

John A. Brinkman

For the calendar years 2005 and 2006, **John A. Brinkman** has been awarded a Mellon Emeritus Fellowship to study family structure and ethnic minorities in Babylonia (1400–750 B.C.). This was one of fourteen such fellowships awarded to retired university faculty in the United States. The grant will support his museum research in this country and abroad and pay for upgraded photographic and computer equipment. Brinkman wrote an article dealing with women who were heads of households in Babylonia in the fourteenth and thirteenth centuries B.C. This was such a rarity at the time that many of these women had their names written with confusing scribal conventions that marked them as both masculine and feminine (i.e., women in a traditionally male role within a basically patriarchal system). As part of the preparation for the opening of the museum's East Wing galleries, he edited the Neo-Assyrian annals fragments on the front of the Oriental Institute's Khorsabad reliefs. He also submitted for publication two brief notes on Neo-Babylonian legal texts. He delivered lectures on the Late Assyrian Empire (for Oriental Institute docents) and on the role of Arameans and Aramaic in the Assyrian Empire and Assyria after the collapse of its empire (Assyrian Academic Society). In December, he continued work on Middle Babylonian administrative and legal texts from Nippur in the University Museum, Philadelphia. In early spring, he spent two weeks at the British Museum, London, concentrating on a small unpublished archive of seventh century texts from Ur (three legal texts, one household inventory), excavated in 1919 by H. R. Hall. The household inventory is of particular interest because it gives a detailed list of furniture, tools, cooking utensils, crockery, and toilet articles, including objects made of iron (still a relative rarity at that time).
