



CHICAGO HOUSE BULLETIN

Issued by The Epigraphic Survey
of The Oriental Institute of The University of Chicago



Volume XIII, No. 1

Privately Circulated

September 1, 2002

THE CHICAGO HOUSE SEASON OCTOBER 2001 TO APRIL 2002: A MONTHLY DIARY

By W. Raymond Johnson, Field Director

OCTOBER

Despite (and partly in defiance of) the horrific events of September 11, the Epigraphic Survey kept to schedule and Chicago House officially reopened for the 2001–2002 season on October 16, 2001. Tina Di Cerbo once again arrived two weeks early to open and thoroughly clean the house, and I spent several days in a peaceful Cairo meeting with our colleagues at the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), getting the paperwork for the season finished with ARCE Assistant Director Mme. Amira Khattab, and signing the contract with the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) at Abbasiya. I also met Egypt's new US Ambassador, David

Welch, and touched base with US Embassy security officials. It is always exciting to be back, since we consider each year we are able to work in Egypt as a gift, but we are all particularly exhilarated and happy to be back at this time.

Our return has sent a very positive message to the Egyptian and foreign community, and was exactly the right thing to do. The response has been heartwarming. Security in Luxor continues to be excellent. In addition to the standard three soldiers posted by the city outside our front gate, we now have a whole truck of soldiers parked outside our complex, just as at the temple sites. They all smile and wave when we pass by, and are no bother at all, but their presence is a sober reminder of the changed circumstances of the world since we

left Luxor last April. Because Chicago House is a residence, the rule (even in Cairo) is that all military or police personnel are required to remain outside our compound, and are never allowed inside except for an emergency. During our first week back the staff and I drew up an emergency evacuation plan, should the need ever arise. As a further precaution, all staff members now carry cards with contact phone numbers, I carry a cellular phone at all times, and we have instituted stricter security measures around the house. I would not allow the staff back if I



2001–2002 Staff of the Epigraphic Survey. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky and Sue Lezon

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Photo Archivist Sue Lezon scanning negatives onto CD-ROM

didn't feel totally secure, but there is no sense in taking chances. The temple sites are well guarded, and beefed-up security at site entrances now includes careful bag searches and body scanning. Impressive.

After checking in with the local SCA officials and delivering copies of the signed contract for the 2001–2002 field season, we opened the Medinet Habu small Amun temple on Saturday, October 20, and resumed our normal work schedule the following Monday. We found the temple dry as a bone (a happy by-product of our roof restoration work), and the sanctuary chambers untouched since we locked and sealed them up last April, except for a few unhappy scorpions in the main entryway (I found a particularly angry one under my foot!). The first few days of the season were spent transferring ladders, scaffolding, and other equipment to the temple site, and thoroughly cleaning and organizing everything. Epigraphers Brett McClain and Harold Hays immediately resumed their wall work, and new epigrapher Randy Shonkwiler joined them at the wall the following week. Conservator Lotfi Hassan resumed the cleaning of the painted wall reliefs in the southwestern sanctuary and was soon joined by assistants Nahed Samir and Adel Aziz.

Many other missions have returned to work as well, and we are an unusually large community this year. Daniel Polz is here with his German Institute crew working in the 17th Dynasty necropolis at Dra Abu El Naga; Christian LeBlanc and his French team are continuing their conservation and restoration work at the Ramesseum; Nigel and Helen Strudwick and their crew have finished their work in the tomb of Senneferi at Gurna; Andrej Niwinski and his Polish team are working high in the cliffs of Deir El-Bahri; Francesco Tiradritti and the Italians are back in the tomb of Harwa; Elena Pischikova from the Met (and her daughter) have been working in the tomb of Nespekashuty; two Hungarian teams

have resumed their tomb documentation at Gurna; a digital imaging crew under the direction of Michael Mallinson is doing digital test scanning in the tomb of Sety I in the Valley of the Kings; the Karnak Franco-Egyptian Center is back in full force; and Chuck Van Siclen is working at the Karnak 8th Pylon.

Rather than having a Halloween party this year – inappropriate for obvious reasons – on November 1 Chicago House hosted an opening season get-together of all of the missions in town and local SCA officials, to celebrate our solidarity and common resolve to keep to a normal schedule in these difficult times. It was a great success, well-attended, and much appreciated by all. We have much to be thankful for. And much work to do.

The day before, October 31, the festival of the local Muslim saint of the Luxor Temple mosque, Abul Haggag, culminated in his great parade around the temple and through the town, always an exciting event. Because this lunar festival will pass out of our season after next year, the professional and local Chicago House staff were given time to attend this joyous descendant of the ancient Opet procession. The parade was the biggest I'd ever seen, complete with the white-robed descendants of Abul Haggag leading the procession, seven saints' shrines on camel back, drummers rhythmically banging great kettle drums, at least six wheeled boats towed by the local townspeople filled with laughing children, several sets of stick dancers, and a whole flotilla of trucks and carriages crammed with happy singers, musicians, and dancers. As the procession wove through the sometimes narrow streets, townspeople on balconies would throw peanuts and dates at the celebrants, and sometimes spray them with water, since it is still quite warm, especially in the hot sun. I can't tell you how many times I was beamed in the head by dates or sprayed with water, but it was moving to be part of a festival which may be a direct link to the distant past we are ever documenting. And although I must have attended this festival at least ten times, there are always revelations. Such as this time, when I realized that the long, pink twisty balloons that people were throwing at each other and putting around their necks on closer inspection turned out to be blown-up sheep intestines! Yow... 23 years here and I never noticed that before!

NOVEMBER

November saw tourist and visitor activity in Luxor subdued but steady, and conditions here and throughout Egypt remain peaceful. Chicago House has been able to take good advantage of the quiet time to make excellent progress with our documentation and conservation work on both sides of the river.

