

OI NEWSLETTER - SECOND MONDAY - JANUARY 2003

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FROM THE DIRECTOR / Gil Stein

Welcome to Deborah Donato and Rebecca Laharia in Development and Membership

I am delighted to report that we have successfully completed our personnel searches for Development and Membership:

Deborah Donato is our new Development Director. Ms. Donato has been the director of the Beloit Art Museum and has served with distinction as a senior development officer at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). She has extensive experience in grant writing, foundation relations, and individual gifts.

Rebecca Laharia is our new Membership Coordinator. Ms. Laharia has a background in archaeology and in cultural property law. She played a key role in membership and volunteer coordination for historic Carlyle House in Alexandria, Virginia before moving to the Chicago area. In keeping with our strong commitment to improve service to our members, membership will now be an independent office, reporting to me directly.

All of us here are delighted to have Deborah and Rebecca as members of the OI community. I plan to work closely with them as a team to build up a) our membership base, b) the quality of the membership experience, and c) the financial underpinnings that make it possible for the OI to pursue its mission of rediscovering the ancient Near East. I encourage everyone to drop by the membership and development offices to introduce yourselves to Rebecca and Deborah.

Major Gift in Support of OI Research

I am delighted to announce a major gift from Prof. William Kelly Simpson, who is a member of the Oriental Institute visiting committee and a trustee of the Marilyn M. Simpson Charitable Trust. The gift of \$100,000 sets up an endowment whose income is to be used in support of individuals working on the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House in Luxor. As many of you know, Kelly Simpson is a distinguished Egyptologist who has been a great supporter of research at both his home institution of Yale University and at the Oriental Institute. Congratulations to Ray Johnson and all the Chicago House crew!

Completion Date for the Mesopotamian Gallery Reinstallation

It would be an understatement to say that the completion date of the Mesopotamian Gallery has been the subject of some discussion.

I want to make it as explicit as possible: The reinstallation of the Janotta Mesopotamian Gallery will be completed September 1, 2003 and the formal opening will take place approximately 4 weeks later. An external review by Dan Rahimi, the head of collections at the Royal Ontario Museum, confirmed the feasibility of this deadline. Karen Wilson and all her colleagues on the Museum Reinstallation Committee are committed to the September 1 completion date. There will be no more "slippage" on this.

Sad News.

As this Newsletter goes to press we are sad to report the death this weekend of long time friend and supporter of the Oriental Institute, Eleanor Swift. In addition to her own decades of work in and on behalf of various departments at the Oriental Institute, she was the widow of the first full-time Curator (1969-1976) of the Oriental Institute, Gustavus F. Swift III.

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CAMPUS COMMUNICATORS GROUP / Emily Teeter

On January 6, Chuck Jones, Carole Krucoff, and I attended a meeting of the campus-wide group that discusses the appearance and form of internal and external web and print communications. Each section of the university presented a brief summary of their activities. We referred to our very wide constituency summarized as public relations (Emily and Bill Harms), academic to academic contact (represented by Chuck with projects such as Abzu and on-line resources) and OI to community (represented by Carole's department). The News Office gave

a very interesting presentation on the variety of logos, letter heads, business cards, etc. in past and current use and raised questions whether diversity was beneficial or not. We must be one of the last divisions using the old black and white letter head!

The next meeting will be hosted by Chapin Hall (date yet to be announced). We hope that other departments of the OI such as development, membership, and publications will attend the next meeting and that a subsequent meeting will be held here.

Beginning this month we will be convening a regular meeting of those in the OI whose roles include communication and public relations inside and outside the University community. The first meeting is scheduled for the end of January.

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The Computer Lab now has two new computer systems up and running: a 2.4 GHz Dell, Windows 2000 computer, 19" monitor, with an attached 8 1/2" x 14" flatbed scanner, 768 MB RAM, 60 GB HD, CD-RW drive, Photoshop 7, Illustrator 10, and Office 2000; and a 700 MHz eMac, running MacOS 10.2, 17" monitor, with an attached 8 1/2" x 14" flatbed scanner, 768 MB RAM, 60 GB HD, CD-RW drive, Photoshop 7, Illustrator 10, and Office 2000.

My main task in December was to start the transition of all OI desktop computers to use of the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) for connection to the building's network. I finished about half of the building's roughly 150 computers. Only our file server computers will continue to operate under the old "manual IP" setup once we complete the transition later in January.

The wiring of the Institute's public rooms for wireless connectivity to the University's ethernet backbone will start when the DHCP transition is completed.

