

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - NOVEMBER 2002

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SOME OTHER POTENTIALLY USEFUL AND INTERESTING LISTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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FROM THE DIRECTOR / Gil Stein

Oriental Institute Speaker Program 2002-2003: A Call for Suggestions!

We have just established a Speaker Committee for this academic year. The committee members are Mac Gibson (chair), Robert Ritner, and Matt Stolper. The committee has sufficient funds allocated to it to enable it to bring in 8-10 speakers from outside Chicago. Our goal is to have talks whose coverage spans the range of research interests at the OI. We are also looking for 1-2 speakers each quarter who would also be able to give a good membership lecture in addition to their more technical talk to OI faculty/staff.

If you have suggested speakers and topics, please send your list as soon as possible to Mac at:

m-gibson@uchicago.edu

Thanks very much for your participation in this effort.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Holland

The Publications Office announces its annual in house book sale, which will be conducted by Curtis Myers next Thursday and Friday, Nov. 7-8, in the main OI entrance space situated in front of Breasted Hall. Although this sale has traditionally been designated as a "Student" book sale, all faculty, staff, OI members, and Museum visitors, are also invited to purchase our OI books at the reduced prices being offered.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Katherine Strange Burke returned to work in the editorial office, bringing the total of work study students to three (Katherine, Katie, and Leslie). As you see from the description of work below, we concentrated on completing work on OIP 118 and 121.

OIC 29: We received eight of the nine missing photographs from the Brooklyn Museum for Professor George Hughes's catalog of Demotic texts in the Brooklyn Museum.

OIP 118: Work continued on Emily Teeter's manuscript on scarabs from Medinet Habu, and we are happy to report it is drawing to a close. The scans of the 349 scarabs and other objects to be published in the volume were measured against the actual measurements of the objects, and, most importantly, the percentages of the scans were checked. The photographs that were scanned come from two sources: field photographs that were not taken to scale and photographs taken in the museum to scale. Of the nearly 1,500 scans, we found about eighty that had been enlarged in PageMaker beyond 105% in order to reach the correct scale, and these eighty photographs -- all of which are field photographs -- are being re-scanned. The re-scanning at the correct scale will allow these scans to be printed without loss of resolution. Otherwise, we expect to begin indexing the volume within a few days, which is the very last substantial bit of work to be done.

OIP 120 (by Abbas Alizadeh; page proofs with author in Iran) and OIP 122 (by David Weisberg; awaiting entry of corrections, basic re-organization, and formatting).

OIP 121: Work continued on Markus Hilgert's manuscript on 605 administrative documents from Drehem during the reign of Amar-Suena. Page proofs for the all of the manuscript except Clemens Reichel's appendix were sent to the author via email in the form of PDF files, and the author has been returning comments and instructions via email in the form of MS Word files. What remains to be done: (1) Process the author's corrections. (2) Finish cleaning up scans of author's pencil drawings (this will take the most time). (3) Finish appendix. (4) Create index. An interesting note about this volume is that it contains at least three fascinating sections of remarkable interest for non-Sumerologists: (1) The author identifies four distinct writings of the ITI sign in the 1,104 administrative documents that he has published in OIP 115 and OIP 121. (2) The author discusses the phenomenon of duplicate texts (two texts recording the same transaction), twenty-three of which from the reign of Amar-Suena are identified.

(3) In the appendix Clemens Reichel discusses and illustrates the sealing practice on fifteen of the tablets.

The 2001-2002 Annual Report was completed and sent to press; we expect delivery on or about November 15.

The Winter N&N was sent to press. An interesting note about N&N is that the actual PageMaker file that is sent to press is sent back and forth via e-mail between Emily Napolitano at Chicago House in Egypt and the Publications Office in Chicago.

