

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - OCTOBER 2002

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FROM THE DIRECTOR / Gil Stein

As the new director, I am pleased to welcome everyone back from their summer activities. The nine annual issues of the OI Newsletter offer the opportunity to pass along information in a semi-formal setting about the activities of Institute personnel and

projects. I found it extraordinarily useful to receive these reports over the last year during the Director's search process and in preparation for assuming the Directorship. I urge each of you to contribute regular reports of the progress of your own research and publication as well as reports of the projects with which you are affiliated.

It is a pleasure to welcome Chris Woods to the faculty and Jennie Myers as a Research Associate with the CAD. Each of them has contributed a report in this newsletter. Likewise we welcome old friend Clemens Reichel, who has been appointed full-time Research Associate with the Diyala Publication Project.

Abbas Alizadeh has been in Iran since the beginning of the summer, working in the field. Beginning in January Abbas will be on a leave of absence, working in the Iranian National Museum.

Gene Gragg is on leave for a year, currently in Paris.

Tim Cashion and Eleanor Barbanes have resigned their respective positions in the Development Office and the Museum. This accounts for two of the three vacancies now listed at the OI. You will find descriptions of these three positions at the University's Human Resources Management website

Development Coordinator:

<http://jobs.uchicago.edu/job-detail.cfm?ReqID=054230>

Reinstallation Project Curator:

<http://jobs.uchicago.edu/job-detail.cfm?ReqID=054228>

Membership & Donor Relations Coordinator:

<http://jobs.uchicago.edu/job-detail.cfm?ReqID=054229>

Please encourage qualified persons to apply.

As most of you know the University is studying the electrical needs of the Institute. they plan first to bring new sources of power to the Institute, and then to rewire the building. The result is intended to provide modern and reliable power infrastructure in the building. Your cooperation as this project progresses is appreciated.

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NELC NEWS / Peter Dorman

Many of you will already have met and welcomed the new administrative assistant in the NELC office, Paula Manzuk, who is rejoining the University after a 4-year hiatus, having performed the same job for the Department of Romance Languages. We've had to deal with another sudden change: Alena Lauritsen, our very able office assistant, has had to take full-time leave for health reasons until the expected birth of her baby in December, and her place has been filled for the time being by Martha Dunston. This gives us relatively little continuity in office staff from the summer; so I would ask you please to bear with us if the NELC office takes longer than normal to respond to specific inquiries.

Please note the following events (co-)sponsored by NELC:

October 14

Two lectures given by Dr. Issam Nassar (Al-Quds University) and Dr. Oren Yiftachel (Ben-Gurion University) on the current situation in Israel-Palestine, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, in Breasted Hall.

October 15

Dimitri Meeks of CNRS at the University of Aix-en-Provence, will deliver a lecture, "Egyptian Lexicography and Palaeography" on Tuesday, October 15, at 1:30 PM in the LaSalle Banks Room.

October 18

Farewell party for Marlene Tuttle, 4:00-6:00 PM, location to be announced.

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

Throughout the summer, on an almost daily basis, several Lab computers were used by NELC students Malayna Williams, Jacqueline Jay, Jonathan Tenney, Vanessa Davies, and/or Rod Edwards, entering texts and cultural information into the ever growing METEOR database, the on-line "Reading Book" for Middle Egyptian documents being developed under Janet Johnson's supervision as part of the Mellon Foundation's Less Commonly Taught Languages grant.

I spent some weeks during the summer loading and testing the new Macintosh System X operating system on the Lab's iMac and G4 computers, though still not resolved issues pertaining to certain peripheral equipment (our large-format scanner and CD-R drive) mean that we cannot yet switch to booting these computers with System X. I hope to resolve these issues in the first part of the Fall quarter, so the Lab's Macintosh computers will be running this latest operating system, as it has features the Lab could make good use of on a daily basis.

