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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The biggest news from the Computer Lab during November was the start of the Lab's renovation, in conjunction with CAMEL. The Lab was temporarily closed during the last week of November, and four of the Lab's five computers were moved to the basement Archaeology Lab, including: Macintosh G4 with large format scanner; Macintosh G3 with slide scanner; Macintosh eMac with scanner; and the Dell Windows computer with scanner. The fifth Lab computer is temporarily being housed in the Hittite Dictionary office.

The renovations are moving along on schedule, and we hope to be able to return the Lab's five computers to the new facility in Rm. 202 by Christmas. When the new Computer Lab/CAMEL reopens in Rm. 202 it will be by key access only, in order to avoid the problems we have experienced lately with outsiders using our facilities for web surfing, email, and printing. The precise nature of how access to the Lab will function for those without keys is still being determined. So stay tuned, and don't panic. Qualified users of the Lab will have access to it.

The issue of printing in the building was discussed in November, and several alternatives for public printing/scanning/copying are under consideration. Steve Camp and I hope to be able to make a choice amongst vendors and hardware by the beginning of the new year. Regardless of which solution we choose, printing/scanning/copying within the building will be more efficient and convenient shortly, although printing for most people in the building will, in the future, be handled the way copying currently operates: a user or project code will be required to print the job before it is actually printed, so that all public printing will be traceable to the person doing the printing.

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MUSEUM EDUCATION / Carole Krucoff

A variety of special programs brought hundreds of visitors to the Oriental Institute in November. Breasted Hall was filled to overflowing for the Chicago premiere showing of "The Hittites." Co-sponsored by the Membership and Education Offices, with the support of many organizations from the Turkish community, this film premiere and accompanying reception was a highly successful way to introduce the great achievements of the Hittites, the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project, and the East Wing exhibits that will open this January. Many thanks to Theo van den Hout and Aslihan Yener for all their help.

For the first time, the Education Office joined with the Seminary Co-op Bookstore to co-sponsor a book discussion, as part of the on-going series the Co-op has presented in Breasted Hall for many years. This event highlighted a new rendering of the Epic of Gilgamesh by Stephen Mitchell. Along with a reading by Mitchell, the program included commentary by Seth Richardson and Chris Woods, a special feature that was very much enjoyed by the audience.

The University's Middle East Music Ensemble helped us celebrate Arab Heritage Month in November by presenting "A Musical and Poetic Portrait of Arab Culture." This wonderful concert of choral and instrumental music, interspersed with

poetry selections, attracted nearly 200 people, many of whom had never visited the Oriental Institute.

Nearly 100 teachers from the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) were introduced to the Oriental Institute last month during professional development workshops given by the Docents and the Education Office. Seventy-five pre-school teachers attended a half-day workshop of gallery tours and an introduction to the best in children's books on the ancient Near East. The educators also learned ways to create and use ancient-Near-Eastern-style costuming as teaching and learning tools, and how to obtain reproduction artifacts from our "Mini-Museum" loan collection for their classes.

Twenty-one CPS science teachers attended a day long workshop on "Archaeology and the Life Sciences" led by Gabrielle Novacek and Nitzan Mekel-Bobrov. Gabrielle described how archaeology uses the techniques and processes of many scientific disciplines to learn about the past and suggested ways teachers could integrate many of these approaches into the science curriculum. Nitzan introduced ways ancient DNA is being used to investigate the past. Teacher evaluations gave both these presentations the highest rating, and one expressed the feelings of many when she wrote that she "felt privileged to be a part of such a special learning experience."

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PUBLICATIONS OFFICE / Tom Urban

Tony Wilkinson's Tell es-Sweyhat, Volume 1: Land Use Studies (OIP 124) was sent to press. We expect the volume to be completed and delivered to us the first week of January.

Tim Harrison's Megiddo 3 (OIP 127) was completed and will be sent to press within a few days.

