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OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - FEBRUARY 2002

FROM THE DIRECTOR / Gene Gragg

19 '02
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THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

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I invite all Oriental Institute staff, research associates, faculty, and emeriti to the first of what should be regularly convened OI staff-faculty meetings to discuss issues of common interest. The agenda item for the first meeting will be a discussion of an Action Plan which emerged from the Voting Members' retreat held in November. A final version of this text is now being worked on and will be distributed to everyone shortly. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20, at 3:30, in the LaSalle Banks room.

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

With the assistance of Todd Schuble, GIS Support Specialist, Social Science Research Computing, four copies of the ArcGIS (ArcInfo, ArcMap, ArcView) software were installed in January: one in Aslihan Yener's lab, two in Tony Wilkinson's lab, and one copy on the 800MHz Dell computer in the Computer Lab.

A single seat license for the Oracle Standard Edition (server and client components) was purchased for the Computer Lab's 800MHz Dell computer, to be used by the Diyala Publications Project as a test bed for converting their original FoxPro database of Diyala objects and photographs into a database capable of being served via the internet and the WWW. The software is being installed as I write this by George Sundell, a volunteer and former AT&T database administrator consulting with the Project.

The Computer Lab's new 700MHz Apple iMac, with the lab's first CD-RW (read-rewriteable) drive is now up and running. And I am in the process of setting up a duplicate machine in my office, to replace my aging Apple 8600 computer.

On the last day of January we placed on the website one additional letter, D underline, and a Problematic Entries file for the on-line Chicago Demotic Dictionary.

I had hoped to announce the addition of my Archaeological Site Photography section on the website in January, but it is taking longer than expected to get the photos "ready" for public display. I should finish the task during February.

Lab Assistant, Katherine Strange Burke, started HTML processing of the 1980 Institute publication Ptolemais Cyrenaica, by David Nasgowitz, for inclusion in the Photographic Archives section of the OI website. Scanning of the actual photographs should start later in February.

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DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

On Wednesday, February 20, 2002, Aslihan Yener, Associate Professor of Anatolian Archaeology, will present a lecture, under the

auspices of the Archaeological Institute of America. The lecture is entitled "Hittites and the Land of Alalakh: New Discoveries in the Amuq Valley, Turkey." The lecture begins at 8:00 and will be followed by a reception.

I am saddened to report the death of Elizabeth Tieken, a charter member of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee, on Friday, February 1, 2002, at the age of 85. Betty's support of and advocacy for the Institute cannot be overstated. She had personal relationships with many who have served on the faculty or staff over the years.

There will be a memorial service for Betty at 11:00 AM on Thursday, February 7, at the Casino Club, 195 East Delaware. McGuire Gibson, Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology at the Oriental Institute, will be one of the speakers. A reception will follow immediately afterwards. Any member of the Institute faculty and staff who wishes to attend will be reimbursed, with a parking receipt, by the Development Office. Parking is either by valet at the Casino Club or at the nearby Westin or John Hancock Building garages.

The Visiting Committee to the Oriental Institute met in the Founders Room at The Field Museum on January 15, 2002. The agenda consisted of an update on reinstallation and the introduction of several new endowment funds which will be the largest item, by percentage, for which the Institute will be raising funds during the University of Chicago campaign presently underway.

The James Henry Breasted Society saw a record level of participation in 2001. Total proceeds were \$94,289.12, more than 20% higher than 1999, which had been its best year. The Society met on January 15, 2002 for a dinner in Stanley Field Hall and a private tour of the Cleopatra exhibit. Remarks were made by Gene Gragg, Richard Saller, and Robert Ritner, academic advisor to the exhibit. Robert, Hratch Papazian, and a Field Museum docent answered guests' questions in the exhibit itself.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD): The eleven files (prologue, nine letters, and problematic entries) of the CDD submitted to the

Publications Office have been put online, totaling 595 pages. We anticipate two more letter files (B and G) to be submitted soon.

Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD): All work has been completed on the first fascicle of the S-volume (208 pages) except for whatever the editors indicate on the final page proofs, which we await. The (sixteen) preliminary pages still need to be created.

News & Notes (N&N): Work will begin soon on the spring issue of N&N.

OIP 117: Seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets, Volume 1: Images of Heroic Encounter (2 vols., Text and Plates) (Garrison and Root) Printed and bound. \$140.00

OIP 118: Scarabs, Scaraboids, and Plaques from Medinet Habu, Volume 1 (Teeter) Work on the catalog of 349 objects is nearing completion; the plate section is complete.

OIP 119: Theban Desert Road Survey, Volume 1: Gebel Tjauti Rock Inscriptions 1-45 and Wadi el-Hôl Rock Inscriptions 1-45 (Darnell) All work has been completed except for whatever the author indicates on the final page proofs, which we await.

OIP 120: Excavations at Chogha Bonut, Iran (Alizadeh) Work on the plate section is nearing completion; thirty-one figures await scanning; and the text section needs to be put into PageMaker.

OIP 121: Cuneiform Texts from the Ur III Period in the Oriental Institute, Volume 2: Drehem Administrative Documents from the Reign of Amar-Suena (Hilgert) We're gearing up to enter the author's first round of corrections, put the manuscript into PageMaker, and create the plate section for this large volume with 605 tablets.

Curtis Myers joins the staff as the Sales Manager; Robert Herbst has accepted another position at the University.

Lloyd Anderson of Ecological Linguistics is creating a Unicode font for Macintosh and Windows. Please remember that Unicode is a unified coding system for all of the characters in all of the world's scripts -- it is not a font. Lloyd is creating a font, the first of several, that will use Unicode's code numbers for the characters contained therein. The

first font will contain the characters needed for transliteration (and perhaps the base Aramaic characters). Another font will contain the Greek characters with accents, breathings, and special diacritics. Other fonts will contain Coptic, hieroglyphs, etc. Into the foreseeable future, one font will not contain all of the characters that the Publications Office must have in order to produce books in our specialized field. Since the Unicode consortium is reluctant to include some special characters that we use, such as the Fraktur Hyphen and double Egyptian aleph, these characters must be added to the special use section of Unicode's coding system. Characters in the special use section take us right back to the beginning: you must have the font in order to read something created with it (on screen, that is).

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The ANE and ANENews lists have been reborn using software provided by the University. Information on the lists is still available on our Web site, where the archive of list traffic from July 1993 to January 7, 2002 continues to reside:

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/ANE/OI_ANE.html

All traffic beginning January 8, 2002 will be archived on the new server at:

<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/pipermail/ane/>

and

<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/pipermail/anenews/>

where it can be sorted by thread, subject, author, or date.

At present, 1,595 addresses are subscribed to these two lists.

At a meeting of ETANA in Nashville at the end of the month, I demonstrated a prototype of the new version of Abzu, constructed in partnership with ETANA, and with substantial funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The prototype has several tools yet to be implemented (browse functions, canned searches, etc.), and is only about 60% populated, but the essential features are in place.

Those who would like to preview it may point their browsers at:

<http://lib11.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib/abzu-search.pl>

I will be grateful for feedback.

We publicly announced the availability of the on-line catalogue just over one year ago. In the past year we have added nearly twenty-one thousand records to the database.

Recent acquisitions lists are available on-line at:
<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/RABooks.html>
and the Research Archives Acquisitions List mailing list will be rebuilt in February using the University of Chicago's listhost program.

Ali Witsell, who has worked for the Research Archives since last summer, is moving on to the Hamoukar Project. The Research Archives staff now consists of Vanessa Davies and Emily Hartsay. I have one position open - anyone who is interested should get in touch with me ASAP. <cejo@midway.uchicago.edu>

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TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP / Chuck Jones

We had a very large turnout for the screening of *The Human Adventure* in mid-January.

We hope to schedule one or two sessions later this month to present and discuss *Middle Egyptian Text Editions for Online Research [METEOR]*, presented by Jan Johnson
and
The Diyala Project, presented by Clemens Reichel and George Sundell.

Watch for notices of time and place.

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PROJECTS

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CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY / Theo van den Hout

The last months at the CHD have been dominated by ongoing proofreading. We are in the last stages now and hope to be done in a couple of weeks. During the second half of January we had Alwin Kloekhorst as a guest from the Netherlands. He is a PhD candidate

from Leiden University and an Indo-Europeanist who focuses on Hittite. As of today, another guest will be Ms. Alice Mouton from Paris. She will stay to work here, using the Archives and the files of the CHD for the entire month of February.

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

Chicago House's December and January were so crammed with field work, site reviews, and visitors there was no time to report on it all last month (sorry). I will attempt to make up for that now.

A number of season objectives were reached in the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu during the last two months. The cleaning of the two southern painted sanctuaries projected for Volume 1 was finished by the conservation team headed by Lotfi Hassan, and the newly exposed painted details were plotted on paint collation sheets by artists Margaret De Jong, Sue Osgood, Will Schenck, and myself, and then passed on to epigraphers Harold Hays and Brett McClain, who are finishing the final checking now. One of the goals for this season is to have all the painted details added to the drawings of these two chambers before the season's end. The paint collation of the south wall of the king's chamber was completed as well and will continue shortly in the central sanctuary, where the conservators are now finishing the cleaning of the west and north walls. This whole room, once quite dark with soot, is becoming lighter and more colorful every day and will be a striking backdrop to the colossal granodiorite statue of Thutmose III and Amun we restored in the center of the room last year. The cleaned walls greatly enhance the clarity of the publication photographs of the decorated wall surfaces.

New epigrapher Randy Shonkwiler finished his introductory epigraphic training in December and has been producing excellent collations ever since, under the supervision of epigraphers Brett McClain and Harold Hays. Epigrapher and librarian Steven Shubert has been splitting his time between epigraphic training in the mornings and library work in the afternoons. All the epigraphers and artists have been working in the bark sanctuary and ambulatory areas of the temple (Volume 2), but as Volume 1 sanctuary walls are cleaned, the epigraphic staff immediately turns to the final paint collation of those walls.

In the northwest 'naos room' the floor underpinnings were cleaned and carefully recorded by Tina Di Cerbo, and a large black granodiorite offering table inscribed for Shepenwepet II, originally reused by the Ptolemies as a foundation stone for the large red-granite naos on the west side of the chamber (but which we found was actually supporting nothing), was recovered and raised by stonecutter Dany Roy. It is presently in the bark sanctuary awaiting final cleaning by conservator Lotfi Hassan and is a major monument of the 25th Dynasty. It closely matches a second offering table presently set up in front of the Amenirdis chapel across the way, also dedicated by Shepewepet II, found in the MH precinct in the 19th century; preliminary analysis by epigrapher Harold Hays indicates that both offering tables are inscribed with a late version of Pyramid Text utterance 44. Tina created a numbered database of all the objects found in the cleaning of the naos room and general sanctuary area, and she coordinated the photography of relevant objects (189 total) with photographer Yarko Kobylecky for a future publication of the archaeological information gleaned from the small Amun temple since Hölscher's work in the 1930s. When the recording of the underlying area of the naos room was finished by Tina and Yarko, Dany carefully infilled that area with clean sand and gravel and put back the three original sandstone paving stones. We put them back at a slightly higher level than we found them since they had subsided slightly since antiquity.

On the small Amun temple roof Dany Roy has continued the sealing and patching of missing roof blocks. One of the problems of the roofing over the bark sanctuary ambulatory has been how to direct rainwater off that section on the north side. This is problematic because the Ptolemaic roof restoration blocks and rainspouts were all removed in the medieval period, and the roof presently slants toward the inner, decorated bark sanctuary, the opposite direction of where we need the water to go. After a careful examination of the roof blocks, Dany and I formulated a plan that will now allow the rainwater to be directed off the roof through a gap in the roof blocks on the north side, through a special rainspout we will construct, identical to one we installed on the south side over the sanctuary year before last. In January Dany and our chief engineer Girgis Samwell visited the Gebel Silsilla sandstone quarries - where the original sandstone was quarried for the temple by Hatshepsut and Thutmosis III - and ordered new stone cut to our specification for the roof patching and new floor blocks below.

Structural Engineer Conor Power and his wife Marcia joined us from December 6-15 to resume Conor's WMF-sponsored monitoring of the structural integrity of Luxor Temple, and consultation on the preservation and restoration work in the blockyard and Colonnade Hall. While here Conor also kindly took the time to review the structural integrity of the small Amun temple at Medinet Habu, and assisted us in isolating areas requiring additional stabilization work over the next two years, with funding from a new two-year grant from ARCE/EAP. As I write this, he is with us now for one day, consulting with Hiroko Kariya in the blockyard on the long-range planning of our sandstone consolidation program.

The Luxor Temple wall-fragment conservation team (conservator Hiroko Kariya, and volunteers Nan and David Ray) arrived during the fourth week of January to resume the consolidation of the deteriorating fragments in the Epigraphic Survey blockyard. This season I have been splitting my time between Medinet Habu most mornings, and Luxor Temple in the afternoons. In November and December our workmen and I moved more than a thousand sandstone wall fragments off the wet ground in the southern area onto protected, damp-coursed storage platforms constructed year before last to the north, sorted by category. In the newly cleared area I have had twelve new storage platforms constructed which David and Nan Ray (and our workmen) are now filling with more fragments still on the ground. I should mention that the generous assistance of the Rays is allowing this program to lurch forward at a most critical time, and we owe them a great debt. Before moving, each fragment is examined by me and given a tentative date and provenience. I then mark it in chalk with the number of the mastaba platform designated for that particular category, and the Rays supervise its transportation to that mastaba. Whenever possible, each category is stored closest to its original provenience. For instance the new southern mastabas house wall fragments identified by their content and style as coming from the sanctuary area of Amenhotep III's temple proper interior, as well as fragmentary reliefs of Ramesses III which graced the exterior of the temple proper. Some reconstructable fragment groups from lintels and doorways are being placed on the front mastabas for partial reassembly and public view. These, along with written information posted at several locations along the front of our blockyard, will explain to the general public (who pass by in tremendous numbers) the Oriental Institute/University of Chicago's work in the blockyard

in partnership with the SCA, and our aim to properly store, record, preserve, and reassemble this material in its original context.

At the moment we are also constructing another ten long storage platforms in the northeast area, which are almost finished, with more planned. Our immediate goal is to have all the fragments in the southern and part of the northern areas up off the ground onto damp-coursed platforms, away from the corrosive, salt-laden groundwater by the end of this season, April 15th. The long-term goal is to have every fragment presently on the ground in the Luxor Temple precinct off the ground by April 2003, and the reconstruction of two groups on their original walls started. This crucial salvage work is being funded in part by a Robert Wilson Challenge Grant and the World Monuments Fund.

As a sort of unexpected 'baksheesh,' this season at Luxor Temple the Supreme Council of Antiquities has been dismantling the retaining wall that runs along the east side of the Corniche Boulevard the entire length of Luxor Temple, almost a quarter of a mile long. They have found that the whole wall - at the south end twenty feet high - is made up of reused wall fragments recovered during the original clearance of the temple in the late 19th century. I estimate that about 10% of the material is inscribed, which means that when they are finished we will have another thousand or so fragments 'in the kitty.' Because this is all happening, providentially, during our field season, the Epigraphic Survey is collaborating with the SCA and has adjusted its mastaba/platform-building program to include a special storage area in our southern blockyard for the new material, which we will keep together and analyze separately for now. Included are wall fragments from every part of the Luxor Temple complex and parts of Karnak, and dozens of small 'talatat' blocks of Akhenaten from his Karnak structures, all unknown and unrecorded. One of the talatat preserves part of an enigmatic scene for which I can find no parallel in Akhenaten's art, either at Karnak or Amarna, just the sort of thing one hopes will pop up more often. (More on that later!).

The last two months have seen a steady rise in tourism in Luxor, and the town is quite busy at the moment, in marked contrast to October and November. This is partly due to the Egyptian school holidays which are in full force now, and an influx of Egyptian families on vacation. But there has been a noticeable rise in the number of foreign tourists as well, and the numbers continue to grow. Although tourism has been slow we have had quite a few visitors, including

Emily Napolitano's mother Consuelo; Eric Nordgren (former OI conservator) who now works for the Institute of Nautical Archaeology; OI grad students Josh Trampier and Tobin Hartnell; friends Ros and Jac Janssen, Jay Heidel, Jamie Humphrey, Harry Broadhead, and Mark Chickering who joined us for the Christmas holidays; Princess Jawaher of Saudi Arabia; and many colleagues too numerous to mention.

Chicago House has also hosted several site reviews by various funding agencies which support the field work of the Epigraphic Survey. On December 4-5 there were ARCE/EAP reviews at both temples. On January 1-2, and later on January 7-9, two groups of British Petroleum representatives came by to see our work at both temple sites and discuss additional support. And on January 6-9 the World Monuments Fund President, Technical Director, and Development Director came by for a review of our work and similar discussions. On January 16 Chicago House hosted a Congressional Staff Delegation to lunch, a library briefing, and site trips with me to Luxor and Karnak Temples, Medinet Habu, and the Valley of the Kings. On February 2nd I had the pleasure of briefing Bill Stanton, Director of Egyptian and North African Affairs, US State Department, on the USAID-funded preservation projects in Luxor (mostly us), and showing him our facility and work on site; he told us that he was particularly impressed by the commitment of the ES professional staff who he saw working at both our sites and commented that the United States was well-represented by the Oriental Institute / University of Chicago in Luxor.

Some of the larger issues (like groundwater) threatening the preservation of Luxor's monuments are finally being addressed by the Egyptian government and other agencies this season, and Chicago House has been able to help facilitate some of that valuable work as well, since it affects us all. On January 4th the Swedish groundwater engineers (SWECO) returned to resume their groundwater study of the Karnak and Luxor Temples area, and we were able to arrange a meeting with the World Monuments Fund reps while they were in town to discuss the funding of any future groundwater lowering initiatives. We have also facilitated an important dialogue between SWECO, the Karnak USAID waste water project, and the SCA, who are now coordinating their efforts in an effort to minimize any new trenching of antiquities land.

It has been a busy two months (what I've written represents only the highlights!), and this promises to be the case for the duration of the season. But we have made good progress on all fronts, and we continue to make a positive contribution out here. Best wishes to all of our friends back home, from all of us at Chicago House.

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INDIVIDUALS
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JOHN L. FOSTER

John L. Foster. He is retiring as editor of the Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt after eighteen years in that position (1984-2002}. In terms of his own research he has recently published a selection of his translations, Ancient Egyptian Literature: An Anthology (University of Texas Press, 2001). He is now working on the text of Ipuwer (Admonitions of an Egyptian Sage).

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CHUCK JONES

OIP 117: _Seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets, Volume 1: Images of Heroic Encounter (2 vols., Text and Plates)_ (Garrison and Root) Printed and bound. \$140.00, has finally appeared (or rather - at the time of writing - the plates volume has appeared, and the text volumes is on a truck somewhere in Chicagoland). My contribution to this volume is the seal inscriptions. On behalf of the authors I offer Tom Urban thanks for his extraordinary editorial contribution.

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WALTER KAEGI

Walter Kaegi completed two long articles (each about 8,000 words) "Byzantine Empire" and "Byzantine Civilization" for the New Catholic Encyclopedia, which its editor accepted for publication. Kaegi also completed review of K. Raaflaub and N. Rosenstein, War and Society in the Ancient and Mediterranean Worlds, for the journal Phoenix.

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MARK LEHNER

A Week of Work at Giza

SUMMARY

I. Bidding the Butzers Adieu

Karl and Elisabeth Butzer have returned home after being with us for the first three weeks of the season. The field trips we took while they were here, observations on our site, and analysis of samples has provided a range of evidence for the ancient landscape and environment.

II. WCE (Wall of the Crow East)

A. Masons' Mound on North Side of Wall of Crow

We are exposing a tall mound of construction debris that the ancient builders left against the North side of the Wall of the Crow.

B. A Marl Line in Doubt!

We are now not so certain that the galleries continued north beyond the line of the Wall of the Crow.

C. Adorned in Death: Child Burial

We found another Late Period child burial with an amulet, anklets, and cowrie shells.

III. Area BB: The Buttress Building

We have begun to excavate inside the Buttress Building and mud bricks walls have begun to appear.

IV. Area BBE: Buttress Building East

We are expanding the clearing of the area east of the Buttress Building to the North. We are finding many more chambers that appear to belong to houses.

V. Details: Of Stairways and Stylobates

We have found a little stairway from South Street Magazine 9 down to South Street. We are finding more low benches with column bases in the North center parts of galleries.

A Week of Work at Giza

I. Bidding the Butzers Adieu

At the end of this week we had to say good-bye to Karl and Elisabeth Butzer. They had been with us since the beginning of the season.

Their time with us was as intense and information-packed as when they were here last January. We did not take off our usual Fridays. Rather we went on field trips to Abu Sir, site of the 5th Dynasty pyramids and sun temples; Saqqara, where we visited the Unas Valley Temple; Dahshur, where we visited the large desert-edge lake at the foot of the 4th Dynasty, pre Giza, Bent Pyramid of Sneferu and the 12th Dynasty pyramid of Amenemhet III. In addition to scanning the desert-valley interface at these sites, we visited the Fayum, a huge oasis and lake southwest of Giza attached to the Nile Valley by the umbilical cord of the Hawara Channel. We went to the Ptolemaic site of Qasr Qarun at the far end of Lake Qarun and visited the pottery makers of Ibshaway on the way back.

We visited the world's oldest dam, the Saad al-Kafara, on the East Nile bank opposite Dahshur. There the 4th dynasty Egyptians had the audacity to try to arrest waters that occasionally gushed with great power through a desert canyon, the Wadi Gerawi. Nature easily punched a yawning gap straight through the bulwark with its stepped, pyramid-like masonry face, but the attempt is very insightful to the 4th Dynasty hubris that built the worlds largest pyramids and that carved giant Sphinx from living rock. It helps us think about the gigantic Wall of the Crow at the mouth of the main Giza wadi.

In one way or another, each visit was directly relevant to the interpretation of our site in its immediate as well as wider environmental context. For example, the idea that there were harbors in the valley fronting pyramid complexes, or desert-edge lakes that served as harbors, is very relevant to understanding the location of our site, the function of the Wall of the Crow, and other local landscape issues. The idea has been brought into doubt by recent work at other sites. When assessing evidence that is supposed to decrease or enhance the probability of such large-scale features, it helps to look at present, living examples, such as the lake at Dahshur, to carefully analyze samples of sediments from contemporary features, and to compare these to archaeological sediments. We must also assess evidence in the context of what is known of the overall morphology of the Egyptian Nile flood plain, its east-west convexity which brings -- perhaps counterintuitively -- the lowest flood land near the desert as opposed to along the Nile's edge, and so on.

Our field trips, three weeks of intensive observations on our site, and meticulous screening and analysis in our storeroom of samples from

Serena Love's corings and from our excavations, is helping to hone our understanding of the natural conditions when life in the ancient settlement was in its heyday. Our site is a unique, broad exposure (now almost 6 hectares) at an interface between the Nile flood plain, low desert settlement, and an outwashing wadi. The understandings that the Butzers are bringing out of the site may be paradigmatic for settlement sites elsewhere in the Nile Valley.

One can now stand on the southern rim of our site, say, at the Buttress Building, and look out to the Northeast to see overlapping Nile mud layers -- a frozen record of seasonal inundations. To the North, one sees yellowish, iron tinted, wadi-deposited sands, highly calcified and cemented from saturation. To the Northwest is the Wall of the Crow shielding the site, intentionally or not, from the opening of the wadi mouth. Behind the Wall and in between wadi wash and Nile alluvial layers, one sees the gray "mud mass" and ruins of the ancient settlement.

When the occupants built their settlement and production facility on this interface between flood plain and wadi they must have known its dynamics posed very real threats to their infrastructure. Why build on or so near a wadi fan? In recent decades Egyptian have built settlements in such locations only to have them severely damaged by flash floods. The destructive streams are infrequent enough that the threat is forgotten or ignored over a scale of several years or decades. However, more rain in the 4th dynasty may have made the threat all the more imminent.

I believe the 4th dynasty Egyptians built on our site in spite of dangers because of the proximity to the Mokkatam Formation and the Maadi limestone formations. The location was ideal for access to the downslope quarries of the Mokkatam Formation, where the hard-soft sequence of layers as seen in the Sphinx gave a perfect opportunity for extracting stone in large blocks. The hard, upslope, nummulite embankment was a good foundation for the giant pyramids. The cracked and thinly bedded Maadi Formation to the South was good for broken stone for secondary structures like construction ramps and embankments, and the "fieldstone" walls of our site. The wadi in between the two formations served as a good conduit for bringing in materials from afar such as fine stone for pyramid casings and granite from Aswan.

These landscape opportunities offered solutions to serious problems the pyramid builders had faced in the previous reign of Sneferu when they raised his giant stone pyramids at Meidum and Dahshur. To take advantage of the opportunities at Giza, the builders had to face the threat of wadi flooding. The long and tall Wall of the Crow may have been one way they dealt with the threat. However, in considering such things as a harbor at the mouth of the wadi, we have to think of the sediments that the wadi would lay down. We have to think of the filling-up or aggradation outside the wadi mouth from wadi flooding, and from wind-blown sand. Just what should we should expect an ancient harbor to look like in our core samples and trenches, and why?

I speak here very colloquially with a simplistic analog, but after discussing such issues with Karl Butzer over the last three weeks, I get the impression (and this is only my personal impression, right or wrong) that reporting "sand" or "silt" (say, as evidence of ancient lakes and harbors) is like reporting "snow" to Eskimos who may have as many as two-score words for snow, each with its own ramifications for weather, travel, and food gathering conditions.

The Butzers opened our eyes to the abundance and complexity of evidence for environmental history on our site. The complexity of the evidence, much of it laid open before us in such a broad horizontal exposure, is sobering as we think of reconstructions of the ancient landscape -- pyramid harbors, lakes, towns and suchlike -- or the even broader generalizations and conclusions traded in our discipline about the role of climate and environment on people and their societies.

II. WCE (Wall of the Crow East)

A. Masons' Mound on North Side of Wall of Crow

It turns out the sand is not so deep as we thought in the high mound against the North side of the Wall of the Crow, around the corner from the East end of the Wall. Underneath the sand Lauren Bruning found a mound of hard, compacted limestone debris with fragments of tafla and other rock from the Maadi Formation knoll above our site. This material looks very similar to that banked against the South side of the Wall of the Crow, and in the area of the Great Gate as I described in dispatches of last season. It could be that the builders left the North side, as they did the South side, encumbered with the debris of their construction work.

B. A Marl Line in Doubt!

For better or worse, the marl line that I reported in my last dispatch indicating that the galleries ran north of the East end of the Wall of the Crow is now looking doubtful. The surface at the foot of the Wall is very mottled and mixed with cast up soil of many Late Period burials. What we thought was a marl line marking the plastered face of a gallery wall disappeared with additional cleaning. It is certain, however, that the western wall of the gallery system ran up to, and attached to the end of the Crow Wall. But what lies north of the end of this great stone wall, 200-meters long and 10-meters tall, remains unknown. Lauren Bruning's team continues to clear northward in 5 X 5 meter squares. The surface is sloping down to the North. We may know more this week.

C. Adorned in Death: Child Burial

Jessica Kaiser's team of seven osteo-archaeologists is focusing on the Late Period burials packed tightly within the path of the 2-meter wide trench through the granite dust off the East end of the Wall of the Crow. When all the burials are cleared we can complete the trench to the end of the Wall of the Crow. This week the Swedes found another skeleton of a child who, unlike the adults, had been buried with adornments, including copper anklets, a copper or bronze amulet, cowrie shell string on the head, and a drilled nummulite bead. We add these remains to a list of children or young people buried with amulets, cowrie shells or other adornments.

III. Area BB: The Buttress Building

Fiona Baker's Scottish team, including Dave Swan, Stephanie Durning, and Susan Bain, is now excavating a "pass" about 12 centimeters deep in the very flat, compact mud mass filling the broad Northwestern corner between the double enclosure walls of the Buttress Building. Walls have just begun to appear. They seem to form rectangular chambers oriented North-South. The team is also excavating the stony collapse or fill along the exterior side of the outer wall on the West.

IV. Area BBE: Buttress Building East

This is our area of urgency and high priority along the modern cement wall which lines the modern asphalt town road that borders our site along the East. As I indicated in previous dispatches, we have word that a company building a high security wall around the Giza Plateau will come soon to trench along the existing wall in order

to build the new one. Paul Sharman and Bob Will have mapped at 1:20 most of the area directly east of the Buttress Building that I described last week. Paul has now begun excavating in the chambers tucked immediately into the tight southeast corner of the modern wall, where it jogs to frame the iron gate to our site.

As I wrote last week, we see in BBE a denser room structure than in the Gallery complex. Reis Shehat's team has cleared farther north in the 15-meter wide swath along the modern wall. Altogether the cleared area of BBE is now 40 to 45 meters North-South X 15 meters wide. Over the whole newly exposed surface, mud brick and field stone walls show readily, forming rooms and chambers. The walls seem to be well preserved, and after a first scraping of the surface, we can see individual bricks -- a rarity in the compacted mud mass in the area of the galleries. We have a rough count of 40 to 45 rooms or chambers in the 600 square meters so far cleared. At the southern end of BBE, where Paul Sharman has begun to excavate, two groups of rooms comprise square and rectangular patterns very much like "snail house" plans (as forms the letter for h in the Egyptian hieroglyphic alphabet). One of these is about 5 x 10 meters.

As I indicated, it seems a good hypothesis that these are domestic structures, part of a residential component. Together the large BB enclosure and the BBE structures give impression that, as large as the gallery system is (more than 180 meters north to south), the galleries could be ancillary to whatever lies to the East and south. Again, it is, therefore, frustrating to see the ancient walls in BBE pass under the modern street and town beyond as we continue to expose them in our clearing along the modern wall. Yesterday we found just the fieldstone corner of a chamber lost to us, probably forever, under the living city. And again, we hear of hope to the South, namely, that the modern soccer field to which we loose the Buttress Building could be moved as early as next November.

Meanwhile Mohammed Musilhi, who operates the big red loader, continues to eat away our two- or three-story Season 2000 dumps along the modern road. Two large dump trucks are hauling the sand to an area far south of our concession. Mohammed's clearing has arrived to about the latitude of Main Street (grid range 3.K-4.K). We will continue to track the ancient settlement behind him.

V. Details: Of Stairways and Stylobates

A Stairway

Anna Wodzinska has found in her excavation of South Street Magazine 9 that The little corridor off the Northeast corner is probably a stairway descending to South Street which means the pottery-stuffed magazine has a floor higher than street level.

A Stylobate

In his excavation of Gallery III.D-E Ashraf Abd al-Aziz has found in square 4. I11 one of the low walls or benches that run through the approximate center of the northern parts of other galleries in previous seasons. This one is south of the foyer and low platform, perhaps for a bed, that Ashraf excavated in the same gallery last season. In other galleries, these benches have holes for missing columns with crude limestone column bases underneath. So they seem to be akin stylobates, "a continuous flat coping or pavement on which a row of architectural columns is supported," except these benches acted more as guards than as bases for the columns.

With Merzuq Abd al-Qadar I have been scraping and mapping other squares in other galleries to add to the overall map. We have found benches and more column bases in Gallery II.H-I and Gallery IV.I-J (Roman numerals refer to gallery sets, letters designate, from west to east, the to walls framing the galleries). The columns would have formed canopies or colonnades along the fronts, or north ends, of each gallery

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W. RAYMOND JOHNSON

W. Raymond Johnson was made an honorary 'Corresponding Member' of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut in a special 'Winckelmann day' ceremony at the DAI, Cairo, on December 19, 2001.

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CLEMENS REICHEL

Throughout January I have been busy with teaching part of the "Ancient Near Eastern History: Mesopotamia and Iran" class. I suppose that the first "real" class one teaches always helps to find out how NOT to do things, and I am certainly no exception to this

rule. For me, however, it has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience so far, and I want to thank both students and faculty for putting up with my occasional inefficiency, inconsistencies, and Germanic pronunciation of largely incomprehensible personal names in poorly understood languages.

I am pleased to report that, in spite of my preoccupation, the Diyala Project is moving along almost on schedule. The Oriental Institute computer lab recently bought Oracle 9-i, and George Sundell, our data architect (I hesitate to still call him a 'volunteer' at this point) is now putting the structural layout for the 'Diyala material' that we have been working on for most of 2001 in action. Having this material available in Oracle via web-browser is an exciting prospect as it will eventually enable people world-wide to work with, and comment on, this material. For now we still have to content ourselves with a single user version of the program (we do not have a site license for Oracle), but this should allow us to hammer out most of the bugs before turning the project public.

Revisions of my dissertation for publication have been somewhat slow due to preoccupation with database work, Hamoukar post-excavation work, and teaching. Having o.d.-ed on it last year I am pleased that I actually have managed to look at it again without getting dizzy. Next week I will be giving two lectures at Harvard and in the Ancient Near Eastern Seminar at Columbia University on topics related to my dissertation research.

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