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THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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The pages that divide the sections of this year's report feature images from the year's special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*.

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Overleaf: View of Babylon. Maurice Bardin, 1936, after "View of the Ishtar Gate and Processional Way" by Herbert Anger, 1927. Oil on canvas. 122.0 x 91.5 cm. Collections of the Oriental Institute. Oriental Institute digital image D. 17475. Picturing the Past Catalog No. 16. Photo by Anna Ressman

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION. <i>Gil J. Stein</i>	7
IN MEMORIAM	9

RESEARCH

PROJECT REPORTS

ÇADIR HÖYÜK. <i>Gregory McMahon</i>	15
CENTER FOR ANCIENT MIDDLE EASTERN LANDSCAPES (CAMEL). <i>Scott Branting</i>	20
CHICAGO DEMOTIC DICTIONARY (CDD). <i>François Gaudard and Janet H. Johnson</i>	25
CHICAGO HITTITE AND ELECTRONIC HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD and eCHD). <i>Theo van den Hout</i>	31
DIYALA PROJECT. <i>Clemens Reichel</i>	33
EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY. <i>W. Raymond Johnson</i>	38
THE GIZA PLATEAU MAPPING PROJECT. <i>Mark Lehner</i>	50
HAMOUKAR. <i>Clemens Reichel</i>	69
HEAVEN ON EARTH. <i>Deena Ragavan</i>	77
ISLAMIC ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE. <i>Tasha Vorderstrasse and Donald Whitcomb</i>	81
JERICHO MAJFAR PROJECT. <i>Donald Whitcomb</i>	83
KERKENES DAĞ PROJECT. <i>Scott Branting</i>	91
MARJ RABBA. <i>Yorke M. Rowan</i>	101
MUMMY LABEL DATABASE (MLD). <i>François Gaudard, Raquel Martín Hernández, and Sofía Torallas Tovar</i>	114
NIPPUR. <i>McGuire Gibson</i>	116
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE-NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFGHANISTAN PARTNERSHIP. <i>Gil J. Stein</i>	123
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION (OINE). <i>Bruce Williams</i>	131
PATHWAYS TO POWER. <i>Gil J. Stein</i>	142
PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT. <i>Matthew W. Stolper</i>	145
TELL EDFU. <i>Nadine Moeller</i>	153
INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH	164

RESEARCH SUPPORT

COMPUTER LABORATORY. <i>John C. Sanders</i>	189
ELECTRONIC RESOURCES. <i>John C. Sanders</i>	191
INTEGRATED DATABASE PROJECT. <i>Scott Branting, John Sanders, Wendy Ennes, Angela Spinazze, Helen McDonald, Susan Allison, Foy Scalf, and Jack Green</i>	197
OCHRE DATA SERVICE. <i>Sandra R. Schloen</i>	201
PUBLICATIONS OFFICE. <i>Thomas G. Urban</i>	203
RESEARCH ARCHIVES. <i>Foy Scalf</i>	207
TABLET COLLECTION. <i>Andrew Dix</i>	212

MUSEUM

MUSEUM. <i>Jack Green</i>	217
SPECIAL EXHIBITS. <i>Emily Teeter</i>	225
PUBLICITY AND MARKETING. <i>Emily Teeter</i>	231
TRADITIONAL MEDIA. <i>Emily Teeter</i>	231
NEW MEDIA. <i>Amy Weber and Mónica Vélez</i>	233
REGISTRATION. <i>Helen McDonald and Susan Allison</i>	234
ARCHIVES. <i>John A. Larson</i>	238

CONTENTS

CONSERVATION. *Laura D’Alessandro* 240

PREP SHOP. *Erik Lindahl* 243

SUQ. *Denise Browning* 245

PHOTOGRAPHY. *Anna R. Ressman* 246

PUBLIC EDUCATION

PUBLIC EDUCATION. *Carole Krucoff* 251

 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE: DEVELOPING THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM. *Wendy Ennes* 261

 TEACHING IN THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM. *Kathryn Grossman* 263

 ARCGIS COMMON CORE EDUCATION FOR SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS PROJECT (ACCESS). *Wendy Ennes* 265

 DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRONT END FOR THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH ARCHIVES
 DATABASE. *Wendy Ennes* 267

 KIPPER FAMILY ARCHAEOLOGY DISCOVERY CENTER (KADC) AND ARTIFACT ANALYSIS PROGRAMS.
 Moriah Grooms-Garcia 269

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. *Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman* 271

DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

DEVELOPMENT. *Tracy Tajbl* 295

VISITING COMMITTEE 296

MEMBERSHIP. *Amy Weber* 297

SPECIAL EVENTS. *Meghan A. Winston* 300

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS AND MEMBERS 303

FACULTY AND STAFF OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE 319

INFORMATION 328



INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Gil J. Stein

It is a privilege to present you with the Oriental Institute Annual Report for 2011–2012. This has been a year of significant accomplishments and improvements in our research, programs, and staff.

The momentous political changes that are taking place across the modern Middle East as the part of the “Arab Spring” continued to have major impacts on the work of the Institute. Most notably, the upheaval and ongoing revolution in Syria made it impossible for foreign scholars to conduct research in that country. As a result, Clemens Reichel was forced to close his excavations at Hamoukar in the northeast, while Gil Stein also suspended his excavations at Tell Zeidan in the Euphrates River Valley. We have to accept the strong probability that it will be several years before political and security conditions stabilize to a point where we can resume our excavations and joint research in Syria. These projects continue in the analyses of their excavation results from the seasons up through 2010.

The news is much better for our field projects elsewhere in the Middle East. Our six ongoing excavations span a range of 6,000 years of cultural development across the “cradle of civilization.” In Egypt, Nadine Moeller’s excavations at Edfu and Mark Lehner’s work on the Giza plateau continue to make remarkable discoveries that give new insights into Egyptian urbanism in the third and second millennia BC. In Israel, Yorke Rowan’s dig at Marj Rabba is giving us the first real view of village life and economic organization in the enigmatic Chalcolithic period of the fifth millennium BC. In the Palestinian Authority, Don Whitcomb’s joint Palestinian-American excavations at Khirbet al-Mafjar — Islamic Jericho — are changing the way we understand the early Islamic Umayyad and Abbasid periods. In eastern Turkey, David Schloen’s excavations at Zincirli continue to expose broad areas of the lower town, helping us to better understand the provincial organization of the Neo-Assyrian empire, while Scott Branting’s excavations at Kerkenes in central Turkey are exploring a major urban center of the Phrygian kingdom of King Midas on the Anatolian Plateau.

Ray Johnson and his team continue the important research of the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt. The work of recording the reliefs, organizing the blockyard, architectural restoration, and cultural heritage preservation at Luxor and Medinet Habu range from Middle Kingdom temples to the Roman-period Domitian gate.

The Hittite Dictionary under Theo van den Hout and Harry Hoffner has completed the letter *ši-* — this volume is now in press. As editor of the Demotic Dictionary, Jan Johnson (and all of us in the Oriental Institute community) can take great pride in the completion of this monumental research tool after more than four decades. The Chicago Demotic Dictionary will revolutionize the study of the Hellenistic and Roman periods in Egypt and is a truly great scholarly achievement.

In 2012, the Oriental Institute started a new project of cultural heritage preservation through the Oriental Institute-National Museum of Afghanistan Partnership. This program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is a three-year effort that will develop a database for the National Museum in Kabul and will conduct the first complete inventory of its estimated 70,000 objects.

INTRODUCTION

Within the Oriental Institute's museum, Chief Curator Jack Green oversaw the development and installation of a new special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*, working with Special Exhibits Coordinator Emily Teeter. We are also delighted to have finally published *Ancient Israel*, a book that highlights the treasures in the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery.

Our Public Education section saw a major transition with the retirement of its department head, Carole Krucoff, after twenty years of devoted service. Carole has shaped the department and while we wish her well, we will all miss her collegiality and creativity. In 2011 and 2012, the Oriental Institute also welcomed Amy Weber as our new membership director and Tracy Tajbl as our new director of development.

As the academic year 2011–2012 ends, the Oriental Institute is strong in its staff, its projects, and its research.

IN MEMORIAM

Eleanor Guralnick

On July 28, 2012, the Oriental Institute lost a dear friend and valued colleague. Eleanor Guralnick, who served as a Research Associate with the Institute, passed away in Chicago. Since 2006, Eleanor focused her efforts at the Institute on the Khorsabad Relief Project, working to identify, clean, photograph, and catalog carved stone relief fragments from King Sargon II's palace at Khorsabad. Using her imagination combined with diligent scholarship, Eleanor pieced together many fragments to form an enormous, rich portrait of a vanished civilization. Her work on the Khorsabad reliefs formed the basis of many published papers on topics ranging from use of color to studies on detailed elements as well as new drawings of the reliefs. Along with her scholarly articles, Eleanor edited three books: *The Ancient Eastern Mediterranean*, *Sardis: Twenty-seven Years of Discovery*, and *Vikings in the West*.

A University of Chicago alumna, Eleanor was awarded her master's degree in art history in 1967 and in 1970 earned her PhD in classical art and archaeology with a specialization in Near Eastern art. During her student days at University of Chicago, she was a recipient of a Ryerson Scholarship, a Ryerson Fellowship for Travel, and a University Scholarship. Eleanor was actively engaged with the Archaeological Institute of America at both the local and national society levels. She held every possible office with the Chicago Society of the AIA and built the organization to become a model for outreach to both adults and children. At the national level, Eleanor also served as AIA General Trustee and chaired the Regional Symposia Committee. Her work on behalf of the AIA was recognized with that organization's prestigious Martha and Artemis Joukowsky Distinguished Service Award in 2004.

All of us at the Oriental Institute count ourselves as fortunate to have worked with Eleanor. We will remember her with respect for her dedication and important contributions to understanding the art, archaeology, and history of the ancient Near East. Eleanor was our friend and we will miss her.



Cissy Haas

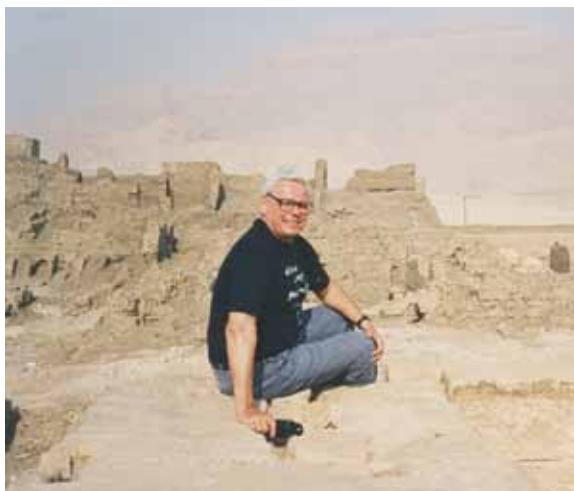


Cissy and her late husband, Bud, were long-time friends and supporters of the Oriental Institute and of the Volunteer Program. Cissy was an enthusiastic supporter of the Institute for more than forty years. Along with her husband (a Life Member of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee and Breasted Medallion Honoree), Cissy was an enthusiastic supporter of the Oriental Institute in spirit, in kind, and in action for all of those many years. Cissy was an artist and friend of the faculty and staff. She loved giving tours of the galleries and is remembered by all her friends in the Volunteer Program as a “docent’s docent.” The Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery in the Oriental Institute’s Museum honors Cissy and Bud’s lifelong commitment and love for the art, archaeology, and history of the ancient Near East. We mourn Cissy’s passing, and we will miss her deeply.

Donald Oster

A dear friend of the Oriental Institute, Donald Oster, AB 1950, passed away in January 2012. It was a 1981 expedition to Egypt that sparked a lifelong interest in that country and Mr. Oster’s subsequent decision to fund a life-income gift for the Oriental Institute. The trip, which was sponsored by the Oriental Institute, included visits to major temples and tombs throughout Egypt. At Luxor, Mr. Oster visited Chicago House, where Oriental Institute students, faculty, and staff are working on the Epigraphic Survey. Using a method developed by James Henry Breasted, the Epigraphic Survey documents inscriptions and relief scenes on the major monuments at Luxor for publication. The excursion introduced Mr. Oster to the Oriental Institute’s work in the region and underscored the importance of maintaining the University of Chicago’s research facilities at Luxor.

As his enthusiasm grew, Mr. Oster became a generous financial supporter of the Oriental Institute and took at least a dozen trips to Egypt, each time stopping at Chicago House to check on the progress of the University’s research.



Mr. Oster's career in information systems with Mobil Oil provided him the luxury to travel all over the world, including stints at the company's offices in France, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and Hong Kong. He eventually settled down in London. Another set of the benefits Mr. Oster received from his time with Mobil was an annual award of stock options, the value of which rose considerably after his retirement. As the market value of those shares appreciated, so too did the amount of capital gains tax Mr. Oster would have had to pay if the shares were sold. After considering several options, Mr. Oster decided to combine his financial and charitable goals by using the appreciated securities to fund a charitable remainder unitrust to benefit the Oriental Institute. The unitrust allowed Mr. Oster to accomplish several objectives: he was able to sell off his shares at a particularly favorable time, with no tax cost and some tax benefit; receive income for his retirement at a rate that was considerably higher than his shares were paying; and have the knowledge that his gift would benefit Oriental Institute in the future. The Oriental Institute is grateful to Donald Oster and the many donors who plan thoughtful future gifts to foster the research, discovery, and preservation of Near Eastern civilizations.



ÇADIR HÖYÜK

Gregory McMahon

July and August 2011

The last year has seen a great many changes come to the Çadır Höyük project. Çadır Höyük is located in the Yozgat province in the north-central area of the Anatolian plateau. The survey and excavations at the site, whose occupation, as we currently understand it, spans six millennia (ca. 5200 BCE to 1170 CE), began in 1993 under the direction of Dr. Ronald Gorny of the University of Chicago. A team has worked at the site all but seven of the intervening nineteen years. With the retirement of Dr. Gorny from archaeology in 2010, I began the long process of transferring the permit from Ron's name to mine. Dr. Gil Stein was exceedingly gracious in providing the opportunity for me to become a research associate of the Oriental Institute, thereby providing a sense of continuity for the "home" of the Çadır Höyük project; its institutional home was in fact the Oriental Institute while the project was under Ron Gorny's direction. I received my PhD from the University of Chicago in 1988 in Hittitology, and it is wonderful to once again be associated so closely with the Oriental Institute.

The 2011 season consisted mainly of administrative activities associated with transferring the permit to my name. While all of the appropriate paperwork had been filed well before the deadline months before, the wheels of bureaucracy proceed slowly in these circumstances, and by the time my two colleagues Sharon Steadman (SUNY Cortland, Çadır Höyük Field Director) and Jennifer Ross (Hood College, Çadır Höyük Associate Director) and I flew to Turkey in July, the permit had not yet been issued. A number of visits to the General Directorate in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, including with the head of Excavations and Research Department Mr. Melik Ayaz, were very productive, resulting in the information that our permit would issue "very soon." However, the final step for the permit, since it was viewed as being issued for a brand-new project under new direction, required the signature of Prime Minister Recep Erdoğan, who had just been reelected in a general election and was in the process of forming a new government. It was this final signature that held up the issuance of our permit for the entire time (one month) that we were in Turkey. The lack of permit, however, did not keep us from accomplishing a great deal.



University of Chicago graduates and current students: (left to right) Bruce Verhaaren, Joshua Cannon, Stephanie Selover, Sarah Adcock, and Gregory McMahon. Photo by Sharon Steadman

ÇADIR HÖYÜK

After securing the information that our permit was well on the way to being finalized, we departed for Istanbul to take part in the Avkat Archaeological Workshop, held at the Research Center for Anatolian Civilisations, Koç University, from July 21 to July 23. Çadır's Byzantinist, Marica Cassis (Memorial University, Çadır Höyük Assistant Director), was unable to attend, and thus the presentation was offered by Sharon Steadman and me. This workshop was dedicated to understanding the Byzantine rural community settlements on the Anatolian plateau. Given that Çadır Höyük had a substantial Byzantine settlement apparently dedicated to an agrarian lifestyle, the Çadır report featured prominently at the workshop, second only to Avkat itself. In fact, the gathered participants agreed that the next workshop, tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2013, will focus its discussions on the Çadır settlement. We look forward to presenting the results of our 2012 season at the workshop next year.

Following the Avkat workshop, we traveled to our dig house in Peynir Yemez, only one kilometer from the site, where we spent the rest of the season working out an excavation plan for the 2012 season, processing some of our data analyses from previous seasons in preparation for a large publication following the 2012 season, and undertaking some house maintenance. We built the excavation house in 1999, and after twelve years it required some moderate work to ensure that it was ready to house a team of at least twenty-five in the 2012 season. Even without our permit, we were very productive for the final two weeks that we spent in Peynir Yemez. As promised, our permit was issued about a month after we returned to the United States, and we were told that the issuance of the 2012 permit would be very easy, and this was indeed the case.

June 2012

The 2012 season started extremely well. We are very fortunate to be working with exceptional Turkish colleagues, including Hasan Şenyurt, director of the Yozgat Museum, the regional museum that oversees our work, and İsmail Sarıpınar, who is serving as our government representative. Our Assistant Director, Sinan Ünlüsoy, currently constrained by other responsibilities, will join the project later in the season. In addition, our field director, Professor Sharon Steadman, has once again demonstrated her unique understanding of the site by developing an exceptionally successful strategy for new and continuing trench placement, as the following makes clear.

We opened excavations on June 21 and are now well into our third week of work on the mound and on the northern terrace. Çadır Höyük has revealed a substantial Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age occupational area on the southern side of the mound, and a very significant second- and first-millennium occupational sequence spanning the entire mound above the prehistoric periods. On the mound's summit and out on the terrace north of the mound, we have over 700 years of well-stratified Byzantine occupation. Our excavation strategy in 2012 will allow us to investigate all of these periods in at least nine, possibly ten, 10 x 10 meter trenches located all over the mound and terrace. The placement of these trenches offers a combination of further investigation of already open and partially excavated trenches, and strategic opening of several new 10 x 10 meter trenches designed to yield maximum data.

As we approach the mid-point of our third week in our seven-week season, we can positively state that the season has already begun to be a success. We have reopened two 10 x 10 meter trenches on the lower southern side of the mound in order to continue our investigation of the Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age settlement. One trench (SES 1) has



Çadır Höyük mound showing east slope Step Trench excavations (left side of mound) with Gellingüllü Lake behind the mound. Photo by Sharon Steadman

been under investigation since 2004, and the other (LSS 3) has seen no work in it since 2001. Our goal in SES 1 is to carefully and stratigraphically excavate the Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age transition to attempt to answer some of the niggling questions regarding ceramic sequences, technology change or lack thereof, and the nature of possible changing economic circumstances from the Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age periods (e.g., did settlements suffer economic change for the worse, and if so, why). Up to this point the trench has yielded a wealth of data on the Early Bronze I and Transitional period (the one or two centuries at the end of the fourth and beginning of the third millennium), and as of close of excavations today, a mudbrick wall that correlates with a Late Chalcolithic wall in the neighboring trench had emerged. We are on the cusp of establishing our desired sequence.

Trench LSS 3 was reopened because of its potential to offer a Late Chalcolithic to Hittite period sequence. In 2001 the last few days of the season allowed us to establish that the two stone walls in the upper reaches of the trench were in fact part of a Hittite wall. Meanwhile the lower (southern) region of the trench was producing Early Bronze II pottery. Underlying this, based on remains in the neighboring trench, is the Late Chalcolithic occupation. A Hittite house, while somewhat dilapidated, is still visible, and as of this week, all of the eleven years of erosion have been removed, and stratigraphic excavations are proceeding. We are very hopeful that our Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze sequence not only will be demonstrated in this trench, but also may indeed stretch into the second millennium.

In 1994 we opened a “step trench” that was 2 x 20 m on the east side of the mound. We undertook this strategy due to the supposed imminent inundation of the mound by a lake

ÇADIR HÖYÜK



Çadır Höyük east slope Step Trench from ground. Photo by Sharon Steadman

created by the completion of the Gellingüllü Dam. However, by the late 1990s, it became clear that the lake would not reach the mound, and we therefore continued work in the step trench, widening it to 5 meters in some areas. We recovered an Iron Age to Early Bronze III sequence in this long and narrow exposure. In 2012 we have decided to widen the initial two 2 x 10 trenches to their full 10 x 10 m extent. We therefore hope to reveal a significant second- and late third-millennium exposure in this area. We have only just opened these trenches and will be able to report on them in more detail in a future report. At present the westernmost trench has already revealed an extensive mudbrick wall that is likely Middle Iron in date. It rests on a Hittite Empire occupation (demonstrated by our initial excavations in 1994), and thus we should reach solid Hittite occupation within the week.

We are continuing our work in our main 10 x 10 m trench that has demonstrated pure Iron Age occupation, located on the upper southern slope. The importance of this trench cannot be overstated, as we are poised to expose the Early Iron levels over the next several weeks. One very substantial question plaguing archaeologists on the plateau is the nature of the post-Hittite collapse on communities at settlements demonstrating solid Hittite occupation. Was there abandonment, chaos, or business as usual? We are poised to investigate the occupational sequence from the Early Iron back to the Hittite Empire period in the coming weeks. Not only will we be able to establish a secure ceramic sequence for this several-centuries-long period, but we will also be able to add to the literature on architectural and economic practices during this transitional period on the plateau.

Finally, we have opened two Byzantine trenches; one was previously opened in 2009, and the other is newly opened this season. The 2009 trench, only reopened a few days ago, currently displays architecture from what is our middle Byzantine phase, dating roughly to 900 CE, including a large room and external plastered courtyard. In previous years other

Byzantine trenches on the northern terrace have allowed us to phase the sixth- to eleventh-century CE farmhouse occupation into three periodizations. The initial building in the sixth century shows a well-provisioned community with large rooms with large worked wall stones and flagstone floors; by the ninth century, rooms were being partitioned with unworked and smaller wall stones and packed mud floors. By the last century or so of occupation, walls were being repaired with whatever came to hand, and parts of the large farmhouse were in some disrepair. In the trench just reopened, we hope again to find the earlier two phases of occupation to check our ceramic and architectural phasing. The new trench is positioned on the summit of the höyük at the southern edge. Here we have revealed a substantial defensive wall and outer platform or tower associated with the eleven-course defensive wall. Metal objects abound, including crosses, plates, boxes, and some tools. This defensive wall can be connected with other parts of the same wall that encircled the summit, most likely built in the eighth or ninth century CE. This new trench, however, has offered us our first good view of external architecture (such as floors and platforms) just outside the perimeter/defensive wall.

We are at present only in the first third of our season, and the final group of excavators, including our Byzantinist, Marica Cassis, arrive in just a few days. At that time we will be opening at least one, if not two, more trenches. We have a very large team, numbering twenty-four, hailing from the United States, Mexico, Canada, Europe, and Turkey. We are extremely pleased to have three University of Chicago graduate students with us this year, including Sarah Adcock (Department of Anthropology), Josh Cannon, and Stephanie Selover (both NELC). All have proven to be talented field archaeologists. We are fortunate to have them with us this year and look forward to welcoming them back in coming seasons.

We will be presenting the results of this year's excavations at the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting in November 2012, to be held in Chicago. We look forward to that opportunity, after some months of reflection and analysis, to present a synthetic and complete report on the 2012 field season.



<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/camel>

Scott Branting

Over the last few years our annual report has highlighted different aspects of the work being done through CAMEL. This includes digitizing and georectifying collections of maps and satellite images housed within the Oriental Institute, acquiring and georectifying large collections of new geospatial data, and undertaking outreach through activities such as the ACCESS initiative within the Chicago Public Schools. All of these activities continued throughout 2011. However, this year I want to highlight something that is very central to the mission of CAMEL: the support that we provide to researchers who use geospatial data pertaining to the Middle East. Every year we receive hundreds of requests from researchers for advice on how to utilize geospatial data in their research, to access our extensive collections, or to use our facilities. Rather than listing every one, I highlight this important work by focusing on two particular researchers, working in different parts of the Middle East, who were resident at CAMEL during portions of this past year.

Dr. Arne Wossink was a post-doctoral scholar with CAMEL for the past two years following his graduation from Leiden University. His position at CAMEL was funded by a prestigious Rubicon Grant from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). His primary work focused on the Raniya Plain in Sulaymaniya province of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in northeastern Iraq, studying changes to the landscape of the plain over the twentieth century and its impact on archaeological heritage (fig. 1). This includes the impact of the Dukan Dam built in the region in the late 1950s, as well as later forms of agricultural and urban development. Since he already possessed a strong background in the methodologies of working with various types of geospatial data, he focused on using CAMEL's facilities, collections, and the occasional advice of CAMEL staff. Arne made use of maps and satellite imagery from CAMEL collections, complemented by travel and survey reports, and was able to evaluate the effects of development on archaeological heritage preservation across three different economically diverse zones.

Arne's research found different impacts depending on the type of development and their proximity to the lake behind the dam. Such work can help archaeologists and others in charge of cultural resource management to devise better strategies for regionally focused rescue excavations and preservation efforts not only in this particular plain, but also in similar landscapes and economic development zones across the Middle East. While at CAMEL, he also spent time working on the joint Leiden, Leipzig, and Erbil Universities project at Satu Qala in Erbil province, focusing on the lower town and the wider valley surrounding the site. Publications on both Satu Qala and the Raniya Plain were prepared while at CAMEL.

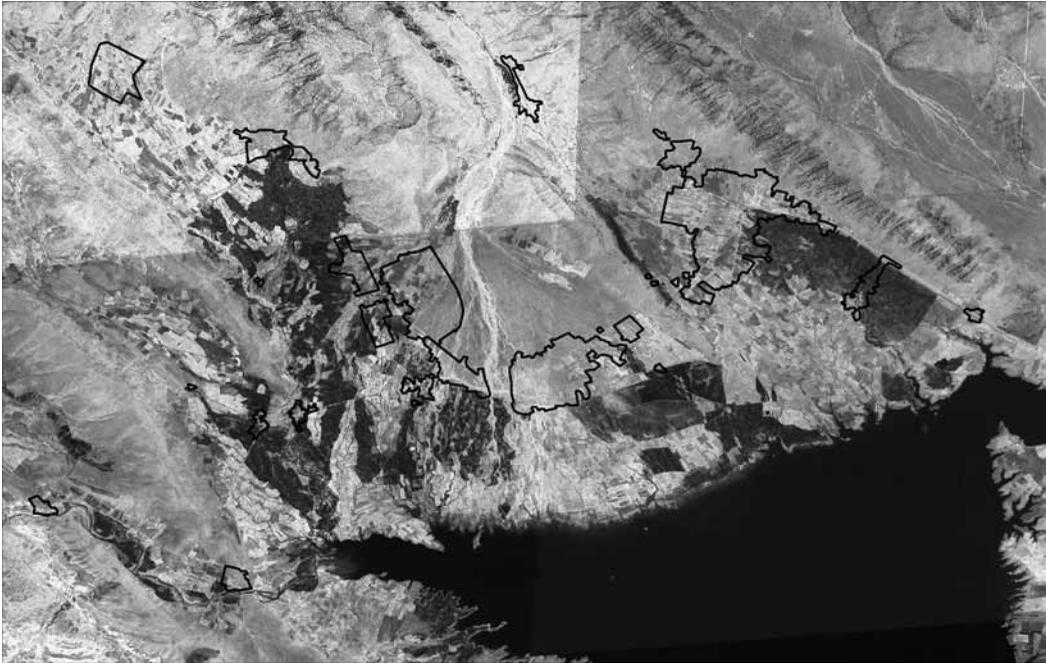


Figure 1. A portion of a 1968 U.S. Declassified Spy Satellite image showing the Raniya Plain within the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in northeastern Iraq, overlain by areas indicating the defined limits of modern settlement used in Dr. Wossink's analysis. Image courtesy Dr. Arne Wossink

Meanwhile, Dr. Stephen Moshier, Professor of Geology at Wheaton College, spent part of his recent sabbatical with CAMEL investigating the hydrology of the eastern Nile Delta in Egypt. Dr. Moshier had discovered an unknown channel course, likely related to the Pelusiac branch of the Nile, in previous fieldwork as part of the Tell el-Borg Project in the northwest Sinai. The objective of his work with CAMEL was to try and trace this channel from Tell el-Borg through the Ballah Lakes and westward to the axis of the Delta. This was complicated by the presence of modern development along this line such as roads, agriculture, urbanism, and of course the Suez Canal. During his sabbatical he started with an advanced training program in GIS methods developed by CAMEL and he proceeded to develop a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of the area based on earlier twentieth-century topographic maps in the CAMEL collections. This DEM was compared to modern SRTM and GDEM elevation models of the region publicly available. Hydrological modeling was then performed with these DEMs and possible flow routes for water were identified (figs. 2-3). A unique convergence of flow accumulation paths was identified along a course west of the Ballah depression, suggesting that this may be where the discovered channel runs farther to the west. Future cores taken from this proposed channel will allow the results of this analysis undertaken at CAMEL to be confirmed in the field.

Every year CAMEL helps scores of scholars, organizations, and interested individuals like these to undertake various forms of research and investigations. Each person comes to us with different needs and different levels of expertise and comfort in working with geospatial data. We provide facilities, training, and advice as needed. We also freely share data from our collections with people around the world, when permitted by copyright laws and ethical constraints. More and more, this data has been already digitized and georectified by

CAMEL

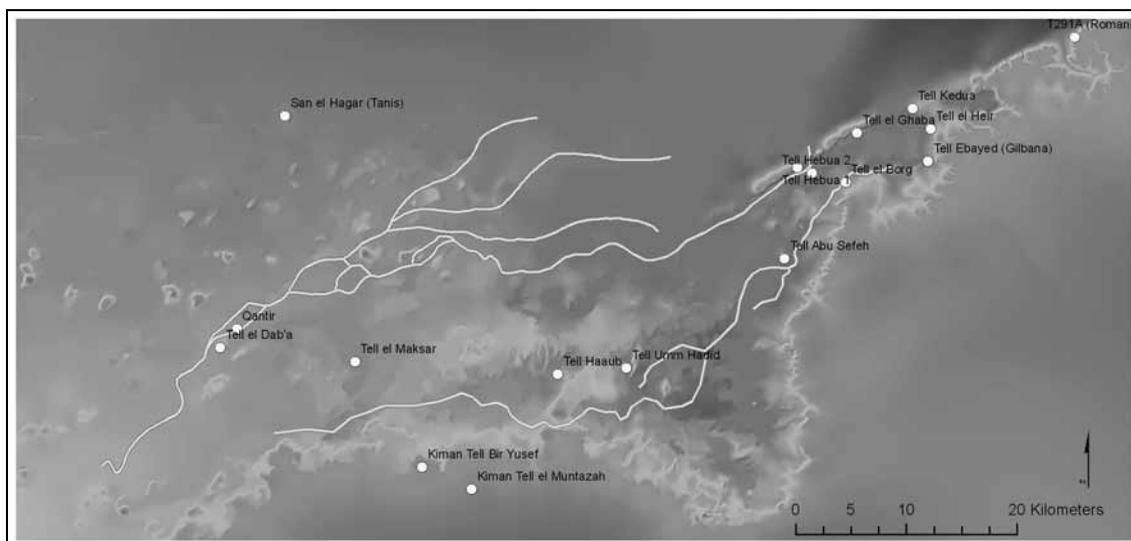


Figure 2. Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of the study region produced by Dr. Moshier from digitized topographic contours taken from a series of early twentieth-century 1:25,000 maps in CAMEL's collections. Overlain on the DEM are the results of the hydrological analysis suggesting a new channel, the southernmost branch in the image, as well as a previously defined branch to the north. Image courtesy Dr. Stephen Moshier

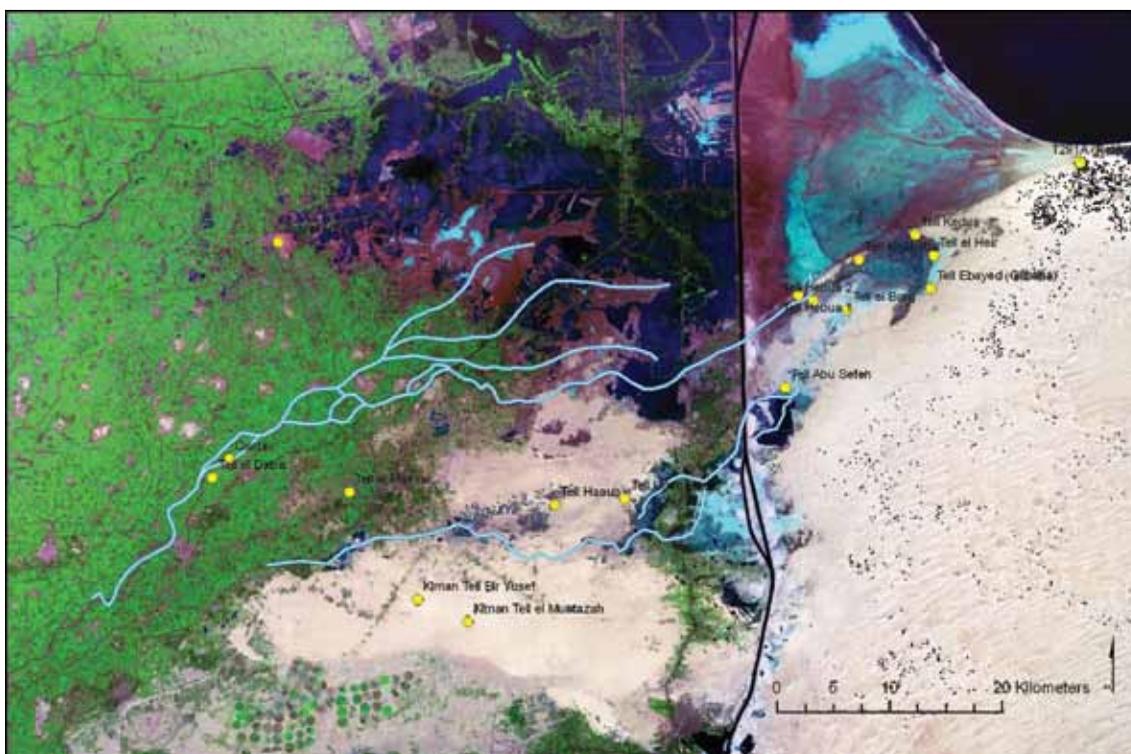


Figure 3. The same regional hydrology shown in figure 2 overlain on top of a LANDSAT satellite image to show the position of the channels relative to the modern Nile delta and the Suez Canal. Image courtesy Dr. Stephen Moshier, LANDSAT courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

CAMEL staff, allowing researchers to bring together their maps and imagery without lengthy preparations and data manipulation. They can start the analysis that they need almost immediately to answer important questions of the past and present.

Unfortunately, not all our efforts to digitize external collections and make them widely available to researchers come to fruition. As reported last year, work was started on a collaborative project to digitize and georectify large portions of the map collection held at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, as well as in other overseas research centers and institutions across the Middle East including Chicago House. This was made possible by a four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) program, in which CAMEL was but one of the several participating organizations and projects. Sadly, when the Department of Education was required to make significant budget cuts this past fiscal year, they chose to completely stop the TICFIA grant in the middle of the funded project. CAMEL is currently seeking alternative funding to at least move ahead with the digitization of the 784 maps at the Albright, most of which are quite old and hard to find, that we were stopped just short of completing.

Work did progress throughout the year on georectifying our collection of U.S. Declassified Spy Satellite images as well as scores of paper maps donated to CAMEL (figs. 4–5). Almost 400 of these images were georectified this year. In addition, the 300 images that were sent to the University of Arkansas for automated georectification are available online for download through a beta version of the Corona Atlas of the Middle East (corona.cast.uark.edu). We are hopeful that the site will go live this coming year. This has brought the total percentage of our collection of the U.S. Declassified Spy Satellite images that are now georectified to over 50 percent. One of these, an image of the area of southern Iran around Persepolis taken on May 20, 1970, was installed in the Oriental Institute Museum as part of the Picturing the Past

Figure 4. One of the thousands of georectified maps within the CAMEL collections. This map, dating from 1936, was produced by the Carte des Bureau Topographique des Troupes du Levant. It shows the eastern Mediterranean coast from Beirut to Haifa



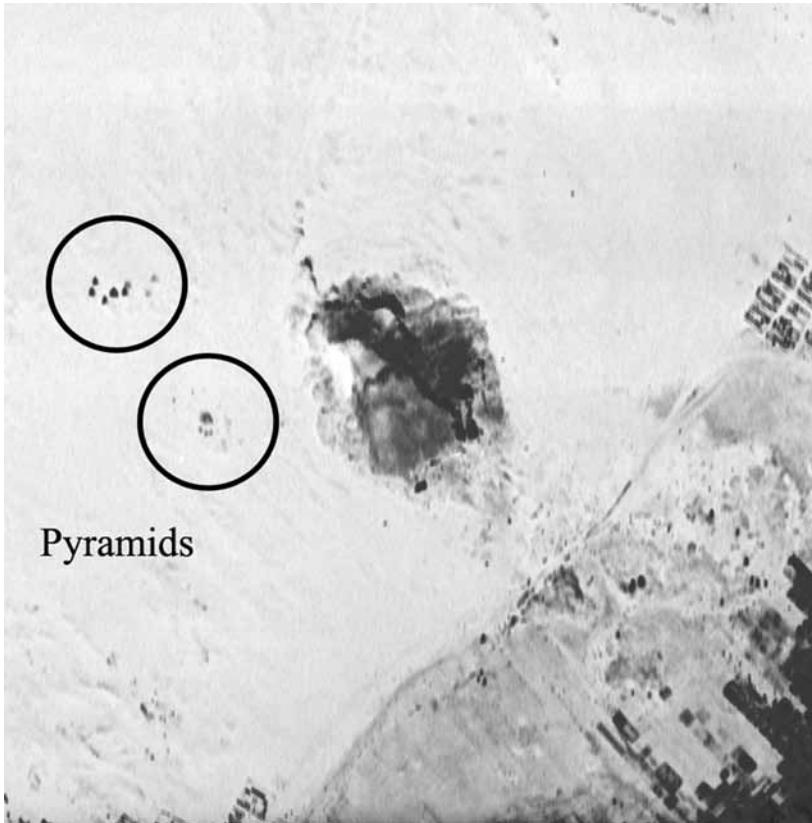
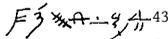
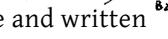


Figure 5. A portion of another 1968 U.S. Declassified Spy Satellite image that has been rectified by CAMEL. This image, taken by a CORONA KH-4B spy satellite, shows the area of Jebel Barkal in Northern Sudan. Visible in the image are fourteen pyramids belonging to the royal family members of the Meroitic Kingdom dating from the third to first century BC. Eight pyramids can be seen in the northern cluster and six more are visible just to the south

special exhibit. CAMEL staff also contributed a chapter to the exhibit catalog on aerial photographs and satellite images. Other outreach efforts by CAMEL this year included the ongoing work of corroboratively designing the curriculum for the upcoming teacher training portion of the ArcGIS Cross-Curricular Education for Sixth Grade Students program (ACCESS). This program, generously funded by the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, is a collaborative venture with Wendy Ennes in the Oriental Institute's Public Education Department. We are expecting to undertake the teacher training program within the Chicago Public Schools during the next school year and to move from that directly into the design of new sixth-grade interdisciplinary curriculum modules in the months that follow.

CAMEL's success is a direct result of the time and effort of its dedicated staff and volunteers. Elise MacArthur and Susan Penacho served as Associate Directors this year. Sami Sweis served as Senior Supervisor. Joe Cronin, Hannah Loftus, Megan Porter, Nadia Qazi, and Allison Wood were all Student Assistants. CAMEL volunteers for this year were: Alexander Elwyn, Larry Lissak, Josh Cannon, and Nil Oktem. Without their patience and dedicated hard work CAMEL would accomplish little. We are also indebted to those who financially or through contributions of geospatial data make possible the facilities, collections and work of CAMEL.

ring in the Pyramid Texts.⁴¹ It is worth noting that, due to the need for secrecy, some names could also be written in cipher.⁴² For instance, the name *bel-n-EBWOK* “raven's eye,” referring to a leguminous plant identified as the Greek bean (*Vicia faba* L.), is attested both partially or entirely in cipher as ⁴³ and as ⁴⁴ while in another passage, it is used as a magical name and written  *Bl-n-bk*, with a gloss.⁴⁵

Nowadays, such demonic names may seem foreign to us, but in our culture too, often unknowingly, we still allude to demons: in the word “nightmare,” for example, “mare” is nothing but an evil spirit thought to suffocate sleepers by lying upon them. Moreover, references to the ancient Egyptian occult and magical lore lie hidden in everyday words. The god Thoth, identified with Hermes by the Greeks and later known as Hermes Trismegistos, was regarded as the founder of alchemy, hence, of course, the word “hermetic” in the sense of “esoteric, cryptic,” but also, surprisingly, of “airtight.” Indeed, the expression “hermetically sealed” derives from the fact that airtight containers were used in the Hermetic art of alchemy to collect vapors after heating substances. Such an early distillation apparatus called *κηροτακίς* and used by Egyptian alchemists was considered to be the invention of Mary the Jewess, a famous alchemist, said to have lived in Alexandria in the first century AD, and who used to write under the pen name of Miriam the Prophetess, sister of Moses. Aficionados of the culinary arts should also know that the *bain-marie*, namely, “a container holding hot water into which a pan is placed for slow cooking,” was believed also to be her invention and named after her. The etymology of the word alchemy itself is complicated and still debated: via Old French and Medieval Latin, it comes from Arabic *al-kīmiyā'*, itself derived from ancient Greek *χημεία* or *χημιά*, also attested as *χυμεία*, “the art of alloying metals, alchemy,” preceded by the Arabic definite article *al-*. According to one interpretation, *χημ(ε)ία* could derive from *Χημιά*, the Greek rendering of  *Kmt* “The Black Land,” which is an Egyptian designation for Egypt.

We hope to have been able to demonstrate that magical names, often unjustly neglected and considered to be some sort of gibberish, are nonetheless important testimonies of the relationships that the ancient Egyptians entertained with the supernatural world and that they certainly deserve more attention. It is indeed also the role of the CDD to put such words “under the spotlight.”

Notes

¹ For an in-depth study of ancient Egyptian magic, see Ritner 2008.

² Exodus 7:8–12. On ancient Egyptian serpent wands, see Ritner 2006.

³ Talmud, b. Qid. 49b.

⁴ = P. Berlin 3033; see Simpson 2003.

⁵ In P. Cairo 30646; see Ritner 2003d.

⁶ See note 5, above.

⁷ In P. BM 604; see Ritner 2003a, and in Jug Strasburg; see Ritner 2003b.

⁸ In P. BM 604; see Ritner 2003a.

⁹ In P. Petese Tebt. A+B+C+D; see Ryholt 1999 and 2006.

¹⁰ In Jug Berlin 12845; see Ritner 2003c.

¹¹ In P. Heidelberg 736 ro; see Spiegelberg 1917.

¹² In P. Berlin 13640; see Spiegelberg 1932.

¹³ For an introduction to the Demotic magical papyri; see Johnson 1976 and 1992, and Ritner 1995.

CHICAGO DEMOTIC DICTIONARY

- ¹⁴ In P. Magical (= P. British Museum 10070 + P. Leiden 383), 7/6; see Griffith and Thompson 1904–1909. *Qm*³ (*p*³) *t*³ is rendered as **ΚΟΜΤΩ** in the Old Coptic gloss. On glosses, see note 16, below.
- ¹⁵ In P. BM 10588, 5/11. For the reading, see Ritner 1986, p. 97, n. d, vs. Thompson in Bell, Nock, and Thompson [1933], who translated “Amen is his name.”
- ¹⁶ As in the first magical name cited above. On glosses, see, e.g., Griffith and Thompson 1904, pp. 8–10, and 1909, pp. 113–36; Griffith 1909–1910; Johnson 1977, p. 88, fig. 2, and 1992, p. lvi; Dieleman 2005, index p. 338, s.v. “glosses.”
- ¹⁷ In P. Leiden 384 vo, 4/8; see Johnson 1975 (1976).
- ¹⁸ For discussion and examples of foreign determinatives, see, e.g., Gaudard and Johnson 2011, p. 29.
- ¹⁹ In P. Louvre 3229 vo, 2; see Johnson 1977.
- ²⁰ In P. Louvre 3229 vo, 9.
- ²¹ In P. Magical, 10/4. For other occurrences and variant writings, see, e.g., Griffith and Thompson 1909, pp. 120–21 and nos. 184–96.
- ²² For discussion, see Dieleman 2005, p. 78.
- ²³ In P. Magical, 5/14.
- ²⁴ In P. Magical, 8/8.
- ²⁵ In P. Magical, 10/4 (and *passim*).
- ²⁶ In P. Leiden 384 vo, 4/15. *Gr*‘*b* is rendered as **ΚΡΔΒ** in the Old Coptic gloss. On glosses, see note 16, above.
- ²⁷ In P. Magical, 14/29.
- ²⁸ See Griffith and Thompson 1904, p. 103, n. to l. 29.
- ²⁹ In P. Magical vo, 12/8.
- ³⁰ In P. Magical, 23/24.
- ³¹ Isopsephy is the practice of adding up the numerical values of the letters in a word to form a single number.
- ³² In P. Magical, 17/18–19.
- ³³ Here, the sign , used in Greek magical texts as a common symbol for the sun, plays the role of a gloss; see, e.g., Griffith 1909–10, p. 122; Dieleman 2005, p. 79 n. 90.
- ³⁴ For further examples and discussion, see, e.g., Dieleman 2005, pp. 78–79.
- ³⁵ = P. BM 604; see Ritner 2003a; Thissen 1991, p. 370.
- ³⁶ For discussion, see Thissen 1991.
- ³⁷ In P. Magical vo, 20/1–5.
- ³⁸ For discussion, see Griffith and Thompson 1904, pp. 192–93; Johnson in Betz 1992, p. 247; Thissen 1991, pp. 371–72; Dieleman 2005, p. 141 n. 104.
- ³⁹ For discussion, see Dieleman 2005, p. 142.
- ⁴⁰ See Steiner 2001.
- ⁴¹ See Steiner 2011.
- ⁴² See Griffith and Thompson 1904, pp. 8–9, and 1909, pp. 105–12; Johnson 1977, p. 93; Dieleman 2005, pp. 87–96, 302–3; Ritner 2008, p. 218.
- ⁴³ In P. Magical, 27/25.
- ⁴⁴ In P. Magical, 5/24–25.
- ⁴⁵ In P. Magical, 7/33. On glosses, see note 16, above.

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CHICAGO HITTITE AND ELECTRONIC HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD AND eCHD)

Theo van den Hout

By the time you read this, the third fascicle of our Š-volume should be ready to go to press. It will cover all words starting in *ši-*. This past academic year, we asked our Publications Office to set the first half of all *ši-* words in the familiar two-column format, and we subsequently proofread this part. Meanwhile, we finished the last items for the manuscript of the second part. The proofreading was a collective effort by senior (Hoffner and van den Hout) and junior (Beal, Goedegebuure, and Soysal) editors alike: the more eyes that scrutinize the text, the more small mistakes and typos will be detected. No one reader catches all, but multiple readers will catch most. This coming winter we will start work on the last installment with words starting in *šm-* and *šu*.

We also continued our efforts to keep the CHD files updated. Senior Research Associate and Junior Editor Oğuz Soysal contributed transliterations of no fewer than five volumes filled with hand copies of cuneiform Hittite texts (see his own account in this *Annual Report*), and all staff members shared their transliterations of two more volumes. These are then prepared for filing and are filed by our trusty students, graduate student Oya Topçuoğlu and undergraduate Joanna Derman. Soysal also worked on a collection of the so-called Bo-texts (short for Boğazköy, the Turkish site where the Hittite capital Hattusa once stood) that still remain unpublished even though they were excavated more than a century ago.

Senior Research Associate and Junior Editor Richard Beal spent the remainder of his time editing words that will fill the first fascicle of the future T-volume. He also continued expanding our ever-growing digital library with both new and old publications. This feeds immediately into a major development in our office this past year: Research Associate Dennis Campbell and graduate student Oya Topçuoğlu transported our entire bibliography into the EndNote software program that now contains close to 14,000 entries. Several years ago Soysal created an approximately 900-page bibliographic file with the help of Alice Mouton when she was working on the dictionary. This file lists almost all known works on Hittite and is an invaluable resource for the project. It was determined that the format of the bibliography as an extremely long Word document was less than ideal. After reviewing various electronic bibliographic programs, it was decided that the CHD would adopt EndNote to house this bibliography. The Word document was modified so that every entry was broken down into a series of tagged pieces of information for author, title, year, and so on. This was then imported into EndNote. The result was a file containing over 13,000 bibliographic references. These references are currently being cleaned up and enriched by members of the dictionary project. What PDF files we have are immediately linked to this program so that not only do we have full bibliographic references at our fingertips and can generate bibliographies for everything we write, but also with one click we can have an actual book or article on our screens. This is an ongoing project that will become increasingly important and valuable as we add material to it.

CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY

The majority of the work on the eCHD in the past year has been spent on the query system. The issue at hand was to develop ways of utilizing the robust capabilities of the OCHRE database system when searching the Hittite dictionary. The complex system of linking and tagging of the data allows for multi-variant queries across different fields. Through the use of properties and tags, we have added additional information to the dictionary entries that, while not visible to the user, greatly enrich the data. By utilizing this additional information, the query system of the eCHD is extremely powerful. For example, since all text numbers are tagged with their corresponding category (based on E. Laroche's *Catalogue de textes hittites*), when the user searches for a particular ritual text, every instance of that ritual, whether it is explicitly marked as such in the dictionary article or not, will be returned, since every text of that ritual has properties marking it as such. This allows us to maintain the dictionary's appearance while maintaining maximum efficiency without needing to drastically modify the character of a particular article.

The query system is designed to allow for both simple and complex searches. Simple searches include those intended to find particular words or combinations of them (for example, searches for "bee"). These searches can also be used to find examples of parts of speeches, such as searches for certain noun cases or even complex verbal forms (for example, one can search for all perfective, active, indicative third-person singular verbs in the *mi*-class conjunction that include the -ešš- fientive infix). These searches involve properties tagged to each form and provide information not explicitly printed in the dictionary. The user can also search for texts cited in the dictionary based on their category, date (of composition and/or script), and excavation or publication number. Complex queries allow the user to search for combinations of different types of data. A PDF document giving an overview of the eCHD with a focus on the query system can be found on the eCHD website:

ochre.lib.uchicago.edu/eCHD/

Work has also been done to further integrate the "Texts" feature of OCHRE into the dictionary. "Texts" is the repository for textual data and includes epigraphic features (i.e., the signs used and their position vis-à-vis one another) as well as discourse ones (i.e., the combination of signs into words and words into phrases and clauses). This allows for a wide variety of data to be attached to both individual signs and words. One important characteristic of the cuneiform signs of a particular text are their state of preservation. These are marked in print through the use of square brackets ([]) and half brackets (⌈ ⌋). By incorporating "texts" into the dictionary, the user will be able to utilize this much richer mark-up of the texts. It will also allow us to continue to standardize both our transliterations and translations in later volumes.

We are also working to add more bibliographic information to the eCHD. The work of scholars is often cited in the CHD through the use of bibliographic abbreviations. This is especially important for the print editions of the dictionary, where lengthy bibliographic references would be space prohibitive. The eCHD mimics this use of abbreviated bibliographic entries. Each of these references, however, will be linked to an actual bibliography within OCHRE. When the abbreviation is clicked, the user will be given the full bibliographic reference.

As usual we had a visitor, this year Dr. Sylvie Vanséveren of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, who used our files and Research Archives during the month of June for a project on the vocabulary of emotions, funded by the Belgian Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique.

DIYALA PROJECT

Clemens Reichel

While the present report on the Diyala Project will be one of the shortest that I have ever written, it contains the one line that I had hoped to write for years: the Diyala database went live in March!

<http://dialaproject.uchicago.edu>

There has been no fanfare. To anyone who has ever worked on a database project this may not be surprising. Sending a book manuscript off to the publishers is a rite of passage — it's out of one's hands, and there is an element of finality to it. With a database, work is never really finished. This is both a good and a bad thing. It is great to be able to fix mistakes, and to add new results, but this asset can also become a burden. The fact that a database is dynamic raises expectations, and we will have to live up to those.

It's been a long road since 1992, when McGuire Gibson first initiated the Diyala Project. I have, in previous reports, described the evolution of what originally was conceived as a book manuscript to a Web-based database. What seemed to be nothing more than a switch in media for data delivery ultimately impacted the nature and purpose of the project. Originally, we had planned a publication of the "miscellaneous finds" from the Diyala expedition, already in itself a formidable task. The size and comprehensiveness of these excavations, undertaken between 1930 and 1938 at the sites of Tell Agrab, Tell Asmar, Ishchali, and Khafaje, had provided the chronological backbone for much of Mesopotamia's early archaeological history. Between 1938 and 1988 nine volumes — five on architecture and four on key artifacts (sculpture, seals, pottery) — were published. Some 15,000 artifacts, however, remained unpublished. Once we had collected object descriptions from field registers and object cards and started to enter them into a database it became apparent that a separation of "published" versus "unpublished" artifacts would be unsystematic and counterproductive. Over the years the "Diyala Miscellaneous Objects Database Project," supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant between 1995 and 1999, morphed into the Diyala Project, becoming a repository for all data pertaining to Diyala artifacts.

The scope of the project was once more widened in 2004. The limitations of transferring records systematically from an excavator's notebook into a database field had become all too apparent. Object descriptions could be verified and, if the object was available for examination, could even be improved upon. Such an option, however, did not exist for archaeological contexts. Here the very meticulousness of excavators would become a curse: Thorkild Jacobsen, the expedition's field epigrapher who also spent much time in the field as an excavator, took great pain in describing a tablet's findspot in relation to certain features: e.g., "Locus X ... found 2 meter SSE of the drain opening, 10 cm above pavement." That is a fairly detailed description that can be mapped out with some dedication, but how can it be entered into a database in a meaningful way? Other excavators, such as the German archaeologist Conrad Preusser (who worked on the Temple Oval at Khafaje in 1930/31), offered very detailed sketches in the object registers, detailing not only the context in which an artifact

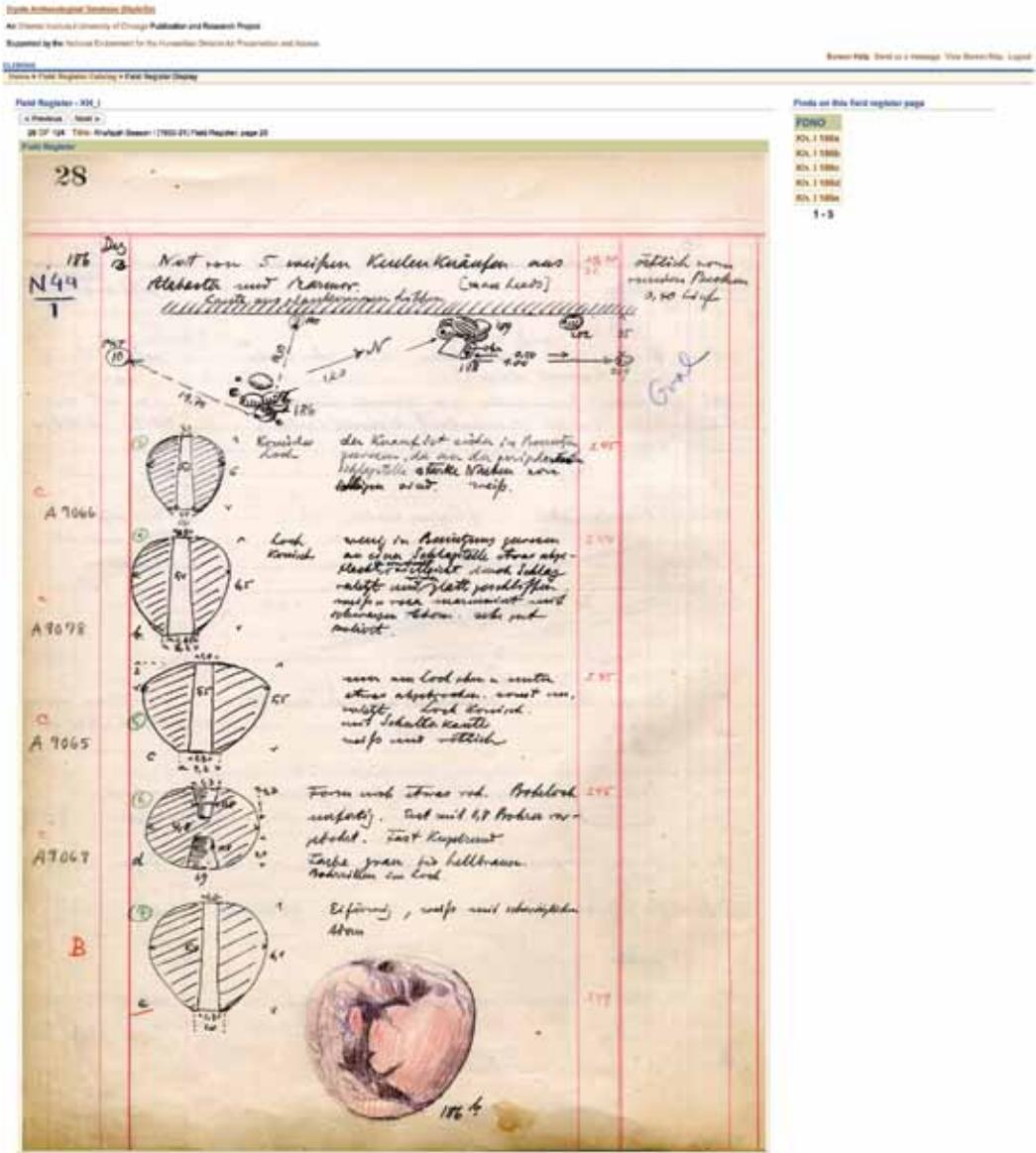


Figure 1. Document page showing entries from the 1930/31 Khafaje field register (kept by Conrad Preusser, in German). The menu in the top right corner provides links to the database entries for these artifacts

was found but also its relationship to other artifacts (fig. 1). Once more, such information is very useful, but it cannot be verbalized. What good, then, is a database if it does not save the user from accessing the original paper record?