Donald Whitcomb's Changing Social Identity (OIS 1) was completed and will also be sent to press within a few days. This volume is the first in the new series called Oriental Institute Seminars.

Brian Muhs' Taxes, Tax Payers, and Tax Receipts (OIP 126) is complete except for the index, which is proving to be quite a chore. The index is over sixty pages in length, with many Greek words having to be indexed; unfortunately, our manner of searching is not consistently catching all the Greek words, so we'll have to invent something to deal with them.

As soon as OIP 127 and OIS 1 are sent to press, I'll send out page proofs for Aslihan Yener's Amuq survey volume (AVRP 1).

The 2002/2003 annual report was converted to sixty-five .pdf files so John Sanders can add it to the Oriental Institute's Web-site.

The Winter 2005 issue of News & Notes was delivered; it is the fiftieth issue that the Publications Office has prepared for the Membership Office, and with thirty-two pages it is also the largest.

A complete list of titles published by the Oriental Institute was created, and we are in the process of counting the number and type of each page for each volume so we can get estimates for scanning all of the volumes and making them available on-line.

All of Mark Lehner's Giza entries from OI Annual Reports were collected into one large MSWord file and e-mailed to Wilma Wetterstrom. Mark and Wilma will look them over and re-submit them along with all the original artwork so they can be re-issued in one volume.

We continue to provide technical support to Cynthia Miller and Linda McLarnan who are putting together festschrifts for Professors Gragg and Biggs.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The extended hours of the Research Archives (until 6 pm Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) seem to be well received. The collection remains in continuous use right up until closing.

In November the staff of the Research Archives produced about a thousand entries in the on-line catalogue, and edited an uncountable number of existing records. At the time of writing there are 135,306 records in the catalogue.

We also catalogued many entries in Abzu, for which see below sub "WEBSITE"

We received our copies of Layard, Austen Henry, Monuments of Nineveh. From Drawings Made on the Spot by Austen Henry Layard, Esq. C.D.L. First Series: Illustrated in One Hundred Plates. London, 1853, and, A Second Series of The Monuments of Nineveh; Including Bas-Reliefs from the Palace of Sennacherib and Bronzes from the Ruins of Nimroud from Drawings Made on the Spot, During a Second Expedition to Assyria by Austen Henry Layard, M.P., Author of "Nineveh and Its Remains," "Discoveries at Nineveh and Babylon". London, 1853, back from the scanner. We expect these to be accessible on-line in ETANA shortly. The scanning and serving of these volumes and the remaining volumes of "Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum" (which will make the set complete) in ETANA has been made possible by as grant from the American Theological Library Association.

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WEBSITE / Chuck Jones - John Sanders

The redesign of the OI's website is progressing. The website redesign committee was reviewed six design concepts in mid-November. The committee has discussed them, making suggestions to the NSIT design team working on the project, and we expect to have 2 or 3 revised designs schemes by mid-December.

Heads of projects and units of the Oriental Institute should review their appropriate home page, and provide changes, additions, and corrections. If the changes you need are simply editorial, please print the page, edited it, and

pass along the corrected version to John or Chuck. If you have major changes, come talk to one or both of us.

Statistics: During November 2004, 115,953 unique visitors came to the site 169,493 times. The web server delivered 31,233 unique documents one or more times each, accounting altogether for 2,651,111 files. The web server was linked to by 76,446 distinct pages on 4,742 distinct web sites.

