammad's first successor, Abu Bakr.

WALTER KAEGI

Indiktos Publications will publish a modern Greek translation of Walter Kaegi, Heraclius Emperor of Byzantium. Kaegi has now arrived in Morocco from Tunisia, where he gave lecture at University of Sfax on 24 November.

IN THE NEWS

Links to The Oriental Institute in the news are collected at: http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/OI_WWW_New.html