During the year papers were presented at the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) annual meeting and at the 33. Uluslar Arası Kazı, Araştırma ve Arkeometri Sempozyumu in Turkey. Public lectures were given to the Chicago Archaeological Society and at the Oriental Institute through the Member’s Lecture Series. Grants were received from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation and as part of the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ Museums for America Collections Management Grant issued for the Oriental Institute’s Integrated Database Project. Two new works appeared in publication: “Agents in Motion” in Agency and Identity in the Ancient Near East: New Paths Forward, edited by Sharon R. Steadman and Jennifer C. Ross (London: Equinox, 2010), and “The Kerkenes Project 2010” (with Geoffrey Summers, Françoise Summers, and Joseph W. Lehner) in Anatolian Archaeology 16. Several additional publications are in process.

Miguel Civil’s book The Lexical Texts in the Schøyen Collection (CDL Press), his third book since retirement, was finally published in August 2010. It is an edition of 186 lexical tablets with the most varied contents, ranging from a Middle Babylonian tablet with the full text of the seventh tablet of har-ra, all the way back to a new group of Early Dynastic word lists. His edition of the Laws of Ur-Namma, king of Ur (2112–2095 bc), based on a new source almost contemporary with the promulgation of the laws, has just been published in a book edited by A. R. George, Cuneiform Royal Inscriptions and Related Texts in the Schøyen Collection (CDL Press). It is a philological edition, with special emphasis on lexical and grammatical aspects, to make the text of the laws accessible to legal historians. Miguel’s minor publications of last year include “Sumerian Compound Verbs: Class II,” a paper presented in the 53th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Moscow, and printed in Language in the Ancient Near East, volume 1, part 2, edited by L. Kogan (Eisenbrauns). “Ur III as a Linguistic Watershed,” a communication presented in the Meeting about Ur III studies (Madrid, July–August 2010), is in press. Miguel’s paper in the April 2010 Oriental Institute Workshop on Linguistic Method and Theory, and several minor articles, are ready to go to press. He is working on several projects centered on Sumerian grammar and literary texts, such as an explanation (with the help of the Bible and Hellenistic Greek papyri) of Inanna’s “watering with her foot” a sapling in Gilgameš and Enkidu, or an analysis of the verbal forms seen as a combination of a lexical verb with several auxiliaries/preverbs, rather than formed by a root and a string of affixes.

Fred M. Donner

Fred M. Donner spent much of the 2010–2011 academic year immersed in his duties as director of the University’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES). After a tumultuous year in 2009–2010, this year was blissfully calm and CMES’s many activities — including hosting numerous visiting lecturers, sponsoring workshops and conferences, mounting public education activities, and supervising CMES’s burgeoning MA program — came off smoothly, thanks especially to the efforts of CMES’s dedicated staff (Dr. Paul Walker, Dr. Thomas Ma-
guire, Traci Lombre, and Alexander Barna). A number of CMES’s events were co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute.

Of special interest to Donner was a two-day conference held in mid-June on Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians in the Umayyad State that he and Professor Antoine Borrut (University of Maryland, College Park) organized. Ten invited participants and ten commentators, along with many visitors, convened for stimulating discussions focused on the role members of these non-Muslim communities played in the operation of the Umayyad state (660–750 CE). This event received major funding from the Franke Institute for Humanities and CMES, as well as greatly appreciated co-sponsorship and funding from the Oriental Institute, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Chicago Center for Jewish Studies, the Divinity School, and the University of Maryland Department of History. It is hoped that the papers will be published as a collected volume sometime in 2012.

Donner gave many lectures during the year. In July 2010 he participated in the third World Conference of Middle Eastern Studies, held in Barcelona, Spain, as part of a series of panels on ancient empires, presenting a paper on “An Empire in Crystallization: The Umayyads.” At the Middle East Studies Association conference in November, he presented a paper entitled “Was Marwan ibn al-Hakam the First Real Muslim?” He also gave numerous presentations related to the theme of his recent book, *Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam*, published in spring 2010 by Harvard University Press; this included talks at the Chicago Humanities Festival and at Chicago Alumni Day, and at York University in Toronto, the Noor Foundation in Toronto, Georgetown University, George Mason University, the University of Maryland, Ohio State University, and the University of Southern California. Less directly related to his own research, he was asked to deliver a plenary address at the annual conference of the American Oriental Society, on its theme of “Heritage.” His talk was entitled “Heritage, Legacies, and Collectibles” and discussed how these concepts relate to the development of Islamic tradition.

Publications submitted during the year include the full version of his paper “Was Marwan ibn al-Hakam the First Real Muslim?,” for a volume to be edited by Sarah Savant (Aga Khan University) on Genealogies and History, and “A Typology of Eschatological Concepts,” submitted for a volume entitled *Roads to Paradise: Eschatology in the Islamic Tradition*, to be edited by Sebastian Günther (University of Göttingen) and Todd Lawson (University of Toronto). He is now at work on a very early Islamic papyrus found in the Oriental Institute collection.

François Gaudard continued working for the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD; see separate report) and collaborating with Sofía Torallas Tovar and Raquel Martín Hernández as an editor of the Mummy Label Database (MLD; see separate report).

Two of François’ articles, namely, “Ptolemaic Hieroglyphs” and “Fragment of a Funerary Shroud” (OIM E42046) both appeared in *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond*, edited by Christopher Woods, with Emily Teeter and Geoff Emberling, pp. 173–75 and 176–77, cat. no. 86 (Oriental Institute Museum Publications 32). Despite their fragmentary condition, the texts of shroud OIM E42046, consisting mainly of offering formulae, are of particular interest, since they provide us with both unusual epithets of Osiris and ordinary deities.