Although they are not yet setup and running (in fact they are still in their shipping boxes), the Lab has purchased a new Windows and Macintosh computer:

Dell OptiPlex GX260, Pentium 4, 2.4Ghz, 1 GB RAM, DVD & CD-RW drive, 60GB harddrive

Macintosh eMac G4, 700Mhz, 512MB RAM, DVD-R & CD-RW drive, 60GB harddrive (that's right...the first DVD writer in the OI)

Both of these computers will have an 8 1/2" x 14", 1200dpi scanner attached.

More than 30 research project articles written for the OI's News&Notes newsletter during the past decade were posted on the OI website during the summer 2002, so look at the "What's New" page for links to them.

The Oriental Institute Web site has had its annual Autumn jump in usership. We now regularly serve about two and a half million documents each month to between eighty and one hundred thousand users.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Work proceeded with a fury over the summer, thanks to three work study students -- Katherine Burke, Leslie Schramer, and Adam Miglio -- working full time most of the summer. Special thanks are due to Charles E. Jones, who loaned the Publications Office an iMac (lil'helper), enabling all four in the editorial office to have access to a computer. Confirmed work study help for the fall quarter includes Leslie Schramer and Katie Johnson.

OIC 29: Catalog of Demotic Texts in the Brooklyn Museum, by George R. Hughes. This manuscript, begun by Professor Hughes in the 1950s and accepted for publication posthumously in 1997, catalogs some 200 Demotic texts in the Brooklyn Museum in about 100 pages (ca. sixty pages of text and forty plates). The plates were completed, although we expect to receive nine additional photographs, the diacritics were added to the text, and the text was read and roughly formatted.

OIP 118: Scarabs, Scaraboids, Seals Impressions, and Seals from Medinet Habu, by Emily Teeter, with contribution by T. G. Wilfong. Final page proofs were sent to and returned by Teeter and Wilfong. During the final proofing, it was decided to add photographs of impressions on funerary cones and bricks, which revealed a couple fuller readings of the facsimiles published in Davies and Macadam 1957. At this writing, four more passes need to be made thorough the manuscript: (1) Check final corrections. (2) Check plate references. (3) Check measurements of all objects. (4) Create index.

OIP 120: Excavations at the Prehistoric Mound of Chogha Bonut, Khuzestan, Iran, Seasons 1976/77, 1977/78, and 1996, by Abbas Alizadeh, with contributions by Naomi F. Miller, Arlene Miller-Rosen, and Richard W. Redding. Final page proofs were sent to Alizadeh in Iran, in two formats: Michael Kozuh hand delivered a copy to Alizadeh in Iran and PDF files of the manuscript were emailed.

OIP 121: Drehem Administrative Documents from the Reign of Amar-Suena, by Markus Hilgert, with contribution by Clemens D. Reichel. Page proofs of all but the preliminary pages, the second forty pages of the introduction, and Reichel's appendix were emailed as PDF files to Hilgert. These few remaining pages will be sent shortly. We estimate this manuscript will have about 800 pages.

OIP 122: Neo-Babylonian Texts of the Oriental Institute Collection, by David Weisberg. A "galley" proof of the entire manuscript, with artwork scanned and prepared as plates, was sent to and returned by Weisberg. This first proof was necessary for the author to confirm our conversion of the author's Windows transliteration fonts into our Macintosh fonts.

Chicago Demotic Dictionary: The file with the words beginning with the letter aleph was posted to the web, and we are close to posting the ayin, B, and Q files, too.

The fall issue of News & Notes was prepared for press and published.

The artwork and page layout for the annual report was completed.

On the font front, Lloyd Anderson of Ecological Linguistics has nearly completed a Unicode font that will be absolutely necessary for the Publication Office to have in hand before upgrading to Mac OSX, which we do not look forward to doing, but which we must do.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

STAFF-

I am delighted to welcome Foy Scalf and Eudora Bernsen as new staff members of the Research Archives. Both are first year grad students in NELC: Foy in Egyptology, and Eudora in Archaeology. They join returning employee Kathy Wagner. I'm sorry to have lost the help of Vanessa Davies and Emily Hartsay who have gone on to concentrate on other things.

