

RESEARCH ARCHIVES

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Introduction

Over the last two years, the Research Archives have undergone some very significant changes and updates. I have truly enjoyed being a part of these exciting developments, but I have recently decided to undertake new opportunities as a new faculty member at the School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of Liverpool. The decision to move to England was a difficult one. It has been a truly wonderful experience to be part of a vibrant institution such as the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. I am positive that my successor as the Head of the Research Archives will continue to develop and improve this valuable resource in the fields of ancient Near Eastern studies.

Acquisitions and Online Catalog

The library's holdings have increased significantly in 2006/2007. In addition to the continued effort to acquire important older publications that are missing in our holdings, we have received several thousand volumes, primarily from the generous donations of Erika Reiner and Gregory Areshian. Despite the extra work on these collections, we have continued to develop the electronic catalog of the Research Archives into a powerful, comprehensive, and modern research tool. The ultimate goal is to make this catalog an indispensable research tool for all scholars of the ancient Near East. The electronic catalog, which is available online at <http://oilib.uchicago.edu/>, includes all books and articles/reviews in journals acquired since 1990. We have continued last year's intensive effort to finish the retrospective cataloging of pre-1990 monographs and journals. At the time of writing (August 29, 2007), the catalog contains over 245,000 records. More than 41,000 entries (primarily journal articles) are linked directly to PDFs available online through JSTOR, EBSCO, ETANA, BRILL, PEETERS, etc. In the coming year, we will add another 30,000 links to online PDFs. We are very close to our goal of creating an online database of the holdings of our library that is completely integrated with both the free and the subscription-based Internet resources in our fields of study.

We have completely cataloged all SERIES and all FOLIOS in the Elizabeth Morse Genius Reading Room. There is nothing more to catalog in this room. There is still work to be done in the New Stacks. This room has a total of eighty-eight bookcases. As of today, we have finished

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fifty-six of these bookcases. This means that we have done roughly 64% of the monographs in the library, slightly more than estimated in last year's report. The progress with journal articles has been modest in 2006/2007. While all major journals have been covered, there are still many articles and reviews in peripheral journals that need to be cataloged in the coming year.

We expect to be completely done with all journal articles/reviews and have all the monographs done by the end of next year. The catalog will finally (after twenty-one years!) be complete and include all the holdings of the library.

Staff and Acknowledgments

Our team this past year included Foy Scalf, Annie Caruso, Kamran Cross, and Seunghee Yie. The large number of primarily Armenian and Russian publications in the donated books by Gregory Areshian were processed by Armine Harutyunyan. I am most grateful to my assistants for all their help in the past year, and for their hard work cataloging new acquisitions as well as retrospective cataloging of monographs, series, and journal articles.

THE TABLET COLLECTION**Walter Farber**

During the past year, the Tablet Room, under the daily care of Jonathan Tenney, continued to accommodate visitors for short, or sometimes extended, visits to work on cuneiform texts in our collection, as well as on materials from the Persepolis archives housed in the Oriental Institute. As in the past, the Tablet Room also opened its space to several of our own graduate students who, for their dissertations or for other projects, have used original texts from our collection. We are glad to be able to offer this convenient and, according to most users, very adequate facility to all colleagues wishing to do research on our tablets, sealings, and other small objects from our collections.