I learned this morning (January 13th) that NSIT has postponed the January 15th deadline for use of secure, encoded logins to all NSIT servers, and for remote access to the campus network from off campus. I will continue to discuss upgrading faculty and staff computers who do access these resources, however, as I am sure it is only a matter of time before the switch is instituted.

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MUSEUM - ARCHIVES / John Larson

John Larson will be out of the office on Friday, January 10, and Friday, January 17, 2003. He will be out of town from Thursday, January 23 through Monday, January 27 (inclusive).

Dr. Ann C. Gunter (Associate Curator of Ancient Near Eastern Art, Freer Gallery of Art & Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution) will be here from Tuesday, January 28 through Thursday, January 30 to look at Herzfeld-Breasted correspondence in the Archives; the Freer/Sackler hosted a symposium on the

work of Ernst Herzfeld in 2001, and Dr. Gunter is currently preparing a publication of the proceedings from that symposium.

Carrie Hritz has resigned her part-time position as Museum Student Assistant in order to devote more of her time to her dissertation. Since August 26, 2002, Carrie has been handling the paperwork for Photographic Services under John Larson's supervision and assisting Karen Wilson with a variety of tasks relating to the reinstallation of the North Gallery in the Museum. We shall miss having Carrie working directly with us in the Museum, but we wish her all the best in her efforts to complete her dissertation and earn her degree.

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MUSEUM - REGISTRATION / Raymond Tindel

Things were a bit slower during the holidays so we used the opportunity to shift a few tons of crates and boxes to make way for the next shipment of new storage cabinets which may arrive as early as the end of this month. When these cabinets arrive we will begin unpacking the later Egyptian pottery, including also the Ptolemaic, Roman, and Byzantine material.

With the onset of January Kate Birney from Harvard has come for three weeks to look for Aegean imports among the Tell al-Judaidah material, and John Landgraf from St. Paul is working his way through selected pottery from Megiddo, the Diyala, and Egypt studying ancient potting techniques. We expect Hatice Pamir at the end of the month to look for Aegean imports in the Tell Tayinat material. Sometime this month we expect to begin getting out the Khirbet Kerak collections for Gabriella Novacek.

Janet Helman has finished a major putting in order of the Bakun sherd collection, some 3600+ pieces and Jim Sopranos continues registering the Broneer material.

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MUSEUM - VOLUNTEERS / Terry Friedman and Cathy Duenas

We would like to know if all of you are receiving your Volunteer Voice, which is the monthly newsletter that announces and describes the different volunteer program activities. Previously the Volunteer Voice was distributed in hard copy and put in your boxes in the Director's Office or mailed out. Presently we are sending the Voice out to the Docents, Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers via e-mail. This new system of distribution has helped us to reduce our costs substantially and we have also saved a lot of trees. If you are not receiving your Volunteer Voice, please send us your e-mail address or notify us if you would prefer to receive the Voice in hard copy. If you have some news that you would like to have us include in the Volunteer Voice, please feel free to send it to us. Thank you for your continued support of the Volunteer Program.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Holland

As the OI Publications Sales Office prepares to close its door with operations being handed over to an external vendor in the near future [more detailed information on this subject will be distributed later], we will be selling "slightly damaged, dinged, dirty, and deadwood" copies of some of our publications at 80% off list price. This liquidation sale will take place the week of January 13-17 in Room 227. Please note that we will offer only one copy of each volume deemed available per customer. For all other non-damaged volumes listed on our web site, the usual discounts will apply for faculty, staff, and students.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

We continued pressing ahead to finish OIP 118 (Teeter) and 121 (Hilgert). Splitting my time between the two proved to be too problematic, so my main focus was on OIP 118, which is nearer to being done (how many times have I said that?). With Hilgert coming to Chicago in late February, we hope to finish all but final page proofs for his book while he is here. Work study students Leslie Schramer, Katherine Strange Burke, and Katie Johnson continue to work on various parts of Hilgert's book.

Otherwise, we welcomed our fourth work study student, Lindsay Decarlo, this month. We put Lindsay to work scanning artwork for the next two volumes and placing it in PageMaker. Scanning artwork and placing the images on pages is the best way to introduce students to Photoshop and Pagemaker -- it's time consuming but fairly easy and it develops skills for working with text, which is more tedious and difficult.

To accommodate the four students, we reorganized the furniture in the editorial office and purchased a new computer with a big screen.