The top nine keywords/keyphrases which found documents at our site were:

- 1 mummies (1,804 times)
- 2 persepolis (1,786 times)
- 3 dead sea scrolls (1,321 times)
- 4 oriental institute (1,245 times)
- 5 pazuzu (1,026 times)
- 6 map of Egypt (1,002 times)
- 7 giza (915 times)
- 8 map of mesopotamia (661 times)
- 9 oi (625 times)

Additions to the website in November include the following:

Documents associated with the ETANA-Abzu-News mailing list (materials catalogues in Abzu from July-November 2004):

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/AbzuNew7-8.2004.html>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/AbzuNew9.2004.html>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/AbzuNew10.2004.html>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/AbzuNew11.2004.html>

The Demotic Verbal System. By Janet H. Johnson. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, Number 38 (Second Printing, with Corrections, 2004):

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/SAOC/38/SAOC38.html>

Urbanism and Society in the Third Millennium Upper Khabur Basin: A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of the Division of the Humanities in Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, By Jason Alik Ur, Chicago, Illinois, December 2004.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/DISPROP/urj.html>

The Architecture Of Defense: Fortified Settlements Of The Levant During The Middle Bronze Age: A Dissertation Presented to The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations by Aaron Alexander Burke. The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago, June 2004.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/DISPROP/burkea.html>

As announced in The Oriental Institute 2003-2004 Annual Report, a demonstration version of the "P" volume of the eCHD is now available on-line at XSTAR (on the Humanities Division server). Follow the links from the Chicago Hittite Dictionary home page:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/HIT/Hittite.html>

The eCHD requires a high-speed Internet connection and Java 1.4.2.

(For Macintosh platforms, requires Mac OS X; select Apple menu - Software Update for latest version.)

Announcements of the 51st Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale and the Tenure-track position in Comparative Semitics were published on-line in November, as were links to major notices of the OI in the news media:



thought and consists of stone slabs set in brown, artifact-rich mortar. I will report on our intrepid archaeological team's additional findings in the next Newsletter. I should remark that the contract for the two-year extension of our ARCE / EAP grant supporting the conservation and documentation of the Medinet Habu small Amun temple has been finished and sent by EAP to the University for signing. This extension will support the naos room work, the ongoing cleaning of the painted reliefs outside of the main sanctuaries, and the epigraphic documentation of those reliefs, and is most gratefully acknowledged here.

We discovered recently that while we were away during the summer the SCA had cleaned out the King's bark sanctuary in the main temple, utilized as a locked storage magazine since at least the 1960s. They even removed the iron grill door, so the chamber is now accessible to the public. This room housed a hodgepodge of material from western Thebes excavated by the SCA - nothing from Medinet Habu (we checked) - including numerous sculpture and relief fragments excavated at Amenhotep III's mortuary temple by Labib Habachi in 1965. Our colleagues Hourig Sourouzian and her husband Rainer Stadelmann are currently undertaking the excavation of Amenhotep III's mortuary complex, and last season at our invitation, Hourig reviewed all of the material in the room and catalogued every piece from the Amenhotep III excavations. All of this material was isolated and moved to an adjoining locked storage room for eventual moving to their on-site magazine. We found that the remainder of the material had been moved this past summer to two locations: the locked room next door, and to a series of open-air display platforms to the south of the God's Wives chapels. Because much of this material is fragile limestone, some of it pocket-size, Yarko and Tina have been photographing and cataloguing it, and the smaller bits have been moved into the small temple for safekeeping. Later this week I will request permission to transfer all of the material to the locked storeroom in the mortuary temple until more permanent storage arrangements can be made.

The epigraphic recording at the small Amun temple is going very well, aided by the creation of our flatbed blueprint machine, which has made blueprint-making (for collation) a much faster process. Epigraphers Brett McClain and Harold Hays and artists Margaret DeJong and Sue Osgood are presently working inside the bark sanctuary, while epigrapher Jen Kimpton is working in the ambulatory collating Akoris column drawings done by Tina Di Cerbo. Tina herself has been continuing her documentation and database of the graffiti in the small Amun temple, as well as the main mortuary temple. In reviewing the material for our proposed Volume 2, which we originally envisioned as comprising the Eighteenth Dynasty temple bark sanctuary, ambulatory and exteriors, it has been pointed out to me that we have enough material for a publication twice the size of the first volume of our Luxor Temple series dedicated to the Opet reliefs in the Colonnade Hall (OIP 112), our largest (and most unwieldy) publication ever. The density of information in the small Amun temple is truly extraordinary, but the thought of a publication larger than the Opet volume is pretty horrifying. Therefore, we are now considering dividing this part of the Eighteenth Dynasty temple into two volumes, one (Volume 2) dedicated to the decorated pillars, architraves, exterior scenes, façade, marginal inscriptions, and Akoris modifications; and the other (Volume 3) dedicated to the bark sanctuary proper (interior and exterior scenes), upper marginal inscription of Ptolemy VIII, and ceiling decoration. Priority will be given to the Volume 2 material, already mostly collated, which should closely follow the publication of Volume 1, currently in production.

