PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

Thomas G. Urban

The full-time staff of the Publications Office consisted of Thomas G. Urban and Leslie Schramer. Senior Editorial Assistant Katie L. Johnson continued to provide invaluable assistance.

The Publications Office continues to assist the Membership and Development Offices with the publication of News & Notes, Annual Report, and miscellaneous postcards, brochures, and posters.

Sales

The David Brown Book Company and Oxbow Books Ltd., U.K., continue to represent the Institute for its book distribution. Although a limited number of titles are available for in-house sales in the Suq shop, please note that all external orders for Institute publications should be addressed to: The David Brown Book Company, P.O. Box 511, Oakville, CT 06779; Telephone Toll Free: 1-800-791-9354; Fax: 1-860-945-9468; E-mail: david.brown.bk.co@snet.net; Web site: www.oxbowbooks.com.

Information related to the sales of Oriental Institute titles may be obtained via e-mail:

oi-publications@uchicago.edu

During the year two titles sold out before they reached two years in print: Seth Sanders’ (ed.) Margins of Writing (OIS 2) and Nicola Laneri’s (ed.) Performing Death (OIS 3); the first was reprinted, as the second will be. Titles in the Oriental Institute Seminars (OIS) series are proving to be very popular, and we have doubled their print run. Having said that, titles in the Oriental Institute Museum Publications (OIMP) series are also selling very well, with two having sold out (John Larson’s Lost Nubia [OIMP 24] and Iman Saca’s Embroidering Identities [OIMP 25]).
and others nearing so. Indeed, sales have increased for all our titles, and since advertising has not changed, we credit the increase to having the Institute’s titles available online.

Electronic Publications

As part of the Oriental Institute’s Electronic Initiative, all new titles are simultaneously issued in print and as .pdf files delivered through the Oriental Institute’s Web site, while older titles are scanned, saved as .tif files and .pdfs, with the latter being posted online. To do the scanning, the Oriental Institute chose Northern MicroGraphics (NMT Corporation), located in La Crosse, Wisconsin. This year, the Publications Office oversaw the scanning of the following thirty-one older titles: Chicago Assyrian Dictionary (CAD) A/1, A/2, B, D, E, G, H, I/J, K, M/1, M/2, N/1, N/2, Q, S, S/1, S/2, S/3, Z; Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD) L–N; Materials for the Assyrian Dictionary (MAD) 2, 3; Oriental Institute Publications (OIP) 14, 44, 59, 65, 68, 69, 70; Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization (SAOC) 5; and Erich Schmidt’s Flights over Ancient Cities of Iran.

The Electronic Initiative has already proved to be very successful. The posted .pdfs are available wherever the Internet reaches, and our older titles, as well as the new ones, are especially appreciated in countries that do not have our titles on their library shelves, as we are repeatedly told by those who access them. An unexpected benefit is that we can extract images from the .pdf files and use them wherever we need them, as we did for the cover of the 51st Rencontre volume (SAOC 62; see illustration).

We are privileged to play such a significant role in the distribution of knowledge, and the posting of so many titles online can only raise the profile of the Oriental Institute in the field of Near Eastern studies to the world. We encourage everyone to visit the Publications Office Web page and browse the list of titles available online, noting especially that the dates of these volumes range from the 1930s to the present: oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog.

Volumes Printed (in Print and Online)


Volumes in Preparation
2. The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Volume U/W.
RESEARCH ARCHIVES

Manuscripts in Backlog


As announced in last year’s Annual Report, Dr. Magnus Widell has moved on from his position as Head of the Research Archives to take a faculty position as lecturer in Assyriology at the University of Liverpool. His jovial spirit around the Oriental Institute has surely been missed, especially by his Assyriological colleagues, and social hours in the Department of Near Eastern Languages will never be the same. During his tenure he initiated a number of very important developments in the Research Archives which will be maintained and fostered, and we wish him the very best in his new Liverpool home. Having worked in the Research Archives over the last six years with two librarians, Chuck Jones and Magnus, I hope to bring a refreshed approach to the development of the library and continue to make improvements in all facets of its operation. Both Chuck and Magnus taught me a great deal about what the Oriental Institute Research Archives is and isn’t, and many of the changes taking place are the result of their legacies.

Soon after the departure of Magnus in November, we had a serious structural concern with the large and beautiful glass window in the Reading Room. Part of the bracing from the large central Botti Studio crew replacing window panes in the Oriental Institute Research Archives.

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