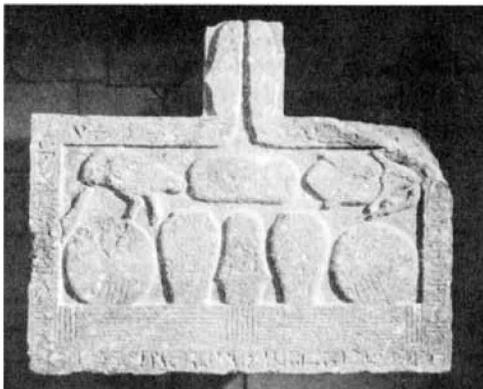
At Medinet Habu the epigraphic team had the pleasure of working and consulting with former Epigraphic Survey assistant director and senior epigrapher Richard Jasnow. It was great to have him back; our discussions on the epigraphic process were stimulating and helpful. Randy is now reviewing collation sheets at the wall and is taking to the collation process quite well. New librarian/epigrapher Steven Shubert arrived in mid-November and has begun his epigraphic training in addition to taking over the management of the Chicago

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House library, kindly assisted by volunteer Debbie Doyle who worked with us from mid-November to mid-December. In order to maximize our epigraphic efforts, we have modified the Chicago House library hours, and are now open weekdays, afternoons only, from 2:00–5:00 PM, and on Fridays all day, from 8:00 AM–5:00 PM. So far this seems to be working quite well.

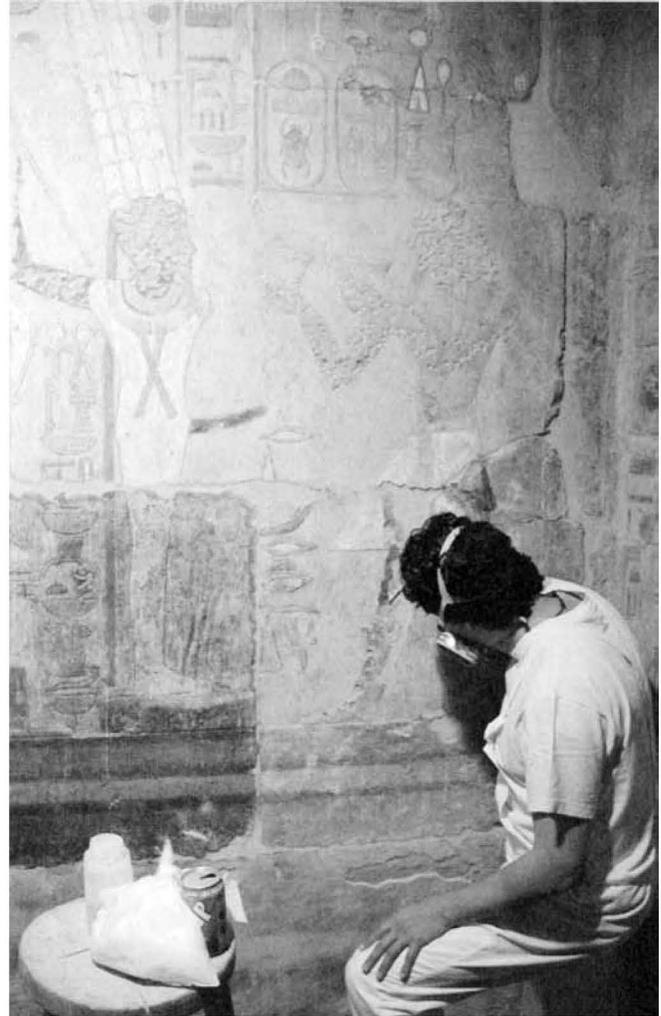
The Medinet Habu conservators, supervised by Lotfi, are finishing up the cleaning of the two southernmost sanctuary rooms in the small Amun temple, and will move into the front central chamber next week. At that time the team of epigraphic artists, Margaret De Jong, Will Schenck, and Sue Osgood will move into the two vacated chambers to document the newly exposed painted details and inscriptions. Once the epigraphers have checked the artist's work for accuracy, the details will be added to the drawings, which will be published in the first volume of the small Amun temple series, *Medinet Habu*. When the artists and epigraphers are finished, photographer Yarko Kobylecky will document the painted reliefs with large-format color transparencies for the final publication.

Stonecutter Dany Roy has continued to lay the new sandstone flooring in the front central room, and to seal the bark sanctuary roof against rainwater. This work will continue throughout December. In the back naos room the stone pavement has been cleaned and prepared for new stone paving to be added where it is missing on the west side. The floor of the naos room has subsided in the direction of the granite naos due to its weight, and two central floor blocks were removed to raise them slightly to the level of the other floor blocks. In the process a section of the underpinnings of the naos was exposed, revealing one of the foundation stones to be a large, black-granite offering table inscribed with the names of two God's Wives of Amun, Amenirdis I and her adopted daughter Shepenwepet II. It was reused by the Ptolemies as a foundation stone for the large red-granite naos (but which we found was actually supporting nothing). The protruding 'spout' of this offering table was noted peeking out of the floor debris by conservator John Stewart years ago. The offering table appears to be a larger version of another one similarly inscribed, on view in the funerary chapel of Amenirdis across the way, which was also found reused elsewhere in the Medinet Habu precinct in the 19th century. Tina has supervised the cleaning and recording of this area, and



Inscribed surface of Shepenwepet II offering table. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky

Dany will coordinate the moving of the offering table. Tina has also found that when the naos foundation was dug in the Ptolemaic Period, a small sandstone wall



Conservator Lotfi Hassan cleaning painted wall reliefs in the small Amun temple, Medinet Habu

predating Hatshepsut and Thutmose III's temple was exposed and partly dismantled; some of the small, squarish blocks can be seen in the naos underpinnings. Tina is carefully mapping and planning this area, and its date so far is uncertain. Hatshepsut herself renewed the whole small Amun temple complex before capping it with her sandstone monument late in her reign, and it is possible that this feature dates to an earlier phase of her work there.

