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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The Lab has been a buzz of activity lately, with students, volunteers, and scanners seemingly in constant motion. Most of April was spent working in conjunction with Mac, Clemens, Chuck, Gil, and others dealing with the crisis in Iraq after the looting. Our immediate response was to develop the ideas and write the code for the OI's initial website slideshow and other images of Iraq Museum artifacts. By the time that was up on April 18 work was underway for a more full-featured presentation using a database served from the university's NSIT servers.

The new NSIT-supported site will go active early this week.

In other news, I continue to move computers to the OI's DHCP process for network connections. And I started to move all of the contents of the OI's website (29,000+ pages, and over 4.3 gigabytes of data) to its new home on an NSIT server. This week and next we will be testing the site to make sure everything functions just as it had on our own server. At some as yet unknown day and time (next week I hope) we will quietly switch the new server on for public use and turn off the OI's own web server. But the public will hardly know the difference, except for better performance and 24/7/365 maintenance.

Norman Golb's article, Further Evidence Concerning Judah b. Solomon And The "Tower Of Las Metamis" Mentioned In Ms de Rossi 1105, <http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/SCR/PARMA/Parma.html> is now available. This document is in the Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF).

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COMMUNICATORS GROUP / Emily Teeter, Chuck Jones

Staff who deal with OI external communications met on Wednesday April 16 at 10:30. We had a fruitful and interesting discussion of a variety of issues relating to the move of the website to an NSIT server (See the Computer Laboratory report above) and to future redesign considerations.

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MUSEUM - EDUCATION / Carole Krucoff

Spring adult education courses for the public began in April, and the wide variety of classes being presented by our instructors have been very well received. Graduate-student instructors this quarter include:

- Aaron Burke, who is teaching an eight-session class on "Current Debates in Biblical Archaeology"
- Kathleen Mineck, who is teaching a six-session class entitled "A Thousand Gods: The Religion of the Ancient Hittites"

-Jennifer Westerfeld, who is collaborating with Phil Venticinque, a graduate student in the Committee on the Ancient Mediterranean World, to teach an eight-session class on "The Literature and Culture of Coptic Egypt."

All of these courses are being presented in partnership with the University's Graham School of General Studies.

Other instructors include:

-Frank Yurco, who is teaching an eight-session course entitled "Ancient Thebes: City of the Pharaohs

-John Larson, who is teaching "An Introduction to the Land of the Pharaohs." This six-session course is being offered as a collaborative venture with The Field Museum, in conjunction with their special exhibition, "Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art from the British Museum."

Many thanks to all these people, who are providing rich and rewarding adult education opportunities for the Oriental Institute's members and friends.

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MUSEUM - REGISTRATION / Ray Tindel

April must have been a slow month. We moved only ca. 1500 objects. Somehow, it did not seem slow.

Registration is now the proud possessor of a brand new and highly stylish black Dell computer (no "beige box" this!) with two great 80G hard drives. Provided by a generous donor, it is this machine which will make it possible for us to move forward with the conversion of collections management from our old workhorse Dbase III+ to Microsoft Access which will incorporate digital images and relate better to current operating systems.

We chose Access because it is a widely used system which is less likely to become orphaned in the near future and it has a good record for downward compatibility, but most particularly because it can use Dbase III+ datafiles without modifying or corrupting them. Our current datafiles have been developed to accommodate the strengths and weaknesses of III+, and it will take some time for them to be fully converted to operate efficiently under Access. It will also, and more importantly, take some time for me to learn to use Access efficiently. Since we will not have the luxury of shutting down registration for a month or two while we undertake the conversion, we will for awhile be running a hybrid system, using III+ for some functions and Access for others. With any luck, outsiders should not notice any interruptions.

Meanwhile, Gabriella Novacek continues working her way through the nearly 300 storage boxes of Khirbet Kerak material, part of her dissertation research.