Graffiti from the Khonsu Temple Roof at Karnak, by Helen Jacquet-Gordon, to be published as the third volume of the Khonsu Temple series, under the oversight of the Epigraphic Survey. Initial work was begun over the summer by Emily Napolitano, who under the supervision of W. Raymond Johnson entered the reviewer's corrections into the manuscript, and by Yarko Kobylecky, who developed rather extraordinary prints from the film supplied with the manuscript. Work continues here in Chicago while the Epigraphic Survey is at Chicago House. Katherine Strange Burke was hired to scan the nearly 700 pieces of artwork and then to do basic page layout in PageMaker.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

ON-LINE CATALOGUE -

The on-line public access catalogue of the Research Archives is once again operating properly following a period of instability during the past six weeks or so, and a period when it was almost entirely inaccessible during the last week of October. The data has been ported to a much faster platform and reformatted in such a way as to solve the problems we were encountering. In addition we have plugged what looked to the outside world like a hole in the system. As a consequence, the machine is no longer being bombarded by outside commercial interests (mostly pornographers) attempting to sanitize their products by using our server as a proxy. Whatever the causes of these problems, they appear to be solved and usage of the on-line catalogue has nearly doubled.

With apologies for the inconvenience these problems might have caused.

The on-line public access catalogue is accessible at:
<http://oilib.uchicago.edu/oilibcat.html>

ABZU -

Many thanks to those of you who have offered comments on the new Abzu:
<http://www.etana.org/abzu/>

We have recently implemented three improvements which I think will address some of the issues raised by correspondents.

-Findsets now display larger chunks of data - 20 records rather than 10.

-When you choose to "View items recently added to ABZU" you will now see everything added during the most recent thirty day period rather than ten day period. As of today there are 93 items in "recently added"

-You can now browse the entire database alphabetically by Title as well as by Author.

I am also working to add metadata to allow users to produce the kinds of topical lists which formed the basis of the old Abzu. Those of you who don't find your own site in Abzu, or who care to suggest something for inclusion can contact me directly, or can follow the "Suggest a Resource for Abzu" link at the bottom of the search page.

ETANA CORE TEXTS -

The volumes selected from the Research Archives collection for inclusion in this digitization project are beginning to find their way to the public pages of ETANA: <http://www.etana.org/coretexts.shtml>

At the time of writing eighty-three volumes are available on line free of charge to the end-user. Another sixty or so are on their way.

ACQUISITIONS LIST -

Following a long delay, we expect to resume the publication on-line and by e-mail of the Research Archives Acquisitions Lists in the next few days. Those wishing to receive these lists by e-mail should direct their browser to:

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

Those wishing to read these lists on-line should direct their browser to:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/RABooks.html>

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MUSEUM REINSTALLATION / Karen Wilson

The reinstallation of the galleries, focusing at the moment primarily on the Mesopotamian Gallery, continues its march toward completion thanks to the not-inconsiderable efforts of each and every member of the museum staff. I hope that most everyone will have noticed the gallery plan and panoramic view of the Yelda Khorsabad Court that are posted on the bulletin board outside the museum office. The conservators put the finishing touches (if such projects are ever actually "finished") on the throneroom facade reliefs at the end of September so that the area could serve as the setting for a small dinner thanking the Yeldas for all they have done for the Institute. Now Conservation is focusing attention on the smaller, but considerably more numerous (more than 2600), other objects that will go on display in the gallery.

The Braidwood Prehistory Exhibit case layouts have been finalized and new casework and mounts for the objects are under production. The design of the graphics (text panels and labels) for that exhibit has been finalized and is at the stage of final proofs. We are now working on the layouts and graphics for the next section of the gallery to be finalized - the Chronology exhibit. Clemens Reichel has been hired to pull together the Daily Life section of the exhibit, which Eleanor Barbanes had been working on, and Jonathan Tenney is working on the Writing and Intellectual Life section.

We have decided that it is most efficient to handle the actual physical reinstallation in several phases. The first phase will take place in January and will include the Prehistory and Chronology portions of the gallery.

And while all this attention is focused on the Mesopotamian Gallery, Gabrielle Novacek continues her work selecting and researching objects for the Haas

Megiddo Gallery which, as part of the Syro-Anatolian Gallery, is the next phase in the reinstallation project.

