

ARCHIVES

John A. Larson

Museum Archivist John A. Larson completed his twenty-fourth year on the museum staff in June 2004. John began working in the Museum Office in June 1980 as a Project Assistant supported by a conservation grant from the National Science Foundation. His twenty-fourth anniversary as Museum Archivist takes place in early December.

Visiting scholars during 2003/2004 included Jeffrey Abt (Wayne State University, in July 2003, who continues to write on the career of James Henry Breasted and Sara Gardner, in May 2004, who is studying the incised paving stones of the Chalcolithic period found during the Oriental Institute's excavations at Megiddo. During the last week of January 2004, Robert Oberheid visited from Germany to examine material relating to the life and work of Hittitologist Emil Forrer. Since her "retirement" in October 2003, Karen L. Wilson has been working steadily on several research projects intended for publication, and we continue to see her in the West Basement for at least three days a week, on average.

Producer Leonard Aronson and his assistant Shawna Hanson spent more than fourteen months on the background research and photographic research for the WTTW Chicago television programs *Breaking Ground: The Story of the Oriental Institute* and *Pioneer to the Past: The Life and Times of James Henry Breasted*, which were broadcast in May 2004; numerous photographs from the Oriental Institute Archives illustrated the two programs.

On August 14, 2003, we had a visit from Erika Schmidt, daughter of Erich F. Schmidt, who is best known for his fieldwork in Iran.

Senior graduate students and Ph.D. candidates in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) make occasional use of materials in the Archives. In late September 2003, John Larson supervised the digital scanning of selected original collation sheets from the Coffin Texts Project by NELC Ph.D. candidate Harold Hays, so that Harold could take the scans with him to Chicago House for study purposes during the field season of the Epigraphic Survey. On November 26, 2003, NELC graduate student Asa Eger came to look at photographs from Schmidt's Aerial Survey of Iran; his colleague Toby Hartnell came on a similar errand on January 20, 2004. From January through April 2004, the graduate students in Prof. Aslihan Yener's Museum Installation Class — Natasha Bershinsky, Yigit Erbil, Stephanie Reed, Virginia Rimmer, and Bike Yazicioglu — made a series of appointments to collect field data for class projects relating to museum objects from the Oriental Institute excavations in the Amuq, in preparation for the installation of the East Gallery. In March and April 2004, NELC graduate student Eudora Struble made a series of appointments to see field records from the Oriental Institute excavations at Nahal Tabor in Israel for a Master's thesis. From late April through early June 2004, the NELC graduate students in Prof. Robert Ritner's Ramesside Seminar — Vanessa Davies, Jacqueline Jay, and Malayna Williams — met with John Larson to further their research on Egyptian antiquities dating to the Ramesside period in the museum collections.

And last (but certainly not least), Tom James assisted John Larson by photocopying hundreds of items from the Amuq field records in order to facilitate the research of Timothy Harrison (Tell Ta'yinat) and Prof. Aslihan Yener.

Photographic Services

John Larson has been assisted by graduate-student assistant Justine Warren James (January 2003 to present) and by former Museum Assistant Evelien Dewulf (June 2003 to April 2004), who

have had the responsibility for preparing the necessary paperwork and handling all the other details that are involved in processing the requests that we receive for photographic image materials and reproduction permissions — a total of 197 transactions during fiscal year 2003/2004.

Recent Acquisitions

We have received the following new acquisitions for the Oriental Institute Archives:

On July 15, 2003, Oriental Institute Photographer Jean Grant donated her personal collection of 35 mm color transparencies taken at the site of Korucutepe during the field season of 1970/1971, when she served as field photographer for the Euphrates Valley Expedition, under the direction of Hans G. Güterbock and Maurits van Loon.

On September 19, 2003, Mr. and Mrs. Robert I. Logan presented a study collection of twenty CD-ROMs containing digital scans of Mr. Logan's 35 mm color transparencies taken during their travels in Iran and Afghanistan in the late 1960s. Mrs. Logan is a cousin of longtime Oriental Institute volunteer Elizabeth Spiegel.

Volunteers

Generous contributions of volunteer time by a number of dedicated individuals make it possible for us to begin, continue, and complete projects in the Archives that we might not otherwise be able to undertake by committing staff time alone. James P. Baughman, Hazel Cramer, Peggy Grant, Patricia Hume, Sandra Jacobsohn, Lillian Schwartz, and Carole Yoshida continued working with John Larson as Oriental Institute Archives Volunteers throughout fiscal year 2003/2004. It is our happy obligation to recognize and thank these volunteers for their efforts.



Figure 3. Exhibit Preparator Erik Lindahl brazing a mount for use in the East Gallery