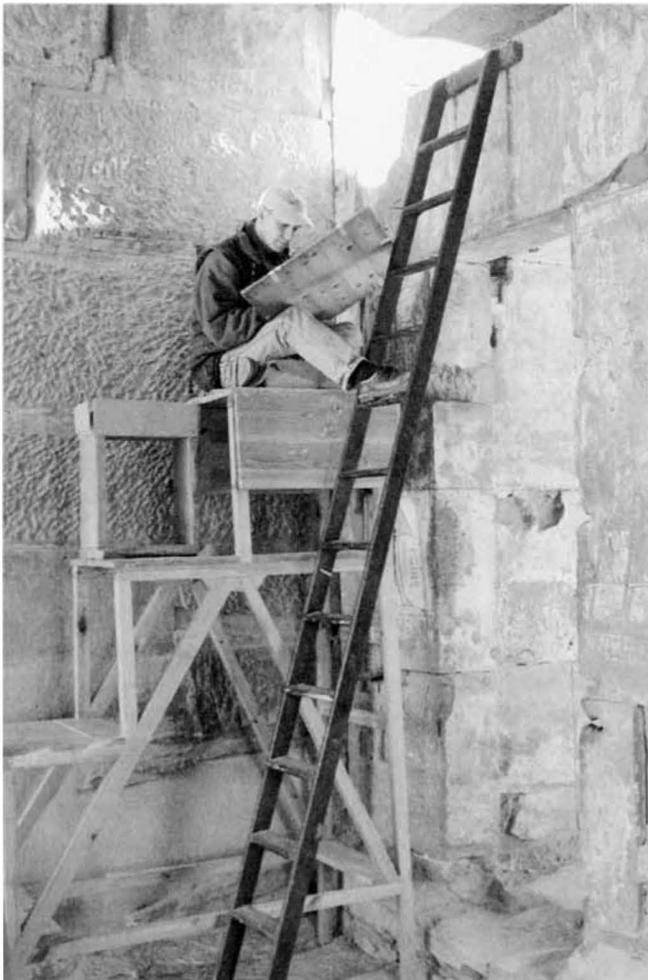
Things are also hopping at Luxor Temple. This season marks the seventh and final year of a grant approved by the SCA, EAP (Egyptian Antiquities Project), USAID, and ARCE for the consolidation of deteriorating decorated sandstone wall fragments in the Luxor Temple blockyard. While the grant is expiring this year, EAP and ARCE have allowed us to launch a long-term storage, consolidation, and documentation program for the preservation of this priceless, inscribed material, which the Epigraphic Survey is committed to continue, and we are extremely grateful for the initial boost by ARCE. We extend our sincerest thanks to them at this time.

I am pleased to report that the World Monuments Fund (WMF) has awarded the Epigraphic Survey and Oriental Institute a Robert Wilson Challenge Grant which matches funds

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raised in Egypt in Egyptian Pounds for conservation of the Luxor Temple inscribed stone wall fragments. The grant will allow the Epigraphic Survey to build more damp-coursed storage and treatment platforms for all the remaining Luxor Temple fragments presently stored on the ground, an emergency measure designed to slow the accelerated decay of this material due to high groundwater and ever increasing salinity in the soil. The grant will also cover the restoration of an Opet-register fragment group to the east wall of the Colonnade Hall (the reassembly of which will help stabilize that particular section of wall), and the continued structural study and monitoring of Luxor Temple by structural engineer Conor Power. I have been working in the southeast area moving and sorting by category inscribed wall material from the ground onto the new storage platforms of our expanded blockyard. New damp-coursed brick mastaba/platforms will be constructed this month in the area now cleared of blocks, thanks in large part to this grant.

Back on the home front, as insurance, we have initiated the publication quality, large-format photography of all of our drawings-in-progress as emergency backup (more than two hundred total) for volumes 1 and 2 of the small Amun temple series. These interim negatives will be brought back



Artist Will Schenck penciling the "Akoris Gateway" of the small Amun temple, Medinet Habu

to Chicago during the course of this season, and will act as backup in the unlikely event of evacuation or delayed return to Luxor. We will also have total digital backup back at home of all of our Photo Archives large-format negative holdings, and much of the small-format negatives by the end of this season. This is in the best interests of the Oriental Institute anyway, but under the changed world circumstances of post-September 11, I have made sure it is the season priority for my photography and Photo Archives staff. We will be prepared, for anything.

The holy month of Ramadan began in mid-November this year. We also had an excellent Thanksgiving celebration, largely in-house this year, and are looking forward to the end of Ramadan feast (the Eid El-Fitr), and the Christmas holidays, which are almost upon us.

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Chicago House's December and January were so crammed with field work, site reviews, and visitors there was practically no time to sit down and write about it. The two months are therefore presented together here.

A number of season objectives were reached in the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu during the last two months. The cleaning of the two southern painted sanctuaries projected for Volume 1 was finished by the conservation team headed by Lotfi, and the newly exposed painted details were plotted on paint collation sheets by artists Margaret, Sue, Will, and myself, and then passed on to epigraphers Harold and Brett, who are finishing the final checking now. One of the goals for this season is to have all the painted details added to the drawings of these two chambers before the season's end. The paint collation of the south wall of the king's chamber was completed as well and will continue shortly in the central sanctuary, where the conservators are now finishing the cleaning of the west and north walls. This whole room, once quite dark with soot, is becoming lighter and more colorful every day and will be a striking backdrop to the colossal granodiorite statue of Thutmosis III and Amun we restored in the center of the room last year. The cleaned walls also greatly enhance the clarity of the publication photographs of the decorated wall surfaces, and will make our final publication of these wall scenes quite spectacular.

New epigrapher Randy finished his introductory epigraphic training in December and has been producing excellent collations ever since, under the supervision of Brett and Harold. Epigrapher and librarian Steven has been splitting his time between epigraphic training in the mornings and library work in the afternoons. All the epigraphers and artists have been working in the bark sanctuary and ambulatory areas of the temple (Volume 2), but as Volume 1 sanctuary walls are cleaned, the epigraphic staff immediately turns to the final paint collation of those walls.

In the northwest naos room the floor underpinnings were cleaned and carefully recorded by Tina, and the large granodiorite offering table was recovered and raised by Dany. It is presently in the bark sanctuary awaiting final cleaning by Lotfi and is a major unknown monument of the 25th Dynasty. Preliminary analysis by Harold indicates that both this

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offering table and the one across the way at the Amenirdis chapel are inscribed with a late version of Pyramid Text utterance 44. Tina created a numbered database of all the objects found in the cleaning of the naos room and general sanctuary area, and she coordinated the photography of relevant objects (196 total) with photographer Yarko for a future publication of the archaeological information gleaned from the small Amun temple since our predecessor Hölscher's work in the 1930s. When the recording of the underlying area of the naos room was finished by Tina and Yarko, Dany carefully infilled that area with clean sand and gravel and put back the three original sandstone paving stones. We put them back at a slightly higher level than we found them, as they had subsided slightly since antiquity.

