

Gil J. Stein

In July–August 2009, **Gil J. Stein** conducted the second field season as American co-director of the Joint Syrian-American excavations at Tell Zeidan. Located 5 km east of the modern city of Raqqa in the Euphrates River valley at its juncture with the Balikh River, Tell Zeidan is a 12.5 hectare regional center dating to the Halaf, Ubaid, and Late Chalcolithic 1–2 periods (ca. 5800–4000 BC). A fuller description of the excavations is presented in the Tell Zeidan report (this volume).

Gil has also continued with the work toward publication of his 1992–1997 excavations at Hacinebi, a fourth-millennium BC Uruk Mesopotamian colony in the Euphrates valley of southeast Turkey. Oriental Institute volunteer Iren Glasner has been scanning slides and inked object drawings, while Dr. Belinda Monahan has been refining our typology of local Anatolian and Mesopotamian Uruk ceramic types, and identifying parallels at contemporaneous sites in Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. With over 71,000 coded diagnostics (rims, handles, bases, decorated sherds), Hacinebi has one of the largest stratigraphically excavated ceramic data sets currently available for this time period in the Near East. Once published, we hope that the Hacinebi ceramic sequence can make a significant contribution to our understanding of Uruk Mesopotamia and the world’s earliest-known colonial network.

Gil has given a series of lectures and presentations over the past year. In October 2009, he spoke to the University of Chicago Womens’ Board on the topic “Archaeology in the Heartland of Cities: The Oriental Institute’s current work in Mesopotamia and the Near East.” In November 2009 Gil gave a lecture at the Arts Club of Chicago on “Cities of the Plain: The Two Urbanizations of Mesopotamia.” In December 2009, he presented a lecture at the Carsten Niebuhr Institute at the University of Copenhagen on the topic “The Ubaid Period in Upper Mesopotamia: Complexity, Social Identity and Inter-regional Interaction.” In April 2010, Gil presented a paper at the 7th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE) at the British Museum, London, titled “The Joint Syrian-American Excavations at Tell Zeidan: Investigations of the Ubaid and Late Chalcolithic 1–2 in North Syria.”

In 2010, Gil published one book chapter “Local Identities and Interaction Spheres: Modeling Regional Variation in the ‘Ubaid Horizon’ in the volume *Beyond the Ubaid: Transformation and Integration in the Late Prehistoric Societies of the Middle East*, edited by Robert Carter and Graham Philip (Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 63; Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 2010).
