

Matthew W. Stolper

Matthew W. Stolper spent most of his research effort during the past year on the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project, described elsewhere in this Annual Report. Related publications are two notes in a series treating scattered Achaemenid Elamite administrative in the online journal *ARTA* (see <http://www.achemenet.com>). The first, “Fortification Texts Sold at the Auction of the Erlenmeyer Collection,” ARTA 2006.002, coauthored with Oriental Institute Research Associate Charles E. Jones, rounds up Fortification tablets that escaped the Persepolis excavators in the 1930s and are now scattered among private collections, prefiguring the gruesome threat that now hangs over the entire archive. The second, “The Qasr-i Abu Nasr Tablet,” ARTA 2006.003, coauthored with Jones and Persepolis Fortification Project collaborator Wouter Henkelman, presents a similar text recovered by excavators at a nearby site, but perhaps originally taken from Persepolis.

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Related lectures and presentations were a talk on the Persepolis Fortification Archive issues at the University of California; a first approach the question “How Many Fortification Tablets Are There?,” presented to a symposium on the Organization of Knowledge in Antiquity: Archives and Record Management, at University of Western Washington; a discussion of the “‘Diplomatics’ of the Persepolis Tablets,” dealing with some issues raised by tablet shape, at a colloquium on the Persepolis Fortification Archive held in Paris; a first presentation of the newly discovered Old Persian text from the Persepolis Fortification, at the American Oriental Society’s annual meeting in San Antonio. He had the honor of giving the first invited Musa Sabi Lecture in Iranian Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (though the honor really belongs to the Fortification tablets) and of showing the tablets to members of the Visiting Committee of the Division of Humanities as they gathered in the Mesopotamian Hall of the Oriental Institute Museum to meet the new dean, the Oriental Institute’s Martha Roth.

Among Stolper’s non-Persepolitan work is an article on “Post-Achaemenid Iranica in Babylonian Texts,” a treatment of Iranian vocabulary in Babylonian documents written between the reigns of Alexander and the Parthian kings, published in the proceedings of a colloquium on the transition between the Achaemenid empire and the Hellenistic kingdoms and their successors (Persika 9; Paris: de Boccard). An article in the forthcoming festschrift for Bob Biggs, “Kasr Texts: Excavated but Not in Berlin,” is another grim example of lost archival context, recording texts and fragments from the late Achaemenid Kasr archive that were once part of an excavated corpus but have been scattered by antiquities sales among many collections. An article in the forthcoming festschrift for Hermann Hunger, “From the Tattannu Archive Fragment,” co-authored with Michael Jursa of the University of Vienna, deals with extraordinary texts from a nearly contemporary Babylonian legal archive whose original excavated condition can never be known.
