

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - MARCH 2005

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IN THE NEWS

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 FROM THE EDITOR  
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The OI Newsletter appears by way of the automated mailing list:  
<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/oi-newsletter>  
 The archive of all issues of the newsletter dating back to early 1998 is  
 accessible only to members of the list. If you wish to have access to the  
 archive, please request your password from: [oinews@babylon-orinst.uchicago.edu](mailto:oinews@babylon-orinst.uchicago.edu)  
 Please send any other inquiries about the newsletter to the same address.

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 THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
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Congratulations to recent grant awardees:

- Aslihan Yener
- INSTAP, Goltepe Publication: \$11,275 (1 year)
- INSTAP, Tell Atchana Excavation: \$25,000 (1 year)
  
- Theo van den Hout
- NEH, Chicago Hittite Dictionary, \$280,000 (2 years)
  
- Geoff Emberling/Karen Wilson
- Furthermore, Museum Publication, \$5,000 (1 year)
  
- Comparative Semitist Search - Progress Report

We hope you had an opportunity to spend time with the two final candidates for the Comparative Semitist faculty position. Rebecca Hasselbach and David Testen were on site for a number of days for interviews, lectures, and related events. The search committee is collating everyone's comments and will soon present a recommendation.

#### Oriental Institute Symposium, MARGINS OF WRITING, ORIGINS OF CULTURES

Kudos to Seth Sanders for making this symposium a resounding success. Seth's next step is to work with our publications office to turn the symposium papers into Volume II of the Oriental Institute Seminars Series. Thanks also to Olivia who played a key role in pulling this seminar together.

#### Implementation of the Electronic Publication Policy

In January 2005 the Oriental Institute Publications Office implemented the Electronic Publication Policy established by the Oriental Institute that calls for all volumes published by the Oriental Institute -- old and new -- to be accessible in a convenient format from the Oriental Institute's Web-site at no cost to the user. Two titles that appeared in print in January were converted to .pdf files and added to the Oriental Institute Electronic Publications page, implementing the policy:

[http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/Elec\\_Publications.html](http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/Elec_Publications.html)

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. Tony J. Wilkinson, with contributions by Naomi F. Miller, Clemens D. Reichel, and Donald Whitcomb. Oriental Institute Publications 124. Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 2004.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/OIP/124/OIP124.html>

Changing Social Identity with the Spread of Islam: Archaeological Perspectives. Donald Whitcomb, editor, with Case Studies by Jodi Magness, Tracy Hoffman, Yury Karev, Mark C. Horton, and Timothy Insoll. Oriental Institute Seminars 1. Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 2004.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/OIS/1/OIS1.html>

#### Facilities Update

Facilities Services is scheduled to begin work on the loading dock area once the trailers are completely dismantled on the corner of 58th and Woodlawn. Repairs will include a new cement surface for the loading dock, protective upgrades to the exterior of the building, and landscaping.

Anti-slip stair treads were added to the main stairs leading to the basement of the Oriental Institute. We hope this provides a safer environment for everyone.

We're working to replace the planters on the second floor landing. Thanks to Denise and Emily for helping to coordinate this upgrade.

#### Parking



Several special programs celebrating the opening of the new East Wing attracted a variety of diverse audiences during February and early March. An Educator's Open House on Wednesday evening, February 16 brought elementary and high school teachers and administrators from across the city to the Oriental Institute to learn about how the "Empires in the Fertile Crescent" exhibit, as well as our curriculum materials and online resources, can enrich teaching and learning about ancient civilizations and world history in the city's schools.

On February 17th, a convivial group of 30 gourmets gathered at Cousins' Turkish Restaurant for "Turkish Delights" a sold-out program that attracted both new participants and old friends to a special dining experience and cooking demonstration presentation by Chef Ahmet Obali. This event was offered in conjunction with the opening of the East Wing's Syro-Anatolian Gallery.

