

### Charles E. Jones

In February, all of us — Mark B. Garrison, Margaret Cool Root, and **Charles E. Jones** — involved in its production were pleased to see the appearance of *Seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets, Volume I: Images of Heroic Encounter, With Seal Inscription Readings* by Charles E. Jones (Oriental Institute Publications, 117; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2001). This first of three volumes is the product of two decades of collaboration among the authors. The collaboration continues with the work on the next two volumes, and on studies relating to specific seals, their production and use, and the interpretation of the images and inscriptions they bear. Work also continues, with Matthew W. Stolper and Gene Gragg, towards the publication of new texts from the Persepolis Fortification Archive. They expect to be able to show substantial progress on the electronic publication of these texts in the next few months.

Jones continues working on a number of fronts towards the goal of useful and substantive academic participation in on-line publication. As mentioned in the *2000/2001 Annual Report*, Jones and Stolper traveled to Paris last summer to participate in a meeting of the Achaemenid Steering Committee. A smaller group met in Chicago in April, on the occasion of Pierre Briant's extended visit to Chicago, to discuss and work out details of the inclusion of visual and descriptive data from the above mentioned book in an Achaemenid iconographic database under development at Achaemenet. In support of Achaemenet, Abzu continues to maintain an index of Achaemenid-related material accessible on the Internet. Under the auspices of ETANA, and with funding from the Mellon Foundation, Jones collaborated in the rebuilding of the Abzu database in a more productive and useful form. Now served from the ETANA server at Vanderbilt University, Abzu can be reached either through the old address or directly at <http://www.etana.org/abzu>. Collaboration with ETANA continues also in the production on-line of a collection of Core Texts — classic works in ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Egyptological scholarship — many held in only a few libraries. More than sixty such volumes from the Research Archives collection are currently in process.

Under the auspices of the Oriental Institute and the Society of Biblical Literature, and in collaboration with Patrick Durusau, its Director of Research and Development, Jones chaired two sessions at the Annual Meeting of the Society in Denver in November 2001. These sessions, which are expected to become a regular feature of the meeting, focus on issues relating to the markup of ancient Near Eastern languages and scholarly texts, and to the effective presentation of scholarship on the Internet. A second session is scheduled for the November 2002 meeting in Toronto.

Along with Oriental Institute colleagues Abbas Alizadeh, Gil Stein, and Matt Stolper, Jones has been appointed to an international committee charged with assisting in the organization of a Conference on the Archaeology and History of Ancient Iran, scheduled to be held in Teheran in June 2003.

Locally, Jones revived the "Technology Discussion Group," an informal and irregular meeting of persons interested in the application of existing and emerging technologies to the wide variety of scholarly agendas. He remains the (Founding) Editor of the Oriental Institute Staff Newsletter.

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