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MUSEUM ARCHIVES / John Larson

Most of our inactive paper records make their initial move to the Oriental Institute Archives in the ubiquitous "Bankers Box." When full, a Bankers Box holds approximately 1.5 cubic feet of material. Since the completion of the initial move of the Oriental Institute Archives into the new Archives Storage Room in 1998, there has been an "avalanche" of "new" records added to the collections, a total of roughly 187.5 cubic feet of material. In terms that we can all appreciate more readily, this added material equals 125 full Bankers Boxes or 75 standard file cabinet drawers. [Imagine a row of fifteen five-drawer file cabinets!] Much of the activity has come about during the past six months, as a consequence of re-shuffling office assignments and office remodeling. Thirty-five percent of the total volume comes from the Publications Office and another 29% from our Business Office; the remainder is from the Hittite Dictionary Project, the Director's Office, and the Museum Office. In addition, we are currently storing 20 cubic feet of inactive student files from the NELC Office, some of which may be reactivated as deemed necessary.

The number of appointments for visiting scholars picked up again in the early autumn after a fairly quiet summer. Jeffrey Abt (Wayne State University, Detroit), former University Archivist, returned from September 30 to October 2 to resume his research on James Henry Breasted. On October 21, David Martinez, a recent addition to the faculty with appointments in Classical Lang. & Lit., the Divinity School, and the College, came to look at some of the late Allen Wikgren's notes of Greek ostraca from Medinet Habu. Retired O.I. volunteer Lilian Cropsey came in on October 24 to resume her work on a research project involving Edgar James Banks and Bismaya. On October 25, I was interviewed as part of an archives course requirement by Karyn Goldstein, a Library Science student at Dominican University.

I am expecting Norma Franklin, a Ph.D. candidate from Tel Aviv University, on Monday, November 25. Ms. Franklin is a member of the current Megiddo Expedition and has requested permission to examine some of the O.I. Megiddo field records as part of the research for her dissertation.

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MUSEUM CONSERVATION / Laura D'Alessandro

At the end of September, the Conservation Laboratory said good-bye to Vicki Parry, our contract conservator for reinstallation. While we were very sorry to see her go and will miss her presence in the lab, we are very proud of her. Vicki's new position as contract conservator for the Greek and Roman collections at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York is a wonderful step forward in her career. From all accounts, she is settling in well and enjoying her new job.

On the bright side, Alison Whyte, last year's Getty postgraduate conservation intern, has agreed to stay another 12 months and has been promoted to contract

MUSEUM EDUCATION / Carole Krucoff

Faculty, staff, and graduate students joined with Museum Education during September and October to present two special programs for new and returning U of C students.

EXPERIENCE CHICAGO DAY

On Saturday, September 28, forty incoming freshmen -- the maximum number we could accommodate -- asked to visit the Oriental Institute as part of "Experience Chicago Day," a special event organized by Museum Education for the College Programming Office. This day-long event was a great success, thanks to the time and expertise of many people, including:

- Karen Wilson, who presented a slide lecture on the work of the Oriental Institute and its museum.
- Aslihan Yener, who introduced the students to the work of the Amuq Valley Regional Project
- John Larson, Maria Krasinski, Vanessa Muros, Ray Tindel, and Alison Whyte, who led behind-the-scenes visits to view Collections Storage, the Museum Archives, and the Conservation Laboratory
- Chuck Jones, who introduced the students to the Research Archives
- Martha Roth, who described the cultural programming, volunteer service, and research opportunities available at the Institute for students from every department
- Dorothy Blindt and Carole Yoshida, museum docents, who led guided tours of the galleries.

All this, along with a delicious Middle Eastern-style lunch, led to student evaluations that described the day as "enthraling," and "absolutely wonderful." Since the event, several of the students have been back to visit the museum or to explore the prospect of becoming volunteers.

THE REAL INDIANA JONES

Our second program for students was "Dig This! The Real Indiana Jones" a free open house on Wednesday evening, October 16th. This event brought more than 100 students to the Institute for a program that featured gallery visits, demonstrations and informal lectures by graduate students, and a free showing of the film "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

While Harrison Ford as Indiana Jones was appealing, it was the graduate students who got the biggest crowds. Special thanks and appreciation to:

- Carrie Hritz, who gave a powerpoint presentation on Remote Sensing and GIS
- Francois Gaudard, who spoke on ancient Egyptian writing systems
- Leslie Schramer, who described some of the tools and techniques used during archaeological excavations
- Alexandra Witsell, who discussed seals and sealings from the Diyala Project

We look forward to presenting more programs for students. We'd welcome your ideas. Please stop by the Education Office to share them with us.

