Geoff once again co-taught, with Seth Richardson, an undergraduate core class, "The Assyrian Empire" with the help of Teaching Assistant Alexandra Witsell. This continues to be an excellent collaboration.

Geoff has continued over the past year to work as time allows on constructing the final stratigraphic sequence of the third-millennium B.C. "Temple Oval" at Tell Brak in northeastern Syria, which he excavated with co-director Helen McDonald from 1998 to 2004. They have made significant progress in making stratigraphic connections over a very large excavation area, as well as the more mundane tasks of data entry and database organization. Geoff has also continued to develop his ideas about the rise of Tell Brak as a city in the fourth millennium B.C. in lectures in Chicago and Toronto.

Finally, Geoff has continued to present and develop ideas about museums in lectures in Milwaukee and Toronto. As the model of the Oriental Institute suggests, museums do not have to base their value on acquiring antiquities. Rather, research and new discoveries can be a basis for generating interest in our field and educating the public.

François Gaudard

François Gaudard continued his work as a Research Associate for the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (see separate report). He collaborated with Rodolphe Kasser, Marvin Meyer, and Gregor Wurst on the publication of the second edition of The Gospel of Judas (Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2008). The new edition of this fascinating and much-debated Coptic Gnostic text presents a thoroughly updated translation that reflects the recent placement of additional fragments, as well as expanded footnotes providing further information on difficult or controversial passages.

In the course of the year, Gaudard also wrote articles and book reviews which, for the most part, are now in press. He is currently working on several text editions, such as the publication of mummy labels. In 2007 Gaudard was contacted by Sofía Torallas Tovar and Raquel Martín Hernández to join the Mummy Labels Database (MLD) project, hosted by the Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales – CSIC, Madrid. This project is focused on making the approximately 2,500 known mummy labels already published in various series, journals, and monographs easily accessible to scholars as an online database. In addition, the project also aims to publish as many of the still-unpublished labels as possible, as well as republish all those that have been defectively or incompletely edited. A full description in six different sections will be given for each label. The mummy labels of the Oriental Institute’s collection will be included and published in the database. Gaudard is indebted to Gil Stein, Geoff Emberling, John Larson, Helen McDonald, and Susan Allison, and he would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their help and invaluable assistance.

McGuire Gibson

This past year, McGuire Gibson was guest curator of the Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past exhibit at the Oriental Institute Museum, wrote an introduction and an