

these open areas, we will need to set specific dates for the removal of equipment if it is not claimed by a particular lab. Thanks in advance for your help.

All OI Quarterly Meeting

The next Oriental Institute Quarterly meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 15th from 3:30 to 5:00pm in the LaSalle Bank room. We hope to see you there.

The First Annual University of Chicago Oriental Institute Symposium

MARGINS OF WRITING, ORIGINS OF CULTURES
February 25-26, 2005

Who invented national literature? For many centuries, the only Semitic language written in the entire Near East was a Babylonian spoken by no one; the first written vernacular is created and vanishes in Syria around the thirteenth century B.C.E. 400 years later, Biblical Hebrew appears on potsherds in Israel- and only there. Both scripts died out quickly, yet only one was revived. What is the relationship between script, identity, and history? Recorded history began in the ancient Near East, but we are just beginning to explore the powerful creative relationship between writing and the political identities of the Near East's cultures. This conference will be the first to bring leading philologists together with anthropologists and historians to connect new theories of language and identity with the latest results of ancient Near Eastern scholarship.

Papers

Paul-Alain Beaulieu, Harvard University

"Official and vernacular languages: the shifting sands of imperial and cultural identities in first millennium B.C. Mesopotamia."

Jacco Dieleman, UCLA

"Abundance in the margins: multiplicity of script in the Demotic Magical Papyri."

John Kelly, University of Chicago

"Writing and the state: China, India, and general definitions"

Piotr Michalowski, University of Michigan

"Introduction: the lives of languages"

Annick Payne, University of Wurzburg

"Multilingual inscriptions - signs of power or signs of weakness?"

Gonzalo Rubio, Pennsylvania State University

"Writing in another tongue: Alloglottography and scribal antiquarianism in the ancient Near East."

Seth Sanders, University of Chicago, Organizer

"The encounter between writing and language in the ancient Near East"

William Schniedewind, UCLA

"Aramaic, the death of written Hebrew, and the rise of linguistic nationalism in the Persian and Hellenistic periods"

Theo Van den Hout, University of Chicago

"Institutions, vernaculars, publics: the case of second millennium Anatolia"

Christopher Woods, University of Chicago

"The pragmatic life of Sumerian"

Paul Zimansky, Boston University

"Writing, writers, and reading in the kingdom of Van"

Many thanks to the volunteers and staff members who made these events such a great success.

Amidst the opening frenzy, we managed to sponsor a trip to Cincinnati, Ohio, to visit the "Petra: Lost City of Stone" exhibition at the Cincinnati Art Museum. Aaron Burke escorted the tour from January 15 to 16, giving an introductory lecture about Nabataean history and culture to our group before viewing the exhibit. At the museum, the group had a private lecture with Dr. Glenn Markoe, Curator of Classical and Near Eastern Art & Art of Africa and the Americas, and co-curator of the Petra exhibit. The exhibit itself was very well conceived and displayed and made all the more engaging by the two wonderful lectures.

In February, Membership events resume to normal pace as we host our first Members' Lecture since Geoff Emberling spoke in September 2004. Dr. Edward Ochsenchlagler of Brooklyn College will speak Wednesday, February 16 at 8 PM on "Seeking the Past in the Present: Ethnoarchaeology at al-Hiba in Iraq." There will also be a book signing for his latest publication on the Marsh Arabs.

For those who cannot attend, we will be audio-taping this lecture. Please contact Maria in the Membership Office about obtaining a copy.

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MUSEUM / Geoff Emberling

The opening of the East Wing galleries went extremely well! The members' preview on January 26 was very well attended, and the public opening on January 29-30 broke the record set by the Mesopotamian gallery for weekend attendance. This is all the more impressive since January is usually a relatively slow month in the museum. We can thank the publicity efforts of Bill Harms and Emily Teeter, including wide coverage in Chicago media, as well as the great programs put together by Carole Krucoff. There is also undoubtedly a cumulative effect of repeated openings over the past few years, as the OI becomes better known across Chicago. Thanks too to John Sanders for encouraging me to put publicity for the gallery on the website--this portion of the site received over 1,800 hits in the month that it was available.

As a part of the opening publicity campaign, we have set up banners in the main entrance of the building. One banner just names the OI, while the other announces the East Gallery. We will plan to change one or both banners for subsequent new exhibits.