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MUSEUM REGISTRATION / Ray Tindel

Sabry Abdel Azziz, former Luxor SCA Director, now General Director of Antiquities in Upper and Lower Egypt, after which I signed the contract for the 2002-2003 field season. Zahi, Sabry and I discussed plans for de-watering efforts around Luxor Temple, and I offered the use of the CH facility for a meeting of all concerned parties (SCA, SWECO, USAID, ARCE/EAP) in late February to discuss implementation of the de-watering measures. Zahi asked me to be on a newly formed Steering Committee for Preserving the Valley of the Kings, which is supposed to meet once a month to coordinate archaeological and conservation efforts in the Valley.

Before I left for Luxor I met with US Ambassador David Welch at the US Embassy (who will visit Chicago House in January); our friends at ARCE, including new Acting Director Professor Irene Bierman (UCLA), Assistant Director Amira Khattab, and EAP Director Chip Vincent; the President of BP Egypt, our longtime corporate supporter, Hesham Mekawi; and our friends at the Egyptian Museum, Director Dr. Mahmoud Damati and May Trad, where we discussed plans for the Egyptian Museum Centennial Celebration scheduled for December 9-11. I had an excellent visit with Dr. Henri Riad and his family in Heliopolis. Henri is better than he was last season (and has lost that terrible cough that plagued him all winter), but sadly he is still too fragile to join us this year. We will miss him very much, but I will be bringing him some work to do next month, to keep him busy, and I have discussed with Henri and his two sons Adel and Sharif the possibility of a visit to Chicago House over Christmas. Henri will be honored in Cairo at the Museum Centennial celebration as the oldest living former Director of the Egyptian Museum.

We've been back in Luxor two and a half weeks now and it feels like we never left! That's mostly thanks to Tina Di Cerbo, who came several weeks early to open up and clean the house, and had things so totally back together and functioning by the time we arrived it looked as if we had just stepped out (it was a bit disorienting, actually). Temps have gone up and down, but the horrific heat of the summer broke just before we arrived, and the days are slowly cooling off. Due to the changing seasons, we had a freak sandstorm last weekend (Oct. 27), followed by a light shower that evening, and a heavy rain (half an hour) the next morning. We were pleased to note that we had NO leaks in the Medinet Habu small Amun temple roof, which means that our restoration work was 100% effective. But the moisture has activated a LOT of corrosive salt at Luxor temple where we are moving wall fragments. A single rainstorm can age a monument centuries in a few hours, and is a painful reminder of just how important our preservation work (and all such work) is at this time.

After delivering the contract for the season to the new General Director for Luxor and Southern Upper Egypt, Mohamed El-Bialy (formerly General Director of Gurna and West Bank Antiquities), we resumed our normal temple schedule on both sides of the river on October 21-22, and all is well. New West Bank General Director Ali Asfar has not arrived to assume his duties yet, but is due soon. The first week we hosted onsite briefings for ARCE Director Irene Bierman, accompanied by EAP Director Chip Vincent, Jarek Dobrolowski, and Michael Jones. Our first weekend back was the Abul Haggag festival at Luxor Temple, the last time this ancient mulid (and great-great-great grandchild of the Opet Festival) will occur during our season for a LONG time...

Over the summer the SCA published new guidelines for archaeological work in Egypt, and there are several new rules governing SCA inspectors (the designated SCA representatives who work with us at antiquities sites). Now inspectors are

to be paid a new 'transportation and overtime' fee of LE 1500 a month (about \$300), and are supposed to be rotated every two months; we were fortunate to be assigned our friend Ahmed Ezz, who has worked with us for several seasons now, for our first two months. We are now required to have a designated inspector at Luxor Temple as well, whereas before we simply worked with the local temple inspectors. Again we are fortunate; our Luxor Temple inspector, Mr. Abdel Satar is an old friend who worked for years at the Luxor Museum, and then at Karnak Temple.

Having two inspectors means we have an unexpected and hefty addition to our budget this season to the tune of LE 18,000 (!) for a six-month season for both inspectors. Ouch. Needless to say this rule has sparked some discussion. Some foreign expeditions simply cannot afford the additional expense, while other projects, like EAP, are caught in a bind. Any project supported with USAID funding cannot legally pay Egyptian government officials from those funds, a rule originally designed to eliminate any possibility of bribes. Therefore, paying the SCA inspectors is not an allowable cost according to USAID financial guidelines, and this has been brought up with the powers that be. Stay tuned!

We reopened the Medinet Habu small Amun temple on October 21 and found it dry as a bone (no scorpions this year) and just the way we left it. Epigraphers Brett McClain and Randy Shonkwiler immediately resumed their collation of the bark sanctuary and ambulatory reliefs, and artists Margaret DeJong and Tina Di Cerbo resumed their drawing and collation checking. We greatly miss epigrapher Harold Hays who, as most of you know, stayed home to teach Pyramid Texts and work on his dissertation the first half of our season; he will join us later in January. Lotfi Hassan, Adel Azziz, and Nahed Samir have resumed the cleaning of the painted reliefs in the first chamber, and are now working on the east wall around the central doorway. They will be joined by conservator Lamia Hadidi who is arriving from Cairo this afternoon, fresh from the ARCE field school in the Fayum. Lamia will work with us until mid-January, and then again in March to speed up the cleaning process. Today staff photographer Yarko Kobylecky and photographer/photo archivist Sue Lezon started taking pre-cleaning reference photos of the back central sanctuary, which is the next room on the cleaning schedule. Sue is also supervising the final phase of our Photo Archives large-format negative scanning with the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak. Stone cutter Dany Roy is putting the finishing touches on the roof restoration work over the bark sanctuary ambulatory, designed to direct rain water off the roof on the north side. The documentation and conservation work is currently funded by a two-year extended grant from the Egyptian Antiquities Project and USAID, administered through ARCE.

At Luxor Temple on October 22 Jamie Riley and our workmen resumed moving decorated sandstone wall fragments off the ground onto damp-coursed brick platforms built last year, a project funded by a Robert Wilson Challenge Grant and the World Monuments Fund. We are presently working in the area east of the Colonnade Hall and south of the Abul Haggag mosque, where thousands of Akhenaten-period talatat, Colonnade Hall, Ramesses II, Ptolemaic, and medieval fragments are stacked on the ground. Our routine calls for me to mark each fragment with its platform number, designated by category, after which Jamie and the boys see to its proper placement, and all fragments are carefully stacked so that the decorated surface is exposed for study and documentation. During the last few weeks we have already created enough space for two more long mastaba/platforms and we will begin construction of them and more later this month. During the first week Yarko took reference photographs of all of the

Colonnade Hall column and wall bases, as he does each year, to document the decay, and he expanded his scope this year to the exterior of the Colonnade Hall and parts of the Ramesses II court which are also showing increased decay.

There are LOTS of tourists in town, including Americans, and we have already had several small groups come by for library briefings, kindly given by Emily Napolitano. On the 16th Lanny Bell paid us a visit with our friend Mamdou El-Sebai, and he returned later to arrange the resumption of documentation work in the Ramesside tombs at Dira Abu El-Naga in collaboration with Jan Assmann and Karl Siefried. This is really excellent news. There are numerous expeditions in town, most of whom joined us on October 31 to celebrate Halloween and the beginning of our field season.

Security in town continues to be excellent, even overzealous, as we discovered on our second day of work when we prepared to leave the compound in our Toyota Minivan and found a truck filled with armed soldiers waiting to accompany us to the ferry landing! The soldiers told us that their instructions were to follow us wherever we went, every day. Finance manager Safi Ouri and I asked to see the officer in charge, who agreed to meet us in my office. We explained to Colonel Saeed that while we appreciated his thoughtfulness, this measure would actually attract attention to us, and not be a good thing at all. The Colonel thought a moment, and then politely suggested that as a compromise, an unmarked car full of armed plainclothes police discreetly follow us at all times. I demurred, for the same reasons. The Colonel thought again, and then suggested that a plainclothes policeman might travel with us, in the van? Feeling like I was haggling in the suq, I calmly insisted that this was not and never had been necessary, even after 9/11 last season, and that we and the US Embassy were comfortable with the security measures already in place in Luxor, around our house, and at the temple sites. That seemed to satisfy him, so he called his superior and they called off the extra forces, with the stipulation that if we ever needed any assistance of any kind we were to call them, and we now have all of their telephone numbers. With that business taken care of, the Colonel then asked me if we knew where Amenhotep Son of Hapu was buried! And did I know how the ancient Egyptians mummified their dead? He left happy, with his questions answered, and security has been fine since.