Some work was done on four other titles, too. George Hughes's Catalog of Demotic Texts in the Brooklyn Museum was placed and formatted in PageMaker. The Hughes manuscript is small, about 100 pages, and formatting it in PageMaker gave Katherine experience working with text that she will use for formatting Helen Jacquet-Gordon's Graffiti from the Khonsu Temple Roof at Karnak. Speaking of the graffiti book, less than 100 of the more than 700 images remain to be scanned. For David Weisberg's Neo-Babylonian Texts in the Oriental Institute, the first round of corrections were entered, and we are deciding how the pages should look and will then put the text into PageMaker. Finally, Abbas Alizadeh returned a set of corrections for his manuscript on Chogha Bonut, Iran.

For Prof. Janet Johnson we totaled up the number of hits to her Demotic grammar (SAOC 45) and dictionary (CDD) that are posted on the web (the cutoff was December 5, 2002). The grammar has been posted on the web since October 2000 and has received over 31,000 hits. The fourteen files of the dictionary have been posted on the web at various times beginning during the summer of 2001 and have received about 24,000 hits. We're not quite sure what these numbers mean, but we do have at least one bit of information about publishing on the web to pass along. It took about one year, much like when a book is published, before we began receiving feedback from users.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

Twelve volumes from the collection of the Research Archives have joined those already available on-line in the Core Texts component of ETANA:

<http://www.etana.org/coretexts.shtml>

In all, 121 volumes are now available.

The new titles include (with apologies for the incomplete references [these titles having become available just before deadline] and warning about the wrapped URLs):

Egyptian Hieratic Texts Transcribed, Translated and Annotated by

Alan H. Gardiner. Series I. Literary Texts of the New Kingdom

Part I

http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/egypt_hieratic_texts/egypt_hieratic_texts.htm

Leipzig, J. C. Hinrich'ssche Buchhanblung, 1911

Urkunden Mythologischen Inhalts, bearb. von Siegfried Schott

http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/rk_vi/rk_vi.htm

Leipzig, J. C. Hinrichs, 1929-1939

Stories of the High Priests of Memphis; The Sethon of Herodotus

and The Demotic Tales of Khamuas

http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/memphis_high_priest_stories/memphis_high_priest_stories.htm

Oxford, The Clarendon Press, 1900

Notes on the Story of Sinuhe

http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/notes_story_sinuhe/notes_story_sinuhe.htm

Paris, Librairie Honor'e Champion, 1916

Lahun I The Treasure

http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/lahun1_treasures/lahun1_treasures.htm

British School of Archaeology in Egypt and Egyptian Research Account. 1920

Naqada and Ballas

http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/naqada_ballas/naqada_ballas.htm

London Bernard Quaritch, 15 Picadilly W. 1896.

Catalogue des cylindres, cachets et pierres gravees de style oriental

http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/catalogue_cylindres_orientaux/catalogue_cylindres.htm

Paris, Librairie Hachette, 79 boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris 1920.

Prehistoric Egypt illustrated by over 1000 objects in University College, London

http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/prehistoric_egypt/prehistoric_egypt.htm

London Office of the School of Archaeology University College, Gower Street, W.C. and Bernard Quaritch, 11 Grafton Street, New Bond St. W. 1910

The Gospel of St. John according to the earliest Coptic manuscripts edited with a translation

http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/st_johns_gospel/st_johns_gospel.htm
London. British School of Archaeology in Egypt, University College, Gower Street, W.C. 1 and Bernard Quaritch, 11 Grafton Street, New Bond Street, W. 1924

Hierakonpolis Part I
<http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/hierakonpolis/hierakonpolis.htm>
London, Bernard Quaritch, 15 Picadilly W. 1900.

Riqqeh and Memphis VI
http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/riqqeh_memphis_vi/riqqeh_memphis_vi.htm
London, School of Archaeology in Egypt University College: B. Quaritch 1915.

Lahun II
http://www.cwru.edu/UL/preserve/Etana/lahun_II/lahun_II.htm
London British School of Archaeology in Egypt University College, Gower Street, W.C. 1 and Bernard Quaritch, 11 Grafton Street, New Bond Street W. 1923.

JSTOR has released 47 new journals, the fourth and final group of journals in the JSTOR Arts & Sciences II Collection.