The answer, of course, was found in a large-scale digitization of all field records from the expedition. This effort, which was supported by two NEH grants (2004–2006; 2007–2009), allowed us to build the links between a narrative or a depiction on paper and a searchable, systematic data entry. In the past I have described the challenges that we faced in accomplishing this task: thousands of locus and object cards, notebooks, and field negatives were scanned. Items that were too large or too brittle to be scanned were photographed with a digital SLR.

Maps and plans had to be processed through the sheet scanner owned by the CAMEL lab. We encountered problems with data storage, switched from external hard drives to DVDs and finally back to hard drives as their prices came own and their storage capacity increased. I remain deeply grateful to the heroes of these days — Karen Terras, Robert Wagner, and Betsy Kremers — who devoted so much of their time to the successful completion of this task.

In the meantime George Sundell, aided by me and by Mike Fisher, our student assistant who increasingly became the jack-of-all-trades for the Diyala Project, continued to build the database. My departure from Chicago in December 2008 created numerous challenges in this respect. I readily admit that, facing new tasks at the University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum, the Diyala Project did not always receive the attention that it deserved. Luckily, George and Mike stepped up to the plate and have very much worked on their own for the past three years.

Our date to switch the database live roughly coincided with Mike Fisher's departure from the project to join the Oriental Institute's Afghanistan project in May 2012 (see separate report), but Mike remains a correspondent and contributor inasmuch as his busy schedule allows for that. In June we also saw the departure of Angela Altenhofen, who had been drawing many of the sealings from Tell Asmar since 2008. I remain deeply grateful to both of them for their dedicated work and wish them the best for their future careers.

Back to the present: what can the database actually do at this point? Once a user enters the site (fig. 2), its home screen (fig. 3) will provide him with a number of choices: an object or groups of objects can be looked up by searching its find number entries, site subdivisions (site, area, level, locus), materials, or by keywords. Individual record screens (fig. 4) provide the core data for each object — its provenience, material(s), dimensions, description, archaeological periodization, photographs, drawings, and links to field records (object catalogs, notebooks). For information on specific archaeological site subdivisions — an area, level, or locus — a separate menu is provided on the home screen. While much of the archival material

The Diyala Database, for the first time, publishes all archaeological materials from the Diyala Expedition, one of the most important excavation projects ever undertaken in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq).

The current version of this database, using Oracle™ as a backend, represents a partial release of these data. Future releases will add and update object descriptions and provide new interfaces with additional links to site photographs, field notes, diary entries, and architectural plans.

Significance of Excavations: Located in the heart of Iraq, the lower reaches of Euphrates, excavations at the sites of Tell Asmar (present Tell Asmar), Tell Amran (present Tell Asmar), Tell Marad (present Tell Marad), and other (present Tell Asmar), have provided some of the most comprehensive data for Mesopotamian archaeology and prehistory. Undertaken by the University of Chicago, Cornell Institute (1927-1927) and by the University of Pennsylvania (1933-1934), these projects were of an unprecedented scale. Up to 70% of the total area of each site was excavated, exposing not only the remains of houses and temples, but also of houses, manufacturing facilities, streets, and urban defensive systems, with some structures extending as deep as 40 meters below the ground-level surface. Covering the time between the late Uruk period and the end of the Old Babylonian period (3200-1700 BC), the Diyala material represents a crucial part of Mesopotamian's early history during which large fortified cities emerged, cities grew to unprecedented sizes, and the civilization began to become complex.

Significance of Artifacts: Over 10,000 artifacts, representing all aspects of public and private life, were excavated and recorded systematically, including various objects, seals, pottery vessels, tools, weapons, jewelry, cosmetics, etc. Among them, 1000s of seals, 1000s of figurines, 1000s of toys, and almost 3,000 seals inscribed with cuneiform characters. Following field divisions between the expedition and Iraq's Department of Antiquities these artifacts entered the collections of the Iraq Museum (Baghdad), the Oriental Institute Museum (Chicago), and the University Museum (Philadelphia). In spite of a comprehensive publication program that resulted in new volumes for an archaeological conference and four or six artist books (diary, work, pottery) some 70% of these finds (over 70,000 items) unfortunately remained unpublished to the present day. This is especially true the case in one of the largest artifact assemblages from a controlled excavation undertaken in Iraq, hence representing a vital archaeological resource for Mesopotamian early history.

The Project: Launched in 1992 the Diyala Database Project will, for the first time, publish all archaeological data from these excavations in an integrated database. Supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (Division for Preservation and Access) (1989-1990, 2004-2010), the University of Chicago's William Broad (1993), and by the University of Chicago's Provost Innovative Technology Grant (1998, 2002) archival inventories, object registers, field notes, photographs, plans, and correspondence were scanned, object descriptions entered into database tables, and new photographs of artifacts taken at the Oriental Institute Museum.

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Figure 2. Diyala database entry screen

is already interlinked with the object database and site subdivisions on a page-by-page level, the user can also browse through complete documents, such as field diaries, field registers, and notebooks.

There is no point in denying the fact that much work remains to be done. We continue to improve the database interface, and actively are soliciting feedback not only on the database content, but also on its layout (in order to facilitate this, every screen has a “send us a message” option in the top right edge). It is one thing for us to use this database, but what about outside users? One item that is high on my personal wishlist is a map interface with embedded hyperlinks: clicking on a locus number will provide lists of artifacts found in it, photographs taken in the field, and show all written records for this context. In addition to that, many of the field diaries remain to be indexed for keywords, and objects need to be categorized further or have their descriptions cleaned up.

With Mike Fisher’s departure and me being in Toronto, organizing future steps has been a bit of a challenge. Being offsite, at a different university, however, provides new options. Among my colleagues and students here in Toronto I have found great interest in the Diyala materials, and two of my PhD students already have signed up as volunteers. I have just been informed by the University of Toronto that funding has been approved for a work study student to work on the Diyala materials. While the Diyala Project will always have its home at the Oriental Institute, our efforts to study it can be globalized. In this respect I have received much encouragement here in Toronto: both the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and the Royal Ontario Museum have pledged logistical support in these endeavors.

I would like to thank the Oriental Institute for their continued support of this project, notably for having funded Mike Fisher’s and Angela Altenhofen’s salaries over the past two years. My most sincere thanks, however, have to go to George Sundell for his dedication, patience, and for his willingness to hold the fortress and take on tasks that go way beyond the scope of a database architect.

An online database of all the Diyala materials may not have been Henri Frankfort’s vision some seventy-five years ago when he completed his fieldwork in the Diyala region. Being a visionary that did not shy away from trying out new approaches it remains our hope that he would approve of our work.

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

W. Raymond Johnson

On April 15, 2012, the Epigraphic Survey, in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities (MSA), completed its eighty-eighth, six-month field season in Luxor. This season's projects continued normally and included epigraphic documentation, conservation, and restoration work at Medinet Habu (funded by a grant from USAID Egypt); documentation at Theban Tomb 107, that of Nefersekheru; one month's salvage documentation at Khonsu Temple at Karnak (in cooperation with the American Research Center in Egypt/ARCE); and documentation, conservation, and maintenance of the Luxor Temple blockyard and open-air museum (funded by the World Monuments Fund/WMF), as well as documentation of blocks from the Basilica of St. Thecla in front of the Ramesses II eastern pylon (funded in part by a grant from Nassef Sawiris).

Medinet Habu

Epigraphy

Epigraphic documentation supervised by senior epigrapher Brett McClain continued in the small Amun temple of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III at Medinet Habu in the bark sanctuary ambulatory (interior and exterior) and facade. The epigraphic staff consisted of epigrapher Jen Kimpton, senior artists Margaret De Jong and Susan Osgood, and artists Krisztián Vértés and Keli Alberts. A significant portion of the remaining drawing enlargements for *Medinet Habu* Volume 10 (the facade, the pillars, and interior architraves) were corrected, revised, and submitted for director's check. Krisztián continued his study of the changing color scheme of the reliefs in the square-pillared ambulatory and facade, ranging from their original decoration under Thutmose III through the final paint revisions in the Ptolemaic period (fig. 1). These

observations will form the basis for a chapter on the history of the multi-phase color programs in the ambulatory and on the facade, to be published in *Medinet Habu* Volume 10. Keli perfected her aluminum-foil-rubbing technique of reliefs of Thutmose III and Ramesses III hidden by later Ptolemaic walls, with some wonderful results. We now expect that all materials for *Medinet Habu* Volume 10 should be ready for publication production by the spring of 2014.

Penciling completed this season: 29
Inking completed: 11
Collation completed: 13
Transfer Check completed: 5
Director Check completed: 6

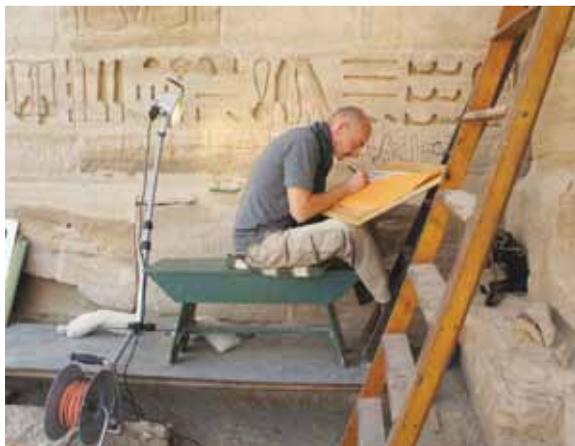


Figure 1. Krisztián penciling at the small Amun temple facade. Medinet Habu. All photos by Ray Johnson unless otherwise indicated

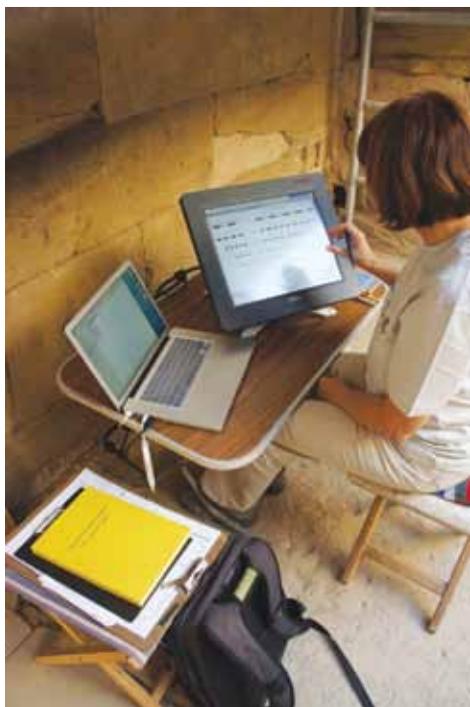


Figure 2. Tina recording graffiti in the southern Ptolemaic Annex. Small Amun temple, Medinet Habu

Epigraphers Tina Di Cerbo and husband Richard Jasnow continued their digital documentation and analysis of late-period and medieval graffiti in the Ptolemaic additions of the small Amun temple, and on the rooftop and upper walls of Ramesses III's mortuary temple. This season they finished the graffiti recording in the southern Ptolemaic annex with key plans and block-by-block details of each wall (fig. 2).

Work at Medinet Habu was supervised this season by MSA inspectors Mr. Abd-el-Nasser Muhammad Ahmad Saad, Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Hussain Abu-Gad, Ms. Rehab Muhammad Elwany Ibrahim, Mr. Essad Muhammad Galal, and Ms. Hanaa Mahmoud Muhammad Soliman.

Medinet Habu Blockyard

The Medinet Habu conservation team supervised by Lotfi Hassan assisted by Nahed Samir Andraus and Mohamed Abou El Makarem continued work in the new Medinet Habu blockyard built along the southern Ramesses III enclosure wall, continued to prepare an open-air museum component of the facility along the front exterior, and constructed additional



Figure 3. Re-erected column and Medinet Habu conservation team. January 27

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

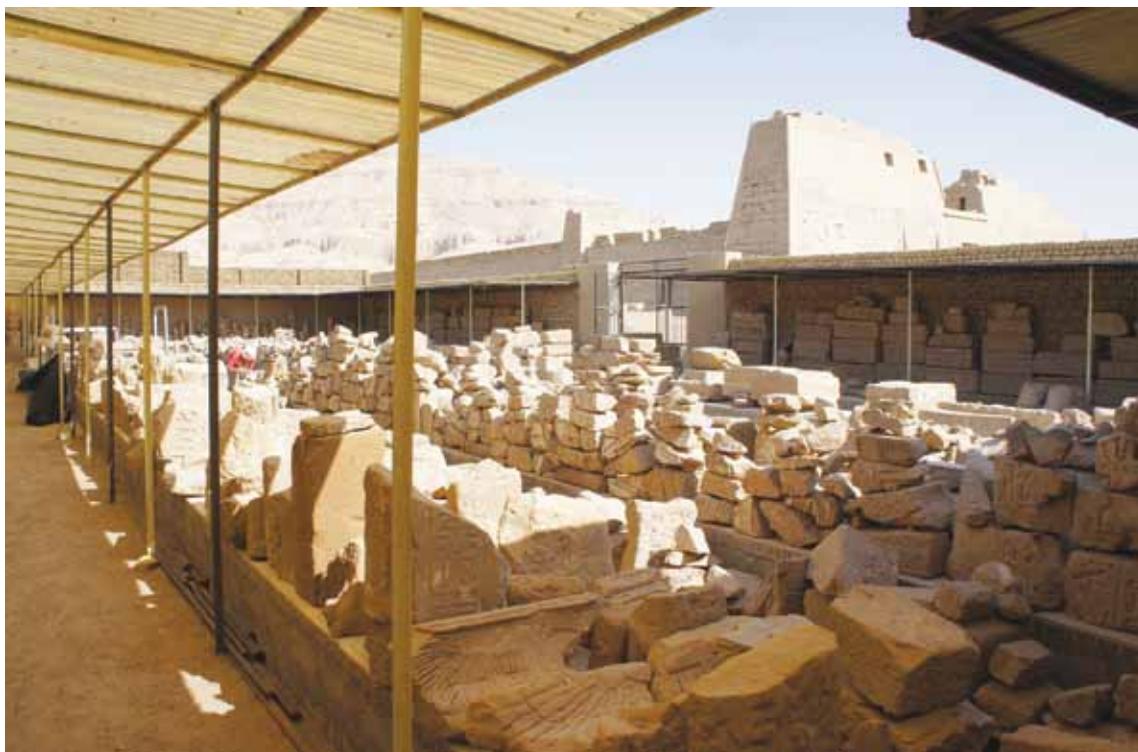


Figure 4. Julia Schmied (left middle) numbering blocks. Medinet Habu blockyard with new roofing

protective roofing inside the blockyard. Lotfi restored and with the aid of the stone team test joined five sections of a 5.5-meter-tall palm column from the formal palace on the southern side of Ramesses III's mortuary temple (fig. 3). This column and sections of others like it will eventually be restored to the palace itself in a future season.

Inventorying, documentation, and database updating of the miscellaneous architectural and sculpture fragments was coordinated by Julia Schmied assisted in April by Christian Greco (fig. 4). This season Yarko Kobylecky and Ellie Smith photographed 138 architectural blocks and fragments from Third Intermediate Period houses built within the Medinet Habu complex that will be featured in the first monograph of the blockyard publication series. The transfer of material from the old blockyard was finished last season, and the walls of the old blockyard were demolished, which now exposes the original walls of Ramesses III's palace south of the first court.

Domitian Gate

This season, blocks from the last three courses of the monument were dismantled by stone mason Frank Helmholtz and the Chicago House workmen and stored on platforms to the north of the gate for conservation next season. The nineteenth-century rubble foundations were removed, and a new reinforced concrete footing was installed that will cure over the summer (fig. 5). Frank also started shaping replacement blocks out of newly quarried sandstone from the gate's original quarry at Gebel Silsileh. The ground is continuing to show signs of drying out, thanks to the USAID-funded, west-bank dewatering program that was inaugurated a year ago September (in 2010). The water level in the sacred lake to the north of the small



Figure 5. Poured, reinforced-concrete foundation for the Domitian gate. Medinet Habu. Photo by Frank Helmholz

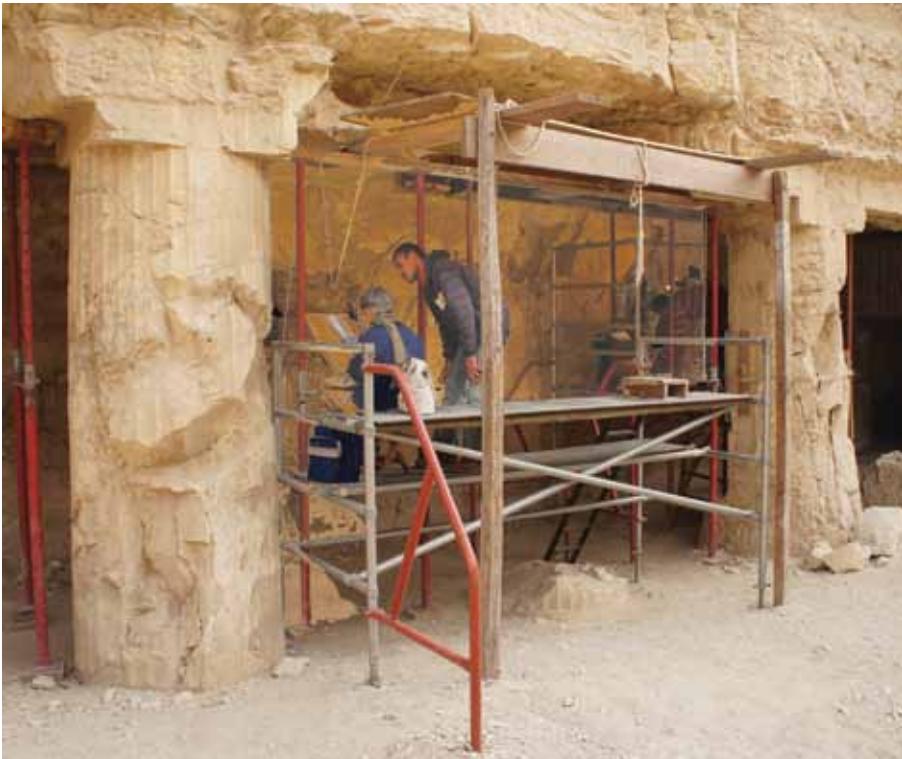


Figure 6. Sue Osgood, MSA Inspector Mahmoud Abdel Wahab Mohamed, and Margaret De Jong penciling. Theban Tomb 107, February 9

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

Amun temple has stayed down, back to levels recorded during our first work at Medinet Habu in the 1930s. Re-erection of the gate is scheduled to begin next season. The majority of the Medinet Habu work is generously supported by a grant from USAID Egypt.

TT 107, Theban Tomb of Nefersekeru

Epigraphic documentation of the inscribed northern wall and one column of the sunken court of the Theban Tomb of Nefersekeru (TT 107) continued and was mostly finished this season (fig. 6) by senior artists Margaret De Jong (upper register) and Susan Osgood (lower register and column) assisted by MSA inspectors Ms. Hekmat Araby Mahmoud, Mr. Muhammad Abd-el-Wahhab Muhammad, and Ms. Zeinab Muhammad el-Sayyed Muhammad. Yarko Kobylecky photographed a group of small, inscribed wall fragments for later incorporation with the reliefs. The reliefs depict Amenhotep III's steward of the jubilee palace at Malkata, the noble Nefersekeru, and are of very high quality and significance, but were carved in very bad limestone, whose condition was made worse by a series of subsequent floods. The drawing is scheduled to be finished and collation begun next season.

Luxor Temple

World Monuments Fund (WMF)-supported conservation and monitoring continued in the Luxor Temple blockyard supervised by conservator Hiroko Kariya and assisted by MSA inspectors Mostafa Ali Hashem, Hanaa Morsy el-Desouky, Marwa Abdel-Naby, and Randa Mohamed Ibrahim. The Luxor Temple blockyard open-air-museum joined fragment groups and displays were condition-surveyed, and cleaning was initiated on selected fragment groups.

Hiroko condition surveyed and photographed 101 talatat blocks of Akhenaten buried along the eastern outer wall of the Colonnade Hall and, after confirming their stability, reburied the group with clean sand (fig. 7). Ray, Hiroko, and the



Figure 7. Hiroko Kariya desalinating Luxor Temple Thecla blocks. December 9



Figure 8. Yarko photographing Ptolemy I blocks at Luxor Temple. March 13. Photo by Sue Lezon

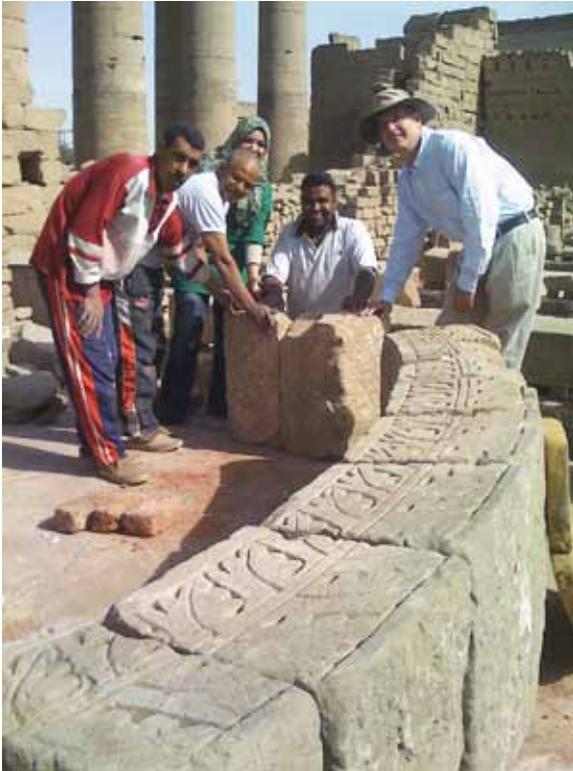


Figure 9. Sayid, Mohamed, MSA Inspector Marwa Abdel-Naby, Saoud, and Jay joining Thecla Church arch blocks. March 14

Chicago House workmen moved 135 Ptolemy I blocks, which seem to relate to our Bentresh text blocks, to a special mastaba platform for photography and study, after which photographer Yarko Kobylecky photographed the entire group with large-format film and digital photography (figs. 8, 9).

Thecla Church Project

Architect Jay Heidel continued his documentation, study, data entry, and collation of blocks from a dismantled sixth-century AD basilica (“The Church of St. Thecla”) in front of the Luxor pylons, thanks to a gift from Nassef Sawiris. Jay identified, drew (with AutoCAD), and reconstructed on paper twenty-two blocks from Arch 1 of the sanctuary (fig. 10). Four of these decorated voussoir blocks exhibiting salt-related staining were desalinated by Hiroko using acid-free paper-pulp poultices and distilled water. This arch, blocks from a second decorated arch, associated granite columns,

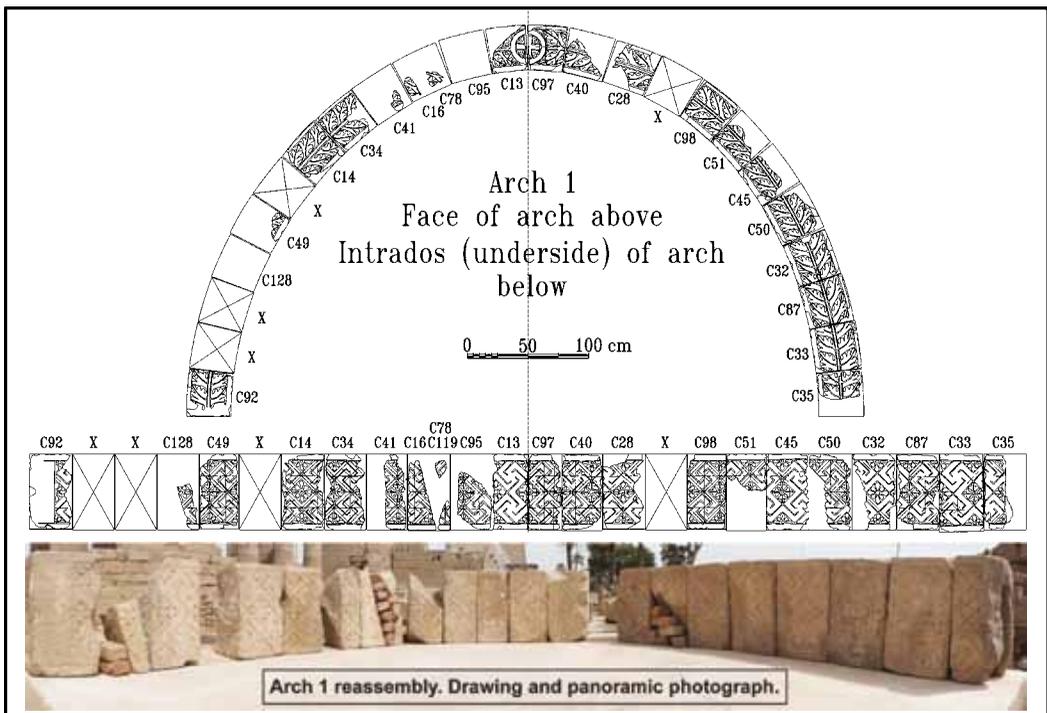


Figure 10. Thecla Church Arch 1 reconstruction drawing (AutoCAD) and photo montage by Jay Heidel, March 14

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

sandstone capitals, and painted apse blocks will be studied for possible reconstruction on the in situ lower walls and foundations of the site, along with the other blocks (138 total so far) from the church sanctuary.

Luxor Temple Structural Condition Study

This season structural engineer Conor Power continued his condition study of the Luxor Temple structure and found that the temple continues to be stable, with no discernible movement or destabilization of the Ramesses II pylons or Colonnade Hall columns. Based on a comparison with photographs taken in the year 2000, Conor found that there continues to be a noticeable reduction of moisture levels in the temple, and that moisture wicking has subsided. His conclusion is that the USAID-sponsored groundwater lowering engineering project, activated in 2006, continues to have a positive effect on Luxor Temple with an overall reduction of salt efflorescence and moisture levels in the structure, and can be deemed a great success.

Khonsu Temple

In February/March, Chicago House continued recording reused blocks in the floors and foundations of Khonsu Temple in cooperation with the American Research Center in Egypt (as part of its USAID-funded Luxor East Bank Groundwater Lowering Response Project). The Khonsu team consisted of artists Keli Alberts and Krisztián Vértés, along with epigraphers Jen Kimpton and Brett McClain (fig. 11), director Ray Johnson, and MSA inspector Mr. Salah el-Masekh. The main area this year for floor restoration was Room II. The north half of this chamber held a number of pieces, the recording of which had not been possible during previous seasons, the most significant of which was a large block bearing a name frieze of Ramesses II (fig. 12), usurped from an earlier (Eighteenth Dynasty) *kheker* frieze. Keli Alberts focused on copying the blocks in this room using 1:1 tracings on foil and/or plastic; several small loose fragments from this

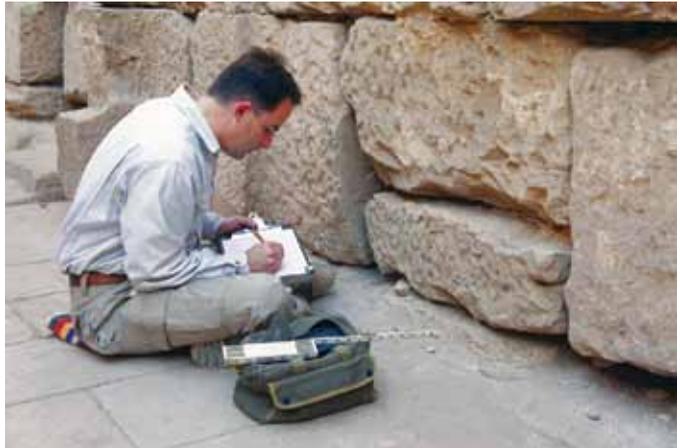


Figure 11. Brett collating a reused block. Khonsu Temple, March 7

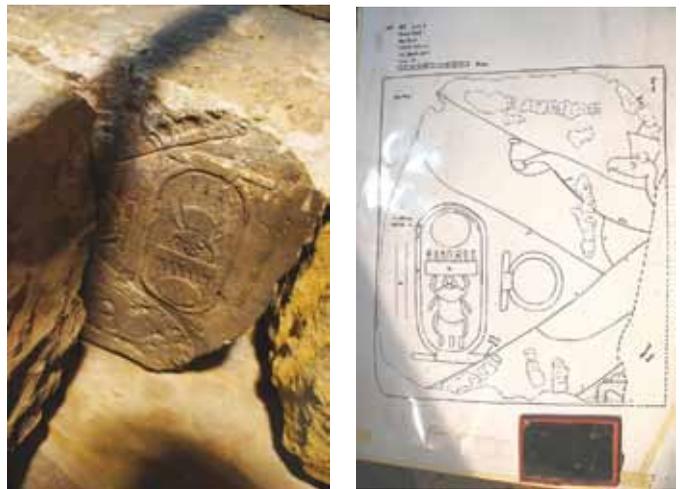


Figure 12. Left: Reused Thutmose IV name-frieze block. Room VII, Khonsu Temple. Right: Keli's drawing of the Thutmose IV name-frieze block

area were also documented. Also completed were fragments in the Bark Shrine, in Rooms III, IV, V, and VII, and on the outside wall of Room X, noted in previous seasons. Krisztián Vértés and Keli Alberts documented these pieces, while Jen Kimpton, aside from supervising the on-site work and record keeping, also copied another in situ block in Room III, and continued her isometric drawings of each block using Adobe Illustrator.

We took the opportunity to fill in other minor gaps in our record of blocks from previous seasons, including measurements, isometric drawings, and digital photographs still needed for several fragments. Tina Di Cerbo and Richard Jasnow continued their study of the two inked hieratic graffiti texts found by the American Research Center (ARCE) and MSA conservators in the Khonsu Temple court, high on the west wall and adjacent column.

Chicago House

The Marjorie M. Fisher Library, Chicago House

The Chicago House Marjorie M. Fisher Library opened for the season on October 24, 2011, and closed on April 10, 2012, under the capable direction of Librarian Marie Bryan (fig. 13) assisted by Anait Helmhoz. During that period we had 881 library users, up 103 (13.2%) from

the previous season. We noted a significant increase in use this season, especially by Egyptian graduate students working on advanced degrees, very heartwarming to see. 205 titles (216 volumes) were added to the library collection, of which 99 were monographs/books, 72 were journals, 28 were series volumes, 3 were pamphlets, and 3 were parts of sets. A total of 74 of these were gifts; donors included Peppy Bath, Ken Ostrand, Zbigniew Sfransky, and Marie herself. Sincerest thanks to all who donated books. Some 190 volumes were repaired during the season by Anait, and 25 spine labels were repaired or replaced. Oriental Institute Visiting Committee member Andrea Dudek returned in November and March to kindly assist with the conversion of the collection from the old Chicago House library classification system to the Library of Congress system. Her efforts combined with Marie's and Anait's resulted in a grand total of 1,422 titles/1,719 volumes that were completely converted this season, a real record. Thanks to Andrea's inestimable help, we expect to be able to complete the conversion process next season.



Figure 13. Librarian Marie Bryan at work

The Tom and Linda Heagy Photographic Archives

Photo Archives Registrar Ellie Smith registered 251 large-format photographs generated this season at Medinet Habu and Luxor temples, entered them in the Chicago House Photo Archives database, coordinated the packing of duplicate negatives for the Oriental Institute (with Tina), and assisted Yarko in the field with the large-format photography itself. Ellie also

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

very generously donated forty-four archival boxes for the storage of our Metropolitan Museum of Art historic photograph collection of Theban Tombs and temples: ninety-nine Nobles Tombs, ten Royal Tombs, and eight west bank temples (fig. 14). The collection is now more accessible and better protected at the same time; thank you, Ellie, for this great gift.

Yarko was responsible for this season's site photography as well as photographic drawing enlargement production, collation blueprint production, bleaching of finished inked drawings, and archiving/processing our digital reference photographs with Tina. Yarko also digitally photographed tracings produced by Keli of reliefs of Thutmose III and Ramesses III hidden by later Ptolemaic walls at the small Amun temple of Medinet Habu, after which he digitally stitched them together for drawing enlargement production. Photo archivist Sue Lezon joined us in March for a review of the Photo Archives work with Ellie and checked 550 photographs that had been scanned by Tina (including most of this season's output) for accuracy and clarity. Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudès worked for three months in the new year and joined us in Luxor for two weeks in March, tweaking our master Chicago House Photo Archives database, entering more Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple documentation, enlarging/refining the Helen and Jean Jacquet database, and working the bugs out of the Chicago House internal wireless network system (fig. 15). Tina filled gaps in the data noted by Egyptologist Emmanuelle and corrected incorrectly labeled photo numbers where necessary. Architect Louis Elia Louis finished the redrawing of the Nelson key plans in AutoCAD of all the temple sites in Luxor for easier reference. 21,092 photographs are now recorded in the large-format photograph database, 2,537 references have been added to the database bibliography, and 751 PDF files are now part of the virtual library, 167 added this season. The Jacquet collection — spanning fifty years of archaeological work in Egypt and Nubia — is now made up of 7,449 records, including more than 1,000 slides scanned by Tina and Sue, with more to come. This season the Chicago House Special Collection archive, 796 glass plate negatives mostly produced by Attaya Gaddis and Girgis Seif between 1910

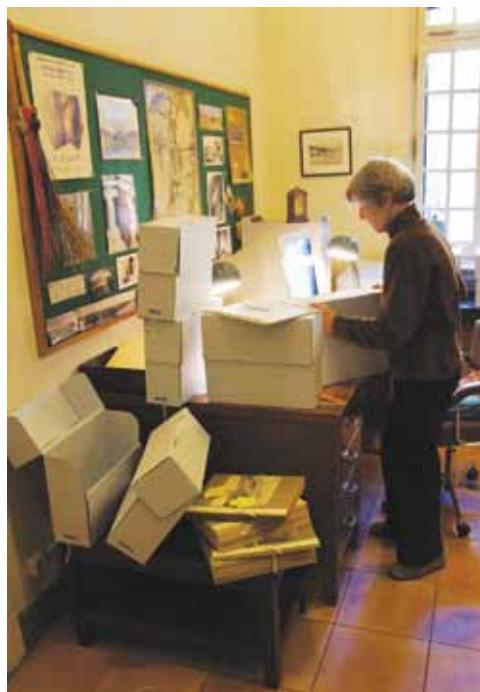


Figure 14. Ellie repackaging MMA photos. Tom and Linda Heagy Chicago House Photo Archives



Figure 15. Alain Arnaudès and Louis Elia Louis working on Photo Archives database maps. March 24

and 1930 were scanned by Tina and added to the database by the Arnaudière. Working with Tina, Alain streamlined access to the 15 TB Lacie network external storage drive, where the Photographic Archives and the digital library are now available internally.

Chicago House

Work got off to a bang before we even arrived in Luxor on October 15, 2011. From October 10 to 11, new U.S. ambassador to Egypt Anne Patterson and new USAID Egypt director Walter North were in Luxor for the formal inauguration of the USAID Egypt-funded west bank dewatering program (activated the previous year) with our MSA/SCA Cairo and Luxor and ARCE colleagues. Since this event occurred before the team's arrival back in Luxor, Tina – who with the Chicago House workmen was supervising the reopening the house for our



Figure 16. Chicago House professional staff 2011–2012 group photo, by Sue Lezon and Yarko Kobylecky. Back row, left to right: Hiroko Kariya (conservator), Ellie Smith (photo archives registrar), Julia Schmied (epigrapher), Krisztián Vértés (Egyptologist/artist), Andrea Dudek (library volunteer), Keli Alberts (artist); 2nd row from top, left to right: Tina Di Cerbo (epigrapher/artist), Jen Kimpton (epigrapher), Marie Bryan (librarian), Anait Helmholz (librarian), Frank Helmholz (stonemason), Margaret De Jong (senior artist), Girgis Samwell (chief engineer); 3rd row from top, left to right: Brett McClain (senior epigrapher), Jay Heidel (architect/artist), Ray Johnson (director), Nidaa el Sayed, Samir Guindy (administrator); Bottom row, left to right: Lotfi Hassan (conservator), Joia Andraus, Nahed Samir Andraus (conservator), Bismalla el Sayed, Essam el Sayed (senior accountant) and son Abdel Rahman, Samwell Maher (assistant administrator), Sue Lezon (photo archivist/photographer), and Yarko Kobylecky (photographer)

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

return — kindly acted as Chicago House representative and accompanied the party, showing them our work at Luxor and Karnak temples. Tina was also successful in convincing the army engineers who were finishing off the new Corniche pedestrian area outside of Chicago House to put in new soil, grass, and trees in front of our front gate instead of bare concrete. Thank you, Tina! Senior accountant Essam El Sayed, administrator Samir Guindy, and assistant administrator Samwell Maher very capably monitored the Chicago House finances this season. Essam's duties involve not only tracking and recording all expenses recorded by Samir, but also regularly reporting to USAID and the University of Chicago — monthly and quarterly — on our grants and accounts. He also arranges, prepares for (with Samir), and supervises our annual audit each July. Congratulations to him on a very good year — his first full year working with us — and to him and Nidaa on the birth of their third child, little Salsabeel, just before this year's audit!

The Epigraphic Survey professional staff this season, besides the director, consisted of J. Brett McClain as senior epigrapher, with Jen Kimpton, Christina Di Cerbo, and Christian Greco as epigraphers; Boyo Ockinga and Susanne Binder as archaeologist/epigraphers; Margaret De Jong, Susan Osgood, Krisztián Vértés, and Keli Alberts as artists; Julia Schmied as blockyard supervisor; Jay Heidel as architect/artist; Yarko Kobylecky as staff photographer; Susan Lezon as photo archivist and photographer; Elinor Smith as photo archives registrar and photography assistant; Carlotta Maher as assistant to the director; Essam El Sayed as senior accountant; Samir Guindy as administrator; Samwell Maher as administrative assistant; Marie Bryan as librarian; Anait Helmholz as librarian assistant; Frank Helmholz as master mason; Lotfi K. Hassan as Medinet Habu conservation supervisor; Nahed Samir Andraus and Mohamed Abou El Makarem as conservators at Medinet Habu; and Hiroko Kariya as conservation supervisor at Luxor Temple. Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudière worked on the Chicago House Digital Archives database, Louis Elia Louis Hanna worked as database architect, Conor Power worked as structural engineer, Helen Jacquet-Gordon and Jean Jacquet continued to consult with us from Geneva, and Girgis Samwell worked with us as chief engineer (fig. 16).

To the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities and Supreme Council of Antiquities we owe sincerest thanks for another productive collaboration this season: especially to Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, Minister of State for Antiquities; Dr. Mustafa Amin, chairman of the SCA; Dr. Mohamed Ismail, general director of foreign missions; Dr. Abdel Hamid Maruf, head of the Pharaonic Sector for the SCA; Dr. Mohamed El Bially, general director of Upper Egypt; Dr. Mansour Boraik, general director of Luxor and southern Upper Egypt; Dr. Mohamed Abdel Azziz, general director for the West Bank of Luxor; and Dr. Mohamed Assem, deputy director of Luxor; Mr. Ibrahim Suleiman, director of Karnak Temple; Mr. Sultan Eid, director of Luxor Temple; and Mme. Sanaa, director of the Luxor Museum. Special thanks must go to our inspectors this season, with whom it was a great pleasure to work, all noted above. It is another pleasure to acknowledge the many friends of the Oriental Institute whose loyal support allows Chicago House to maintain its documentation, conservation, and restoration programs in Luxor. Special thanks must go to the American ambassador to Egypt, the Honorable Anne Patterson; former American ambassador to Egypt Margaret Scobey; Andrew Mitchell, Cultural Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy; Walter North, director of the United States Agency for International Development in Egypt, and former directors Jim Bever, Hilda (Bambi) Arellano; Ken Ellis; and Bill Pearson; Dr. Marjorie M. Fisher; David and Carlotta Maher; O. J. and Angie Sopranos; Misty and Lewis Gruber; Nassef Sawiris; Mark Rudkin; Dr. Barbara Mertz; Daniel Lindley and Lucia Woods Lindley; Eric and Andrea Colombel; Piers and Jenny Litherland; Dr.

Fred Giles; Tom Van Eynde; Helen and Jean Jacquet; Marjorie B. Kiewit; Nancy N. Lassalle; Tom and Linda Heagy; Shafik Gabr, ARTOC Group, Cairo; Judge and Mrs. Warren Siegel; Stephen Lash; John Barbie; Barbara Breasted Whitesides and George Whitesides; Miriam Reitz Baer; Andrea Dudek; Khalil and Beth Noujaim; James Lichtenstein; Jack Josephson and Magda Saleh; the Secchia family; Emily Fine; Nan Ray; Anna White; Janet and Karim Mostafa; Waheeb and Christine Kamil; Caroline Lynch; Polly Kelly; Howard and Diane Zumsteg; Louise Grunwald; Lowri Lee Sprung; Andrew Nourse and Patty Hardy, Kate Pitcairn; Drs. Francis and Lorna Straus; Donald Oster (who, sadly, passed away this year); Dr. William Kelly Simpson; Dr. Ben Harer; Dr. Roxie Walker; Tony and Lawrie Dean; Mr. Charles L. Michod Jr; Dr. Gerry Scott, Kathleen Scott, Mary Sadek, Amira Khattab, and Jane Smythe of the American Research Center in Egypt; Dr. Michael Jones of the Egyptian Antiquities Conservation Project; and all of our friends and colleagues at the Oriental Institute. Special thanks must go to Tom Urban, Leslie Schramer, and Zuhail Kuru of the Oriental Institute Publications Department for their inestimable help with the *Chicago House Bulletin* and the Epigraphic Survey publication program. I must also express our special gratitude to USAID Egypt, British Petroleum, the Getty Grant Program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, LaSalle National Bank, Mobil Oil, Coca-Cola Egypt (Atlantic Industries), Vodafone Egypt, and the World Monuments Fund (and especially Robert Wilson) for their support of our work. Sincerest thanks to you all!

ADDRESSES OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

October through March:

Chicago House
 Luxor
 Arab Republic of Egypt
 tel. (011) (20) (95) 237-2525
 fax. (011) (20) (95) 238-1620

April through September:

The Oriental Institute
 1155 East 58th Street
 Chicago, IL 60637
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THE GIZA PLATEAU MAPPING PROJECT

Mark Lehner

Ancient Egypt Research Associates (AERA)

The Giza Plateau Mapping Project currently works at two sites at Giza: the Heit el-Ghurab (HeG) settlement, 300 meters south of the Sphinx, and the Menkaure Valley Temple (MVT) –Khentkawes Town (KKT) complex (fig. 1). After a study season in 2010, we resumed excavations at all three sites in 2011 and again in 2012. At the southern end of HeG, we discovered a previously unknown enclosure, possibly a cattle corral and abattoir. At KKT we finished re-clearing and mapping the upper, northern part of the settlement that Selim Hassan excavated in 1932 (1943). East of KKT we uncovered the “Silo Building Complex” (SBC), consisting of silos, bakeries, and a residence, which may have functioned into the Fifth Dynasty. At the MVT we re-cleared and documented the eastern part of the temple for the first time since George Reisner’s 1910 excavations (1931).

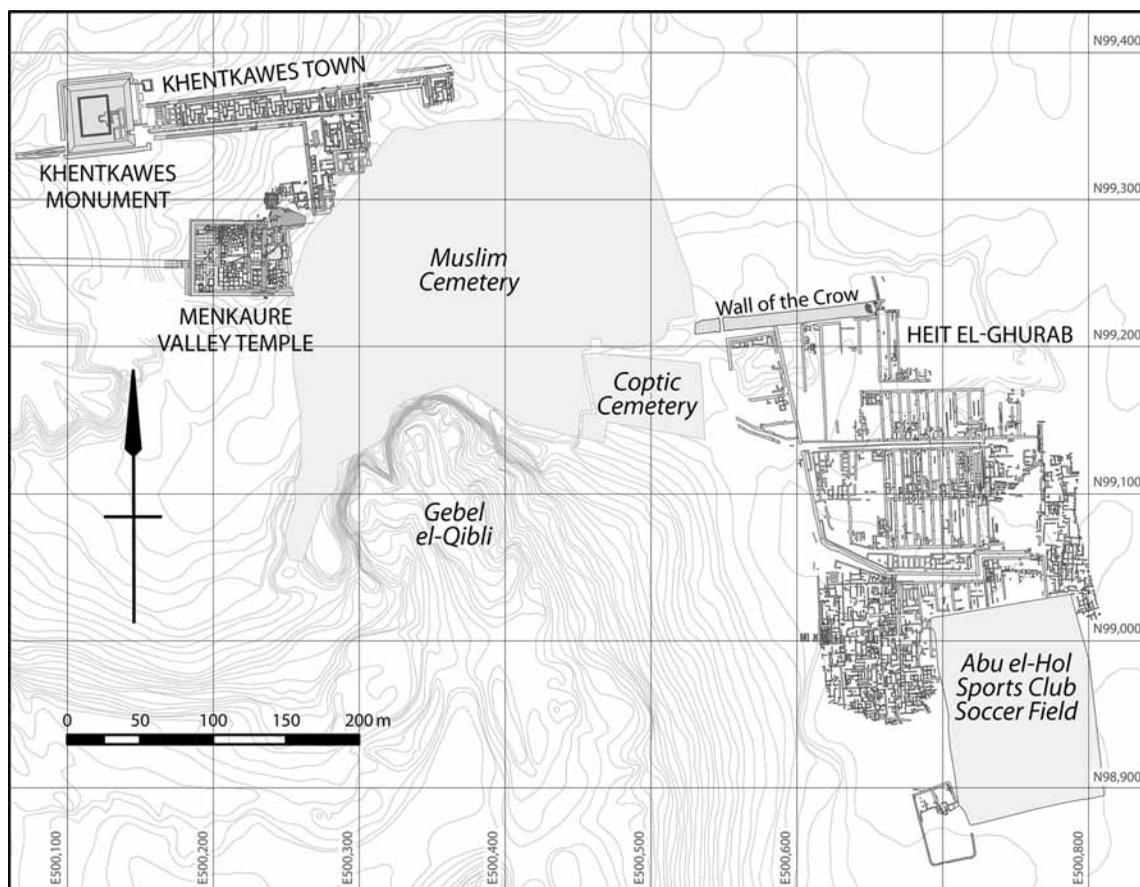


Figure 1. Plan of the southeastern base of the Giza Plateau showing the Khentkawes Town and Monument, the Menkaure Valley Temple, and the Heit el-Ghurab site, by Rebekah Miracle, AERA GIS

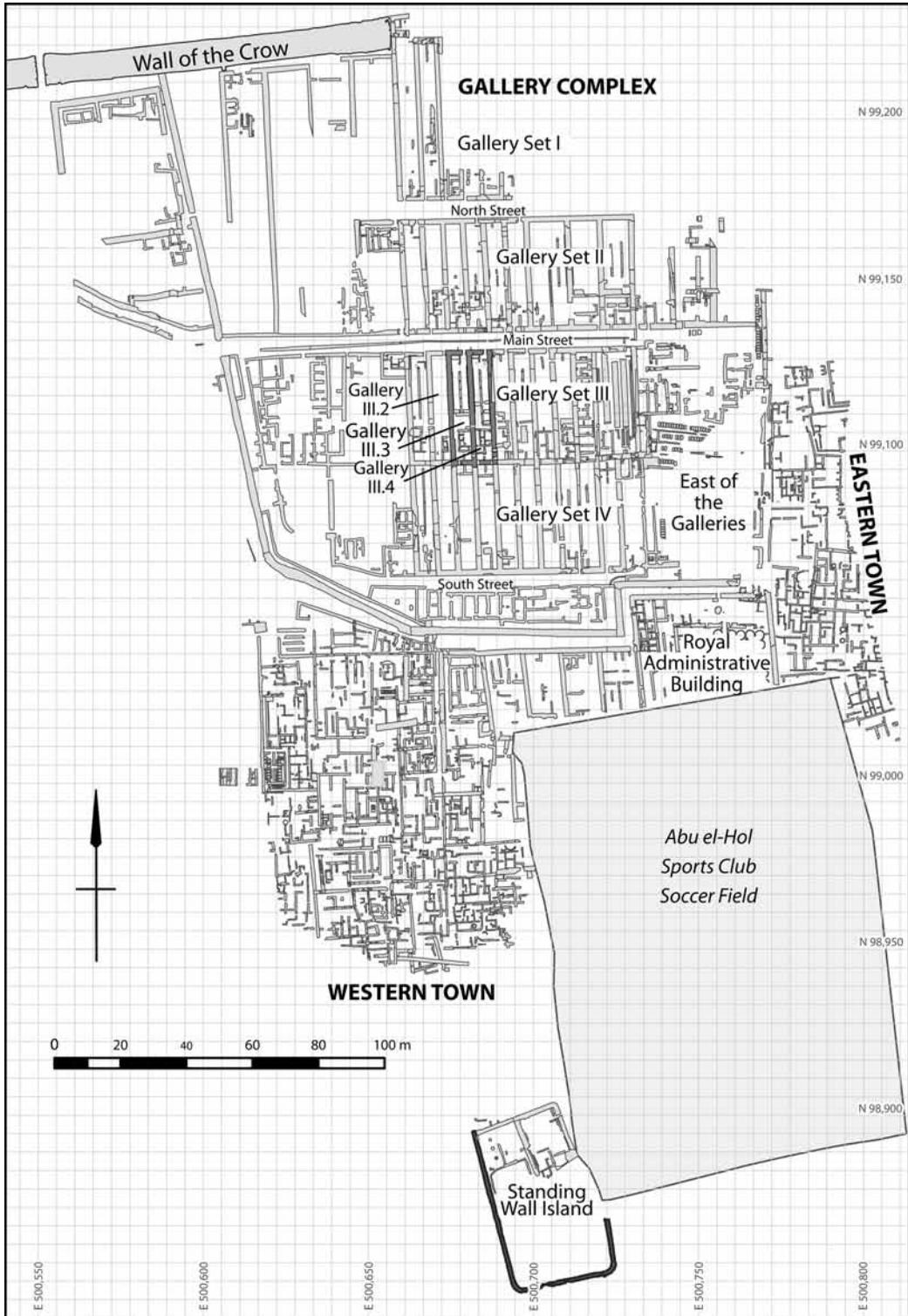


Figure 2. Plan of Heit el-Ghurab settlement site, May 2012, by Rebekah Miracle, AERA GIS

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Co-field directors Mohsen Kamel and Ana Tavares oversaw the work, which ran from January 10 to May 31, 2011, and January 8 to March 29, 2012.

Heit el-Ghurab Site

Standing Wall Island (SWI): An Old Kingdom Corral?

Since 2006, ground water saturated “Standing Wall Island” (SWI), so named because parts of the fieldstone walls stand a meter or more high and the complex is wedged between two large sand-filled depressions, “Lagoons 1 and 2” (figs. 2, 3). But in 2011, pumps installed by a Cairo University team for the Supreme Council of Antiquities lowered the water enough that we could excavate and resume clearing the overburden, which we had begun in 2004. Simon Davis and Nagwan Bahaa el-Hadedi supervised the excavations.

In 2004 we cleared and mapped the SWI walls that showed in the ruin surface, without excavating intact ancient deposits (Lehner, Kamel, and Tavares 2009, pp. 39–44). Thick field stonewalls comprised two enclosures, ES1 and ES2, that appeared to open to the south. The west wall (Wall 2) of the complex continued south along the western side of Lagoon 2 beyond the enclosures and beyond the limit of our clearing. We did not know if the “lagoons” are vestiges of ancient embayments, possibly harbors, or the result of post-occupation erosion. We wondered if SWI formed a southern portal into the HeG settlement.

In 2011, as we followed Wall 2 south using mechanical excavators to remove overburden, we discovered that it wraps around a large area of about 1,020 square meters, enclosing Lagoon 2. On the northeast (where it disappears under the soccer field) it appears to pass to the east of SWI, creating a corridor.

Faunal analyst Richard Redding saw in the rounded corners of this enclosure (figs. 3, 4) evidence of an animal corral. Redding noted that

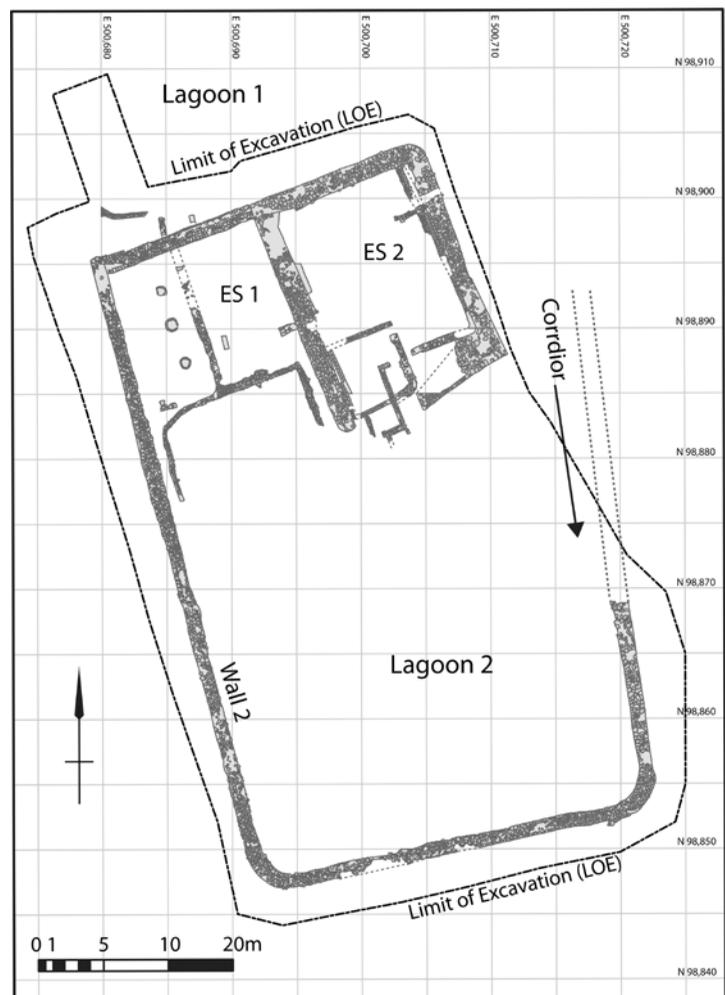


Figure 3. Plan of the Standing Wall Island (SWI) complex after 2011 excavations, by Rebekah Miracle, AERA GIS



Figure 4. Aerial shot of Standing Wall Island (SWI) and the large southern enclosure. Note the people near Wall 2 (toward the top of the photo) for a sense of scale. View to the west-southwest. Photo by Hilary McDonald

contemporary cattle enclosures often feature rounded corners. Cattle will follow a rounded wall, but freeze when confronting a corner (Grandin 2007, p. 85). The corridor east of SWI forms a chute that could have been used for herding cattle into the enclosure. The low, enclosing wall would have been suitable for an animal pen, especially if it had been topped with brush.

Redding pointed out that cattle herders across Africa use round corrals, some with rock walls topped with brush (for example, Mack, Maggs, and Oswald 1991; Greenfield, Fowler, and van Schalwyk 2005, p. 318). He also noted archaeological examples of rounded corrals, such as the two depicted on the Narmer Mace-head (Shaw 2000, p. 4) and the one shown on a New Kingdom block in the Karnak open-air museum (Anus 1971, fig. 3). The earliest known Egyptian structures thought to be livestock pens are found in Sixth Dynasty levels at Kom el-Hisn (Wenke 2009, p. 119).

We further hypothesize that people butchered cattle in ES1, which opened into the corral and probably stood mostly unroofed. Ancient Egyptian abattoirs included an enclosed open-air space for slaughtering and butchering, rooms with chopping blocks and cooking facilities, and magazines (Arnold 2005, p. 15). ES2 may have contained processing rooms and magazines. Mudbrick walls divide ES2 into small rooms, which we did not excavate in 2011.