At Luxor Temple stone conservator Hiroko Kariya has been hitting the blockyard at 6:00 AM to take advantage of the cooler temperatures for her treatment of deteriorating sandstone blocks and block fragments with the silicate Wacker-OH. Throughout the month of November Yarko photographed in 35 mm (black & white) a corpus of reused talatat blocks of Akhenaten scattered through the blockyards which I have identified as coming from the side walls of the 8th, 9th, and 10th Pylon courts at Karnak. This material was quarried and used by Akhenaten for the construction of his Aten temples at Karnak and was dismantled and reused after Akhenaten's death by Horemheb in his construction projects at Karnak. The blocks were quarried yet again from Horemheb's walls in the medieval period and transported to Luxor for reuse in house and church constructions around the temple and were recovered during the clearance of the fore area of Luxor Temple during the late 1950s and early 1960s. So far we have identified over 300 blocks of this type in the blockyards, inscribed with ritual procession scenes from the inner walls of Horemheb's courts, or inscribed by Ramesses II in yet another version of his great Kadesh battle narrative from the exterior west wall of the 8th - 10th Pylon courts. The Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak is in the final phases of documenting the surviving lower walls of those courts for publication, and it is clear that some of our blocks preserve upper details of scenes still preserved on the standing walls. Our goal this season is to document the fragmentary material in our blockyard which came from the upper walls of those courts so that the French can include it in their study. Eventually we would like to transfer the material back to Karnak, making it the first of many stone block groups reused in medieval Luxor to be taken back 'home.'

We had a warm Thanksgiving celebration this year, made even more pleasant by the presence of Ginny Hays, Harold's mom, and the University of Memphis Hypostyle Hall crew headed by colleague Peter Brand. We've also been visited by Steve Harvey and his Abydos team, as well as former Chicago House epigrapher Hrach Papazian who is working with Steve in Abydos and will return to Luxor next week. On November 17th we had a small celebration of the Epigraphic Survey's 80th year in Luxor. Cook Tayib baked a special birthday cake inscribed for Chicago House, and while Brett cut the cake, I read Breasted's own description of the conception and founding of CH from his 'Oriental Institute' book: the first day of work (with one epigrapher, one artist and one photographer), and director Harold Nelson wiring Breasted on November 18, 1924: "Work began yesterday." We have come a long way since then, but there is a long way to go. Here's to the next 80 years!

Finally, I am sorry to report that our finance manager Safi Ouri's assistant Marlin Sarwat has moved to Cairo with her growing family for the better opportunities for her children's education there. We will miss her very much. But every cloud has a silver lining. I am very pleased to announce that we have found an excellent replacement, our old friend Samir El-Guindy, who for many years worked at the American Express office in Luxor. Many of you may remember that Samir's wife Michelle, who tragically passed away two years ago, tutored Meg and Emily Dorman in French during Peter's directorship at Chicago House. Samir has recently remarried, he and Ekbal are expecting their first child, and it is a great pleasure to have him 'back' with his Chicago House family.

When next I write it will be after the holidays, in the New Year. May 2005 be filled with every good and perfect thing for everyone. Warmest holiday wishes to you all, from all of us out here!