As institutional subscribers, all University of Chicago addresses have access to JSTOR

A complete list of all currently available JSTOR titles, including the 47 new titles, is available at:
<http://www.jstor.org/about/alpha.content.html>

In the new batch are the following of more or less central interest to ANE studies

American Journal of Archaeology
Archaeological Reports
Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies
The Classical Quarterly
The Classical Review
Greece & Rome
Journal of Field Archaeology
The Journal of Hellenic Studies
Journal of Near Eastern Studies [See also the JNES entry in this Newsletter]
Journal of the American Oriental Society
Osiris

The dissertations of two of the candidates for the History position are accessible in pdf form on the Research Archives file-server (n.b. before you decide to dowload them check the size, and be prepared to wait the appropriate time):

Azzoni, Annalisa
The Private Life of Women in Persian Egypt
A Dissertation Submitted to The Johns Hopkins University in Conformity with the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
Baltimore

The Johns Hopkins University
September 2000
1 volume (iii + 201 pages) [8 MB]
University Microfilms Order No. 9993216. Supervised by Raymond Westbrook and P. Kyle McCarter, Jr.
<http://oilib.uchicago.edu/Dissertations/azzoni.pdf>

Richardson, Seth Francis Corning
The Collapse of a Complex State: A Reappraisal of the End of the First Dynasty of Babylon, 1683-1597 B.C.
Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University
New York
Columbia University
2002
2 volumes (vii + 467 + 486 pages) [40.6 MB]
University Microfilms Order Number 3053344. Supervised by Marc Van De Mieroop
<http://oilib.uchicago.edu/Dissertations/richardsons.pdf>

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SECURITY / Margaret Schroeder

The Committee on Crime Prevention on Campus and in the Neighborhood has recommended that the Safety Awareness Program disseminate tips for preventing crime through the channels used to disseminate Security Alerts. The incidence of violent crime in the neighborhood has fallen so dramatically in the last two years that, the committee felt, there was some danger of members of the community forgetting to take the normal precautions advisable in any urban environment. This means that if you now normally receive Alerts when they are issued, either by email or by FAX, you will receive tips, too, no more than a few times a month. Tips sent by email will be consistently identified in the subject line, so they will not be confused with Alerts. You may subscribe [unsubscribe] to this mailing list by sending an e-mail to: majordomo@listhost.uchicago.edu, and typing "subscribe [unsubscribe] aware" in the BODY (not the "Subject" line) of the message. The Safety Awareness Program and the guidelines for publishing alerts and tips are described in the publication, "Common Sense", URL <http://www.uchicago.edu/commonsense/>

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PROJECTS

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CHD / Theo van den Hout

In December Harry Hoffner and Theo van den Hout had a very fruitful meeting with Sandra Schloen and Gene Gragg on the progress of the eCHD, our planned fully searchable web publication of the CHD P volume. Thanks to the wonderful work Sandra did, we expect to put on the web a prototype version by April this year to be followed by "Version One" in the Fall. The prototype is meant to get input from our colleagues: any suggestions, criticism etc. will be much welcomed.

Early in January Alice Mouton arrived. She will work for the dictionary for the entire year 2003. She comes from Paris, where she has written a dissertation on dreams in the ANE with an emphasis on Hittite under the supervision of profs. Durand and Veenhof. The defense is basically the only thing left to be done. You may remember Alice from her month-long visit in February 2002. We are extremely glad to have her help us and you can welcome her back in the Dictionary office 218, Harry Hoffner's office.

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

The Islamic holy month of Ramadan began on November 6th and culminated on December 5th with the festive, three-day Eid El-Fitr. Despite the all-day fasting of the majority of our local staff during that month, our remarkable temple crew, at their insistence, continued to work their usual afternoon hours, which allowed us to keep to our normal temple schedule from 7:30 AM until 4:00 PM, with no loss of work time. On November 13 Chicago House hosted a 'sunset breakfast' iftar for our Supreme Council of Antiquities friends and colleagues and heads of foreign missions in Luxor, which was well attended and very well received. On November 23 we gave our staff an iftar by way of thanks for their hard work. At the time of the SCA iftar we learned of the untimely passing of our friend and colleague Mohamed Nasser, who had directed the Gurna Inspectorate for many years, and then the Luxor Museum. He was a gentle man who had only recently retired, and we were told that his passing was as gentle as his life. He had gone to the delta to visit his ailing father, said his prayers for the day, said goodbye to his wife and son, and simply went to sleep. We will miss him.

The day before Ramadan began I had the pleasure of briefing USAID Egypt DCM Anthony Vance and party on the activities of the Oriental Institute in Luxor and showing them the Chicago House facility. I also had the opportunity to discuss ground water issues with the party on site at Luxor Temple, and to show them firsthand the destructive effects of the high, salt-laden ground water on the sandstone monuments. This by way of reinforcing the need for USAID to support ground water lowering measures in the Luxor area, now under consideration by the Egyptian government and USAID (keep your collective fingers crossed). More recently, on January 2nd, US Ambassador to Egypt, the Honorable David Welch and his family paid us their first visit, during which we were able to show them our work at Luxor Temple and Medinet Habu, discuss (and reinforce) preservation issues, and host them to a dinner and library briefing at Chicago House. Two days before that, on New Year's Eve the US Consul-General to Egypt, Ann Syrett, and her husband Tony joined us in ushering in the New Year 2003, and Vice-Consul Robert H. Arbuckle and some Embassy colleagues came by earlier. While the Ambassador's party was with us their security staff reviewed our security procedures, including our emergency evacuation plan, and found everything in order. They were particularly happy to see us raising the height of our southern enclosure wall, which is in the final stages of construction.