ON-LINE CATALOGUE -

We have added about three thousand records to the on-line catalogue this summer. Use of the Web-version of the catalogue continues to increase and we are working to make it more stable than it is at present. It is now serving about eight hundred queries each day.

ELECTRONIC WORKS IN PROGRESS -

In June I reported on the development of two new tools for local users.

1) Ancient Near Eastern Desk Reference. A preliminary (and developing) version is accessible for the time being at: <http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/deskref.html>

2) Dissertations in Ancient Near Eastern Studies in the collection of the Research Archives: I am experimenting with ways to make the .pdf dissertation collection accessible to Research Archives users more effectively:

<http://oilib.uchicago.edu/diss.html>

Comments and suggestions on either or both of them will be gratefully received.

During the summer we began the editing of each of these projects - particularly the latter. We now have full records for nearly five hundred digital dissertations in the collections of the Research Archives. I hope to be able to report on their access presently. In addition we have been working towards an updated master list of serial titles held in

various ways in the Research Archives. I expect to make this list available in both hard and electronic copy.

ETANA-

Over the summer, we publicly launched the new version of Abzu:
<http://www.etana.org/abzu/>

This summer also saw the public launch of the ETANA Core Texts project:
<http://www.etana.org/coretexts.shtml>

The project has processed and published in digital form some seventy-eight volumes. Another eighty or so volumes from the collections of the Research Archives will be available shortly.

Both the rebuilding of Abzu and the development of the Core Texts have been funded by a substantial grant from the Mellon Foundation.

ANE-

The ANE list currently has 1166 subscribers:

<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/ane>

The ANENews list currently has 509 subscribers:

<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/anenews>

RABooks currently has 452 subscribers:

<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/rabooks>

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PROJECTS

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APIS / Peter Dorman

Advanced Papyrological Information System, Phase III

Over the summer the Oriental Institute initiated a new research project, joining the effort (as a rather junior partner) to create a comprehensive data base of papyrological resources housed in museums and universities around the world, which is the goal of a consortium of academic institutions working under the NEH-funded Advanced Papyrological Information System (with the happy acronym APIS). A small sum of money was awarded to the OI earlier this year to kick off our own portion of the project's Phase III, which will digitize the pertinent acquisition information and scan the images of papyri and other written documents in the Oriental Institute Museum in order to make them accessible to outside scholars for study. The co-PI's for the project at Chicago are Peter Dorman and Robert Ritner, but so far most of the real progress has been accomplished by Hratch Papazian, who has been at work this summer with the help of a computer and scanner, completing the entries on ten Demotic papyri from Hawara, one Greek papyrus, and five hieratic ostraca from Deir el Medina.

Chicago will also be hosting the next coordinating meeting of the APIS project on Saturday and Sunday, October 19-20, where the participants will be discussing progress to date, ongoing problems of technology and terminology, and an agenda for the coming year. Thanks again to Hratch for making the arrangements for the meeting!

For those interested in learning more about APIS as a whole, here's the URL:
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/projects/digital/apis/index.html>

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CAD / Martha Roth

The CAD has had a great summer. The Tet volume was fully checked by all, and I finished the editor's reading of the checked volume just before the autumn quarter began last week. Meanwhile, we continued reading and returning galleys for the P volume and the T volume, and writing draft manuscript for the final volume, U/W.

We (reluctantly) said goodbye to Tim Collins, and welcomed our new research associate, Jennie Myers. Jennie comes to us from Harvard, where she completed her dissertation on the pantheon at Sippar. We also have had the good fortune to have Joan Goodnick Westenholz back with us for the summer and early autumn.

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CHD / Theo van den Hout

On October 1 Hripsime Haroutunian has changed her half-time staff position for a full-time position as lecturer of Armenian in NELC. Of course, we are sad to see Hripsime leave after seven years of dedicated service to the CHD. She has done a lot of work for the dictionary, transliterating texts for the files, searching for joins and duplicates, reference checking as well as writing some first drafts. We will all miss her ever joyful presence in the dictionary office! But we are also glad for her that she got this important full-time position for Armenian and the advantage is, that she will stay around: her new office is in the Pick building but she will teach her classes in the OI. We will officially say goodbye at a special Hittite party in her honor but already now we say: thanks so much, Hripsime, and congratulations on your new job!