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MUSEUM EDUCATION / Carole Krucoff

By now, I imagine everyone has heard that more than 1,200 visitors joined us to celebrate the opening of the new East Wing exhibits during the weekend of January 29-30. Entertainers and artists from throughout the metropolitan area were also here to provide everyone with music, dance, and demonstrations of ancient arts processes.

Stone carver Walter Arnold used tools much like those on view in the galleries to show visitors how ancient artisans crafted our Assyrian reliefs. Metalsmith Pam Robinson let visitors try their hand at creating copper rosettes. Ceramic artist Hardy Schlick demonstrated the fashioning of clay lamps, much like those on view in the Megiddo exhibit. And graduate students Dennis Campbell and Kathleen Mineck used Luvian hieroglyphs to write visitors names on souvenir bookmarks.

Talented Chicago-area performers entertained everyone with music and dance from Assyria, Turkey, and Israel in a celebration of traditional and contemporary culture. Performers included Shircago, an a capella group that presented their own special renditions of Hebrew songs based on ancient texts. The Sanabel Palestinian Debka Dance Group and the Assyrian Hakkery Cultural Dance Group performed folk dances in traditional costume. The acclaimed trio, Jutta and Hi Dukes, had audience members singing and dancing on the stage in Breasted Hall. And two musicians from Turkey, guitarist Hakan Berbegoglu and baglama player Ozgur Sumer, sang and played beautiful Turkish melodies.

Many people were responsible for the success of the weekend. Monica Witczak led the efforts to obtain financial support from Exelon. Emily Teeter and Bill Harms, along with Constance Schuett and Maria Krasinski, provided the marketing and publicity that brought us such great attendance. Special thanks to the staff members who worked throughout the whole weekend. They included Cathy Duenas, Wendy Ennes, Terry Friedman, Rob Gilmore, Maria Krasinski, Margaret Schroeder, Constance Schuett, and intern Katharyn Hanson. Many thanks to Geoff for all his help. Forty volunteers also came in to help and we couldn't have managed without them!

Winter adult education courses also began during the busy month of January, with excellent participation for both on campus and correspondence courses. Instructors this quarter include Emily Teeter, who is teaching an on-campus course, "Architecture in Ancient Egypt." Also on campus, Ilya Yakubovich is teaching : "Life and Legacy of Zoroaster." Jacob Lauinger is teaching at the downtown Gleacher Center on "Myths and Epics of Ancient Mesopotamia." Dennis Campbell is reaching a statewide and national audience with "Cuneiform by Mail."

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PUBLICATIONS (Department Head Report) / Thomas A. Holland

In Praise Of Tony J. Wilkinson

In my dual capacity as Head of the Publications Office and as a Research Associate for the Tell es-Sweyhat excavations in Syria, I am very happy to announce the recent final publication of Tony Wilkinson's landscape studies volume in the prestigious Oriental Institute Publications series (OIP 124), Excavations at Tell es-Sweyhat, Syria, Volume 1. On the Margin of the Euphrates: Settlement and Land Use at Tell es-Sweyhat and in the Upper Lake Assad Area, Syria by Tony J. Wilkinson and with contributions by Naomi F. Miller, Clemens D. Reichel, and Donald Whitcomb). Praise and congratulations (mabruk!) to Tony for producing such a fine volume and to Naomi, Clemens, and Don whose contributions add immeasurably to the success of this report. A special vote of appreciation also goes to Tom Urban and the graduate student assistants, Lindsay DeCarlo, Katie L. Johnson, Leslie Schramer, and Alexandra Witsell, for the meticulous

care they took to see this volume through its organizational stage and final printing.

Miller's report on the flotation samples from Tell Jouweif, a Bronze Age site located west of Sweyhat in the Euphrates floodplain, complements and expands what was previously known about the ancient agricultural economy at Sweyhat from samples examined during the 1970s. Whitcomb's report on two Islamic sites near Sweyhat that were discovered during our 1972 survey of the region is extremely important as we were not able to excavate either Khirbet Dhiman or Khirbet al-Hamrah and both sites have almost entirely disappeared due to modern road building and extensive farming in the region now surrounding Sweyhat. Fortunately, aerial photographs (see Holland's forthcoming volume 2 report on Sweyhat) exist and both Don and Tony recorded plans of these sites; the most important pieces of the pottery collection, located in The British Museum, are published here and represent the historical period A.D. 750-800. Reichel's Appendix B: Site Gazetteer is a most welcome addition to our knowledge of the ancient occupation of the upper Lake Assad area in Syria that was almost terra incognita when we discovered the unknown site of Sweyhat beside a desert track during the 1972 survey of the area. Including Sweyhat, some seventy-nine sites have been recorded in the Sweyhat area on the left, east, bank of the Euphrates River Jazira territory. Each site is analyzed under four main headings: 1) State of Research, 2) Location, 3) Description, and 4) Literature (bibliography).