So far, the pottery from SWI dates to the late Fourth Dynasty. We were keen to test the abattoir hypothesis during our 2012 field season, with more extensive excavation and analysis of the objects, lithics, and fauna. However, this year the pumping system shut down while the Arab contractors for the Ministry of State for Antiquities installed a comprehensive USAID-funded system, designed by the American firm AECOM. The ground water rose again, temporarily, putting excavation in SWI on hold.

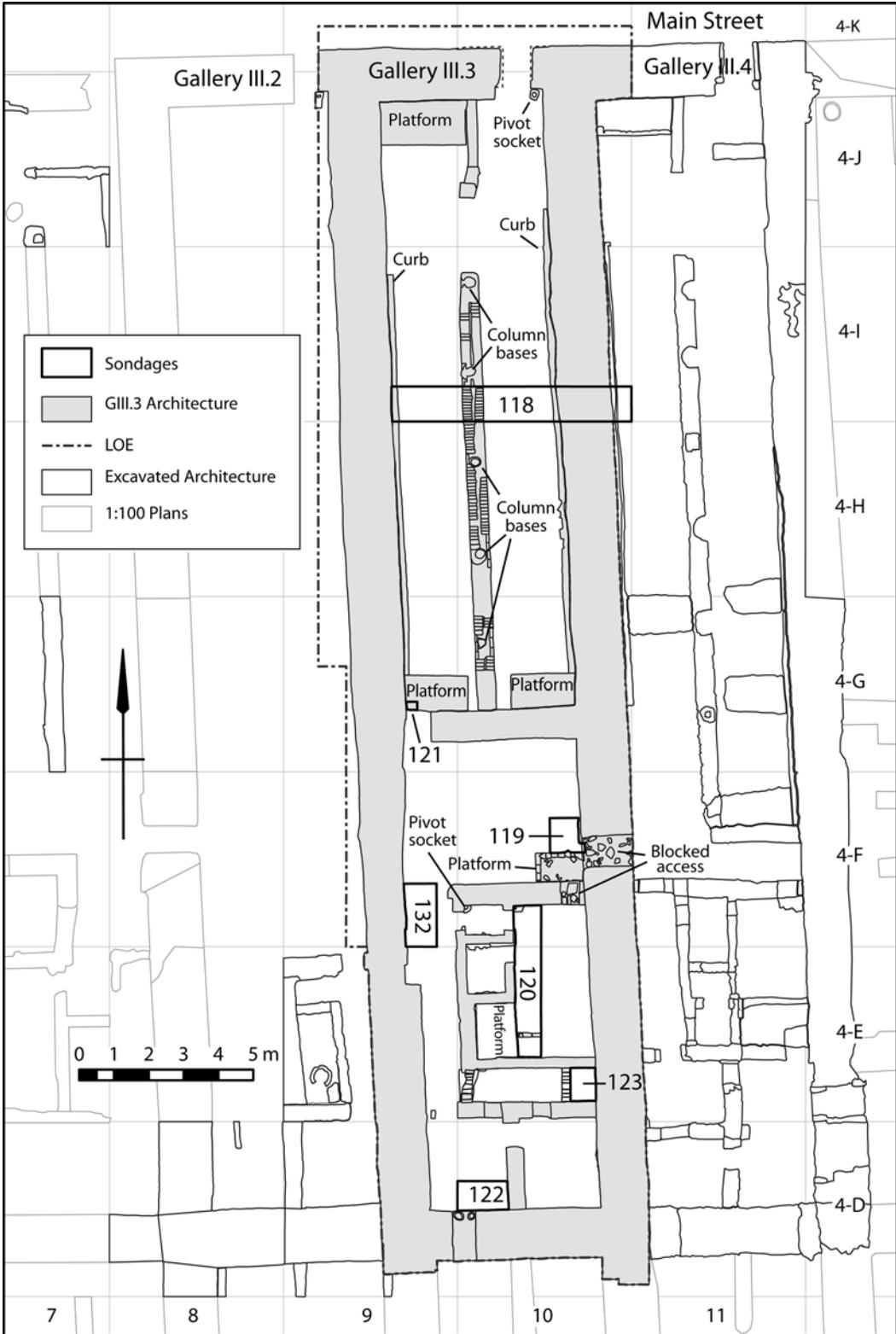


Figure 5. Plan of Gallery III.3 showing location of the 2012 test trenches, by Rebekah Miracle, AERA GIS

Sampling Another Gallery: GIII.3

The 2012 season saw a return to the Gallery Complex. Four large blocks of elongated structures, 34.5 meters long, separated by streets form the central feature of the HeG (fig. 2). In 2002 when we excavated one entire gallery, Gallery III.4 (fourth from the west in block 3), and found sleeping platforms in a long, open forecourt with a house-like structure in the rear (south), we hypothesized that the galleries served as barracks for groups under an overseer residing in the rear chambers (Lehner 2002, pp. 49–52).

In 2012 Ashraf Abd el-Aziz and Dan Jones supervised excavations in the adjacent gallery, Gallery III.3 (GIII.3). We chose GIII.3 partly because team members had already dug portions of the rear chambers and the northern section in previous seasons. In addition to garnering evidence on the galleries' functions, we wanted to compare the layout of GIII.3 with that of GIII.4 and with what we know of other galleries based on partial, isolated excavations and from walls showing in the ruin surface. Although the galleries share some standard features, they also differ. In addition, we wanted to examine the foundations of the principal walls and investigate how a single gallery changed over time. We excavated GIII.4 to only the latest phase of use.

While we could not excavate the entire GIII.3 through all phases, we targeted seven sondages, three of which exposed the base of the main gallery walls. Trenches 118 and 119 (fig. 5) revealed that the main walls were founded on relatively clean sand. Trench 123 showed cuts and fills of charcoal and pottery fragments.



Figure 6. Galleries III.3 and III.4 following excavation. Gallery III.4, excavated in 2002, was cleared of the backfill to reveal its layout and for comparisons with Gallery III.3. View to the south. Photo by Yasser Mahmoud

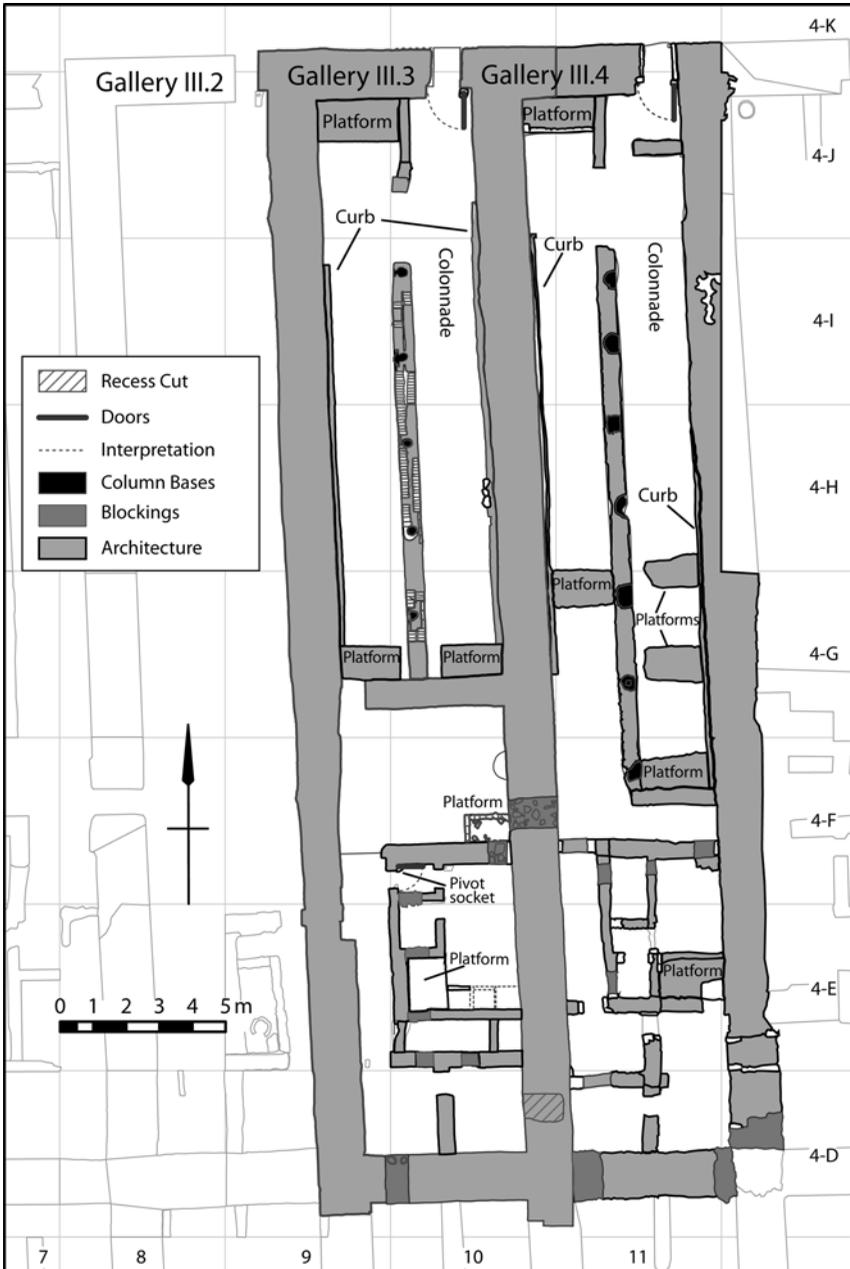


Figure 7. Plan comparing Galleries III.3 and III.4, by Rebekah Miracle, AERA GIS

These trenches are important in light of the extensive evidence we have of older-phase occupation: architecture below the area east of the galleries and under the so-called Royal Administrative Building (Lehner 2006, pp. 58–60, 2008, pp. 59–64), near the Wall of the Crow traces of an early Gallery I.1 (Lehner 2002, pp. 52–53), and in GIII.2, traces of older phase features cut by the trench for GIII.3’s western wall (Lehner 1999, p. 69).

So we were keen to know if Gallery Set III replaced an older layout, possibly an older block of galleries. We could not excavate our 2012 probes much deeper than half a meter

because of the water table, but they do not show older gallery walls, although we have evidence of an older occupation to the west. Builders may have spread the sand at the base of the eastern wall as a bedding for the foundation.

GIII.3, like GIII.4, features an entrance at the northeast corner into a small foyer; a platform in the northwest corner, which we interpret as a sleeping platform for a guard; a 14-centimeter-high bench running along the long center axis of an open hall or colonnade, with holes and limestone pads for columns; a row of single brick stretchers forming a curb along the bases of the sidewalls; a rise in foundation level from front to back; and two possible sleeping platforms, at the south end of the hall (figs. 6, 7).

Trench 118 across the colonnade showed that the low central bench dates to the oldest floor levels. This differs from excavations in Gallery Sets 1 and 2, which revealed that the earliest floors of some galleries lacked the central bench. Perhaps the blocks were built starting on the north, and over time the design developed such that when Block 3 was added, the low wall — implying the colonnade — had become standard.

We knew before our 2012 work that GIII.3 differs from GIII.4. A thick fieldstone cross wall delimits the front colonnade to 17.50 meters in length, two column-intervals shorter than that of GIII.4. This wall was the only one bonded into a gallery frame wall, indicating it was part of the initial design. South of the cross wall an open space, 4.0 x 4.9 meters, featured a doorway in the southeast corner allowing access to GIII.4. The opening was blocked at some point and a low, flat platform was built in front of it.

The southern part of GIII.3 resembles a residence, as in GIII.4; in fact, the northern walls of the domiciles align. Access to the front room in GIII.3 was via a small vestibule once closed with a door, as evidenced by a pivot socket. In GIII.4 a sloped platform in the southern end of the front room may have served as a bed platform. In GIII.3 a level platform was created in the alcove on the west side of the space, but was probably too small for sleeping.

In both GIII.3 and GIII.4, a corridor leads south past the core “residence” to the back where people used fire, probably for preparing food, as in the rear spaces in other galleries. Instead of the four roughly symmetrical chambers in GIII.4, GIII.3’s corridor gives access to a narrow chamber oriented east-west and two rear chambers. The floor of the corridor was trenched in ancient times along the west wall, probably to remove the large casing bricks.

In the narrow chamber, the latest floor, featuring a raised platform at the east end, included seven hearths, which scorched the walls. Clay-lined holes in a lower floor may have served as sockets for bread pots or storage jars. A door through the north wall once opened onto the platform in the front room, but this opening, and two through the southern wall, were blocked at some point.

The western rear chamber was a bakery, as evidenced by remains of a baking pit: round cuts and re-cuttings for bead molds, concentrated ash, and charcoal. The eastern rear chamber was also used for cooking. Here we excavated down to a dark ashy sloping surface that might have been the side of a baking pit. In the northeast corner, we found traces of a possible vat emplacement, a circular depression, 40 to 45 centimeters wide.

The residence was probably the most active area of the gallery. Our trenches here revealed six to seven different superimposed floors, whereas Trench 118 across the colonnade showed only one floor.

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Khentkawes Complex and the Menkaure Valley Temple

KKT-E (East of Khentkawes): A Fifth Dynasty Silo Building Complex

In 2009, in the area we call KKT-E (Khentkawes Town East), we excavated the northwest corner of a monumental valley complex built in limestone quarry debris and mudbrick (fig. 8). A corridor ran east beyond our clearing between the Northern Enclosure Wall, an extension of the wall bounding Khentkawes Town, which Selim Hassan excavated in 1932 (1943), and a terrace along a deep basin on the south (Lehner 2010, pp. 54–56).

The Khentkawes Basin: Northeast Corner

During 2011 we continued clearing east (KKT-E+) and exposed the enclosure wall and the corridor wall running straight east, reduced by erosion to a height of only a few centimeters. The corridor ended at a niche, where the enclosure wall turned south and ran 17.69 meters enclosing the eastern side of the basin. We also found remains of the thin mudbrick wall retaining the edge of the basin (figs. 9, 10), allowing us to finally determine the basin's east-west width: 37.20 meters. Daniel Jones and Kasia Olchowska supervised the 2011 work.

Enclosures Back to Back

East of the basin, under 8 meters of sand, walls showing in the surface of the settlement ruins signaled a rectangular building containing round silos and possibly a court and magazines. We suggested that the niche at the end of the corridor might have been an access to this

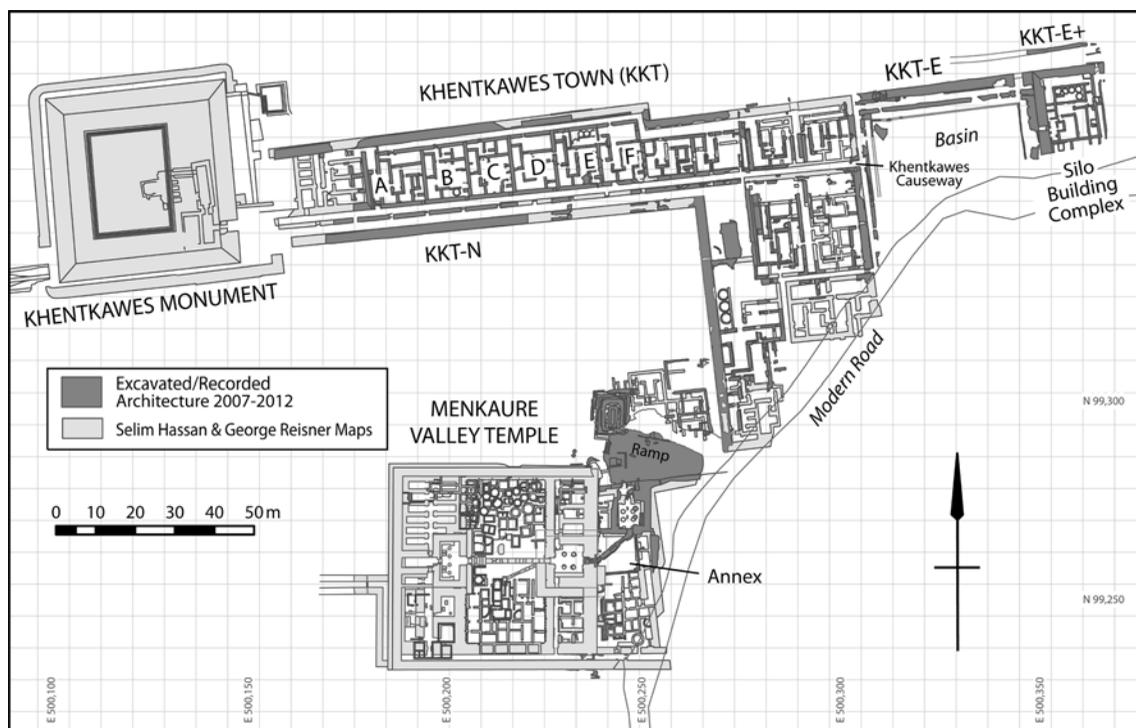


Figure 8. Plan of the Khentkawes Monument, Khentkawes Town, and Menkaure Valley Temple. The figure shows the combined maps published by Selim Hassan (1943) and George Reisner (1931) with our 2007 through 2012 excavations. Plan by Rebekah Miracle, AERA GIS

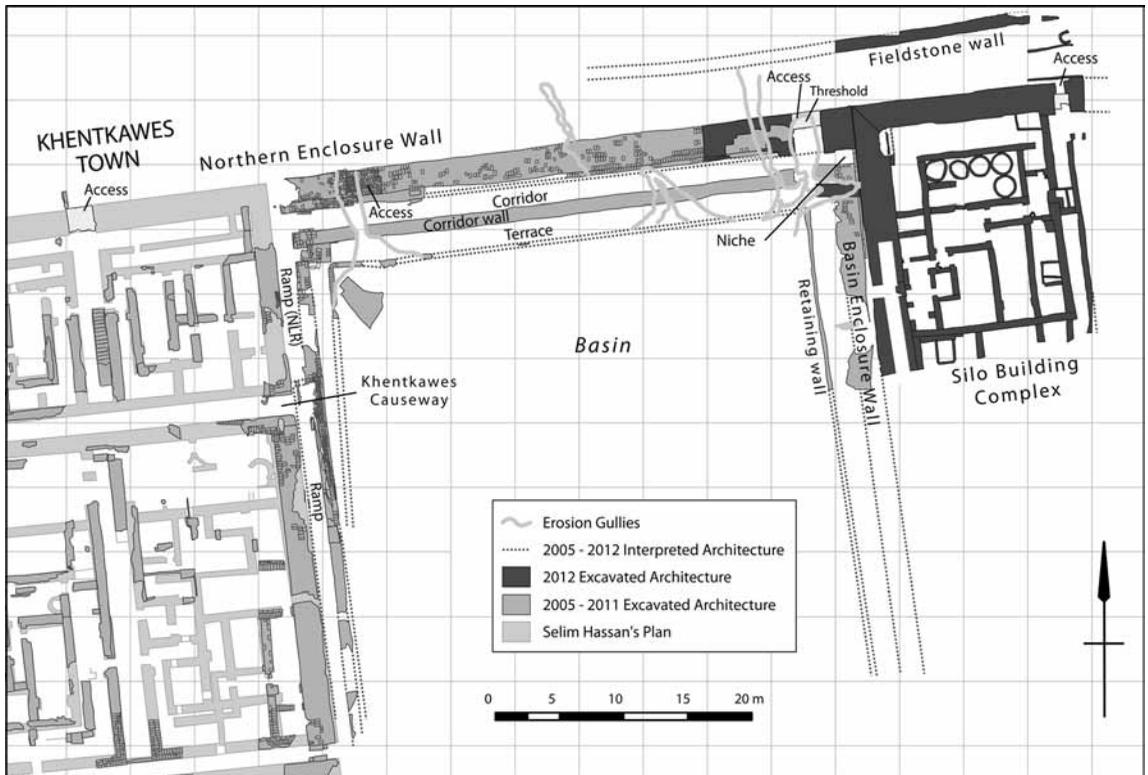


Figure 9. Plan of KKT-E and KKT-E+ 2005 through 2012 excavations, by Rebekah Miracle, AERA GIS



Figure 10. The 2011 field season in progress at Khentkawes Town. In the foreground workers clear KKT-E+. The basin, the approach ramps, stairs, and corridors to the Khentkawes Town appear in the background. The Khentkawes Monument stands to the west. View to the west. Photo by Mark Lehner

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layout, which I dubbed the “Silo Building Complex” (SBC). In 2012 we excavated to test this idea, with Rabee Eissa and Hussein el-Rikaby supervising the work.

Given that the basin enclosure walls were preserved to only a few centimeters on a foundation of compact limestone debris, we expected to find only the lowest centimeters of the SBC walls. But the limestone debris was banked up against the face of an older enclosure wall that wrapped around the SBC on its west and north sides. The SBC walls were founded at a deeper level. Some stood a meter high (fig. 11). The newly found enclosure around the SBC predates the Khentkawes basin, but the SBC postdates these walls. We do not know what existed in this corner before the SBC, and as of yet we have no direct stratigraphic link between the SBC and the Khentkawes basin enclosure. However, sealings and ceramics indicate that people used the SBC into the middle of the Fifth Dynasty, so it likely postdates the Khentkawes Valley Complex.

We do not know how high the older enclosure wall stood when Khentkawes builders created the basin enclosure up against it. If the older wall was eroded to the level we found it, then the niche at the end of the corridor might have been an access and step down into the SBC. On the other hand, people could have accessed the basin enclosure at the end of the corridor through a wide opening with a limestone threshold at the eastern end of the Northern Enclosure Wall. The southern wall of the corridor appears to end here, suggesting that the formal access continued across the corridor and down to the basin on the south.



Figure 11. The Silo Building Complex during excavations. Beyond (left), groundwater floods the ancient basin during March 2012. In the far left background stands the Khentkawes Monument and behind it, Menkaure's Pyramid. Khafre's Pyramid dominates the center background, while the southeastern foot of the Khufu Pyramid appears on the far right. View to the northwest. Photo by Mark Lehner

We know of two other entryways into the Khentkawes complex through the Northern Enclosure Wall. Another doorway with a limestone threshold opened at the eastern end of the older northern enclosure wall of the SBC (fig. 9). These four formal entryways signal the importance of access to the north, where high status people were developing the Fourth Dynasty quarry into a Fifth Dynasty necropolis.

Khafre's Pyramid Town in Niuserre's Reign?

What did the older walls around the SBC originally enclose? One possibility is the pyramid town of Khafre. Residents of pyramid towns, largely known from texts, served in the pyramid temples and endowments of deceased rulers. We found in one of the SBC silos a clay sealing inscribed "Overseer of the Pyramid, Great is Khafre." Khafre's cartouche appears horizontally above two serekhs of Niuserre, the king who ruled in the middle of the Fifth Dynasty, around 2,416 to 2,392 B.C., some fifty to sixty years after Menkaure (fig. 12). The title is well known from elite chapels attached to the great mastaba and rock-cut tombs on the high Giza plateau. But the sealing is not quite complete. Missing signs below could have completed, "Overseer of the Pyramid Town, Great is Khafre." The sealing could suggest that the older enclosure, with the SBC later tucked into its corner, could belong to the Pyramid Town for Khafre. Egyptologists have suggested that pyramid valley temples formed the focus of pyramid towns. However, the older enclosure wall forms a corner open to the southeast, while Khafre's Valley Temple stands only 60 meters to the northeast. Conceivably, the enclosure might take a turn in that direction under the sand beyond our clearing.



Figure 12. A clay sealing fragment from the fill of a silo in the Silo Building Complex with the title "Overseer of the Pyramid, Great is Khafre" between two serekhs of the Fifth Dynasty king Niuserre. Photo by Yaser Mahmoud

Other sealings from SBC bear the serekhs of Niuserre. John Nolan and Alexandra Witsell will study them in our coming 2013 field season.

The Silo Baking Complex?

We hypothesize that someone administrated an SBC establishment for high-volume bread (and possibly beer) production from Rooms E, P, and G (figs. 13, 14). Room G, oriented north-south, with pilasters at the south end forming a niche or bay, resembles what Felix Arnold (1998, pp. 12–13) proposed as the reception room in the houses at Khentkawes Town; here the master received visitors and conducted business (Lehner 2010, pp. 49–52). Rooms H, Q, and V yielded evidence of small-scale food preparation.

In contrast, evidence indicates industrial-scale production, most probably of bread but also perhaps beer, in Spaces A through L, along the north and east sides of the SBC. We found ashy floor deposits and low bins in Spaces A and M–L, a vat in Space N, and a circular emplacement in O, as well as bread molds and beer jars. Space B contained five silos, most probably for storing grain, very possibly assigned to the five *zau*, "phyles" of a Pyramid Town. I should note that we have not yet excavated down to the floor over most of the SBC.

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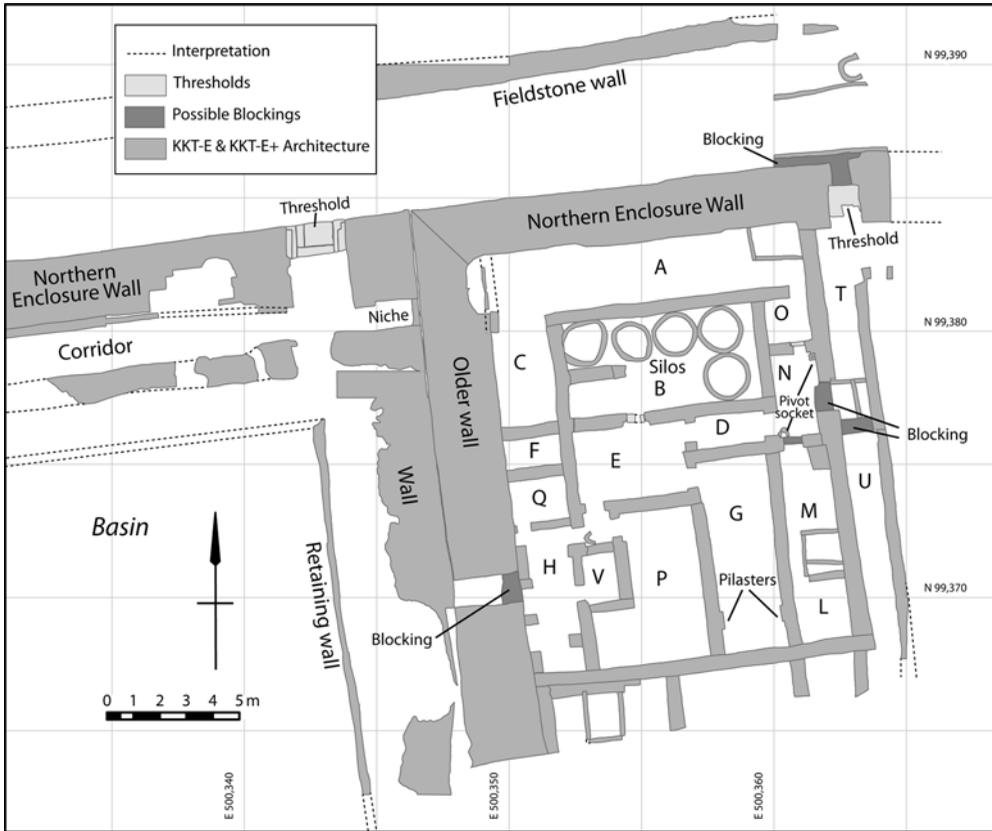


Figure 13. Plan of KKT-E+ and the Silo Building Complex, by Rebekah Miracle, AERA GIS



Figure 14. The Silo Building Complex at the end of the 2012 excavations. The rooms, or spaces, are labeled, as in figure 13. View to the north-northwest. Photo by Mark Lehner

Evidence of function derives so far only from clearing mudbrick debris from the collapse of the walls down to the latest occupation deposits or from small trenches down to floor level.

SBC Access Shut Down: Transfer between Cults?

The architecture within the massive older enclosure walls, opening to the southeast, continues east beyond our clearing. But in what we have so far mapped, it appears that people could only enter the SBC through a doorway with a limestone threshold at its northeast corner, thence through corridor T leading to an access through the eastern wall into Space N. At some point, people blocked this entrance shutting down the way into the SBC. So far, we see no other way into the SBC, unless through the niche at the end of the Khentkawes corridor, and then over the (low-standing?) broad wall of the older enclosure.

Perhaps people blocked the original SBC entrance to cut it off from the older complex extending east beyond our 2012 clearing, and to turn it over to the authority of the Khentkawes establishment? It would make sense that the SBC furnished offerings to the KKT (and Menkaure Valley Temple?) communities, storing grain and processing it into bread and beer.

In summary, we found the SBC at the end of that long corridor running east along the northern side of the Khentkawes basin. A ramp (NLR) once ascended from the western end of the corridor to the threshold of the Khentkawes causeway, which runs 150 meters west to the chapel in the queen's monument (fig. 8). Again, it would make Egyptological sense that the SBC produced offerings for the queen's cult and, thereby, everyone attached to her endowment.

But this interpretation stands against the evidence of the separate, but back to back, enclosures bounded by massive walls, which makes the question of access from one to the other critical: the issue of the niche at the end of the corridor, the original height of the SBC Enclosure Wall, and the timing of the SBC eastern blocking. We will investigate these issues in our next excavation season.

Resurvey and Documentation: The Menkaure Valley Temple and Khentkawes Town

Menkaure Valley Temple

Each season we re-clear and document another part of the Menkaure Valley Temple, excavated by George Reisner (1931) between 1908–10, and its eastern Annex, which Selim Hassan (1943) excavated in 1932. For decades the relationship between the Khentkawes Town (KKT) and the valley temple of the Menkaure Pyramid (MVT) has remained a curiosity. On the map they look like two ancient architectural footprints jamming into one another (fig. 8). Indeed Hassan thought that the Annex at the front of the MVT was the valley temple of Queen Khentkawes. Reisner recognized that the MVT had a complex history with building, renovation, and more building across dynasties. We now know that history included an expansion onto the Annex, which we studied in 2005 and 2008.

Between 2011 and 2012 we entered, for the first time in the 101 years since Reisner's excavations, the front, eastern one-third of the MVT (fig. 15). We targeted small excavation trenches to resolve the relationship between the MVT proper and the Annex, and also to clarify the complex phasing. Our results give more weight to the hypothesis that builders made the Annex terrace and enclosure soon after they had finished the main part of the MVT. It was possibly during the mid-Fifth Dynasty reign of Niuserre when builders returned

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Figure 15. 2012 operations in the eastern third of the Menkaure Valley Temple. A workman clears the southern enclosure wall, while others work on top of the massive eastern enclosure wall. In the background team members clear walls and floors in order to trace the construction history and phasing. Beyond the Menkaure Valley Temple, the Khentkawes Monument stands with the Khafre Pyramid rising behind. The Khufu Pyramid stands in the distance to the right. Photo by Mark Lehner

to rebuild and add limestone features to the MVT. Twin vestibules with identical sets of four round alabaster column bases, one opening east inside the eastern entrance of the MVT proper, the other opening north in the northern end of the Annex, may date to this time, some eighty years after the first temple was finished under Shepseskaf, but well before the “second temple” was built in the Sixth Dynasty.

Khentkawes Town-North (KKT-N)

In season 2011 Ana Tavares directed a project with architect Günter Heindl and mudbrick specialist Ashraf Abd el-Aziz to backfill and essentially cap what remained of Building E, one of the houses along the Khentkawes causeway (fig. 8). They capped the remains of walls with a reconstruction above the exact location of the original (fig. 16), following a protocol for conservation that the AERA team worked out when we conserved the Eastern Town House (ETH) in 2005 (Lehner, Kamel, and Tavares 2006, pp. 81–82; AERAGRAM 2006, pp. 8–9). In preparation for conservation work on Building E, which we re-excavated in 2009, Hanan Mahmoud mapped and documented the remains of Building D to the west.

The primary objective of our 2012 season was to document and study all that remains of KKT from Building D to the western end of the town (fig. 17). Essam Shehab led a team that completed this task (fig. 18). In two trenches across the causeway the team discovered that the builders founded the western end of the KKT over a 2-meter-deep quarry, which they filled with debris to complete an even plane for the foundation. They recorded more



Figure 16. In 2011 as part of our conservation program, Ana Tavares, Günter Heindl, and Ashraf Abd el-Aziz built a mudbrick replica of Building E in the Khentkawes Town upon the archaeological remains of the original structure, after carefully covering it with a protective blanket of sand and mudbrick. The team matched the dimensions and composition of the original brick, and the position and dimensions of the original structure. The Gebel el-Qibli rises in the background behind the modern Muslim cemetery. View to the south. Photo by Hilary McDonald



Figure 17. Panoramic view of 2012 operations at the Khentkawes Town and Menkaure Valley Temple. The team cleared and mapped the western end of the Khentkawes Town (left). The basin and Silo Complex Building occupy a lower terrace in the background. The eastern end of the Menkaure Valley Temple can be seen at the far right. The walled, modern Muslim cemetery occupies the wadi mouth below the Gebel el-Qibli (upper right). View to the east taken from the top of the Khentkawes Monument. Photo by Mark Lehner

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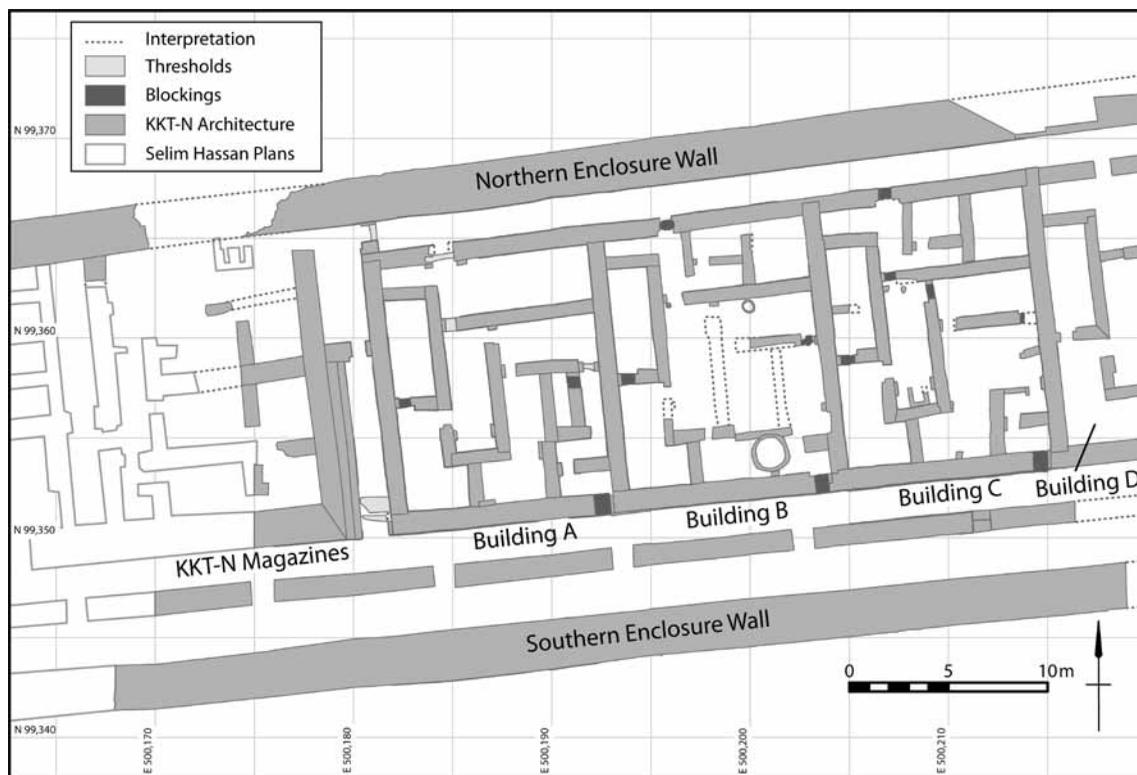


Figure 18. Plan of the structures at the far western end the Khentkawes Town, by Rebekah Miracle, AERA GIS

evidence that people rebuilt the settlement after a period of abandonment. It appears the reoccupiers blocked the doorways opening onto the causeway from the houses, which would imply a major change in the function of the town, since it has long been thought that these structures housed priests who tended the Khentkawes cult in her chapel at the western end of the causeway.

Conclusion

We have gained in our work of over twenty-seven years, between 1988 and 2012, a continuum of settlement from the HeG to the MVT and KKT that sees the functional transition from a town to accommodate the infrastructure of pyramid building, and its administration, to a community established for the royal memorial foundations and their administration. Egyptologists have for some time debated the transition from workers' installations to pyramid towns on the basis of texts. We can now contribute to this discussion a detailed footprint of the actual settlements, complemented by rich material culture corpora. The transition from the HeG to the MVT and KKT also tracks the chronological transition from the Fourth to the Fifth Dynasties, when the royal houses moved away from Giza to Saqqara and Abusir for their memorial complexes. Evidence indicates they kept their attention on Giza. Perhaps we shall derive from this record more about the mysterious Queen Khentkawes and her role during this time of both change and continuity.

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HAMOUKAR

Clemens Reichel

The current situation in Syria has not allowed us to undertake field seasons at Hamoukar for the past two years. Our focus during the past year, therefore, has been on the processing and publication of data excavated since 2005.

In addition to the human tragedies that continue to unfold, Syria's archaeological heritage also has been put into danger; in some cases it has already suffered badly. On May 16, 2012, a report called "Damage to the Soul: Syria's Cultural Heritage in Conflict" (<http://globalheritagenetwork.ning.com/profiles/blogs/new-report-on-damage-to-syria-s-cultural-heritage>), compiled by Emma Cunliffe (Durham University) in cooperation with the Global Heritage Fund, was published, which details not only numerous instances of illegal digging and looting, but also a direct impact of military actions on archaeological sites. The most disturbing images were recorded between January and March 2012 on several videos (also linked to on the Global Heritage Fund website), which show the citadel mound of Qala'at al-Mudiq, the citadel mound of Apamea, being subjected to prolonged shelling and suffering heavy damage. Even Apamea's world-famous colonnaded streets that traverse this city — once one of the largest cities in the eastern Roman Empire — have suffered damage in these attacks. But other major sites don't seem to fare any better: at the Roman/Nabatean site of Bosra in southern Syria, famous for its fully preserved theater, bomb damage to ancient houses and vaults has been reported. In summer 2011, armed gunmen stormed the Krak des Chevaliers in western Syria, evicted the staff, and looted it. Heavy destructions to mosques, churches, houses, and the historical souq are reported from Homs and Aleppo. And even Palmyra, a World Heritage Site since 1980, has seen damage due to military action.

The Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) is doing what it can to protect sites as well as museums, but in light of open hostilities its means are limited. Even more worrisome, there have been numerous reports of DGAM staff being attacked or having their work intercepted.

Most of us have been caught by surprise by the escalation of hostilities. In 2010, following our last field season in May and June, I undertook two more trips to Syria. In October I traveled with a group from "Archaeological Tours" (New York). My last trip to Syria was in December 2010, when I traveled with members of the New Media Department of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) to obtain film footage for its new gallery on "Rome and the Near East." For ten days we traveled, literally uninhibited, from site to site gathering material. Our ROM crew agreed that Syria was one of the most magnificent and friendliest countries to work in, and they were determined to return in due course to work on a Hamoukar documentary.

While the situation in eastern Syria, notably the Jazirah east of the Euphrates, is somewhat quieter, different challenges and dangers are posed to archeological sites. With limited government control there is widespread danger to sites due to uncontrolled agricultural or irrigation projects. And there is the ever-present danger of new building projects on mounds outside of the agricultural land.

HAMOUKAR

From what we can find out, Hamoukar has suffered some damage. In April 2011 Salam al-Kuntar, my co-director, undertook a trip to the site, having heard from the site guard about damage to the roof of our dig house after the 2010 winter storms. Fortunately it turned out that the damage was limited to parts of the metal cover which Mahmoud el-Kittab, our house-keeper, had installed in 2004 to protect the underlying mud roof from rain damage. I managed to send Salam some money to perform the necessary repairs. The site otherwise seemed fine, with the village hoping for our return in the near future.

Much changed over the ensuing year. When Salam returned in spring 2012 our hopes of resuming work in the near future had evaporated. The absence of government control in the village was immediately noticeable to Salam when she got out of the car and almost fell into a huge bulldozer cut of about 100 x 30 feet right in front of our house (fig. 1). It turned out to have been dug by local administrators who were working on an add-on to a school building



Figure 1. Hamoukar, April 2012: illegal bulldozer cut into site for new school building



Figure 2. Hamoukar, April 2012: substantial Early Bronze Age wall visible in illegal bulldozer cut

that had been built a few years ago to the northeast of our dig house. The contractors, upon being challenged, claimed to be unaware of the fact that they were digging a hole into a major archaeological site. Even to an untrained eye, the damage caused by this trench is immediately apparent. One of the photographs (fig. 2) forwarded by Salam shows a 2 meter (6 ft) wide mud-brick wall which had been dissected by the bulldozer. We had long suspected that there is a major Early Bronze Age building (2500–2000 BC) below and next to our dig house. Over the years we had taken every precaution to avoid damage to it — at times even uprooting trees that could have damaged the brickwork. Not in my wildest dreams did I imagine that we would save it only to have it bulldozed. More damage, unfortunately, is being done, with new houses appearing all over the site (fig. 3). The overall damage may still be minor, but more houses on

the site means less available excavation area in the future, whenever we (or someone else) will be able to resume work.

The danger to the site has not remained unnoticed, and I was pleased to hear that Hamoukar has been entered into Syria's list of National Heritage Sites. Plans are in the making to curb the development of houses through a zoning plan, but we will have to see if its implementation is going to be possible right now.

Our thoughts are with our colleagues with whom we have established much more of a working relationship, and hope for their safety. Despite the current halt on excavations work on Hamoukar has by no means stopped. Salam continued her work on the Late Chalcolithic materials from the Southern Extension, which formed the basis of her PhD research. Kate Grossman, who has undertaken several soundings in 2008 and 2010 to study the Ninevite V period — the earlier part of the third millennium BC occupation at Hamoukar — has completed a first draft of her dissertation, which she hopes to defend during the course of the upcoming academic year. My own work has focused on Area B on the high mound, where we had exposed the remains of Hamoukar's Late Chalcolithic city, which was destroyed by warfare around 3500 BC. Tate Paulette resumed his work on Area C, where we exposed a complex of late third millennium BC public buildings.

Despite the current hiatus in fieldwork we have been making discoveries, even if only in our notebooks, on drawing boards, and through pottery charts. As I indicated above, most of my own work has focused on completing the plans for Area B. Last year I reported the results from 2010, which added substantially not only to our understanding of the layout of this area of the city, but also to its origins. I was able to offer a preliminary plan of the area, but I had not been able to study the architecture and its phasing in detail. Anyone who has written up an excavation in detail knows what the challenges are: reading through notebooks, trench summaries, and locus descriptions; adding locus numbers and elevations to walls, floors, features in the plans to re-evaluate the phasing of the architecture; plotting artifacts to study their distribution, allowing us to draw conclusions on the functions of these buildings; comparing field photographs with the plans to check for accuracy. And so on.

Over the past year, the story line evolved. Since the resumption of excavations in 2005, our focus in Area B always had been on those buildings that had been destroyed by fire. As I outlined in previous reports the architecture from this period — which represented level 3 within the architectural sequence of Area B — consisted of two complexes (Complexes A and B), each built around square central courtyards that opened up to tripartite buildings along their northern sides (see fig. 6). Already in 2006, however, we had encountered the remains of buildings in the northern part of the excavation area that did not show



Figure 3. Hamoukar, April 2012: illegal building next to dig house

any fire destruction. When in 2008 we expanded the excavation farther to the north it became apparent that the burning magically stopped along the northern walls of Complex B. This riddle was finally solved in 2010, when we picked up the destruction level again farther to the north and discovered a third tripartite building. It became obvious that, prior to their destruction, extensive terracing had been undertaken in the southern part of Area B to form an even ground level for Complex A and B. Stratigraphically, this created an interesting challenge: Though these Complexes were found at a lower level than the architectural remains to the north of them they actually were later. Any architecture in the latter area that would have been contemporary with Complexes A and B would have been built at a higher elevation, and hence has eroded away. The architecture that we had encountered in this area, accordingly, predated level 3. Unlike the burnt buildings, the morphology and stratigraphy of these earlier pre-level 3 buildings had remained poorly understood. With their incomplete plans and having been excavated accidentally to some degree, I largely ignored them during previous discussions, hoping to excavate them more comprehensively in the foreseeable future.

With no prospect of further excavations in sight, however, I started connecting the dots (quite literally), only to be surprised. The earlier architecture belonged to two major levels (6 and 4) that were separated by a poorly defined intermediate phase (5). Despite the incomplete plans it became clear that these were the remains of much more substantial buildings than those associated with burnt level 3. The architecture of both levels 6 and 4 is dominated by large rooms and courtyards. At level 6, at least one corridor with bent-axis entrance appears to have been lockable, confirming that some level of administrative control was exercised here (fig. 4). Surprisingly, only two clay sealings, found in one of the courtyards (-cj-), can be associated with this level. The architecture of level 4, which followed a series of ephemeral rebuildings grouped together as level 5 (though not necessarily all contemporary), was similar in size and morphology to level 6, but not following its layout, reinforcing the notion that there was some discontinuity between them (fig. 5). As in the earlier level, the architecture is dominated by large rooms and courtyards, but here we find the building units separated by narrow corridors (-dd-, -dl-). One of these corridors (-ba-), which opens toward a square central courtyard (-ax-) in the south, had a lockable doorway on its northern and possibly also on its southern end. Unlike in level 6, we found a large number of clay sealings in association with level 4 – most of them, in fact, in courtyard -ax- just outside corridor -ba-. All the sealings from level 4 were impressed with stamp seals of local Late Chalcolithic type and, as far as I can tell, all of them represent container sealings.

The plan of Phase 3, which I have rendered in previous reports but now can be shown in a much more complete version, appears to be a departure from the previous architecture (fig. 6). The southern part of the architecture is now dominated by Complexes A and B with their respective tripartite buildings. Remains of a third complex (labeled C-C), of which only the tripartite building survived, were found along the northern edge of the excavation area, with the remains of the building to the south eroded away. Due to the fire destruction we found a rich artifact pattern that had been left in its functional context. Most notably, we recovered over 2,000 clay sealings from it. As already explained in a summary in *News & Notes* (#211, Fall 2011), the distribution of these sealings is anything but random. Door sealings were found on floors or on dumps close to doorways. Sealings found in the debris, seemingly coming from an upper floor, were used to close containers, mostly baskets or bags. Compared to the walls of levels 6 and 4, the level 3 walls appear thin and unimpressive. Was level 3, with all of its rich finds, already representing a period of decline?

Our analyses were not restricted to Area B. More recently, Tate Paulette, Kate Grossman, and I prepared a paper for a workshop called Seven Generations after the Fall of Akkad, held in conjunction with the 8th International Conference for the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East in Warsaw (April 30–May 5, 2012), which addressed the possibility of a “post-Akkadian” settlement at Hamoukar. Many readers might be aware that, during the mid-third millen-

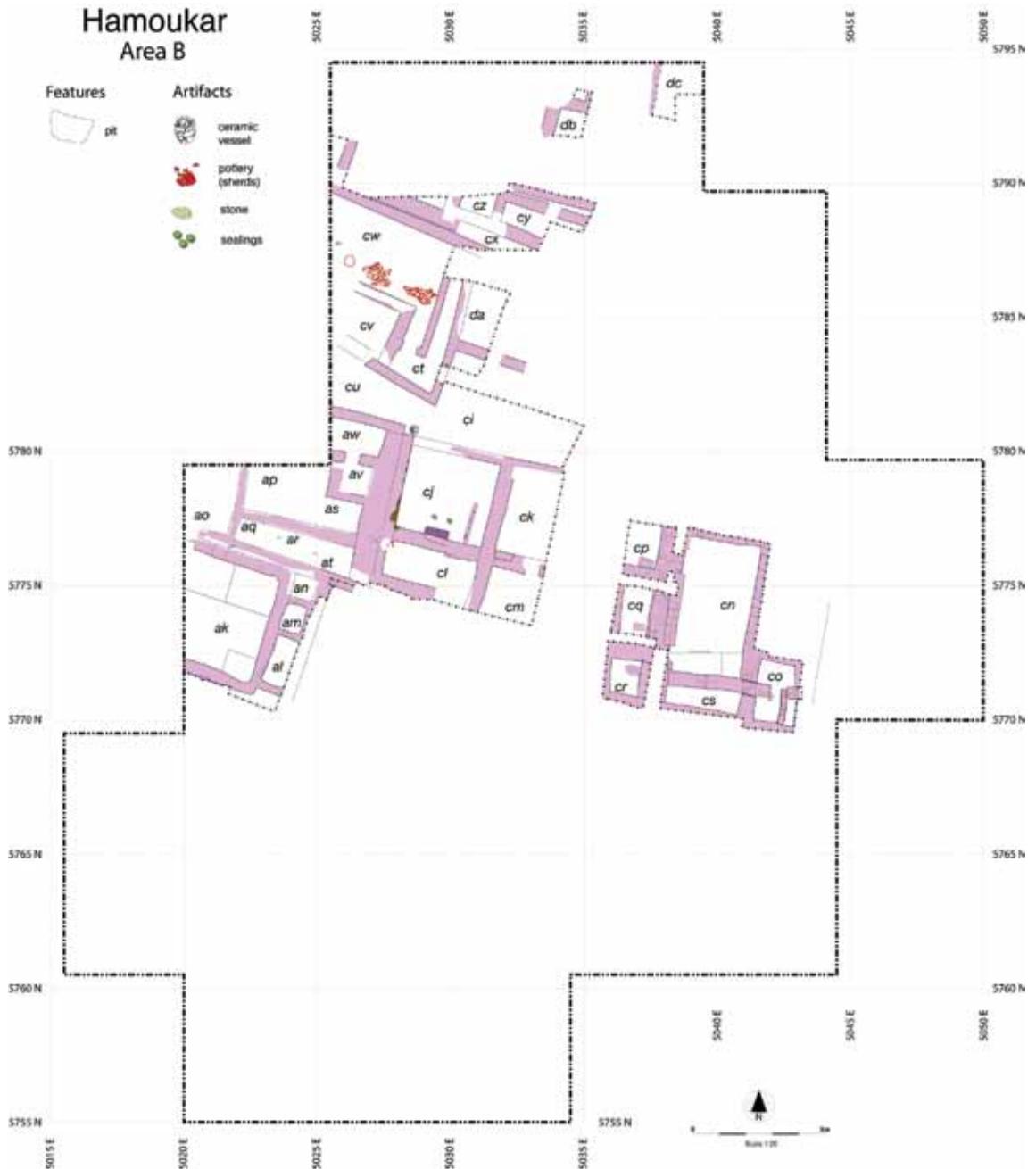


Figure 4. Area B: Phase 6 architecture

HAMOUKAR

nium BC, the Upper Khabur region experienced an urban “explosion” that remains unparalleled in the history of Mesopotamia and Syria. This urban phenomenon continued after the conquest of much of northern Syria by the Akkadian king Naramsin (2213–2176 BC). Shortly thereafter, however, it was ended by by some cataclysmic event (a volcano eruption? meteorite?) that resulted in a severe depopulation of the Khabur basin and an abandonment of a



Figure 5. Area B: Phase 4 architecture. Findspots of sealings are marked with gray circles

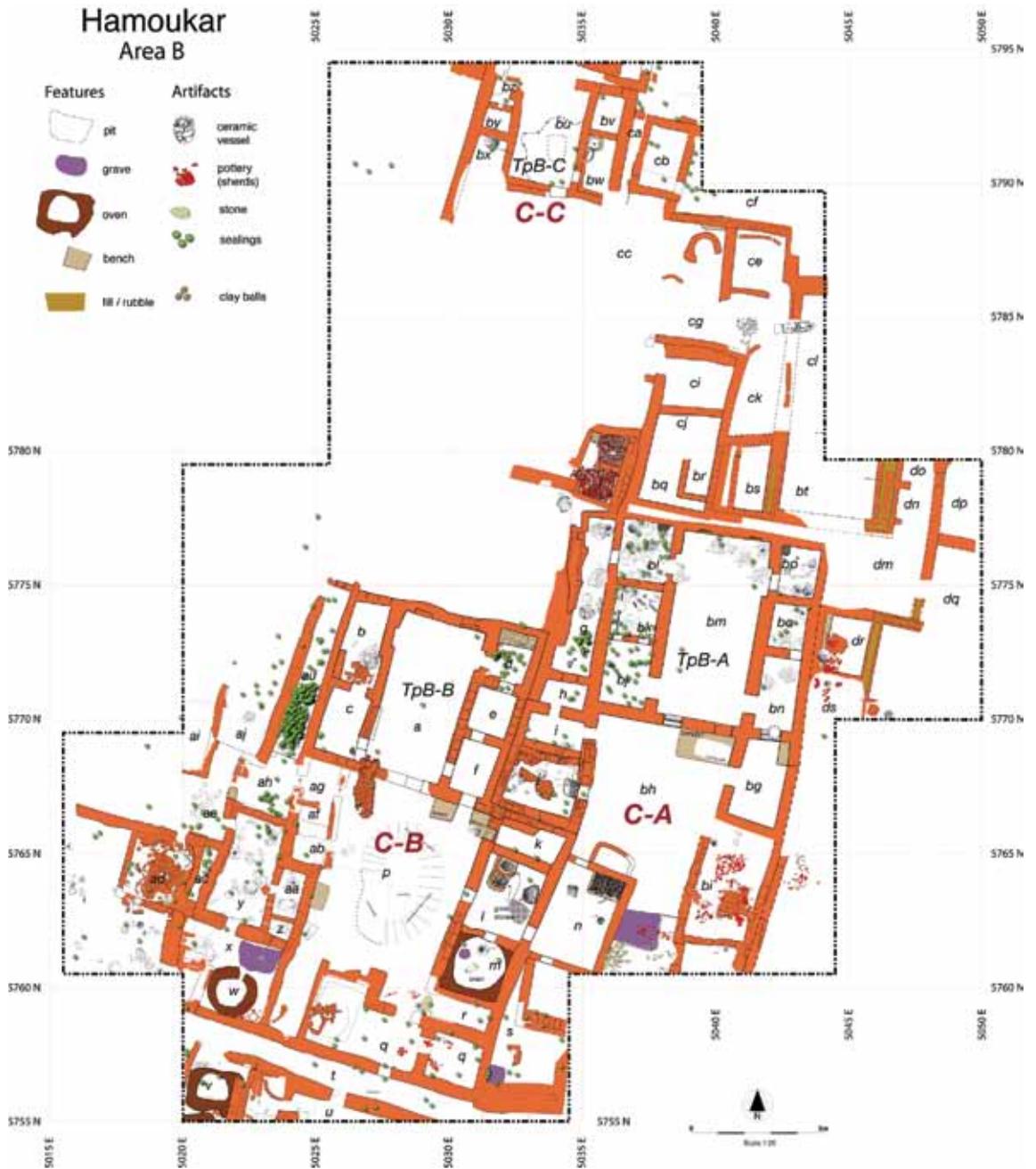


Figure 6. Area B: Phase 3 architecture. Findspots of sealings are marked with gray circles

HAMOUKAR

large number of settlements well into the second millennium BC. More recent research, however, has shown that — contrary to initial assumptions — numerous settlements in this area survive the end of the Akkadian domination. As one of the largest sites of the area, the question as to whether we have a post-Akkadian settlement at Hamoukar is of particular interest in this context. As so often at our site, the answer is not straightforward. So far we have no historical data that would allow a correlation with historical events in Mesopotamia. The lack of usable radiocarbon dates, in addition to that, makes it difficult date the end of occupation in Area C. The absence of any cultural material that can be identified as “Akkadian,” moreover, raises the question as to whether this city ever fell under the control of the Mesopotamian overlord or whether its location in the extreme northeast (at least when coming up the Khabur) would have put it out of his reach. If there was no Akkadian occupation at Hamoukar we might be looking in vain for a “post-Akkadian” settlement, but it might still be that the city at Hamoukar was occupied after the Akkadian incursion into Syria had ended.

The discussions of perils that Hamoukar faced in the past cannot make us forget the ones that it is facing in the present. I hope that it will be possible for me to do an assessment trip some time in the upcoming year. If not, our loyal friends and supporters within Syria have to be our eyes and ears. We can only hope for better times to come soon.

HEAVEN ON EARTH: TEMPLES, RITUAL, AND COSMIC SYMBOLISM IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Deena Ragavan

On Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3, 2012, the eighth annual University of Chicago Oriental Institute Post-doctoral Seminar, titled “Heaven on Earth: Temples, Ritual, and Cosmic Symbolism in the Ancient World,” was held in Breasted Hall. Over the course of the two days, eighteen speakers, from both the U.S. and abroad, examined the interconnections between temples, ritual, and cosmology from a variety of regional specializations and theoretical perspectives. By bringing together archaeologists, art historians, and philologists specializing not only in the ancient Near East, but also Mesoamerica, Greece, South Asia, and China, we hoped to re-evaluate this topic all across the ancient world. Our goal was to share ideas and introduce new perspectives in order to equip scholars with new questions or theoretical and methodological tools.

