

Congratulations to Tony Brinkman who has received the Mellon Emeritus Fellowship. This is a wonderful and richly deserved honor. The OI is fortunate to have such a richly talented group of emeritus faculty who continue to play a vital and productive role in the intellectual life of the Oriental Institute.

Office Changes

Please note that Aslihan Yener and Seth Richardson have exchanged offices this past December. Aslihan is now in room 230 and Seth is in room 318. Their phone numbers did not change. Please look for a new updated Winter OI Directory that will be in your mailbox within the next few weeks.

OI Movie DVD Available

We're pleased to announce that the WTTW movie "Breaking Ground: The Story of the Oriental Institute" and "Pioneer to the Past: The Life and Times of James Henry Breasted" are now available for purchase in the Suq. Both movies are packaged on a single DVD. It is currently available in the Suq for \$29.95.

Upcoming Events

A number of major events are planned for the month of January, most related to the opening of the East Wing Gallery "Empires in the Fertile Crescent: Ancient Assyria, Anatolia, and Israel." The Director's Dinner for the East Gallery opening will be held on Thursday, January 13th, with Professor Amihai Mazar of the Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem as the keynote speaker. Professor Mazar will also provide a Wednesday, January 12th, afternoon lecture titled "The Excavations at Tel Rehov: New Light on the 10-9th centuries BCE in Northern Israel" in the LaSalle Bank room (more specific details to follow). A faculty and staff gallery preview event will be held on Monday, January 10th, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. A member preview event on Wednesday, January 26th, with all leading up to, the gallery public opening on Saturday, January 29th.

Risk Management Update

We recently met with the staff of University Risk Management to get a better understanding of the risk insurance costs associated with foreign excavation sites currently supported by the OI. In summary, all students or staff who are not "benefit eligible" employees of the University and are participating in a foreign excavation for a period of more than two weeks should be provided with supplemental risk insurance coverage. The current year cost for this coverage is \$25.00 per person. Most if not all projects have funds to cover this expense but you should check with the faculty lead on a project to determine if coverage is being provided. Coverage provides for up to \$100,000 in medical and property expenses. Examples of coverage include special care required in hospitals that normally wouldn't be covered by standard insurance policies, and transportation costs to "high standard" hospitals in the event of injury. It also provides coverage for property and automobile liability in the host country. An interesting side note: The University provides all museums on campus with insurance under their "Fine Arts Policy" in the amount of 40 million per loss, which is primarily for the loss of the research value of a collection.

Facilities Update

We had an incident where a visitor to the museum slipped on the stairs leading to the basement of the OI (LaSalle Bank Room). We are in the process of getting rubber strips for these stairs to avoid future falls. Also, we are close to purchasing new planter pots for the two large plants on the second floor landing of the OI. We hope no one is fond of the leaky, rusty look of the current pots. Facilities Services is still reviewing plans to upgrade the internal electrical system of the OI this summer. As soon as we are aware of a decision we will communicate a plan for rolling this out. Also Facilities Services is estimating the cost of upgrading the archaeology lab space in the basement of the OI. Upgrades would include tiling the floor and building secure storage cabinets.

Training Session on Export Controls, Trade Sanctions, Embargoes and Research

You may have received the announcement about the workshop that Mary Ellen Sheridan and Glenn McKeown are offering on January 25. It is important to the University that the appropriate people across campus become acquainted with these regulations. We are therefore asking that you consider attending this session. Please let me know if you have questions.

Export Controls, Trade Sanctions, Embargoes and Research at the University of Chicago: A Primer for Administrators

Have you heard the terms 'Export Controls' or 'Trade Sanctions'? Are you familiar with the acronyms EAR, OFAC, ITAR? Come learn for yourselves what it's all about and what is at stake for the research enterprise at the University in these regulations and restrictions. Mary Ellen Sheridan, Associate Vice President for Research, and Glenn McKeown, Associate General Counsel, will provide an overview of the regulations and their governance (Treasury, State, and Commerce Departments) and will discuss their impact on compliance requirements at the University.