Tony's report is the first full-length study so far published on settlement and land use on the east bank of the upper Euphrates River in Syria and is an accomplished conclusion to the specialized studies he initially began prior to coming to Sweyhat when he conducted his first fieldwork in Syria during 1972 at Richard P. Harper's site of Dibsi Faraj (aka: Athis, Neocaesareia, and Qasrin) located on the west bank of the Euphrates River between Meskene (Balis - Emar) and Abu Hureyra. His report on Dibsi Faraj appeared in the *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 29 (1975:319-38) and was entitled "The Physical Environment of Dibsi Faraj: A Preliminary Study." His second field study was undertaken within the agricultural hinterland of Sohar, Oman. During 1974, Tony joined the Ashmolean Museum sponsored excavation at Sweyhat as our "Geomorphological Studies" person. In that capacity, he investigated twenty-one sites in an approximate 2.5 km radius surrounding Sweyhat and published the results in Holland's first Sweyhat preliminary report in the journal *Levant*, volume VIII (1976, pp. 67-70) as Appendix III-"The Ancient Landscape of the Tell Es-Sweyhat Plain." Tony's research and related publications since 1976 are far too numerous to record here, but it is of interest to note that he has conducted archaeological fieldwork in Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Morocco, Greece, the United Kingdom, and Canada! One should also note that the Sweyhat volume is the second Oriental Institute Publications book (OIP 109, 1990) that Tony has published dealing with archaeological landscape studies, which is entitled "Town and Country in Southeastern Anatolia 1: Settlement and Land Use at Kurban Hoyuk and Other Sites in the Lower Karababa Basin."

Until 2003, Tony was a Research Associate (Associate Professor) at the Oriental Institute and is at present a Lecturer in the Archaeology of the Near East at the University of Edinburgh. We all miss Tony's presence and inquiring mind amongst us here, but wish him much future success in his research; we congratulate him again for making such a substantial contribution towards our understanding not only of the settlement and land use at Tell Sweyhat, but also the historical background of Sweyhat and other sites located in the region of the upper Lake Assad area of Syria.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Tony Wilkinson's _On the Margin of the Euphrates_ (OIP 124) and Donald Whitcomb's _Changing Social Identity_ (OIS 1) were printed and delivered. One further step in their publication process should occur over the next few days: .pdf files that contain the these volumes will be made available on the Oriental Institute Electronic Publications page:
http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/Elec_Publications.html

(1) The electronic publication of these two titles implements the new policy of the Oriental Institute to make all new titles available on-line (at no cost to the user). Twelve volumes that were sent to the printer in an electronic format over the past few years could also be distributed on-line by simply creating .pdf files (seven OIPs, four fascicles of the CHD, and one SAOC). (2) Lindsay DeCarlo is within a couple days of having recorded the titles (and publication information) of all books published by the Oriental Institute, including the number, types, and sizes of the pages. With this information we will solicit competitive quotes for scanning all of the volumes and preparing electronic copies of the volumes for distribution on-line.

Tim Harrison's _Megiddo 3_ (OIP 127) was sent to press, and we have already received and returned printer's proofs.

Page proofs were sent to the contributors to K. Aslihan Yener's _AVRP 1_ manuscript.

Katherine S. Burke and Maria Krasinski have been working on the spring issue of News & Notes.