On Saturday, March 5, 125 participants attended 'Kingdoms of Ivory, Kingdoms of Iron, " a day-long symposium co-sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies that brought our celebration of the new East Wing to a close. A year in the making, this wonderful event brought Oriental Institute faculty and guest lecturers together to present an extraordinary series of lectures on the history, languages, art, and religion of ancient Anatolia and Israel. Special thanks to:

--Gil Stein, David Schloen, Theo van den Hout, Aslihan Yener and Geoff Emberling for all their assistance in helping Museum Education plan and present this symposium

--guest lecturers Trevor Bryce, Marion Feldman, and J. David Hawkins for being with us to offer presentations

--to Constance Schuett, Cathy Duenas, Wendy Ennes, Terry Friedman Rob Gilmore, Katharyn Hanson and Claire Thomas for making the entire day run like clockwork, --and all the faculty, staff, and students who joined us as participants.

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PUBLICATIONS (Department Head Report) / Thomas A. Holland

In Honor of Donald Whitcomb (Re: OI Publications - New Series)

I am happy to announce the recent publication of the first volume in a new Oriental Institute softbound series (now Thirteen series) entitled Oriental Institute Seminars (OIS). This series was established to promote "Proceedings from small, focused seminars that explore important theoretical, methodological, and cross-culturally significant topics relating to broader issues in the Near East."

The first volume in this series (OIS 1), Changing Social Identity with the Spread of Islam: Archaeological Perspectives, is the result of a seminar conducted by Donald Whitcomb on the 12th and 13th of May 2003 at the Oriental Institute. The participants and their papers were:

1. Dr. Tracy Hoffman (University of Chicago), "Ascalon: Domestic Architecture in a Byzantine-Islamic City"
2. Prof. Renata Holod (University of Pennsylvania), "Territory and Text: Reconstructing Settlement on Medieval and Early Modern Jerba" (to be published elsewhere)

3. Prof. Mark C. Horton (University of Bristol), "Islam, Archaeology, and Swahili Identity"
4. Prof. Timothy Insoll (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), "Samarqand in VIII Century, the Evidence of Transformation"
5. Prof. Jodi Magness (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), "Khirbet Abu Suwwana: An Early Islamic Village Near Jerusalem"

Principal discussants at the Roundtable included: Dr. Moain Sadeq (Palestine Department of Antiquities in Gaza), Prof. Fred Donner (University of Chicago), and Dr. John Meloy (American University in Beirut)

Don did a wonderful job organizing this first symposium for the new series, edited the volume, and wrote a very thought provoking introduction entitled "The Spread of Islam and Islamic Archaeology." Don's introduction and the very informative papers that are included add considerable new knowledge to the field of Islamic studies.

Don, his colleagues, and the publications staff deserve many congratulations for giving us such a fine volume for the first presentation in a new Oriental Institute series.

In Appreciation of Timothy P. Harrison and Others (Re: OIP 127, Megiddo 3)

The Publications Office is proud to announce the recent and final scheduled publication of the Oriental Institute's excavations at Megiddo (Tell el-Mutesellim). This hardbound volume in our premiere series, Oriental Institute Publications, is entitled Megiddo 3: Final Report on the Stratum VI Excavations and is authored by Timothy P. Harrison, with contributions by Douglas L. Esse, Andrew Graham, Ronald G. V. Hancock, and Patricia Paice. It should be noted that this is the first Oriental Institute publication to include a "Digital Archive," Appendix D, which is formatted on a hybrid format CD containing electronic copies of the primary field records, field photographs, and the artifact database.

This fine volume includes a foreword by Lawrence E. Stager; the history of the excavations, Stratigraphy and Chronology, the Architecture, and the Pottery by Douglas L. Esse and Timothy P. Harrison; Elemental Analysis of the Stratum VI Pottery by Ronald G. V. Hancock and Harrison; the Small Finds by Patricia Paice; as well as a Cultural and Historical Synthesis, App. A: Locus Index, App. B: Pottery Register, App. C: Small Finds Register, and Appendix D: Digital Archive. The book is also profusely illustrated with 128 figures and 40 plates.