At the same time we welcome Kathleen Mineck to the CHD staff. Kathleen is well-known to all in the OI. Currently she is working on her dissertation on the color system in Hittite texts under the supervision of Harry Hoffner. Kathleen will take over all Hripsime's duties and you will find her in office 218. Welcome Kathleen!

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

The Epigraphic Survey is preparing to resume work in Luxor and begin its 79th field season on October 15, 2002. Tina Di Cerbo is already in Luxor opening up and cleaning the house, and I will be in Cairo to sign the contract for the season with the Egyptian government on October 13. Word from Amira Khattab at the American Research Center in Cairo is that the application for our 2002 - 2003 season has been approved by the Permanent Committee of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and that we have security clearance for our entire staff. The word from the US Embassy is that all is peaceful and secure in the country. Everything is 'go,' al'humdoolilah!

When next I write it will be from Luxor, with a full report on the situation there and our field activities. As always we are contactable by phone/fax in Luxor (Tel: 011-20-95-37-2525; fax: 011-20-95-38-1620) and e-mail (mine: wr-johnson@uchicago.edu). Note that Emily Napolitano uses a different e-mail address when she is in Luxor: e_napolitano@yahoo.com. Keep us informed about events in Chicago and the big, wide, world, OK?

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TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP / Chuck Jones

We expect to inaugurate the Technology Discussion Group this year with a presentation by Clemens Reichel and George Sundell on the creation of an Oracle-based relational Diyala database. Watch the usual locations for announcements of place and time. Our colleague Patrick Durusau from the SBL will spend a day here at the OI on the 10th of October (this Thursday) discussing various electronic projects.

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TELL ATCHANA / Aslihan Yener

Objects were pouring out of the galleries as the reinstallation of preclassical finds proceeded at the Hatay (Antakya) Archaeological Museum in southern Turkey this summer. The acting director of the Museum, Asli Tuncer, had asked me to reorganize, redesign, and reinstall the display cases, selecting from thousands of finds stemming from the early twentieth century excavations in the Plain of Antioch. At that time, teams from the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, Princeton University and the British Museum had unearthed spectacular material that had been carefully curated and stored at the Museum for over half a century. Now the time was ripe to bring these astonishing works of art out of storage and make them available for scholars and public alike. We were wildly successful-not only were we able to gain entry into the long inaccessible museum depots housing these materials, but we quickly photographed and created a workable database for the bulk of the items chosen for display before our short study season came to an end in July. While part of my team worked on completing our topographical map at the site of Tell Atchana (ancient Alalakh) and catalogued the finds that we had encountered from Sir Leonard Woolley's

dighthouse depot in 2001, I shifted some of the OI staff (Christina Klinger, Jake Lauinger) into helping the museum with the display and documentation. The collections included Hittite stamp seals with hieroglyphic inscriptions, marble statues from classical Antioch, ritual altars, texts and sculpture from Alalakh, cylinder seals from Tell Judaidah and Chatal Hoyuk, gold and sophisticated bronzes from Tell Tayinat and countless exquisite ceramics from all periods and from all areas of the Near East. Additionally throughout the decades, village farmers, dealers, and local citizens, too, had contributed to the storehouse of treasures hidden in these rooms. Our work is far from complete but we did accomplish a number of important steps to complete this reinstallation. A rough first selection of artifacts was completed and decisions about display layouts were roughed out. Every site now has a new large-scale poster which provides information about the excavation, the finds and the chronologies. More difficult to accomplish was rearranging the locations for the massive Late Bronze and Iron Age basalt sculpture from Atchana and Tayinat. But Brenda Craddock was up to the task and using contemporary concepts of museum display, esthetically juxtaposed the small find cases with the basalt sculptures, achieving a more nuanced exhibit than before. The Museum staff will continue to work on the reinstallation and hope for a reopening in the very near future. Meanwhile back at Tell Atchana, our brand new dig house headquarters are on their way to being completed. With generous funding from the Oriental Institute, three prefabricated buildings were purchased from a first-rate company in Ankara. The first building is a staff dormitory unit housing 24, the second, a laboratory building with dining room and kitchen facilities. The third is a two-room container unit for the dig director. The stage is now set to begin the excavations at Tell Atchana from the end of August through October 2003. Joining us in the efforts next year will be David Schloen, who will take on the responsibility of Associate Director.