Otherwise, work continues on all the other volumes, with both Brian Muhs' _Taxes and Taxpayers in Ptolemaic Thebes_ (OIP 126) and Abbas Alizadeh's _Tall-e Bakun_ (OIP 128) nearing completion.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

We have been working very hard at plowing our way through cataloging backlog during January, adding ca. 2,000 records to the on-line database, with many more to come. With funding from the American Theological Library Association's Cooperative Digital Resources Initiative (CDRI), and in continuing partnership with ETANA, we have now completed the digitization of the Research Archives copies of Layard, Austen Henry. The Monuments of Nineveh. From drawings made on the spot, and A Second Series of the Monuments of Nineveh. These scarce volumes were generously donated to the Oriental Institute Research Archives by Abbas Alizadeh from the library of Helene J. Kantor. You can access them on-line at:
<http://library.case.edu/ksl/ecoll/books/laymon00/laymon00.html>
<http://library.case.edu/ksl/ecoll/books/laymon01/laymon01.html>
Also funded under this grant is the (almost complete) digitization of the first thirty-eight volumes of the series Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets, &c.,

in the British Museum. All 170 volumes currently available in the ETANA Core Texts project can be viewed via: <http://www.etana.org/coretexts.shtml> as well as in Abzu: <http://www.etana.org/abzu/>
Of the 7,649 entries catalogued in Abzu, 552 are listed as digitized books.

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WEBSITE / Chuck Jones - John Sanders

Heads of projects and units of the Oriental Institute should review their web pages and provide changes, additions, and corrections. If the changes you need are simple, please print the page, edit it, and pass along the corrected version to John or Chuck. If you have major changes come talk to one or both of us. So far only one project has undertaken a revision this year. We anticipate that the relaunch of the OI website later this year will attract considerable attention to the content of the website. Please assist us in making certain the content is up to date, accurate, and properly edited. The web site is the primary public face of your project or department.

Statistics: In the eleven months since the website went "live" on the NSIT server, there have been 1,340,409 visits to the site.

During January 2005, 108,297 unique visitors made 155,432 visits to the site. The web server delivered 32,432 unique documents one or more times each, accounting altogether for 2,617,348 files. The web server was linked to by 69,142 distinct pages on 4,668 distinct web sites.

The top nine keywords/keyphrases which found documents at our site were:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| 1 | dead sea scrolls | 1,914 |
| 2 | persepolis | 1,733 |
| 3 | oriental institute | 1,152 |
| 4 | mummies | 1,120 |
| 5 | map of egypt | 817 |
| 6 | oi | 808 |
| 7 | giza | 703 |
| 8 | pazuzu | 590 |
| 9 | oriental | 549 |

During the past month the following new components were added to the OI website:

Bibliography of entries catalogued in Abzu in the period 1 January - 31 January 2005

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/AbzuNew01.2005.html>

106 new objects are the on-line Iraq Museum Database, bringing the current total to 1,090 objects. The new additions include Diyala sculpture (including relief and votive plaques) and more Diyala seals.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/dbfiles/recent.htm>

Revised versions of the on-line material connected with the East Wing Galleries http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/GALLERY/EAST/New_East_Gallery.html

than two meters high. When Ramesses III raised the level of the area in a broad gravel terrace to support his mortuary temple, the small Amun temple platform was partly buried. Stonecutter Dany Roy and his men continued to cut and prepare sandstone floor blocks, patchstones for the walls, and foundation for the new naos footing.

Conservator Hiroko Kariya returned to Luxor after the holidays and resumed her consolidation work in the Luxor Temple blockyard on January 31. Yarko Kobylecky and Ellie Smith continued photographing selected fragment groups, and also began documentation of the badly decaying socle inscription of Amenhotep III which wraps around the lower exterior of the rear sanctuary. Since late January Dany Roy and his workmen have been preparing for the stabilization of the eastern wall of the Colonnade Hall, a project supported by the World Monuments Fund. Last week he erected scaffolding along the inside of the wall for the lifting of bricks and mortar and laid in supplies for the work. The outer section of the Colonnade Hall eastern wall at this point projects more than twenty feet above the present preserved solid wall surface, forty feet above the ground level, and is precariously balanced. In its present state, any seismic activity in the area would bring it crashing down. Our plan is to construct a solid brick and sandstone buttress against the outer spur which will inhibit any lateral movement, into which we will later restore forty-two joined wall fragments which complete a representation of the divine barge of Khonsu and its towboats on the Nile during the Opet festival, partly preserved on the wall. This way we will be killing two birds with one stone, as it were. The bricklaying began today under the supervision of Dany and our Bash Mohandis Girgis Samwell, and this first phase of the operation is expected to take three days. Structural engineer Conor Power was here for several days at the end of January, continuing his study of the structural condition of Luxor Temple, and consulted with Dany and me on the stabilization project for the Colonnade Hall wall.