On the small Amun temple roof Dany has continued the sealing and patching of missing roof blocks. One of the problems of the roofing over the bark sanctuary ambulatory has been how to direct rainwater off that section on the north side. This is problematic because the Ptolemaic roof restoration blocks and rain-spouts were all removed in the medieval period, and the roof presently slants toward the inner, decorated bark sanctuary, the opposite direction of where we need the water to go. After a careful examination of the roof blocks, Dany and I formulated a plan that will now allow the rainwater to be directed off the roof through a gap in the roof blocks on the north side, through a special rainspout we will construct, identical to one we installed on the south side over the sanctuary year before last. In January Dany and our chief engineer Girgis Samwell visited the Gebel Silsilla sandstone quarries – where the original sandstone was quarried for the temple by Hatshepsut and Thutmosis III – and ordered new stone cut to our specifications for the roof patching and new floor blocks below.

For the last two seasons structural engineer Conor Power has conducted a structural survey of Luxor Temple. He and his wife Marcia joined us from December 6–15 to resume monitoring the structural integrity of Luxor Temple, and consultation on the preservation and restoration work in the blockyard and Colonnade Hall. While here Conor also kindly took the time to review the structural integrity of the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu, and assisted us in isolating areas requiring additional stabilization work over the next two years, with funding from a new two-year conservation grant extension from ARCE/EAP. As I write this, he is with us now for one more day (between jobs in Cairo), consulting with conservator Hiroko Kariya in the blockyard on the long-range planning of our sandstone consolidation program.

The Luxor Temple wall-fragment conservation team (conservator Hiroko Kariya and volunteers Nan and David Ray) arrived during the fourth week of January to resume the consolidation of the deteriorating fragments in the Epigraphic Survey blockyard. In November and December our workmen



Stonecutter Dany Roy supervising the removal of floor blocks in the naos room of the small Amun temple, Medinet Habu

and I moved more than a thousand sandstone wall fragments off the wet ground in the southern area onto the damp-coursed storage platforms constructed year before last to the north, sorted by category. In the newly cleared area I have had twelve new storage platforms constructed which David and Nan (and our workmen) are now filling with more fragments still on the ground. I should mention that the generous assistance of the Rays is allowing this program to lurch forward at a most critical time, and we owe them a great debt of thanks. Before moving, each fragment is examined by me and given a tentative date and provenience. I then mark it in chalk with the number of the mastaba platform designated for that particular category, and the Rays supervise its transportation to that mastaba. Whenever possible, each category is stored closest to its original provenience. For instance the new southern mastabas house fragments identified by their content and style as coming from the sanctuary area of Amenhotep III's temple proper interior, as well as fragmentary reliefs of Ramesses III which graced the exterior of the temple proper. Some reconstructible fragment groups from lintels and doorways are being placed on the front mastabas for partial reassembly and public view. These, along with written information posted at several locations along the front of our blockyard, will explain to the general public (who pass by in tremendous numbers) the Oriental Institute/University of Chicago's work in the blockyard in partnership with the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and our aim to properly store, record, preserve, publish, and reassemble this material in its original context.

At the moment we are also constructing another ten long storage platforms in the northeast area, which are almost

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Amir Abdel Hamid, Amira Khattab, and Ray Johnson celebrate Christmas at Chicago House. Photograph by Sue Lezon

finished, with more planned. Our immediate goal is to have all the fragments in the southern and part of the northern areas up off the ground and away from the corrosive, salt-laden groundwater by the end of this season. The long-term goal is to have every fragment presently on the ground in the Luxor Temple precinct off the ground by April 2003, and the reconstruction of two groups on their original walls started.

There has been some unexpected "baksheesh," this season at Luxor Temple. The SCA has been dismantling the sandstone retaining wall that runs along the east side of the Corniche Boulevard the entire length of Luxor Temple, almost a quarter of a mile long, and they are rebuilding the retaining wall with a fresh new sandstone facing. They have found that the old wall – at the south end twenty feet high – is made up of reused wall fragments recovered during the original clearance of the temple in the late 19th century. I estimate that about 10% of the material is inscribed, which means that when they are finished we will have another thousand or so fragments "in the kitty." Because this is all happening, providentially, during our field season, the Epigraphic Survey is collaborating with the SCA and has adjusted its mastaba/platform-building program to include a special storage area in our southern and western blockyards for the new material, which we will keep together and analyze separately for now. Included are wall fragments from every part of the Luxor Temple complex and parts of Karnak, and dozens of small "talatat" blocks of Akhenaten from his Karnak structures, all unknown and unrecorded. One of the talatat preserves part of an enigmatic scene for which I can find no parallel in Akhenaten's art, either at Karnak or Amarna, just the sort of thing one hopes will pop up more often!

The last two months have seen a steady rise in tourism in Luxor, and the town is quite busy at the moment, in marked contrast to October and November. This is partly due to the Egyptian school holidays which are in full force now, and an influx of Egyptian families on vacation. But there has been a noticeable rise in the num-

ber of foreign tourists as well, and the numbers continue to grow. Although tourism has been slow we have had quite a few visitors, including assistant to the director Emily Napolitano's mother Consuelo LeZama; Eric Nordgren (former Oriental Institute conservator) visiting from the Institute of Nautical Archaeology in Alexandria; Oriental Institute graduate students Josh Trampier and Tobin Hartnell; friends Ros and Jac Janssen, Jay Heidel, Jamie Humphrey, Harry Broadhead, and Mark Chickering who joined us for the Christmas holidays; Princess Jawaher of Saudi Arabia; and many, many colleagues. We were particularly pleased to have as special guests for the Christmas holidays ARCE Assistant Director Amira Khattab and her son Amir Abdel Hamid, ARCE Office Manager, in appreciation for their invaluable help over the years.