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INDIVIDUALS

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ROBERT BIGGS

Robert Biggs spent part of July studying Babylonian cuneiform texts at the British Museum in London.

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FRED DONNER

On Monday, October 14, there will be a presentation and discussion at the University of Chicago on the current situation in Israel-Palestine by two speakers (one Israeli, one Palestinian) from "Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace" (FFIPP). This event is sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, the Center for International Studies, the Muslim Students' Association, and Rockefeller Chapel.

WALTER KAEGI

Walter Kaegi published a Commentary in Ancient World, vol. 33, no. 1 (2002), pp. 37-44, on 3 papers delivered at the January 2000 meeting in Chicago of the Association of Ancient Historians (held in conjunction with the American Historical Association). It includes his generic reflections on the past and future of scholarly research on Late Antiquity. On 28 June in Oriental Institute Room 210 he delivered a lecture to University of Notre Dame students of Prof. Robert Haak on "Pilgrimage to Jerusalem." This was a summer seminar sponsored by NSF. On 2 July he delivered a lecture on "Late Antiquity" to members of the NEH Summer Seminar on Islamic States, directed by Fred Donner and Ken Hall (Ball State). His lecture took place in the University of Chicago Biological Sciences Research Building. He spent most of the summer developing and polishing maps for his forthcoming book on Heraclius Emperor of Byzantium, which Cambridge University Press is publishing. He agreed to contribute a chapter on Byzantine-Muslim history to a volume in the forthcoming Cambridge Medieval History. Kaegi completed an essay on "The Muslim Conquests of Edessa and Amida (Diarbekir)" which has been accepted for a volume (no. 6) on Tigranakert/Edessa in the series on Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces, to be published by Mazda publications under the editorship of Professor Richard G. Hovannisian.

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JENNIE MYERS

I am very pleased to have joined the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary team as a Research Associate and to be a part of the Oriental Institute. Last May, I successfully defended my dissertation, "The Sippar Pantheon: A Diachronic Study," at Harvard University. The dissertation traced the local pantheon of Sippar from its earliest attestations in the Pre-Sargonic period to its latest in the Neo-Babylonian "Ebabbar Archive." One of the main points highlighted in the dissertation is the great importance of Sippar as a religious center from early on and the close association which Babylonian kings -- especially from the First Dynasty of Babylon and on -- effected with the city of Sippar and its patron deity Shamash. I plan to return to my dissertation within the year to prepare it for publication.

Besides pursuing various topics relating to aspects of the dissertation, I am currently working on an article concerning Ur III seals owned by and depicting women -- a topic that stems from a paper I wrote for Irene Winter several years ago.

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HRATCH PAPAIZIAN

I spent part of the summer teaching an intensive course in Middle Egyptian at Georgia State University in Atlanta. This was a special seminar set up through the efforts of Dr. Melinda Hartwig, and intended to introduce graduate and undergraduate students in ancient Egyptian art to the language which forms an inseparable part of their study material. Although none of the 20 students had previous training in an ancient language, their dedication to learning Egyptian more than made up for that deficiency, despite suffering through countless hours of lectures on morphology and syntax.

This Fall I will continue work on the APIS project (see separate report by Peter Dorman) cataloguing published Egyptian texts from the OI collection to be included in the central APIS database.