The new year 2005 has seen an increased level of archaeological activity in Luxor, as the high season begins and friends and colleagues return to resume their work; the library has never been so full as it is on Fridays now. There are three Polish teams presently at Deir El-Bahri, including Andreij Niwinski finishing up his work in the cliffs; Janosz Karkowski, working in the Hathor sanctuary of Hatshepsut's mortuary temple; and Zibigniew Sfranski with the mortuary temple archaeological and architectural team. A Spanish team is working with José Galan at Dira Abu El Naga, as was Daniel Polz and his crew, and Elena Pichikova of the MMA has just finished her season at the 26th Dynasty tomb of Nespekashuty above the Assasif. Betsy Bryan is here putting the finishing touches on her Sw-em-niwt tomb study, and Hourig Sourouzian and her team have resumed their work in the Amenhotep III mortuary temple. We are particularly happy to welcome back Richard Fazzini and his Mut Temple team after a hiatus of several years (due to Richard's successful battle with lung cancer and then a brain aneurism); the crew includes wife Mary, Hermann TeVelde, Bill and Elsie Peck, Jaap vanDijk, and conservator Ellen Pearlstein. Peter Dorman stayed with us for a week, while Alain Zivie and his family, Donald Redford, and Leonard and Barbara Lesko have all passed through. Ursula Kaplony-Heckel is here now for a few weeks studying Demotic administrative texts from Karnak. Renée Friedman passed through Luxor last week on her way back to resume her work at Hierakonpolis, and her husband Vivian Davies is expected through here next week, on his way to El Kab.

Finally, I am happy to report that on Sunday, January 16th, the Supreme Council of Antiquities, the city of Luxor, and the US and Swedish Embassies hosted a

ceremony at Luxor Temple officially inaugurating the de-watering project for Luxor and Karnak temples, five years in the planning. A great blue and silver tent was set up on the rise in front of and facing Luxor Temple, and speeches were made by SCA Chairman Zahi Hawass, the Governor of Luxor Samir Farag; the Swedish Ambassador Stig Elvemar; and US Ambassador David Welsh. Zahi said that this project was the greatest in the history of USAID's work in Egypt and would allow the survival of both Luxor and Karnak temples for future generations. Ambassador Welch spoke of his pleasure at this collaboration which would preserve so much of our common cultural heritage. After the speeches the SCA hosted the group to a luncheon at the Sonesta, and after lunch an organizational meeting of all parties was held in one of the Sonesta conference rooms. Participants: the Swedish water engineers from SWECO, contractor reps, USAID officials, SCA and antiquities folk - about fifty people total. By the end of the afternoon game plans had been set out, and the next meetings scheduled. There is a long way to go, but it is an encouraging beginning. The project will last eighteen months, after which the USAID support money dries up (real incentive to stay on schedule!). Chicago House will continue to consult with all parties involved and share its resources in an effort to smooth the way for this crucial project.

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INDIVIDUALS

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JASON UR

After a miserable summer spent tied to my laptop, I finished writing my dissertation last August, defended it on Oct 22nd, and graduated in December. It is now being hosted by the Research Archives in PDF form. I am told it is great for insomnia:
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/DISPROP/urj.html>

In late December and early January, I participated in a survey of the Mughan Steppe (Ardabil Province, NW Iran) directed by Karim Alizadeh of the Iranian Centre for Archaeological Research. Karim has been excavating the Sasanian-Early Islamic fortified settlement of Ultan Qalasi on the right bank of the Aras River and wanted to expand his project to a regional scale. In our preliminary season of less than three weeks, we were able to recover a fascinating sequence of cultural landscapes. Of particular interest to me was a heavily modified irrigation landscape under the Sasanians, composed of dozens of kilometers of massive canals, fortified citadels and extensive lower towns; highly reminiscent (at a smaller scale) of contemporary settlement in the Diyala, southern Iraq, and Khuzistan. At the opposite end of the sociopolitical spectrum, we also identified dozens of campsites of nomadic pastoralists, probably Shahsevan, dating to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries AD. These are highly visible on CORONA satellite photographs and should give us a unique opportunity to map nomadic settlement patterns and pasturage over an extensive area. Karim is an excellent young archaeologist, and we have agreed to a cooperative arrangement for this project over the next few seasons.

The most exciting recent news is my appointment as assistant professor in the Anthropology Department at Harvard. This is exactly what I wanted out of a Chicago degree, and was made possible by the education and training I received at the OI. Since this will be my last update via the OI Newsletter, I'd like to

