

John A. Brinkman

With financial support from the Mellon Foundation, **John A. Brinkman** continued museum research into family structure and ethnic minorities in Babylonia (1400–750 B.C.). In autumn 2005, he spent five weeks in Berlin reading archives excavated in residential quarters of Babylon in 1908–09. These unpublished texts deal with real estate transactions, family businesses, and foreign trade expeditions, especially in the final decades (1185–1155) of the Kassite dynasty, a relatively unknown period. In December at the University Museum in Philadelphia, he worked with Middle Babylonian Nippur materials relating to families. In March, he had a first look at the large Middle Babylonian archives (more than 700 texts) at Cornell University, where texts show prominent women in roles traditionally reserved to men — serving as supervisors in the ration economy, acting as witnesses in legal texts, and involved in trade. In April at Yale, he delivered a lecture on Kassite and post-Kassite kinship groups and family structure and studied unedited Babylonian texts from ca. 1350 to 700 B.C. Two of his articles have recently been published: one on Kassite officials and social institutions (in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*), and a

second on Middle Babylonian family groups (in the Leichty festschrift). A third article, on Babylonian land-grant monuments and related texts dealing with land tenure and taxation, is scheduled to appear in the next issue of the *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*.
