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**IndIvIdual ReseaRch**

fifth millennia b.c., that is, Halaf, Ubaid, and Late Chalcolithic 1–2 periods. Tell Zeidan seems to have been a major town or regional center in the Ubaid period, roughly 5300–4500 b.c. The excavations are seeking to understand how the Ubaid culture spread from its original homeland into neighboring areas such as north Syria, while also examining the social, political, and economic organization of Ubaid society. A fuller description of the excavations is presented in the Tell Zeidan Project Report in this Annual Report.

Gil has also been continuing with the analysis of materials from his 1992–97 excavations at the fourth-millennium b.c. town of Hacınebi, in the Euphrates Valley of southeast Turkey. Hacınebi was a local Anatolian town where merchants from the Uruk culture of southern Mesopotamia established a trading colony in about 3700 b.c. Oriental Institute Volunteer Irene Glasner has helped us make major progress in scanning the slides of the Late Chalcolithic small finds from the site. Irene has scanned more than 2,500 slides and checked their numbers and captions against the photo logs. She has reached the halfway point in this massive undertaking, which should be completed in the coming year.

In April 2009 Gil was invited to present a lecture at the Anthropology Department of the University of California, San Diego; the topic of his talk was "The Emergence of Complexity in the Ubaid Period of Greater Mesopotamia: Local Identities and Inter-Regional Interaction in the 5th Millennium B.C." On May 12, 2009, he presented the keynote lecture at the annual Rall Symposium at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. It was a special pleasure to re-affirm the ties between the Oriental Institute and North Central College, since the latter institution is the alma mater of Oriental Institute founder James Henry Breasted. On June 22, 2009, Gil presented the preliminary results of the 2008 excavations at Tell Zeidan at a "brown-bag" lunchtime lecture at the Oriental Institute. He also conducted a training workshop on archaeological excavation methods for a group of six Iraqi archaeological conservators and cultural heritage specialists who were participating in a six-month training program as part of the Iraqi Cultural Heritage Program (ICHP), sponsored by the Field Museum in co-operation with the Oriental Institute.

In 2008, Gil published one article, "A Theoretical Model for Political Economy and Social Identity in the Old Assyrian Trading Colonies of Anatolia," in the Turkish Academy of Sciences journal of archaeology, TÜBA-AR.

Emily Teeter

Emily Teeter continues to work on the small finds from Medinet Habu and to finalize a book on ancient Egyptian religion for Cambridge University Press. The Medinet Habu volume should be at the printer by the time you read this, and the religion manuscript will also have been delivered, so she is looking forward to moving on to new projects. In the old projects column is her continuing collaboration with Branislav Andelkovic, working on the Egyptian collection at the University of Belgrade.

Publications for the year included co-editing the catalog *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt* for the Oriental Institute special exhibit of the same name, a festschrift article on a Middle Kingdom statue head in our collection, and another on the connections between the Oriental Institute, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Field Museum. Several articles on Meresamun also appeared in the journal *KMT.*
Conferences and meetings for the year included two with CIPEG (Comité international pour l’égyptologie = International Committee for Egyptology, in the International Council of Museums [ICOM]), the first in Hannover and Hildesheim, the second in Atlanta, where Emily gave the keynote speech on the Meresamun exhibit. At the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Dallas, she was elected President of the organization, leading to a serious uptick in the volume of e-mail. She continues to be very active in the local chapter of ARCE.

She spoke in the Art Institute’s Boshell Foundation Lecture Series on her research on a Late Period coffin and mummy in the Art Institute’s collection, showing that the mummy, thought to be Wenihotep, is not original to the coffin. She was invited to speak in Dallas, Indianapolis, and Atlanta in conjunction with the two “Tut” shows that are touring the United States, and she also spoke in Atlanta, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, and Seattle for the University of Chicago Alumni Association.

A highlight of independent travel was going to Beirut for Professor Emeritus Peter Dorman’s inauguration as President of the American University of Beirut.

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Theo van den Hout

On July 1, 2008, Theo van den Hout took over from Peter Dorman the chairmanship of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Of course, this task along with the editorship of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (see separate report) dominated his time. There was nevertheless some time also for personal research. During the summer he traveled to the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara, where he collated some 250 Hittite fragments in preparation for a volume of hand copies. He wrote a detailed entry on “Schreiber” for the Reallexikon der Assyriologie, and submitted two articles. One is entitled “A Century of Hittite Text Dating and Theories on the dating of the Hittite Cuneiform Script” for a thematic issue of the Italian journal Incontri Linguistici, and (together with Cem Karasu) “A Note on Hittite Envelopes and HKM 86” for the festschrift of a colleague. Clay envelopes as they can be seen in the Oriental Institute’s Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery were a well-known way of transporting documents in the ancient Near East. Such covers were not yet known from Anatolia except for one possible example. Collation of the original in Ankara has now shown that this is not an envelope either. If the Hittites transported clay tablets they may have done so in, for instance, leather bags, but there is still no evidence for envelopes made of clay.

At a “brown-bag” lunch at the Oriental Institute, Theo presented his new ideas on Hittite text dating and the rise of literacy in Hittite society. It has been traditionally assumed that Hittites started to write their own language around 1650 B.C., immediately after having acquired the cuneiform script, but according to him this did not start until the beginning of the fifteenth century and literacy correspondingly developed later and much more gradually.

Theo delivered three outside lectures: “Scribes and Literacy in the Hittite Kingdom and Empire,” during the 5 es Journées de l’Orient, Entre Mer de Chine et Mer du Nord: Migrations des savoirs, transfert des connaissances, transmissions des sagesses; De l’antiquité à nos jours, in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, 11–13 March; “Some Thoughts on Hittite Writing and Administration in the Hittite Kingdom and Empire,” at a conference devoted to Archivi, Depositi, Magazzini: Nuovi materiali e nuove ricerche sulle procedure di conservazione dei beni e di registrazione dei dati presso gli Ittiti, in Pavia, Italy, held on June 18; and “Die Frage der...