Timothy and his contributors are to be congratulated for their significant contributions to the publications of final reports dealing with Near Eastern archaeology projects conducted by the Oriental Institute. As usual, the editorial division of the Publications Office, under the supervision of Tom Urban, and the graduate work-study students have done a first class job in the production of this volume.

In Celebration of 100 Years of OI Publications

One year from February 2005 will mark the 100th Anniversary of Oriental Institute Publications, which began with the publication of James Henry Breasted's Ancient Records of Egypt: Historical Documents from the Earliest

Times to the Persian Conquest, Volumes I-V and which were adopted by Breasted into the Institute's program.

The Publications Office is now beginning to plan for a major updating and reissuing of its 1991 publication, Publications of the Oriental Institute 1906-1991: Exploring the History and Civilizations of the Near East (OIC 26), that was published in honor of 85 years of OI publications (1906-1991) and the 100th anniversary of The University of Chicago. We trust that this will become a major reference book covering in detail the progress of Oriental Institute publications during its first century. In conjunction with this publication, we plan to have some special exhibit in the Oriental Institute and a small celebratory occasion during February 2006. Keep tuned for further information!

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Timothy Harrison's Megiddo 3 (OIP 127) was printed and delivered. The printer, Edwards Brother, did an excellent job of printing and binding the volume -- I sent an e-mail to the printer acknowledging the quality of their work. Special thanks are due to Katherine Strange Burke and Leslie Schramer. Katherine did a fantastic job formatting the volume, doing most of the copy editing, and scanning much of the artwork for the plates. When it seemed that Katherine had worked on it long enough, I called upon Leslie to spell her and complete the scanning and layout the plates. Unlike any other archaeological volume that I have edited, Megiddo 3 had a number of complications because of the way it was written. The backbone of the book is a large database, sorted primarily for pottery and small finds, but also for locus. The database occurs both in the printed book and on the CD included with it; if one has access to ArcView, one can view the data as the author did or shape the data in ways that lead to other results. The complications arose from the entering of long and heavily prefixed entries into the data fields. The data fields sometimes clipped the ends of the longer entries or the prefixes that were manually moved to suffixes so the data would sort correctly, which also caused a disconnect with the previously published Megiddo volumes that we had to rectify. Thankfully, as the three of us worked our way through the volume and these complications were discovered, the author always showed his goodwill, tracked down the cause of the matter, and offered simple and helpful solutions. I very much enjoyed working with Tim Harrison, and he sent the three of us a very warm thank you when the volume was finally delivered to him.

See also the section "Implementation of the Electronic Publication Policy" in the Director's Office report, above.

The corrected final page proofs were received from most of the authors for K. Aslihan Yener's AVRP 1 (OIP 131) manuscript.

I sent final page proofs of George R. Hughes' Catalog of Demotic Texts in the Brooklyn Museum (OIC 29) to contributors Brian P. Muhs and Steven Vinson. Brian has already returned his proofs, so I began the process of acquiring a purchase order to have it printed and bound.

Work resumed on Augusta McMahon's Nippur 5 (OIP 129), and we inched closer to completing Brian Muhs' Taxes, Taxpayers, and Taxes in Ptolemaic Egypt (OIP

126) and Abbas Alizadeh's Tall-i Bakun\_ (OIP 128). Abbas also submitted revised text files for his \_Chogha Mish 2\_ (OIP 130) volume. Work also continues on Thomas Holland's \_Tell es-Sweyhat 1\_ (OIP 125); as you recall, the bibliography, figures, plates, and tables have been completed; at present work is focused on internal cross checks and copy editing.

As soon as one of us (Leslie, Katherine, Katie, Lindsay, or me) hits some dead time, we'll begin putting together bid documents for having the entire collection of Oriental Institute titles scanned in order to make .pdf files for addition to our Web-site.

