

OI NEWSLETTER - SECOND MONDAY - DECEMBER 2002

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FROM THE DIRECTOR / Gil Stein

Research Support at the Oriental Institute:

In the midst of pressing funding requirements for the museum reinstallation and other projects, it is easy to overlook the longer term, but fundamentally important need for the Oriental Institute to rebuild its capacity to fund research projects. For that reason I am happy to report that in the past month we have received two gifts, totaling a quarter of a million dollars in support of research.

The first gift, made by Joseph and Jeanette Neubauer, is \$200,000 in support of the first two seasons of Field Research at Tell Atchana/Alalakh. I want to thank the Neubauers for their generosity, and project Director Aslihan Yener, along with Associate Director David Schloen, for all their hard work in assembling, revising, and presenting the proposal to the Neubauers.

The second gift, by Dr. Arthur and Lee Herbst, is a pledge of \$50,000 over the next five years to establish the "Arthur and Lee Herbst Research Fund" as a director's discretionary endowment in general support of research. I want to express my appreciation to the Herbsts for their generosity and farsighted commitment to the fundamental mission of the OI.

Development and Membership Position Searches - Update:

MUSEUM - NEW EXHIBITION / Karen Wilson

While reinstallation proceeded behind the scenes, the museum mounted a totally new type of exhibition in the west gallery in November. "Ancient Egypt: A Hip-Hop Perspective" grew out of a collaboration between the Oriental Institute and high school students at Kenwood Academy participating in an after school program called the University of Hip-Hop. From February through April, these Kenwood students took a series of classes led by Jan Johnson, Francois Gaudard, Emily Teeter, and Justine Way in order to learn about ancient Egyptian environment, history, geography, languages, and art. They then created their own personal interpretation of the culture of ancient Egypt in vibrantly colored murals that include elements ranging from geographically accurate maps of the Nile Valley to break-dancing pharaohs.

A 48-foot mural is dominated by a stylized pharaoh; four smaller portable murals feature hieroglyphs and other Egyptian motifs. The murals, along with photographs of the student artists at work, will be exhibited through March 2, 2003.

Wendy Ennes, Teacher Services and Family Projects Coordinator, coordinated the program that gave rise to the exhibition along with with Lavie Raven, Kenwood Academy social studies teacher and minister of education at the University of Hip-Hop. The University of Hip-Hop (Healthy Independent People Helping Other People) is a Chicago Public Schools-sponsored group that involves artists and students in after-school programs in which students explore artistic expressions such as rapping, break dancing, emceeing, deejaying, and graffiti art. The collaboration was funded by the Regent's Park/University of Chicago Fine Arts Partnership.

The opening of "Ancient Egypt: A Hip-Hop Perspective" on November 18 generated media interest thanks to the efforts of our friend Bill Harms in University News & Information. Bill wrote an article that appeared in The University of Chicago Chronicle, a Chicago Tribune writer and photographer visited the exhibition to begin work on a story about the project, and Wendy was interviewed on WHPK by Dina Weinstein just before Thanksgiving.

After the exhibition here, the 48-foot mural will be mounted on the exterior of Kenwood Academy and the small, portable murals will be exhibited in neighborhood elementary schools during the academic year.

If you haven't done so already, please drop by the west gallery to see these truly extraordinary (and fun-filled) murals.

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MUSEUM - ARCHIVES / John Larson

John Larson will be on vacation from December 9 through December 30, 2002 and the Oriental Institute Archives will be closed for appointments until January 6, 2003. Prof. Jeffrey Abt (Wayne State University, Detroit) was here from December 4-6 to continue his Breasted research.

On December 4, the Oriental Institute Archives received two original 19th-century photographs of Egypt, the generous gift of Mr. A. Dale Northrup of

MUSEUM - REGISTRATION / Raymond Tindel

Notice - - -

I will be in only irregularly during the period December 19 through January 1, so please bring any requests to us prior to that period.

David Schloen and Robert Ritner continued using various pieces from the collections for their classes.

Eliezer Oren spent an afternoon with Megiddo material.

The climate control gear was fretful and took rather more attention than usual this month.

Otherwise, we continued with or completed a number of ongoing projects. Joey Corbett finished updating loci on some 8000 Megiddo objects while Jim Sopranos continued recording the Broneer collection, and Janet Helman continued reorganizing the Bakun sherds - some 2600+ pieces so far - while Toni Smith has been working with Jarmo figurines and Betsy Kramers has continued photographing tablets for Clemens Reichel. And we continue with the ebb and flow of materials in preparation for the gallery installations. Leon Drolet has solved some but not all of the complexities required to incorporate images into the collections management database, and Joey Corbett continues, inter alia, with the imaging of objects.

January promises to be hectic; in addition to the usual activities we are expecting Kathleen Birney who will be looking at Iron Age material from Judaidah and Chatal Huyuk, and Hatice Pamir who will be looking for Greek imports in the Iron Age Tayinat material.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

All of our effort was directed to finishing OIP 118 (Teeter's scarab manuscript) and OIP 121 (Hilgert's second volume of cuneiform administrative documents).