Brett McClain and Randy Shonkwiler have been continuing the collation of the small Amun temple bark sanctuary drawings, and artists Margaret De Jong and Susan Osgood are penciling the walls of the inner bark sanctuary and adding collation transfers, all for Volume 2. We were joined by epigrapher / librarian Jen Kimpton the first week of December. Jen is a student of Richard Jasnow's

and Betsy Bryan's at Johns Hopkins University who has worked in Luxor with Betsy in previous seasons, and it is a great pleasure to have her as part of the team. In addition to her epigraphic recording duties, Jen supervises the Chicago House library Monday through Thursday in the afternoon, and all day on Friday. Tina Di Cerbo has been working on the final collation transfers of drawings from the 'naos room' sanctuary, and has continued to develop a database for the Medinet Habu graffiti, cross-referencing old CH graffiti numbers to the published Edgerton graffiti numbers, and integrating unpublished graffiti. Tina has also started a new and much-needed digital paleography file from the small Amun temple finished drawings for Volumes 1&2.

During the first week of November conservator and friend Lamia Hadidy joined the Medinet Habu small Amun temple conservation team headed by Lotfi Hassan, and she will be with us until the end of January. Her added expertise has allowed the cleaning and gap-filling of the two central sanctuaries to proceed as scheduled this season, and she has been a most pleasant addition to the house. Last week the conservation crew finished the wall-cleaning in the first chamber, which houses the granodiorite dyad of Thutmosis III and Amun. This achievement marks a major milestone in our project, as this room is the largest in the sanctuary, with the highest ceiling and the largest scenes. The formerly dark, soot-stained walls are now filled with light and color, and the great dyad seems to be suspended in the middle of the room. The artists and epigraphers are now proceeding with the final paint collation of that room for Volume 1 starting this week, plotting all of the new painted details on the drawings. On December 11 Peter Dorman joined us for a week to review the wall reliefs and drawings of the sanctuary area and continue the planning of Volume 1. Daughter Margaret Dorman, who spent her formative years growing up at Chicago House while her father was field director, is now with us helping Jen in the library, and Sue Lezon in the Photo Archives until the end of this month.

The MH conservators have now turned their attention to the back central chamber, but not before stone cutter Dany Roy stabilized one of the roof blocks with four fiberglass dowels epoxied into place this past week. Dany is also in the final phase of the roof restoration work over the bark sanctuary and ambulatory. The new stone slabs are all in place, and the final grouting is about 50% completed. Two new rainspouts are presently being manufactured for runoff water on the south and north sides of the complex. Lotfi also started the cleaning of the red-paint Ptolemaic inscription on the façade of the granite naos which we will draw and collate for Volume 1.

At Luxor Temple Jamie Riley and I have continued to supervise our workmen in moving decorated wall-fragment material off the ground onto damp-coursed brick platforms, a project funded by a Robert Wilson Challenge Grant and the World Monuments Fund. We have made excellent progress, and I am pleased to say we are ahead of schedule, which will allow even more material to be preserved this season. At present two-thirds of the block fragments and Akhenaten talatat blocks in the area east of the Colonnade Hall are now off the wet ground and have been restacked on our new damp-coursed storage platforms, with two more long platforms planned. So far more than a hundred meters of new platforms have been constructed in the east area and south of the Abu Haggag mosque this season, and another hundred meters are on their way, also to the west of the temple by the Roman gates. Additional platforms have been started at the southern end of the precinct on the east side, to house large, intact blocks of Amenhotep III quarried by the Romans from the sanctuary area, now on the ground.