The meeting focused on three intertwining themes: sacred architecture and topography, ritual practice, and cosmic symbolism. The idea that sacred architecture held cosmic sym-



Pictured, from top left to right: (row 1) John Baines, David Carrasco, Susanne Görke; (row 2) Matthew Canepa, Uri Gabbay, Gary Beckman, Elizabeth Froid, Claus Ambos; (row 3) Yorke M. Rowan, Ömür Harmanşah, Betsey A. Robinson, Michael W. Meister, Tracy Miller, Karl Taube, Clemente Marconi; (row 4) Deena Ragavan. Not pictured: Julia A. B. Hegewald, Richard Neer

HEAVEN ON EARTH

bolism has a long history in the study of the ancient Near East. From the excavations of the mid-nineteenth century to the pan-Babylonianist scholars of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, we see repeated the notion that the Mesopotamian ziggurat reflected the form of the cosmos. Strongly influenced by these scholars, and linking Near Eastern and Indian traditions, Mircea Eliade developed the concept at the heart of this conference: *imago mundi*, the idea that architectural forms at any scale can be images, replicas of the greater cosmos. Although Eliade's theories have since been criticized extensively, they nevertheless linger on in the academic consciousness. Thus, in part, the conference aimed to demonstrate that the idea of the temple as microcosm continues to be relevant for interpretations of sacred architecture. We sought to address the interaction of architecture and cosmology through the third thematic element: ritual and how it may provide context, purpose, or meaning to architectural forms and spaces. Through comparative study and interdisciplinary analysis, we hoped to further illuminate our own research into this topic.

The two-day seminar was divided into two halves, each half comprising three sessions and culminating in a response to the preceding papers. The three sessions of the first half took place on Friday, while the second half was split, with one session on Friday and the final two on Saturday. Each session focused on the different ways the three main themes of the seminar could interact. The program was organized thematically to encourage scholars of different regional or methodological specializations to communicate and compare their work. Contributions to the seminar included both broad critiques of particular regional traditions as well as specific historical cases.

The conference opened with a preamble by Gil Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute, before my own introduction to the topic. Regrettably, our first speaker, Julia Hegewald (Universität Bonn), had to cancel due to illness, so the first session, "Architecture and Cosmology," chaired by Theo van den Hout, began with a contribution from Tracy Miller (Vanderbilt University). Miller's paper provided an excellent starting point, with her discussion of the translation of South Asian Buddhist architectural forms into a Chinese context, by focusing on a monument known as the Yicahui Pillar. Miller demonstrated how traditional South Asian methods for investing temples with cosmological significance could be adapted for Chinese architectural forms granting deeper meaning to the pillar. The last paper of this session, from Susanne Görke (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), took a very different approach, examining Hittite ritual texts in order to question the relationship between Hittite temple topography and the organization of their cosmos. She raised the possibility that older Hattian-Anatolian traditions reflected a more open, publicly accessible topography, while younger traditions, influenced by Hurrian and Mesopotamian cultures, necessitated restricted sacred spaces. She suggested that these limitations, or the lack thereof, were matched by their conception of the universe, one in which movement between cosmic realms was respectively freely permitted or equally restricted.

After an excellent discussion and short break, we returned to the second session, "Built Space and Natural Forms," chaired by Andrea Seri. Karl Taube (University of California, Riverside) began with a presentation on the classic Maya temple. Taube's beautifully illustrated talk showed us how the Maya's complex sculptural program imbued these monumental structures with a variety of symbolic meaning, from the Mayan paradise of Flower Mountain to zoomorphic caves. He focused on the temple's embodiment of the cosmos through the representation of the four cardinal points by means of a range of sculptural forms positioned at the corners of the building. The subsequent paper by Michael W. Meister (University of

Pennsylvania) reiterated the relationship between the temple and the natural world, tracing the evolution of Indian temple architecture through two key images, the seed and the mountain, showing how they materialized South Asian cosmogony and cosmology. Meister's paper proved an elegant illustration of how architectural forms could develop over centuries yet retain the symbolism of the past. This session was completed by Gary Beckman (University of Michigan), whose paper dealt again with the numinous properties inherent in the mountains, but also the springs, this time of the Hittite world. Beckman showed how natural features of the landscape were deliberately adapted to further actualize the immanent forces of the cosmos.

The third session, "Myth and Movement," chaired by Christopher Faraone, began after lunch with my own paper, in which I argued that gates appeared as symbols of cosmic boundaries in Sumerian myths of divine journeys and that this meaning correlated with their usage in ritual practice. Betsey A. Robinson (Vanderbilt University) then gave her presentation on the mountains Helikon and Parnassos in ancient Greece as both mythic settings of divine activity and locations for religious festivals. Comparing the actual sites to their representations in Greek and Roman reliefs and poetry, Robinson revealed the persistent inspirational value of these mountains.

This half of the conference was concluded by our first respondent, David Carrasco (Harvard University), who observed several recurring themes throughout the preceding papers, from the dynamic exchange of ideas emerging from cultures in contact to the question of social hierarchy and the role of kingship in shaping representations of the cosmos.

The last session of the day, chaired by Walter Farber, was on "Sacred Space and Ritual Practice." The first speaker, Uri Gabbay (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), provided a detailed description of the sacred topography delineated by Mesopotamian literary lamentations, which were performed as part of a procession in and around the cultic landscape. His paper served to ground the ritual performance of these prayers in their wider theological and cosmological context. He was followed by Yorke M. Rowan (University of Chicago), who supplied an archaeological perspective on the subject, looking at a diverse range of ritual spaces from late prehistory to the Early Bronze Age in the southern Levant. Identifying ritual sites from material remains and topographical features, Rowan noted the evidence for both continuity and change in ritual praxis. Claus Ambos (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg) was our final speaker of the day. By examining the detailed Mesopotamian ritual texts, Ambos analyzed the topography of the space described within. He focused specifically on the temporary ritual structures and, establishing their cosmological significance, demonstrated their liminal status. Friday's proceedings were concluded by a very welcome reception in the Yelda Khorsabad Court of the Oriental Institute Museum, and then an enjoyable dinner in Chinatown for the participants.

We reconvened the next day for the fifth session, "Architecture, Power, and the State," chaired by Bruce Lincoln. Ömür Harmanşah (Brown University) started us bright and early with a glimpse into the literary conceptualization of the ancient Mesopotamian city. Harmanşah argued that this presentation of urban space retained a nostalgia for its rural past and the idea of the king as shepherd, through the use of pastoral imagery, both textual and visual. Afterward, Matthew Canepa (University of Minnesota) provided a historical perspective on the development of ancient Iranian sacred architecture and traditions in the context of royal ritual. He illustrated in detail both the continuity of certain spatial forms, such as the open-air sanctuary, while observing the introduction of new forms and the transformation of

HEAVEN ON EARTH

old over several centuries. The session was brought to a close by Elizabeth Frood (University of Oxford), who, in contrast to the previous speakers' emphasis on the dominant power structures, directed our attention instead toward the question of personal religion and its role in the shaping of sacred space. Frood showed how graffiti inscribed in Egyptian temple complexes could be used to reconfigure these spaces and adapt them to different social needs.

After a short break we resumed with the final session, "Images of Ritual," chaired by Janet Johnson. We first welcomed Clemente Marconi (New York University) to speak about representations of ritual activities as part of the sculptural program of Greek temples. Taking an anthropological perspective of the role of ritual as an intermediary between the human and the numinous, Marconi revealed the function of these images representing and reflecting the cult practices taking place alongside them. Finally, John Baines (University of Oxford) took a different approach to ritual images, focusing on the development of iconographic practices around the beginning of the dynastic period in ancient Egypt and the increasing depiction of the king as the central ritual performer.

Our closing speaker was Richard Neer (University of Chicago), who concluded the meeting by giving an insightful response to the latter half of the conference, leaving us all to re-evaluate many of the assumptions with which we had begun. Neer observed issues generated by the papers not only on how sacred space was produced, by architecture or by ritual, but also how our conceptions of space are constrained by the limits of our fields and our modes of research.

The topic generated considerable interest and enthusiasm in the academic community, both at the Oriental Institute and more broadly across the University of Chicago, as well as among members of the general public. As such, the conference was very well attended, affording an ideal atmosphere for insightful questions from the audience and the ensuing discussion which occurred at several points throughout.

The papers presented raised many questions and successfully achieved the goal of the conference. The free exchange of ideas and, more importantly, the wide range of perspectives offered, left each of us with potential avenues of research and new ideas, as well as a fresh outlook on our old ones. The proceedings of the seminar will be published as part of the Oriental Institute Seminars (OIS) series during the coming academic year (2012–13).

My sincerest thanks go to the Oriental Institute and its Director, Gil Stein, for the opportunity to organize this seminar. I would also like to express my gratitude to all those who have contributed so much of their time and energy to ensuring this conference came together. In particular, I'd like to thank Mariana Perlinac, without whom the organization of this conference would have been impossible; John Sanders, for all his work with the website and the presentations; Leslie Schramer and Tom Urban in the Publications Office for the beautiful poster and program; Meghan Winston, the Oriental Institute's special events coordinator, for the catering; and Chris Woods, for his guidance and advice.

ISLAMIC ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

Tasha Vorderstrasse and Donald Whitcomb

The Islamic collections are an important part of the Oriental Institute Museum. Over the years, the Museum has assembled important collections of Islamic archaeology, art, and ethnographic items from excavations sponsored by the Oriental Institute and objects donated to or purchased by the Institute. Selections from these collections have been the focus of several exhibitions, such as the bookbindings exhibit in 1981 and Rayy exhibit in 2007. Many artifacts are published in excavation reports and specialist studies, but there has never been an overview of these collections.

The Islamic collection includes a wide variety of different types of objects from all regions of the Middle East and from all periods of Islamic history. This comprehensive nature suggests a new project to provide an “Introduction to Islamic Archaeology” organized around these collections. In addition, it is hoped that a catalog of highlights of the Islamic collections in the Oriental Institute may also be published in the near future. These two projects on Islamic archaeology and Islamic art form a project being conducted by Donald Whitcomb and Tasha Vorderstrasse.

Islamic Archaeology

Islamic archaeological material has been found in a number of different excavations sponsored by the Oriental Institute since the 1930s; among the earliest were excavations at Alishar Huyuk and in the Amuq in Turkey, as well as at Khirbet al-Karak, Israel. While the primary aim of an excavation or survey was not the Islamic component, archaeologists tended to treat these materials seriously and returned with collections for the Oriental Institute. Although the study of Islamic archaeology was still in its infancy in the 1930s, Erich Schmidt began excavations at Istakhr and Rayy, both sites with primarily Islamic occupation. The site of Istakhr was begun by Ernst Herzfeld as part of the Persepolis project. Herzfeld had excavated the Abbasid capital of Samarra some thirty years earlier and was commissioned by James Henry Breasted to investigate the “last Oriental empires” — the Sasanian through early Islamic — in Iran.

Schmidt continued the Persepolis project, bringing all the materials to publication except



Figure 1. A sherd of minai ware from the excavations at Rayy, used in the exhibition of that site

ISLAMIC ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

that of Istakhr. He had also brought to the Oriental Institute his materials from the city of Rayy, now south of modern Tehran. The result is that major collections of pottery, glass, coins, and various small finds lie in the basement of the Oriental Institute (fig. 1). These holdings have been augmented in more recent times with collections from Quseir al-Qadim in Egypt and from Aqaba in Jordan. One must also note the Islamic components from archaeological surveys from virtually every part of the Middle East.

Collected Islamic Objects

In addition to Islamic archaeological collections at the Oriental Institute, there are many objects that were purchased or donated from the early decades of the last century. Perhaps

the most sensational for philologists in the Oriental Institute are the Arabic manuscripts and papyri, many studied by Nabia Abbott, but many lying in wait of scholars' attention. One particularly important collection is that of Bernhard Moritz, formerly head of the Khedival Library in Egypt, who had sold part of his private collection of papyri, manuscripts, and coins to the Oriental Institute in 1929. Among the particularly important items is the earliest known fragment from the *Arabian Nights*, published by Abbott in 1946. Other private collections and donations have been acquired by the Oriental Institute (fig. 2), from travelers, dealers, and even archaeologists. For example, the Alishar excavators, purchased ethnographic items including local clothing and model farm implements from different villages around the excavations. Ethnographic items also include a fine collection of Palestinian costume, the subject of an exhibition at the Oriental Institute in 2006.



Figure 2. An astrolabe in the collection of the Oriental Institute and featured in the guidebook to the museum published in 1982

The Islamic collections at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago constitute one of the most important Islamic archaeological collections in the United States. With the art objects and ethnographic holdings, this is an aspect of the Oriental Institute Museum that has been inadvertently neglected. Despite the lack of a specific gallery for the Islamic collection, there are some objects displayed in the Museum and many objects in storage that should be better known to scholars and researchers alike. This project will endeavor to introduce this Islamic collection of remarkable variety, scope, and importance.

JERICHO MAFJAR PROJECT

Donald Whitcomb

In the last *Annual Report* for the Oriental Institute, I presented an outline of the background, research contexts, and project goals for new excavations at Khirbet al-Mafjar, also known as Qasr Hisham. At that time this new project was only a memorandum of understanding. The Jericho Mafjar Project (JMP) has now become the first Palestinian-American archaeological research project and has two seasons of discoveries to its credit. The first season was briefly described in the *Oriental Institute News & Notes* (# 210, Summer 2011). The present report will show the cumulative results from both of these excavations.

The site of Khirbet al-Mafjar is located about 4 km north of the modern town of Jericho, a fertile oasis in the Jordan valley. Its characterization by Muqaddasi in the tenth century remains accurate; it is a “land of indigo and palms ... abundant with bananas, fresh dates, and fragrant flowers.” Tourists are drawn to Tell al-Sultan, the biblical Jericho, and to Qarantal, the Mount of Temptation; many also find their way to the remarkable monuments of Qasr Hisham (fig. 1). This is the modern name taken from an inscription found at the site, indicating the founder was Hisham ibn Abd al-Malik, an Umayyad caliph in the early eighth century (724–743 CE). Even this identification was uncertain before the excavation campaigns of Dimitri Baramki, who worked for twelve seasons of excavations, from 1934 until 1948.

The Khirbat al-Mafjar excavation produced some of the most stunning artwork of the early Islamic period, setting a standard for evaluating this period throughout the region. The principal building was the Great Hall and bath, a reception hall not unlike the Sasanian palace at Firuzabad in Iran. It is not difficult to imagine the mosaics as so many Persian carpets spread throughout the hall floors. Perhaps the most extraordinary element is the ceremonial entryway, the Porch, with a high central niche carrying a standing figure with sword on two lions, very likely the caliphal patron himself, Hisham. The Palace is more typical of Umayyad residences but exceptional in its stone carving, stucco, and fresco decorations. Together with the pavilion and mosque, this architectural complex stands analogous to Fustat (Cairo) and Samarra in Iraq as a testament to the beginning of Islamic archaeology, in this case for Palestine.



Figure 1. The emblem of Qasr Hisham, the mosaic called the Tree of Life. Photo by Enrico Cirelli

To Return to Mafjar

This archaeological site witnessed fine excavations that produced monuments of magnificent art and archaeology. The documentation is exemplary in Baramki's preliminary reports and Hamilton's monograph, a record many excavations might emulate. Yet, interpretation of the history and functions of the site remains highly debated, and the archaeological evidence is obviously incomplete. In contemplation of a return to these remains, two aspects appear foremost as research agendas.

The original chronological assumptions about the buildings and their occupation seem erroneous. The original ceramic analysis by Baramki in 1944 was admirable but never consistently utilized, as suggested in my study in 1988. A new stratification indicates four phases of occupation, which have been confirmed by recent sondages by Hamdan Taha, Director of Antiquities for Palestine in 2006. New suggested periods are proposed with the following features:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Construction and destruction debris mixed with painted wares. | 700–750 |
| 2. Further occupation, suggesting less extensive destruction from the earthquake of the mid-eighth century; ceramics seem transitional types, similar to the Mahesh phase at Aqaba. | 750–800 |
| 3. Major reoccupation of the site in the Abbasid period; continuities and introduction of cream wares (popularly known as Mafjar ware), incised, moulded and glazed ceramics. | 800–950 |
| 4. Medieval reoccupation in the Ayyubid-Mamluk period; ending with the final destruction of the roofed structure of the palace. | 1100–1300 |

Occupation of the site is far more complex than that advocated by Hamilton in 1959 (and earlier), which suggests a foundation in the 720s and destruction in 748. Creswell has carefully pointed out that the palace is based on a different cubit from the bath and pavilion. An archaeology of the site must move beyond the initial, art historically brilliant phase (as presumed) to encompass broader aspects; there remains evidence that has been consistently ignored and was presumed to have been destroyed.

A New Gate and Monumental Stairway

A second misperception of the palace complex at Khirbet al-Mafjar is that the ensemble of buildings was accidental or at least not planned. The new excavations in 2011 addressed this issue with a new trench laid out on open, flat ground aligned with the south gate and a wall extending from the bath (fig. 2). Within a few days we had cleared broken pots in the guard room of one bastion; the second bastion appeared soon after this with fine carved stones of the fallen arch. Among these stones were iron nails and plating which once clad the wooden gate. The massive threshold was gone and the fine paving stones removed, except for a few. When we examined Baramki's dissertation much later, we saw that this new gate was precisely the same design as the south (Jericho) gate, though slightly better preserved. One of the stone benches even had a game scratched on its surface.

Hamdan Taha and I had noticed the long portico in front of the palace, mosque, and bath; and we commented on how nice this scene would have been in the shade of a portico, with a garden and pavilion in front of us, and stretching to the east were green fields, the Jordan River in the distance, and the Jordanian highlands as the background. This was a belvedere, a *manzara* in Arabic, which was open to the east and enclosed by a gate to the south, leading toward the town of Jericho, and now a northern gate. We discovered Baramki makes exactly the same observation in his dissertation (1953, pp. 8–10). There should be a north gate, a transition from the palace complex to the residential area, perhaps the town, to the north.

Our second trench in 2011 was situated near Hamdan Taha's sondages of 2006. He had found massive walls north of the bath which suggested a new, major building. Our trench repeated his observation of a secondary occupation of walls and floors, here clearly dated to the Abbasid of the late ninth and tenth centuries (fig. 3). Below this were well-laid lines of stones with plaster coating, which became a broad stairway proceeding downward. This Area 2 was expanded to the south in 2012; after seven stairs

there was a large platform opening through a doorway to a room toward the west. Ignacio Arce, our archaeological architect, saved the fallen stones of this doorway for reconstruction and speculated on a large store for wood for the bath furnaces. A matching stairway leads upward to the south and confirms three unexplained lines on Baramki's plan. The area has become a puzzle and may have been more than a simple service area for the baths.

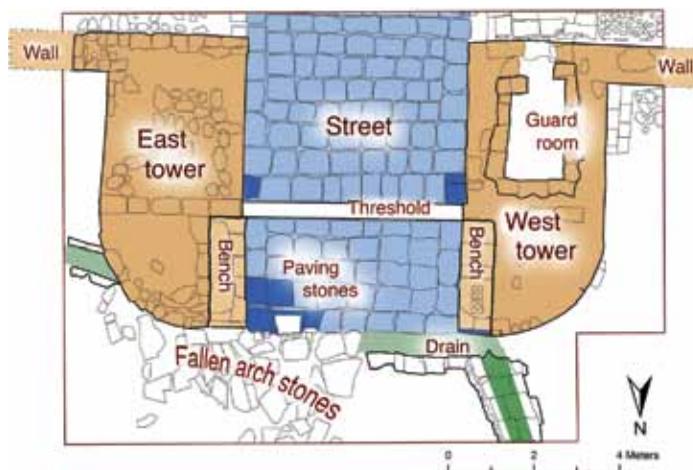


Figure 2. Plan of the North Gate, excavated in 2011

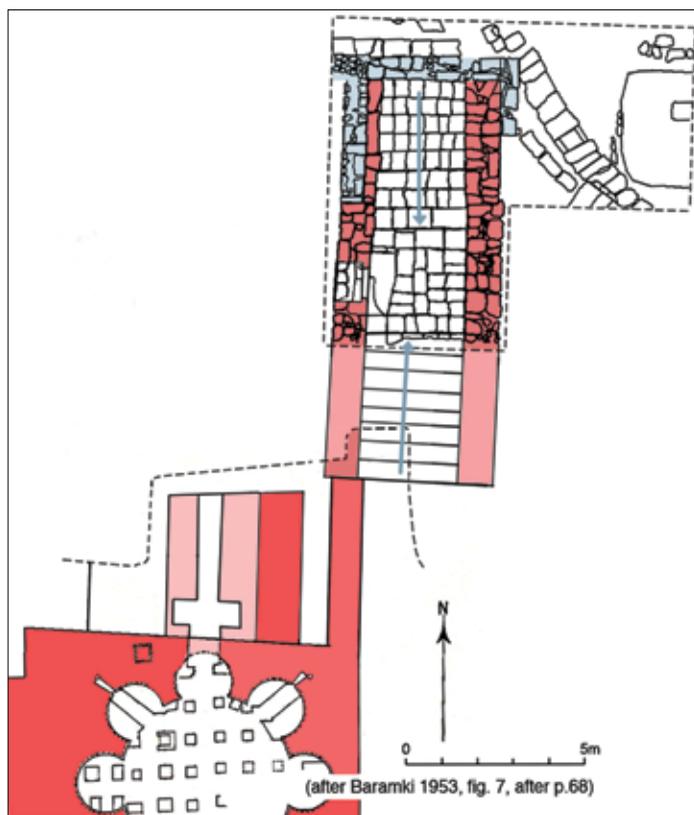


Figure 3. Plan of the area north of the bath with the excavations of the monumental stairway

The Call of the Northern Area

Both the north gate and the monumental stairway indicate an unimagined importance for the building complex of the northern area (fig. 4). When this site was first described by

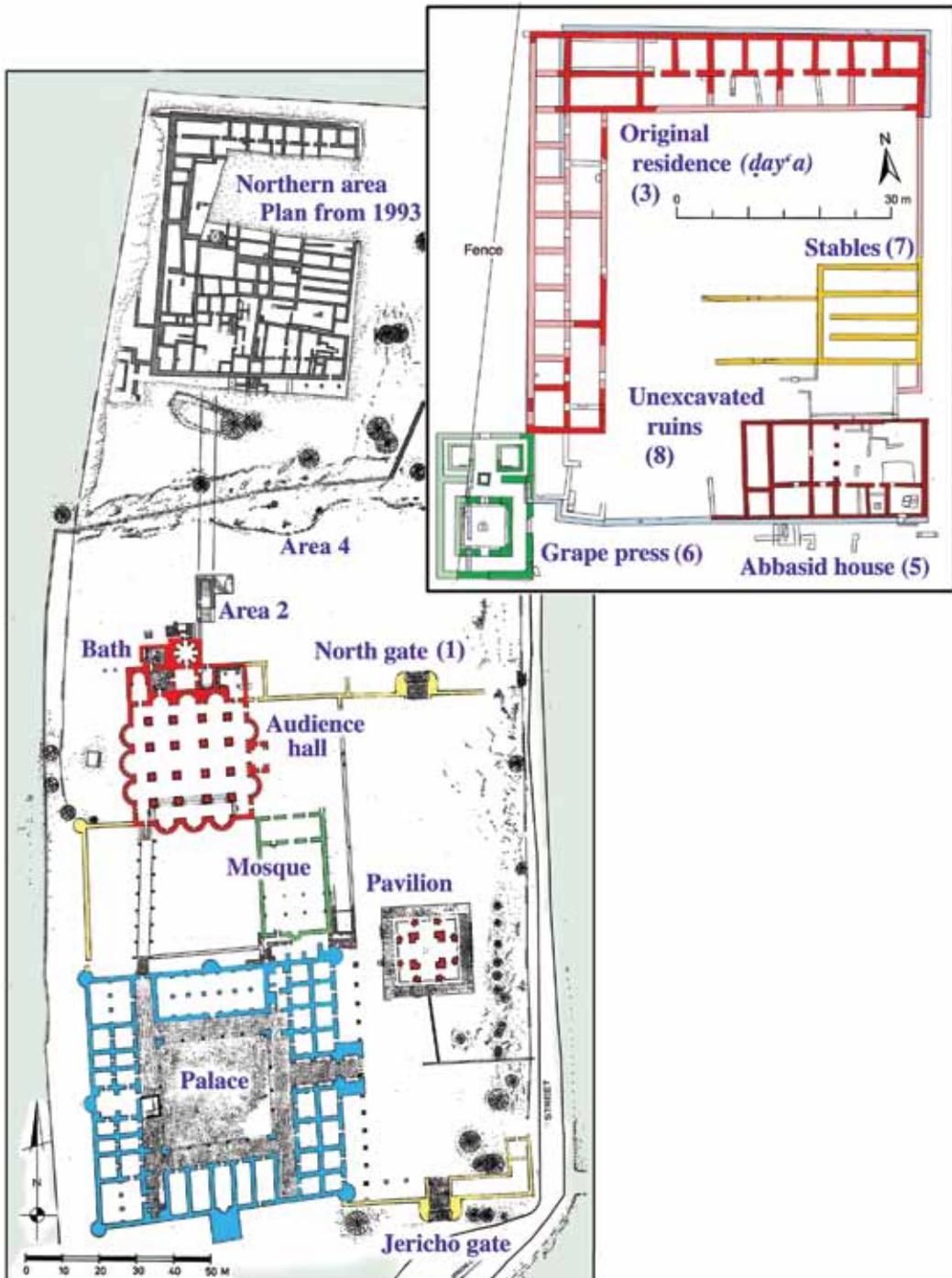


Figure 4. Plan of the entire site of Khirbet al-Mafjar with trenches and discoveries in Northern Area

Bliss in 1894, this was the northernmost of three massive mounds and the only one being actively looted. The complex of buildings revealed was investigated by Awni Dajani during the 1960s under Jordanian authority. Regrettably, all records and materials from these extensive excavations have been lost and one is now confronted with walls, platforms, cisterns and other features of many different periods. Michael Jennings and Enrico Cirelli began the work of isolating building phases using a database they created on iPads and then created a typological phasing of walls.

We excavated a series of soundings at Area 3 in 2011, often finding little left by the Jordanians. The baulks, the earth left between their trenches, were dramatically different. One baulk produced five complete lamps, numerous glass vials, storage jars, burnt basketry and seeds (even complete charred dates), beads and buttons, and more. These artifacts were stratified in two layers: the earlier was Umayyad and possibly earlier than any other place excavated; and the later was Umayyad-Abbasid transition of the eighth century, more typical of finds elsewhere.

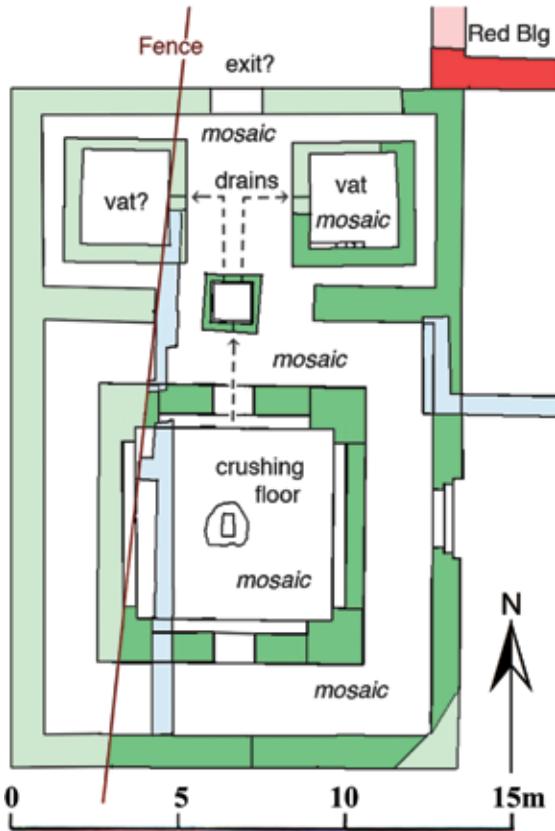
The 2012 season began a serious effort in the Northern Area by removing great mounds of the backdirt from the excavations of the 1960s and by pruning a forest of trees that obscured many of the structures. One hypothesis was that a main street ran from the new, North Gate and that architectural remains were concentrated on its western side. Area 4 was a new trench in which the walls of a shop had been robbed of stone, indicating fine original construction (fig. 5). Within this shop we found the articulated skeletons of five young goats, ready for sale; dense ash suggests they died in a sudden fire. This may have been part of an animal market and one may imagine a long *suq* selling food and local products at the end of the Umayyad period.

Jihad Yasin discovered white mosaics on the western side; this became Area 6, only partially excavated in the 1960s. The plan revealed a grape press almost 14 x 20 m in size; a low crushing floor had a basalt base for a screw mechanism, a paved passage around this, and drains leading to a settling pit and two vats for the grape juice in the north. Many wine presses are known from the region, though rarely so well-designed (fig. 6). The press was built at the same time as the exceptionally fine walls of the adjoining original residence, clearly in the Umayyad period. We labeled this structure the Red Building, due to the fine stone set into the red clay of natural soil. The plan seems to indicate sets of rooms around a central court, suggesting another *qasr* or palace, perhaps unfinished.

In the southeast corner of the Red Building, the walls were completely removed and, in their stead, was a large house of the Abbasid period (Area 5) (fig. 7). There was a large courtyard (16 x 8 m) with a covered



Figure 5. Trench in Area 4, showing goat skeletons with ash



area on the east marked by spolia (columns and pilasters) from the palace. South of this yard were a series of rooms including a vestibule (C) and toilet (D), the latter made of a balustrade from the pavilion. On the east was a large hall (B) with paving stones, apparently taken from the paving of the North Gate. The remaining rooms seem to have been service areas (H, J). The building stands a coherent structure, datable to the early Abbasid period, the late eighth century. Nearby are less clear buildings of the same and earlier periods (Area 8), a jumble of elements to be sorted out in the coming seasons. Immediately north of this house is a well-defined building which may be identified as stables for horses (Area 7). The proximity of the *hayr* or extensive enclosure to the west may suggest a function of horse-breeding on the estate.

Figure 6. Plan of the wine press excavated in Area 6

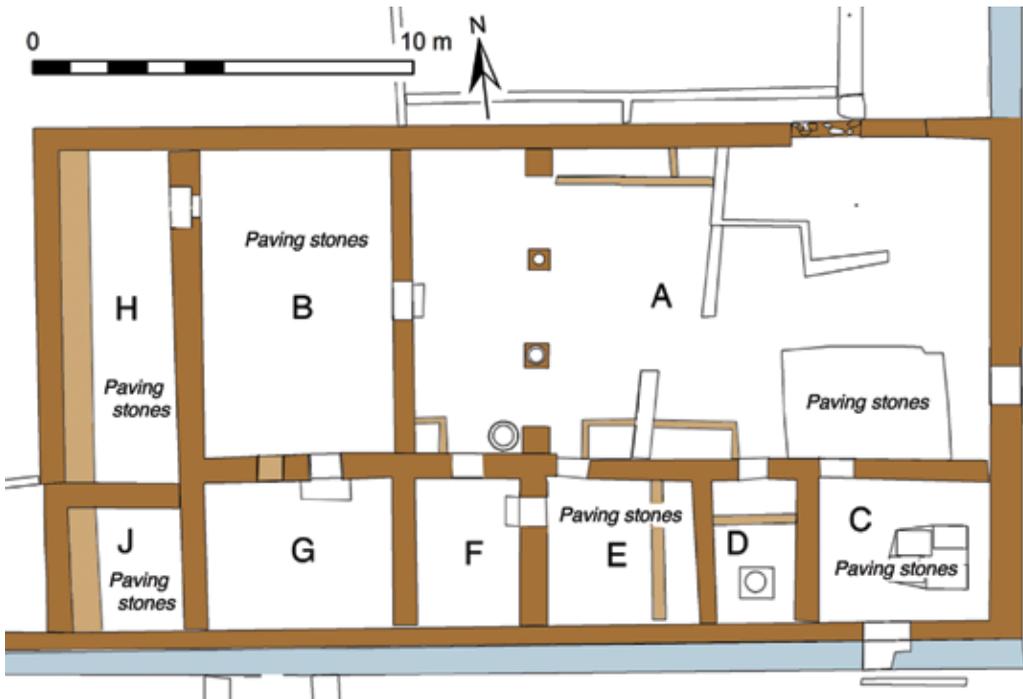


Figure 7. Plan of the Abbasid house excavated in Area 5



Figure 8. General view of the Northern Area, looking to east; the wine press is in the foreground, then the Red Building on the left, unexcavated Area 8, and Abbasid house with trees in the courtyard

Significance and a Model for Future Research

These excavations have shown that the Northern Area was far more than a laborers' settlement or simple caravanserai (fig. 8). Rather, two hypotheses were advanced last year: first, that these northern structures represent the original settlement around another "palace"; or, alternatively, the residence and other structures represent a major Abbasid settlement. Not often can one claim that elements of both guesses seem proven correct. The outline of a first, well-constructed building resembles the later palace to the south, as well as many other *qusur* of the early Islamic period. This structure was contemporary with a well-designed wine press, indicative of intensive agricultural activities of an Umayyad estate.

The Northern Area presents a new dimension to the site of Khirbet al-Mafjar; this was an agricultural estate (*day'a*) providing the economic foundation for support of the palace complex of Qasr Hisham to the south. More importantly, this agricultural estate is one of the first excavated examples of a widespread phenomenon of the Umayyad and Abbasid historical periods, the eighth and ninth centuries CE. There is abundant textual evidence of the development of estates (*diya'*) by early Islamic elites, first in the Hijaz, then in Bilad al-Sham (Greater Syria), Iraq, and elsewhere. The potential for this research is to provide

JERICHO MAFJAR PROJECT

a model for similar sites and to expand our knowledge of daily life and activities of early Islamic settlement systems.

The first two seasons of the joint Palestinian-American project have been fortunate in a series of discoveries which will change the interpretation of Hisham's palace. This research project has actually doubled the size of the archaeological remains and will change perceptions of the achievements of the Umayyads. This may expand into the more important aspect of the continuing existence, and even prosperity, of a Christian occupation in Ariha, now obscured by the modern city of Jericho. Clearly an eventual investigation of these dual settlements in the early Islamic period, as implied in the name of the Jericho Mafjar Project, has historical importance for Palestine and the Middle East.

The Jericho Mafjar Project is a joint venture supported by the Palestinian Department of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage and the Oriental Institute. We are grateful to our Palestinian colleagues for their generosity and cooperation throughout this initiative. Jericho Mafjar has also benefited from contributions from the National Geographic Society and the Women's Board of the University of Chicago. The Jericho Mafjar team also extends special thanks to true partners in discovery, Deborah and Philip Halpern and Ronald and Marsha Baade for their contributions through the Oriental Institute Adopt-A-Dig campaign.

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KERKENES DAĞ

Scott Branting

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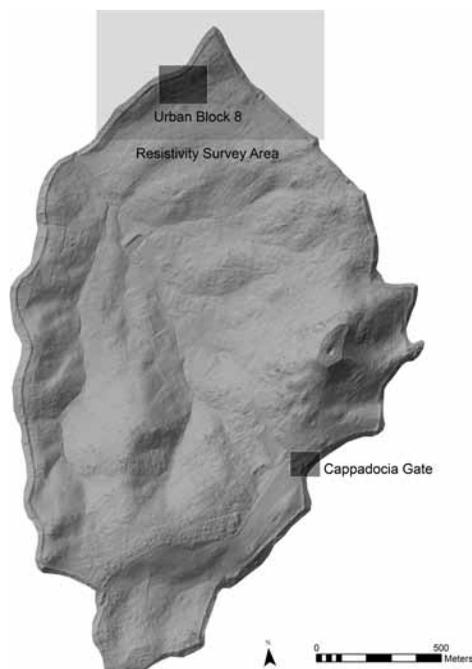


Figure 1. Locations of research at Kerkenes Dağ in 2011

The 2011 season at Kerkenes Dağ was a season of milestones. It marked the nineteenth continuous season of research by the project at this important Iron Age city in central Turkey, as well as the last season of active excavation under the directorship of Geoffrey Summers. During this season, the resistivity survey in the northern portion of the city covered a record amount of area for a single season (fig. 1). Excavations in the Cappadocia Gate were brought to an exciting conclusion, along with continued restoration of the gate. New long-term excavations were also begun in the northern portion of the city. Complementing these key milestones were ongoing ethnographic and paleoenvironmental research, as well as the work of the Kerkenes Eco-Center. Finally, the season was capped off by a Kerkenes Festival on October 1st to thank local leaders and dignitaries for their firm and continuous support of the project.

Geophysical Investigations

Weather can be both a blessing and a curse. The 2011 season for the resistivity survey began among snowflakes at the beginning of May, but it benefited greatly from the exceptionally wet spring through May and June. In most years, the heavy clay soil at Kerkenes becomes too hard and dry by the start of June to get the machine's metal probes easily into the ground or to get useful readings of the electrical current. The wetness of this spring allowed the resistivity survey to continue with ease well into the month of June, and an astounding 142,400 m² (14.2 ha) were surveyed.

The area of focus for the survey this year was the far northern portion of the city (fig. 2). This entire area was surveyed with magnetometry in the 1990s. However, the resistivity survey, while slower, provides much clearer imagery in most areas of the walls and structures buried under the surface of the ground. This is also the area of the city where excavations will be undertaken for the next six years, and so understanding the context of the city around the urban block that is set to be completely excavated is essential.

A number of interesting elements emerged from the survey in this area. First, special attention was paid to the area just within the northern point of the city. It has been speculated that such a key location within the city might be a likely location for a military installation,

KERKENES DAĞ

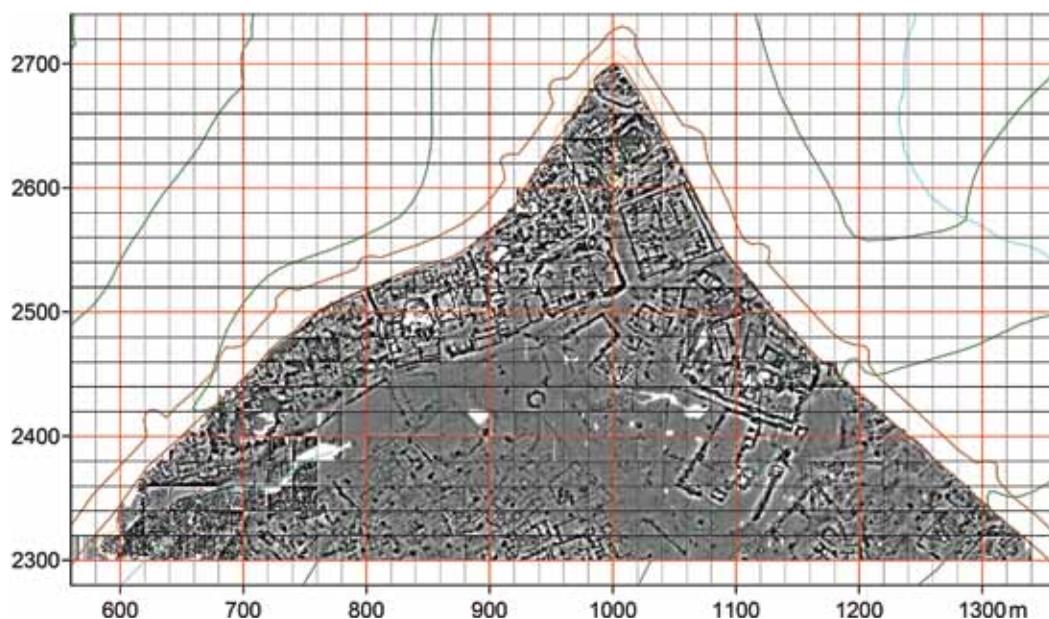


Figure 2. Resistivity survey data collected in 2011 in the northern part of the city

overlooking the approaching valley down below. The survey shows a small area enclosed by a curving wall at the extreme northern end of the city, although no structures are to be found inside this area. It likely encloses an area directly adjacent to the large stone tower at the northern tip of the city wall. Urban blocks surrounding this enclosed area show no obvious indications of military use. Second, a better picture of the water management features and strategies in this area, interconnected pools and channels for moving and storing runoff water, were revealed by the survey. Third, an interesting picture of less well-regulated construction during the life of the city can be seen in the southern portions of the area surveyed. Elsewhere in the city the original walled urban blocks laid out shortly after the foundation of the city were filled over time by their inhabitants with different configurations of buildings and open spaces. In excavating the “Temple” structure last year, we found an example of a large building built between urban blocks late in the short-lived life of the city. In the resistivity survey data collected this year, the southern portion of the area exhibits a range of smaller informal structures built in and between the possibly altered lines of the original urban blocks. Could this be an area where poorer inhabitants of the city lived? Its appearance is certainly quite different from both the urban blocks closer to the wall and from those in the vicinity of the Palatial Complex surveyed the past few years. Further expansion of the resistivity survey into this area to the south in the years ahead is eagerly anticipated.

Excavations in Urban Block 8

Urban Block 8, so named in our modern numbering of the roughly 757 walled urban blocks spread across the city, has been the object of limited excavations since 1996. Excavations to test the results of the magnetometry survey in 1996 revealed both a large hall supported by columns and half of a single room of a multi-roomed structure behind the hall. Within this room was found the impressive ivory plaque, likely part of the back of a chair, adorned with



Figure 3. The ivory plaque excavated from the floor of Room 1 in 1996

amber and gold (fig. 3). It is currently on display in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara and has been described as “one of the most remarkable objects to be found in central Anatolia in recent years” (Greaves 2010, p. 205). It has been suggested that the plaque demonstrates potential stylistic connections with Lydia, far to the west, connections that have been noticeably absent elsewhere in the city (Dusinberre 2002).

Over the following six years of work the project will clear the entire ca. 6,000 m² area encompassed by this urban block. Extensive excavations elsewhere in the city over the last decade have primarily cleared portions of the city wall, the Cappadocia Gate, and the entranceway to the Palatial Complex. However, we still know very little about how people actually lived within the city. Did one household inhabit each urban block? Or were there multiple households present within its buildings? In addition, we don’t even know in many cases what the typical uses were of particular types of buildings that we can see in the geophysical data. What buildings are typically used as houses, or for storage, or as outhouses? Was cooking undertaken within the house, or outside it, or in separate structures nearby? How was the production of other types of goods undertaken? By excavating a complete urban block, particularly one that has a range of different building types present, we will be able to leverage the information gained there across the breadth of the city using the geophysical data. This will allow us to generate preliminary models of social organization with the city.

Excavations in 2011 were designed to expose more of the multi-room structure in the northeastern corner of Urban Block 8, in which the ivory plaque was found, and to field test new sampling methodologies. Trench 29 (TR29) measured 20 m in length and 7.7 m in

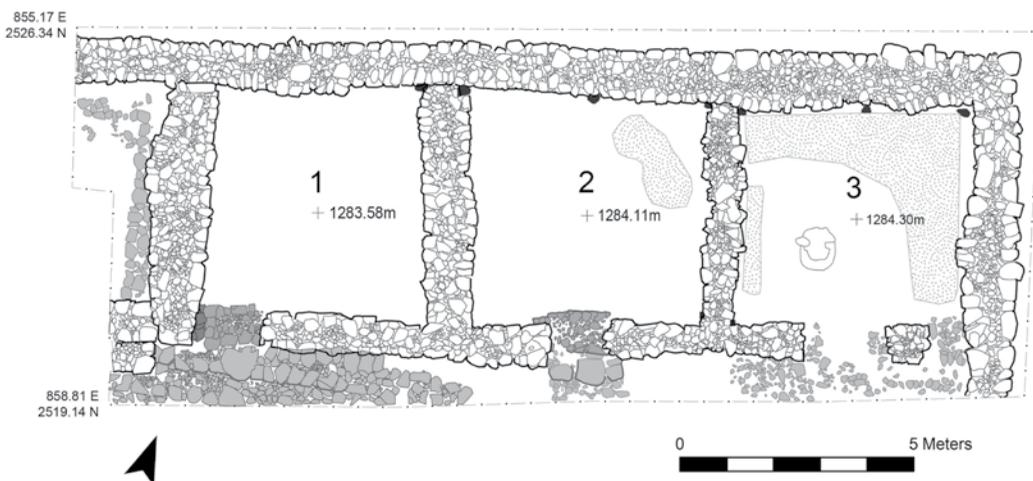


Figure 4. Plan of Trench 29 (TR29)

KERKENES DAĞ



Figure 5. Photograph of TR29 after excavation

plaster floor was best preserved, the charred remains of a portion of one of the supporting vertical support posts was found lying upon the floor pointing back to the post base that it once stood upon.

Each room excavated so far within this building seems to have been dedicated to different activities and functions. Previous excavations suggested that Room 1 was used for the



Figure 6. The sherd with an incised mark found in Room 2 of TR29

storage of high-value items, such as the chair from which the ivory plaque was broken. Of the three rooms examined so far, only Room 1 had a well-preserved stone socket for the pivot of the door. This, along with a better constructed threshold and the presence of the laid stone pavement leading up to the door, shows more investment of labor in the means of access to this room. Room 2 was also likely used for storage, though of a more common sort. Near the center of the room a higher concentration of large pottery sherds were detected, including one sherd that bore an incised mark (fig. 6). Subsequent analysis of the ceramics identified six larger storage vessels within this distribution, which most likely were located on or near the floor

width with a small extension to the west for a total area of 159.33 m² (fig. 4). It exposed the full extents of two additional rooms of this structure (Rooms 2 and 3), removed the considerable backfill from the room in which the ivory was found (Room 1), and sampled a small portion of a fourth room or roofed porch to the west. Thresholds and doorways to each of the first three rooms were also exposed, as were portions of external pavements leading up to the structure (fig. 5). The entire building was a single-story structure with the lower courses of the walls constructed of dry-laid stone. Slots and simple post bases within and in front of these lower courses of the wall once held the vertical posts supporting the timber-framed superstructure and hypothesized thatched roof. Each room has also displayed some evidence for internal plastering, with portions of preserved plaster floors found in each of the three main rooms along with traces of plain wall plaster on the preserved lower walls in all four rooms. In Room 3, where the

plaster floor was best preserved, the charred remains of a portion of one of the supporting vertical support posts was found lying upon the floor pointing back to the post base that it once stood upon. Each room excavated so far within this building seems to have been dedicated to different activities and functions. Previous excavations suggested that Room 1 was used for the storage of high-value items, such as the chair from which the ivory plaque was broken. Of the three rooms examined so far, only Room 1 had a well-preserved stone socket for the pivot of the door. This, along with a better constructed threshold and the presence of the laid stone pavement leading up to the door, shows more investment of labor in the means of access to this room. Room 2 was also likely used for storage, though of a more common sort. Near the center of the room a higher concentration of large pottery sherds were detected, including one sherd that bore an incised mark (fig. 6). Subsequent analysis of the ceramics identified six larger storage vessels within this distribution, which most likely were located on or near the floor

of the room at the time it was destroyed. A significant amount of carbonized wheat was recovered as well from this context, suggesting that the room and the vessels may have been used for grain storage. The function of Room 3 seems to be more closely tied to food preparation activities. A U-shaped hearth was found in the southwestern quadrant of the room. Flotation of the contexts within and around the hearth once again revealed relatively high quantities of carbonized wheat. Other finds from the room included an iron knife blade, which may have been used in food preparation activities, as well as a beautiful blue and yellow colored glass bead (fig. 7) and a part of a copper alloy pin, which may have been worn by the people who once used the room.



Figure 7. Six views of the blue and yellow colored glass bead found in Room 3 of TR29

As in years past, following excavation and recording, the fragile floors and interior surface of each room were covered in geotextile and backfilled to a protective depth. The walls were rebuilt as necessary and capped with a leveled course of stone in order to allow visitors to the site to see the location of the buildings within this ancient urban block. This provides a nice balance between preserving the excavated remains while also allowing visitors to understand what has been excavated. Signs depicting plans and descriptions of what was found will be added once the entire urban block has been excavated and conserved.

Paleoenvironmental Research

Complementing the ongoing excavations within Urban Block 8 was the paleoenvironmental research directed by Mac Marston of Brown University. This season the focus of this research was both on the construction of our own SMAP-style flotation machine and on implementing the proposed sampling strategies to aid in the identification of activity areas within the urban block. Our new flotation machine, directly patterned on a flotation machine generously provided to us by the nearby Çadır Höyük Project the previous year, incorporated an extensive recycling system to minimize the amount of water that the flotation machine requires for operation (fig. 8). This was a critical need given the meager water resources in the village during the summer months. Funding for the new flotation machine was generously provided by Catherine Novotny-Brehm.



Figure 8. The new flotation machine all set up. This machine incorporates multiple water settling tanks to minimize overall water usage

Excavations and Restoration in the Cappadocia Gate

The 2011 season brought to a spectacular close the excavations undertaken by Geoffrey Summers within the Cappadocia Gate (fig. 9). Initial clearance of this major gate within the city started as far back as the 1999 season, while focused excavations to complete this work were started in 2009 (see *2009–2010 Annual Report*, pp. 67–69). Going hand in hand with the excavations has been an impressive restoration effort of the nearly 4 m high glacis and freestanding walls.

Excavation focused on the rear section of the gate between the West and North Towers, the last section of the gate to remain unexcavated (fig. 10). Starting at a point almost in line with the back of the semi-iconic stela's stepped platform and continuing to just beyond the end of the projecting West and North Towers, the excavations uncovered a large central stone pavement, flanking rooms, and the negative remains of wooden thresholds for a pair of monumental doorways. As in the entranceway to the Palatial Complex, the wooden thresholds and doors had completely burned away in the massive fire, leaving behind only the heavily burnt rubble fill just below the level of the threshold and iron bands and nails that once held the doors together (fig. 11).

Between the two thresholds, on opposite sides of the central stone pavement, three rooms were identified. Against the face of the West Tower were uncovered two small rooms,

perhaps for guards or storage. Opposite these rooms a single long room was discovered. It was built against both the face of the North Tower and the back of the stela platform. This room was largely devoid of finds other than a remarkable carved stone plinth set at an angle to the northern corner of the room and part of the remains of a unique limestone sculpture scattered around it. A central tenon for securing the sculpture was still to be found broken off in a slot in the top of the plinth. Apparently as the gate collapsed during the final destruction of the city the sculpture was broken by falling stones and timbers. Much of what remained was then taken away by someone unknown at some point after the destruction of the city. Having carefully examined numerous fragments of the sculpture that remained in the room it is apparent that the great majority of it is missing. Yet that is not the only

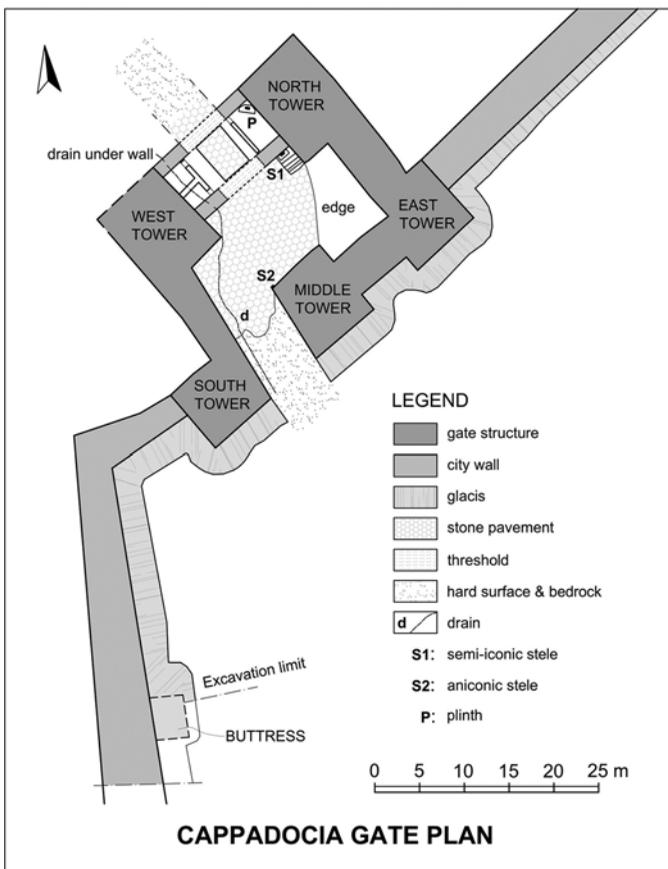


Figure 9. Final plan of the Cappadocia Gate following the 2011 excavations

mystery that this room held. It appears that originally the long side of the room facing the central pavement lacked a wall, allowing people entering the city to perhaps view the plinth and sculpture. At some point the opening was walled up from the outside, as evidenced by the poor construction of the wall's inner face. The preserved extents of this wall are not sufficient to determine if this wall completely blocked the view into the room of those walking past. However, it is a significant and somewhat perplexing event that must relate in some way to the sculpture within the room.

The sandstone plinth is about 1.5 m long and just over 0.5 m in height (fig. 12). The front of the plinth is carved with two well-executed sphinxes facing one another, their outstretched paws touching and their tails curling back around their bodies. Pieces from the upper half of the carving exhibit more wear than those below, indicating that after the destruction of the gate at least part of the plinth was still exposed to the



Figure 10. Area of excavations in 2011 within the Cappadocia Gate



Figure 11. View of the excavation area including one of the burnt thresholds, central pavement, and the stone plinth after excavation

KERKENES DAĞ



Figure 12. The stone plinth, as excavated, with the broken limestone tenon still within the slot on the top of the plinth



Figure 13. A few of the remaining fragments of the limestone sculpture that once stood on top of the plinth. It is unknown how the represented scales are incorporated into the composition of the sculpture



Figure 14. The front and back of the gold and electrum ornament discovered in the rear doorway of the Cappadocia Gate

elements. It obviously suffered damage during the destruction, with the face cracked and barely adhering to the main block. As it was excavated, very careful recording was undertaken to allow its subsequent cleaning and reconstruction. The pieces of the sculpture on top of the plinth (fig. 13), meanwhile, exhibit a range of different elements such as braids of hair or mane, scales from an animal or armor, and smooth curving surfaces. No adequate parallels have been found for the sculpture, making identification of its subject matter largely speculative at this time.

One other exceptional object was uncovered at the rear doorway of the gate. This gold and electrum ornamental piece shows exquisite craftsmanship, despite being crushed in the destruction (fig. 14). Whether it originally belonged to one of the two individuals whose crushed skeletons were found in the collapse of the gate we will never know. However, with the expert assistance of Dr. Yılmaz Erdal and his team from Hacettepe University in Ankara, the second of these skeletons was removed and identified as male. Could he and the woman found earlier in the gate have been together? Were they separated in the dense smoke and chaos as the gate burned and collapsed? Or were they merely two separate individuals who both met their end in the same unfortunate location? Some questions archaeology may never be able to answer.

While excavations were completed in the Cappadocia Gate,

restoration efforts continued in 2011 and are expected to continue into future seasons (figs. 15 and 16). This work was once again directed by two restoration architects from Istanbul Technical University (ITU), Erkan Kambek and Dr. Nilufer Yöneş. They were assisted in the work this year by stone masons from Uşak, Turkey. Work focused on the collapsing corners and walls of the Middle, North, and West Towers within the gate. The Middle Tower has proved particularly complicated being more susceptible to heavy rains. However, more experimental work on the North and West Towers, where the walls were stabilized internally with new timber beams, proved quite successful. Future attempts with these same techniques on the wall of the Middle Tower should prove more successful.

Community Outreach and Ethnographic Studies

A key facet of the Kerkenes Dağ Project over the years has been our commitment to working with and engaging the local village on a number of levels. Through sister initiatives, such as the Kerkenes Eco-Center, we have implemented ways to positively impact the sustainability of rural life in villages such as Şahmurath. It also provides a means by

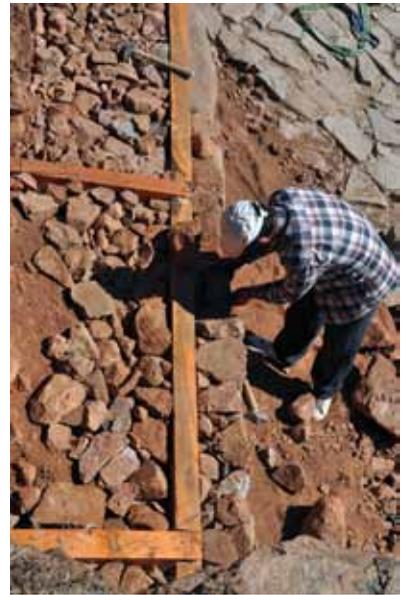


Figure 15. Restoration efforts of the North and West Towers involved incorporation of new wooden beams behind the facing stones in order to replace the beams that burned out in the final destruction of the city



Figure 16. The central court of the Cappadocia Gate following restoration efforts on the three towers

KERKENES DAĞ

which we can give back to the village for their generous hospitality. The support of the local community for an archaeological project is absolutely essential for its success, it is also essential to the long-term protection of the site.

Beginning in 2010 and continuing last year, Assistant Director Dr. Sevil Baltalı Tırpan of Istanbul Technical University has been developing a joint archaeological outreach and ethnographic project within the village. A key component of the work in 2011 was to begin to understand how the landscapes of Kerkenes, including the archaeological project ongoing within its walls, are conceptualized by the people of Şahmuratlı. Maps were created of over twenty areas in and around the site that can then be related to different stories, knowledge, and experiences that are being recorded and explored in interviews with people from across the village. Such work will strengthen our understanding of the site and of our neighbors, who will live with and protect the site for decades to come.

