PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

Thomas G. Urban

The full-time staff of the Publications Office remains Thomas G. Urban (managing editor) and Leslie Schraper (editor). Rebecca Cain (assistant editor) began her second year in February. Plamena Pehlivanova and Natalie Whiting have moved on, and we are very fortunate to have hired Jessen O’Brien and Zuhal Kuru as editorial assistants.

The Publications Office continues to provide research support to faculty, research associates, projects, and various Units. For example, we offer assistance to faculty and research associates who are having manuscripts published through outside vendors — we help with font issues, publisher jargon, image preparation, and what authors can reasonably expect from publishers. To Units, the Publications Office provides a range of support, from printing over-sized sheets and answering grammatical questions to, as with the Membership and Development Units, publication of News & Notes, Annual Report, Visiting Committee Yearbook, and miscellaneous postcards, brochures, and posters.

The passing of William Sumner stirs a remembrance: in the early 1990s, the printing schedules of the Annual Report and News & Notes were too difficult to maintain by the Membership Unit. One day, Sumner walked into the Publications Office with a box under his arm and asked whether the Publications Office could produce the Annual Report. I said “yes,” and he instructed the office to produce them “from now on.” One week later Sumner entered with another box and asked whether the office could produce News & Notes. Again, I answered in the affirmative, and Sumner instructed the Publications Office to produce them “from now on.” Since these brief conversations, the Publications Office has produced nineteen Annual Reports (you’re reading the twentieth) and seventy-seven issues of News & Notes, and all have appeared on schedule. Looking back twenty years, one appreciates the wisdom Sumner expressed those two memorable days. First, editors trained in the production of ancient Near Eastern works are better suited to the task than business-oriented staff. Second, five deadlines a year has been a stabilizing factor in the Publications Office: we know years in advance when projects are due and are able to work in our many other tasks around them — note the eight new titles published this year.
A couple years ago, the Publications Office became the “storehouse” for materials used by the Post-Doc Scholar, which makes sense because we create the posters, programs, announcements — even the name tags for the seminar — and then produce a book with the seminar papers. We also maintain the manual that is to be updated yearly, making it available as needed. We very much enjoyed working with Natalie May this year.

The print publication of this year’s Annual Report is once again black and white, but we continue to post a color PDF version online. To view past Annual Reports and issues of News & Notes, visit the following URL on the Oriental Institute website: http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs

Sales

The David Brown Book Company and Oxbow Books, Ltd., UK, 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; website: www.oxbowbooks.com.

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

oi-publications@uchicago.edu

Electronic Publications

As part of the Oriental Institute’s Electronic Publications Initiative, all new titles are simultaneously issued in print and as Adobe Acrobat PDF (Portable Document Format) files delivered through the Internet. Older titles are scanned and saved as .tif and .pdf files, with the latter being posted online, as time and funds permit. This year we had sixteen titles scanned and uploaded to the Internet (see list, below).

The bulk of the older titles have been scanned by Northern MicroGraphics (NMT Corporation, http://normicro.com), located in La Crosse, Wisconsin. For the URLs of the sixteen older titles scanned and uploaded to the Internet this year, as well as the URLs for the new titles, see Electronic Resources (previous section, this volume).

This year, the Publications Office began collaboration with Elizabeth Stone of Stony Brook University, who is having several older titles scanned as part of Stony Brook’s Archive of Mesopotamian Archaeological Site Reports (AMAR) project. The scanning is being done by the Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image at the University of Pennsylvania.

The scanning of the older titles is nearing completion. Thus far we have had about 230 older titles scanned and uploaded to the Internet. About 121 older titles remain to be scanned.

New Volumes Distributed in Print and Online

2. *Baked Clay Figurines and Votive Beds from Medinet Habu*. By Emily Teeter. 2010. OIP 133
6. *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond*. Edited by Christopher Woods. 2010. OIMP 32

New Volumes Distributed Online


Digital Reprints of Scanned, Older Titles


Older Titles Scanned and Uploaded to the Online Publications Catalog


**Volumes in Preparation**


2. *Bismaya: Recovering the Lost City of Adab*. Karen L. Wilson


5. *Perspectives on Ptolemaic Thebes*. Edited by Peter F. Dorman and Betsy M. Bryan

6. *Pesher Naḥum: Texts and Studies in Jewish History and Literature from Antiquity through the Middle Ages Presented to Norman Golb*. Edited by Joel L. Kraemer and Michael G. Wechsler, with Fred Donner, Joshua Holo, and Dennis Pardee