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CLEMENS REICHEL

Since July 1 I have held the position of full-time Research Associate and continued my work on the Diyala material. For the last two years I have been working with George Sundell on the creation of an Oracle-based relational Diyala database. In the past few months we made great progress on this and George has started the transfer of data from our existing Macintosh-based FoxPro tables onto one of the PCs in the computer lab. Many details still need to be hammered out, especially the creation of a 'front end' to display the data in a web browser. Creating all necessary links and enabling all possible searches for 15,000 objects ranging from bone pins to cuneiform texts has been a challenge and given us lots of headaches, but we seem to be getting there. A first version of the database should be ready earlier next year. We are currently seeking the funds necessary to set up and maintain the website.

In a different life, I continued my work on the sealings from Hamoukar that we found during the 2001 season. In June I submitted an article ("Administrative Complexity in Syria during the 4th Millennium B.C.: The Seals and Sealings from Tell Hamoukar") to the journal *Akkadica*, together with contributions by McGuire Gibson, Tony Wilkinson, and Jason Ur. This volume (*Akkadica* 123.1 [2002]), which is dedicated almost entirely to Hamoukar, has just been sent out.

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ROBERT RITNER

During the month of August, Robert Ritner attended the Eighth International Congress for Demotic Studies in Würzburg, Germany, where he chaired a panel and delivered a grammatical lecture on "Some Problematic Bipartite Nominal Predicates in Demotic." In the same month, he was interviewed on Egyptian dentistry by the New York (Science) Times, with the remarks printed as "Q & A: Teeth and Millstones." He completed an article on "The 'Breathing Permit of Hôr' among the Joseph Smith Papyri," to be published this summer in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. He is now formal academic

advisor for the Field Museum exhibit "Eternal Egypt" (April 26 - August 10, 2003) and engaged in planning design, labels, and interactive features and programs.

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MARTHA ROTH

I finished and submitted two articles ("Prostitution" and "Elder Abuse"), and continue to work on my manuscript of Mesopotamian Law Cases. My article on "Hammurabi's Wronged Man" appeared in the Journal of the American Oriental Society 122 (2002).

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OGUZ SOYSAL

I will not bore you with how the "Hattian Word List" has been progressing recently. It is ready to go to Europe... late October... period.

Having spent my whole summer in Chicago, I had time to deal with two Hittite seals with hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions. I have known about both of the seals since 1997 when I was shown photographs of them while I was participating in the Kusakli excavations. One of them originated in the Sivas region and is deposited in the Sivas Museum; another one is in the Konya Museum. At that time I made transliterations of the inscriptions and kept them for my personal files. Recently these seals surfaced in two scholarly articles in Turkish journals. M. Alkan and S. Herbordt published the Sivas-Seal in *Archivum Anatolicum* 4 (2000) pp. 89-98, and G. Karauguz, *Archivum Anatolicum* 5 (2002) pp. 93-95, made the Konya-Seal accessible to the scholarly community. Since I did not agree with many of the readings presented in those studies I decided to review them. I dedicated a long article to Sivas- and related seals, which is to appear in *Bibliotheca Orientalis*. Also, a brief notice on the Konya-Seal will appear in a future issue of *N.A.B.U.* The latter one is a uniquely shaped silver Hittite seal and belongs to a person named Sarkuili, the "charioteer", a very common profession on the Hittite seals. But the owner of the Sivas-Seal is a very special personality. His Name is Kantuzzili and he bears the title "the great lance man", the highest ranking official in the Hittite court. According to the Hittite cuneiform sources, Kantuzzili was a prominent person during the late Middle Hittite Kingdom who had the title "prince", as well as "priest". He is also known from his "royal prayer". The historical evidence links him closely to the period between the Hittite kings Tuthaliya II. / III. and Suppiluliuma I. This summer another seal of Kantuzzili was discovered at Hattusa that makes the role of this person even more exciting. More information about Kantuzzili will shed new light on the "dark age" of Hittite history.

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GIL STEIN

I spent the month of August in Urfa, Turkey, working on the final study season of the Hacinebi project. We have now completed the analysis of all the artifactual materials generated in our six seasons of excavation (1992-1997), and are beginning the write-up phase of the project.

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MATT STOLPER

OI inmates who have been beclouded since the departure of Remko JAS will be glad to know that he's coming to visit Chicago again, not professionally but for vacation. He will arrive on Oct. 17 and stay until early November, at Matt Stolper's place.

