The Oriental Institute

**Individual Research**

The Oriental Institute collection is scheduled to appear in the pages of the journal *Studien zur altägyptische Kultur* in 2009.

Foy continued to collaborate with recent NELC graduate Dr. Jackie Jay, now at Eastern Kentucky University, on the Oriental Institute Demotic ostraca, co-authoring a short article for the *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 200 (Winter) entitled "Accounting for Life in Ptolemaic and Roman Thebes: Online Access to Ancient Archives." They co-authored and submitted a manuscript entitled "Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online (O.I.D.O.O.): Merging Text Publication and Research Tools" for publication in the proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Demotic Studies, to be published by Peeters in the series Studia Demotica. After being submitted to several colleagues for review, the O.I.D.O.O. database of Oriental Institute Demotic ostraca is set for an official launch in late summer. For updates, check the Web site http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/oidoo/.

During the year, several articles which had been in press appeared. March saw the appearance of Foy's article "Rereading the 7th Count of Sneferu in the Palermo Stone" in *Göttinger Miszellen* 220 (2009), pp. 89–93. In June, his article "Statements of Identity and the m of Predication" appeared in *Lingua Aegyptia* 16 (2009), pp. 135–51. Another article, "Is That a Rhetorical Question? Shipwrecked Sailor (pHermitage 1115), 150 Reconsidered," was accepted for publication in *Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde* 136/2 (2009), concerning the interpretation of a passage in the well-known Middle Egyptian literary work known as the Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor.

Foy is currently working on several articles. "The Gods Piercing of Gaze" concerns an ogdoad of deities charged with caring for Osiris featured in Ptolemaic temple scenes, the First Book of Breathing, the Studenwachen, Late Period coffins, the Book of the Dead, and the Coffin Texts. "An Enthographic Parallel for Egyptian Oracular Practice and the Maintenance of Cosmic Order" details a divinatory practice still held in a modern Indian village that very closely parallels the methods and motivations of traditional Egyptian oracles involving divine barks. Foy continued work editing several texts as mentioned in last year's *Annual Report*, including Papyrus Rylands Hieratic 6 for his article "A Manuscript Containing the First and Second Books of Breathing in the John Rylands Library: Papyrus John Rylands Hieratic 6" and Notre Dame Hieratic Fragments 1–2 for his article "Two Hieratic Book of the Dead Texts on Linen from the Hesburgh Library of the University of Notre Dame." Foy has also been invited to contribute an article to the 10th anniversary volume of *Cahiers Caribéens d'Egyptologie* 13–14.

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**Andrea Seri**

Andrea Seri joined the Oriental Institute in September 2008. During the academic year she made considerable progress on her book project “The House of Prisoners: Slavery and State in Uruk during the Revolt against Samsu-iluna.” This book studies the *bīṭ asīrī* (“house of prisoners”) at the city of Uruk during the reign of king Ṛm-Anum. The analysis is based on over 350 tablets covering a period of about two years (from ca. 1742 to 1740 B.C.). The archive is exceptional in that it offers an unparalleled opportunity to reconstruct certain bureaucratic procedures of the institution and therefore to investigate its function and role. The tablets also cast light on state management of forced labor and on the fate of men, women, and children taken as captives and brought to the city of Uruk during the revolts against the ruler of Babylon. The information
contained in these documents is fundamental to trace the status transition of captives turned into slaves. Since a section of the archive deals with flour allocated to messengers and emissaries from other kingdoms, it is also possible to investigate the diplomatic dealings of rebel kings and therefore aspects of the poorly known political history of the period.

Andrea is also working on the prosopography of texts dated to king Rîm-Anum of Uruk and preparing an edition of a group of cuneiform tablets from the Princeton Theological Seminary dealing with slaves. In the spring quarter she was invited to the University of California at Berkeley, where she conducted a workshop on “The House of Prisoners in Uruk.” At Berkeley Andrea also gave a lecture entitled “Borrowings to Create Anew: Intertextuality in the Babylonian Poem of Creation.” This lecture will be turned into an article for publication. She will spend the last two weeks of August working on Old Babylonian tablets in the British Museum.