Acknowledgments

The Kerkenes Dağ Project is a joint project between the Oriental Institute and the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara. It is co-directed by Dr. Geoffrey Summers of Middle East Technical University (METU) and myself. Dr. Sevil Baltalı Tırpan of Istanbul Technical University (ITU) is the project's Assistant Director. The Kerkenes Eco-Center Project is directed by Françoise Summers of METU. Restoration work in the Cappadocia Gate has been overseen by Erkan Kambek and Nilüfer Baturayoğlu Yöney of ITU.

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MARJ RABBA

Yorke M. Rowan

Investigations at Marj Rabba, the first phase of the Galilee Prehistory Project (GPP), focus on two broad research themes: the definition and characterization of Galilean sites during the fifth to early fourth millennia BC, and the role of this site and region within the poorly understood late prehistoric sequence from the Late Neolithic to Chalcolithic transition in the southern Levant (fig. 1). Objectives of this project were to establish the chronological relationship of this site, investigate the material culture for comparison to other sites and regions, and provide new insights into the subsistence economy of this formative era. Ultimately, we wish to explore life in the Galilee during a period that witnesses the first evidence for the development of copper metallurgy, dramatic new burial practices, and rich iconographic elaboration in material culture.

The third field season of excavations was conducted from July 15 to August 18, 2011. After three seasons of excavation there is an emerging picture of a substantial agricultural village with connections to nearby regions, yet sharply contrasting with contemporaneous sites to the south in the northern Negev and Jordan Valley. Although the areal extent of our excavations is smaller than those of the large Negev sites, the difference in material culture suggests a relatively self-sufficient village of agro-pastoralists with a mixed farming economy and only limited exchange beyond the immediate hills of the Galilee.

The 2011 season had four main objectives:

1. Expansion of our excavated squares to expose broader areas that might provide a coherent architectural plan.
2. Intensive pedestrian survey to determine the site limits and to identify any concentrations of Chalcolithic material culture.
3. Construction of a topographic map of the site and immediate area.
4. Geophysical survey of selected areas of the site.

EXCAVATIONS

Our excavations concentrated on three areas. In one area, AA, work continued in the area previously excavated during our first two seasons (2009–2010), where a long east–west wall (w7) formed a northern boundary for a series of circular stone features. Immediately to the east, Area BB consists of two additional contiguous 5 x 5 meter squares opened during this season. The third area, CC, expanded on squares (L1 and M1) opened in 2009 and 2010.

Despite the somewhat limited exposure in each area, the different character of each hints at the possibility that functionally separate areas existed in the village. This is most apparent in Area AA, where the series of overlapping curvilinear stone structures are the latest preserved architectural traces at the village.

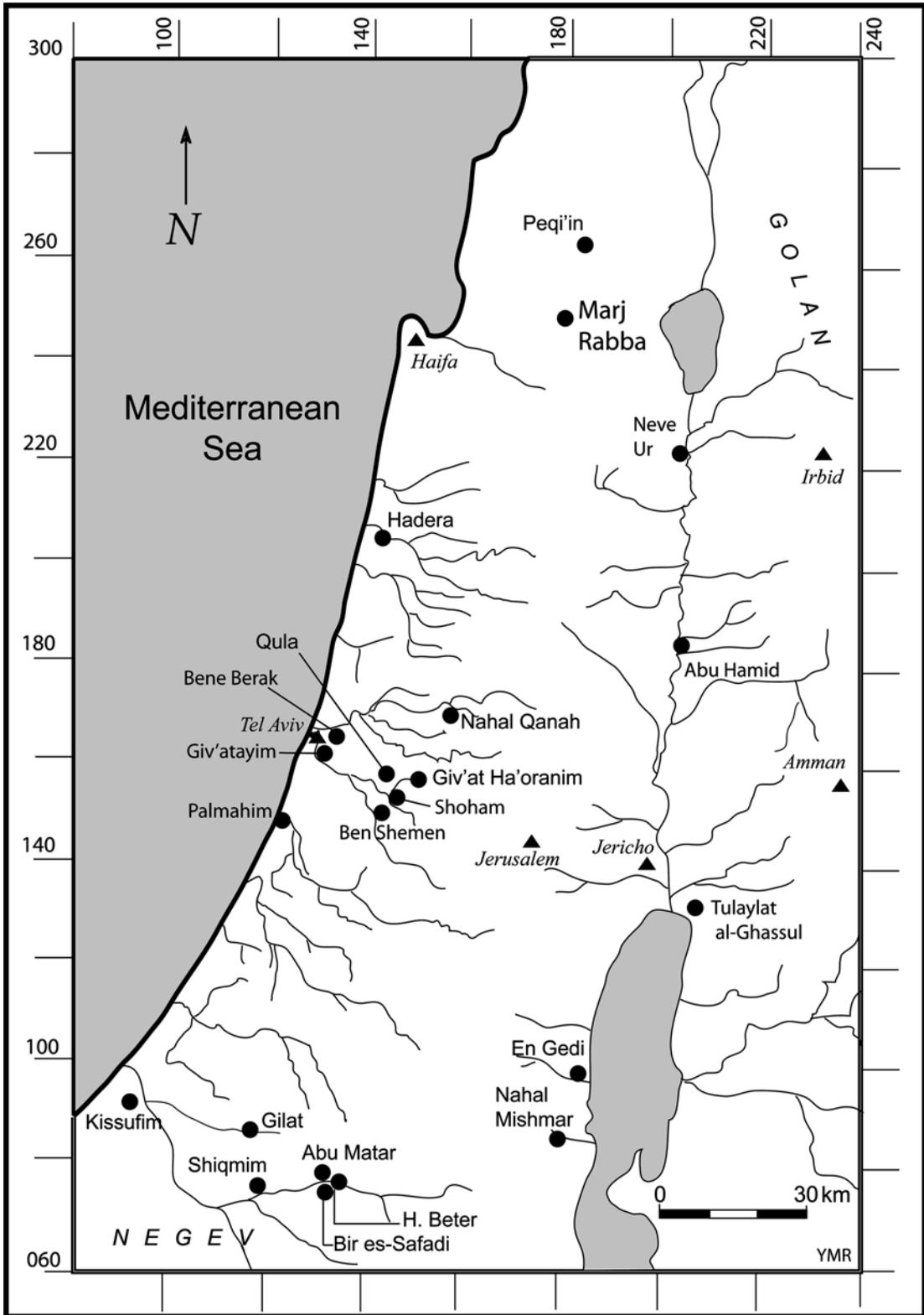


Figure 1. Map of the region, with Marj Rabba and other key Chalcolithic sites

Area AA

The 2010 season ended with unanswered questions about the extent, function, and phasing of the architecture in Area AA (squares D1, D2, E1, E2, F1, and F2, comprising ca. 112.5 m²), so efforts were concentrated in this area in 2011. Our primary objective in Area AA was to remove the latest phases of architectural fragments, baulks between squares, and, if possible, to remove some of the fully excavated round features discovered in 2009–2010 in order to expose the earlier walls and floors below. Although removal of architectural fragments and baulks was successful, we also uncovered additional architecture and round stone features, slowing the excavation and hampering exposure of earlier strata. At least two additional seasons will be necessary in this area to expose the earlier walls, which we hope will provide building foundations and floors, answering some of the remaining questions regarding Marj Rabba.

Although the wet winter and minor disturbances by local quadrupeds contributed to a fair amount of slumping in the section and baulks of the open squares, the intact architecture was not appreciably damaged. After removal of sandbags and fencing, and careful cleaning, we removed baulks between squares C1/D1 and squares E1/F1.

Removal of the E1/F1 baulk clarified a confusing architectural detail from the 2010 season: wall w7 (the original east–west wall in D1) and w203 abut (figs. 2, 3), and w203 continues entirely through E1 into F1, where it terminates in an apparent doorway and then continues as w231. A fragmentary wall sat on top of 203. This wall fragment (w704), partly visible in the square profile, runs north–south mostly inside the E1/F1 baulk. This wall, apparently



Figure 2. Area AA, looking north. Circular stone features exposed in Squares D1–D2, E1–E2, and F2

MARJ RABBA

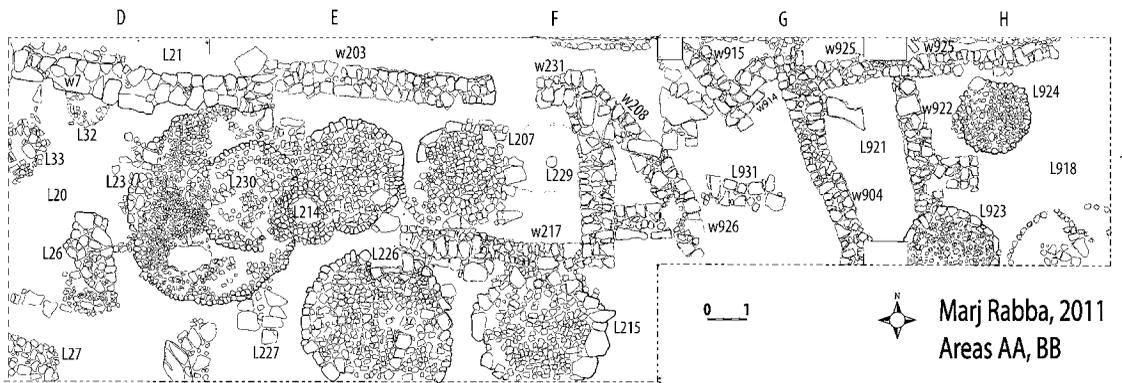


Figure 3. Plan map of Area AA (D, E, F) and Area BB (G, H)

contemporary with late wall remnant w201 (F1) and on top of the earlier room wall (w231), ran for approximately 5 meters south from the rubble on top of w203 and then terminated.

A dense layer of pebbles with pottery was sitting on top of a circular stone feature (L.207) in F1. Careful excavation revealed the continuation of this round feature as well as an earlier phase of the same construction. L.207 is a clearly defined round feature with, in some places, larger fieldstones forming the edge. Just below L.207 is a fragmentary circle of medium cobbles, which appears to be an earlier phase of the same structure. Removal of this baulk helped clarify the borders of several round features, particularly L.23, L.226, and L.215.

Reopening excavations in D1 (opened in 2009) included the removal of the fragmentary feature (L.26) in the southern half of the square. Constructed of large and medium cobbles, it was almost certainly damaged and incomplete; the function was impossible to determine. The extensively slumped baulk between squares D1 and C1, exposed for two years, was removed, exposing a dense cobble layer. Very similar to the cobble fill of other circular features, careful troweling revealed the possible edge of another circular stone feature (L.729). Constructed with only medium cobbles along the edge, this round feature is constructed more like L.23 than L.215.

D1/2 Final Disposition 2011

With the definition of another circular stone feature (L.729) and the clearance of fragmentary later architecture (L.26) from the south of D1, a relatively large open area was created between the large round feature in D1/E1 (L.23) and the new smaller round feature in C1/D1 (L.729). This area, when scraped a few centimeters lower than the final level of 2009, came down on a fragmentary floor level (L.723). This floor level appears contemporary with L.729 because broken pottery rests on the floor and against the edge of the feature. Where preserved, the floor consists of a whitish, silty, brick-like material, which is quite friable, possibly rich in phytoliths, and containing some flecked charcoal and flat pottery pieces. The floor is very patchy, and large sections were found in the center of the open area, other sections were recovered along the northern and southern edge of L.729. Additional patches were found in D2, south of L.23.

By the end of the season hints of earlier architecture in D2 appeared. In the west end of the square there is a fragment of either a wall or another round feature, which disappears into both the west and south sections (L.728). In addition, along the border between squares D1 and D2, the tops of three very large stones may form an earlier wall that appears parallel

to the main wall (w7/w203). Finally, just as the floor surface was being scraped for the last time, some wall-like stones showed up in the southeastern corner of D2. These stones appear to be the top of a wall that will run under round feature L.23 and line up with the jog in the main wall where wall 7 becomes wall 203.

Removal of Circular Features

One goal for the area during this season was to expose earlier strata and architecture, necessitating the removal of circular features in some cases. We began with the removal of L.230, the latest round feature in D1/E1. Constructed of small cobbles, this was incomplete and in some places could not be distinguished from the large circular feature L.23 below. This removal completed the exposure of the large stone circular feature (L.23), providing a clearer picture of that feature. In 2010, our efforts to define the eastern and northern border of L.23 were frustrated because of L.230 and the apparent disappearance of the small cobble edge of L.23 in the north. With L.230 removed, it became apparent that two small pits cut through L.23, accounting for patches of missing cobble fill. These pits (L.718 and L.719) appear to postdate L.23, but predate L.230.

With the removal of L.230, we hoped to see a closing wall emerging from the jog at the boundary of w7 and w203, but this remains obscured and will require removal of circular structures L.23 and L.225 for clarification. Since we knew that the circular feature L.207 had two construction phases and was sitting above the floor in the room (F1), we decided to section this feature and remove the southern half down to the earlier floor level. A section of the multi-phase installation in situ would allow us to collect a micromorphology sample to address the function of these enigmatic features. Additionally, we might find the closing wall to the main room in F1, which would run north-south between L.203 and L.217. Removal of the circular stone feature L.207 along an east-west axis (fig. 2) indicated that there was no intact cobble interior surface. The fill (L.725) below L.207 and above L.228 (the lower floor level) included multiple layers of burned and dark stained soils with charcoal flecked inclusions, alternating with the same light brown subsoil as elsewhere in the area. Samples for micromorphological analysis were taken.

One of the latest features in Area AA, L.214 is a stone-lined pit, which was first identified and excavated in 2010; excavation in the hole continued for approximately another 25 cm. Although cultural material was found with some regularity in the upper fill of this feature, the density of finds decreased in the last 10 cm, with almost no pottery, flint, or bone recovered as bedrock was reached. Approximately 1 m in diameter at the top, this pit narrows slightly toward the bedrock that forms the bottom, approximately 75 cm below the pit rim. Although there is no direct evidence this was probably a storage pit.

Outside the Main Wall

In addition to removing the very late and incomplete wall found in the E1/F1 baulk (L.704, see above), the contemporary later wall, L.201, was removed so that the lower main wall could be fully excavated. With L.201 removed, the soil continued to be densely packed with cobbles (L.702 and L.713), which extended well below the level of the walls to nearly one meter in depth, but do not appear to be the remains of any in situ architecture. These loci were rich in material culture, however, with large amounts of pottery, flint, bone, and ground stone; another small flake of obsidian was recovered in the screen from L.702, one of two obsidian

MARJ RABBA

flakes recovered in 2011. Analyses indicate our obsidian derives from at least two different sources, in central and eastern Turkey, suggesting long-distance connections.

East of the main room in L.720 (east of w207, feature L.215, and south of L.218), the top of a wall (w727) was discovered running under the room in F1 (i.e., w208) to the west, and disappears into G1 to the east. This is clearly an earlier phase than the main room in F1. This wall has a very different construction method compared to other architecture in Areas AA and BB. The primary construction of walls in AA tends to include either rather haphazard very large boulders forming a rough wall (e.g., w7) or else medium, roughly rectangular, field stones placed with their long access perpendicular to the direction of the wall, this earlier phase wall (L.727) is made with rather large field stones, which are laid with their long access parallel to the direction of the wall. Several people on site noted a distinct similarity between L.727 and the architecture exposed in Area CC.

Area BB

Two new squares, G1 and H1, were opened at the beginning of the field season in order to provide wider context to previously exposed architecture in Area AA to the west. Topsoil layers in these two squares are similar to elsewhere in Areas AA and CC: rich in Chalcolithic finds intermixed with occasional small weathered Roman/Byzantine sherds and modern debris. Chalcolithic finds from the topsoil included fragments of basalt vessels and grinding implements, a bone tool, a spindle whorl, and a flint ax. Artifact density was high in all top-



Figure 4. Area BB, looking north (Square H1)

soil loci, but L.916 was particularly dense, including ceramic handles, a perforated circular scraper (L.916, B.6036), shell, numerous basalt fragments, and a bone tool fragment.

Architecture uncovered during excavation of this layer includes walls w914, w915, and w926, all located in G1, all single-course, late-phase constructions that are not well understood. These walls do not extend below topsoil layers. Below these late wall traces, more substantial walls were exposed.

Removal of fill L.918 exposed circular stone features (L.923, L.924) similar to those exposed in Area AA. Like topsoil sediments, the fill (L.918) is rich, with some artifacts possibly associated with the circular structures; potsherds were present on L.923 surface, while identifiable animal bones and bone fragments are clearly visible in the matrix of L.924. Architectural features identified in these mottled subsoil layers include w922 and w925 (see figs. 3, 4). Both of these walls have multiple courses, but the bottoms of the walls were not located by the season's end. If they are contemporaneous with each other as well as with w904, which intersects w925, they constitute the earliest phases identifiable in Area BB. W922, at least, almost certainly pre-dates L.918, L.923, and L.924 at its southern end, as L.923 is actually built on top of the southern portion of the wall (see fig. 4).

A possible room in squares G1/H1 is bound by w904, w922, and w925. L.921 represents the lowest level reached in this area during the 2011 excavation season.

L.927 in square G1 has a very different soil matrix than other layers found in Area BB. Loose, silty fill with mixed cobbles is more similar to soils found in Area CC, with substantially less material than in previous loci. The locus initially had dense cobble fill distributed throughout, but, with excavation, it became clear that dense cobbles did not approach or



Figure 5. Area BB, looking north (Square G1)

surround a possible platform or wall fragment located in the center of the locus, as it was initially defined (now L.931 wall fragment; see fig. 5). This stratigraphic change also coincides with (a) the appearance of mudbrick in the matrix and (b) the appearance of earlier phase walls, discussed below.

This stratigraphic change seems to coincide with the appearance of earlier architecture, which is present in wall fragment L.931 (see fig. 5). Although this wall fragment appears to be at approximately the same level and orientation of a similar wall fragment identified in Area AA (F1; see fig. 3), the two fragments do not seem to be connected. Mudbrick deposits running west (under w926) toward the potentially related wall fragment in L.720 (Area AA, F1) and a lack of clear, level floor or packed surface suggest that this mudbrick layer is collapse from the associated wall(s).

In square H1, circular stone features L.923 and L.924 appear to represent an intermediate construction phase between the early phase seen in the G1/H1 walls and late walls present in G1 (fig. 4). These circular stone features are similar in construction and depth to those identified in Area AA. Additionally, they are located at the interface between topsoil and subsoil layers. While the two stone circles postdate w922 on the south (they are built over it) their relationship to w925 and northern sections of w922 are less clear. A potential wall fragment built east off of w922 into L.918 and just to the south of L.924 suggests the possibility that L.923 and L.924 may have been associated with a later use of northern sections of this wall complex. This relationship cannot be verified, however, because neither walls nor L.923 and L.924 are fully understood at present.

Because the walls only became apparent below the main topsoil layers and their bases appear to be firmly located in the later topsoil level, it seems more likely that L.923 and L.924 represent a construction phase that is intermediate to those late-phase walls (w926, w914, and w915) and the bases of w922, w925, and w904. However, if this question can be more satisfactorily answered, it will only be through further excavation.

Walls w904, w922, and w925, while not fully excavated, seem to be contemporaneous and form the walls of a room located on the border between G1 and H1 (L.921; see fig. 5). The floor of this room has not been reached, and there are no discernable features found thus far.

Area CC

Area CC is comprised of squares L1, M1, L20, and M20. Square L1 was excavated in 2009, with additional limited excavation in 2011. The 2009 excavations revealed a large wall (w12) with a “bench” of three flat stones adjacent and below the wall (L.35) and two additional wall fragments (walls w18 and w22). Limited exposure of M1 (5 x 5 m) was begun in 2010 but stopped with the discovery of walls and dense collapse. Walls w606, w607, and w605 were visible after ca. 15 cm of topsoil were removed in 2010. Walls w605 and w606 run roughly north-south, while w607 runs roughly east-west.

One of the main goals of the 2011 excavations in Area CC was to understand the phasing and structural relationships between the walls in M1 and L1. In order to accomplish this, M1 was to be excavated to the level of L1, as were two new half squares, M20 and L20 (both 2.5 x 5.0 m). These new squares lay north of M1 and L1, respectively.

At least four architectural phases are apparent in Area CC. A concentration of medium and large cobble rubble (probably wall collapse from walls w12 and w614), L.615 straddled squares M1 and M20. Later excavation showed that w12 was, in fact, cut by w614 (fig. 6). Be-

tween walls w606, w607, and w605 was the reddish clay fill (L.616, L.624, and L.631) found in other areas of the site. Recovered in the removal of these fills were ceramics, lithics, bone, and also a ceramic loom weight. One “wall fragment” is more likely to be a part of the cobble pavement (L.636). Excavation between these walls also revealed that w607 and w605 are much deeper than w606, suggesting that w606 belongs to a later phase, an interpretation confirmed by the removal of subsoil between the ostensible connections between w605 and w606, and w607 and w606. By observing the patterns of the stones in these walls at their juncture, we reached two fairly solid conclusions concerning their relative chronologies: w606 cut w607, and w605 was built to join w606. Interestingly, the pavement observed in the rest of M1 was absent between walls 605 and 606, as were any medium or large cobble, which could have derived from a disturbed part of this pavement (as in L.625). This suggests that the pavement ended at the line of (or underneath) w605.

The area of M1 bounded by w605, w607, w614, and w12 was left in 2010 at the reddish clay stratum, with a single mudbrick visible, an area notably poor in artifacts. Early on we noted that there were many medium and large limestone cobbles in the middle of the locus, but we assumed that these derived from wall collapse. Clearly, however, this was not simply wall collapse because they are far (ca. 1 m) from the walls from which they allegedly fell. The removal of many large cobbles from this locus allowed us to better see the remaining parts of a cobble pavement (L.636), which lay directly underneath walls w12, w605, and w607. L.617 and L.625 therefore represent the area disturbed by a cut into L.636. This could have been the result of plowing, as the disturbed area is rather linear, running north-south across the squares.



Figure 6. Area CC, looking east (Square L1)



Figure 7. Area CC, looking north (Square M1)

Below the reddish clay layers in M1 and M20 was the large flat cobble pavement (L.636). One of the most perplexing problems of L.636 is defining the limits. Some of this is an artifact of preservation, but a large part of it probably stems from the original layout of the pavement. The pavement is rather irregularly shaped, with a roughly rectangular outline in M1, which “jogs” out about one meter with the so-called “wall fragment” between w605 and w606 (fig. 7). This jog lies east of what appears to be a seam — a linear gap in the flat pavement stones, which may have marked where a wall would have been constructed, or for w605 itself. Also east of this seam is a series of flat stones making what has been interpreted as a small set of steps leading up to the pavement surface. One of these stones at the top of the stairs contains a ca. 10 cm hollow — a probable doorjamb. The “jog,” then, may be the southern half of a recessed entrance, or perhaps a portico, leading onto the platform, the northern edge of this entrance lying somewhere beyond the northern section of the square. It is interesting to note that the seam, though quite prominent, arcs slightly to the west as it roughly follows the western edge of w605. Where w605 meets w607, the pavement appears to take — maddeningly — another jog east. Wall w607 is itself not present, or at least not preserved, west of the seam, making the shape of whatever room or structure, if any, that was associated with the pavement difficult to delineate. The western part of w607, however, would have certainly been cut by the purported plow activity, which created L.617/625, so preservation is a serious obstacle to this interpretation.

The other primary focus of excavations in Area CC was L1 and L20. After the western extension of w614 was discovered, L.641 exposed the northern face of w614 as well as another possible wall: a line of medium cobble stones running east–west along the northern section

of L20. In L.639, the southern face and bottom course of w614 was exposed, revealing the extremely well-constructed nature of w614 (fig. 6). The stones appear to have been intentionally faced, a fact that makes w614 unique at Marj Rabba and unusual for the Chalcolithic period. A fragment of a wall (w646 = w22 from 2009) was exposed as well; missing its northern face, this was most cut by the construction of w614.

Clarifying the relationship between architecture in L1 (excavated in 2009) and L20, M20, and M1 are a central concern. After removing a layer of reddish clay, mudbrick, and medium cobbles (L.643), a floor or surface (L.649) was exposed. This surface was, in fact, recognized by the discovery of a plastered “cup-mark” (L.644) that defined that level and cuts into L.649 (fig. 6). The association of w18 with L.649 was posited following light excavation around the wall fragment to determine its bottom course (L.645). L.649 was disturbed by wall collapse in the west (L.648) and a pit containing tabun fragments and cobbled (L.647). Near the bottom of the pit, burnt stones and soil were found; several samples of burned mudbrick or tabun fragments were collected.

SURVEY

As part of the 2011 field season a pedestrian survey was undertaken at the site by Research Associate Morag Kersel. During archaeological survey, data was collected in order to examine the extent of the site and immediate environs, and with the hope of identifying artifact surface concentrations. The site survey was designed to discover the extent of the site and to identify potentially distinct areas. All evidence for human activity and material culture were considered relevant information.

Located on a shoulder to the west of the prominent hill of Har ha-Sha’avi, the area is now used for olive groves and animal pasturage, as well as an area of planted pine trees under the control of Keren Kayemet L’Israel (the Jewish National Fund). Surface finds include Chalcolithic flint tools (e.g., axes, adzes, and chisels), cores, and debitage. Ground stone tools (basalt), Chalcolithic pottery (local and Golan wares), and Late Roman or Byzantine vessels were also recorded. As part of the survey we also attempted to gain an accurate picture of the extent of the site and any related sites or sources of water.

Survey transects were spaced 10–20 m apart (depending upon on the terrain and visibility). At regular intervals (10–20 m), again, dependent upon on the terrain and visibility, diagnostic pottery fragments were collected (i.e., rims, bases, handles, and decorated fragments) along with all artifacts of other material classes in a 1 m radius. Artifacts within this radius were collected and bagged. Each of these pickup areas was marked with a pin flag and later plotted using a total station. Between the 1 m pickups all artifacts were counted and noted (using a system of color-coded clickers), providing an accurate accounting of the surface scatters. The survey area was demarcated using the handheld GeoXT GPS to record the extent of the plot. Further information was collected on the survey transect and area including modern land use, agricultural use, level of plowing, and amount of erosion, as well as the time of day, slope, aspect, and visibility.

Pedestrian Survey Results

In the pedestrian survey two notable “hotspots” were identified in which high concentrations of artifacts were evident on the surface. In the northern hotspot there was a high concen-

tration of all types of artifacts: lithics (including tools), ceramics (Roman-Byzantine, local Chalcolithic, and Golan wares), and basalt (vessels). The southern hotspot has unusually high concentrations of worked and unworked basalt fragments (including vessels and grinding stones) and lithic material. Further intensive survey and test trenches are planned for future seasons in order to investigate these areas of potential interest.

GEOPHYSICAL PROSPECTION

In addition to the archaeological site survey, a geophysical prospection was performed in targeted areas of the site. Specifically, ground-penetrating radar and magnetometry were employed by T. Urban. These remote-sensing techniques attempted to identify subsurface archaeological remains at varying scalar levels (primarily architectural remains). The geophysical survey was performed following the same grid layout as that established for the intensive pedestrian survey. This allowed for greater spatial standardization of the results, which can be integrated with the artifact density data and surface features mapping using GIS. Understanding the architectural layout of the site will assist in planning future seasons and provide a greater understanding of the relationship between the site and its surrounding landscape.

Preliminary results of the geophysical survey are presented in figure 8, identifying an area to the south of the current excavation area with prominent subsurface features only 70–80 cm below the surface. Analyses of the geophysical survey are still being conducted.

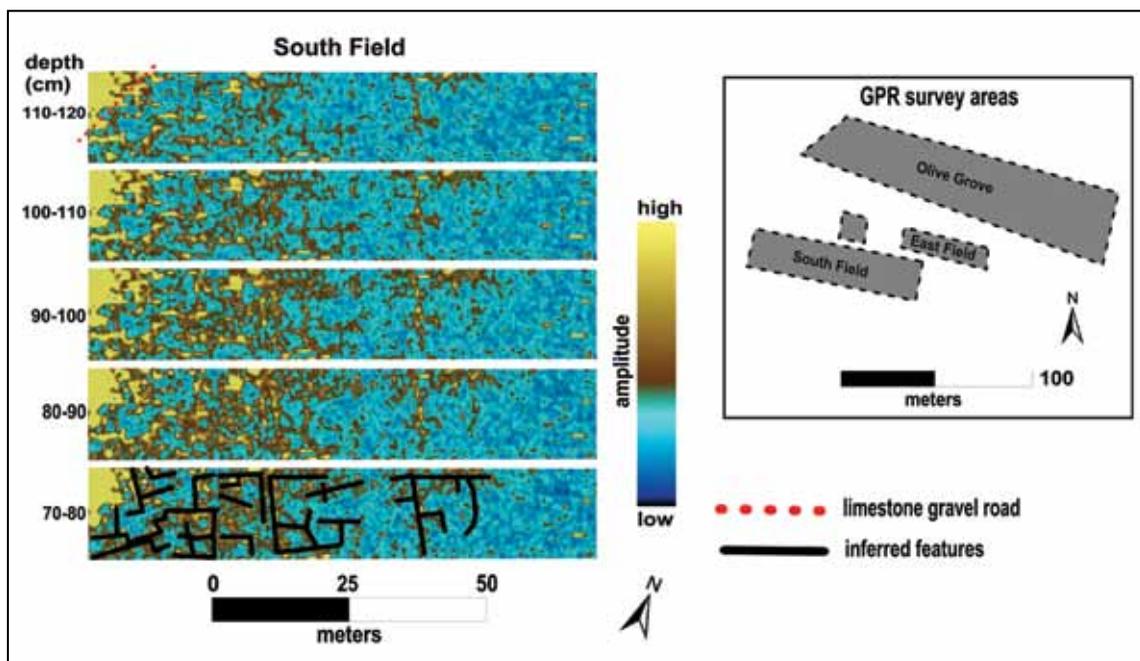


Figure 8. Schematics of ground-penetrating radar from south field, directly south of Areas AA and BB. Image by T. Urban

Conclusion

The 2011 season began to answer some of the questions about Marj Rabba but at least two more ambitious seasons will be needed to understand all the phases, reconstruct the fragmentary building plan, and expose the buildings predating the circular features in Areas AA and BB. This season demonstrates that the circular stone (silo?) features first recognized in Area AA are not limited to one area. Additionally, the combined exposure of an apparent early phase wall in square F1 and those in Area BB reveal the clear potential for an even earlier phase, possibly similar to the phasing in Area CC.

Areas AA and BB seem to have changed significantly in function and spatial organization from the earlier to later phases. Coupled with results from future seasons and other areas of the site, this could provide insights into changes in social organization through the occupational phases of the site. In future seasons, we will intensify our efforts to glean additional data from specialists about some of the samples recovered this year, such as botanical samples from the small pits, stone circles, and potential floors. This data may prove particularly relevant in Area CC, where greater depth of cultural deposits below the disturbed plow zone may demonstrate better preservation of carbonized remains and more substantial architecture.

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On behalf of the Marj Rabba team and my co-director, Morag Kersel, we wish to thank the many institutions and individuals who helped make this a successful season. Excavations at Marj Rabba and the Galilee Prehistory Project were possible through the generous support of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein, and many private donors. The Israel Antiquities Authority provided efficient logistical and in-field support, which we greatly appreciate. David Ilan and Levana Zias of the Hebrew Union College, Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, Jerusalem, continued to offer their advice, logistical support, and equipment. We would also like to thank the staff at ORT Braude College of Engineering, particularly Maxine Noam and Ora Dahan. In Chicago, Steven Camp, D'Ann Condes, and Mariana Perlinac provided essential administrative support for which we are very grateful. Special thanks to our invaluable field staff, Austin Hill, Brittany Jackson, Max Price, Dina Shalem, and the volunteers, students, and local workers, for their enduring hard work and professional spirit.

MUMMY LABEL DATABASE (MLD)¹

François Gaudard

This has been a major year for the Mummy Label Database on many levels. First of all, the editors of the MLD, namely, Sofía Torallas Tovar, Raquel Martín Hernández, and François Gaudard, would like to thank the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN) for awarding them a grant,² whose principal investigator is Sofía, to support the development of the database itself as well as a collaborative project on death in Graeco-Roman Egypt involving the Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales – CSIC, Madrid; the University of Chicago; and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

Several new staff members have joined the project: in Leiden (Leiden University), Klaas A. Worp will share with us his expertise on mummy labels; in Paris (IRHT, CNRS), Maria Jesús Albarrán Martínez has started working on Coptic materials; in Barcelona (Universitat Pompeu Fabra), Alberto Nodar will supervise the technical aspects of the database; in Madrid (CSIC), Irene Pajón will participate in the project as well as Alba de Frutos, who is planning a trip to Paris next year in order to identify the mummy labels hosted by the Louvre Museum; in Baltimore (Johns Hopkins University), Marina Escolano will also join the staff; in Chicago (University of Chicago), Christopher Faraone, Janet H. Johnson, David Martinez, Brian Muhs, and Robert Ritner will collaborate by giving their input, and so will Eugene Cruz-Urbe in Monterey Bay (California State University).

As is the case with international projects, running the MLD involves travel and meetings: in December 2011, February and April 2012, Sofía and François met at the Oriental Institute to discuss various aspects of the project; in November 2011, Sofía and Alberto met with Mark Depauw in Leuven to examine the best way to connect the MLD to Trismegistos [<http://www.trismegistos.org/>], once it is online; and in May 2012, Christopher Faraone met with Sofía in Madrid.

Sofía, Raquel, Klaas, and François have continued to complete the database and to edit labels from various collections. The following article by Raquel has been published: “El transporte de momias a través del Nilo: El testimonio de las etiquetas de momia,” in *Esta Toledo Aquella Babilonia: Convivencia e interacción en las sociedades del Oriente y del Mediterráneo Antiguos* (Actas del V Congreso Español de Antiguo Oriente Próximo, Toledo 26–30 octubre de 2009), edited by J. C. Oliva and J. A. Belmonte, pp. 543–53 (Colección Estudios 131; Cuenca: Ediciones de la Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, 2011). Klaas and Sofía have just completed an article on new Greek labels, mostly from the Durham Oriental Museum and the Museu de Montserrat, which will appear in the next issue of the *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* under the title: “New Wooden Labels from Various Collections.” Sofía also wrote “Egyptian Burial Practices in Late Antiquity: The Case of Christian Mummy Labels,” to be published in *Transfer of Knowledge in the Eastern Mediterranean*, edited by J. P. Monferrer and S. Torallas, pp. 15–25 (Cordoba, 2012). François wrote an article entitled “A Demotic-Hieratic Mummy Label in the Museu de Montserrat,” which is now in press and will be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague Egyptologist. As for Sergio Carro, he started to arrange the fields and photos of the database. We all look forward to seeing the project grow and move ahead.

Notes

¹ For details on this joint project of the Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales – CSIC, Madrid, and of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, readers can consult the *Oriental Institute 2008-2009 Annual Report*, also available online in Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf): http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/08-09_MLD.pdf

² Grant ACI-PRO-2011-1132.

NIPPUR

McGuire Gibson

For the first time since May of 2003, I visited Nippur as part of a trip to Iraq to assess the possibilities of resuming fieldwork. Several colleagues have been to the site in the meantime, and they have sent me reports that the site is being guarded and that there is a fence around it, but I could not get detailed information on exactly where the fence ran. What I found on my visit is that the site is safe, it is being guarded not just by our own guards, but also by a contingent of thirteen soldiers who live in a house that was built there in 2005. I could not find out exactly how it happened, but in the process of building this new guard station, the cinder-block house that I had constructed for our guards in the late 1990s had been demolished. Our guards live nearby. I assume that our guards' house was demolished at the same time in 2005 that a contractor, working under the orders of someone in the occupation authority, began to demolish our dig house, damaging the front gate and a small room next to it. I find it odd that even our guards' memories are hazy on the events. I know that neither of them wanted to live on the site, even after I had built them a new house.

The site itself is undergoing the usual natural erosion that occurs, but there is no man-made damage. The fence, consisting of a large tangle of barbed wire about five feet high and five feet wide and held in place by metal posts, runs around the entire site, even the small satellite mounds to the north, east, and west of the main mounds (see map). This fence and the guards have prevented any looting since they were put in place. I knew that in June of 2003, after I had last been there and found no evidence of illegal digging, some looters had been able to work for a few days on the northwestern slopes of the West Mound.

A UNESCO group inspected this damage and one of them sent me a photo. Shortly after their visit, the looting was stopped by patrols of soldiers that made periodic inspections, thus enforcing our own guards who had not been able to stop the looting on their own, being out-gunned.

In the past few years, there have been several inquiries from cuneiform scholars who are working on tablets with dubious legality in private collections or on tablets that were seized by U.S. Customs and are being studied before being returned to Iraq. The cuneiformists insist that, because of names and events mentioned in them, the tablets must come from Nippur. I knew that all of these tablets had been removed from Iraq in the 1990s, when thousands of tablets were looted from many sites and smuggled out of Iraq,

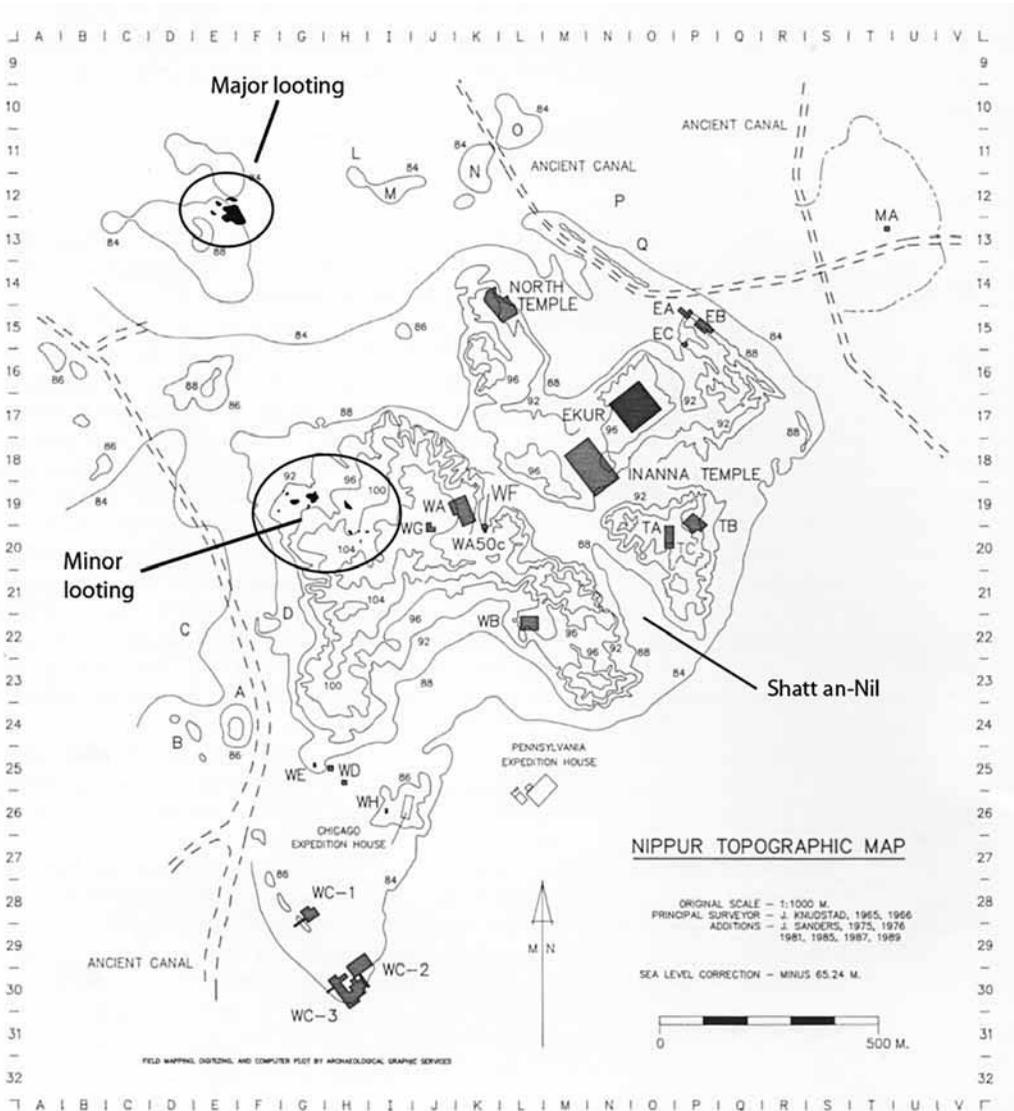


Nippur house in need of repair. From left to right: Ziara Abid, McGuire Gibson, Sayyid Thabit (Antiquities director, Diwaniya), Ibn La'ibi (local Antiquities representative), brother of Nippur guard, Wathiq Hindo (Nippur Expedition's agent in Baghdad), Abbas Garmoul (Nippur Guard). In background, unidentified man and another government guard



Government guard post next to expedition house at Nippur

Perimeter fence and road at north of site



Map of Nippur, with the areas of looting indicated. Adapted by Alexandra Witsell

NIPPUR



Looters' holes made in June 2003



Place where looters found Parthian coffins, West Mound

many ending up in the hands of U.S. collectors. But I was at Nippur every year in the 1990s and I walked over the main mounds each time. There were no looters' holes on the site until June of 2003. Therefore, those tablets could not have come from Nippur, although they may have come from a nearby mound.

My inspection this last May made clear that the looters in June 2003 did not do much damage on the West Mound, making only a few shallow holes in a limited area, and I gauged from the pottery around the holes that they did not reach levels that would have produced cuneiform tablets. A bit to the west, nearer the dry bed of the ancient canal that ran through the site, referred to by the local people as the Shatt an-Nil (Nile River), our guards showed me three holes dug by the looters in a place high up where huge Parthian foundations are exposed. Here, the looters had found slipper coffins, which are of a type that is made of ceramic and is formed like a slipper. The exteriors of the coffins were often decorated with floral and sometimes figural relief. Because these coffins were thick and were not baked very well, they are brittle and will break up into many pieces if you try to move them. Such was obviously the case here, because we found dozens of pieces of the coffins, some with decoration.

Where the looters had done real damage was to two small mounds at the northern end of the site (see map). I had been told that there was some damage here, and it is quite visible on satellite images. I did not visit these mounds during the 1990s, so it was possible that tablets did come from there, but I thought it was unlikely. Years ago, we did a surface collection of all parts of the site, and we concluded from the pot sherds on these two mounds that they were Sasanian and Early Islamic in date (ca. AD 300–800), long after cuneiform was being written. But there was a chance that we had just not found on the surface sherds of earlier periods down below. Although our guards assured me that the looting of these mounds took place only in June 2003, I wanted to inspect them. Accompanied by the director of antiquities for the Qadissiya province, who had come from Diwanayah that morning to meet us, as well as the local antiquities official from Afak, the nearest town, and our guards, we went to the northern mounds and spent more than forty minutes there. Although there are clearly visible signs of major digging, with holes going down three and four meters, there is no evidence of any occupation before the Sasanian. The tablets could not have come from there. Undoubtedly, some glass objects and a little jewelry, and maybe a few magic bowls with Aramaic writing on them, came out of those holes, but the amount of work it took to get them could hardly have compensated the looters for all the work.

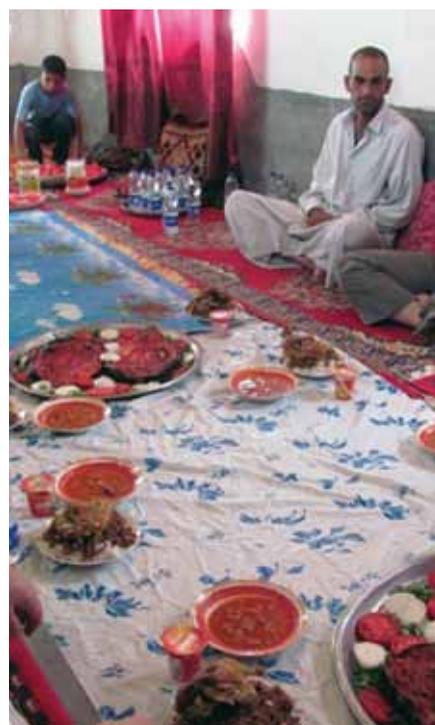
I thought that some Kassite-period tablets that one scholar is working on may have come from a small mound to the south of Nippur, a little “tail” of our concession that is across the canal and has never been investigated, mainly because a local shaykh’s house was on it even as early as 1948. I made certain that this small mound has not been touched, so the tablets don’t come from there either. I suspect that they may have come from one of the mounds to the east of Nippur, within a half a kilometer. I did not have time to go there, being pressed to get back to Baghdad before dark and having to fit in a meal prepared by the family of our guards.

The meal was impressive and would have been impossible just a few years ago because the people would not have been able to afford it. At that time, there might have been chicken and stew over rice, but even that would have stretched their budgets. In addition to the normal fare, there were seven fish, baked next to an open fire on spits (*masgoof*). The guards houses are new, well built, and the guest room where we were entertained featured large posters of Shia holy men.

The evidence of a greater prosperity extended throughout the southern areas that we passed through. Everywhere, there are new houses already built or being built of baked bricks. Government money is being expended on irrigation projects and electricity, although still limited to a few hours per day, is working and lines have been repaired. Most amazing was the town of Afak, which is about 6 miles from Nippur. When we were going there annually, this had been a rather small town, with a government center and a one-lane bazaar. In 1990, there may have been 3,500 people living in Afak, and it became busy only on Fridays, when farmers came in to market. Now, the town has 50,000 people, and it is so changed that I got lost going through it, and we had to ask directions to the Nippur road. The very modest sports stadium is being replaced by a large, rather lavish one. There are hundreds of new houses, and more being built, almost all of baked bricks. We paid a special visit to the house of Ziara Abda Sadah, who as a young man worked for us as a pickman. He is now a contractor, with projects as far away as Nasiriya and Hilla. His house is large and as impressive as a house in Baghdad, with marble floors and other features that I never thought I would see in Afak. His fa-



Nippur guard, Abbas Garmoul (at left), in his guest house



A small part of the lunch

NIPPUR



Restaurant encroaching on super highway south of Baghdad

ther, Abda Sadah, whom I knew in 1964 as a lively teenager and who later became a pickman and finally our foreman, is now an old man, but there is still the spark that he always had.

The super highway that used to make it possible to do the Baghdad–Nippur trip in a little more than an hour, is holding up well, despite the tanks and other heavy equipment that have rolled over it since 1990. It was a beautifully engineered project, and even after all these years, it is not

pot-holed, although it is showing some cracks. The fences and guard rails that used to restrict traffic as on any superhighway, were removed during the chaotic 1990s, when the central government controlled little of the countryside. It was already too common an occurrence in the early 1990s to find a flock of sheep crossing the highway rather than being driven a mile or so to cross on a bridge. Now, there are no restrictions, and travel is slower. I was surprised to see a few of the upright supports that used to hold the guardrails. They are metal, and I would have thought all would have gone long ago. A few of the ungainly metal umbrellas that rose above concrete tables and benches in roadside rest areas still exist, but I never saw anyone use them in the past, and no one seems to do so now. The roadway on either side is now dotted with small and rather simple restaurants and mechanics' shops, with one or two larger, more elaborate restaurants in the places where such amenities were supposed to be set. All the little restaurants and shops are actually illegal, running right up to the pavement. I do not know if this road will ever be resurrected as a super highway. Now, it is just a very good road with six lanes of traffic.

Travel on the road is slowed a lot by numerous army and police checkpoints. Many are obviously leftovers from the U.S. occupation. Concrete barriers of three types are in evidence, and when made they had different names and different prices. The tallest barriers are about 7 feet high and 4 feet wide and used to cost the U.S. about \$1,200 apiece. Five footers used to cost \$800, and the two footers cost about \$400. Given the fact that there must be about a million barriers in the country, you can start to see where U.S. tax money went. For a while, the occupation was buying these things from Kuwait, but then had Iraqi contractors supply them, so there was at least a little benefit for some Iraqis.

Baghdad itself is a city of barriers. All bridges have checkpoints, and it takes an hour and a half, at least, to go from one side of town to the other. If you have an appointment on the other side of the river, you plan to do nothing else that day. Local people can take small boats across. This is a traditional service, with men using only oars as propulsion, but I did see a couple of boats with motors. The suspension bridge is taken up only for the benefit of people in the Green Zone, now called the International Zone. There are some areas with few checkpoints, but the backup from the existing checkpoints creates a massive gridlock from

about 9 AM until dark. Whole neighborhoods are walled off with the barriers, allowing entry only in a few places.

In contrast with other parts of the country, Baghdad is sad and frustrated. There has been a drought in the Middle East for years, and this allows the formation of large, frequent sandstorms that can take days to pass. Because the Turks have captured much of the water of the Tigris and Euphrates, irrigation is less extensive in Iraq than in former times, adding to the desert areas that feed the sand storms. There is an attempt to maintain and beautify the medians in the roadways, and the parks are being cared for, but the lessening of water is apparent. Although the signs above business buildings are grimy, stores carry much new merchandise. Air conditioners are piled five high outside the stores, and refrigerators, stoves, and other appliances are easily available. Because of the intermittent electricity, many stores, hotels, restaurants, and private houses have generators that go on and off automatically, as needed. In neighborhoods, people pay a fee to one or two people who maintain a generator for several houses. All these generators require fuel, and the price of gasoline, diesel, and kerosene are no longer heavily subsidized as they were under the Baath. Therefore, the electricity costs a lot.

The fuel for automobiles is also expensive now, but that does not stop the flood of vehicles coming into the country. Besides second hand and a few new European, American, and Japanese cars, there are many thousands of new cars from Korea, China, and Iran. The Korean cars have taken over the role that Toyota and Mercedes used to have, becoming the preferred vehicles that are well built and reliable. But the Chinese cars and trucks and the Iranian vehicles, which are much less expensive, are filling the streets. The present road system and the traffic control would not be able to accommodate this mass of vehicles, even without the checkpoints.

In general, not a lot of new building is taking place in Baghdad. There are lots of new banks, from various countries as well as from inside Iraq, and they tend to have new buildings, surrounded by barriers. But there are only reports on the construction of new hotels, or even the refurbishment of the old ones. It is a different situation entirely in Erbil, which I went to for one night in order to catch a plane the next morning. I had left the Baghdad-Erbil portion of the trip unbooked, because I was not sure how many days I would need in Baghdad. I had planned to go to Erbil for a few days to work with an Iraqi colleague, who would come over from Mosul. As it became clear that I would need to be in Baghdad at the end of the stay, I had my colleague come down to Baghdad, and we worked for a couple of days in our hotel. I began making arrangements to fly from Baghdad to make the connection in Erbil, but an Iraqi business man and close friend who facilitated my



Sand storm in Baghdad, June 2012

NIPPUR



Air conditioners for a city with dubious electricity

visit, convinced me that it took about the same time to drive to Erbil as to go to the airport, sit there, fly to Erbil, and sit there waiting for my flight. So, because he was driving to Erbil, I went with him. The trip took about six hours, with the checkpoints, but it was my first time on that road in about thirty years, so I enjoyed it. Not much has changed in the area from Baghdad to the edges of the Kurdish Autonomous Region. It is mainly a farming area, and we passed through only one or two towns before reaching Erbil. That city, in contrast, is amazing. You see what all of Iraq could be like if it had not had two wars and thirteen years of sanctions. This is a fully functioning city, much like Baghdad used to be, with well-maintained streets and parks, hundreds of hotels and restaurants and shops. There are two or three glass-walled high-rise hotels, and more being planned. I did not get a chance to visit the town, arriving in Erbil at about dinner time and going to bed soon after in order to get up at 2 AM to meet my taxi to the airport.

You can operate almost entirely on American money in Iraq, not just in Erbil. Everything is much more expensive than it was in 2003. We used to pay about \$3 a day in wages. Now the minimum wage is \$30 a day. Several foreign expeditions are already working in the Kurdish area, and an American group carried out a season of work at a small site near Ur this last year. Another that is sponsored by the Oriental Institute has the permission to dig at ancient Lagash (Tello), but the continued work of both these expeditions is being delayed due to internal Iraqi political decisions. An Italian group and a British group also have done or are about to excavate near Ur, so the delay is not affecting everyone. I would like to reopen Nippur, but the security situation needs to be made clearer before we can do that.

The increased wages that will make us think hard about how we budget for archaeological work in Iraq also explains how the ordinary Iraqi can cope. Iraqis are amazingly resilient and can still look to the future even when things are desperate. In general, I get the idea that the Iraqis can't wait for peace and stability and a chance to outdo the Gulf States in shopping malls, tall buildings, and a good life.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION (OINE)

Bruce Williams

Introduction

After a lapse of many years, 2011–2012 saw the restart of the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition publication project with the expressed goal of completing publication of excavations at Serra East, Dorginarti in northern Sudanese Nubia, and Qasr el-Wizz in southern Egyptian Nubia, all excavated between 1961 and 1965 as a part of the High Dam salvage. During the Twelfth International Conference of Nubian Studies in London, September 2010, Artur Obluski of Poland and Alexandros Tsakos of Greece approached me to inquire about the state of publication of Qasr el-Wizz. At the same time, a faculty member at Universität Köln approached Lisa Heidorn about presenting a study of Dorginarti Fortress at a conference in Germany. Finally, in early 2011, while excavating at Tombos in Sudan with Stuart Smith's team from University of California Santa Barbara and Purdue University, I asked Nadejda Reshetnikova, our architect from Moscow, to join the new team to publish Serra East and Dorginarti with a goal of modernizing the publications. Artur and Alexandros were given the responsibility of preparing the publication of Qasr El-Wizz and have begun their work, as told below. Lisa and I were able to assemble a team to publish Serra East and Dorginarti that currently includes Nadejda, Donald Whitcomb, and Carol Meyer of the Oriental Institute, and Deborah Darnell of Yale as well as Alexandros Tsakos. By the end of 2011, the project took shape in four parts, with various interlocking teams to complete them.

For many years before we restarted the project, real research in the collections and records was hardly possible. The museum and archives had been closed for renovation in the 1990s, and the combination of reinstalling the museum, re-housing the artifacts in storage, and housing and organizing the archives took years of time and effort. However, as these things proceeded, many artifacts were registered and their locations recorded, most often with informal digital photographs. The museum archivist and his staff scanned negatives, photographs, field notes of all descriptions, and plans at all stages of completion, making an immense body of data available for organization and research. In 2011, John Sanders made about 100 gigabytes of server space available and, with the help of several volunteers, we built libraries of compacted scanned images and records organized to serve as the primary focus of research on each part of the project.

Projects have expenses and require compensated professional services, so we have so far submitted four grant applications to support the work on Serra East and Dorginarti. Two were awarded this June, one from the Michela Schiff-Giorgini Foundation and the other from the Antiquities Endowment Fund of the American Research Center in Egypt. These significant grants will play an essential role in preparing the publications of Serra East and Dorginarti.

Artur obtained support from the Foundation for Polish Science, and Alexandros Tsakos received two grants from the Institute for Comparative Cultural Research, Norway, to travel to Chicago in 2011 and to Egypt in 2012, which is planned for November. Together, the grants here, in Poland, and in Norway will support launching the project in earnest and help it make important progress.

The three teams expect ultimately to produce four volumes in the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition series, but there is now an added dimension. We usually refer to major volumes on excavations as final reports, and, where the materials and records are not accessible, they often are. However, vast amounts of objects ranging from sherds to pieces of architecture are housed in the Oriental Institute, and this creates the opportunities for restudy. For example, Dr. Joanna Then-Obluska is now in Chicago examining the vast corpus of beads excavated in Nubia, which have been published but not in detail or in color. While small in size and rarely the focus of much attention, beads actually reveal much about manufacturing and trade, especially in Africa, where they were among the most important trade goods for many centuries.

Serra East

Nadejda Reshetnikova, Alexandros Tsakos, and Bruce Williams

Fortress “Repelling the Medjay”

The fortress of Serra East was built by Senwosret III in the late Twelfth Dynasty, about 1850 BC, intended, according to its name, Khesef-Medjay or Repelling the Medjay, to keep at bay peoples from the Eastern Desert. It continued in active service as an Egyptian fort for rather

more than a century when it was taken over by Kushites and other Nubians, perhaps not peacefully. They may have continued in residence there into the early New Kingdom, because there into the Egyptian Eighteenth Dynasty left monuments and buildings also.

As the project took shape in 2011 and 2012 without budget, the major activities centered on scanning and organizing documents and putting them on a server, so they could be accessed anywhere the Internet reaches by members of the team. A key part of this has been digitizing all the plans and architectural sketches originally made by James Knudstad to archival standard, then reducing them for actual use in research. We also entered all of the survey data into spreadsheets to begin the process of conversion from a system of angles and distances to one of Cartesian coordinates.