Also arriving soon from the Netherlands is Wouter HENKELMAN, of Leiden (formerly of Utrecht), visiting for the autumn quarter to use research facilities and work on Achaemenid Elamite texts with Matt Stolper and Chuck Jones. Henkelman has studied with Peter Calmeyer and Heleen Sancisi-Weerdenburg, among others. He is working on a dissertation on pre-Achaemenid and early Achaemenid Fars and Elam. He is also editing ARTA, the incipient on-line newsletter of Achaemenid studies, to be mounted in connection with achemenet.com, out of the College de France.

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THEO VAN DEN HOUT

Mid June I went for almost two weeks to Turkey for a documentary on the Hittites made by the Turkish film maker Tolga Örnek. The documentary will be a mix of more serious interviews and dramatized parts. After spending several days with the crew at Boghazköy, my interview was done against the backdrop of the monument known as Eflatun Pinar in south-west Turkey, not far from Konya. The monument is a very photogenic artificial basin at a natural spring surrounded by extensive Hittite sculpture from roughly the 14/13th century. At the end of the summer I had the privilege of going again to Turkey, this time for the 5th International Congress of Hittitology, held in Corum, the capital of the province in which the ruins of the former Hittite capital are located. At the conference I read a paper on the problem of archives and libraries: how can we characterize the Hittite tablet collections using those terms and how useful are these terms?

Since last week the CHD has a visitor for the rest of the quarter: Willemijn Waal. She was my last student at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. She is majoring both in Classical Philology and Anatolian languages and is now writing her final MA research paper here on a difficult but very intriguing dossier of some four Hittite texts. While here she will be sitting in on Ugaritic and Elementary Turkish. After having had to leave her in the middle of her program I am glad I can still supervise her on her last step towards her MA degree. In two weeks Willemijn will be joined by Petra Goedegebuure, my Dutch PhD student. Petra and I have been working together during the last couple of years mainly by email,

but having almost finished her dissertation she will be here for a month of discussions and she will check the CHD files for any material that she might have missed. Petra is writing on the deictic system in Hittite, anything that has to do with "this" and "that" and any grammatical elements that refer to items in a text or to the outside world.

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CHRIS WOODS

I am indeed very happy to be here (finally) and I want again to thank the OI/NELC for allowing me to fulfill the second year of my Junior Fellowship at Harvard last year. My first quarter promises to be a busy one. I am currently teaching the third semester of Sumerian A, and an advanced course on Sumerian historical texts. In addition to my two relatively long-term projects—a study of Sumerian writing, and the Sumerian prefix system, the latter stemming from my 2001 dissertation—several new opportunities have come my way. I will be preparing an edition of the important Enlil Hymn, Enlilsurashe, as well as collaborating with H. Vanstiphout (Groningen) on an edition of the Lamentation of Ur. Finally, Miguel has entrusted me with the preparation of MSL 18, the final volume of that series; it will cover a wide range of lexical materials not covered in the previous volumes. I will be in Chicago all year with the exception of short trips to Penn, and perhaps the Netherlands, to collate tablets.

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DON WHITCOMB

Dr. Moain Sadeq is the director of archaeology for the Palestinian Authority in Gaza. He has received a Fulbright fellowship to spend the year with NELC and, after a lengthy wait for visa clearance, arrived in Chicago late last week.

Dr. Sadeq took his doctorate at the Free University in Berlin. His thesis is on Mamluk and Ottoman city of Gaza. He has facilitated many archaeological projects, mainly French, in recent year in Gaza. His project here is to coordinate information for a definitive publication of the History and Archaeology of Gaza, 2 vols. from prehistory to modern times. This is a project sponsored by the Albright Institute and al-Quds University.

We have secured an unfurnished apartment for Dr. Sadeq and his family (his wife and four children) and are now attempting to find furnishings for him. Since many people move at this time of year and have items which they would be happy to donate, we are sending this appeal for furniture and household furnishings which anyone might wish to donate.

Please contact Don Whitcomb or Fred Donner