The Spring 2005 issue of News & Notes was sent to press; we expect delivery on Wednesday 9 March.

Alexandra Witsell, who worked with us as an editorial assistant for a little over one year, ended her employment before she left for Egypt to work with Mark Lehner at Giza. Because we have worked our way through the backlog, I decided not to hire another assistant until the work picks up again.

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VOLUNTEER PROGRAM / Cathy Duenas and Terry Friedman

FIELD TRIP TO THE FIELD MUSEUM TO SEE THE KENNEDY EXHIBIT

MONDAY, MARCH 21st at 9:00 a.m.

Meet at the South door across the street from Soldier Field

Parking is on your own and available at the Soldier Field Garage.

There will be a light brunch and an introduction to the exhibit before our group is taken in to see the exhibit. This exhibit is a wonderful walk down memory lane for most of us.

If you are interested in this field trip, please call Terry Friedman or Cathy Duenas in the Volunteer Office at 702-1845 to make a reservation, because space is limited and we must provide The Field Museum with a list of participants a week before the event.

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WEBSITE / Chuck Jones - John Sanders

We are making progress on the fundamental redesign of the Web-site, as noted in John Sanders' report above. As we prepare to populate the new format with our data, it becomes extremely important that heads of projects and units of the Oriental Institute 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 Oriental Institute Web-site later this year will attract considerable attention to the content of the Web-site. 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: So far in 2005, 198,575 unique visitors made 301,402 visits to the site. A typical visitor examined 13.20 distinct files before leaving the site. A typical visit lasted for 5.82 minutes. The longest visit lasted for 1,439 minutes

During February 2005, 102,394 unique visitors made 145,970 visits to the site. The Web server delivered 32,894 unique documents one or more times each, accounting altogether for 2,330,655 files. The Web server was linked to by 72,382 distinct pages on 4,697 distinct Web-sites.

The top ten point of entry to the Web-site were:

- 1 Oriental Institute home page
- 2 Map of Mesopotamia
- 3 Map of Egypt
- 4 The Dead Sea Scrolls Project home page
- 5 The Giza Plateau Mapping Project home page
- 6 Constructing the Giza Plateau Computer Model (1990-1995)
- 7 Persepolis and Ancient Iran: Catalog of Expedition Photographs
- 8 Who Was Who Among The Royal Mummies
- 9 Oriental Institute Museum Home Page
- 10 NUBIA - "Its Glory And Its People" 1987 EXHIBITION: BROCHURE

During the past month the following new components were added to the Oriental Institute Web-site:

Bibliography of entries catalogued in Abzu during February 2005  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/AbzuNew02.2005.html>

The Oriental Institute 2002-2003 Annual Report  
[http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/AR/02-03/02-03\\_AR\\_TOC.html](http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/AR/02-03/02-03_AR_TOC.html)

The Mesopotamian Directory - 2005  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IS/BRINKMAN/MesDir.pdf>

162 photographs taken by Joanne Farchakh in Iraq (2002 - 2004) have been added to the "Lost Treasures" Web-site  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/dbfiles/farchakh/farchmain.htm>

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. Tony J. Wilkinson, with contributions by Naomi F. Miller, Clemens D. Reichel, and Donald Whitcomb.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/OIP/124/OIP124.html>

OIS 1. Changing Social Identity with the Spread of Islam: Archaeological Perspectives. Donald Whitcomb, editor, with Case Studies by Jodi Magness, Tracy Hoffman, Yury Karev, Mark C. Horton, and Timothy Insoll.  
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/OIS/1/OIS1.html>

Public mailing list activity in February 2005

660 messages were broadcast to 1,377 subscribers and publicly archived on ANE:  
<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/ane>

114 messages were broadcast to 620 subscribers and publicly archived on ANENews  
<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/anenews>

57 messages were broadcast to 750 subscribers and publicly archived on IraqCrisis  
<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/iraqcrisis>

1 message was broadcast to 451 subscribers and publicly archived on IraqCrisis (see "entries catalogued in Abzu", above)  
<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/iraqcrisis>

And finally: We are developing a page describing Access to Collections and Resources at The Oriental Institute during the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in July 2005

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/OIResources.html>

If any of you have additions, corrections, or comments, please send them to Chuck ASAP. Note that this is a temporary location for the page, so do not pass along the URL, or link to it - it will expire when we go live. A permanent location will be announced presently.