Joey Corbett continues inventory, imaging, and unpacking Egyptian pottery.

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MUSEUM / Terry Friedman and Catherine Duenas

Here's a copy of the current Docent/Volunteer Training Schedule. If you have friends or family or students, who might be interested in becoming a Docent or a Volunteer, please pass this information on to them. We will be needing a lot of new recruits for the opening of the Khorsabad Court and the Mesopotamian Gallery. Thank you!

DATES TO REMEMBER

DOCENT AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING SCHEDULE MESOPOTAMIA AND THE KHORSABAD COURT

SATURDAY, MAY 3

MORNING SESSION: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Speaker: Martha Roth
Topic: Texts and Writing
Place: Breasted Hall

LUNCH BREAK: 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Place: Breasted Hall

AFTERNOON SESSION: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Speaker: Clemens Reichel
Topic: Daily Life
Place: Breasted Hall

SATURDAY, MAY 10

MORNING SESSION: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Speaker: John Brinkman
Topic: The Assyrians and Khorsabad
Place: Breasted Hall

LUNCH BREAK: 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Place: LaSalle Banks Education Center

AFTERNOON SESSION: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Speaker: Gil Stein
Topic: Anatomy of a Tell
Place: Breasted Hall

SATURDAY, MAY 17

MORNING SESSION: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Speaker: Karen Wilson
Topic: Introduction to the Mesopotamian Gallery
Place: Breasted Hall

LUNCH BREAK: 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Place: LaSalle Banks Education Center

AFTERNOON SESSION: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Speaker: Karen Wilson
Place: Gallery Tour

Please let us know if you plan to attend these training sessions. We will need an accurate class roster in order to produce adequate materials before each session. There will be a nominal fee for these materials.

SUGGESTED READING LIST:

Atlas of Mesopotamia, by Michael Roaf

Mesopotamia, by Julian Reade
Early Mesopotamia, by J.N. Postgate
Assyrian Sculpture, by Julian Reade
Art and Empire, by John Curtis and Julian Reade
Sumer and the Sumerians, by Harriet Crawford

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Both Emily Teeter's Scarabs, Scaraboids, Seals, and Seal Impressions from Medinet Habu (OIP 118) and Markus Hilgert's Drehem Administrative Documents from the Reign of Amar-Suena (OIP 121) were sent to press.

Abbas Alizadeh's Chogha Bonut (OIP 120) awaits the author's final approval and it is ready for press.

Preliminary page proofs were sent to David Weisberg for his Neo-Babylonian Texts in the Oriental Institute, while we continue to work on the bibliography and abbreviations.

George Hughes's Catalog of Demotic Texts in the Brooklyn Museum of Art requires the careful reading of an Egyptologist to check the Egyptian and it is ready for press. Note: The Brooklyn Museum may send one additional photograph, and we have left space for it on the plates.

Tony Wilkinson's volume Settlement and Land Use at Tell es-Sweyhat is moving along. The plates and figures have been made (with two minor exceptions) and work has begun on the bibliography.

Brian Muhs submitted updated files for his volume Demotic Ostraca in the Oriental Institute. The line art has been scanned and we are scanning the photographs.

Work also proceeds on Helen Jacquet-Gordon's Graffiti on the Rooftop of Khonsu Temple. All of the scanning is done and a small amount of cleanup remains to be done on the line art. About one-third of the pages have been made.

Director Gil Stein has created a new series, Oriental Institute Advanced Seminars. The first issue in this series will contain the papers from Don Whitcomb's forthcoming seminar on Islamic archaeology.