While separating and storing fragments by category this season, I have identified, isolated, and physically joined several large groups of portal fragments dating from the 25th Dynasty and Ptolemaic Periods in our central blockyard, east of the Amenhotep III sun court, for documentation, analysis, and as an aid to generating more interest (and support) for the project. Yarko has been photographing these groups during the last few weeks, and we are currently planning the databases which will track each piece from each major grouping. The material is quite tantalizing; in one group from the 25th Dynasty, a lion-headed goddess extends life to the beak of a Horus falcon perched atop a king's erased serekh. Another group reconstructs to form the interior thickness of a very large portal decorated with row upon row of amuletic hieroglyphs, blank cartouches flanked by cobras, and cryptographic figures. Indications are that the portals were all quarried from southern Karnak, like the Akhenaten talatat (from the southern pylons), possibly from the vicinity of Mut Temple. Further analysis will undoubtedly shed more light on the exact origins of this exciting new material. An illustrated article on the Luxor Temple wall fragment project, co authored by field conservator Hiroko Kariya and me, will appear in the next EES Egyptian Archaeology Bulletin (no. 22). Hiroko and project coordinator John Stewart are presently working on the final report for the USAID/EAP/ARCE funded Luxor Fragment Project, which expires this year.

On November 15 Helen and Jean Jacquet returned to Chicago House, and Helen immediately started working with Emily Napolitano and Tom Urban on final corrections and refinements for her 'Graffiti from the Khonsu Temple Roof at Karnak: A Manifestation of Personal Piety,' Khonsu Temple III. She and Jean resumed their work at north Karnak at the conclusion of Ramadan. Photo Archivist Sue Lezon continued supervising the scanning of the Photo Archives large and small format negative archive onto CD-ROM at Karnak and adding of same to our new database, despite unfortunately fracturing her foot in December. The cast came off during the holidays, and this past week she returned to the US to have her foot checked, and took back fifty more backup CDs (over 2000 images). Sue has also been working with Lotfi on scanning drawings for his MH conservation reporting, and with Tina on the scanning necessary for her graffiti and paleography databases. I should also mention that OI Administrator Simrit Dhesi spent a very productive week with us over Thanksgiving setting up the final procedures with CH finance manager Safi Ouri for financial reporting directly to the University.

This season Chicago House instituted a recycling program, something I have been wanting to do for awhile. Plastic bottles, glass, and aluminum cans are now all saved, cleaned and kept in marked bins in the back room of the kitchen. To my surprise, not only is it successful (both local and professional staff have been very conscientious), we are making a bit of money as well; we have found local buyers for the material and have made LE 354 this season so far! I am trying to convince some of the local hotels to think about implementing a similar program, since their waste is far, far greater than ours.

There's plenty more, but I guess that I must stop somewhere. Warmest New Year 2003 wishes to you all, from all of us out here. Kullu cena w-intu tayyibeen!!! May it be a peaceful and joyous year for everyone.

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JNES / Robert Biggs

I am pleased to announce that Vols. 1-55, (1942-1996) of the Journal of Near Eastern Studies are included in the newest batch of journals made available at JSTOR on-line [See also the Research Archives entry in this Newsletter]

JNES is available at:
<http://www.jstor.org/journals/00222968.html>

The predecessor journals are also available
The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures, Vol. 12-58 (1895-1941)
<http://www.jstor.org/journals/10620516.html>
and
Hebraica, Vol. 1-11 (1884-1895)
<http://www.jstor.org/journals/01602810.html>

This gives a full hundred year run. In accordance with JSTOR policy there will be a 'moving wall' five or six years P.B. (i.e. another volume will be added to the archive each year).

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NELC / Paula Manzuk

With the new year, we have a new look to the NELC office! Please stop by and see what you think. So far the comments have been very positive, and we hope you will agree.

We are very pleased to announce the birth of Alena and Ben Lauritsen's little girl, Natalie, on Friday, December 20. We're hoping that on a nice day we'll get to see this charming little lady in person. Until then, we have a picture hanging on the office door. (Too bad we don't have a color printer; she's a lot cuter in pink!)

It is a pleasure to welcome (back) to our faculty Stephen Harvey, a visiting faculty member some years ago, whose appointment as Assistant Professor of Egyptian Art and Archaeology began this quarter. He is located in room 225 and can be reached at 4-9761 or spharvey@uchicago.edu.

The four OI history candidates are, of course, of interest to NELC, also, and we are looking forward to the remaining lectures and workshops. (Seth Richardson has already presented.) Please note the dates and times on your calendar and make an effort to attend.