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PROJECTS  
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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

Stonecutter Dany Roy returned from Cairo on February 27 to resume the Colonnade Hall eastern wall stabilization project after a break to be with wife Nada for the birth of their son, Mark, born on February 12. Mother and the almost ten-pound baby are doing very well. While Dany was away our workmen prepared the materials for the completion of the buttressing project, laying in bricks and sand and preparing the lime for the mortar. During this time I created and set up a sign explaining the project, illustrated with cross sections and views of the stabilization and restoration process. Last week the brick masons returned to work, and as of this writing the brick buttress against the projecting outer wall section consists of 20 cubic meters of bricks (8,000 bricks) and rises six meters high. With this in place the wall is now stable, al'humdoolilah. The stone veneer blocks are scheduled to arrive by week's end, and next week Dany and local stone mason Gamal from Karnak will prepare the stone for application as a 'skin' concealing the brick core and will distress the surface of the blocks to look like the original, ancient blocks all around it. Stone conservator Hiroko has isolated all 48 wall fragments from the Khonsu Barge scene and is preparing them for joining and restoration to the top of the inner wall. Once in place, they will complete the Opet register in that section to its original height and will form the bottom facing of the buttress. Restoration of the group will begin this month but probably not be finished until next season. Hiroko continues to treat and assess the fragmentary material in the blockyard. She treated 38 fragments with Wacker OH 100 silicate, and 10 large Amenhotep III sanctuary blocks in the southern blockyard. Lately she has been condition-surveying the decaying fragments in the covered 'hospital' platforms, in preparation for moving some to the treatment area east of the Amenhotep III suncourt. Photographer Yarko Kobylecky assisted by Ellie Smith finished the painstaking, large-format photographic documentation of

Amenhotep III's socle inscription which wraps around the back sanctuary, and which is decaying terribly now. This area will be one of the first areas we focus on for major consolidation work once the groundwater is lowered in the temple vicinity.

At the Medinet Habu small Amun temple Brett McClain, Harold Hays, Jen Kimpton, and Sue Osgood continued the epigraphic documentation and collation of the bark sanctuary and ambulatory areas in the 18th Dynasty core temple. Lotfi Hassan, Adel Azziz, and Nahed Samir finished the cleaning and poulticing/deslination of the sanctuary façade, and Yarko assisted by Ellie will begin the final photography of this section for the first volume of the small Amun temple series this week. This past month Lotfi and his team also began the consolidation of decaying foundation stones around the 18th Dynasty temple. This is more accurately described as the platform on which Hatshepsut and Thutmosis III built their temple, presently half-buried. When Ramesses III enclosed the small Amun temple within his precinct, he raised the ground level in an artificial terrace to support his mortuary temple, and in the process buried the small Amun temple back area over a meter. We have uncovered, as Hölscher did earlier, the back, western courses of the southern exterior wall, and are consolidating the decaying, fractured stone at the ground line. The same sort of consolidation has been deemed necessary on the interior, northern Ptolemaic wall between the Kushite Pylon and 18th Dynasty temple façade, and also began last week. Lisa Giddy and Tina Di Cerbo are finishing up the excavation and recording of the naos emplacement in the 'Naos Room' sanctuary this week, and Dany will begin the careful backfilling and new emplacement footing for the naos by week's end. I have resumed work analyzing the smaller fragments of the granodiorite dyad of Thutmosis III and Amun in the central sanctuary, and on the first day Tina, Reis Badawy, and I made 8 major joins!