The summer issue of News & Notes was prepared for printing.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

Like many colleagues here and elsewhere the bulk of my attention in the past month has been focussed on the disasters in Iraq. I have been working with the local team towards the development of a Web resource devoted to the crisis in Iraq's Museums and Libraries. Part of this effort on the Research Archives side of things is a bibliography of publications documenting objects, books,

manuscripts, &c. known to have been in collections in Iraq - Many of these collections have suffered damage during recent events in Iraq, but the specifics are not yet clear. The visible part of this effort, as mentioned by John Sanders above, is at:

LOST TREASURES FROM IRAQ

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/iraq.html>

It is clear that there is tremendous interest in the materials we have been making available on-line. Use of our website has more than doubled. We have had well over a million hits in each of the past two weeks.

The new NSIT-supported site will go active early this week - An announcement will be sent to all subscribers to the OI Newsletter.

I have also been appointed to the MELA [Middle East Librarians Association] Committee on Iraqi Libraries, where I am working with colleagues from the Library world to respond to this crisis.

In an effort to focus communication on these issues we have developed a mailing list:

Iraqcrisis: A moderated list for communicating substantive information on cultural property damaged, destroyed or lost from Libraries and Museums in Iraq during and after the war in April 2003, and on the worldwide response to the crisis:

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

IraqCrisis is a heavily moderated list, and traffic is not expected to be heavy. The moderator will not permit discussion or chatter - postings will be limited to items with substantive content. For a sample of the kinds of notices appropriate for distribution on IraqCrisis, please see the publicly accessible archives at: <https://listhost.uchicago.edu/pipermail/iraqcrisis/>

To subscribe, please use the form at the URL cited above.

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PROJECTS

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CHD / Martha Roth

The CAD is pleased to inform all that we mailed off to press the manuscript of our penultimate volume, covering words beginning with the letter Tet. We continue working on volumes T and P, both in press and due to appear by the end of 2003, and drafting and editing the final volume, U/W.

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ORIENTAL INSTITUTE ADVANCED SEMINARS / Don Whitcomb

Changing social identities in the spread of Islam: Archaeology and texts"

The goal of this seminar is a comparative analysis of different sites and regions, based on archaeological monuments or artifacts, exploring processes of adaptation or adjustment to local cultural complexes. Islam may be seen as a religion, political system, cultural complex, a trinity of inseparable aspects. The introduction of these variable characteristics of Islam, during the contact and afterwards, resulted in changes in identity approached as a sort of "cognitive" archaeology. In each specific case, one may assess the nature of the pre-Islamic regional tradition, the resulting plurality of cultures as a "multi-cultural" society, and finally a resultant normative condition as a regional or cosmopolitan culture.

Participants:

Prof. Timothy Insoll
University of Manchester
Gao in West Africa

Dr. Yury Karev,
Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow
Samarqand in Central Asia

Prof. Renata Holod
University of Pennsylvania
Jerba in the Mediterranean

Prof. Mark Horton
Bristol University
Shanga in East Africa

Prof. Jodi Magness
University of North Carolina
Khirbet Abu Suwwana in Palestine

[Dr.] Tracy Hoffman
University of Chicago
Ascalon on the Levantine coast

Organizer: Dr. Donald Whitcomb
NELC, University of Chicago

Discussant: Dr. Moain Sadeq
Palestinian Department of Antiquities in Gaza

The Oriental Institute
La Salle Bank Room
Monday, May 12: 9:00 - 12:00, 2:00 - 5:00
Tuesday, May 13: 9:30 - 12:00 (round-table discussion)

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NELC

Dissertation Defenses:

Tracy Hoffman Defense, May 6 at 10:30 am, La Salle Banks Room in the Oriental Institute.

Robert Hawley Defense, May 16 at 2:30 pm, Oriental Institute room 237.

Judith Pfeiffer Defense, June 12 at 10:00 am, location to be announced.