Tuesday, 1/25/2005, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM; Research Institutes Building, 5640 S. Ellis Ave. - Room 480 (Corner Ellis and 57th, enter on Ellis)

REGISTER NOW at https://training.uchicago.edu/courses.cfm?category_id=34

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The Computer Lab was closed throughout December, undergoing renovation. The basement Archaeology Lab served as a substitute for those Diyala volunteers who simply would not stop scanning over the Christmas break, among other users. As I write this I am in the process of moving equipment back into the newly completed Computer/CAMEL Lab. We should be back functioning in Room 202 about the time you read this message.

In its new configuration the Computer/CAMEL Lab has all new counter surfaces replacing the old tables and desks. And very nice adjustable chairs have replaced the odd mixture of chairs in the old Computer Lab. Both of these new accessories are provided courtesy of CAMEL Director, Scott Branting.

The three Macintosh scanning systems in the old Lab will be brought back to the new Lab, as will at least one of the two Dell Windows computers. A decision must still be made as to the future use for the smaller, Macintosh iMac and the second Dell Windows computer from the old Lab. In the not too distant future, hopefully by the end of January, five to ten new Dell Windows computers to support GIS software for CAMEL users will be added to the Lab.

In its new configuration as both the Computer Lab and the CAMEL Lab, it was decided to change the lock on the Lab and make it key accessible only, due to the nature of the equipment and data that will now be used in the CAMEL part of the Lab. A regular schedule of work study students and/or CAMEL personnel present in the Lab on a daily basis will be able to provide access to those people who just want to use the Macintosh scanning systems (if you know the proper knock on the door sequence). People with longer-term needs in the Lab can talk to Scott Branting and/or myself about getting a key, though presently we want to limit this until we see how the issue of access plays out over the next few months. We're sure there will be screw ups, but we need to go through the process to learn how best to handle the issue of access in the long run.

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DEVELOPMENT / Monica Witczak

We are preparing for a site visit of the museum from the Joyce Foundation later this month.

We had a site visit with representatives from Exelon and the DuSable Museum to discuss possible collaboration.

We have been asked to submit a full proposal to the Morse Genius Trust for the Nubia exhibit.

We received a generous grant from Exelon to underwrite the publicity for the opening of the East Wing this month.

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MUSEUM / Geoff Emberling

Final preparations for the opening of the East Gallery are underway. The Gallery will open January 29 under the title "Empires in the Fertile Crescent: Ancient Assyria, Anatolia, and Israel". Many of you have visited the gallery in the last month or two, and it looks better and better as we finalize all the thousand and one details that come up in a big installation like this one.

There will be a series of pre-opening events, the first of which will be a reception for OI faculty, staff, and students on Monday, January 10 from 1 to 3 pm. The opening weekend will be very festive thanks to all the programs that Carole Krucoff has planned, including music, dance, and family activities in the galleries. Details are available on the OI website.

At the same time, we are continuing work on the Nubia gallery, which will be the last stage in the reinstallation of the permanent galleries. It will open in early 2006, along with a special exhibit in the West Gallery of photos from Breasted's Nubia expeditions. We hope to have two special exhibits per year in this space and have exhibits in planning that will take us into 2008. More details to come!

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MUSEUM EDUCATION / Wendy Ennes

December was the month Museum Education wrapped up the first year of its Institute of Museum and Library Services federal grant "Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History," an online teaching and learning project for students in grades K-12 and their teachers. Much has been accomplished over the past year with the development of the three key components of the grant:

A searchable database, which we are calling the "Learning Collection," that includes 140 artifacts from the Institute's Mesopotamian collection. Photographing the artifacts and recording the metadata for this collection is near completion.

An online professional development course on ancient Mesopotamia for teachers. Content development for this course has reached the halfway point.

A game-like interactive that will guide a student through the process of participating in an archaeological dig, cataloging the artifacts they find, and curating a museum exhibit. This is one of the most engaging and entertaining of our projects. Much was accomplished recently when our ten-member Teacher Advisory Board met twice during the month of December to help us develop critical aspects of this multi-faceted interactive that we call "Collect, Catalogue, Curate."

"Collect, Catalogue, Curate" will be a game that K-12 students nationwide will be able to play at home or in their classroom with the guidance of their teacher. Each student will make the choice to agree or disagree with a "quest statement" that relates to a big idea or concept about ancient Mesopotamia. Upon making their choice the student will then embark on a process of unearthing artifacts, meeting challenges and making decisions about their work schedule and budget, they will also learn to observe and catalogue each artifact's characteristics. They complete the game by "curating" a museum exhibit that supports the statement they chose to agree or disagree with at the beginning of the game. Over the course of the game students will choose to be guided by the sage advice of one "mentor," either Seymour Diggs, Ph.D.; A. Pylo Mudd, Ph.D., Sandy Pitt, Ph.D.; or Lotta Dust, Ph.D. As the mentor guides the student through game play the student will learn more about archaeology and the processes that bring artifacts and the stories they tell to the public. But most importantly students will learn much, much more about ancient Mesopotamia.

Our Teacher Advisory Board meets five times during each year of the grant and they come from diverse areas of the Chicago Public School (CPS) and Chicago City College system. They include teachers, area instructional technologists (AITC's), and administrators, and they are key to guiding us towards creating an educationally sound end product. Our board includes Paula Andries, teacher at

Alexander Hamilton School; Mary Cobb, teacher at Ray School; Carolyn Brewer and Bijo Vayilil, CPS AITC's; JoAnne Groshek, teacher at Bell School; Pat Galinski of the CPS Office of Language and Cultural Education; Inga Jackson, principal at Crane Tech-Prep Common School; Lisa Perez, librarian of Ryder School; Peter Scheidler, history teacher at Kenwood High School; and Brandon Taylor, Interim Dean at the Center for Distance Learning of Chicago City Colleges. In December our board chose five key artifacts that students will discover and interact with in various ways during the excavation and they also developed the "quest statements" that students will choose to agree or disagree with at the beginning of the game. These "quest statements" will drive the game play for students, challenging them by presenting decision-making scenarios and building upon critical and visual thinking skills.

On January 19th we will meet with our teachers once more to go through a process of "modeling" and developing the quests on a more intricate level. "Collect, Catalogue, Curate" is still in a wire-framed developmental stage - meaning it does not contain final graphics or content but is in a conceptual phase. If you are interested in checking it out you are most welcome to view it at: <http://www.chicagowebdocent.org/~syork/imls/simdig.html>

We hope you enjoy your experience with one of the many programs we develop here in Museum Education!

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PUBLICATIONS (Department Head Report) / Thomas A. Holland

In Memoriam

P. R. S. Moorey (1937-2004)

Due to the recent sad news of the untimely death of Dr. Roger Moorey (P.R.S. - Peter Roger Stuart) on December 23, 2004, I believe it is of interest to the Oriental Institute community to know that Roger was a very good personal friend, had strong connections to the beginning of the Tell es-Sweyhat excavations in Syria, and was also a renowned scholar who had considerable ties to OI Publications through his astute book reviews in the Journal of Near Eastern Studies.

I first met Roger when I went from the Jerusalem excavations to the University of Oxford in 1968 to work as Kathleen Kenyon's assistant and to do my Doctor of Philosophy work on Palestinian archaeology. At that time, Roger was the Keeper of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum; later, he also became a Fellow of Wolfson College and most recently was Wolfson's Vicegerent (2002-2004). When I decided to excavate Tell es-Sweyhat in 1973, it was Roger who was most influential in securing the sponsorship of the excavations from the Ashmolean Museum and provided very scarce work-study space for the division of finds that were shipped to England at the conclusion of the first three seasons of excavations. Roger was always ready and willing to help with research and problems that inevitably occur when archaeological field work is conducted abroad. During 1975, he graciously served on the committee for the oral defense of my dissertation and later encouraged me to publish my main findings in the journal *Levant* (British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem) for which he was the founding editor.

One of the most interesting social occasions in Oxford that I fondly remember was a joint fortieth birthday party that Roger and I planned for the third week in May 1977, which was to be held in my Banbury Road apartment and back garden. As our birthdays were a couple of days apart, we agreed upon Saturday, the day between our birthdays. Many mutual friends with Near Eastern backgrounds were invited, but suddenly the guest list had to be considerably extended as we discovered that during the same week in May it was also Michael Roaf's birthday, although he was ten years younger than us! All arrangements finally seemed complete (Margot Whiting, nee Stout, who was studying in Oxford at the time, kindly agreed to bake three special birthday cakes for us), until the evening before when I received a telephone call from Peter J. Parr, who had been my supervisor when I undertook post-graduate work in archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology in London. Peter said he had to come to Oxford on business the next day and could we arrange to meet - I said yes, of course, especially as we were having our big birthday party, and I hoped he could attend. To my amazement, he roared with laughter and said "Yes, it is my birthday tomorrow" [it was quickly established that Peter was ten years older than Roger and me]. Margot came to the rescue and burned the midnight oil baking yet another cake for Peter! Needless to say, the birthday party was a grand success, and to my memory was the last time that the four "birthday boys" were all together at the same time, as we all proceeded along our various Near Eastern paths of research.

From 1978 until 2004, Roger published eight major reviews of Oriental Institute Publications in the Journal of Near Eastern Studies, under the editorship of Robert D. Biggs, which was a major achievement considering that he had a full-time position at the Ashmolean Museum, was editor of *Levant*, served on numerous committees, and published many personal volumes along with numerous non-OI book reviews in both JNES and a number of other journals. Chronologically, Roger's OI book reviews are as follow with small samplings of their contents:

1. Excavations at Nippur: Eleventh Season, by M. Gibson. Oriental Institute Communications 22 (1975). JNES 37:74-76 (1978).

"The decision to revive the Oriental Institute Communications after a lapse of nearly forty years is most welcome... Fine as they were, those essays on the Diyala tells in the earlier series seem in retrospect little more than the tantalizingly varied hors d'oeuvres for a meal we are still being served and even then in separate, albeit magnificent, dishes, which never allow a whole course to be appreciated at one sitting." [p. 74].

2. A Guide to the Oriental Institute Museum, by L. Marfoe. Oriental Institute Museum Publications 11 (1982). JNES 45:59-60 (1986).

"It is a valiant attempt to provide layman and student alike with a brief introduction to the displays and their cultural background. It deserves to go through a number of editions... emphasis [is placed] on the dual function of this Museum: to serve the international community of scholars as a center for research and to instruct the public at large. It is the latter audience to which this guide wisely directs itself." [p. 59].

3. Essays in Ancient Civilization Presented to Helene J. Kantor, edited by A. Leonard, Jr. and B. B. Williams. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 47 (1989). JNES 52:49-51 (1993).

"T. McClellan presents a computer-based analysis of the ceramic assemblages from Tell Atchana (Alalakh) published by L. Woolley... Continuing analyses of Woolley's inadequate and fallible final report serve to increase a desire for

new excavations on a site that only continues to occupy a central place in Syro-Palestinian archaeology for want of a comparable, more reliable, published sequence from elsewhere." [p. 51].

4. Old Babylonian Public Buildings in the Diyalah Region, Pt. 1. Excavations at Ishchali, by H. D. Hill and T. Jacobsen and Pt. 2. Khafajah Mounds B, C, and D, by P. Delougaz, with contributions by T. A. Holland and A. McMahon. Oriental Institute Publications 98 (1989). JNES 53:131-33 (1994).

"It is a finely produced book in a great tradition... In this volume gallant attempts have been made to integrate small finds and architectural description, but much of it is necessarily brief and schematic... In retrospect, it is all the more to be regretted that Frankfort, unlike Woolley, was never able to write a summary of the work he had inspired and presided over so memorably." [pp. 131, 133].

5. The Holmes Expeditions to Luristan. Vols. 1 and 2, by E. F. Schmidt, M. N. van Loon, and H. H. Curvers with a contribution by J. A. Brinkman. Oriental Institute Publications 108 (1989). JNES 53:133-36 (1994).

"This long-awaited report is a major contribution to the archaeology of Iran. Its multiple authorship epitomizes its prolonged gestation. Erich Schmidt (1897-1964) was one of the founding fathers of field archaeology in Iran at a time when the skills of an archaeologist had to be combined with the tenacity of an explorer and the resourcefulness of a general to achieve anything." [pp. 133-34].

6. Kassite Buildings in Area WC-1, by R. L. Zettler, with contributions by J. A. Armstrong, J. Boessneck, J. A. Brinkman, G. Falkner, M. Gibson, M. Kokabi, and A. McMahon and architecture and drawings by J. C. Sanders and P. M. Sanders. Oriental Institute Publications 111 (1993). JNES 55:312-13 (1996).

"It is a lavishly produced volume in the traditional format of Oriental Institute excavation reports. The famous city plan of Nippur on a fragmentary clay tablet, now in the Hilprecht Collection in Jena, usually dated on internal evidence to the Kassite period, appears on the front of the dust jacket; on the reverse, it is superimposed on the modern topographic map of the site with area WC at the southern extremity. This graphically epitomizes the most exceptional result of research in WC, which indicated that Gordon and Kramer had been right in 1956 in their orientation of this ancient map and that it represented the entire city, not just part of it" [pp. 312-13].

7. Seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets. Vol. 1. Images of Heroic Encounter, by M. B. Garrison and M. C. Root, with seal inscription readings by C. E. Jones. Oriental Institute Publications 117 (2001). JNES 63:45-46 (2004).

"The 'Heroic Encounter,' traditionally the 'Master-of-Animals,' was a carefully chosen, most appropriate theme for this inaugural study... The authors have leavened the admirable rigor of their presentation with a brief, but challenging and perceptive, essay entitled 'Meanings of Heroic Encounter' (in Western Asiatic art), with special reference to the Achaemenid period. This merits the attention of every one interested in ancient Near Eastern imagery... It is particularly admirable in its organization and presentation. At every turn, it allows the reader to assess the authors' judgments of eye and exposition with remarkably full documentation." [p. 46].

8. Studies in the Archaeology of Israel and Neighboring Lands in Memory of Douglas L. Esse, edited by S. R. Wolff. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 59 (2001). JNES 63:56-57 (2004).

"This is, in every sense, a substantial volume, produced to an exemplary standard. It is a token of the regard in which Esse's research was held that each contributor has provided a serious and stimulating paper focused in some way on his primary concerns. Such volumes are notoriously difficult to review... It need hardly be said that no one seriously interested in the Early Bronze Age in the Levant and Egypt can afford to neglect this volume as so many essays are devoted to it." [p. 56].

In conclusion, Roger Moorey will be justifiably remembered as one of the most prolific and influential Near Eastern scholars of my generation.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Three volumes were sent to press in December: Tony Wilkinson's Tell es-Sweyhat Volume 1 (OIP 124); Donald Whitcomb's Changing Social Identity (OIS 1); and Timothy Harrison's Meggido 3 (OIP 127).

The time line in the production of Whitcomb's OIS 1 is noteworthy: The seminar was held on May 13-14, 2003. Four of the six papers were submitted for publication by September 2003. The fifth paper was submitted in August 2004. The sixth paper was not received. The introduction and five papers were submitted to the publications committee in September 2004, which sent the manuscripts out for external review. The external reviewer's recommendation was received in November 2004. The volume was completed and sent to press in December 2004. We expect the printed volumes to be delivered on January 27, 2005. In other words, it took about twenty and a half months from start to finish.

It's hard to say which volume will be next to go to press, but Brian Muhs' Taxes and Taxpayers from Ptolemaic Thebes (OIP 126) is closest.

We miss Ali, who left for Giza last week.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

It was quiet in the Research Archives in December, especially following the exams period. A few stalwarts worked each and every day. We were closed over the period of the holidays. We have been working with Facilities to make sure the lighting and lamping is properly maintained. Electricians worked in the Research Archives for much of the month, but we have not yet reached a satisfactory solution to this issue. For now at least, there is sufficient illumination to read after sunset.

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WEBSITE / Chuck Jones - John Sanders

The redesign of the OI's website is progressing. Our partners at NSIT have presented us with a second set of design proposals incorporating the comments articulated by the members of the website Redesign Committee.

Heads of projects and units of the Oriental Institute should review their web pages and provide changes, additions, and corrections. If the changes you need are simple, please print the page, edit it, and pass along the corrected version to John or Chuck. If you have major changes come talk to one or both of us. So far only one project has undertaken a revision this year. We anticipate that the relaunch of the OI website later this year will attract considerable attention to the content of the website. Please assist us in making certain the content is up to date, accurate and properly edited. The web site is the primary public face of your project or department.

Statistics: In the ten months since the website went "live" on the NSIT server, 715,278 unique visitors made 1,158,534 visits to the site.

During December 2004, 92,763 unique visitors made 135,753 visits to the site. The web server delivered 31,131 unique documents one or more times each, accounting altogether for 2,132,476 files. The web server was linked to by 58,143 distinct pages on 4,470 distinct web sites.

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

1	persepolis	1,588
2	dead sea scrolls	1,436
3	mummies	1,191
4	oriental institute	1,023
5	giza	669
6	map of Egypt	566
7	oi	503
8	pazuzu	465
9	oriental	438

The top nine points of entry to the website were

1	http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/	6,395
2	http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/NIP/PUB93/NSC/NSCFIG1.html	4,069
3	http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/GIZ/Giza.html	2,810
4	http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/SCR/Scrolls.html	2,747
5	http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/COMP/GIZ/MODEL/Giza_Model.html	2,654
6	http://oi.uchicago.edu	2,495
7	http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/MAP/SITE/Egypt_Site_150dpi.html	2,435
8	http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/PA/IRAN/PAAI/PAAI.html	2,432
9	http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IS/WENTE/NN_Win95/NN_Win95.html	2,365

This is not the total number of times each of these pages was viewed, but is the number of times visitors to the OI web site began their visit a these pages. These are effectively the most important "home" or "portal" pages of the website.

During December 2004 the following new components were added to the OI website:

Material relating to the Opening of the East Wing Galleries, including:
Schedule Of Opening Events
Empires In The Fertile Crescent - The East Wing Galleries Open
A Hittite Queen and James Henry Breasted: Two Dreams Come True

Henrietta Herbolsheimer Syro-Anataolian Gallery
Facing Armageddon
Press Release

http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/GALLERY/EAST/New_East_Gallery.html

Bibliography of entries catalogued in Abzu in the period 1 December - 31
December 2004

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/AbzuNew12.2004.htm>

Material relating to the Oriental Institute Conference, February 25-26, 2005:
Margins of writing, origins of cultures: Unofficial writing in the ancient Near
East and beyond including:

Detailed Description

Intellectual Background

Format

Participant Titles and Bios

Preliminary Schedule and Abstracts

Information for Participants

http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IS/OIS/MARGINS_2005/Margins_2005.html

Description of the DVD: Breaking Ground: The Story of the Oriental Institute /
Pioneer to the Past: The Life and Times of James Henry Breasted

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/SUQ/DVD/dvd.html>

A major revision of the Diyala Project web presence:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/DIY/Diyala1.html>

Public mailing list activity in December 2004

495 messages were broadcast and publicly archived on ANE:

<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/pipermail/ane/2004-December/date.html>

101 messages were broadcast and publicly archived on ANENews

<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/pipermail/anenews/2004-December/date.html>

53 messages were broadcast and publicly archived on IraqCrisis

<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/pipermail/iraqcrisis/2004-December/date.html>

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PROJECTS

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

With the Christmas and New Year's holidays over, the Chicago House 2004-2005 season has lurched into high gear. At the Medinet Habu small Amun temple the epigraphic team continued documentation of the wall reliefs in the bark sanctuary and ambulatory which will appear in volumes 2 and 3. Conservation and cleaning of the painted reliefs of the sanctuary façade is in its final stages; the colors are considerably brightened and will appear in the first volume in the small Amun temple series. Dany Roy has prepared sandstone slabs for floor restoration in the sanctuaries and for the new foundation emplacement of the red-granite naos in the naos room. Lisa Giddy and Tina Di Cerbo will resume their excavation and documentation of the naos emplacement in early February;

they finished the northern half in December, and still have the southern section to complete. (I might note here that Lisa Giddy's daughter Nanou, vacationing in eastern Asia, providentially had left the area prior to the earthquake and tsunami). At Luxor Temple conservator Hiroko Kariya finished the first phase of her field season, treating 102 wall fragments in the main treatment area, 17 fragments on the isolation ('hospital') mastabas around the precinct, and five large blocks in the southern area with Wacker OH silicate. She monitored previously treated blocks, condition surveyed all of the rest, and continued to prepare two fragment groups for reconstruction on two wall surfaces, one in the northeastern corner of the Amenhotep III sun court, and one in the eastern wall of the Colonnade Hall. Hiroko will return at the end of this month for Phase 2. This week Dany and I started planning the strategy for our stabilization program of the Colonnade Hall eastern wall before fragment restoration. Yarko Kobylecky and Ellie Smith have continued the photography of reused talatat around the blockyard (more about that next time), and are preparing for large-format photography of the socle inscription around the back of the Luxor Temple sanctuary.

This season has been noteworthy for the steady stream of visitors and colleagues passing through, including some of our own from the Oriental Institute. Steve Harvey and his Abydos crew passed through Luxor several times, and we had an excellent on site visit of the Ahmose funerary complex and briefing of their work on December 12. Former epigrapher Hratch Papazian, working with Steve, also came by, and it was great having him back with us after so long. Richard Jasnow has been with us working with Tina on the documentation of Demotic graffiti in the MH complex, Lorelei Corcoran has been working with the Italian mission of Francesco Tiradritti at the tomb of Harwa in the Assasif, and Peter Lacovara is presently in town with a group from Atlanta. We have given site briefings to many groups, including some of our ARCE friends, and we had the pleasure of hosting British Museum director Neil MacGregor at Chicago House over the holidays.

Coming up: site reviews with some of our USAID friends, and a ground-breaking ceremony for the USAID supported ground water lowering initiative for Karnak and Luxor temples in mid-month, about which I will report more fully later.

In the meantime, to all the folks back home, best wishes for a Happy and Productive New Year 2005!

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INDIVIDUALS
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GENE GRAGG

Gene Gragg is now back at the OI, having kept busy during the Fall Quarter by giving three papers: "What kind of Speech Community is represented by the Semito-Hamitic Cushitic Node?" at the 7th International Hamito-Semitic Conference in Berlin (Sept. 13-15); "Morphology and Root Structure: An Afroasiatic Perspective" at the Barcelona Symposium on Comparative Semitics, Nov. 19-20; "The Akkadian 'Weak' Verb: Between Ethiopia and the Bedja?" at a workshop on "The Akkadian Language in its Semitic Context" held in Leiden, Dec. 10-11. The Barcelona symposium, which brought together a number of Semitists/ (Afroasiaticists) from North America, Western and Eastern Europe, resulted in a