I have participated in several groundwater meetings with the SCA, SWECO, and USAID in Luxor during the past month. Excavation in the areas of two pumping stations at Luxor Temple are due to begin this Sunday, and the Epigraphic Survey will store in the LT blockyard any fragmentary architectural or inscribed material encountered during this project, and will incorporate that material into its program. WMF Director of Conservation Dr. Gaetano Palumbo is in Luxor now for a review of our Luxor Temple work - presently supported by WMF - and to review other projects supported by WMF, such as the German work in Amenhotep III's mortuary temple, and Renée Friedman's stabilization work of the Dynasty 2 mudbrick enclosure at Hierakonpolis. (Eight of us journeyed to Hierakonpolis and its sister city El-Kab yesterday to see Renée's work and that of her husband Vivian Davies in the 17th and early 18th Dynasty tombs at El-Kab). In late February we hosted the ARCE grand tour of Egypt with site visits, library briefing, and a courtyard reception, and we are looking forward to the imminent arrival of Robert Ritner, Monica Witczak, and the Oriental Institute tour here at the end of this week. Carlotta Maher arrived at the end of February and has once more resumed briefing visitors and groups passing through; she and I spoke to a group from Fulbright Egypt this morning. This is our busiest time of the season, and it is a great boon to have her here.

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RENCONTRE ASSYRIOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE / Martha Roth

The RAI meetings will be held here, mostly at the Oriental Institute, in July. There will be an opening reception on Sunday evening, July 17, followed by a week of scholarly presentations and divertissements (July 18-22).

The lectures are free and open to all. However, those who wish to participate fully (riding busses to events, attending receptions and dinners, sailing on the lake, receiving registration packets, name badges, etc.) MUST REGISTER and PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE. Forms are available in the student lounge, the director's outer office, and on the Web at [http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/rencontre/RAI\\_2005.html](http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/rencontre/RAI_2005.html) Please note that Oriental Institute and NELC faculty, staff, and students will not be charged the late fee if they register before April 1.

Students and others who will be volunteering their time or who are unable to pay the registration fee should contact Martha Roth (OI 324) about having the registration fee waived.

[See also the note at the end of "WEB-SITE" above -CJ-]

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INDIVIDUALS  
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Fred Donner

I participated in a workshop entitled "Heritage des Omayyades" at the French Institute in Damascus, Syria, on February 11-12. The workshop dealt mainly with the way the Umayyads (ruled 660-750 C.E.) were perceived by later Islamic dynasties and thinkers, or with their legacy--including architectural--for later generations of Muslims. The workshop was organized by NELC graduate Prof. Paul M. Cobb of Notre Dame and M. Antoine Borrut, now completing his dissertation on the Umayyads for the University of Aix-en-Provence, who some of you may remember from his visit to Chicago in November and December, 2004, to use our library and consult with colleagues. It will be followed by another workshop at Notre Dame in July, and a final, larger conference in Damascus, scheduled for June, 2006. My own paper discussed the role the Umayyads played in shaping the religious ideas of the prophet Muhammad (d. 632) and his first followers, which remained for some time somewhat vague and inchoate, into that more sharply-defined and coherent religious ideology which we now call Islam. It was a great chance to get to know some of the French academicians who work on early Islam, whom I generally did not know; in particular, the now-emeritus Alfred-Louis de Prémare of the University of Aix-en-Provence, author of two recent books, *Les Fondations de l'Islam* and *Aux origines du Koran*. It was also a good chance to visit and pay respects to various colleagues and friends in Damascus, notably Dr. Abd al-Razzaq Moaz, Deputy Minister of Culture, Dr. Michel Maqdisi, Director of Excavations in the Department of Antiquities, and Prof. Fayssal Abdallah, an Assyriologist at the University of Damascus who was a visitor to Chicago around 1990 on the Chicago-Damascus faculty exchange program that ran from 1988 until 1992.

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Walter Kaegi