Chicago House has also hosted several site reviews by various funding agencies which support the field work of the Epigraphic Survey. On December 4-5 there were ARCE/EAP reviews at both temples. On January 1-2, and later on January 7-9, two groups of British Petroleum (BP) representatives came by to see our work at both temple sites and to discuss additional support. On January 6-9 the World Monuments Fund President, Technical Director, and Development Director came by for a review of our work and similar discussions. On January 16 Chicago House hosted a Congressional Staff Delegation to lunch, a library briefing, and site trips with me to Luxor and Karnak Temples, Medinet Habu, and the Valley



Workmen constructing damp-coursed brick mastaba platforms for decorated wall-fragment storage and analysis, Luxor Temple blockyard

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of the Kings. On February 2 I had the pleasure of briefing Bill Stanton, Director of Egyptian and North African Affairs, US State Department, on the USAID-funded preservation projects in Luxor (mostly us), and showing him our facility and work on-site; he told us that he was particularly impressed by the commitment of the Epigraphic Survey professional staff whom he saw working at both our sites and commented that the United States was well-represented by the Oriental Institute/University of Chicago in Luxor.

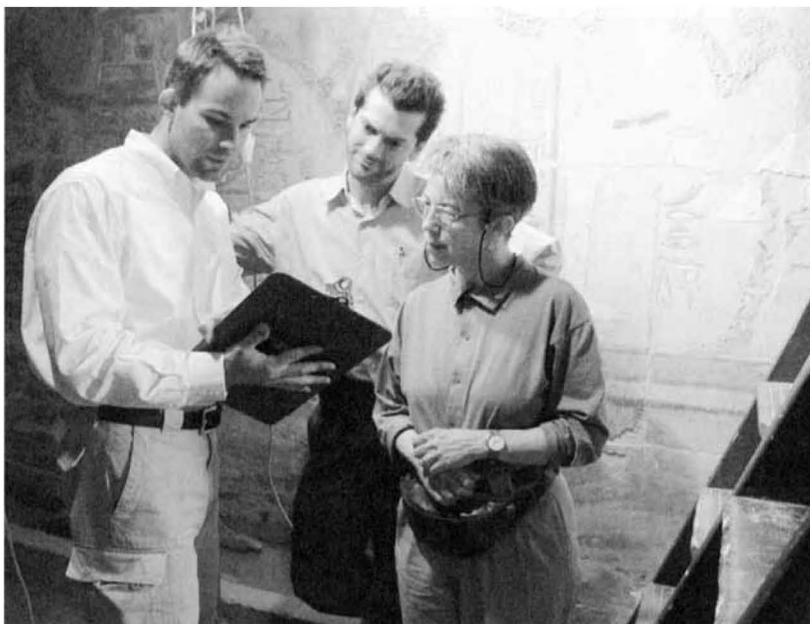
Some of the larger issues (like groundwater) threatening the preservation of Luxor's monuments are now being addressed by the Egyptian government and other agencies, and Chicago House has been able to help facilitate some of that valuable work as well, since it affects us all. On January 4 the Swedish groundwater engineers (SWECO) returned to resume their groundwater study of the Karnak and Luxor Temple areas, and we were able to arrange a meeting with the World Monuments Fund representatives while they were in town to discuss the funding of any future groundwater lowering initiatives. We have also facilitated an important dialogue between SWECO, the Karnak USAID waste water project directed by our old friend Bob Kachinsky, and the SCA; they are now coordinating their efforts in order to minimize any new trenching of antiquities land.

It has been a busy two months (what I've written represents only the highlights!), and this promises to be the case for the duration of the season. But we have made good progress on all fronts, and set the tone for the rest of the season.

FEBRUARY

February has been a full and productive time in Luxor, as the seasons begin to change and the winter cold is gradually being replaced with warmer weather (and sandstorms!). At Medinet Habu the epigraphy, conservation, and restoration work made good progress. Steven finished his basic training at the wall this month and began "real" collations on the small Amun temple bark sanctuary exterior south wall, while managing the library during the afternoons. The paint collations of the two southern sanctuaries and south wall of the northern king's chamber were also completed by the epigraphic team this month, after which I reviewed all of the drawings with their newly added painted details at the wall, scene by scene. In addition, Margaret has added the painted details to the drawings of the western wall of the main sanctuary, the cleaning of which was finished by Lotfi earlier in the month, and Brett is working on the collation of that work.

In the two southern sanctuaries, both inscribed before Hatshepsut's death, just below the roof line is a decorative frieze of Hatshepsut's prenomen, Maatkare, written in rebus form: a rearing cobra ('Maat') coiled within ka arms ('Ka') and crowned with a horned disk ('Re'). The name frieze has been totally cleaned in this area and now displays some won-



Epigraphers Brett McClain and Harold Hays completing a paint collation with Artist Sue Osgood in the small Amun temple, Medinet Habu

derfully preserved painted details. Because it was decided long ago not to include the somewhat repetitive frieze in our facsimile drawings of the ritual scenes below, we selected an example of the rebus with the best paint preserved, Yarko photographed it, and Will will pencil and ink a facsimile detail of the frieze this spring for the final publication.

Brett, Tina, and I also reviewed and planned the final facsimile drawing and collation of all of the graffiti in the sanctuaries (Volume 1), including 18th Dynasty painted-ink graffiti which guided the post-Amarna restorers, and later demotic graffiti. Yarko will do special detail photography of some of the newly cleaned examples, Tina will draw the new ones (1:1) and will add new details to the previously noted (and drawn) ones, after which everything will be collated by the epigraphers.

Lotfi continued to supervise Adel and Nahed in the cleaning of the painted reliefs in the first chamber of the sanctuary. As noted above, they finished the cleaning of the west wall this month, minus the decorative name frieze, which has allowed the collation of the ritual scenes. Lotfi was obliged to return to Italy for residency paperwork on the 15th, but is returning this weekend with wife Giuliana and baby Giulia to complete another month's cleaning in the small Amun temple. Earlier this month we met with conservator Lamia Hadidy when she passed through Luxor on her way to work with Renée Friedman at Hierakonpolis, and she has agreed to join our team next season to help speed along the cleaning in the sanctuaries. I should also mention here that Lotfi has been awarded a prestigious "2002 British Petroleum Fellowship in the British Museum" from April 15 to May 10, for which he was invited to apply by BP, and which immediately follows our season.