Annalisa Azzoni
Associate Research Scholar, Hebrew Union College
The Aramaic Papyri from Egypt: Continuity and Change in the Persian Empire.
Wednesday, January 22, 4:30 PM (lecture)
Thursday, January 23, 4:00 PM (student workshop)

Andrea Seri
Ph.D Candidate, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
On Ancient Near Eastern History
Wednesday, January 29, 4:30 PM (lecture)

Thursday, January 30, 4:00 PM (student workshop)

Alejandro Botta
Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible
Perkins School of Theology - Southern Methodist University
Title: TBA
Tuesday, February 4, 4:00 PM (student workshop)
Wednesday, February 5, 4:30 PM (lecture)

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INDIVIDUALS
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ABBAS ALIZADEH

I am very pleased to announce the resumption of archaeological activities in Iran by the Oriental Institute. After many years of negotiation, a combined team of archaeologists, geomorphologists and landscape archaeologists from the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization (ICHO), Oriental Institute, and the Department of Anthropology of the University of Chicago was able to conduct in September/October 2002 a series of surveys and excavations in lowland Susiana, southwestern Iran.

Initially, we had proposed to work in the province of Ilam, the northernmost extension of the lowlands in southwestern Iran. This province is archaeologically almost unknown, and as such we had a great opportunity to reconstruct its cultural development from the early stages of village life to the present within a unified system of excavation, survey and theoretical constructs. But our initial visits to the region showed that many years of war between Iran and Iraq have made his province extremely unsafe, especially for regional archaeological and geomorphological surveys.

Because our original research had been designed for a lowland region, with a slight modification we switched our focus to lowland Susiana. Khuzestan is undoubtedly one of the most intensely surveyed and excavated regions in the world, and as such we did not expect to be able to contribute much to the monumental works of our predecessors in the region. But we were wrong.

In the first few days of work we realized that a combination of landscape archaeology, archaeo-geomorphology, and excavation can still reveal much about the heroic, though at times destructive, struggle of the ancient as well as modern inhabitants of Khuzestan and the interaction between culture and nature and the shaping of the two as a result. We are, of course, in the initial stages of our research and there is so much to be learned.

Tony Wilkinson, Nick Kouchoukos and I are preparing various preliminary reports on the results of our first season that soon will be published in the States. We are hoping that our joint efforts will develop into a long-term project to address a number of crucial archaeological and archaeogeomorphological questions that we still face in interpreting cultural change and continuity in lowland Susiana. The continuation of this project will also provide a unique opportunity for a meaningful collaboration with the young Iranian scholars to be sufficiently and systematically trained in archaeological fieldwork so that joint expeditions will be conducted in a true sense of the phrase.

In a letter of agreement between the Oriental Institute and the ICHO, emphasis was placed on the use of resources of both institutions and exchange of scholars to further archaeological research. As part of this agreement, and at the request of Mr. Kargar, the Director of the National Museum in Tehran, I was allowed to take a leave-of-absence to create a pottery data bank and organize all the existing survey collections in such a way that they would be accessible for interested national and international scholars. This project is now christened as Research Center for Archaeological Surveys and as soon as it is completed it will be posted on the Internet.

I began my work in the Museum on October 26, the next day we returned from the field. Mr. Kargar assigned a young, talented and very enthusiastic team of young archaeologists to help me, and put at my disposal all the resources needed to accomplish this monumental task. I am grateful to Nick Kouchoukos, who worked very hard in the first few days, when I was busy with a number of bureaucratic chores in Tehran, to set up the system and get it going. Nick installed a data base that he had designed to handle archaeological collections and trained the Iranian team to process the material. Because of Nick's interest in the huge collection of archaeological material surveyed and collected by Robert Wenke in 1973-74, he began with Wenke's collection. Wenke surveyed over 1600 sites and produced more than 2000 bags of pottery and other objects. This collection is the largest from Khuzestan. Because a large number of the shallow and inconspicuous site that Wenke surveyed are now destroyed and leveled, it was also imperative to rescue this collection first.

There are many other collections from many regions in Iran that were surveyed by both Iranian and international archaeologists. Work proceeds by locating various collections, identifying the pottery bags, spreading the contents on the floor, writing new tags with survey information and recording the periods represented. The material then will be put back in new, hefty bags, numbered, and put on the shelves according to site identification numbers. Collections from the same region are kept together in the same block of shelves, but marked separately. After each collection is processed, the information is put in the data base that will be available in the future on the Internet.

As we process the material we also select diagnostics of the represented cultural phases. These will then be put in large drawers for study purposes. We are hoping that at the end, we have diagnostic sherds of the prehistoric to the Islamic cultural phases from every region in Iran. Because there is a great need for Iranian students and young archaeologists to learn basic pottery identification, this part of the collection will be organized in such a way that it would be easily accessible like books in a library.

All this, of course, requires a large space and adequate budget. Fortunately, understanding the importance of the collection, Mr. Kargar is making every effort to provide both. He invited Mr. Mohammad Beheshti, the Head of ICHO, to the Museum. Mr. Beheshti, a keen observer and an ardent supporter of scientific and modern archaeological activities in Iran, gave his blessing to the project and pledged a suitable space for the final home of the project.