A major piece of unfinished business at Serra East is a detailed presentation of its architecture, and the grant from the Michela Schiff-Giorgini Foundation is allocated entirely to the structures of Serra East Fortress. The full project had to wait for some budget, but during the year Nadejda and Bruce com-

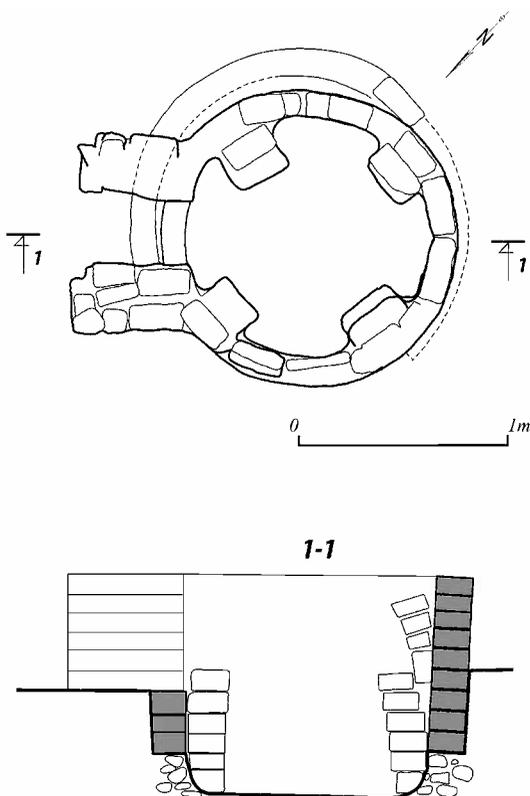


Figure 1. The southern kiln at Serra East showing the V-shaped design that helped to control the flow of gasses and to support the vessels being fired. Drawing by Nadejda Reshetnikova

pleted a pilot project to study a small but significant part of the installation, as a contribution to a conference on Egyptian ceramics in Vienna as well as the Serra Fortress volume. After the fort had been in use for some time, potters set up a workshop almost in its center. The expedition found kilns, but reconstruction was tentative. Our new study shows two phases, each with two kilns, a box kiln, most probably for firing conical bread molds, and larger circular kilns with firing chambers in the shape of inverted cones (figs. 1–2). The shape is well known in Egyptian representations, but is not often recognized in remains

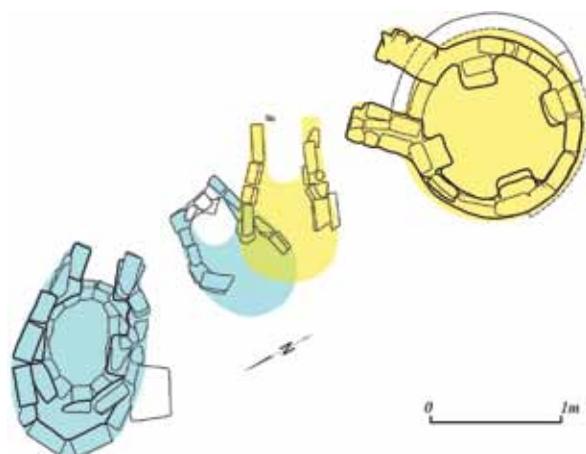


Figure 2. The kilns of Serra East, with the early pair colored in blue, and the later in yellow. Drawing by Nadejda Reshetnikova

of workshops because most kilns are not preserved to much height. Nevertheless, two variants, one X-shaped with a constriction where a grid separates the firebox from the firing chamber, and one simply V-shaped, were present at Serra, designs which improve the flow of hot gasses around the vessels and thus the efficiency of the process in an environment where fuel could be scarce.

The work of organizing the photographs and records according to contexts otherwise occupied much of the year, but one major effort was to transcribe a thick stack of pottery tally sheets for incorporation into a table in the final report. Such tables can be fearsomely difficult reading, but they nevertheless contain information on chronology and the activities that took place in various places that makes them most valuable to researchers. This has taken on new importance, since archaeologists are now beginning to explore two fortresses that remained above water when the Aswan High Dam was built but which were untouched since excavation by the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston early in the last century.

Cerre Matto, the Medieval Town

The great kingdom of Makuria, which arose at Old Dongola well before AD 600, acquired its northern province Nobatia with its capital at Faras by the beginning of the century and this city was not only the site of a great cathedral, but also the residence of a ruler subject to Makuria, called an eparch. Some time in the eleventh century, the Nobatians founded a town across the river, nestled into the ruins of Serra Fort, and called it Cerre Matto, which means Serra East in the Old Nubian language. Although they did not rebuild the fortifications, they seem to have adapted them and filled the fort with strong, thick-walled houses that defended not just against raiders from the desert (probably mostly Bedja) but the formidable enemies of wind and heat. These houses were even equipped with indoor privies, small rooms on the second floor with a chamber below that had an opening to the outside for cleaning out, and pottery toilets. They also had foundation deposits below the corners whose mysteries have yet to be unraveled (a deposit could be a bowl with some kind of food, a magical text, or even unfired pottery of high quality). The town had four churches, one to the north (fig. 3), one in the center (fig. 4), and two to the south. Around the southern churches was a churchyard with many dozens of tombs and burials.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION



Figure 3. The North Church at Serra Matto, with Prof. Ronald and Mrs. Vivian Williams of Toronto, who participated in the 1961-1962 season of the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition at Serra East

The town itself, with its solid houses, decorated churches, walls, and burials, is deeply fascinating and it deserves, and will get, a separate study, but there is much, much more. For example, shortly before the end of excavations there, the Nubian Expedition discovered a codex that had been buried below a house. This turned out to be the longest text in Old Nubian, a sermon on the cross attributed pseudo-epigraphically to John Chrysostom. Under the direction of Hughes and Knudstad, the expedition had found a number of other, more fragmentary manuscripts. But that is not all. Over the decades before the excavation, enterprising looters had gone through the ruins and potted about, finding a number of manuscripts and documents that made Serra East famous. One, for example, British Library Or. 6799, is another sermon on the cross attributed falsely to Cyril of Jerusalem. It names the town Serra as the place of its deposition in the middle of the eleventh century. Two more Old Nubian texts, one in the British Library, the other in the Egyptian Museum at Berlin, are also attributed to Serra, and there appear to be more. When we add to that the stela of the multi-titled Eparch Philoxenos (among his many titles, he was also a nauarch, which is Greek for admiral) from Serra now on display in the Oriental



Figure 5. Pottery sherds in the Oriental Institute Museum with unique images from the Christian period. Above is the crown of an eparch, with cross, horns, and plume. Below, a horse shown galloping in the leaping Dongolowi style also has a cross on its head. OIM E19545 and E19530



Figure 4. Christ in Majesty from the apse of the Central Church. Drawing by J. C. Lorence

Institute Museum (OIM E19780), we get a better picture of a town that contained prosperous houses, with sophisticated sanitation and pottery production. Serra was the apparent seat of an eparch (fig. 5) where important religious and probably other documents were deposited, but most probably also made. The puzzle of literacy in Cerre Matto will be very much helped by the decipherment and interpretation of the several ostraca discovered during the excavations.

The town of Cerre Matto ended about the time of Saladin's attack on Nubia in AD 1173, and the inhabitants seemed to have left, taking what they could and burying the rest, such as the manuscripts to be found later. In the end, they never returned to live there, and the writings they left behind remained to eloquently enlighten our own day.

Dorginarti

Lisa Heidorn

I was quite surprised, after so many years concentrating on other work, to receive an invitation to make Dorginarti one of the centerpieces of an international conference in Cologne on *The Power of Walls: Fortifications in Ancient Northeastern Africa*, in August 2011. The interest in this Second Cataract fortification from the first half of the first millennium BC was aroused when the African Research Unit at the University of Cologne discovered a previously unknown fort, Gala Abu Ahmed, in the Wadi Howar, a desert route located west of the Great Bend of the Nile and south of the Kerma Basin above the Third Cataract.

Pottery, objects, and architectural features from Dorginarti mirrored some of the remains from Gala Abu Ahmed. Of particular interest for the Cologne team, as well as for myself, is the background of the handmade pottery that is common at both Dorginarti and Gala Abu Ahmed and seems to be present at all Nubian sites with remains from the period of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty and its aftermath in Nubia, the Napatan period (700–400 BC). The article resulting from the conference, however, focuses on the architecture and topography of Dorginarti (fig. 6) and will be published later in 2012.

The site of Dorginarti was excavated in 1964 by an Oriental Institute team led by James Knudstad. Most of the small objects and the pottery from the fortress were given to the Oriental Institute Museum, where it is currently housed. Initially, due to the uncertainty of dating late New Kingdom and Third Intermediate pottery and small objects (fig. 7), the fort was variously dated to the Middle Kingdom (by its architecture) or to the late New Kingdom (by the pottery, which is clearly



Figure 6. The east sector of Dorginarti Fortress, showing three of the granaries. Up to five meters across, these granaries could have contained enough grain to feed a force much larger than the garrison

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION



Figure 7. Three views of a blue faience ring from Dorginarti (OIM E24325). The epithet "Two Lands, Lord of the Sky" is present but the name of the deity invoked on the ring is broken away

different from that of the preceding periods). But over the last twenty years great strides have been made in the dating of post-New Kingdom pottery. Unfortunately, however, independent dating evidence, like inscriptional materials or the *terminus post quem* offered by scarabs with kings' names, is almost nonexistent. My earlier research found parallels for the Dorginarti material through Egyptian pottery typically dated to the Twenty-fifth or Twenty-sixth Dynasties.

After I completed my dissertation in 1992, I went on to other places and other work, and the site report was never published. Finding myself living in the Chicago region again, Bruce Williams and I set up a "potsherd viewing" schedule on Friday afternoons at the Museum, starting in early 2011. The Museum staff has been particularly helpful in facilitating this work.

We have now gone through every box of potsherds, which has allowed us to study (a re-study for me) the forms, manufacturing technology, and variety of clay fabrics of the corpus. Bruce was interested in learning about Dorginarti's ceramics because of his current work at Tombos, where they are excavating Kushite-period tombs. The pottery will now be registered, while I draw more sherds and study the rest of the architectural notes and objects in preparation for the final publication in the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition series as volume 13.

I attended another conference at the University of Vienna in May of this year, which was particularly opportune, since it focused on current best practices in working with and publishing ceramic remains from sites throughout Egypt and Sudan. This five-day marathon was entitled Vienna 2: Ancient Egyptian Ceramics in the 21st Century and, since all the experts were gathered in one place, it was a great time to meet up with old and new friends to discuss the origins and use of various clay fabric types, chronological issues, and to visit restaurants and wineries in the Danube's Wachau Valley!

One of my next tasks is to share materials with colleagues working in Upper Egypt (Elephantine and Luxor) and Sudan (Gala Abu Ahmed and Meroe) to sort out ceramic typologies and dating. Those of us working in Nubia formed a working group in Vienna and plan to meet again at the British Museum in summer 2013. It is hoped that future work further clarifies

the relationship of similarly dated sites in Egypt and Sudan and allows us to further define economic and political relationships between the two regions during the first millennium BC.

Qasr el-Wizz

Artur Obluski and Alexandros Tsakos

The story of the final publication of the Qasr el-Wizz project starts metaphorically with a “Plough.” That is the name of the pub where two Nubiologists approached Bruce Williams during the 12th International Conference for Nubian Studies in London in 2010, and with an “Abbot” in hand asked Bruce if there is any chance to study the monastery of Qasr el-Wizz excavated by the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition in 1965. Since London, things have advanced really fast and as a Christmas gift Artur received a letter from Gil Stein granting him the authorization to lead a project that would see to the final publication of the Qasr el-Wizz excavations. The research team would consist of Artur Obluski, Poland, who took responsibility for the general study and publication of the archaeological record as collected by the excavators, as well as the role of the head of the whole project, and Alexandros Tsakos, Greece, who wished to study the textual finds from Qasr el-Wizz.

Artur has decided to apply a holistic approach to the project and to collect all available data on the Qasr el-Wizz monastery. This meant that the research for the publication could not be limited to the study of only the possessions of the Oriental Institute. Rather, this should contain all available data including the nineteenth- and twentieth-century travelers’ notes and records, as well as any other activities on the site. Such an approach required of course study at the archives of the Griffith Institute (GI) and of the Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford, travel to Rome to work in the Biblioteca di Archeologia e Storia dell’Arte, where Ugo Monneret de Villard’s archive is stored, and to be granted access to the Egypt Exploration Society’s (EES) premises in London, where notes and records of the society’s Nubian Survey carried out by Harry Smith are being kept. We are certain that this is the only right way to prepare the publication of the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition of the University of Chicago.

In the past year, Artur received a grant from De Brzezie Lanckoronski Foundation, which allowed him to study the archives of the Egypt Exploration Society and of the University of Oxford. That research took place in March 2012. At the EES premises in London, Artur studied Harry Smith’s records from the EES Nubian Survey. The information they contained complements the work of the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition. Harry Smith excavated what may be considered a monastic cemetery and buildings next to it which were not a focal point of Scanlon’s expedition. Thus Artur Obluski applied to the EES, and via the EES to Harry Smith, for permission to include Smith’s work in the final publication of Qasr el-Wizz. Recently, a very warm and encouraging letter from Harry Smith has arrived stating his permission. Thus we hope that the EES will support the excavator’s decision.

At the Griffith Institute in Oxford, Artur Obluski worked on notes regarding Qasr el-Wizz and other Nubian monasteries left by several scholars such as the founder of the institute himself, Sommers Clarke, Geoffrey Mileham, or — quite unexpectedly — even some notes by Ugo Monneret de Villard. Being in Oxford, Artur could not miss the opportunity to go through the manuscripts by Sir John Gardiner Wilkinson, the “Father of British Egyptology,” which included a short note that may refer to Qasr el-Wizz along with some drawings regarding other Nubian sites that have never been taken in consideration before.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION



Figure 8. Qasr el-Wizz excavation team in action discovering wall paintings in the monastic church



Figure 9. Jar bearing a monogram of ΜΙΧΑΗΛ, the most common name in Qasr el-Wizz texts (OIM E42028)

Alexandros has also received two grants (from the Institute for Comparative Studies of Cultures, Norway) to travel to the localities where the textual finds from Qasr el-Wizz are kept. The first grant was used to visit Chicago in September 2011 and the second will hopefully bring Alexandros to Cairo and Aswan, where he will complete the documentation regarding the material that was left in Egypt after the completion of the fieldwork by the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition.

In fact, the visit to Chicago in September 2011 by Alexandros and Artur was the real beginning of the project. We were greeted with a warm welcome by the Oriental Institute Museum staff. Their efforts, especially those of Helen McDonald and Laura D'Alessandro, allowed us to work efficiently during this three-week visit. We even managed to expand the documentation of certain artifacts by making infrared and ultra-violet photos of ostraca as well as of the fragments of wall paintings (fig. 8). Moreover, Miller Prosser of the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project, to whom we are much indebted, prepared polynomial texture maps of worn-off grave stelae enhancing Alexandros' efforts to read and decipher them.

The most intriguing information from the collection of data during this first study visit to Chicago has come from the manuscript fragments that were unearthed at Qasr el-Wizz. They confirm the multilingual character of Christian Nubian literacy given the identification of texts in Coptic (the vast majority), Greek (four fragments of religious texts), and Old Nubian (two documents, most probably letters). The closed context of the monastery at Qasr el-Wizz provides an excellent ground for the improvement of paleographic and codicological datings of Nubian manuscripts in general. Last but not least, their content has already started revealing very interesting aspects of the religious life in Christian Nubia, such as preferences for particular cults (fig. 9), doctrinal preference, monastic affiliations, and the symbolic value of languages.

The implementation of the project is possible thanks to a financial contribution by the Foundation for Polish Science. In the frame of a *nota bene* "Columbus" program, the Foundation sponsored Artur Obluski's current stay in Chicago, where he has the unique opportunity to study the artifacts and records from Qasr el-Wizz in the hospitable premises of the Oriental Institute.

Acknowledgments

Firstly, I wish to express my gratitude to Gil Stein for the chance of a lifetime to come here to study the Nubian material and savor the world top-ten academic environment, and to Bruce Williams, without whom the project would never have started and who is still its greatest facilitator. I would also like to thank Chris Naunton, director of the Egypt Exploration Society (EES), and Dr. Joanna Kyffin, who kindly allowed me to study notes and records of the EES Nubian Survey carried out by Harry Smith. I also wish to acknowledge the help provided by Alison Hobby from the Griffith Institute, University of Oxford. I am also indebted to Francesca Zannoni from the Biblioteca di Archeologia e Storia dell'Arte in Rome for her hospitality, and Dr. Maria Carmela Gatto from Yale University for facilitating my research there. I would like to express my very great appreciation to Professors Harry Smith and George Scanlon for permission to work on their records and their warm words of encouragement. My special thanks are extended to Professor Włodzimierz Godlewski from the University of Warsaw, who provided the project with important pieces of lost documentation of the OINE excavation at Qasr el-Wizz. Work at the Griffith Institute and the Egypt Exploration Society would not be possible without financial support of the Foundation de Brzezcie Lanckoronski.

“The Unregarded Art” and “Sense of Order” – A Multidimensional Study of Lower Nubian Beads from the Oriental Institute Collection

Joanna Then-Obluska

Nubian beads have never been treated as an autonomous research subject. A study in this matter, entitled “The Code of the Hidden Beads – From the Kerma to the Islamic Period According to the Fourth Cataract Material from the Gdańsk Archaeological Museum Excavations,” was presented by the author during the 12th International Conference for Nubian Studies in London, in August 2010. The paper has revealed a huge research potential hidden in this component of Nubian material culture. A number of scholars excavating in Sudan and Egypt expressed their willingness to cooperate in this effort. The main objective of the project is creating a vast catalog of Lower Nubian beads and decoding the data hidden in them.

Lower Nubia has always been perceived as a junction of many cultures. This phenomenon is clearly visible in the wealth of materials and techniques employed in production of



Figure 10. Parts of the Meroitic necklace B 66A-3 a-d (OIM E22548 A-D). Modern stringing; not to scale

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION

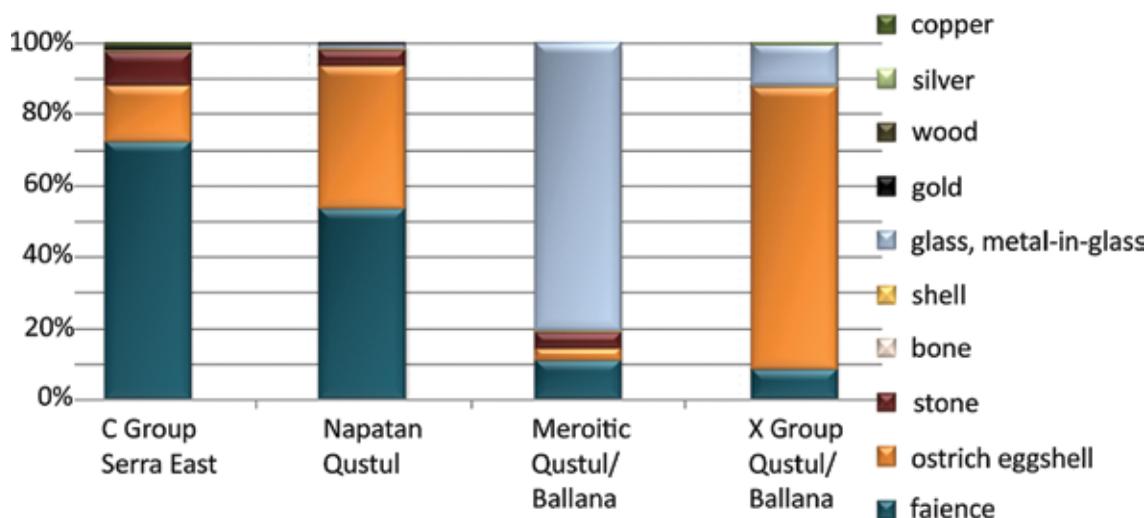


Figure 11. Percentage share of bead materials from the Lower Nubian sites dated to C-Group, Napatan, Meroitic, and X-Group periods

beads, objects that are, next to pottery, the most abundant archaeological find. The Oriental Institute collection of Nubian beads in this study comes from the excavations carried in years 1960–1968 at the sites Adindan, Dorginarti, Bab Kalabsha, Qustul, Ballana, and Serra East and represents material dated from A-Group period until Christian times. The majority of beads were registered and published in Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition series as volumes 2–10.

Since April 2012, I have recorded more than 50,000 beads in a comprehensive database, with general and detailed photographs. At the same time, I analyzed the beads using anthropological and chronological data published by Bruce Williams. In figure 10 there are parts of bead necklace (B 66A-3 a–d), found with a juvenile female individual buried at Ballana cemetery in grave B 66A. The grave was dated to the Meroitic late IIB phase (end of the first century AD; Williams 1991, part 1, pp. 131–32; part 2, p. 195). Small beads were made of drawn and segmented monochrome glass and gold-in-glass as well as carnelian, drilled from one end. It seems they were part of the adornments commonly worn by women in that particular time.

Detailed materials and quantitative analyses of the Oriental Institute’s beads, the largest collection of Lower Nubian beads outside Sudan and Egypt, will contribute to our understanding of social and economic changes in Lower Nubia. The general graph (fig. 11) shows a declining share of faience beads over time, an overwhelming share of glass and gold-in-glass beads in the Meroitic, and of ostrich eggshell beads in the X-Group assemblage.

For comprehensive study many analyses that employ knowledge from other disciplines – anthropology, ethnoarchaeology, history, history of art, decorative art, iconography – will be provided. A preliminary study of Nubian iconography and design art – royal and funerary iconography, gold jewelry, clay figures, and most of all painted pottery – suggests that a simple string of beads was a characteristic motif in Meroitic art.

This is the first attempt at scientific elaboration of this usually “unregarded” category of archaeological material carried out on such a large scale. The cataloging of thousands of beads and multidimensional approach should result in broadening our understanding of both the visual representation as well as the social and economic differentiation of Nubian communities during a period of 4,000 years.

Acknowledgments

Bruce Williams

At such an early stage in the project, it is remarkable how many people have given substantial help. From the Oriental Institute administrative staff, we have benefitted greatly from help by John Sanders, Steve Camp, D'Ann Condes, Mariana Perlinac, and Amy Weber. Helen McDonald, Susan Allison, and John Larson of the Museum have been especially helpful, sometimes with time-consuming tasks. The CAMEL lab has been generous with both equipment and time, advising on technical matters and even spending hours scanning large-format plans; thanks go to Scott Branting, Susan Penacho, Elise MacArthur, and Sami Sweis. In the Publications Office, Tom Urban and Leslie Schramer offered advice, support, and the use of equipment, as did Miller Prosser of the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project. Of very special note are the volunteers who have offered their services, coordinated by Terry Friedman and Catherine Dueñas. Irene Glasner, Gabriele Correa DaSilva, Larry Lissak, Nancy Rose, and Roberta Buchanan have spent many hours scanning, sorting files by context, and transcribing and entering data. None of their tasks have been easy, and some have required very long hours. Without the help of these people, our task would have been very much harder indeed.

Note

¹ Gombrich 1979, p. 116.

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PATHWAYS TO POWER: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON THE EMERGENCE OF POLITICAL AUTHORITY AND HIERARCHY IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

CONFERENCE HELD AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE,
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, NOVEMBER 4-5, 2011

Gil J. Stein

The conference *Pathways to Power: Comparative Perspectives on the Emergence of Political Authority and Hierarchy in the Ancient Near East*, co-organized by Gil J. Stein, Abbas Alizadeh, and Yorke Rowan, was held at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago on November 4–5, 2011. Funding was provided by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research (Grant number Gr. CONF-551), the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, and the Lichtstern Fund of the Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago.

The *Pathways to Power* conference brought together twenty leading international researchers to develop a theoretically grounded comparative synthesis of the development of incipient complex societies across the Near East, in Egypt, the southern Levant, Syria, Anatolia, the southern Caucasus, Mesopotamia, and Iran. Although much scholarly research has focused on the origins of the world's earliest known urbanism and state societies in southwest Asia in the fourth and third millennia BC, much less attention has been paid to the initial stages of this trajectory toward complexity in the sixth and fifth millennia.

Between 5500 and 4000 BC, a series of incipient complex societies developed in parallel across the Near East, diverging from their Neolithic village predecessors and laying the foundations for the first urbanized states in the fourth millennium. Despite its importance, the initial emergence of social complexity in the Near East remains poorly understood at every level – theoretical, processual, and empirical. Traditional models of “chiefdoms” do not seem to fit the Near Eastern data very well. At the same time, the tremendous range of variation in the incipient complex societies of the Near East – from Egypt to Iran – suggests that there were marked inter-regional differences in the processes and strategies through which leadership, hierarchy, and socioeconomic differentiation first emerged and were then formalized.

As a result, any attempt to develop a regional comparative synthesis of the earliest development of social complexity across the Near East must examine this process in a comparative framework to identify processual similarities between regions, while also recognizing multiple possible developmental pathways and the importance of historical contingency in each region. This was the charge given to the conference participants.

The conference took place in two parts. The first was organized to facilitate comparison of the key regions of the Near East in terms of (a) the archaeological evidence for the political, social, and economic organization of the incipient complex societies of each region; (b) the processes through which social complexity developed; and (c) the role of historically contingent aspects of each cultural tradition in affecting the developmental trajectory of each region. Papers for the conference were pre-circulated among all participants and to the

four discussants to facilitate discussions and to encourage participants to present their data with in comparative context with contemporaneous developments in other regions. The ten papers in the conference were grouped into three geographically oriented sessions comparing Iran and “Greater Mesopotamia”; the Caucasus, Anatolia, and the Levant; and Egypt.

The second part of the conference consisted of two sessions aimed at theoretical synthesis. The first was a roundtable discussion of the paper presenters, moderated by Gary Feinman, one of the leading experts on theories of emergent social complexity. In the final session of the conference, four leading researchers on social complexity and leadership each presented discussant’s comments evaluating the conference papers in light of broader theory and data from their own research in the Old and New Worlds.

The papers, debates, and discussants’ comments at the conference enabled us to improve our understanding of the key developmental pathways toward social complexity in the Near East while at the same time highlighting key areas of debate and areas where more theoretical and empirical research is necessary.

The regional syntheses make it clear that there were multiple pathways to power across the Near East in the fifth and fourth millennia BC. The predominant role of factors such as ritual, long-distance exchange, agro-pastoral surplus production, and (in the later stages) warfare varied by region. Over the course of the fifth millennium, the development of social complexity took place gradually and the power of emergent leaders shows a shift from formal but largely symbolic hierarchy to true hierarchy. In examining the economic correlates of these political changes, specialized production and surpluses seem to have developed early in the fifth millennium, but are not in and of themselves indicators of emerging hierarchy and formalized leadership. Only when specialized production becomes attached or controlled and surpluses are concentrated can we can talk of the emergence of true hierarchy.

The earliest leaders seem to have mobilized supporters and surpluses through persuasion and consensus, using existing community social structures such as kinship networks, patron-client relationships, feasts, and ritual. Ritual extended the sphere of influence for aspiring leaders far beyond the kinship system. Inter-regional comparison suggests that there was low-level conflict in the Near East but no large-scale organized warfare until about 4000 BC. There is a marked increase in organized warfare after this date in connection with the emergence of actual states in the mid-fourth millennium. There appears to have been a significant increase in the rate and scope of change in the fourth millennium. It is clear that full-blown states had emerged by the mid-late fourth millennium BC in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and southwestern Iran.

The conference identified several directions for future research. We still need to develop robust working definitions of problematic concepts such as “power,” “hierarchy,” and “formalized/institutionalized leadership.” We also need to look much more closely at the community context within which leadership develops, especially ritual and other non-kin-based institutions that organize and integrate communities. Finally, we need to look more closely at the ways that control over labor or “wealth in people” can be converted into formalized power inequalities.

The conference papers are currently being revised for publication.

PATHWAYS TO POWER



Pathways to Power conference participants (left to right): Front row: David Schloen, Mitchell Rothman, Marcella Frangipane, Catherine Marro, Salam al-Kuntar, Yorke Rowan; second row: Stan Hendrickx, Barbara Helwing, Gary Feinman, Rana Ozbal; third row: Khaled Jayyab, Christiana Kohler, Clemens Reichel, Abbas Alizadeh, Joan Oates; fourth row: Barbara Mills, Charles Stanish, Gil Stein, Roger Matthews; top row: Guillermo Algaze, Peter Akkermans

PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

Matthew W. Stolper

The Persepolis Fortification Archive (PFA) Project strives to build a comprehensive primary record of a unique source of information on the art, languages, society, and history of the Achaemenid Persian Empire; to compile the record in a form that accurately represents the Archive's exceptional combination of complexity and integrity; and to distribute the record in forms that will support research for years to come. Elements of the record include digital images of thousands of tablets and fragments; editions of thousands of texts in Elamite, Aramaic, and other languages; collated drawings of thousands of distinct seals represented by impressions on the tablets; and detailed observations that tie these elements together. The greatest value of this source lies not in its pieces, extraordinary as they sometimes are, but in the web of connections among them that represents the dense texture of ordinary ancient reality. As of mid-2012, the PFA Project has made usable records of more than 9,000 items, and has made more than 5,000 of them public through two online applications, InscriptiFact (<http://www.inscriptifact.com>) and OCHRE (<http://ochre.lib.uchicago.edu>; see the report on *UCHRE Data Service* in the Research Support section of this volume).

PFA Project editor Mark Garrison (Trinity University, San Antonio) visited the Oriental Institute six more times during 2011–12 to collect and record the seal impressions of the PFA. With the assistance of summer workers Jenny Kreiger (University of Michigan) and Erin Daly (Cornell College), he surveyed about 800 more boxes of PF tablets and fragments and selected about 600 more sealed, unscribed tablets (abbreviated PFUT) for cataloging and recording (fig. 1). These are the inconspicuous tasks that must be done before the record can be made: examining all the fragments in the boxes, selecting notable items, doing preliminary cleaning and repair, recording identification numbers, boxing and labeling the individual items,

filing them with previously selected tablets, and selecting pieces with seals of exceptional stylistic, iconographic, and/or thematic value for high-quality imaging.

Daly, Kreiger, and post-doctoral researcher Sabrina Maras (University of California, Berkeley) helped Garrison compile the initial catalog of PFUTs. This stage of the process requires greater immersion in the application and imagery of the seals: recording on a paper fiche for each tablet the shape, dimensions, locations of seal impressions, identification of known seals, assignment of numbers to newly recognized seals, sketches of impres-



Figure 1. Erin Daly and Mark Garrison select unscribed Fortification tablets (PFUTs) for cataloging and imaging

PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

sions of newly identified seals, and creation of online OCHRE entries for each item. During the past year, Garrison's group identified more than 130 previously unattested seals and made final collated drawings of about twenty. After surveying about four-fifths of the boxes, they have selected about 3,300 useful tablets and fragments, far surpassing initial estimates of the size of this corpus. Daly came back to the Oriental Institute during summer 2012 to help complete the survey of the boxes and continue the catalog.

Garrison and graduate student Tytus Mikołajczak (NELC) verify and record seal impressions on tablets with Elamite texts first recorded by the late Richard Hallock now being revised for final presentation by PFA Project editor Wouter Henkelman (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Berlin). This yields not only new seals, but also newly legible impressions of previously known but obscure seals (fig. 2). During the past year they identified more than fifty new seals on about 250 of these tablets, making sketches and compiling catalog information for all and final collated drawings of a few.

PFA Project editor Elspeth Dussinberre (University of Colorado) visited the Oriental Institute four times in 2011–12 to work on the seal impressions on Aramaic Fortification tablets.

Adapting the general procedures developed to record and classify seal impressions on other classes of tablets, Dussinberre and graduate student Emily Wilson (Classics) made records of seals on about 200 more Aramaic tablets, completed measured templates, and collated drawings of more than 320 of these seals (abbreviated PFATS), revised and updated OCHRE information on seals on the first 530 Aramaic tablets, entered new information for about 200 more tablets, and uploaded final inked drawings of twenty of the seals for release on OCHRE (figs. 3–4).

The large and still growing corpus of seals represented by impressions on PFA tab-

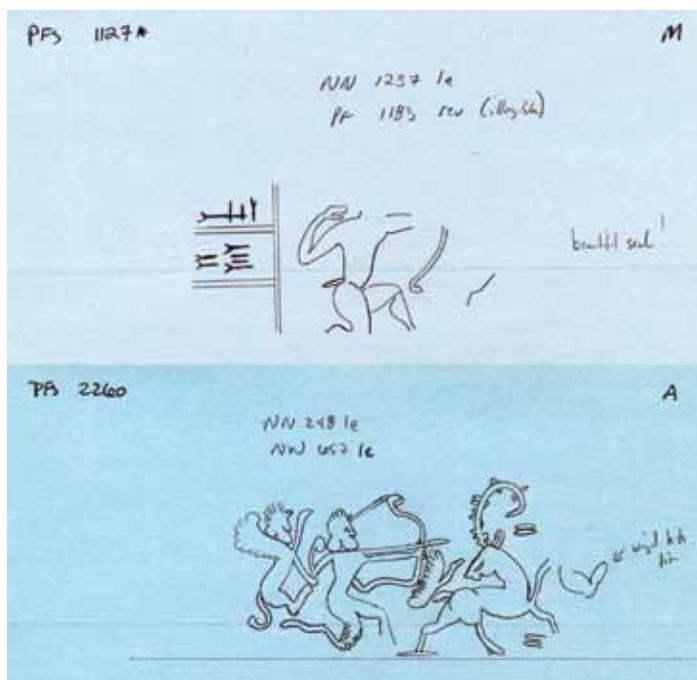


Figure 2. Preliminary records of seal impressions on unpublished Elamite tablets. Above, new impression of known, previously illegible seal. Below, newly identified seal



Figure 3. Emily Wilson enters data on seals on Aramaic tablets (PFATS) in OCHRE

lets is a treasury of ancient imagery, craftsmanship, and style that reveals the taste, status, and behavior of the individuals and offices who made and kept the tablets. It also reveals some of the social and organizational traits that lie behind the archive, sometimes balancing impressions drawn from the texts alone. For example, to record administrative acts there are about six or seven times as many documents in Elamite as in Aramaic, but to identify seal owners, the frequency of languages is different: of the 5–8 percent of all seals that have inscriptions, about half are inscribed in Elamite, and most of the rest are inscribed in Aramaic.

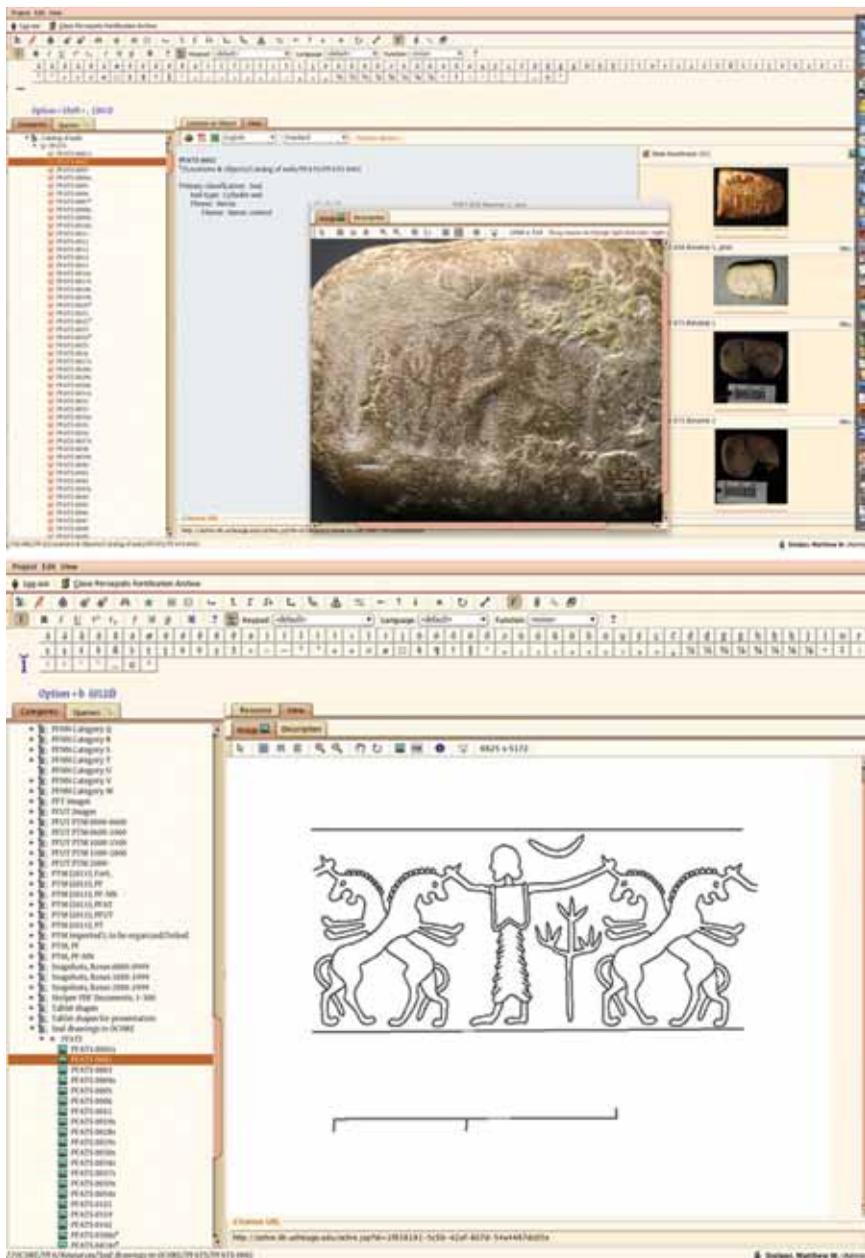


Figure 4. Seal PFATS 0002 on Aramaic tablets in OCHRE. Above, catalog of occurrences, thumbnails of image, PTM image of partial impression. Below, collated final drawing

PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

Of the first 2,800 analytically legible seals, a little over 20 percent were stamp seals, rather than cylinder seals, but the frequency of the stamps varies among the document classes: less than 15 percent on Elamite documents, about 30 percent on uninscribed tablets, and almost 40 percent on Aramaic documents. Only about 130 seals, less than 5 percent, were impressed on more than one class of tablets, and only fifteen, scarcely 0.5 percent, were impressed on all three classes — Elamite, Aramaic, and uninscribed. Many of the identifiable users of these crossover seals are supply officers or offices, very few are officials of wide regional competence, and none are among the highest-ranking personnel of Persepolitan administration and society. These crossovers mark personal connections among three distinct administrative streams; how to understand the procedural and functional connections among these streams is one of the leading problems posed by the PFA.

During five visits to the Oriental Institute in 2011–12, PFA Project editor Annalisa Azzoni (Vanderbilt University) processed texts on about fifty newly identified monolingual Aramaic tablets and fragments, bringing the running total to about 790 items. She also recorded about twenty newly identified Aramaic epigraphs on tablets with Elamite texts, bringing the running total to about 240 items. Azzoni catalogs these texts, enters them with preliminary readings in OCHRE, and then begins the exacting process of epigraphic scrutiny, comparison, classification, and interpretation. Many of the new monolingual Aramaic tablets were not noticed before because they have faint or fragmentary texts, valuable for paleographic study and for assessing the frequency and range with which Aramaic was used in the multilingual milieu of Persepolis, but requiring disproportionate amounts of effort to classify (fig. 5).

Dedicated PFA Project conservator Robyn Haynie, supported by a grant from the PARSA Community Foundation, treated more than 200 tablets and fragments, mostly new items with Elamite texts (abbreviated Fort.), including some with new Aramaic epigraphs (PFAE). Similar notations, consisting of a few words or a couple of lines in Aramaic added to larger documents written in cuneiform, are well known from Babylonian and Assyrian tablets. The PFA has already yielded far more of them than any single Assyrian or Babylonian archive. This component of the PFA reflects another aspect of ancient information handling; the scribes who maintained the Archive had to be at least passively proficient with several written languages, and actively proficient enough to mark their handling of Elamite records with notes in Aramaic.

During three visits to the Oriental Institute, PFA Project editor Wouter Henkelman finished collating the roughly 2,600 texts from Richard Hallock's draft editions and re-collated almost 400 of them. He concentrated on the journals and accounts, generally large and formally complex documents from the last directly attested stage of information processing in the PFA. Their format,

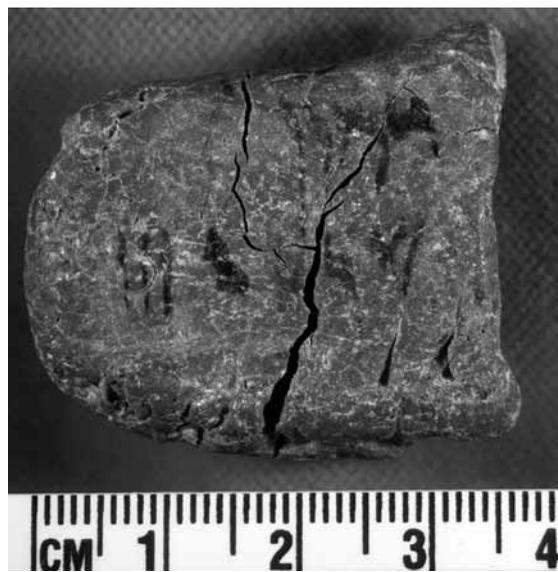


Figure 5. BetterLight scan (with polarized light and infrared filter) of two lines of an Aramaic epigraph on reverse of a previously unrecorded Elamite tablet, Fort. 2132-103, recording a deposit of fruit. "(Belonging) to [Personal Name], pomegranates, year 23" (see also fig. 5 in the Conservation report)

contents, and state of preservation require disproportionate time and effort for restoration, verification, and cataloging. Henkelman also made final translations of about 400 of the PF-NN texts, to be synchronized with OCHRE for public release (fig. 6). I continued to record new Elamite tablets and fragments, also concentrating on journals and accounts. I added draft editions of about 280 more in OCHRE (for a running total of more than 1,000, almost

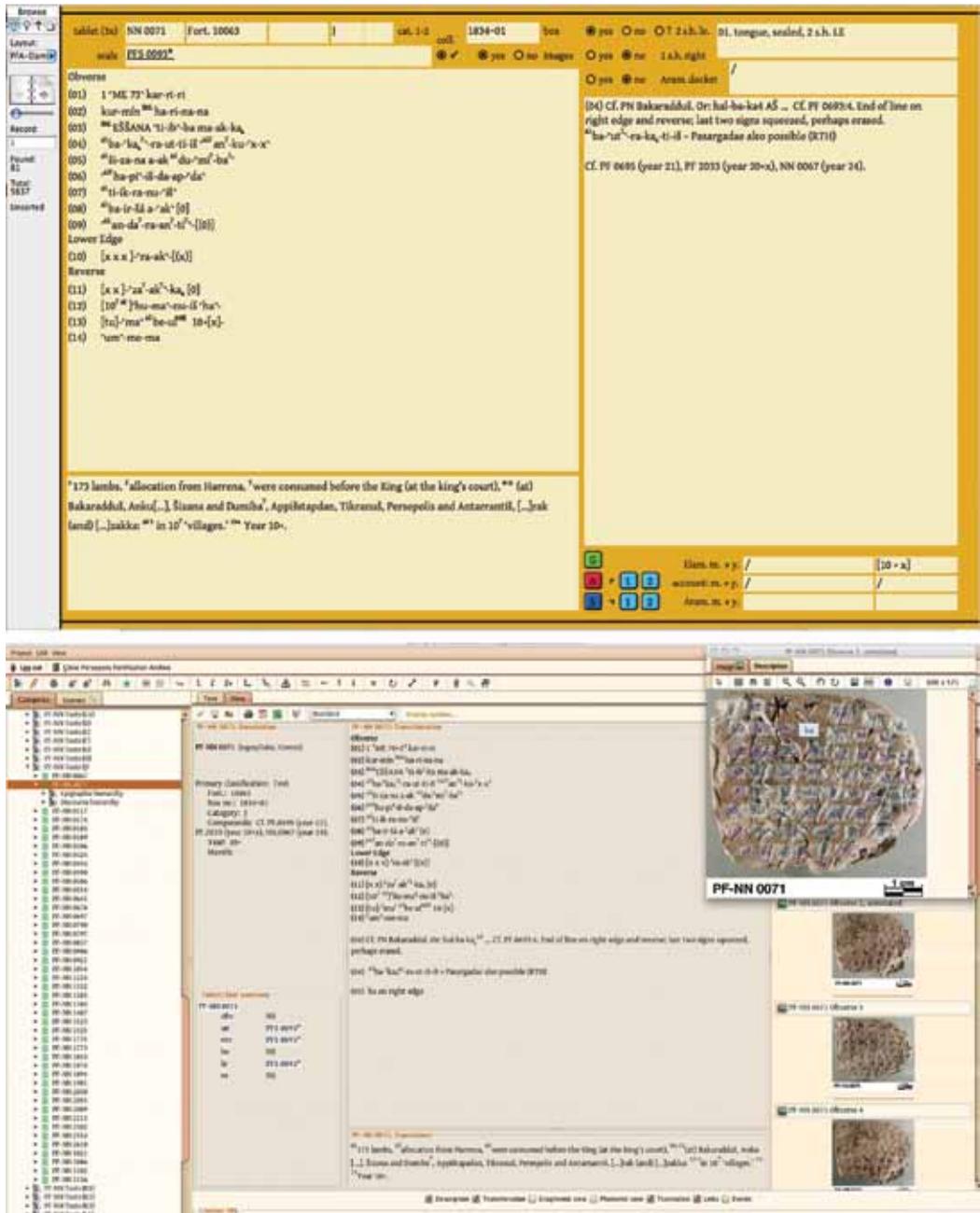


Figure 6. Wouter Henkelman's final edition and translation of PF-NN.0071 (a record of livestock issued for consumption by the royal court). Above, FileMaker record; below, OCHRE display, with thumbnails of images and photograph of obverse with overlaid transliteration

PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

half of them journals and accounts) and reviewed about fifty of them with graduate student Tytus Mikołajczak, verifying seal identifications in connection with his ongoing research on seal use on PFA journals and accounts.

The staff of the Project's high-resolution imaging lab went through an almost complete turnover. Project veterans Clinton Moyer, John Walton Burnight, and Joseph Lam left to take up post-doctoral fellowships or tenure-track academic posts. Veteran Miller Prosser (PhD NELC) brought post-doc Arne Wossink (PhD Leiden University) and graduate students Ben Thomas and Tate Paulette (both NELC) and Jason Hermann (University of Arkansas) into the production line. This phase of the Project, carried out in collaboration with the West Semitic Research Project at the University of Southern California and funded by grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, made about 6,100 Polynomial Texture Mapping (PTM) sets and about 4,100 BetterLight scans to record about 600 new tablets and fragments and supplement records of about forty others with improved techniques. With student workers Megaera Lorenz (NELC), Amy Genova (History), and Dan Whittington (Classics) doing local post-processing of PTM sets to supplement the work done at the University of Southern California by student workers Bekir Gurdil, Claire Shriver, and Kristin Butler, about 4,400 PTM sets and 210 BetterLight scans were processed for distribution. At InscriptiFact, Marilyn Lundberg and Leta Hunt cataloged and uploaded more than 10,000 new images of more than 800 tablets and fragments for public release. Very high-quality images of almost 1,600 Fortification tablets are currently available to InscriptiFact subscribers.

About four-fifths of these are monolingual Aramaic tablets (PFAT) and uninscribed, sealed tablets (PFUT/PFAnep), document types that were absent from the published record of the Archive when the Project began. Presenting them in this way allows students and scholars to download and manipulate the images, to scrutinize Aramaic epigraphy and Achaemenid iconography in a way that conventional print publication cannot enable.

Veteran student photographers and editors Greg Hebda (NELC) and Joshua Elek (Divinity) left the Project during 2011–12. Megaera Lorenz, Dan Whittington, Ami Huang (NELC), Matt Susnow (alumnus, NELC) carried on conventional photography of newly selected Elamite tablets and fragments (about 250 items), and supplementary photography of previously recorded fragments (about 285 items).

Post-doctoral Project Manager Dennis Campbell, assisted by student workers Özgün Sak (History) and Seunghye Yie (NELC), formatted, parsed, glossed, and linked about 750 new Elamite texts in OCHRE (again concentrating on the time-consuming large-format journals and accounts) and reviewed and copy-edited about 2,000 previously entered transliterations. Before his work was interrupted by a medical leave of absence, Jay Munsch (Divinity) tagged about 300 conventional photographs of Elamite texts to allow OCHRE display of overlaid transliterations, linked to editions. Campbell and Azzoni prepared formatted, parsed, and linked OCHRE editions of more than 200 of the Aramaic epigraphs that accompany Elamite cuneiform texts, about half of them made public.

Full documentation of Elamite and Aramaic texts in OCHRE includes morphological parsing, marking grammatically meaningful elements of words so that users can search, for example, to determine which verbs are attested in which conjugational forms. Campbell is now taking advantage of the hierarchical data structure of texts in OCHRE to develop a way of marking up syntax as well, so that users can explore, for example, which pronouns are used with which conjugational forms, or find the implicit referents of pronouns or verbs.

The OCHRE record of the PFA now includes entries for more than 4,700 Elamite texts, more than 700 Aramaic texts, and about 2,500 uninscribed tablets, along with almost 20,000 conventional images, 10,000 high-resolution BetterLight scans, and 15,000 screen-resolution PTM sets. Completing these entries with full epigraphic, editorial, iconographic, and cataloging detail is a daunting task, made more so by the feedback effect, as new data need to be integrated with old results before public display or redisplay (fig. 7).

OCHRE designer and Oriental Institute Research Database Specialist Sandra Schloen and PFA Project post-doctoral worker Miller Prosser extended OCHRE functionality to integrate more project data, gathering the spreadsheets and databases maintained by individual team members and groups in a common framework. A new data-importing tool allows an external data source, such as a spreadsheet or database maintained for convenient personal use by one of the Project members to be synchronized with corresponding items or related data within OCHRE. Under the rubric of OCHRE Data Services (see separate report), Schloen and

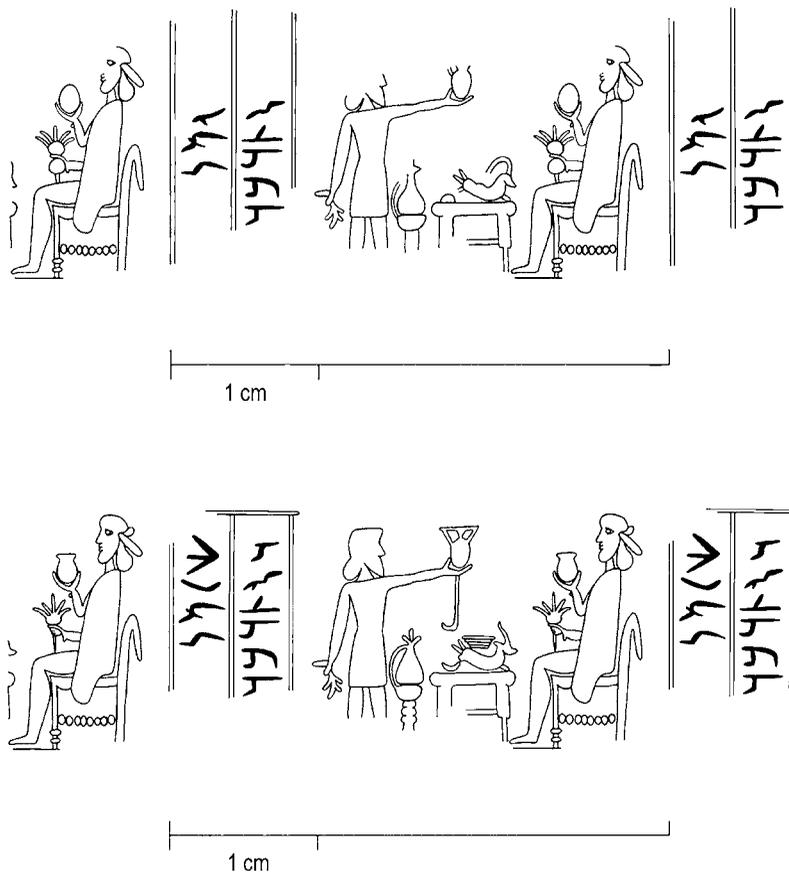


Figure 7. Integrating new information with old: collated drawings of PFS 0535*, a detailed representation of court ceremonial. Above, based on impressions from published Elamite tablets alone. Below, based on additional impressions on Aramaic, uninscribed and new Elamite tablets. Additions and corrections include (right to left): Aramaic inscription; face of seated figure; cup in seated figure's hand; dish and theriomorphic stand on table; bridge-spouted pot in standing figure's extended hand; vessel on censer in front of standing figure; standing figure's head and hair

PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

Prosser also began to work with Charles Blair, of the Digital Library Development Center of the University, to create self-documenting archived data sets in OCHRE and to move Project files to permanent archives at the University of Chicago Libraries.

The PFA and the Project were featured in a cover story of the general-audience magazine of the Archaeological Institute of America, *Archaeology*, in Jan./Feb. 2012 (available at the Suq of the Oriental Institute). At the Project's weblog (<http://persepolistablets.blogspot.com/>) and Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Persepolis-Fortification-Archive-Project/116290391782963>), maintained by Charles E. Jones (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University), more than 12,000 unique visitors viewed thirty-four new posts during the year.

To promote awareness of the PFA, Project members gave about twenty academic presentations and invited lectures during the year. Among others, Mark Garrison and I presented papers on current results at a panel honoring David Stronach, the dean of Iranian Archaeologists in America, at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Francisco. On the local scene, I discussed progress at the University's Humanities Day; Sandra Schloen and I gave talks in the autumn on image-capture and data-handling at the Laboratory for Advanced Numerical Simulation at Argonne National Laboratories (thanks to an invitation arranged by PFA Project alumna Siwei Wang, now a post-doctoral appointee at the Mathematics and Computer Sciences division of Argonne), and in the spring, joined by Miller Prosser, Sandra Schloen and I gave poster presentations at the Knowledge Fair in connection with the University's Alumni Weekend. In the wider world, and in response to the more demanding imperative to prepare new scholars who can take advantage of the Archive's possibilities, Wouter Henkelman gave intensive master-classes on the contents, language, and implications of the PFA at the Dutch Institute in Istanbul in the autumn and at Wolfson College, Oxford, in the spring. To the same effect, Garrison's and Henkelman's contributions to new academic reference works (for example, Garrison's chapter on "Royal Achaemenid Iconography" and Henkelman's on "The Persepolis Archive and the Archaeology of the Achaemenid Heartland," both forthcoming in the *Oxford Handbook of Iranian Archaeology*, New York: Oxford University Press) stand out among more than fifteen PFA-related publications submitted by Project members this year. They make the Archive part of the common and general conversation of research and learning.

TELL EDFU

Nadine Moeller

The 2011 season of the Tell Edfu project directed by Dr. Nadine Moeller took place from the October 18 to December 8. The members of the mission (in alphabetical order) were Natasha Ayers (pottery, PhD candidate, University of Chicago), Kathryn Bandy (ostraca and small finds, PhD candidate, University of Chicago), Dr. Valerie Le Provost (Old Kingdom pottery, French Institute in Cairo), Lindsey Miller (archaeology, graduate student, University of Chicago), Dr. Gregory Marouard (Assistant Director and Director of the Edfu South Pyramid project, Research Associate at the Oriental Institute), Dr. Hratch Papazian (Edfu South Pyramid project, invited Associate Professor at University of Copenhagen), Susan Penacho (archaeology, PhD candidate, University of Chicago), Aurelie Schenk (archaeology), Julia Schmied (photos, objects), and Janelle Wade (pottery, graduate student, University of Chicago). The inspectors of this season have been Osama Ismail Ahmed and Alaa Ahmed Kamal, whom we all thank very much for their excellent collaboration. A special thank-you also goes to Ramadan Hassan Ahmed, director of the Elkab magazine, and Amal Abdullah Ahmed, for their ongoing support and help to work in the magazine.

Edfu South Pyramid at El-Ghoneameya

One of the new objectives of the Edfu South Pyramid project, which is in fact a small fieldwork project under the auspices of the Tell Edfu project,¹ has focused on the investigation of the



Figure 1. Newly cleaned south face of pyramid



Figure 2. First day of cleaning the pyramid

small step pyramid, which is located 5 km southwest of Edfu at the village of el-Ghonameya (fig. 1). Gregory Marouard and Hratch Papazian conducted this work with the help of Aurelie Schenk. The pyramid belongs to a series of almost identical small step pyramids that have been discovered near several provincial centers in Egypt such as Elephantine, Hierakonpolis, Naqada, Abydos, Zawiet el-Meitin, and Seila in the Fayum. According to an inscription found at Elephantine, which has been linked directly to the pyramid, these pyramids date to the reign of Huni, the last ruler of the Third Dynasty, or possibly Snofru, his successor. The pyramid at Seila had some cult installations and two stelae that mention Snofru's name, but it is unknown whether he mainly finished or expanded on the work of his father Huni.

It is also clear from a study carried out by Werner Kaiser and Günther Dreyer in 1980 that these pyramids were not intended for funerary use or royal burial. None of them contains a burial chamber. Their precise function might be linked to the cult of the royal *ka* or markers of royal power in the provinces. The Edfu pyramid is the only pyramid of this group that has never been fully cleaned and investigated in detail (fig. 2). The site is currently endangered by a fast-developing modern cemetery and the placement of a gas pipeline close to the modern road. The cleaning work is part of a larger initiative to protect this site with the aim to start some site management next year.