Dany has been implementing our drainage plan for the roof of the bark sanctuary on the northern side. By season's end, any future rainwater will be channeled off the roof through a spout on the north, which will protect the painted reliefs below. In mid-month we received two truck loads of

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freshly quarried, rough-cut sandstone slabs from Gebel Silsilla handpicked by Dany at the quarry for our roof, wall stabilization, and flooring work in the small temple, which should keep him busy for awhile! The stone will be used for the last phases of our extended USAID/EAP/ARCE grant for the documentation and conservation of the small Amun temple during the course of the next two years.

Earlier this month Yarko, assisted by Ellie Smith, started the photography of the Ptolemaic Pylon western doorjamb offering scenes, which will be published in Volume 4 of the small Amun temple series. Whenever possible we try to use our older photographic negatives for drawing enlargements, as, sadly, there is often much more data preserved in them than is present on the wall now. We have complete photographic coverage of the Ptolemaic Pylon reliefs taken by the Epigraphic Survey in the 1930s, but the negative of the western side displays severe distortion which disallows its use for drawing enlargements, which must be totally square, hence this reshoot. The older photograph will be used as reference when the drawings are prepared, and all information not present today will be added by the artists.

At Luxor Temple Hiroko continued the consolidation and monitoring of the 1,700 decorated wall fragments in the core Survey blockyard and the moving to new storage platforms of a group of severely deteriorating Akhenaten talatat blocks. We finished the WMF-funded construction of 181 meters of damp-coursed storage platforms in the south and north ends of the blockyard, and are preparing to resume construction of another 100 meters of these mastaba platforms in the next few days. Nan and David coordinated the moving and tracking of over 1,500 decorated wall fragments to the new storage and treatment areas, finished up their six weeks with us on March 1, and are now on their way home. The fact that we are way ahead of schedule with this salvage project at this most critical time is totally due to their assistance.

Photo Archivist Sue Lezon returned to Luxor (with husband Jamie Riley) on February 14, Valentines Day. She carried 89 Chicago House Photo Archives CDs to the US in December, which joined 47 CDs already there for a total of 136 safely transported to the States. The approximate number of images from the Chicago House archive now in the US currently totals 12,250 (out of 18,000). As of February 28, 8,500 images have been optimized for inclusion in the Chicago House Photo Archives large-format negative database. So far, 3,000 images have been added to the database. At season's end, the remaining CDs will travel with her back to the US, and our large-format negative collection will be digitally backed up at home.

Ellie continues her work on data entry into the Chicago House 35mm photographic database. With the assistance of computer whiz Harold, several fields of the database have been modified in order to speed up the data entry process. To date, over 16,000 data entries have been completed, and all this season (Ellie is simply amazing). This is not the most exciting work in the world, or the easiest, but for data tracking it is absolutely crucial, and Ellie has our sincerest thanks. Images will be added to this database in the future.

Tina and our workmen, under Steven's direction, be-

gan the process of reorganizing the journals and series stacks in the Chicago House library main hall to accommodate their growing numbers, a task that is being finished as I write this report. In all, approximately 4,500 volumes were moved. In a week or two the remaining stacks in the new hall will be shifted to accommodate the changeover of our non-journal and series holdings to the Library of Congress classification system, a process begun last season.

Tourism is way up, almost to normal levels, with all its pluses and minuses; the crowds are definitely back, and our library tours have picked up a bit, kindly facilitated by Emily. This is also the time when many of our foreign colleagues return to resume their field work, and many groups came back this month, including Daniel Polz's mission to Dra Abu El Naga, José Galan's mission from Madrid to the same area, Geoffrey Martin and the Amarna Royal Tombs Project in the Valley of the Kings (to whom we lent artist Will Schenck for a couple of days of emergency drawing), Kent and Susan Week's KV 5 Project (the tomb of some of Ramesses II's sons), Horst Jaritz and the Merenptah Mortuary Temple Project, and the



Photographer Yarko Kobylecky assisted by Ellie Smith photograph the Ptolemaic Pylon, west side, small Amun temple

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Amenhotep III Mortuary Temple Project directed by Rainer Stadelmann and Hourig Souruzian. We have had a series of very fruitful site visits on our Sundays off to see the work of our friends, and have hosted similar visits to our sites. There is a lot of very interesting work going on (in addition to our own), and sharing is one of the great things about being out here.

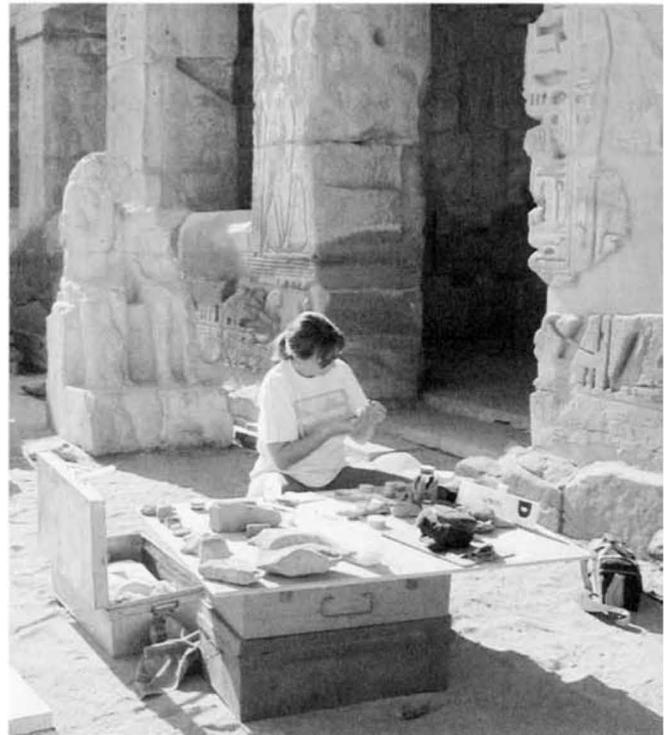
Of all of the numerous friends and colleagues who have passed by to visit or use the library lately, none were more welcome than Richard Fazzini of the Brooklyn Museum Egyptian and Classical Art department and his wife Mary McKercher. Most of you know that Richard responded miraculously to his chemotherapy treatments, and is right back to his old self. This was definitely a triumphant return. We look forward to the resumption of his field work at Mut temple next year with co-director Betsy Bryan, who went it alone this year (and who has just returned to the US after the successful completion of her work). Irmgard Hein from the Institut für Ägyptologie at the University of Vienna joined us for a week of consulting work with Helen Jacquet and her pottery at North Karnak. Helen, by the way, has just finished her work for the season at North Karnak and is putting the finishing touches on her master plan of the Khonsu Temple roof for her publication of the rooftop graffiti, currently being reviewed for publication at the Oriental Institute.