Needless to say, I would not be able to process all the survey materials by June, when I will leave Iran. But I am hoping with adequate training and a solid system of recording, the Iranian team will be able to continue on its own and expand the collection.

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PETER DORMAN

Peter Dorman traveled to Egypt in early December, arriving in time to attend one of the conference sessions commemorating the centennial of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, held in an enormous red tent erected on the west side of the museum and attended by a large number of museum colleagues from the U.S. and Europe. Flying to Luxor, he spent a most productive and pleasant ten days with the staff at Chicago House, discussing epigraphic questions at the small temple of Amun at Medinet Habu and laying out plans for the text of the first volume to appear from that monument (still several years away!). He then returned to Cairo, to examine a number of objects at the Egyptian Museum in connection with his publication (in progress) of the intact burials of Ramose and Hatnofer, the parents of Hatshepsut's chief steward, Senenmut.

Over the Christmas and New Year's holiday, he joined his family in Beirut (to revisit, for the first time in 30 years, his old family home), also taking a road trip to Damascus, Palmyra, and Aleppo. The flight back to Chicago was somewhat hellish, but the surprise at the end, on reaching home, was to discover that his volume on canopic jar lids, *Faces in Clay*, is finally published in the series *Münchener Ägyptologische Studien*. Just too late to persuade all of you that it would make a great stocking stuffer.

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WALTER KAEGI

Walter Kaegi has published a paper entitled "Society and Institutions in Byzantine Africa" in: *Ai confini dell'impero. Storia, arte e archeologia della Sardegna bizantina*. Cagliari, Sardinia, 2002.

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JOHN LARSON

John Larson will be traveling to Minneapolis to give a lecture entitled "Egyptology in America's Gilded Age" for the Minnesota Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts on Thursday, January 23, 2003. This lecture is part of the programming that is being offered in Minneapolis in conjunction with the traveling exhibition, "Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art from the British Museum." After the Minneapolis venue, "Eternal Egypt" moves to Field Museum in Chicago, where it will be on view from April 26 through August 10, 2003.

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CLEMENS REICHEL

Since November 1 I have joined the efforts to complete the museum

reinstallation by taking over the "Daily Life" section, which will include topics such as food production and consumption, crafts and craft specialization, raw materials, trade, weights and measurements, magic and superstition, personal adornment and fashion--just to name a few topics. Picking the objects in a timely fashion was a challenge but also a dream coming true, as it allowed to really go behind the screens of the O.I. into the magazines and to explore the hidden treasures of the basement. Finding my way around would have been impossible without the dedicated help of Ray Tindel, who not only helped me to locate objects, but also supplied me with many ideas by querying his databases for keywords and items, and accommodated me in my make-shift work space in the basement in any possible way.

On the Diyala front, things have been rolling in spite of my diversion, largely thanks to George Sundell's commitment. Having hammered out a master plan for the web-based publication of the Diyala material in 2001 and 2002, George started moving the data from FoxPro into Oracle 9-i. While problems keep on surfacing they are usually solved easily, and I am very impressed with the much greater versatility and flexibility over FoxPro that Oracle will give both to researchers on Diyala material here in Chicago and to users on the World-Wide-Web. From his master-loading table over his desk I see the data transferal moving close to completion, making the creation of browser screens the next hurdle to be tackled.

I gratefully acknowledge the generous support by a donor (who prefers to remain anonymous), whose contribution will help us to afford the necessary hardware and software upgrades for the remainder of 2002/2003.

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EMILY TEETER

I have temporarily moved from 225 to a corner of Abbas's space in the basement. If you wish to speak with me, please call me (2-1062) and I will come upstairs. I should be reinstalled in a more accessible space (227) by early February. Very interesting the stuff that one finds packing a office after 12 years of residence.

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THEO VAN DEN HOUT

In December I finished my translation of the first two Plague Prayers of King Mursili II for the volume of translated texts edited by Mark Chavalas and to be published by Blackwells. Kathleen Mineck kindly checked my English, for which I am very grateful. I also finished work for the electronic publication on the Fathom Website of my contribution to last year's Humanities Open House. Just before year's end I submitted the manuscript for the lemma Palast (bei den Hethitern) in the Reallexikon.

I just started my Carian classes last week. It will be combined with what little we have and know of the two most minor among the Indo-European languages of Ancient Anatolia, Pisidic and Sidetic. Among the students there is a new face:

