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OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - MAY 1999

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

Based on the success of the Persepolis and Ancient Iran (PAAI) photographic archive that went up on the website at the very end of March, we started to work on a similar microfiche publication of 1100 photos from the 1905-7 Breasted Expedition to Egypt and Sudan (BEES). With the help of volunteer Irv Diamond, who scanned the catalog and caption list using OCR software, we prepared a series of web pages for each site James Henry visited and photographed. Bruce Williams is helping track down the exact location of some of the Nubian sites (since the original print publication DID NOT contain a map of the region identifying the 70+ sites in relation to each other). Two of the docent volunteers who helped us prepare the PAAI material have indicated a willingness to scan the 1100 photos for the BEES project over the summer.

This quantity of imagery requires additional disk capacity on the web server. The PAAI photos alone amount to more than 600 megabytes, and

the BEES material will be even larger in size. Anyone with some spare change can leave a contribution in the Computer Lab mailbox.

We started preparing the second floor server room and new public Computer Lab (room 202) so that the necessary electrical and networking fixtures can be installed during the first part of May. Slow but steady progress on the new home front!!!

The 35mm slide scanner was smoking throughout all of April as Aaron Burke and Joey Corbett work to scan the entire Ashkelon slide collection to date into digital format for inclusion in the Ashkelon database.

Steve Vinson's on-line adult education course this spring, Ancient Mariners, was put up as a website and a majordomo list on the Institute's server. Nicole Hansen's on-line adult education course for this summer, Egyptian Folklore, now has its public PR pages on the web server. They look very nice and hopefully will attract a large number of egyptophiles.

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MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT / Tim Cashion

While we respect the donor's wishes not to make a "big noise" about it, I am delighted to announce that we have received a donation that will name the Egyptian Gallery. Further details will be provided in the next OI newsletter.

Basic and Associate Memberships, through April 30, 1999, are up 7.5% (in numbers) and 10.5% (in dollars) over fiscal year 1998.

We are beginning a membership drive. The first stage is a targeted mailing, with handwritten notes from members of our Membership Task Force. I would like to thank Rita Picken, Mary Gary, Debbie Aliber, John Sevick, Patrick Regnery, Muriel Newman, Peggy Grant, and Chairman Mary Shea for their dedication to the membership effort. In September, we will do a mass mailing. Our goal is to return the membership rolls to their level of a decade ago (approx. 2000 households). Faculty and staff are heartily encouraged to supply names of folks who might be interested in joining, either now in the quiet phase or in the mass mailing in September.

The Breasted Society had its best year in its short history, with over \$50,000 in gifts this fiscal year.

Several events are planned by our office for the end of May:

- On May 22, Egypt Unveiled, a black-tie gala, will celebrate the close of the Legacy Campaign.

•Members preview days are scheduled for Sunday, May 23, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and on Wednesday, May 26 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM.

•Institute Unveiled, an "open house" affair for members will take place on Thursday, May 27.

The lecture program is being reevaluated. I would be delighted to hear of any suggestions, not only of speakers, but also as regards format, time, cost, etc.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Proofs for "Persepolis Seals" (OIP 117) will be returned at the end of May, which means work can continue on the Wente Fs. until then. Twenty of the forty-two articles for Wente Fs. (SAOC 58) have been prepared in page proofs and returned to the editors. When returned from the editors, the articles will be sent to the authors for final checking. We hope to have all forty-two in the authors' hands before proofs are returned for OIP 117.

A new, joint publication is in the works: "Changing Watercourses in Babylonia: Towards a Reconstruction of the Ancient Environment in Lower Mesopotamia," by T. Boiy, S. W. Cole, D. Lacambre, K. Verhoeven, H. Gasche, and M. Tanret (Joint Publication of the Oriental Institute and the University of Ghent). We expect it to be available in summer.

The Publications Catalog was updated.

The summer edition of News & Notes, which announces the re-opening of the Egyptian Gallery, was sent to press (about one month early).

Chris Kahrl reports good sales during the ARCE conference at the Congress Hotel.

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

The Research Archives is collaborating with the Technical Services department in Regenstein in a pilot project - the Cooperative Online Resource Catalogue [CORC] - to provide useful and properly formatted records for a corpus of on-line resources. CORC is working with Abzu, and with the materials published on-line at the Oriental Institute website as a launching pad and test case. You can already find Abzu as well as Richard Jasnow's article "Graffiti of Luxor Temple" (from the Chicago House Bulletin) in Horizon if you care to investigate.

CORE is described at:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/Annex/TechSvcs/corc.html>

We have now met with the Architects working on the Reading Room restoration and hope to have something to show for it soon. It is likely that the restoration will require the closing of the Reading Room at some point during the summer. I will give notice of this as soon as I can.

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DOCENT PROGRAM / Catherine Dueñas

The Docents and Volunteers will be having additional training sessions with Emily Teeter on May 8th and May 15th from 10:00 a.m. until noon in Breasted Hall to help them get ready for the upcoming opening of the Egyptian Gallery. Some of the Polk Foundation Teacher participants will also come in for these information sessions to learn more about the content of the newly renovated gallery, and to give the Docents advice on how they would like to see the Docents present a new and more interactive tour.

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PROJECTS

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BIR UMM FAWAKHIR PROJECT / Carol Meyer

I presented a paper summarizing four seasons of archaeological survey at Bir Umm Fawakhir. Meanwhile, John Ellsworth is preparing drawings for the publication, and Clare Leader in Beirut is entering the pottery sheets on a database for Lisa Heidorn in Helsinki. Inshallah we can get two or more of these people together at some point during the summer.

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / W. Raymond Johnson

The first half of April was spent finishing up the epigraphic and conservation work of the 1998/1999 season in Luxor and preparing to close the house for the summer. The epigraphic staff finished the drawings and collations in progress, while the artists put the finishing touches on penciled drawings which will be inked at home during the summer. In the Photo Archives, Ellie Smith prepared the final 5x7 negatives of the season for scanning and burning onto CD at the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak, a process that will continue next season. Ellie also put together a duplicate set of the field negatives generated

this season for Chicago, which were brought back for the OI Museum Photo Archives.

Conservator Lotfi Hassan finished up his desalinization and infilling work in the king's chamber at the Medinet Habu small Amun temple. He also consolidated some of the large sandstone floor stones of the small Amun temple exhibiting signs of decay, one in the northern ambulatory of the bark sanctuary, and three in the Ptolemaic "wing" addition to the north of the bark sanctuary. This work will continue next season. On the north side of the sanctuary area roof, stone cutter Dany restored and replaced the last of thirteen roof block slabs originally dating from the time of Ptolemy VIII, removed during restoration work earlier this century. The new roof blocks were obtained from the same quarry as the original blocks, Gebel Silsileh, and were custom-cut and shaped based on photographs of the roof taken in the thirties and published in U. Hölscher, et al., *The Excavation of Medinet Habu II, The Temples of the Eighteenth Dynasty* (OIP 41; Chicago, 1939), page 8, figure 7. Their replacement effectively restores the ancient drainage channel that directs rainwater off the roof through the Ptolemaic period rain spout. Dany also recut and replaced Ptolemaic roofblocks over the façade of the sanctuary entrance and above the bark sanctuary south wall, thereby eliminating two additional areas of water leakage. Christina Di Cerbo continued to plan all of the bark sanctuary roofblocks, and plotted all of the details on a master plan of the entire roof.

Lotfi also did some sample cleaning of the salt-covered, inscribed wall surfaces of the Ramesses III southern well to determine how much stone was preserved beneath the thick layer of salt. He found differing amounts of preservation in different areas: on some wall surfaces the inscribed stone was intact beneath the salt, in others only partly preserved, and in others completely missing, with the salt alone preserving an impression of the carved decoration. We will conduct more tests and cleaning next season in an effort to nullify the corrosive action of the salt on the walls. Stabilization of the well facade by the local SCA Gurna Inspectorate was initiated before we left Luxor on April 15.

At Luxor temple the blockyard expansion continued and was finished for the season. Four new, damp-coursed storage mastabas made of baked brick (three 12 meters in length and one seven meters in length) were finished south of the conservation lab, extending the blockyard to the south; and six were constructed in the lower area to the north, east of the Amenhotep III sun court (15 meters long each). Two dozen column sections were stacked on the south easternmost mastaba at the beginning of April. As fragments are sorted, photographed, and moved next season and in seasons to come, more mastabas will be built in both areas, and also to the west and north of the temple, in our effort to get the fragile material off the damp ground. The long, meter-wide storage platforms will house fragments sorted by style and content and will be

carefully stacked with all carved surfaces visible for later documentation and study. Deteriorating fragments will be isolated and placed on special mastabas for future consolidation.

I am pleased to report that just before I left Egypt to return to Chicago for the ARCE conference, US Ambassador Kurtzer sponsored an historic meeting at the Embassy residence to discuss the water and conservation problems in Luxor and to suggest possible solutions. Present at the meeting were the Director General of the SCA Dr. Gaballa, the Swedish Ambassador and two Swedish water engineering firm representatives, the French Cultural Counselor, Nicholas Grimal from IFAO, Francois Larche from the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak, two USAID officials, Chip Vincent from EAP, and myself. The consensus was that we must all work together, and we must work now, because time has run out. Engineering studies will begin immediately, and will include Karnak and Luxor temples, and the next meeting will be held May 15 in Luxor with the Governor of Luxor and the Ministry of Agriculture, to discuss drainage measures that might be taken to lower the water table and slow down the decay. It is only a first step, but a crucial one, and we owe a great debt to Ambassador Kurtzer for getting things started.

Finally, back in Chicago on April 23, I had the pleasure of giving the keynote address at the ARCE meetings, 'The Epigraphic Survey on the Occasion of its 75th Anniversary.' Now that the ARCE meetings are over, we are opening up the Epigraphic Survey office and are resuming our work back at the mother ship. It's great to be home!

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GIZA PROJECT / Mark Lehner

The Giza Plateau Mapping Project (GPMP - the name fossilized from the time when it was only a survey project) had a very successful study season from mid-February to mid-April thanks largely to the work of Assistant Director John Nolan and Archaeologist Justine Way.

I opened and organized the storeroom shortly after I arrived in Cairo on February 13. John Nolan came a few days later and took over as I left to be on another NOVA/WGBH film ("Obelisk II"), the proceeds of which, helped to make the GPMP work possible. From March 28 until April 10, I rejoined the GPMP after returning from many days in a modern Aswan granite quarry.

During the season we were delighted to work again with Cordula Werschkun, one of Wolfgang Schenkel's students at Tubingen. Cordula is not only an accomplished lithics analyst who worked on several prehistoric excavations, but an Egyptologist. She recently completed a thesis on Old Kingdom royal decrees. Cordula caught us up on processing

(sorting, typing, cataloging) all our lithic material (let's remember that Dynastic Egypt was still very much a stone-tool age). The drawings are complete for publication up through the 1991 seasons. Cordula's advisor in archaeology/prehistory at Tübingen, Nicholas Conard, will publish the first report on lithics from our project in the forthcoming MDAIK.

John Nolan supervised and participated in all operations during the study season, the bulk of which concerned pottery processing. But he also made gains in sorting a back-log of mud sealings. Writing off the top of my head for this Rundbrief, I do not know the exact number, but our corpus of inscribed sealings runs somewhere between 200 and 300.

Justine Way carried out most of the pottery sorting, according to our working typology, which was created by Peter Lacovara in previous seasons. Her task was Herculean, as she wiped out a virtual field of large and very heavy sandbags filled with unprocessed pottery. Justine also focused on material from her excavation area during the 1997 and 1998 seasons where she found a copper working facility. She has ascertained that in this area at least, there is not necessarily a one-to-one correspondence between ceramic form and function. Justine found both bread molds and so-called beer or water jars of crude red ware with tiny flecks of copper embedded in the vitrified fabric (there was no doubt in the excavation itself that bread molds had been used with copper processing).

I devoted my days on the project to drawing type sherds and making notes for possible refinements to the typology. We learned a great deal from Dietrich Raue who came up from the mission at Elephantine to check in with our pottery. Dietrich has worked out the evolution of ceramic forms at Elephantine from the Archaic period through the Old Kingdom. His thick book is so complete, its pages can be thumbed to see, fast-forward, the animated evolution of form. It is an impressive study, some of which will be presented, I believe, in the 1999 MDAIK. Our context-secure, single period (albeit with complex phasing), site provides a good check for diachronic studies like Dietrich's.

This study season set us up well with what now looms as a challenging financial opportunity to embark upon a series of long, intensive, back-to-back field seasons over the next two years. The goal will be to gain a comprehensive understanding of the form and purpose of the Fourth Dynasty architecture and settlement in our concession area. For this, we hope to open very broad horizontal exposures, capture the footprint of architecture by vigorous scraping of the Third millennium surface (which is quite distinct from the sandy overburden), and selecting areas for detailed, intensive excavation depending on the nature of the layout.

I'll keep you posted.

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TABLET ROOM / John A. Brinkman

Joachim Oelsner worked on Late Babylonian tablets April 5-8 during his visit here. Niek Ueldhuis worked on scholarly materials from the third Nippur season April 22-27.

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TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP / Chuck Jones

The Techno-Lunch will be on Friday, May 7th at 11.30 AM (note that this is a half-hour earlier than usual) in Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute

Discussion will focus on the Iranian projects on the OI's web-site, specifically:

ACHAEMENID ROYAL INSCRIPTIONS:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/ARI/ARI.html>

and

PERSEPOLIS AND ANCIENT IRAN: CATALOG OF EXPEDITION PHOTOGRAPHS

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/PA/IRAN/PAAI/PAAI.html>

Matt Stolper and Gene Gragg will say a few words about the former, and John Sanders and Chuck Jones may say a few words about the latter.

All are welcome, bring a lunch if you wish. Please pass the word of this event to anyone who may be interested.

OI Techno-Lunch is a monthly gathering, usually with an informal presentation, intended to promote friendly discussion of issues relating to the use of technology in the study of the ancient world.

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INDIVIDUALS

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PETER DORMAN

On April 26th the Oriental Institute and the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Johns Hopkins University co-hosted a workshop in Breasted Hall, entitled "Thebes and the Rise of Empire: the Middle and New Kingdoms." The six invited panelists spoke on a variety of archaeological, textual, and art-historical issues dealing with the emergence of a provincial Theban power that would eventually reunite Egypt at the beginning of the Middle and New Kingdoms following a period of internal division. Held immediately following the annual meeting of

ARCE in Chicago, the workshop was attended by fifty-five scholars, students, and members of a more general audience. The seminar is intended as the first one of an annual series of Theban Workshops, to be held in Chicago and Baltimore in alternating years, highlighting a different theme each year and emphasizing current work in the area of Thebes.

Special thanks are due to volunteers Pat Hume and Bernadette Strand for their help during the planning and registration process, and to students Brett McClain and Harold Hays for assistance in the logistics of the workshop itself.

The list of papers delivered is as follows:

James Allen, Metropolitan Museum of Art:

"The Internal Administration of the Late Eleventh Dynasty"

Gay Robins, Emory University

"Art and Legitimation in Early Middle Kingdom Thebes"

Daniel Polz, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Kairo

"The saff-Tombs of Thebes: an Attempt to Bridge a Gap"

Chris Bennett, University of California at San Diego

"Chronological Issues in the Seventeenth Dynasty"

Peter Lacovara, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University

"The Theban Empire Strikes Back: the Strategic Location of Deir el-Ballas During the Second Intermediate Period"

Edna Russmann, Brooklyn Museum of Art

"Theban Art of the Seventeenth and Early Eighteenth Dynasties "

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ELIZABETH FRIEDMAN

I am continuing to work at Argonne National Laboratory using synchrotron-radiation-based x-rays from the Advance Photon Source to analyze archaeological material. The analysis of a sediment core from Lake Golbasi (northern 'Amuq Valley) by x-ray fluorescence was highly successful. We were able to recognize signals of environmental change by tracking trends in element concentrations over time. The preliminary results of this collaborative work are being published in *Advances in X-ray Analysis* Vol. 42. Plenum Press (1999). This work is also being highlighted, along with x-ray analysis of one of the bronze figurines from Tell al-Judaidah, in *Advanced Photon Source Research* Vol. 2/1 (Spring 1999). In addition to these two publications, I delivered a paper entitled "Environmental Change in the 'Amuq Valley as Indicated by Variations in Element Concentrations over Time" at this year's annual

SAA meetings in Chicago. The paper was quite well received if I say so myself :-)

As for the dissertation on ancient technology - it is coming along, slowly, but surely. I'm in that revision phase.