I should mention that there are some noticeable absences from our ranks this spring. Our beloved Henri Riad joined his family in Cairo for Coptic Christmas at the beginning of January this year, as is his usual habit, but he did not return to Luxor due to poor health; he is very frail this year, and has a cough he just can't get rid of. We talk to him regularly and he is in good spirits, living with his son Sharif and his family, but we miss him very much. We also are missing two other dear friends who would ordinarily be with us at this time, Carlotta Maher and Mary Grimshaw, whom circumstances wouldn't allow back. We miss them TOO MUCH.

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It's hard to believe that our six-month field season has come to an end; where did the time go? On April 15 the Epigraphic Survey successfully concluded its 78th six-month field season in Luxor. While the staff departed Chicago House for home, Tina kindly stayed behind to oversee the closing down procedure for the next two weeks. I spent several days in Cairo wrapping up the paperwork for the season at the American Research Center, submitted my final report and application for next year's work with the Egyptian SCA, and touched base with our friends at the US Embassy, USAID, and Egyptian Museum.

March and April saw a continuation of the drawing and collating of the drawings for the first two volumes of the Medinet Habu small Amun temple series, and I was able to "director's review" all twenty-four of the drawing enlargements for the two southern sanctuary rooms which had been paint collated by the artists and epigraphers. These two rooms are now ready for publication in Volume 1, while an additional two scenes in the front central sanctuary have been collated and are ready for my review next season after the rest of the chamber has been completely cleaned. End of the



Tina Di Cerbo cataloguing objects found in the sanctuary floor debris of the small Amun temple, Medinet Habu

season tallies indicate that a total of thirteen new drawings for Volumes 2 and 3 were penciled at the wall by the artists this season, ten new drawings were inked as studio work, and twenty additional drawings (some penciled last year) will be inked over the summer for collation starting next season. In addition to the Volume 1 material, eleven new drawings for Volume 2 were collated by the epigraphers at the wall, while the artists transferred corrections to nine additional drawings which were transfer-checked and cleared by the epigraphers. Director's checks were completed on seven drawings, four of which will appear in Volume 1 and three in Volume 2, with more ready for my review next year.

Tina coordinated the sorting, cleaning, identification, labeling, photography, storage, and cataloging of the 196 objects (not counting pottery) found during cleaning and restoration work in the sanctuary area of the small Amun temple since 1984. This group of objects includes beads; copper fragments; glass; ostraca; ushebti; a small, inlaid eye with copper rim; and stone fragments, including 111 sandstone relief fragments, eight of which Tina was able to place in four of the back sanctuary rooms and the bark sanctuary ambulatory. In addition, Tina created an illustrated database of 204 graffiti at the small Amun temple (including forty additional unpublished graffiti from the sanctuary rooms, the roof, and the façade) and 263 graffiti in the Ramesses III mortuary temple which will help us track old and new examples for publication. In March Yarko, assisted by Sue and Ellie, photographed all of the cleaned wall surfaces in the southern and front central sanctuaries with 35mm and 4x5 color transparency film for the final publication. Yarko and Ellie also finished the photography of the Ptolemaic Pylon doorjambs and lintel on the west side, over eleven meters in height, with



Conservator Hiroko Kariya installing a plumb bob monitor on the south face of the east pylon, Luxor Temple

large-format black and white film in ten sections, for drawing enlargements and photographic details which will be published in Volume 4.

During March and April Lotfi, Adel, and Nahed cleaned two and a half walls in the front central chamber, including the western wall and inscribed doorway with flanking reliefs of Hatshepsut (cartouche changed to Thutmose III) embracing Amun. Adel and Nahed replaced deteriorated mortar between the wall courses with hydraulic lime and sandstone powder, and assisted in the wall cleaning. They also cleaned the surface of the granodiorite offering table from the naos room (which Yarko and Ellie then photographed), and which is now temporarily stored in the bark sanctuary. Dany completed the grouting with liquid mortar of the sanctuary roof area, and continued the patching of missing roof blocks over the bark sanctuary and ambulatory, replacing ancient Ptolemaic ones removed since antiquity. In all, seventy-eight new sandstone slabs of varying sizes (covering twelve square meters in total surface) were laid on the northern section over the bark sanctuary, and a new drain spout off the northern side of the roof was put into place.

At Luxor Temple Hiroko coordinated the Luxor Temple

Fragment Project through March 30. Thanks to the Robert Wilson matching grant and the World Monuments Fund, in April the Epigraphic Survey completed the first year of a two-year program to raise all of the decorated stone wall fragments around Luxor Temple off the ground onto protective brick platforms designated by category. By the end of this season 310 meters of damp-coursed storage and treatment mastaba platforms (thirty-five platforms total) had been constructed east of the temple precinct to the north and south of the present Survey blockyard, and 5,000 decorated wall fragments had been raised from the ground onto the new platforms for storage, conservation, and analysis. Mastaba categories include Hatshepsut/Thutmose III; Amenhotep III back sanctuary; Amenhotep III sun court; Akhenaten talatat; Colonnade Hall (Tutankhamun and Sety I); Ramesses II first court interior and exterior; Ramesses III exterior back sanctuary; 25th Dynasty; 26th Dynasty; Akoris and miscellaneous raised relief; miscellaneous sunk relief; Ptolemaic/Roman raised relief; Ptolemaic/Roman sunk relief; and miscellaneous Christian and medieval. Jamie Riley took over the supervision of the fragment moving in March and worked with our workmen until the very end of the season. Because of his efforts, and those of Nan and David Ray before him, we were able to get far more accomplished than I had believed we would, which means far more material saved, and it really made a difference. The goodwill this project is generating among the local antiquities officials in Luxor is enormous.

