Karen L. Wilson

During the past year, Karen L. Wilson continued to work on the final publication of the Oriental Institute excavations at the sites of Nippur and Abu Salabikh in Iraq during the late 1950s and early 1960s. This project is sponsored by a grant awarded to McGuire Gibson by the National Endowment for the Humanities and is a joint endeavor undertaken with Robert Biggs, Jean Evans, McGuire Gibson (University of Chicago), and Richard Zettler (University of Pennsylvania). The project so far has included the preparation of a digital catalog of finds linked with images of the objects, plus the scanning of all negatives and drawings as well as the field records generated by work on the sites. A draft of a final publication covering the results of the excavation of the Inanna Temple at Nippur is planned to be completed by the end of 2010.

Karen also continued to serve as Kish Project Coordinator at the Field Museum, preparing the final publication of the results of the Joint Field Museum and Oxford University Expedition to Kish in 1923–1933. That publication will include papers presented at a symposium in November 2008 focusing on current research and excavations at the site. Contributions will include studies of the human remains, textual evidence, lithics, animal figurines, and stucco as well as a catalog of the Field Museum holdings from the site.

Karen’s book, Bismaya: Recovering the Lost City of Adab, which chronicles and presents the results of the University of Chicago’s first expedition to Iraq in 1903–1905, is currently in press at the Oriental Institute Publications Office.