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FRANÇOIS GAUDARD

François Gaudard attended the fiftieth annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt held in Chicago over the weekend of April 23-25th and gave a paper entitled "A New Dramatic Version of the Horus and Seth Myth" on a still unpublished text on a papyrus from the Fayum now in the Berlin Museum (P. Berlin 8278 a, b, c; 15662; 15677; 15818; 23536; 23537 a, b, c, d, e, f, g). This text gives us the most complete Demotic version of the conflict between Horus and Seth and provides a clear example of the disputed category of ancient Egyptian drama. He also attended the first Chicago-Johns Hopkins Theban Workshop on April 26th.

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JANET JOHNSON

I gave the 1999 William F. Albright Lecture at Johns Hopkins University, April 13, on "Women's Rights in Ancient Egypt."
ON May 13-15 Terry Wilfong and Janet Richards, from the University of Michigan, will be here so that we can begin selecting texts and making initial preparations for work on the Egyptian Readingbook portion of the Mellon Foundation grant for Less Commonly Taught Languages.

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ROBERT RITNER

From April 23-25, the OI hosted the 50th annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), with sessions held at the Congress Plaza downtown and a keynote speech and reception in the Institute. The conference proved an unprecedented success and the largest ARCE gathering to date, with 350 registered participants, 19 panels, and 100 speakers in the ancient section alone. Papers in the ancient section were vetted to impose quality standards, and a further 15 proposed talks were rejected. The Oriental Institute and The University of Chicago featured prominently in the meetings, with introductory remarks by Gene Gragg and Robert Ritner, keynote speech by Ray Johnson, 7 OI panel chairs, and 12 presentations by OI Research Associates, NELC staff and students. Chicago alumni chaired an additional 6 panels and provided 10 presentations. The audience for the keynote speech in the Institute exceeded the seating capacity of Breasted Hall, and the library reception was a popular success. The Egyptian gallery was opened for viewing the new cases and the three objects currently on display. In cooperation with Elaine Schapker of the ARCE New York office, the

ancient section was organized by Robert Ritner, the modern section by Paul Walker, and logistics by Emily Teeter.

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DAVID TESTEN

The Departments of Slavic Languages & Literatures and Linguistics will sponsor the first biennial Chicago Conference on Caucasia on May 6-9 (Thursday-Saturday) at the Franke Institute in the Regenstein Library. Scheduled papers deal with linguistics, literature, musicology, ethnology, history, and current events; Ronald Suny will deliver the keynote address ("The past meets the future: Caucasian history and current conflicts"). All talks are open to the public. For further information, including the program, consult:
<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/slavic/ccpg.html>.

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JASON UR

This Feb-April was fairly eventful. I spent two weeks in England, ostensibly to do some research in Cambridge, but also got to take in the major museums and tourist sites. I spent a day with Joan Oates looking at 3rd millennium pottery from Brak, especially the elusive post-Akkadian types; this will be very useful in the upcoming Chagar Bazar regional survey project. I also managed to run into former OI fixture John Nolan in London for a day.

I then spent a week in Luxor, doing some maintenance on the negative database I developed for them, as well as the obligatory monument hopping, including bluffing my way into the tomb of Seti I. I can report that Hratch Papazian and Brett McClain fit in seamlessly, although Hratch may be damaging productivity with his introduction of The Simpsons into the Epigraphic Survey video library.

The first season of the new Cambridge-Liege Chagar Bazar Excavation Project was short but profitable. The British team had 3 areas open: Area A (early 2nd mill domestic, run by Jules Frane), Area B (sequence from late Chalcolithic to early 2nd mill., run by me), and Area C (LC and Halaf, run jointly by Melanie Wasmuth of Cambridge and Alexis Castro of Liege). The Belgian team also opened a step trench on the S side of the south mound, and a 10x10 at the top, which was showing traces of a monumental late 3rd mill public building at the time I left. A Spanish team is investigating the Halaf period in the sections of Mallowan's "Prehistoric Pit" of the 1930's.

With any luck, I will be returning to CB in September to run a 2-week preliminary survey of sites in the region. Inshallah.