Lecture Series in Armenian Studies:

-Peter Cowe (UCLA), May 5 at 7:30 pm, Oriental Institute room 208, "Theatre in an Era of Globalization"

-Gayaneh Hagopian (UCLA), May 12 at 7:30 pm, Breasted Hall in the Oriental Institute, "Mentality and Culture in Proverbs: Interdisciplinary Study on the material of Armenian and English"

-Christina Maranci (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee), May 14 at 7:30 pm, Oriental Institute room 210, "An Armenian Architect in Byzantium's Court: The Career and Building Practices of Trdat"

-Adam Smith (U of C), May 21 at 7:30 pm, Oriental Institute room 210, "Ancient Aragats: New Archaeological Investigations into the Roots of Complex Societies in Armenia"

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INDIVIDUALS

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PETER DORMAN

During the last month, Peter Dorman watched his daughter's rugby team beat Arkansas State to be ranked among the top 12 in the nation (seriously altering his preconceptions of Vassar women); attended the ARCE meetings in Atlanta; and (along with Robert Ritner and other colleagues) gave a lecture at the opening of the "Quest for Immortality" exhibit at the Kimbell Museum in Fort Worth.

For music lovers: the University's Russian folk choir, Golosá, will be giving their last concert of the year on Wednesday, May 14, at 7:30 PM in Bond Chapel. About an hour of a capella singing (some late romantic liturgical music, as well as folk songs in the Baikal tradition), followed by a reception with FOOD-and I personally guarantee an "A" in any of my courses this spring for each student who attends. Don't miss it!

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ERICA REINER

At the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in Nashville in April, Erica Reiner read a paper on "The Four Winds" illustrated with slides. At the annual dinner she was presented with the Society's "medal of merit" that had been awarded to her in 2002.

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OGUZ SOYSAL

I want to start my report with a private matter that I recently took the American Citizenship. I thank to my French colleague Alice Mouton very much who escorted me in the oath taking ceremony on April 1st.

After a 8-years intensive work my Hattian book is now in the final stage before its publication. In mid-April I received a very positively written recommendation letter on "Hattischer Wortschatz in hethitischer Text uberlieferung" and since then I have been working on the final formatting of the book. Tom Urban very kindly took over this complicated job, and is now preparing a PDF-generated version of the book. Meanwhile, he also made a big contribution to the work (even without knowledge of Hattian) as he increased the page numbers from 900 up to 1300 ! Therefore, we expect that the book will come out in two volumes, maybe later this year.

In April, my article with my Turkish colleague R. Akdogan on six unpublished Ankara texts (AnAr) appeared in the "Annual of the Ankara Museum 2002" (pp. 172-195). In it we dealt with some Hittite, Akkadian and Hattian fragments. R. Akdogan made the text copies, and I provided philological comments. In past years Mrs. Akdogan has showed herself as a very competent cuneiform copyist, who also helps our CHD Project with her collations of original tablets in Ankara Museum upon request.

In co-operation with my German colleagues I am planning to edit some unpublished texts from Bogazkoy that I was able to determine as duplicates of some important historical documents from Old Hittite Kingdom. They are mostly tiny fragments, however, they make a remarkable contribution to gain a larger Corpus of Old Hittite historical documents. So, in my coming Ankara visits in June and August I will have opportunities to meet my Turkish and German colleagues in order to conduct the works on the unpublished Bogazkoy fragments of various contents.

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JASON UR

In April my Antiquity article ("Using CORONA Satellite Photographs to Study Ancient Road Networks: A Northeastern Syrian Case Study." Antiquity 77:102-115) finally appeared. Since the Research Archives stopped taking Antiquity almost 10 years ago, I've given Chuck an offprint for the pamphlet file, and I'm awaiting permission from the editor to make a PDF version accessible online. I hope it lives up to all the hype.

The OI made a good show at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Milwaukee in mid-April. I gave a talk in a GIS session on the landscape of north Mesopotamian urbanism in the 3rd millennium BC, and Tony Wilkinson gave a talk in a special session on ancient demography, using archaeological evidence for field systems as a cross-check on site size-based population estimates.

Last weekend I spoke to the docents on landscape archaeology in northern Mesopotamia; they were more critical of my interpretations than the crowd at the SAA meetings!