OIP 118 (Teeter): All of the artwork was completed and the author and contributor returned final corrected page proofs. Two items remain to be completed: (1) Entering and checking the final corrections. (2) Creating the index.

OIP 121 (Hilgert): The first draft of the index for the introduction and text sections was prepared. Five items remain to be completed: (1) Formatting of the back matter. (2) Entering author's corrections, checking them here, and then sending them to the author for checking. (3) Cleaning up the pencil-drawn cuneiform texts. (4) Completing the index, which will also involve a bit more bibliographic work. (5) Setting the appendix.

Aside from that, we heard from Abbas Alizadeh regarding his manuscript on Chogha Bonut (OIP 120). Abbas asked us to send him a little more information that he needed as he worked his way through the manuscript. Abbas also hopes to submit a report on his archaeological work in Iran for the next News & Notes.

We were also pleased to hear from David Weisberg, author of a manuscript on Neo-Babylonian cuneiform texts (OIP 122), who will be lecturing in China this month. As one recalls, the author's corrections to the conversion draft of the manuscript need to be entered and then the manuscript must be formatted in PageMaker.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

NEW ON-LINE PUBLICATION

A new edition of the Oriental Institute Research Archives Serials List is now available. This is the third edition of a unified listing of serials held by the Oriental Institute Research Archives. It includes serials identified in the Research Archives as 'Series'; 'Journals'; reference works (i.e. encyclopaedias, dictionaries, etc.); as well as serials in which the Research Archives has holdings, but which are not shelved together. It also includes cross references to alternate titles. It is the first edition of the Serials List to appear on-line. A hard copy is also available in the Research Archives. This list is not a substitute for the card catalogue, or for the On-line Catalogue of the Research Archives (<http://oilib.uchicago.edu/oilibcat.html>) - it is intended as a guide and finding aid. If you do not find what you are looking for in this list, it does not necessarily mean that we do not have it. Conversely, if a serial is listed here, it does not necessarily mean that we hold a complete run. The list is a work in progress. There may be mistakes. I would appreciate being informed (at oi-library@uchicago.edu) of errors, problems or inadequacies when you encounter them. At present there are 1886 records in the database.

You will find it on-line at:

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

ETANA

Scans of thirty-two titles from the Research Archives collections which were chosen for inclusion in the first cycle books published on-line by the ETANA project are now available. There are more to come.

You can gain access to all of these from any place you have a web connection. Initially you can find the links by following the "recently added" link in Abzu (<http://www.etana.org/abzu/>), or by going to the Core Texts component of ETANA (<http://www.etana.org/coretexts.shtml>). There are (at this moment) 111 titles available in ETANA.

If you should encounter any problems, please let me know and we'll have them fixed ASAP.

The Research Archives titles are listed below in two lists: Egyptological and Assyriological.

1) Egyptological

Griffith, F. Ll.. The Petrie Papyri: Hieratic Papyri from Kahun and Gurob (principally of the Middle Kingdom) Plates

Griffith, F. Ll. The Petrie Papyri: Hieratic Papyri from Kahun and Gurob (principally of the Middle Kingdom) Text

Griffith, F. Ll.. Stories of the High Priests of Memphis; the Sethon of Herodotus and the demotic tales of Khamuas

Griffith, F. Ll. and Thompson, Herbert, editors. The demotic magical papyrus of London and Leiden (v. 1)

Griffith, F. Ll. and Thompson, Herbert, editors. The demotic magical papyrus of London and Leiden (v. 2)

Griffith, F. Ll. and Thompson, Herbert, editors. The demotic magical papyrus of London and Leiden (v. 3)

Murray, Margaret Alice. The Osireion at Abydos

Murray, Margaret Alice. Saqqara Mastabas, Part 1

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Athribis

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Gerar

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Gizeh and Rifeh

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. The Hawara Portfolio: Paintings of the Roman Age

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Hyksos and Israelite Cities

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Memphis I

Petrie, W. M. Flinders. Scarabs and Cylinders with Names

Petrie, W. M. Flinders; Gardiner, Alan; Petrie, Hilda; Murray, M.A. Tombs of the Courtiers and Oxyrhynchos

Petrie, W. M. Flinders; Mackay, Ernest ; Wainwright, Gerald. Meydum and Memphis (III)

Petrie, W. M. Flinders; Wainwright, G. A.; Gardiner, A. H.. Tarkhan I and Memphis V

Quibell, J. E. El Kab

Sethe, Kurt. Urkunden der 18. Dynastie, Erster Band

2) Assyriological:

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part II [King]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part IV [Pinches]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XV [King]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XVI [Thompson]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XVII [Thompson]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXIV [King]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXV [Leeper]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXVI [Gadd]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXVII [Smith]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXVIII [Gadd]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XXXIX [Gadd]

British Museum. Dept. of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. Cuneiform texts from Babylonian tablets, &c., in the British Museum. Part XL [Gadd]

(CT I [King] has been available in ETANA Core Texts since May 2002)

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WEB STATISTICS / Chuck Jones, John Sanders

The OI currently has three Web presences:

- The Main Website:
<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu>

In the four weeks ending October 27th 2002 the website delivered 2,154,465 documents to users who visited 86,662 times

In the four weeks ending November 24th 2002 the website delivered 2,537,077 documents to users who visited 86,502 times.

- The Research Archives On-Line Catalogue:
<http://oilib.uchicago.edu/oilibcat.html>

In October 2002 the On-Line Catalogue delivered

gigabyte in size. The contents are the equivalent to over 4,500 html pages and nearly 2,000 images (for which I had the sole responsibility of editing). All of us here at the TMP are proud of the work we produced, as we have been getting lots of wonderful feedback from users, many of whom have told us they consider it to be the best website on any topic they have ever seen. It has also been nominated for a prestigious technology award by the CEO of Macromedia. We will be making an update to the website on January 1.

Two conference papers I gave several years ago have been (or will be any day now) published. My paper about the Omm Sety manuscript was published in the proceedings of the Moving Matters Seminar earlier this year and any day now my paper on "poison" geckoes in ancient and modern Egypt will be appearing in the proceedings of the 2000 ICE to be published by AUC press. For those interested in the latter article, I would also recommend checking out an article written by Linda Evans in the next issue of BACE. She is an Australian biologist/Egyptologist, and she has found a completely different set of evidence that complements and supports my theory on geckoes.

I also presented papers at two conferences here in Cairo in March. At a conference held by the Association for the Study of Travel in the Near East I was finally able to publicly present material I have been collecting during the past seven years in a paper entitled "Invalids on the Nile." In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, health tourism contributed equally, if not more, to the development of the tourist industry in Egypt than the monuments. A number of guides for invalid travelers were written by doctors, who often prescribed a trip to Egypt as a cure for all sorts of invalids, from those suffering from tuberculosis to overworked American businessmen. Several of Egypt's most famous hotels, such as Mena House, were originally developed with invalids in mind, and even Thomas Cook got its start as a way of offering invalids a more comfortable and carefree alternative of sailing on the Nile. I hope to write up a longer version of the paper at some point in the future and publish it.

I also presented a paper at the First International Conference on Documentary Evidence in Early Islamic Egypt hosted by the Netherlands-Flemish Institute. Based on my dissertation and other research, I discussed the importance of texts from this period in tracing developments from earlier time periods to later time periods in Egypt, with a focus on medicine and magic. Several quotes from my lecture were taken out of context by a journalist who wrote an article about the conference published in the Middle East Times. Part of the article was censored by the government censors, including a quote from me about impotence. I was actually happy to see it censored because they had used my words to support something I didn't agree with and so I wrote a letter to the editor praising the censors for their actions. The letter was published. Wadad Kadi of the Oriental Institute also presented a paper at the conference.

I hope that puts to rest any rumors that might have been floating around there at the OI that I had stumbled into a tomb never to appear again. And for any of you who have read this far, I am starting a totally new project next month that I will report on in the next issue of this newsletter.

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HARRY HOFFNER

EMILY TEETER

I have been working with the publications office and their dedicated student staff on the corrections of the final page proofs for the first volume of small finds from the Institute's 1926-33 excavation at Medinet Habu. The descriptive catalogue includes 349 objects including objects like stamp seals and seal impressions which are rarely published. The catalogue also includes more than 220 scarabs, scaraboids, lentoids (etc)-one of the largest corpora of such materials excavated from any New Kingdom-Third Intermediate site. Another unusual, and valuable (at least in my opinion), feature of the publication is that the materials date from the New Kingdom (ca. 1500 B.C. for the non-Egyptologist readers) to the 8th century A.D., giving one of the few diachronic views of such material from any Egyptian site. T. G. Wilfong of the Kelsey Museum wrote the section on the Late Antique material.

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JASON UR

Aside from plugging away at the dissertation, I've been spending time scanning new CORONA imagery and integrating these images into the CAMEL lab's GIS dbase of northern Mesopotamia. Some of this imagery is phenomenal: we've been amazed to see individual pistachio trees in images of the Birecik/Hacinebi area. Some of these images will be discussed in an article which will appear in Antiquity, probably mid-2003.

I chaired the Mesopotamian Archaeology session and gave a paper on third millennium road systems at ASOR in Toronto, along with Clemens Reichel and Mark Altaweel. Several other OI folks presented papers at the meeting and the Amug session was particularly interesting and there was standing room only.

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THEO VAN DEN HOUT

Over the last month I have been working for the CHD mostly: right now I am working on words in the sarl- range. In between I have updated the paper on archives and libraries that I gave at the Hittitological conference in Corum last September, which is due in January. In the evenings I am working on a translation of Mursili's so-called Plague Prayers for a collection of translated texts edited by Mark Chavalas for Blackwells and I am preparing my Carian class for next quarter. Both my Dutch students, Petra Goedegebuure and Willemijn Waal have been enjoying the unique collection of books we have in the Research Archives and the equally unique (at least to Dutch standards) scholarly atmosphere of the U of C as a whole. With Petra I discussed several chapters of her dissertation and with Willemijn the texts that are the topic of her MA thesis. I will miss them both!

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DON WHITCOMB