The monument in its current state of preservation measures 18.30–18.50 m in length (about 35 royal cubits); its height is preserved at around 5 m consisting of three steps, two inclined layers leaning against a central core. The original elevation can be estimated to have been more than 13 m (25 royal cubits). On purely architectural grounds, this provincial monument is a “miniature” pyramid, its architecture is very similar to the famous step pyramid of Djoser



Figure 3. Eastern face after cleaning

at Saqqara, to the two pyramids at Zawiet el-Aryan, and to the Meïdoum pyramid, all built in the construction method called “accretion layers.” Typical for the reigns of the Third Dynasty, from King Djoser to Snofru, this method of construction precedes, from a technical standpoint, the appearance of the “true pyramid” with flat faces.

The blocks are made of local sandstone, which comes from a nearby quarry. The cleaning work concentrated on the eastern, northern, and southern sides, where the bedrock was reached. During this work, the original face of the lower layers of stone blocks became visible, showing between six and seven courses of well-preserved facing stones (fig. 3). The western side of the pyramid will be cleaned next season. No ancient remains of any installations along the sides of the pyramid have been found, and only a few pottery sherds have been discovered.

There are two groups of graffiti at the Edfu pyramid: two graffiti on the north face and two graffiti on the south face incised on the soft and light-colored stone blocks. Both groups are located toward the center of each side, and they were at eye level in antiquity. There are no visible inscriptions on the eastern or western sides.

One of the blocks on the south side contains four signs: a four-legged animal, a seated man, a reed leaf, and a book roll; a fifth sign, a bird, is placed a few centimeters away to the right. The second block on the south side only has parallel lines or lines that make triangles. On the north side, a block on the lower half shows a four-legged animal, which is not carved as nicely as the one of the south side. Another block above and to the right of this one shows a series of vertical lines, some of them double lines. Nothing is inscribed between the lines.

It should be noted that these marks do not appear to be from the Old Kingdom. It is also too early to make conclusions on their meanings, but they do not form complete sentences or represent actual Egyptian words.

Excavations in the Silo and Columned Hall Area (Zone 1)

This season the main excavation of the late Middle Kingdom (12th–13th Dynasties) administrative building and the later silo court of the Second Intermediate Period (17th Dynasty) was completed. The aim was to reach the mud floor of the late Middle Kingdom columned hall underneath all the silos. The excavation focused in the northern part of the silo area under Silo 388 and on the western side of Silo 316 (fig. 4). It has been possible to confirm the presence of a second columned hall to the north, which is linked to the southern columned hall by a doorway (see fig. 5).

Last year, two large round holes were found under Silo 316; these had once been



Figure 4. Excavation area west of Silos Si 316 and Si 388



Figure 6. Silo Si 388 and underlying holes left by the removal of two column bases



Figure 7. Greg using the iPad in the field

filled by round stone column bases of a larger diameter than those sandstone column bases that were discovered in the southern columned hall. The two new holes (Ho 724 and Ho 725) measure between 1.25 and 1.44 m in diameter. This season three additional holes of the same size were found: two underneath Silo 388 to the north and one on the western side of Silo 316 (fig. 6). It is now possible to reconstruct a northern column hall with at least two rows of large columns. This seems to have been the main hall of this Middle Kingdom administrative building complex. Its layout resembles palatial architecture, and it is extremely likely that we are dealing with remains of the governor's residence of Edfu during the second half of the Middle Kingdom. The German excavations at the settlement of Elephantine, which is located on an island in the south of Egypt, next to the modern city of Aswan, have shown that such governor's palaces not only functioned as the residence for the local mayor but also were used for administrative activities.

The excavations also continued along the western side of Silo 316 and between Wall 300/389 (fig. 6). Here the abandonment layer of the northern columned hall, which contained a large amount of broken clay sealings, some of which show the cartouche of the Hyksos ruler Khayan, was carefully excavated, and much attention was paid to the stratigraphy. The original mud floor of the northern columned hall was renewed at some point, and on top of this new floor level, a thick layer of occupational trash accumulated marking the abandonment of this building. Within this layer (US 2654), which can be divided into three sub-layers (US 2732–2734), more than 300 new clay sealings have been found. A total of forty-one sealings with the cartouche of the Hyksos king Khayan (15th Dynasty) have been found in this layer together with nine sealings showing the name of the Thirteenth Dynasty king Sobekhotep IV. These two kings are traditionally considered to have reigned about 100 years apart from each other, which is impossible in view of the new archaeological evidence.²

This is also the first season that the team used three iPads on the excavation for entering the data directly into the project's database without using any paper sheets (fig. 7). Despite the heat, dust, and strong sunlight, the iPads turned out to be very useful and are a major improvement for the recording of our archaeological data. In order to protect them from the sand and dust, we used armored cases, which proved to be very effective.



Figure 8. Southeast view of Old Kingdom excavation area



Figure 9. Cleared Old Kingdom area at the end of the season with stone walls protecting the tell

Old Kingdom Area (Zone 2)

This season the clearance of the Old Kingdom area, which is situated immediately west of the Ptolemaic temple enclosure wall, was continued (fig. 8). Over the past two years, we have removed several meters of sebbakh debris and French excavation spoil heaps, which were covering the Old Kingdom settlement layers. This season we worked with more than seventy-five workmen in this area in order to speed up the clearance work, and by the end of the



Figure 10. Old Kingdom pottery in situ



Figure 11. Small silo below floor level

season, we had just started to reach the in situ Old Kingdom settlement remains. We have built two supporting stone walls along the southern end of this area to protect and stabilize the settlement remains lying above it (fig. 9). The area will be the main focus of excavations in the coming season.

More cleaning and small excavation work was carried out along the sides of the tell in this area, which had been cut by the sebbakhin, leaving almost vertical profiles that were studied with great care (figs. 10–12). This area lies immediately to the east of a large Old Kingdom town wall.

It has been possible to identify this entire part of the ancient town as the oldest town center, dating back to at least the Fourth Dynasty according to ceramic evidence. We were able to establish a good chronological sequence for the Old Kingdom in this area with pottery dating from the late Fifth to the Sixth Dynasty. Several walls and connecting floor layers were recorded, drawn, and then excavated. A small storage installation consisting of a roughly round-shaped silo that had been dug into the mud floor belonging to a house has been excavated (fig. 11). Along the western side, a small doorway was discovered (see fig. 12). All these settlement remains seem to be of domestic character.



Figure 12. Old Kingdom remains and door

The First Intermediate Period Town Walls (Zone 3)

Another aim of this season has been the cleaning of two large mudbrick enclosure walls that are situated along the northern end of Tell Edfu (fig. 13). They are relatively well preserved and had been up to now partially covered in sand and rubble. These three walls represent several building stages. The oldest wall is made of small mudbricks (26–27 x 12.5–13.0 x 6.5–7.0 cm) and has a thickness of about 3 meters. It is running in east–west direction and turns in a large curve toward the southwest, where it gradually disappears underneath the tell being covered by later settlement remains. At a later stage, a new enclosure wall was built directly



Figure 13. First Intermediate Period enclosure walls and settlement remains including silos situated along the interior of the town wall

against its outside, partially covering the top of the older one. This new wall consists of two wall layers, representing two building phases. It was made of very large mudbricks (36–37 x 17.0–18.5 x 9.5–11.0 cm), which can be easily distinguished from the older wall with the smaller bricks. Its two phases have a total width of about 3 meters. These walls represent the northern limit of the ancient town during the First Intermediate Period and the early Middle Kingdom. Along the inside of the walls, several mudbrick structures and ancient fill layers have survived the destruction by the sebbakhin. These remains are now our only chance to understand the development of the town in this area. They have been carefully cleaned this season, and it is our aim to excavate these settlement remains during the next season.

In a first phase, contemporary with the older town wall made of the small mudbricks, several buildings were constructed directly against the inner face of this wall, in some cases making use of the enclosure as rear wall. Additionally, it was possible to notice that this first phase of buildings used nearly the same type and size of bricks as those for the enclosure wall. This could be an indication for these installations to be almost contemporary. The preliminary analysis of pottery samples indicates a First Intermediate Period date for the structures and the town wall. Some time later on, these buildings fell out of use, and a group of round silos was erected between the older walls, making good use of the already existing mudbrick walls. They are smaller than the silos we have excavated over the past years on top of the tell, and their respective diameters lie between 3.5 and 4.0 meters. The empty spaces between the straight mudbrick walls of the earlier buildings and the round silo walls have in several instances been filled with white ash probably to protect the stored grain from insect infestation. So far we have been able to identify five silos during the cleaning work. It is possible that this was an official storage installation of the early Middle Kingdom that was then replaced during the late Middle Kingdom by the large silo court on top of the tell. The excavations next year we hope will shed more light on these questions. According

to pottery from the associated layers, a thick ash fill on the northern side contained a multitude of tubular bread molds that are typical for the early Middle Kingdom (end of 11th or early 12th Dynasty). There was probably a baking and/or beer brewing facility somewhere in the vicinity.

Work in the Magazine of Elkab

The study of the ostraca and sealings was continued at the magazine of Elkab, where all the registered and unregistered objects from the excavation are securely stored. The Tell Edfu ostraca corpus has 379 ostraca and fragments and is currently being studied by Kathryn Bandy, who has been focusing on the final documentation and photography this season. The majority of the texts are short hieratic economic accounts pertaining to the administration of



Figure 14. Kat and Nadine recording sealings in the magazine using iPads

the town. The texts were excavated over the past five seasons and primarily come from the fill layers of the late Second Intermediate Period and early New Kingdom. In addition to standard photographic documentation, all of the hieratic material (and a portion of the other ostraca) was photographed with an infrared camera setup during this past season. We have had great success with infrared photos especially in cases where the ink is worn, smudged, erased, or obscured by dirt and salt. The results have been remarkable, and it is now possible to verify the existence of text and read it on those ostraca that are otherwise impossible to decipher with the naked eye.

During the second half of the season, Nadine and Kathryn concentrated on the study of the 1,500 clay sealings that have been found during the past seasons in the late Middle Kingdom columned-hall complex, especially on the floor of the southern columned hall as well as along the western wall (W389) of the northern columned hall (fig. 14). Apart from the royal name sealings of Khayan and Sobekhotep IV, the other sealings show private names of officials and decorative spiral motifs, which are both typical of the late Middle Kingdom and early Second Intermediate Period. Julia Schmied joined the team for one week to take photographs of the sealings using the darkroom available in the magazine.

Post-excavation Work in the Oriental Institute

With the completion of excavations in the silo area (Zone 1) and the study of most of the related objects at the magazine in Elkab, the post-excavation work back at the Oriental Institute focused on the preparation of the first volume of the Edfu Reports series. The use of the iPad in the field for recording our data directly in the database has considerably reduced the time that needs to be spent on updating the database after the field season. Therefore, Gregory was able to concentrate on finishing the site plans, profile drawings, and illustrations of the clay sealings using a Wacom graphic tablet (fig. 15). He has also spent some time

TELL EDFU



Figure 15. Greg using a Wacom graphic tablet back at the Oriental Institute to draw sealings

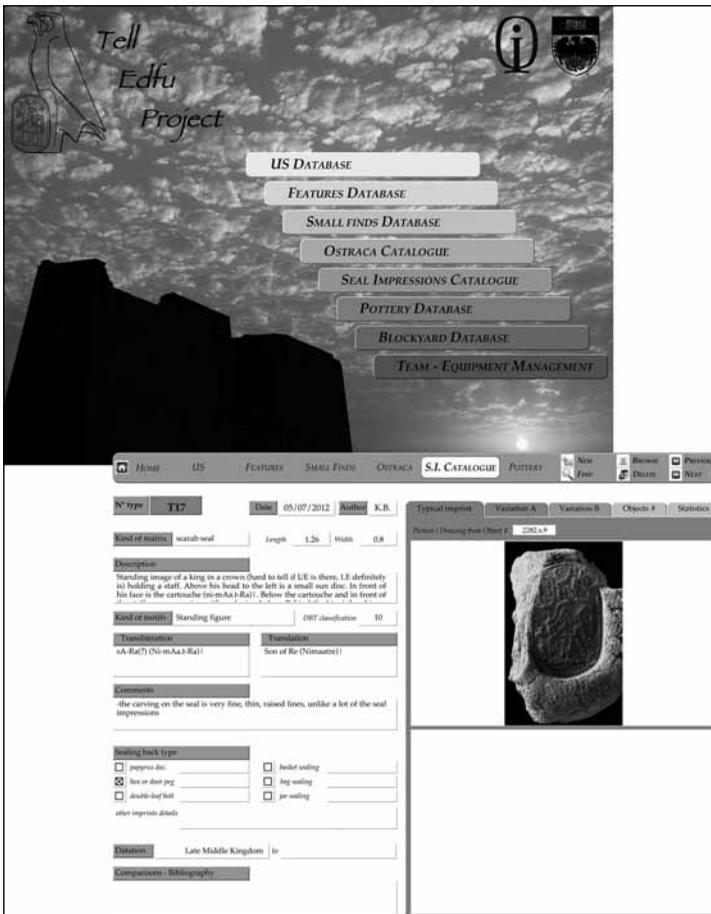


Figure 16. The Tell Edfu Project database

updating the database for improving its use with the iPad and creating some new tabs for the sealing catalog and the blockyard project, which will start in 2012 (fig. 16).

Kathryn has been in charge of organizing the object database and entering the new data of the sealings found in the autumn. A new study program is planned for the 2012 season, which will focus on the recording of more than 100 decorated stone blocks situated currently at the base of the tell. The blockyard project started this summer with Janelle Wade and Jonathan Winnerman in charge of the recording and analysis of these blocks. Both of them are spending the summer preparing the plan of the blockyard area and to create a comprehensive system for the database together with Gregory, and to start entering data that can be retrieved from photographs.

Acknowledgments

The director and the team of the Tell Edfu Project would like to express their sincere gratitude to all the people who have been making this work possible (fig. 17), especially the Edfu inspectorate led by Mr. Mohamed Zenan Nubia and Mr. Fathi Abu Zeid, general director of the Aswan area.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Faten Abd el-



Figure 17. The whole Edfu team including our Egyptian workers at the end of the season

Halim (Egypt Exploration Society) for her help with the translation of the final report into Arabic and other logistical matters occurring throughout the past year. I am also very grateful for the ongoing support of many of our Oriental Institute members, foremost Andrea Dudek, Janet and Bob Helman, Daniel and Annette Youngberg, Stephen and Patricia Holst, Jonathan D. Williams, and Rosemary Ferrand. Additionally, I would like to thank the Oriental Institute and the National Endowment for the Humanities for funding the Tell Edfu Project.

Notes

¹ For a detailed report about this project, see *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 213 (2012): 3–9.

² See the forthcoming article by N. Moeller and G. Marouard, with a contribution by N. Ayers, “Discussion of Late Middle Kingdom and Early Second Intermediate Period History and Chronology in Relation to the Khayan Sealings from Tell Edfu,” *Ägypten und Levante* 21 (2011).

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Richard H. Beal

Richard H. Beal spent his time updating, reference checking, and copy-editing articles for the third fascicle of the Š volume and the beginning of the T volume of the Hittite Dictionary. Outside of office time, his article “Hittite Anatolia: Political History” has appeared in the *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Anatolia*, edited by Sharon R. Steadman and Gregory McMahon, pp. 579–603 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011). This massive volume was co-edited by Gregory McMahon, who like Richard was a student of the Oriental Institute’s own Professor Harry A. Hoffner. Gregory is now a professor at the University of New Hampshire. An article in the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* on “Soldat (Hittite)” “soldiers among the Hittites” is now in print. Richard completed a review of a Festschrift for Silvin Košak, a predecessor of his as Research Associate on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary as well as a review of a Festschrift honoring British Hittitologist and leading expert on hieroglyphic Luwian, David Hawkins. Reviews of the book *Rêves hittites* by Alice Mouton, and the book *Hittite Votive Texts* by Jan de Roos, should be finished soon. With his wife, JoAnn Scurlock, he co-edited a book *Creation and Chaos: A Reconsideration of Hermann Gunkel’s Chaos Kampf Hypothesis*, which is currently awaiting publication at Eisenbrauns. Since the submission of this book, he has been busy most evenings and weekends aiding in the reference checking and copy-editing of Scurlock’s forthcoming *Sourcebook for Mesopotamian Medicine*, which will contain transliterations and translations of all types of Mesopotamian diagnostic and therapeutic texts. It will appear in the series *Writings from the Ancient World*, published by the Society of Biblical Literature.

Robert D. Biggs

Robert D. Biggs expects to have his contribution on the mid-third millennium texts from the Inanna Temple at Nippur ready to submit with the work of Karen Wilson, Richard Zettler, and others in the fall. He is also preparing a presentation on the religious and magical elements in Babylonian medicine for the October lecture series being organized by Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman. He has been studying a small stone fragment in the Oriental Institute (a surface find at Nippur in 1961) that appears to be from a stele containing the Lipit-Ishtar Law Code (in Sumerian, about 1850 BC). Except for another fragment probably from the same stele that he published in 1969 and a small piece in the University Museum in Philadelphia, the Lipit-Ishtar Law Code is known incompletely only from clay tablets.

Scott Branting

Scott Branting is director of the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL), co-director of the Integrated Database Project, and co-director of the Kerkenes Dağ archaeological project in central Turkey. Reports for all three of these projects appear in their separate sections of this *Annual Report*. He also continues to co-direct the ArcGIS Cross-Curricular Education for Sixth Grade Students program (ACCESS) with Wendy Ennes in the Public Education Department. Reports on this program appear in both the CAMEL and Public Education sections of this *Annual Report*. In addition, he serves as a committee member and national lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and as a delegate and committee member to the board of the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT). During the year, lectures were given at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wheaton College, and the New Brunswick AIA Society in Fredericton. Three new publications appeared: “Seven Solutions for Seven Problems with Least Cost Pathways” in *Least Cost Analysis of Social Landscapes: Archaeological Case Studies*, edited by Devin A. White and Sarah L. Surface-Evans (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2012); “Aerial Photographs and Satellite Images” (with Elise MacArthur and Susan Penacho) in *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*, edited by Jack Green, Emily Teeter, and John A. Larson, pp. 57–60 (Oriental Institute Museum Publications 34; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2012); and “Kerkenes 2010” (with Geoffrey Summers, Sevil Baltalı Tırpan, Nilüfer Baturayoğlu Yöney, and Joseph Lehner) in *Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* 33 (in press).

François Gaudard

This has been a busy and productive year for **François Gaudard**, who made significant progress with his work on several projects, including the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD) and the Mummy Label Database (MLD) (see separate reports).

In the spring, François was invited to contribute to the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Ancient Greek Language and Linguistics (EAGLL)* (Leiden: Brill) as well as to write an article for a Festschrift in honor of a fellow Egyptologist. In addition, he is currently working on several other publication projects.

Three of François’ recent articles will be published soon: “Pap. Berlin P. 8278 and Its Fragments: Testimony of the Khoiak Festival Celebration during the Ptolemaic Period,” in a Festschrift for the *Neues Museum* in Berlin; “A Demotic-Hieratic Mummy Label in the Musée de Montserrat,” in a Festschrift honoring a colleague; and “Birds in the Ancient Egyptian and Coptic Alphabets,” in the catalog of the forthcoming Oriental Institute exhibition entitled *Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt*. This article discusses, among others, the still little-known fact that the ancient Egyptians had an alphabet and designated each of its letters by a bird name beginning with the letter in question. The common depiction of the god Thoth in the form of an ibis would explain why the Egyptians, who ascribed to him the invention of letters, named the first letter of their alphabet *hb* “ibis.” This practice dates back as early as the fourth century BC and was probably adopted for mnemonic reasons.

On July 1, 2011, François presented a lecture on the Chicago Demotic Dictionary and on the various scripts and stages in the development of the ancient Egyptian language for the

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

University of Chicago Egyptology summer class “Ancient Egyptian Language, Culture, and History,” taught by Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer. On May 11, 2012, he led a gallery tour at the Oriental Institute Museum with a focus on ancient Egyptian wine-making and drinking practices, discussing the different phases of vinification and storage as well as the role and symbolism of wine in both Egyptian society and religion (see *Public Education* report).

McGuire Gibson

McGuire Gibson has spent much of the past year working with Iraqi archaeologists to produce English-language versions of reports on important fieldwork that the Iraqis carried out. Muzahim Hussein’s book on the Assyrian Queens’ Tombs is being checked one last time before handing it to the Oriental Institute editorial process. In November 2011, Gibson arranged for Hussein to make a lecture tour of several places in the United States, including the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Francisco. While in Chicago, Hussein and Gibson went over the manuscript. In May 2012, Gibson worked once again with Hussein for two days in Baghdad, ironing out problems. Also while in Baghdad, he met with the other two Iraqi colleagues, Salah Rmeidh (Tell Asmar) and Hussein Ali Hamza (Tell Muqtadiyah), both of whom have manuscripts that will go to the editors soon.

While in Heidelberg to attend a PhD dissertation defense, Gibson gave a lecture on Umm al-Hafriyat, a site near Nippur that he dug in 1977. He gave a variation on this lecture for the Mesopotamian Society in Toronto, Canada.

His study of the Y Trench at Kish, to be published in Karen Wilson’s book on Kish, was completed and handed to the editors. His work, with others, on the seals from Kish was also turned over this year for publication in the same volume.

In his role as president of The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII), he initiated and co-chaired an international conference on the Sanctions Regime in Iraq, held in Amman, Jordan. He continues to serve as Chicago’s representative on the Board of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. He also continues to serve on the Board of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

Petra M. Goedegebuure

Petra M. Goedegebuure spent this year on sabbatical at the Franke Institute of the Humanities, working on her new book project *The Core Cases in the Anatolian Languages*. Besides researching and writing several chapters of this new study, she attended four conferences (presenting at two), audited a graduate seminar in the fall, finished two major articles, was invited to serve on the Board of Editors of a new book series and a new journal, and invested quite some time in researching the topics of the other fellows (e.g., on Ptolemaic Cyprus, eighteenth-century English fashion and the romantic novel, the “true visage” of the Buddha in seventh-century China, and Heidegger’s metaphysics of agency).

Petra worked on several chapters of her book (2: Split-ergativity in the Anatolian Languages and 5: Syntax and Semantics of the Enclitic Pronouns). A major article that provides the background for chapter 2, entitled “Split-ergativity in Hittite” — a review article of Sylvain Patri (2007), *L’alignement syntaxique dans les langues indo-européennes d’Anatolie* (StBoT 49; Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2007) — was accepted for publication in *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie* 102/2 (35 pp.).

In order to support the research for one of the other chapters (3: The Four Anatolian Declension Classes), Petra audited a graduate seminar on the noun phrase in formal semantics in the fall (taught by Chris Kennedy and Itamar Francez). Formal semantics is often not considered in the study of dead languages but is nevertheless very useful when researching the nominal aspect and, for example, focus. Petra incorporated the formal semantic approach to focus in an invited paper at the East Coast Indo-European Conference (ECIEC), Berkeley, May 19, 2012 (“Finding Focus in Hittite: The Discourse-pragmatic Function of Stressed Pronouns”). She is finalizing this strand of research for publication (“The Pragmatic Function Focus in Hittite” in *Linguistic Method and Theory and the Languages of the Ancient Near East*, Oriental Institute). Her presentation at the ECIEC will be followed up by a second installment on focus in noun phrases at the West Coast Indo-European Conference (peer reviewed, Los Angeles, October 2012).

Petra finished and submitted an article wholly unrelated to her usual research on language, “Hittite Iconoclasm: Disconnecting the Icon, Disempowering the Referent,” in *Iconoclasm and Text Destruction in the Ancient Near East and Beyond* (ed. Natalie May; Oriental Institute Seminars, pp. 359–99), and presented a likewise non-linguistic paper in Warsaw (“The Deeds(?) of Suppiluliuma II — The Südburg Inscription Reconsidered,” International Conference of Hittitology VIII, September 5, 2011). She is further awaiting the publication of three entries for the *Encyclopedia of Ancient History* (Blackwell Publishing: “Hattic (Language),” “Labarna,” “Kashka”) and also submitted the lemma *ser* “on top, above, because of, on account of, regarding” (ca. 110 pages) for the *si-* volume of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project (see separate report).

This year Petra was invited to serve on the board of a new series (Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Records, Walter de Gruyter) and a new journal (*Indo-European Linguistics*, Brill) and served on the annual post-doc committee of the Oriental Institute.

Gene Gragg

Gene Gragg continued work on the interface (for paradigm query and manipulation) of the paradigm database project, recently re-baptized Afroasiatic Morphological Archive (AAMA — formerly COMA, Cushitic-Omotc Morphological Archive), at a steady but slower pace, as researchers rethought the database issues for comparing, manipulating, and displaying a collection of such highly, but uniquely and diversely, structured objects as the morphological paradigms of a set of (usually, but not necessarily) related languages. Some of the issues of such a database, with an ancient Near Eastern perspective, will appear in a revised printed version of a talk given at the 2010 Oriental Institute conference on Linguistic Method and Theory and the Languages of the Ancient Near East, to be published by the Oriental Institute. The application will be posted in the course of the next academic year.

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

On a slightly different front, a former student, Robert Hoberman, and Gragg published a collaborative chapter on Semitic: “Semitic,” in *The Afroasiatic Languages* (ed. Zygmunt Frajzngier and Erin Shay; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp. 145–235).

Jack Green

Since starting as Chief Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum on August 1, 2011, there was seemingly little time for **Jack Green** to conduct individual research, yet progress was made at several levels.

The recent special exhibit at the Oriental Institute and associated museum publication *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East* (Oriental Institute Museum Publications 34; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2012) afforded a new avenue for research on the history of Oriental Institute Expeditions. Green contributed the introduction and four catalog entries. He co-edited the volume with Emily Teeter and John A. Larson.

Work progressed on the report of the British Museum excavations of the Cemetery at Tell es-Sa’idiyeh, Jordan (co-edited with Jonathan N. Tubb and Caroline R. Cartwright), as well as preparation of works resulting from his PhD research on the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age phases at the site. A visit to the Dar as-Saraya Museum in Irbid, Jordan (April 2012), to study previously unexamined material from Tell es-Sa’idiyeh will contribute to his chapters on pottery and beads. In April, Green also visited numerous archaeological sites and related collections within Jordan and Israel.

Publications included a chapter presenting the New Kingdom Egyptian-type pottery found at Tell es-Sa’idiyeh in Mario Martin’s volume, *Egyptian-type Pottery in the Late Bronze Age Southern Levant* (2011, pp. 162–74). A paper entitled “Objects, People, and Ritual Sequences: The Cemetery at Tell es-Sa’idiyeh, Jordan” was submitted for *Symbols of the Dead, Contributions to the Archaeology of Egypt and the Levant* (Vienna), co-edited by H. Niehr, E. Pernicka, and P. Pfälzner. A report on beads and pendants (written in 2000) appeared in *El-Ahwat, a Fortified Site of the Early Iron Age near Nahal Iron, Israel*, edited by Adam Zertal (2012). A review of Z. Bahrani, Z. Çelik, and E. Eldem’s volume on the archaeology in the Ottoman Empire, *Scramble for the Past*, was published in *The Art Newspaper* (#236, p. 80, June 2012).

Lectures included “Between East and West: Persian Period Burial Customs in the Jordan Valley,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, San Francisco (November 18, 2011). Green presented “Restoring the Past: A Brief History of Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East” for the Oriental Institute’s public symposium in connection with the special exhibit (March 3, 2012). Green presented for the South Suburban Archaeological Society in Homewood, Illinois (March 15, 2012), “Life and Death in the Jordan Valley: What Burials Can Tell Us.” He lectured at the University of California, San Diego (May 14–15), “With Strings Attached: Gender Dynamics and Personal Adornment in the Ancient Near East” and “Collapse and Regeneration in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Southern Levant.” He also attended the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East in Warsaw, Poland (April 30–May 4).

Work in progress includes the preparation (with Ros Henry) of a volume of letters and photographs of British Near Eastern archaeologist Olga Tufnell. A chapter on the topic of

“Gender and Sexuality” is being prepared for Blackwell’s forthcoming *Companion to the Art of the Ancient Near East*, edited by Ann C. Gunter (Northwestern University).

Rebecca Hasselbach

During the past academic year, **Rebecca Hasselbach** has worked on and completed several projects. She has finished the final draft of her book on *Case in Semitic*, which investigates the phenomenon of case marking in Semitic from various historical and typological angles and will be published by Oxford University Press. She further completed a study on “Agreement and the Development of Gender in Semitic,” which investigates agreement features, specifically gender, of various Semitic languages and attempts to reconstruct the Proto-Semitic situation. This study has been accepted for publication in the *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* and will appear in two parts. In addition, she has been working on a translation and revision of Josef Tropper’s grammar of Classical Ethiopic, which was originally published in German. This project will continue throughout the next academic year.

The academic year 2011–2012 has further seen the publication of several articles by Hasselbach, including “Early Canaanite and Old Aramaic Case in the Light of Language Typology” in *Grammatical Case in the Languages of the Middle East and Europe* (Acts of the International Colloquium Variations, concurrence et évolution des cas dans divers domaines linguistiques, Paris, 2–4 April 2007), edited by Michèle Fruyt, Michel Mazoyer, and Dennis Pardee, pp. 101–11 (Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 64; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2011), and “Old South Arabian” in *Languages from the World of the Bible*, edited by Holger Gzella, pp. 160–93 (Boston: DeGruyter, 2012). She has further published a book review of Alan S. Kaye’s (ed.) *Morphologies of Asia and Africa* in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (71 [2012]: 183–85).

In addition to these projects, Hasselbach presented a lecture on her results on the development of gender and gender agreement at the Freie Universität Berlin in January 2012, and attended the meeting of the American Oriental Society in Boston in March 2012, where she gave a lecture on the development of gender and chiasmic concord agreement in Semitic numerals.

Hasselbach further spent a month in Rabat, Morocco, in February 2012, where she taught a class on the languages of Morocco and their sociolinguistic background for the study abroad program of the University of Chicago. In Morocco, she developed a deep interest in the linguistic situation of the country, which includes the interplay of Arabic (classical and colloquial), Berber, and French, which she intends to investigate in more detail in the future.

Janet Johnson

Janet Johnson gave an Oriental Institute Members’ Lecture in April entitled “Women’s Rights in Ancient Egypt.” She also submitted a paper discussing the range of personal property owned by ancient Egyptians as revealed by Demotic documents pertaining to marriage; this

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

article will appear in a Festschrift honoring a Demoticist colleague. She enjoyed the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt held this year in Providence, Rhode Island; while there, she attended the Board of Governors meeting. She also visited Providence earlier in the spring as a member of the outside review committee for the Department of Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies at Brown University. During the summer she attended the Seventh International Congress of Demotists, held this year in Oxford, England. It was an excellent chance to meet old colleagues as well as several young scholars. Following this meeting, she joined Don Whitcomb in Copenhagen, where he was serving as “outside evaluator” for a dissertation defense, and she gave a talk at the Carsten Niebuhr Institute on legal status of women in Egypt. She was pleased to continue serving as sponsor for Julie Stauder-Porchet and Andréas Stauder, two visiting Swiss Egyptologists with Swiss National Science Foundation (NSF) funding, Julie working on the development of the autobiographical text in the Old Kingdom and Andréas on the transition from Middle Egyptian to Late Egyptian. She served as an outside reader for the tenure review of a colleague in California and enjoyed reading dissertation chapters from several students in NELC, Classics, and the University of Warsaw.

W. Raymond Johnson

This year **W. Raymond Johnson** completed his thirty-fourth year working in Egypt, his thirty-third full year working for the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, and his fifteenth season as Chicago House field director. Ray gave several presentations during the past year, including “A Year in Transition: Chicago House and the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities in Post-revolution Egypt” (Oriental Institute Members Lecture Series, Breasted Hall, June 6, 2012), “Current Archaeological Activities of the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, Egypt” (Imola, Italy, Biblioteca comunale di Imola, Centro Italiano Studi Egittologici Imola, April 20, 2012), “A Reassessment of Tutankhamun’s Reign and Building Activities in Light of Recent Discoveries” (Bologna, Italy, Archaeological Museum, April 18, 2012), “Conservation of the Monuments of Amenhotep III at Luxor Temple” (in the colloquium In Search for New Concepts and Technologies for Conservation and Preservation of the Colossi of Memnon and the Mortuary Temple of Amenhotep III, The Ministry of State for Antiquities and Colossi of Memnon and Amenhotep III Mortuary Temple Conservation Project, Luxor Museum, March 4, 2012), and “The Chicago House Methods: Epigraphic Documentation Methodologies of the Epigraphic Survey” (presented in Seeing, Showing, and Perceiving: a Workshop on Archaeological Illustration, co-sponsored by the American University in Cairo and the Netherlands/Flemish Institute, Cairo, November 14, 2011). Articles appearing in print (or about to) include “Late Roman Interventions at Luxor Temple and the Amun-Re Cult,” in *The Art of Maintaining an Empire: Roman Wall Paintings in Luxor Temple* (ARCE and Yale University Press, forthcoming); “The Art and Architecture of Nubia during the Amarna Period,” in *Ancient Nubia: African Kingdoms on the Nile* (edited by Marjorie M. Fisher, Peter Lacovara, Salima Ikram, and Sue D’Auria; AUC Press 2012); “The Epigraphic Survey and the ‘Chicago Method,’” catalog entry for *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East* (exhibition catalog, Jack Green, Emily

Teeter, and John A. Larson, eds. *Oriental Institute Museum Publications 34*; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2012); and various *Festschrift* articles.

Walter E. Kaegi

Walter E. Kaegi completed a five-year term on October 21, 2011, as president of the U.S. National Committee for Byzantine Studies. In the Twenty-second International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Sofia, Bulgaria, August 22–27, 2011, he chaired a session and read a communication: “On Reinterpreting the Chronology and Lists of Muslim Raids and Campaigns into Byzantine Anatolia.”

From August 28 to September 14, 2011, he lectured for the University of Chicago Alumni Study Tour “Legendary Turkey” to Turkey. He was honored with three sessions at the annual meeting of the Byzantine Studies Association of North America (BSANA) Conference at DePaul University in Chicago, October 21–23, 2011. He published two papers: “Carl Hermann Kraeling: A Reminiscence,” in *Pesher Nahum: Texts and Studies in Jewish History and Literature From Antiquity Through the Middle Ages Presented to Norman (Nahum) Golb*, edited by Joel L. Kraemer and Michael G. Wechsler, pp. 109–15 (Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 66; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2012), and “Seventh-Century Identities: The Case of North Africa,” in *Visions of Community in the Post-Roman World: The West, Byzantium and the Islamic World, 300–1100*, edited by Walter Pohl, Clemens Gantner, and Richard Payne, pp. 165–79 (Burlington: Ashgate, 2012).

He published three book reviews: *From Hellenism to Islam: Cultural and Linguistic Change in the Roman Near East*, by Hannah Cotton, in *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (42 [2011]: 327–29); *Plague and the End of Antiquity: The Pandemic of 541–750*, by Lester K. Little, in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (70 [2011]: 357–58); and *The Edinburgh History of the Greeks, c. 500 to 1050: The Early Middle Ages*, by Florin Curta, in *American Historical Review* (117 [2012]: 912). Other reviews are in preparation.

He delivered two other papers at scholarly conferences: “The Byzantine-Arab Frontier: Barrier or Bridge? Reconsiderations after Twenty-five Years” at the international symposium *Byzantium and the Arab World: Encounter of Civilizations*, organized by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Thessaloniki, Greece (December 16, 2011), and “The Islamic Conquest and the Defense of Byzantine Africa: Campaigns and Conquests in Context, Reconsiderations,” at the *Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies (Washington) Symposium, Rome Re-imagined: Byzantine North Africa, c. 400–800* (April 27, 2012). He is preparing both of these for publication as well as:

- “The Issue of Byzantine Military Purchasing and the Rise of the Meccan Leather Trade”
- “Arnold J. Toynbee the Byzantine Historian”
- “Essay on Seventh-century Historical Background Collective Volume on Maximus the Confessor,” edited by Bronwen Neill and others, for Oxford University Press

He was the reader of three undergraduate history senior essays. He served as a member of the University of Chicago Phi Beta Kappa Executive Committee, a co-director of the Work-

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

shop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium, a member at the History Department Admissions and Aid Committee, and a member at DePaul University Local Arrangements Committee (BSANA Conference, October 21–23, 2011). He did editorial work for several scholarly journals and presses. He also served as editor of the journal *Byzantinische Forschungen*, and History Bibliographer for the journal *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*.

He is supervising continuing retrieval of audio-taped lectures from his Byzantine History courses at the University of Chicago from the 1980s and early 1990s, with indispensable assistance from Audio/Visual Services in Stuart 004.

Morag M. Kersel

During the summer of 2011 **Morag M. Kersel** directed the survey component of the Galilee Prehistory Project at the site of Marj Rabba (directed by Yorke Rowan; see separate report). The first component of the broader site survey methodology was the implementation of a highly intensive pedestrian surface survey. In the pedestrian survey two notable “hotspots” were identified in which high concentrations of artifacts were evident on the surface. In the northern hotspot there was a high concentration of all types of artifacts: lithics (including tools), ceramics (Roman-Byzantine, local and Golan Chalcolithic wares), and basalt (vessels). The southern hotspot has unusually high concentrations of worked and unworked basalt fragments (including vessels and grinding stones). Further investigation of these areas of interest will be undertaken in summer 2012.

In addition to the archaeological site survey, Thomas Urban of Oxford University performed a geophysical prospection in targeted areas of the site. Specifically, ground-penetrating radar and magnetometry were employed. These remote-sensing techniques attempted to identify subsurface archaeological remains (primarily architectural remains).

Preliminary results of the geophysical survey identified an area to the south of the current excavation area with prominent subsurface features only 70–80 cm below the surface. Analyses of the geophysical survey are still being conducted.

In spring 2012 Morag hosted a film series on Sunday afternoons in Breasted Hall in conjunction with the special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*. Additionally, in the spring Morag, Yorke Rowan, and Gil Stein conducted a series of preparatory workshops on archaeology, survey, faunal remains, and the Chalcolithic period with high-school students from the Rowe–Clarke Academy of Math and Science, who participated in the summer excavations at Marj Rabba.

With Yorke Rowan she presented the results of research at Marj Rabba at the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in November 2012. They are currently working on a comprehensive interim report on the first three seasons of excavation and survey at Marj Rabba.

During the winter and spring quarters Morag also acted as the thesis advisor for Marjorie Betley (University of Chicago MAPSS student) on cultural heritage laws in Turkey.

During 2011–2012 Morag, with co-editor Matthew Rutz of Brown University, worked on the edited volume *Archaeologies of Text: Archaeology, Technology, and Ethics*. This volume, with

a keynote contribution by Matt Stolper of the Oriental Institute, is to be published in the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World Series by Equinox Press.

Gregory Marouard

This year **Gregory Marouard** spent six months working on the Tell Edfu Project as an Assistant Director (with Nadine Moeller, director). He devoted two months to fieldwork at Edfu (Upper Egypt) from October to November, supervising two new excavation trenches in an Old Kingdom domestic sector and on the First Intermediate Period enclosure wall area (see *Tell Edfu* report). Four months of post-excavation work were used for updating Tell Edfu Project's database, managing the field data, drawing plans and sections in Illustrator, etc. He presented the new version of the database at the FileMaker workshop organized at the Oriental Institute in May 2012. He also completed an important article, "Discussion of Late Middle Kingdom and Early Second Intermediate Period History and Chronology in Relation to the Khayan Sealings Discovered at Tell Edfu," co-written with Nadine Moeller and Natasha Ayers, for a forthcoming issue of *Egypt and the Levant*.

As the director of the Edfu Pyramid Conservation Project, he led the first campaign at the small step pyramid of Edfu in December 2011 (see *Tell Edfu* report). He introduced this program at a Brown Bag talk at the Oriental Institute in September 2011, "The Edfu Pyramid Project: Recent Investigations at the Last Unexplored Provincial Pyramid," and he presented, in collaboration with Hratch Papazian, the preliminary results of the first campaign in spring *News & Notes*, "The Edfu Pyramid Project: Recent Investigation at the Last Unexplored Provincial Step Pyramid" (#213, pp. 3-9). Two applications submitted for funding (the American Research Center in Egypt Antiquities Endowment Fund and the Archaeological Institute of America Conservation Grant) did not provide the funds necessary to begin the conservation work. Nevertheless, in the next campaign he will try to fulfill the aims of the first part of this project, which includes the general cleaning of the superstructure, the protection of the site, and perhaps some "first-aid" conservation intervention, if funding permits.



Pharaonic stele discovered by Marouard in Wadi Araba

In January, Gregory joined the Wadi Araba Survey (Egyptian Eastern Desert, directed by Yann Tristant, Macquarie University, Sydney) for two weeks, in order to complete the exploration of the Old and Middle Kingdom Pharaonic trail discovered last year. It can now be followed for more than 38 km (ca. 23 miles) from west to east. More than 200 visual stone markers (*alamats*) mark the track and lead to a large mining site for copper and turquoise. Exploring this latter site in order to refine its dating by ceramics study, he discovered a pharaonic stele quite damaged and vandalized in antiquity (see photo), which can be assigned to the reign of Sesostri I (early

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Twelfth Dynasty, Middle Kingdom). This is actually the first epigraphic document discovered in the entire Wadi Araba area. A short article on these new discoveries is being finalized for the next bulletin of the French Institute, in collaboration with Yann Tristant.

In February, he joined the Institut français d'archéologie orientale excavation at the harbor site of Ayn Sokhna (Egyptian Red Sea Coast) for three weeks in order to complete the excavation of an Old Kingdom boatyard (sector K14), which was initiated in 2006 and could not be finished in 2011 due to the Egyptian revolution. He also completed the study of the pottery from this area, the stratigraphic study of a previous trench (sector G10), and is now preparing two chapters for a collective monograph.

In March and April, Gregory joined the early pharaonic harbor project at Wadi al-Jarf (Egyptian Red Sea Coast, directed by Pierre Tallet, University Paris IV Sorbonne) as a senior archaeologist in charge of the excavation for the Institut français d'archéologie orientale. This (second) season provided outstanding results due to the complete excavation of eight galleries used as storerooms for boat pieces and water storage jars. A block at the entrance of gallery G6 revealed an inscription including the name of Khufu, second pharaoh of the Fourth Dynasty and builder of the Great Pyramid of Giza. Dozens of inscriptions on jars also mention Khufu's Golden Horus Name, *bikuj-Nebu* or *Bjk.wj-nb.w*. It is now clear that Khufu's expeditions mark the end of the occupation at this site, perhaps put into operation during the reign of his father, Snofru. This discovery confirms that the site was used to reach the Sinaitic mining area and to support the copper supply for the major funerary projects of the early Fourth Dynasty (pyramids projects at Dashur, Meidum, and Giza). The work at Wadi al-Jarf also pushes the date of the oldest seaport back by more than 1,200 years, making it the oldest harbor site in the world! A first synthesis on this project was published with Pierre Tallet in the spring newsletter of the Egyptian Exploration Society, *Egyptian Archaeology*, "An Early Pharaonic Harbour on the Red Sea" (#40, 2012, pp. 40–43). Another article was completed for a forthcoming *Bulletin de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale* (#112), "Un port de la IV^e dynastie identifié au ouadi al-Jarf (mer Rouge)."

Finally, in May, Gregory joined the French-German mission at Bouto (Egyptian Delta, directed by Pascale Ballet) as an Associate Director and Senior Archeologist. He finished the study of the contexts and objects of the last four-year program in two weeks and initiated the collective monograph on campaigns from 2007 to 2010. A short summary of these results was also published in the spring newsletter *Egyptian Archaeology*, "Workshops and Urban Settlement in Buto" (#40, 2012, pp. 14–17). A short article on the cross-interpretation of geomagnetic surveys and data from excavations is ongoing in collaboration with Tomasz Herbich (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences Warsaw).

With the support of an interdisciplinary team of PhD students in ceramology from the University of Poitiers, he developed a completely new statistical and cartographic methodology for surveying. This method was tested on an area of over 11,000 m² and produced an important supplement to the geomagnetic survey and to the topographical models produced using drill cores. It has clearly revealed the northeastern limits of the town of Bouto during the last five phases of its occupation, from the Late Period (sixth century BC) to the beginning of Islamic Period (mid-ninth century AD).

Discussions with German Institute collaborators also helped to initiate the next program of excavations, which will include a large urban area dominated by domestic buildings dating from the Late Period (so-called casemate foundation buildings) to the beginning of the Hellenistic period. In the context of this work at Bouto, Gregory was appointed as a Research

Associate at the HerMA laboratory (Hellénisation et Romanisation du Monde Antique) at the University of Poitiers, France.

Carol Meyer

Carol Meyer reviewed Steven E. Sidebotham's *Berenike and the Ancient Maritime Spice Route* for the *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists*, but mainly worked on the third volume of the Bir Umm Fawakhir final reports, specifically the 1999 excavations and the 2001 study season. The entire text and all the illustrations are complete and lack only reference checking, so the manuscript should be submitted for publication very soon. Hopes of joining the Tell Hamoukar expedition in May were obliterated by the fighting in Syria, but the opportunity to work on the glass corpus from Serra East arose. This will be part of the OINE (Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition) project to publish the last of the materials from Aswan High Dam archaeological salvage operations, material now stored in the Oriental Institute.

Nadine Moeller

Nadine Moeller dedicated much of the past year to research on urbanism in ancient Egypt, which is currently being prepared as a monograph. For this research project, Nadine was granted leave of absence for winter quarter 2012. Her work focuses on questions about how urban ancient Egyptian society was and what the characteristics of urban settlements were in Pharaonic-period Egypt. This research project includes a detailed analysis of the archaeological data currently available for settlement remains; much new material has been published over the past twenty years. This will be the first volume of a two-volume project with an emphasis on the early urban settlements in Egypt from the Predynastic period to the end of the Second Intermediate Period (ca. 3800–1550 BC).

With a slight delay of about two weeks, Nadine and her team were able to start the excavation season at Tell Edfu in Egypt in mid-October. The Egyptian revolution had led to many changes within the new Ministry of State for Antiquities, which resulted in a longer processing time of the mission's paperwork that grants the permission to excavate each year. Nevertheless, a successful season of seven weeks was conducted at the site (for details, see the *Tell Edfu* report).

In March, Nadine gave a talk on the latest discovery of the clay sealings stamped with the cartouche of the Hyksos ruler Khayan at the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) in Philadelphia, which was well received. Furthermore, she has been invited to serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Near Eastern Archaeology* from 2013 for three years, which is currently chaired by Thomas Schneider of the University of Vancouver. An article on the analysis of sealings from Tell Edfu, which focuses on the identification of local and non-local officials, was published in this peer-reviewed journal in June. Two further articles have been accepted for publication and are currently in press; one that was written together with Natasha Ayers on Nubian pottery from Tell Edfu and will appear in the pro-

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

ceedings of the Nubian pottery workshop held in December 2010 in Cairo, and a second major article on the new discoveries of the Khayan sealings, which has been prepared together with Gregory Marouard and includes a contribution on the ceramics by Natasha Ayers. The latter will appear in the next *Egypt and Levant* issue.

Brian Muhs

Brian Muhs took up his position at the Oriental Institute on July 1, 2011. He presented a paper on “More Papyri from the Archive of Panas son of Espemetis” at the Eleventh International Congress of Demotic Studies in Oxford on September 2. In it, he identified three new accounts listing hundreds of money and grain loans made by the mortuary priest Panas in Thebes in the second century BC. On October 15, he gave a lecture on “Ancient Egyptian Law” for the Oriental Institute Volunteers Mini-series Order from Chaos, and on October 29, he was a participant in the roundtable that concluded the mini-series. Muhs presented a paper on “Literacy, Law and the Economy in Ancient Egypt” at the Ancient Societies Workshop at the University of Chicago on November 15, in which he discussed some issues from his current book project, *Administration and Economy in Ancient Egypt*. He also gave a lecture on “Law and Order in Ancient Egypt” for the Chicago Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt on March 3, 2012. Muhs gave a lecture “On Economic Rationality in Antiquity” at the Franke Institute of the University of Chicago on April 25. He used the example of the mortuary priest Panas’ loans to illustrate how an individual could participate in both redistribution and market exchange. On April 28, he presented a paper on “An Unrecognized Loan Contract from the Archive of the Choachytes, in Chicago” at the Sixty-third Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, in Providence, Rhode Island. In it, he showed how a well-known papyrus in the Field Museum probably came from a well-known archive from Thebes in the second century BC.

Muhs submitted two articles for publication, one on “Demotic Orthography in B. H. Stricker’s Notebooks,” for the proceedings of the conference Demotic as Demotic: Problems and Perspectives in the Study of the Demotic Script held in Trier on November 8, 2010, and one on “Some Early Ptolemaic Tax Receipts from Cambridge University Library,” for a Festschrift. Three short articles by Muhs appeared in the journal *Enchoria* 32 (2010/11): “In memoriam Pieter Willem Pestman” (pp. 1–4), “P. Louvre N. 3263 Revisited” (pp. 125–26 and pls. 4–6) and (on pp. 145–48) a review of P. Heilporn, *Thèbes et ses taxes: Recherches sur la fiscalité en Égypte romaine (Ostraca de Strasbourg II)* (Paris: De Boccard, 2009). Muhs also reviewed manuscripts for the *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* (Leiden), the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, and Oriental Institute Publications and served on the committee for the selection of the annual Oriental Institute post-doctoral fellow.

Hratch Papazian

Hratch Papazian continued his participation in the activities of the Oriental Institute's South Edfu Pyramid Project with Research Associate Gregory Marouard. He has been involved in that endeavor since its inception in 2010, as part of Tell Edfu Project led by Nadine Moeller. The results of the first survey season of this Old Kingdom provincial pyramid were presented jointly with Marouard at the Sixty-second Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Chicago in April 2011, and the findings of the first two seasons were published in the spring issue of the Institute's *News & Notes* (#213, pp. 3–9, 2012).

The study of the Edfu pyramid, as well as similar ones at other sites, falls within Papazian's overall research interests into the social and economic features of the earlier phases of Egyptian history. As an extension and expansion of that research, he will begin investigating the step pyramid in South Abydos in fall 2012, in collaboration with Marouard. Thus, the comparative data gained from the Edfu and Abydos structures, which represent two out of the seven such pyramids in the archaeological record, should allow for new insights to be offered regarding the purpose and function of those monuments.

Earlier this year saw the publication of Papazian's monograph *Domain of Pharaoh: The Structure and Components of the Economy of Old Kingdom Egypt* as volume 52 in the Hildesheimer Ägyptologische Beiträge (HÄB) series. He was also invited to contribute, and has already submitted, an extensive chapter on the management of resources in the Old Kingdom for the forthcoming volume on ancient Egyptian administration to be published in Brill's *Handbuch der Orientalistik* series. Papazian presented a paper entitled "Egypt in the Eighth Dynasty" at the conference "Towards a New History for the Egyptian Old Kingdom: Perspectives on the Pyramid Age," held at Harvard University in April 2012; an article with the same title will be published in the 2012 issue of the *Journal of Egyptian History*. Additionally, his study on Thebes in the Old Kingdom, which he presented to the Danish Egyptological Society in Copenhagen in November 2011, is forthcoming as an article.

His current research is focused on preparing his next monograph, which will consist of the study of a set of Old Kingdom administrative and accounting documents from Upper Egypt.

Robert K. Ritner

The most important event of the year for **Robert K. Ritner** was the December appearance of his volume *The Joseph Smith Egyptian Papyri: A Complete Edition*, published by the Smith-Pettit Foundation in Salt Lake City (for cover photo, see the figure). For a fuller discussion of the book, see the *2010–2011 Annual Report*, pp. 152–53. The volume represents the culmination of work by Oriental Institute Egyptologists on the Egyptian papyri once owned by the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith and used by him to "translate" the scriptural Book of Abraham now included in Smith's *Pearl of Great Price*. Every generation of Chicago Egyptologists has examined these documents, including James H. Breasted, John A. Wilson, Richard A. Parker, and Klaus Baer. As a former student of Baer, Ritner was first contacted to analyze one of the surviving papyri in 2002, and he produced editions of this text in 2002 and (for a more scholarly audience) in 2003. No scholar, however, had attempted to edit and translate all of the

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

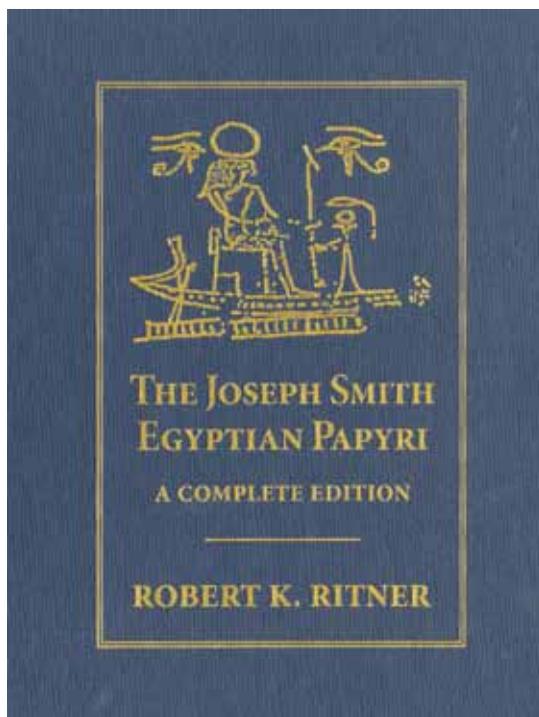
Smith Egyptian materials, which have only partially survived in fragmentary, and often mismounted, papyrus sheets that in some cases resemble decoupage rather than coherent, ancient documents. Other texts and sections have been lost but may be reconstructed through woodcuts and hand copies produced by Smith's designated "scribes" in the 1840s for his attempted translation.

Egyptologists have shown consistently that Smith's interpretations, done before Champollion's decipherment was generally known in America, are invalid. Smith's translations are invented, and his explanations of scenes confuse males and females, and even human and animal heads. The documents newly studied by Ritner further reveal an incomplete translation by Smith that narrates an apocryphal tale of a princess Katumin and a pharaoh Onitas (pp. 209–13). In reality, the papyrus depicts the *male* Amenhotep and is a copy of Book of the Dead chapter 46. It is particularly gratifying that by May Ritner's volume had been all but sold out, so that preparations for a second edition began after only five months on the market.

Other publications include "Ptolemy IX (Soter II) at Thebes," published in the papers of the Oriental Institute colloquium *Perspectives on Ptolemaic Thebes: Occasional Proceedings of the Theban Workshop*, edited by Peter F. Dorman and Betsy M. Bryan, pp. 97–114 (Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 65; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2011).

Ritner was quite active in lectures during the year. With Nanno Marinatos, he co-hosted the colloquium Thera, Knossos, Egypt (Hellenic Museum and The Oriental Institute), delivering a joint paper with Nadine Moeller on "The Ahmose 'Tempest Stela,' Thera and Comparative Chronology" (October 22). For the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, he gave two lectures in connection with the exhibit Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs, "God-Kings in Ancient Egypt" and "God-Kings, Dictators, and Revolutions: Real vs. Imaginary 'Pharaohs,'" (December 29–30). In Philadelphia on January 6, he acted as respondent for a panel on "Graeco-Roman Religion in Light of the Demotic Sources" at the annual meeting of the American Philological Association. For the Oriental Institute Travel Program tour of the Milwaukee exhibit Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt, he presented "The House of Ptolemy: Cleopatra in Context" (January 21). On April 29, he returned to Houston to repeat his talk on "Real vs. Imaginary 'Pharaohs'" for the University of Chicago Harper Lecture series.

On May 18–20, Ritner was in Geneva, Switzerland, at the invitation of the Université de Genève, where he served as a member of the dissertation jury for the doctoral study by Pierre Meyrat on "Les papyrus magiques du Ramesseum: Recherches sur une bibliothèque privée de



Cover photo of Ritner's book, published in December 2011

la fin du Moyen Empire.” In addition to these activities, Ritner taught five courses on Middle Egyptian, Egyptian history, Ptolemaic hieroglyphs, and introductions to Demotic and Coptic.

Yorke M. Rowan

During July–August 2011, **Yorke M. Rowan** continued to direct (with Morag Kersel) research at the site of Marj Rabba, in the lower Galilee, a Chalcolithic (ca. 4500–3600 BC) site. This third season included geophysical and site survey in addition to the expanded excavation area of this prehistoric village. Yorke also directed, with Gary Rollefson, survey and excavations at the late prehistoric site of Wisad Pools, in the eastern desert of Jordan. A short article concerning one aspect of this research, “A Late Neolithic Dwelling at Wisad Pools, Black Desert,” co-authored with G. Rollefson and M. Perry, appeared in the 2011 issue of *Neo-Lithics* (11/1: 35–43).

Yorke’s edited volume, *Beyond Belief: The Archaeology of Religion and Ritual*, was published in the series Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropology Association. In addition to the volume’s introduction, Yorke contributed a chapter with David Ilan entitled “Deconstructing and Recomposing the Narrative of Spiritual Life in the Chalcolithic of the Southern Levant (4500–3600 B.C.E.)” (pp. 89–113).