There have been some sad transitions in Luxor. On our return we learned that our well-loved former safragi Shafei and dear second cook Abdel Zaher, long retired, had both passed away, Shafei only a few weeks ago, and Abdel Zaher a bit earlier. That's a huge chunk of ES history now past, as both were venerable institutions unto themselves who had given loyal service to Chicago House for over 30 years, from the time of the Hughes and Nims. Shafei will forever be remembered for his calm dignity and deadpan expression which could occasionally be coaxed into a mischievous smile, and Abdel Zaher's spirited and heartfelt benedictions while presenting the turkeys at Thanksgiving and Christmas are the stuff of legend. Now their children and even grandchildren work for us, continuing the long tradition. But no one can ever replace those two. Shafei and Abdel Zaher were two in a million, and will be greatly missed.

But the transitions aren't all sad. I am happy to report that Dany's wife Nada is expecting their first child in February, and Lotfi and Giuliana are expecting their second child in the spring. Their daughter Giulia, who is now almost one year old, has tripled in size and become a remarkable little personality who has captured all of our hearts. Chicago House is all the richer for these families.

Decision and Information Sciences (DIS) Division of Argonne National Laboratory. The DIAS framework allows a range of simulation models and other applications to work together to address a complex modeling problem. It will incorporate climate (GCM), weather (MM5), hydrological and agricultural (EPIC / SWAT), and demographic models plus agent-based models of social behavior built using the FACET framework. Input data will be derived from the large corpus of landscape, epigraphic data, and regional-scale environmental studies housed within the Oriental Institute and elsewhere. The simulated settlement system will be validated against the archaeological landscape as it has been recorded by field surveys and satellite remote sensing. By the end of the project, we expect to have developed a general modeling framework with an associated user interface that will enable interactions between humans and the environment to be rigorously tested over as much as several millennia.

The expected result of this work --understanding how humans interact with dynamic ecological and climatic mechanisms-- is fundamental to ecological management and is very broadly applicable. In addition, studies of the interplay of coupled human and natural systems as a cause of collapse of past societies are also of fundamental importance. There are few more obviously complex coupled natural and human systems than cities and their hinterlands and the future of the planet will be increasingly dependent on the impact of urban systems. This project therefore is likely to have significant influence in the study of urbanization past and present. The proposed modeling framework can potentially have an important impact as an educational tool: it will allow both academic and general users to interact with complex environmental, cultural and socio-economic data sets in order to simulate the growth of settlements and cities, and to analyze long term concepts of sustainability.

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INDIVIDUALS

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FRED DONNER

FRED DONNER participated in a conference on "Orientalism: Dialogue of Cultures" at the University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan, between October 22 and 24, 2002. The program included papers by a number of scholars from the Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Turkey, Bosnia, the U.S., England, France, Germany, and Switzerland. Prof. Wadad Kadi of U of C also participated, so U of C was well represented. Papers were generally of good quality and discussions were stimulating and sometimes quite frank. Despite lack of full agreement on such basic issues as how to define "Orientalism" and on how to approach it, the mood was very positive and collegial, aided by the outstanding hospitality which all participants enjoyed thanks to the efforts of the organizers. (We were housed at the new Sheraton, room and meals fully paid.) The conference was sponsored by the council on recognition of Amman as the Arab Capital of Culture for the year 2002, which paid for the event.

Among other participants, the following might be known to some of you at the OI: George Mendenhall (Michigan), Roger Allen (Pennsylvania), A. A. Duri (Amman), Adnan Bakhit (Amman), Jacques Waardenburg (Switzerland), Abd al-Nabi Staif

WALTER KAEGI

Walter Kaegi has been correcting page proofs for his book *Heraclius Emperor of Byzantium* (Cambridge University Press). He also published an article "Robert Lee Wolff Remembered," Byzantinische Forschungen 26 (2002) 299-311.

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JOHN LARSON

On July 12, I lectured on the history of Egyptology for one class session of a summer course for high school students taught by François Gaudard under the auspices of the Graham School of General Studies, University of Chicago. Together with Chuck Jones, John Sanders, and Catherine Mardikes, I participated in the new NELC graduate student orientation program on September 26. On October 22, I spoke on the history of Egyptology for one class session of the second-year course in Near Eastern History taught by Fred Donner and Don Whitcomb.