As part of this program, in the north area Hiroko supervised the emergency moving of ninety-two severely decaying fragments (mostly unaccessioned Akhenaten talatat) from the damp ground onto two damp-coursed platforms. These mastabas were then covered with a framework over which was stretched Tyvek (spun-bonded olefin made of high-density polyethylene) and plastic-lined fabric, for protection against the wind and rain. One additional fifteen-meter mastaba was constructed west of the Ramesses II court for the storage of 500 remaining inscribed block fragments reused in the cornice retaining wall. Another 500 inscribed blocks were placed on designated mastabas by the Epigraphic Survey for the SCA in part of the new southern block storage area. This sample of material contained examples of all of the categories listed above, and was also organized by category.

Conor Power returned to Luxor briefly to consult with the Swedish SWECO dewatering engineers (currently studying a near-future Karnak and Luxor dewatering project), and coordinated the monitoring of the Luxor Temple pylons for possible movement with them. At the beginning of the year SWECO installed two plumb bobs (over targets) and several surveying points on the south face of the east pylon for that task. At Conor's advice, in March, and with the kind assistance of the SWECO engineers, Hiroko installed one additional plumb bob against the east pylon's south face, and two crack monitors about half way up the pylon to supplement the monitoring.

It has been a great pleasure to have Steven Shubert back with us as epigrapher and librarian. He has whipped the Chicago House library into great shape and is systematically tidying up seventy-eight years' worth of little messes, as well

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as keeping up with book acquisitions (over 200 this year). It is the first time in many years, if at all, that Chicago House has had a professional librarian (as well as Egyptologist) supervising the library, and Steven's presence marks a major milestone in the upgrading of our library facility.

This season also marked great progress in the maintenance and upgrading of the Chicago House Photo Archives, which becomes a more precious commodity with every passing year. Sue over the last three seasons has coordinated the digital scanning onto CD-ROM of the 18,000 large-format negatives in our collection, and we hit the 17,000 mark this season. Further, a copy of everything which has been scanned is now back in the US as backup, which, in these troubled times, is just good sense. This summer Sue will continue the process of adding those images to our new large-format-negative Filemaker Pro database which will continue to have images added to it in time, as this is just the beginning of our upgrade program.

March saw a marked increase in tourists and visitors to Chicago House, including the annual Oriental Institute tour, led by Robert Ritner and accompanied this time by the Oriental Institute's Head of Education Carole Krucoff, making her first (but not last!) visit to Egypt. We had the pleasure of showing them our work at Luxor Temple and Medinet Habu, and hosting a library briefing and reception in the residence courtyard. Robert later returned to spend a week with us after the tour, consulting with us at Medinet Habu, and doing some personal research.

Other visitors at season's end included the Director of USAID Egypt, Bill Pearson and his wife Genie, with whom we were able to share our work and home; and BP Chairman Lord John Browne, who I had the pleasure of squiring around Luxor -- including our work sites -- on April 11; he was also able to join us for a quick lunch and library briefing at Chicago House, between sites. We are particularly grateful for BP's ongoing support. On March 27 I gave a two-hour talk at ARCE headquarters in Cairo on the work of the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, and gave a shorter version of the same at the ARCE meetings in Baltimore on the weekend of April 26. Speaking after me at those meetings, Harold presented an excellent paper on his study of the texts of the 25th Dynasty offering table of Shepenwepet II, recovered from the small Amun temple.

The professional staff this season, besides the field director, consisted of J. Brett McClain, Harold Hays, and Randy Shonkwiler as epigraphers; Steven Shubert as epigrapher and librarian; Christina Di Cerbo, Margaret De Jong, Susan Osgood, and Will Schenck as artists; Yarko Kobylecky as staff photographer; Susan Lezon as photo archivist; Emily Napolitano as assistant to the director and office manager; Jill Carlotta

Maier as assistant to the director; Safinaz Ouri as finance manager; Marlin Sarwat Nassim as accountant; Elinor Smith and Debbie Doyle as assistants for the photo archives and library; Nan and David Ray as assistants to the Luxor Temple blockyard; Jamie Riley as assistant to the blockyard and engineer; and Saleh Shehat Suleiman and Girgis Samwell as chief engineers. Lotfi Hassan, Adel Aziz Andraws, Nahed Samir, John Stewart, and Hiroko Kariya worked with us as conservators; Dany Roy as stonecutter; and Conor Power, P.E., as structural engineer consultant. Special thanks to Dr. Henri Riad, our beloved Egyptologist in residence, and to dear friends Helen and Jean Jacquet. To our partners in preservation, the Supreme Council of Antiquities, we owe a great debt of thanks: especially to Prof. Dr. G. A. Gaballa and Dr. Zahi Hawass, former and present Secretary General; Dr. Sabry Abdel Aziz, General Director of Antiquities for Upper Egypt; Dr. Mohamed el-Bialy, General Director for the West Bank of Luxor; Mr. Bakit, Director of Karnak and Luxor Temples; Mme. Nawal, Chief Inspector of Luxor Temple; and Ahmed Ezz, our Medinet Habu inspector. Special thanks must go to you, our friends. None of this would be possible without you.

Members of the Oriental Institute and Friends of Chicago House are always welcome to stop by and see us during our field season in Luxor. We suggest that you write or call in advance to schedule a meeting that is convenient to all. Chicago House is open from October 15 until April 15, and closed Saturday afternoons and Sundays. To arrange a visit during the season, please call the Oriental Institute Development Office at (773) 702-9513. We can be reached at the Oriental Institute during the summer months at (773) 702-9524. Please see page 12 for our address and phone numbers in Egypt.

All photographs, except where otherwise noted, are digital images taken by Ray Johnson.



Meeting of Epigraphic Survey artists and epigraphers in the portico of the Kushite Pylon of the small Amun temple to review drawings-in-progress, Medinet Habu

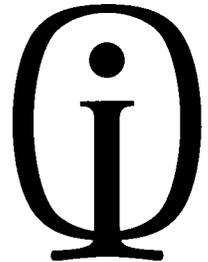
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CHICAGO HOUSE BULLETIN

Volume XIII, No. 1



ADDRESSES OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

October through March:

Chicago House
Luxor
Arab Republic of EGYPT
TEL: (011) (20) (95) 372525
FAX: (011) (20) (95) 381620

April through September:

The Oriental Institute
1155 East 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
TEL: (773) 702-9524
FAX: (773) 702-9853

The Epigraphic Survey home page is located at:
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