I have been invited by the Minneapolis Chapter of the AIA and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts to give a lecture on the history of Egyptology on January 23, as part of the programming for the "Eternal Egypt" exhibition. [January in Minneapolis-What was I thinking?]

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CLEMENS REICHEL

For the Diyala Project I can report major progress on converting our data to Unicode, thanks to George Sundell's tireless efforts. Data transferal into the Oracle database is ongoing. This week, the PC from the Computer Lab that contains the Oracle Database will be moved to my office, which will facilitate my cooperation with George substantially and make reference checking much easier. Since November I have also been on temporary assignment with the museum, working on the "Daily Life" exhibit for the Mesopotamian Gallery.

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JASON UR

I've just returned from a three-week survey season around Tell Brak in northeastern Syria. The new Tell Brak Survey (BKS), directed by Henry Wright of the University of Michigan, covers a 7km radius around the site. Henry, Eric Rupley (UMich) and I recovered 132 sites total, most clustered along the terrace of the Jaghjagh river. The survey nicely complements the results of the Beydar and Hamoukar surveys as well as Tony Wilkinson's North Jazira survey in northern Iraq. Particularly interesting were the abundant Early-Mid Islamic towns, some with elaborate canal and road systems. Fourth millennium, Iron Age, and Parthian sites were also very common.

My article "Settlement and Landscape in Northern Mesopotamia: The Tell Hamoukar Survey 2000-2001" appeared in Akkadica 123 (2002), along with other articles on Hamoukar by Mac Gibson, Tony Wilkinson, and Clemens Reichel. All of these articles were written AFTER the April 3ICAANE meetings in Paris, a remarkable turnaround time for a journal!

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TONY WILKINSON

I am very happy to report the birth of a new project. In mid October I returned from around three weeks in Iran where I participated in the new Susiana Project. Participants from the University of Chicago were Abbas Alizadeh (Director), myself, Mike Kozuh and Toby Hartnell from the Oriental Institute and NELC, and Nick Kouchoukos and Andrew Bauer from the Department of Anthropology. Thanks to Abbas's excellent organizational skills the project hit the ground running and while I was there we did some 15 days solid fieldwork and also visited various offices of the department of antiquities in Tehran, Shushtar and Ahvaz. The team was a joint team comprising ourselves from Chicago together with senior students and personnel from the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization (ICHO). This provided a well balanced mix of skills and experience. Abbas and his team conducted excavations on two sites, the first a small mid-late Elamite settlement, and the second (Dar Khazineh) a stratified sequence of prehistoric late Susiana occupations. Both sites were situated in a formerly little known area adjacent to Mianab to the south of the Sasanian city (and now modern town) of Shushtar.

The second team: Abbas Moqadam (ICHO), Kourosh Roustaei (ICHO), Nick Kouchoukos, Andrew Bauer and myself undertook landscape and geoarchaeological surveys throughout the Susiana plain particularly focussing upon Abbas Moqadam's survey area of the Mianab (i.e. south of Shushtar). Summarizing our results would take too long, but overall we were able to gain fascinating insights into major channel shifts (avulsions!), the development of irrigation systems, large scale burial of settlements and prehistoric environments. Many of our most useful results came from the area south of Shushtar because modern industrialized agricultural projects have essentially flattened most of the northern plains. By so doing they have removed a large number of archaeological sites and have essentially expunged all landscape features. Fortunately Nick provided superb ground control in the form of large format CORONA and ASTER satellite images, and by using these together with a shoal of GPS's we were able to successfully navigate through the morass of development schemes, sugar cane estates and fish farms [Yes fish farms]. Nick, Andrew and the others continued for another 10 days after my departure, but I understand that fieldwork is now complete and the team are back in Tehran.

The completion of serious fieldwork with a strong US and international participation gives us good grounds for being optimistic about future fieldwork in Iran. However, none of this would have been possible without the impressive diplomatic skills and diligence of Abbas Alizadeh. Abbas is continuing to work in the National Museum in Tehran (hence this missive from me), and I understand that he will be sending in a more substantial report on the season to the OI News and Notes.