Other written contributions focused on studies of ground artifacts, including (with Thomas E. Levy) “Prestige vs. Pragmatic Production: Transitions in Macehead Manufacture in the Ancient Levant” published in the volume *Daily Life, Materiality and Complexity in Early Urban Communities of the Southern Levant: Papers in Honor of Walter E. Rast and R. Thomas Schaub*, edited by Meredith S. Chesson et al., pp. 119–218 (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2011) and (with Rachel Ben-Dov) “Basalt Vessels and Ground Stones,” in *Dan III. Avraham Biran Excavations 1966–1999. The Late Bronze Age*, edited by Rachel Ben-Dov, pp. 335–44 (Jerusalem: Annual of the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, 2011). In addition, he published the chapter on ground stone in *Ashkelon 3: The Seventh Century BC. Final Report of the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon* edited by Lawrence E. Stager, Daniel M. Master, and J. David Schloen, pp. 55–80 (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2011).

In the fall, the international conference organized by Gil Stein, Abbas Alizadeh, and Yorke and funded in part by a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation took place over two days. Pathways to Power: The Emergence of Political Authority and Hierarchy in the 6th–5th Millennia BC, Near Eastern Comparative Perspectives was held in Breasted Hall. In the spring, Yorke participated in the Ninth Annual Oriental Institute Post-Doctoral Seminar, entitled Heaven on Earth: Temple Topography, Ritual Practice, and Cosmic Symbolism in the Ancient World, organized by Deena Ragavan.

At the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Francisco, Yorke presented “Mortals in the Land of Conjecture: Mortuary Practices at Wisad Pools, Eastern Jordan” (with G. Rollefson and M. Perry), “Excavation and Survey at Marj Rabba: A Chalcolithic Settlement in the Lower Galilee” (with M. Kersel), as well as a poster on Geophysical Investigations at Marj Rabba, a Chalcolithic Site in the Lower Galilee, Israel, with T. Urban, M. Kersel, and A. C. Hill. With co-authors Rollefson, Kersel, and Perry, he presented “But It’s a Dry Heat. Really? Recent Research into the Late Neolithic Exploitation of the Badia

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

in Eastern Jordan” at the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE) in Warsaw.

In tandem with colleagues in the Department of Archaeology, Yorke continues to serve as the faculty director-in-residence for the Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop. He also continues to serve on various boards, including the editorial board for the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology Reports, and the Open Context of the Alexandria Archive Institute.

Foy Scalf

Foy Scalf directed a tremendous amount of time and energy during 2011–2012 to the compact storage installation and integrated database projects for the Research Archives. However, he was able to find additional time to present several lectures, write a few articles, and continue to meet with continuing-education students. Following the in-class Middle Egyptian grammar course taught for the Oriental Institute last year, Foy continued to meet monthly with a dedicated group of students in order to read further hieroglyphic texts and refine their understanding of the language.

On April 27, 2012, Foy presented a lecture on “Demotic Votive Texts from an Ibis Sanctuary” at the Sixty-third Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt in Providence, Rhode Island. These texts were first noticed during examination of Demotic ostraca in the Oriental Institute collection as part of the OIODO (Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online) project. Among this corpus, a group of jar fragments was identified that included fragments inscribed with Demotic texts dedicated to “Thoth, the ibis.” The jars would have originally held an ibis mummy and been deposited in a sanctuary sacred to Thoth. The article on which this lecture was based had been submitted in October 2011 to the Institut français d’archéologie orientale for publication in the *Ola el-Aguizy Festschrift*.

On June 11, 2012, he gave a lecture entitled “Monstrous Shapes of Every Species: The Iconography of the Egyptian Divine World” at the Oriental Institute for the benefit of volunteers and docent staff. The lecture focused on the diversity and meaning of Egyptian images used to convey the divine, using objects on display in the Egyptian gallery so that docents can employ new information in future tours. Although ancient Egyptian religious imagery is notoriously confusing, this lecture attempted to provide a foundation for further understanding the fundamental principles of Egyptian divine iconography.

Foy wrote catalog entries and an essay “The Role of Birds across the Religious Landscape of Ancient Egypt” for the upcoming special exhibit catalog *Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt*, organized by guest curator Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer. He is currently working on an article concerning passages in a text from Karnak in which Thutmose III is selected by Amun during an oracular procession.

Andrea Seri

Andrea Seri was invited to participate in the “Altorientalistische Workshops zur Mythosforschung: Neue Forschungen zum Mythos im Alten Orient” at the Altorientalisches Seminar der Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen (November 30–December 1, 2011). In that workshop she presented a paper entitled “Intertextuality in Enūma eliš.” In December 2011 she spent a week working on cuneiform tablets in the British Museum. Together with Professor C. Faraone (Classics Department, University of Chicago), Andrea co-edited the volume *Imagined Beginnings: Ancient Cosmogonies, Theogonies and Anthropogonies in the Eastern Mediterranean* (Journal of Near Eastern Religions 12; Leiden: Brill, 2012). Her article “The Role of Creation in Enūma eliš” appeared in said volume. Andrea also wrote an entry on King Ḫammu-rabi of Babylon for the *Encyclopaedia of the Bible and Its Reception* published by De Gruyter. Her book *The House of Prisoners: State and Slavery in Uruk during the Revolt against Samsu-iluna* was accepted by De Gruyter and will be published soon.

Andrea continues collaborating with the Berkeley Prosopography Services and is preparing electronic editions of all the documents dated to King Rīm-Anum of Uruk to be included in website Oracc (Open Richly Annotated Cuneiform Corpus, managed by S. Tinney of the University of Pennsylvania, E. Robson of Cambridge University, and N. Veldhuis of University of California at Berkeley). Andrea has also reviewed articles for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. She is the book review editor (ancient) for the same journal, is one of the members of the Oriental Institute publications committee, and is also an associate member (PAMW affiliate) to the Classics Department of the University of Chicago.

Oğuz Soysal

Oğuz Soysal continued working for the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD) Project. Much of his time was spent preparing the transliterations of the recent cuneiform editions, *Keilschrifttexte aus Boğazköi* volumes 47, 51, 56, 58, and 60 for the CHD files. The manuscript of the review article of *Keilschrifttexte aus Boğazköi* volume 47 was completed in May 2012 and submitted to the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* for a future publication. Soysal also published in the *Journal of the Near Eastern Studies* 70 (2011): 325–34 an extensive review of S. Herbordt, *Die Prinzen- und Beamteniegel der hethitischen Grossreichszeit auf Tonbulln aus dem Nişantepe-Archiv in Hattusa* (Mainz am Rhein: Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 2005).

In addition, Soysal continued in 2011/2012 his new project involved with the unpublished Hittite texts bearing the siglum “Bo” that were



Soysal lecturing at the Museum of Ancient Anatolian Civilizations, Ankara

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

transferred from the Staatliches Museum in Berlin to the Museum of Ancient Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara in 1987. As part of his duties in the CHD project, he prepared transliterations of 170 cuneiform fragments in the range between Bo 9536 and Bo 9736, during which he noticed a number of joins and duplicates of some important Hittite compositions. The first results are now found at the *Konkordanz der hethitischen Keilschrifttafeln* (<http://www.hethport.uni-wuerzburg.de/hetkonk/>) under their relevant text categories, and a related article “Joins, Duplicates, and More from the Unpublished Bo 9000-fragments” is in press for the coming issue of the Dutch journal *Anatolica*. The pictures, transliterations, and other textual treatments of the entire material are considered for a monograph in progress entitled *Unpublished Bo-fragments in Transliteration*.

Furthermore, in November 2011 and June 2012, Soysal was busy with lecturing in Turkey. He read a paper entitled “The Ziti-names on Hittite Seals and Some Thoughts on the Reading of the Hieroglyphic Sign L. 312 in the Writing of the Proper Names” while he was visiting Bilkent University (Ankara), Hittite University (Çorum), University of Istanbul, and the Museum of Ancient Anatolian Civilizations (Ankara). A printed version of this talk will be published as a book in the Turkish language.

Gil J. Stein

Due to the unsettled political situation in Syria, **Gil J. Stein** suspended fieldwork at Tell Zeidan in summer 2011. We hope to resume our research at this site when conditions permit us to return.

Gil 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. Working with Dr. Belinda Monahan, Gil has been preparing the publication of the Hacinebi ceramics. Hacinebi has one of the largest stratigraphically excavated ceramic data sets currently available for this time period in the Near East and can make a significant contribution to our understanding of Uruk Mesopotamia and the world’s earliest known colonial network.

In November 2011, Gil, Abbas Alizadeh, and Yorke Rowan co-organized a Wenner-Gren-funded conference at the Oriental Institute on the subject Pathways to Power: Comparative Perspectives on the Emergence of Political Authority and Hierarchy in the Ancient Near East. Gil presented two papers at the conference: the conference introduction, “Comparison and Contingency in the Developmental Trajectories to Complexity Across the Sixth–Fifth Millennia BC Near East” and “Slippery Characters: Looking for Leaders in Ubaid Greater Mesopotamia.” The papers from this conference are being revised for publication as an edited volume in the Oriental Institute series Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization (SAOC).

Gil is the principal investigator on a project of cultural heritage preservation funded by the U.S. Department of State for a U.S.-National Museum of Afghanistan partnership. This three-year grant of 2.8 million dollars is the largest single grant awarded to the Oriental Institute. Our goal is to work with the National Museum of Afghanistan (NMA) in Kabul to develop a database for the museum, conduct a complete inventory of the museum’s collections, carry out an initial assessment of the conservation status of the museum’s collections, rehouse the objects as needed in chemically stable environments, and train the staff of the

NMA in database management practices. In late May and early June, Gil traveled to Kabul to inaugurate the project along with Oriental Institute Executive Director Steve Camp, Chief Curator Jack Green, Head of Conservation Laura D'Alessandro, Preparator Erik Lindahl, and the project's Information Technology Specialist Michael Fisher.

Gil has given a series of lectures and presentations over the past year. In December 2011, he presented the invited paper "Late Chalcolithic Societies in Upper Mesopotamia and the Development of Indigenous Complexity: Horizon Styles and Local Polities in the Fifth–Fourth Millennia BC" at the University of Rome-La Sapienza's conference Fifty Years of Excavations and Researches at Arslantepe-Malatya (Turkey). This paper is being revised for publication in the Italian archaeological journal *Origini*. In July 2012, he gave a Brown Bag presentation at the Oriental Institute entitled "Kabul Stones: Update on the Oriental Institute Partnership with the National Museum of Afghanistan."

In 2011, Gil published a report on the 2010 field season at Tell Zeidan: "Tell Zeidan (2010)," in *Oriental Institute Annual Report 2010–2011*, pp. 121–38 (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2011). He also published one book chapter, titled "Food Preparation, Social Context, and Ethnicity in a Prehistoric Mesopotamian Colony," in *The Menial Art of Cooking: Archaeological Studies of Cooking and Food Preparation*, edited by Sarah R. Graff and Enrique Rodriguez-Alegria, pp. 47–63 (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2012).

Emily Teeter

In addition to her duties in the Museum, **Emily Teeter** has started several new research projects. One focuses on an embalming cache in our collection and another on stelae recovered from the Oriental Institute's excavations at Medinet Habu.

After years in press, her chapter "Change and Continuity in Religion and Religious Practices in Later Ramesside Egypt" appeared in *Egypt's Last Hero: The Life and Times of Ramesses III* edited by Eric Cline and David O'Connor. Reviews included the new biography of James Henry Breasted by Jeffrey Abt in *KMT: A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt* and another of *The Reliefs of the Chapel of Nebhepetra Mentuhotep at Gebelein*, by Elisa Fiore Marochetti, that appeared in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*.

She gave many lectures during the year. Some were related to the special exhibits, including her talk for the Picturing the Past symposium in which she discussed the Oriental Institute's role in documenting texts and reliefs in the Nile Valley. She presented "It's All Old Kingdom to Me: Three Millennia of Ancient Egyptian Art" at the Art Institute of Chicago in the series Echo Effect, and "What Does Heaven Taste Like?" at LUMA (Loyola University Museum of Art). She discussed ancient fashion as reflected by objects in the gallery with students from Columbia College, she participated in a workshop on the forms and decoration of Predynastic pottery at the Hyde Park Art Center, and she took part in docent training at the Field Museum of Natural History in preparation for their exhibit From the Vault.

Emily completed her three-year term as president of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) and is now serving a one-year term as immediate past president. She continues to be very active in the Chicago Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE).

As a member of the board of CIPEG (International Committee for Egyptology in the International Council of Museums), she attended its annual meeting in Poznan, Poland, where

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

she reported on the exhibit Before the Pyramids. She spent nearly a week in Providence, Rhode Island, for the annual meeting of ARCE. This year Emily was appointed an Egyptology representative to the board of the Writings from the Ancient World.

Independent travel for the year included Poland and Istanbul.

Theo van den Hout

In between two terms as chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC), **Theo van den Hout** enjoyed a leave from teaching and service. Half of his time he spent on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD; see separate report) and half on writing a book. The working title of the latter project is *Writing and Literacy in Hittite Society*. Although he has written many articles over the past ten years on all kinds of aspects of this topic, he intends to write a comprehensive monograph without it being a mere collection of said articles. The book is therefore written from scratch, and the luxury of finally being able to devote some undivided attention to the subject has changed his views at some points and deepened his understanding of many other issues involved in this wide-ranging topic. At the time of writing this report (July), drafts of five chapters were ready with two more chapters and an introduction planned.

Besides the dictionary work and the book project, Theo wrote some entries for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*, compiled “A Short History of the Hittite Kingdom and Empire” for a bilingual English-Turkish publication, and submitted (together with Rukiye Akdoğan) a short article to the *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*. He also wrote two book reviews for the same journal.

Theo gave a presentation (“What Did Herodotus Speak at Home?”) in October 2011 at the Humanities Open House and read a paper in April 2012 at a conference at Yale University entitled “Double Stories, Double Lives: Reflecting on Textual Objects in the Pre-print World.”

Finally, he spent the month of June as special visiting professor in Japan at the invitation of Doshisha University in Kyoto with additional lectures at Kyoto University and Chuo University in Tokyo. Theo was also invited to join the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University as Senior Fellow.

Since the previous *Annual Report* the following publications appeared in print: a textbook, *The Elements of Hittite* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011, pp. xv + 204), and three articles, “The Hittite Empire from Textual Evidence” in *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Anatolia* (S. Steadman and G. McMahon, eds.; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, pp. 900–13), “The Ductus of the Alalah VII Texts and the Origin of the Hittite Cuneiform” in *Palaeography and Scribal Practices in Syro-Palestine and Anatolia in the Late Bronze Age* (E. Devecchi, ed.; Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 2012, pp. 147–70), and “Die Rolle der Schrift in einer Geschichte der frühen hethitischen Staatsverwaltung” in *Organization, Representation, and Symbol of Power in the Ancient Near East: Proceedings of the 54th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* (G. Wilhelm, ed.; Winona Lake: Eisenbraun, 2012, pp. 73–84).

Tasha Vorderstrasse

Tasha Vorderstrasse's work as Research Associate has concentrated on the project "Islamic Archaeology at the Oriental Institute" with Donald Whitcomb (see separate report). Over the past year, she has spent considerable time examining the different parts of the Islamic collection in the Oriental Institute Museum, concentrating the past year particularly on the Islamic material from Iran, Iraq, and Anatolia, as well as the Islamic coin collection.

She published an article on the churches of medieval Lebanon, "Churches of Medieval Lebanon: An Overview" (*Chronos* 24 [2011]: 1–33), and gave a presentation on the same subject, "Medieval Painted Churches from Lebanon: Multiculturalism and Identity in the Eastern Mediterranean" at the Late Antique and Byzantine Studies Workshop in Chicago in November 2011. Other presentations included "Coinage and the Monetary Economy in Nubia: Approach" at the Coinage and Money in the Seventh-Century Near East (12th Numismatic Round Table) in Oxford in September 2011 (the article based on this presentation was submitted to the proceedings of this round table in January 2012) and "Chinese Texts" at Exploration, Maps and Silk-Road History from Balkh, Northern Afghanistan at Oxford (via Skype) in January 2012. A review of *A Concise History of the Crusades* by T. Madden appeared in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 70 (2011): 360–62.

In the spring quarter, she taught a course funded by the Dumanian Armenian Studies Endowment, "Armenian Art and Material Culture," which examined the architecture, art, and archaeology of Armenia from the fourth century AD until the twentieth century AD. She gave a presentation, "Medieval Pottery between Armenia and Cilician Armenia."

In fall 2011, she conducted research in Oxford at Rhodes House on the Reverend William Hodge Mill, in London on Qasr Ibrim coins at the British Museum, and on Major William J. Myers' Central Asian collections and connections with the Islamic art collection at the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin (she also visited Dublin to look again at the collections there). She worked on the medieval pottery from the Mecorian collection at the Université de Saint-Joseph in Beirut and conducted a final review of the Alan Wace archival material from his excavations at Alexandria in the British School at Athens. In winter 2011, she visited Princeton University to view material from the 1930s Princeton excavations at Antioch (she also visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art to view a nineteenth-century fake) and visited again in spring 2012 for a meeting with the other researchers working on the site. In June 2012 she visited London to work at the British Library and the Society of Genealogists on the Elphinstone and the Abbott families, as well as the University College London archives on Tell Rifa'at/ Qoueiq Survey materials. She visited the Victoria and Albert Museum to continue working on the connections with the National Museum of Ireland. She went to Turkey to finish her work on the Amuq Survey and to Ankara to look at the medieval pottery collections in the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara.

Donald Whitcomb

Summer was a time of presentation of the first season of **Donald Whitcomb's** excavations at Khirbet al-Mafjar, also known as Qasr Hisham. The Jericho Mafjar Project (JMP) was the subject of a beautiful spread in summer *News & Notes* (#210, pp. 3–6, 2011). In addition to

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

this medium, we launched a website giving much more information. Hamdan Taha, our co-director as well as director of antiquities, had his reservations but was very pleased with the publicity and positive reactions. The site may be found at www.jerichomafjarproject.org.

The fall began with a very curious return to the Aqaba excavations. This was through the medium of Kristoffer Damgaard, known to many in the Oriental Institute from his stay a few years ago. During that time he studied and copied all the records from our excavations at Ayla, early Islamic Aqaba, in preparation for his renewal of those excavations. This new Danish project was successful and led to his submission of a PhD thesis on the port and archaeology of the Red Sea region. I served as a reader for this fine research and had a pleasant visit to Copenhagen with Jan.

Back in Chicago I gave a presentation to the local chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) called “Before Cairo: The Egyptian Islamic City,” mainly taken from an article that had recently appeared. Later in the quarter, I went to New York city and gave a presentation on Khirbet al-Mafjar to the Bard Graduate Center; this was gratifying in that a number of prominent Islamic art historians had a first glimpse of what we are doing at that iconic site. The remainder of the quarter was spent planning our second season at this site, which took place in January and February (see separate *Jericho Mafjar Project* report).

At the end of our season we invited the scholars at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem to visit the site. In turn, they invited me to give a talk on “my life in archaeology,” which did make me feel rather old. This provided an opportunity to reflect on or at least organize my experiences. My archaeological experience began in Iran with the Peace Corps and many visits culminating in my dissertation (1966–1975), I excavated next in Egypt at Quseir and Luxor (1975–1985), then in Jordan at Aqaba (1985–1995), some work in Syria (Qinnasrin), Turkey (Marash), and aborted efforts to return to Istakhr in Iran and to work in Saudi Arabia. I had visited Palestine in 1995, having written about Mafjar in 1988 and, after a fellowship at Hebrew University and a series of articles, found the amazing opportunity at Qasr Hisham open for me and the Oriental Institute.

Spring brought a nice change in teaching a seminar on the archaeology of the Islamic city, punctuated with a brief pause to attend the eighth ICAANE (International Congress of the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East). This has included Islamic archaeology sessions, and we accepted some thirty papers for these meetings in Warsaw. I flew back to finish the quarter and then off to Berlin in June for a special conference on the “desert castles” or *qusur* of the early Islamic period. My paper attempted to cast the site of Mafjar in context with others and examine their economic foundations.

This year ended with another trip, even more unusual and especially pleasant. I have a special interest in the first excavator of Khirbet al-Mafjar, Dimitri Baramki, and have endeavored to find out as much as possible about his archaeological career and life. After some research I discovered that his son was living in Los Angeles; he and his wife graciously entertained Michael Jennings, my student, and me with albums and stories of this wonderful archaeologist. This connection has given us even greater enthusiasm to return and carry on research at Qasr Hisham, as Baramki always preferred to call the site of Mafjar.

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 has been sponsored by a grant awarded to McGuire Gibson by the National Endowment for the Humanities and is a joint endeavor undertaken with Robert D. Biggs, Jean M. Evans, and McGuire Gibson (University of Chicago), as well as Richard L. Zettler (University of Pennsylvania). The project 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. Michael K. Hannan, of Hannan Architecture and Planning, has prepared final architectural plans for the Inanna Temple levels at Nippur using AutoCAD, Angela Altenhofen has produced final inked drawings of the sealings, and Steven George is working on digitizing the drawings of stone vessels. In addition, Karen has completed the chapters on the architectural remains for Levels XXI–X and on the ceramic sequence. In February Karen was awarded a fellowship by TAARII (The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq) to support her research on Nippur during the summer. The manuscript for the final publication covering the results of the excavation of the Inanna Temple at Nippur is planned to be completed by the end of the year.

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. She is extremely pleased that the Oriental Institute Publications Committee has agreed to publish the manuscript as a volume in the Oriental Institute Publications series. The work will include papers presented at a symposium in November 2008 focusing on current research and updated excavations at the site. Contributions include studies of the human remains, textual evidence, lithics, animal figurines, and stucco as well as a catalog of the Field Museum holdings from Kish and Jamdat Nasr.

As of this writing, Karen's book, *Bismaya: Recovering the Lost City of Adab* (Oriental Institute Publications 138, Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2012), was en route to the Institute. This report chronicles the history and presents the results of the University of Chicago's first expedition to Iraq in 1903–1905. Karen's manuscript, *Ancient Mesopotamia: Highlights from the Collections of the Oriental Institute University of Chicago*, is in press and, when published, will serve as the gallery guide to the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.

Christopher Woods

Christopher Woods devoted much of this past year to several projects that revolve around Sumerian writing and writing systems more generally. The centerpiece of these efforts has been launching our Early Writing in Mesopotamia Project, which endeavors to provide a comprehensive description of how the technology of cuneiform writing represented language. The project will investigate early cuneiform writing from the perspective of both language — how sound and meaning are systematically expressed diachronically and synchronically — and semiotics — the graphic organization and history of the symbols that comprise the system. The scope of the project is the cuneiform written record from the invention of writing in the late fourth millennium BC (ca. 3300 BC) through the Old Babylonian period

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

(ca. 1600 BC). While Sumerian writing is at the center of the project — Sumerian being in all likelihood the language for which writing was invented in Mesopotamia — the adaptation of the script to express Semitic (Akkadian and Eblaite), and the long-term interplay between these writing systems are major concerns. We were fortunate to win for our upstart project a Humanities- and Social Sciences-wide competition for a two-year Mellon post-doctoral fellow. Dr. Massimo Maiocchi, an Assyriologist with a specialty in Eblaite and Old Akkadian, will join the Oriental Institute in September to begin his two-year tenure as the project's full-time post-doctoral fellow. Dr. Maiocchi will additionally co-teach with Chris a course on writing systems and decipherments as part of the Mellon grant.

Chris has also been working this year on the Oriental Institute's project to scan our eighteen token balls from Choga Mish, Iran, using state-of-the-art computed tomography (CT) technology (for details, see *News & Notes* 215, pp. 3–8, 2012). The project represents a collaboration between the Oriental Institute and North Star Imaging of Rogers, Minnesota, and Kinetic Vision of Cincinnati, Ohio. The token balls are sealed clay envelopes that contain clay counters, or “tokens” of various kinds; they constituted administrative devices that were used in proto-literate societies in the ancient Near East to control the flow of various commodities. The envelopes have played a central role in the debate concerning the origins of writing. However, the fact that envelopes are sealed, and so conceal their contents from inspection, has been a considerable obstacle in understanding these proto-literate accounting devices. Our scanning project addresses this issue by allowing us to digitally open the envelope and inspect the tokens within.

Chris gave a talk in August 2011 in connection with the token balls project at the Three Rivers Technical Conference in Elk River, Minnesota. He also presented on “Sumerian Writing in Typological Perspective,” an invited lecture at University of Copenhagen's Center for Canon and Identity in June 2011; on “Understanding Gilgamesh” at the Skokie Public Library in February 2012; and on “The Writings of Some Sumerian Toponymns: Their Emblematic and Semantic Origins” at the IXth Symposium of the “Idea of Writing” in Paris in June 2012. Chris's articles “Sons of the Sun: The Mythological Foundations of the First Dynasty of Uruk” (*Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 12/1 [2012]: 78–96) and “The Conjugation Prefixes, the Dative Case, and the Empathy Hierarchy in Sumerian,” in *Grammatical Case in the Languages of the Middle East and Europe* (Acts of the International Colloquium Variations, concurrence et évolution des cas dans divers domaines linguistiques, Paris, 2–4 April 2007), edited by Michèle Fruyt, Michel Mazoyer, and Dennis Pardee, pp. 11–19 (*Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization* 64; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2011) as well as several minor contributions, were published this year. Chris also completed several other articles this year including “Mutilation of Text and Image in Sumerian Sources,” and “Linguistics in the Ancient Near East.”

RESEARCH SUPPORT

COMPUTER LABORATORY

John C. Sanders

Projects

Integrated Database

Several of my IT compatriots, both on and off campus, commented during the past year “I told you it would take longer than expected” whenever we discussed the building of the Institute’s integrated database (IDB). As the year went by I knew they were correct, and their expectations have come to pass. It has taken longer than scheduled to design and construct the new EMu (Electronic Museum) database interface and to migrate our data into the system. We are close, however, with a planned October/November 2012 target date, thanks to the efforts of several key people who deserve special recognition. Foy Scalf (dealing with Research Archives data), along with Helen McDonald and Susan Allison (dealing with Museum Registration data), have worked hundreds of hours during the past year and, along with Jay Kohut, our project coordinator from KE Software, they have structured the EMu software to work with our data and have worked out the multitude of kinks involved in migrating data from our old programs into the new IDB system. The work is not quite finished, but I salute all four of you for your tremendous efforts to get us as close as we are today!

Additionally, I should mention the dozens of hours of work contributed by Dora Fraeman, Alan Takaoka, and Rose Pezzuti Dyer, and other programmers from the university’s Web Services division who have been an integral part of our database team, specifically designing and building the web browser-based interface to our new IDB system, the component which the public, students, and most scholars worldwide will utilize to access our Museum Registration and Library information online. As above, their work is not quite finished, but I also salute all of you for your tremendous efforts!

My efforts with the integrated database project this past year, other than assisting Foy, Helen, and Susan with their particular efforts, dealt with tailoring the EMu software’s Registry, the program’s internal configuration database which controls how user accounts interact with the EMu software. The Registry maintains security settings, access privileges, and other presets that determine how the EMu application presents itself to the user, and what capabilities each user possesses.

Based on the work completed to date, the Institute’s new integrated database for the Museum Registration and Library catalog, even in its initial, first phase of development, will be a giant step forward in terms of access and capabilities for all types of researchers in the field of ancient Near Eastern studies. When combined with future phases of development, when the Museum Conservation records, Museum photographic archives, map collections from our CAMEL laboratory, several specific archaeological field project records, and the Museum archives records are added to the IDB, the Institute will have developed an incredibly valuable and unique online resource for scholars and the general public.

Electronic Publications Initiative

Once again, this past year saw great progress with the Institute's Electronic Publications Initiative. Twenty-three electronic versions of current or past Institute publications, in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), were made available for free download on the Institute's website. These new electronic publications pertain to ancient Mesopotamia, Syro-Palestine, and Anatolia, with one Egyptian and one Islamic title. Currently, 321 Oriental Institute publications are available as PDFs. When fully implemented our Electronic Publications Initiative will make accessible all 400+ titles in our Publications Office catalog.

Alongside these formerly print-only publications, the Publications Office also made available electronic (PDF) versions of all Chicago House Bulletins going back to 1989, a tremendous resource for scholars and the public who follow the epigraphic work of our flagship research project in Egypt.

I encourage everyone to read that portion of the Publications Office section of this *Annual Report* regarding the status of the Institute's Electronic Publications Initiative, then visit the Catalog of Publications page on our website, where you can download these past and current titles of our publications in electronic form:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/>

A list of the volume titles that were processed into digital format and made available to the public on the Institute's website during this past year can be found in the Electronic Resources section of this *Annual Report*.

The Oriental Institute Website

The first joint Palestinian-American archaeological excavation, the Jericho Mafjar Project, under the direction of Donald Whitcomb, has been added to the Archaeological Research section of the Institute's website. The project is excavating the northern areas of Khirbet al-Mafjar, located north of Jericho in the Palestinian territories.

The Epigraphic Survey added several updates to the project's homepage with notes and photographs from their latest field season, which ended in April 2012. In conjunction with the addition of the Chicago House Bulletins mentioned above, the Epigraphic Survey added a significant amount of information about their fieldwork to the website this past year.

Two Museum exhibits were added to our website: Commerce and Coins in the Ancient Near East, a mini-exhibit at the Oriental Institute Museum from August 11 to August 28, 2011, looked at commerce and trade from 3000 BC to the fourth century BC; the Museum's special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*, which will end about the time you read this *Annual Report*, presents paintings, architectural reconstructions, facsimiles, casts, models, photographs, and computer-aided reconstructions that show how the architecture, sites, and artifacts of the ancient Middle East have been documented over time, and examines how such representations have shaped and/or obscured our perception of the ancient Near East. In conjunction with the Museum's special exhibit, our Public Education department sponsored a public symposium, *Picturing the Past*, which took place at the Institute on March 10, 2012. Its program is available on the website as a PDF.

The program for the 2012 Oriental Institute Symposium *Heaven on Earth: Temples, Ritual, and Cosmic Symbolism in the Ancient World*, held March 2-3, 2012, was added to the website in PDF format.

The Research Archives added their May 2011 through April 2012 Acquisitions Lists to the website, and the Oriental Institute's 2010-2011 *Annual Report* was converted to PDF by the Publications Office and added to the website.

And lastly, several Institute scholars added content to their sections of the Individual Scholarship component of the website: three articles by Norman Golb; six articles by Seth Richardson; five articles by Yorke Rowan; and three articles Foy Scalf. All these resources are now available as PDFs.

Laboratory Equipment/Institute Resources

Overall, the Institute's computing and networking infrastructure avoided the effects of several widespread computer virus and/or spam attacks during the past year, with one major exception. Someone, somewhere in the world, successfully logged onto our public file transfer (FTP) server and surreptitiously altered several account settings, interrupted the computer's virus and malware software's ability to operate, and completely disrupted the server's FTP operations. Needless to say, the server had to be completely rebuilt, but was then "hit" again within days, presumably by the same individual, requiring a second rebuild *and* a complete revamping of the machine's security and password structure. Needless to say, this episode was a ridiculous, time-wasting experience during the past winter that I hope I don't have to revisit in the future.

For further information concerning the above-mentioned research projects and other electronic resources in general, refer to the What's New page on the Oriental Institute's website, at

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/news/>

See the "Electronic Resources" section of this *Annual Report* for the complete URL to each of the website resources mentioned in this article.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

John C. Sanders

Oriental Institute World-Wide Web Site – New and Developing Resources in 2011-2012

(NOTE: all web addresses below are case-sensitive)

Several Oriental Institute units and projects either updated existing pages or became a new presence on the Institute's website during the past year.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

ADMINISTRATION

Gil Stein was reappointed for a third five-year term as Director of the Oriental Institute, a position he has held since joining the University in 2002.

<http://news.uchicago.edu/article/2012/06/18/gil-stein-appointed-third-term-oriental-institute-director>

ARCHAEOLOGY: Jericho Mafjar Project

The Oriental Institute announces a new archaeology project, the Jericho Mafjar Project, under the direction of Donald Whitcomb. This is the first joint Palestinian-American archaeological excavation.

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/donate/adoptadig/jericho.html>

<http://www.jerichomafjarproject.org/>

EPIGRAPHY: Epigraphic Survey

We received several reports in the winter and spring from the Chicago House crew in Luxor, Egypt, describing how the 2011–2012 season's fieldwork was progressing.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/epi/#news>

All Chicago House Bulletins, going back to 1989, are now available for download as PDFs. In the future, they will appear online, in this format, as they are published.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/chb/>

MUSEUM: Special Exhibits

The Oriental Institute Museum's special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/museum/special/picturing/>

Commerce and Coins in the Ancient Near East, a mini-exhibit at the Oriental Institute Museum from August 11 to August 28, 2011, looked at commerce and trade from 3000 BC to the fourth century BC.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/museum/special/commerce/>

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE SEMINAR

Information about the 2012 Oriental Institute seminar, *Heaven on Earth: Temples, Ritual, and Cosmic Symbolism in the Ancient World*, held March 2–3, 2012:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/symposia/2012.html>

The program for the 2012 Oriental Institute seminar *Heaven on Earth: Temples, Ritual, and Cosmic Symbolism in the Ancient World*, held March 2–3, 2012, is available as a PDF:

http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/OIS_8_Program.pdf

PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The program for the public symposium *Picturing the Past*, which took place at the Institute on March 10, 2012, is available as a PDF:

http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/Program_for_Public_Symposium_Picturing_The_Past.pdf

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE: Electronic Publications

OIC 30. *Bir Umm Fawakhir 2. Report on the 1996–1997 Survey Seasons*. Carol Meyer, with contributions by Lisa Heidorn, Alexandra A. O'Brien, and Clemens Reichel. 2011.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oic/oic30.html>

OIMP 34. *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*. Edited by Jack Green, Emily Teeter, and John A. Larson. 2012.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oimp/oimp34.html>

OIMP 31. *Ancient Israel: Highlights from the Collections of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago*. By Gabrielle V. Novacek. 2011.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oimp/oimp31.html>

OIP 95. *Excavations in the Plain of Antioch, Volume 2: The Structural Remains of the Later Phases: Chatal Hüyük, Tell Al-Judaidah, and Tell Tayinat*. By R. C. Haines. Originally published in 1970.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip95.html>

OIP 90. *Ptolemais: City of the Libyan Pentapolis*. By Carl H. Kraeling. Originally published in 1962.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip90.html>

OIP 77. *Studies in Arabic Literary Papyri III: Language and Literature*. By Nabia Abbott. Originally published in 1972.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip77.html>

OIP 76. *Studies in Arabic Literary Papyri II: Qurʾanic Commentary and Tradition*. By Nabia Abbott. Originally published in 1967.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip76.html>

OIP 75. *Studies in Arabic Literary Papyri I: Historical Texts*. By Nabia Abbott. Originally published in 1957.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip75.html>

OIP 50. *The Rise of the North Arabic Script and Its Qurʾanic Development, with a Full Description of the Qurʾan Manuscripts in the Oriental Institute*. By Nabia Abbott. Originally published in 1939.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip50.html>

OIP 30. *Researches in Anatolia 9. The Alishar Hüyük Seasons of 1930–32, Part 3*. By Hans Henning von der Osten, with contributions by Wilton Marion Krogman and others. Originally published in 1937.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip30.html>

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

OIP 29. Researches in Anatolia 8. *The Alishar Hüyük Seasons of 1930–32*, Part 2. By Hans Henning von der Osten. Originally published in 1937.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip29.html>

OIP 28. Researches in Anatolia 7. *The Alishar Hüyük Seasons of 1930–32*, Part 1. By Hans Henning von der Osten. Originally published in 1937.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip28.html>

OIP 20. Researches in Anatolia 5. *The Alishar Hüyük Seasons of 1928 and 1929*, Part 2. By Erich F. Schmidt with a chapter by Wilton Marion Krogman. Originally published in 1933.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip20.html>

OIP 19. Researches in Anatolia 4. *The Alishar Hüyük Seasons of 1928 and 1929*, Part 1. By Erich F. Schmidt. Originally published in 1932.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip19.html>

OIP 7. Researches in Anatolia 3. *The Alishar Hüyük Season of 1927*, Part 2. By Hans Henning von der Osten and Erich F. Schmidt. Originally published in 1932.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip7.html>

OIP 6. Researches in Anatolia 2. *The Alishar Hüyük Season of 1927*, Part 1. By Hans Henning von der Osten and Erich F. Schmidt. Originally published in 1930.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip6.html>

OIP 1. *Oriental Forerunners of Byzantine Painting: First-Century Wall Paintings from the Fortress of Dura on the Middle Euphrates*. James Henry Breasted. Originally published in 1924.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip1.html>

SAOC 66. *Pesher Naḥum: Texts and Studies in Jewish History and Literature from Antiquity through the Middle Ages Presented to Norman (Naḥum) Golb*. Edited by Joel L. Kraemer and Michael G. Wechsler with the participation of Fred Donner, Joshua Holo, and Dennis Pardee. 2012.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc66.html>

SAOC 65. *Perspectives on Ptolemaic Thebes. Occasional Proceedings of the Theban Workshop*. By Peter F. Dorman and Betsy M. Bryan, eds. 2011.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc65.html>

SAOC 64. *Grammatical Case in the Languages of the Middle East and Europe* (Acts of the International Colloquium Variations, concurrence et évolution des cas dans divers domaines linguistiques, Paris, 2–4 April 2007). Edited by Michèle Fruyt, Michel Mazoyer, and Dennis Pardee. 2011.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/saoc/saoc64.html>

An Adventure of Great Dimension: The Launching of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary. By Erica Reiner. Originally published in 2002.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/adventure.html>

A Guide to the Oriental Institute Museum. Written by Leon Marfoe, edited by Peter T. Daniels and Valerie M. Fargo. Originally published in 1982.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/guide.html>

The Oriental Institute. James Henry Breasted. Originally published in 1933.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/misc/oriental.html>

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE: Oriental Institute Annual Reports

The Oriental Institute *Annual Report 2010–2011*

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/ar/10-11/>

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE: Oriental Institute News & Notes

The Oriental Institute *News & Notes* for Summer and Fall 2011, and for Winter, Spring, and Summer 2012 were published in Adobe PDF format:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/nn/>

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE: Chicago House Bulletins

All Chicago House Bulletins, going back to 1989, are now available for download as PDFs. In the future, they will appear online, in this format, as they are published.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/chb/>

RESEARCH ARCHIVES

Oriental Institute Research Archives Acquisitions Lists for May 2011 thru April 2012 were published in Adobe PDF format:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/acquisitions.html>

INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP: Norman Golb

“The Caliph’s Favorite: New Light from Manuscript Sources on Hasdai ibn Shaprut of Cordova.”

http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/the_caliph's_favorite.pdf

“Recent Scroll Exhibits and The Decline Of Qumranology.”

http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/decline_of_qumranology.pdf

“Jewish Proselytism — A Phenomenon In The Religious History Of Early Medieval Europe.” A paper presented at the Tenth Annual Rabbi Louis Feinberg Memorial Lecture, March 3, 1987, at the University of Cincinnati.

http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/jewish_proselytism.pdf

INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP: Seth Richardson

Six articles originally published by Seth Richardson between 1999 and 2011 are available in Adobe PDF format:

“Mesopotamia and the ‘New’ Military History.” Originally published in 2011.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

“On Seeing and Believing: Liver Divination and the Era of Warring States (II).” Originally published in 2010.

“Death and Dismemberment in Mesopotamia: Discorporation Between the Body and Body Politic.” Originally published in 2007.

“The World of Babylonian Countrysides.” Originally published in 2007.

“gir₃-gen-na and Šulgi’s ‘Library’: Liver Omen Texts in the Third Millennium BC (I).” Originally published in 2006.

“Libya Domestica: Libyan Trade and Society on the Eve of the Invasions of Egypt.” Originally published in 1999.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/is/scholars/richardson.html>

INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP: Yorke Rowan

Five articles originally published by Yorke Rowan between 2004 and 2008 are available in Adobe PDF format:

New Approaches to Old Stones: Recent Studies of Ground Stone Artifacts. Edited by Yorke M. Rowan and Jennie R. Ebeling. Originally published in 2008.

“The Meaning of Ritual Diversity in the Chalcolithic of the Southern Levant.” By Yorke Rowan and David Ilan. In *Cult In Context: Reconsidering Ritual in Archaeology*, edited by David A. Barrowclough and Caroline Malone, pp. 249–54. Oxford: Oxbow Books. Originally published in 2007.

“The Chalcolithic in the Central Highlands of Palestine: A Reassessment Based on a New Examination of Khirbet es-Sauma‘a.” By Shimon Gibson and Yorke M. Rowan. In *Levant* 38: 85–108. Originally published in 2006.

“Repackaging the Pilgrimage: Visiting the Holy Land in Orlando.” By Yorke M. Rowan. In *Marketing Heritage: Archaeology and the Consumption of the Past*, edited by Yorke M. Rowan and Uzi Baram, pp. 249–68. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press. Originally published in 2004.

“Archaeology after Nationalism: Globalization and the Consumption of the Past.” By Yorke M. Rowan and Uzi Baram. In *Marketing Heritage: Archaeology and the Consumption of the Past*, edited by Yorke M. Rowan and Uzi Baram, pp. 3–26. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press. Originally published in 2004.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/is/scholars/rowan.html>

INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP: Foy Scalf

Three articles originally published by Foy Scalf in 2009 are available in Adobe PDF format:

“Is That a Rhetorical Question? Shipwrecked Sailor (pHermitage 1115), 150 Reconsidered,” from *Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde* 136: 155–59.

“Rereading the 7th Count of Snefru in the Palermo Stone,” from *Göttinger Miszellen* 220: 89–93.

“Magical Bricks in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago.” from *Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur* 38: 275–81.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/is/scholars/scalf.html>

Although Charles Jones is no longer in charge of the Oriental Institute's Research Archives, he still actively maintains several vital electronic resources for ancient Near Eastern studies just as he had done during his tenure in Chicago. Thank you, Chuck, for your continuing service to the field, and our faculty, staff, and students.

ABZU: Guide to Resources for the Study of the Ancient Near East Available on the Internet

<http://www.etana.org/>

IRAQCRISIS

A moderated list for communicating substantive information on cultural property damaged, destroyed, or lost from libraries and museums in Iraq during and after the war in April 2003, and on the worldwide response to the crisis. A component of the Oriental Institute's response to the cultural heritage crisis in the aftermath of the war in Iraq, this list provides a moderated forum for the distribution of information.

<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/iraqcrisis>

INTEGRATED DATABASE PROJECT

**Scott Branting, John Sanders, Wendy Ennes, Angela Spinazze,
Helen McDonald, Susan Allison, Foy Scalf, and Jack Green**

For over ninety years the Oriental Institute has been at the forefront of research into the ancient Middle East. In the process it has amassed millions of records, artifacts, maps, photographs, and texts from or pertaining to the region. For decades various attempts have been made to digitize portions of this enormous and immensely important collection, and over the past decade this work has been undertaken in a more systematic manner. The results so far have been 19 terabytes of server space filled with digital files from this collection in addition to the masses of physical documents that still remain.

Unfortunately, the data-management systems in place within the Institute to manage this extremely valuable collection are generally insufficient. A menagerie of database systems and spreadsheets has been used by the different units within the Institute to try and manage their disparate portions of this collection. None of these systems allow for straightforward communication or collaboration between the different units or with the Institute's worldwide audience. Some of these systems are also very antiquated, such as the mid-1980s vintage Dbase III database that was still used as the central Museum Registration database.

To address this critical infrastructural need within the Institute a number of steps have already been taken over the past seven years. These include: (1) an extensive internal-needs assessment undertaken, (2) an intensive investigation of data-management systems being

INTEGRATED DATABASE PROJECT

used at peer-institutions and museums around the world, (3) development of a detailed document listing the unique requirements for any data-management system that might be considered for adoption by the Institute, and (4) an exhaustive search among data-management system providers to identify those products and companies that could meet the Institute's needs.

This work, diligently chronicled over the past seven years by John Sanders in the *Computer Laboratory* section of the Oriental Institute's *Annual Report*, has led to the identification and purchase of KE Software's EMu database software for this purpose of constructing an integrated database. This is the same software that is used behind the scenes to power museum databases around the world including at institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Field Museum, and the Museum of Science and Industry. The purchase of the software was made possible through generous funding from the University of Chicago.

However, the records don't just magically get into the database by themselves. In addition, a web front end, a series of web pages that will allow users to communicate with the database over the Internet, is needed to facilitate access to the collections stored in the database by users both in the building and around the world. These two tasks, at least for the Research Archives and Museum Registration, is nearing completion after two years of work. This work has been funded by a generous grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as well as by Aimee Drolet. These first two portions of the overall Oriental Institute collections will be followed in years to come by incorporating portions of the collections such as the photographic archives, Conservation, CAMEL, Museum Education, and eventually the full Museum Archives. Over time, the web front end will be expanded to cover all these various types of digital data and to allow sophisticated queries and collaborations to be undertaken within this valuable and unique collection.

During the past year months of time were spent implementing the database design within EMu for housing the data from the Research Archives and Museum Registration collections (see the separate *Research Archives* and *Registration* sections). The database design was developed based upon existing templates used by similar museums, but was extensively customized to fit the Oriental Institute's unique data sets. The Research Archives proved particularly challenging in this regard. Once the database design was nearly completed, work began on transferring the data into EMu. After extensive work on cleaning up and standardizing the existing data, several rounds of test runs have been completed and tested to ensure the data transfers as easily as possible during the final migration. The final data loads are expected by September. We were aided throughout both of these processes by Jay Kohut, our project coordinator at KE Software.

In addition to the database itself, considerable time and effort went into the design and continuing construction of the web front end for querying the database. A series of evaluation sessions were conducted in October and December, with a range of students, staff, faculty, and members of the public participating (see the separate *Public Education* section). Ideas for the design of the front end were drawn from their analysis and feedback of a number of available websites for serving museum content. These ideas were drawn together into a coherent set of web page designs by Dora Fraeman and Steven Lane, aided by the Integrated Database team (figs. 1 and 2). These designs are being implemented through the University of Chicago's IT Services webgroup, drawing on the lead programming skills of Alan Takaoka, Dora Fraeman, and Rose Pezzuti Dyer. It is expected that the entire web front end will be of-

ficially launched for the Research Archives and Museum Registration collection in October or November of this year.

A project of this size and scope necessarily draws upon a wide range of people in order to be successful. In addition to the designers and programmers noted above, the work of several people should be acknowledged here. The Integrated Database team was directed by

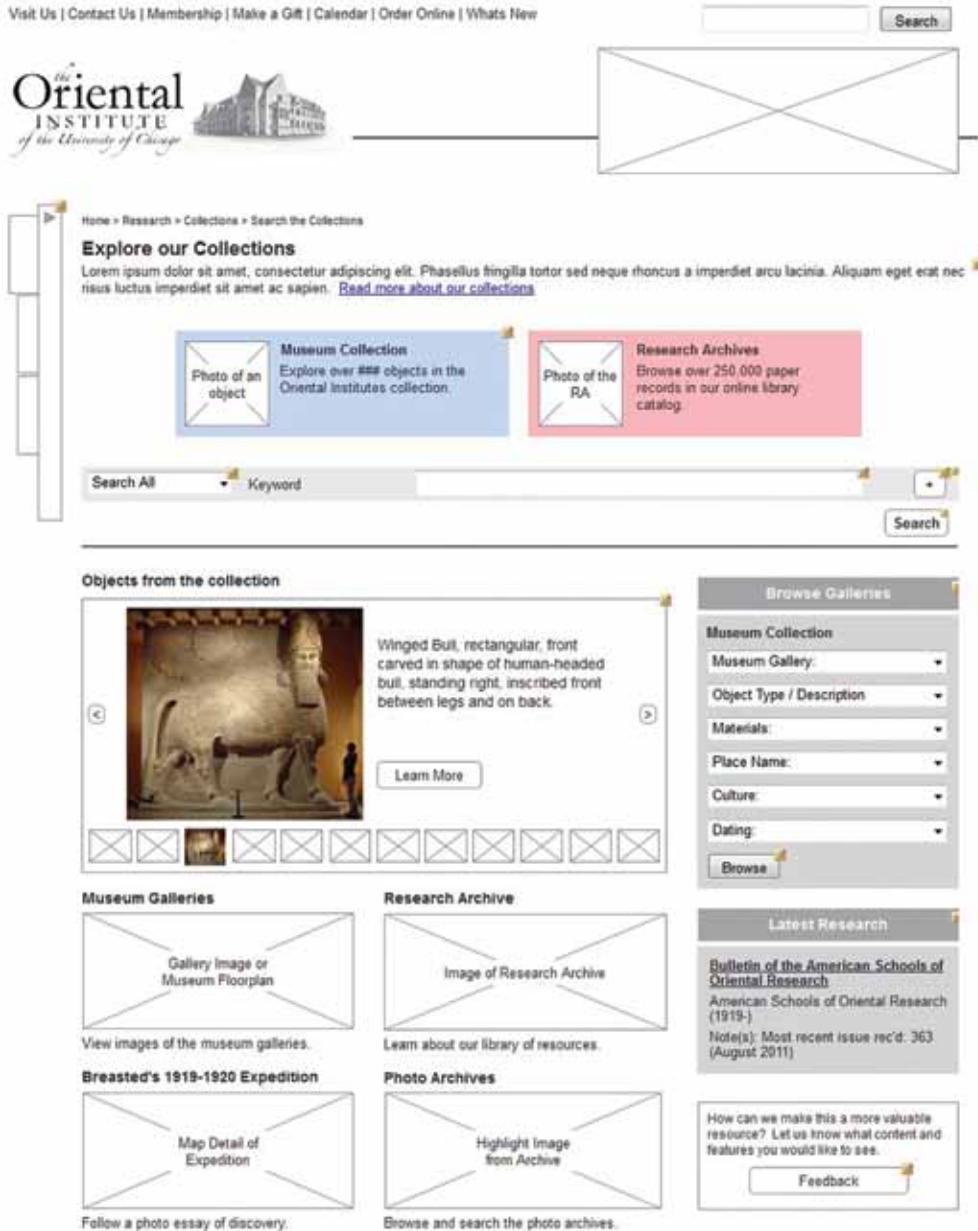


Figure 1. A copy of the working design for the main query page that is being built into the new web pages for the front end of the Integrated Database. The final web pages will provide access to the database and our collections from both the Research Archives and Museum Registration

INTEGRATED DATABASE PROJECT

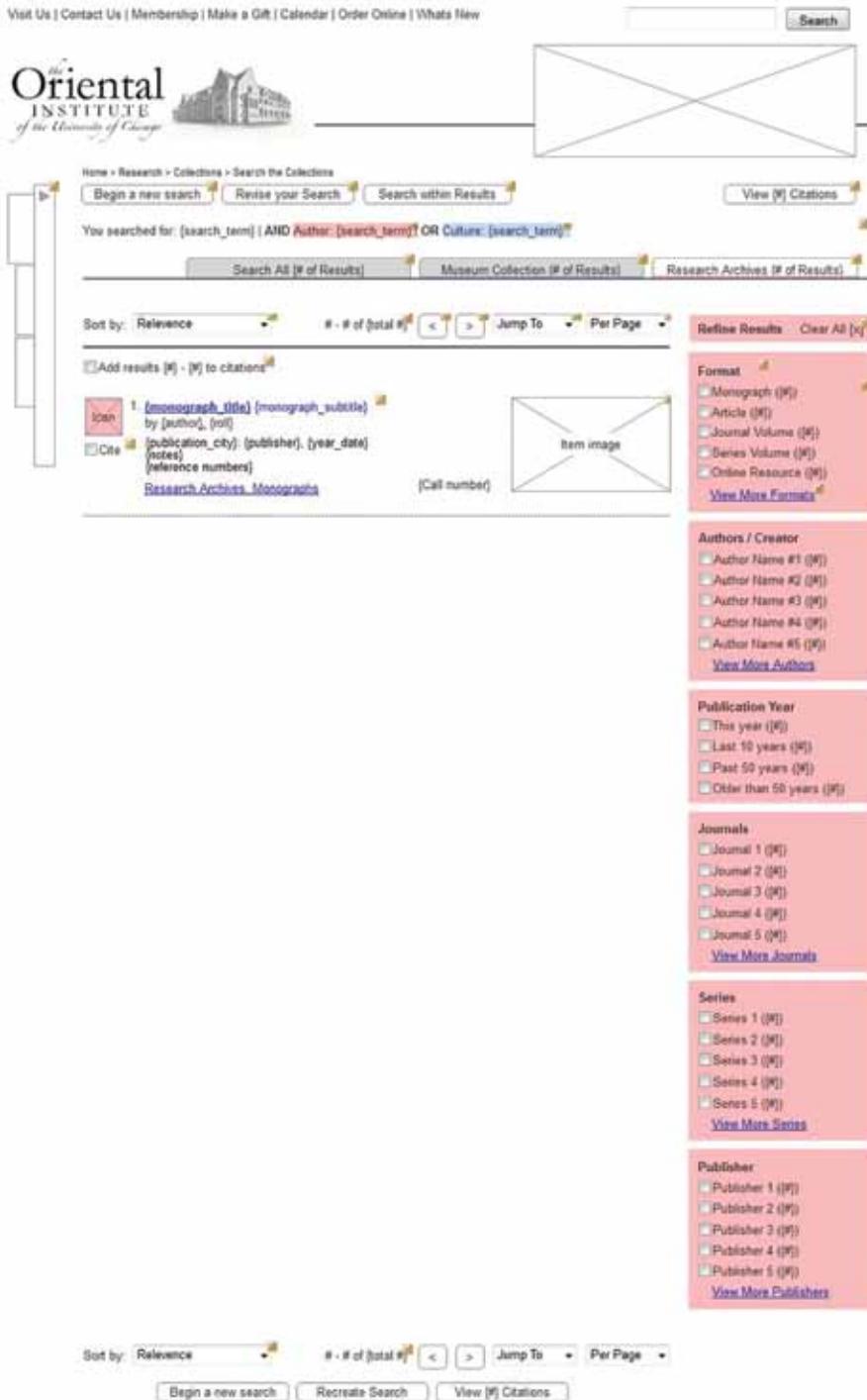


Figure 2. A copy of the conceptual design behind one of the query results web pages for the new Integrated Database. The final web page will allow people to sort their results by collection or by various refinement tools applicable to the data that they are trying to find out more about

Scott Branting and John Sanders, along with our external project manager Angela Spinazze. Angela brings a wealth of experience to our efforts, having assisted a number of other institutions through similar processes. Wendy Ennes played an instrumental role in coordinating the web front end focus groups and design process, aided in the former by an external evaluator, Julia Brazas. Individuals who participated within the focus groups were: Susan Bazargan, Mary Cobb, Andrew Dix, Andrea Dudek, Michael Fisher, Margaret Foorman, Terry Friedman, Sue Geshwender, Petra Goedegebuure, Kathryn Grossman, Lindsay Johnson, Janene Maclin, Maryhelen Matijevic, Nadine Moeller, Yorke Rowan, Jeff Sadoff, George Sundell, Monica Swope, Karen Wilson, and Arne Wossink as is described in more detail in the *Public Education* section of this Annual Report. Wendy also coordinated the pending follow-on IMLS grant to help fund the forthcoming second phase of the Integrated Database project. George Sundell, a volunteer who has played an instrumental role in the project since its inception seven years ago, provided important database expertise and assistance in both the data migration and customization processes. Jack Green has come on board this year and provided oversight and encouragement as members of the Museum staff, especially Helen McDonald and Susan Allison in Registration, dedicated an enormous amount of time to implementing the Integrated Database within their collections. Helen and Susan were aided in this effort by Courtney Jacobson, George Sundell, Abbas Alizadeh, Tasha Vorderstrasse, and Bruce Williams as is described in more detail in the *Museum Registration* section. Foy Scalf undertook the enormous task of implementing the Integrated Database for the Research Archives collection and was aided in this effort by Jill Waller, Ahmet Sun, Laura Holzweg, and Taylor Coplen as is described in more detail in the *Research Archives* section of this *Annual Report*. Funding for the Integrated Database project has been very generously provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the University of Chicago, and Aimee Drolet.

OCHRE DATA SERVICE

Sandra R. Schloen

The newly established (November 2011) OCHRE Data Service supports the use of the Online Cultural and Historical Research Environment (OCHRE) by research projects at the Oriental Institute and elsewhere. OCHRE is an innovative online database system designed to record, integrate, analyze, publish, and preserve cultural and historical information in all of its digital forms. Over the past several years it has been used by major Oriental Institute projects, including the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project, the Chicago Hittite Dictionary, and the Neubauer Expedition to Zincirli. Through the OCHRE Data Service this database system is now being made more widely available.

The staff of the OCHRE Data Service consists of a team of research database specialists assisted by part-time student workers who have been trained to do data entry and specialized photography. The OCHRE Data Service collaborates closely with the Digital Library Development Center (DLDC) of the University of Chicago Library, which hosts the high-performance database server on which OCHRE runs and provides professional system support, including

OCHRE DATA SERVICE

reliable data backups and a disaster-recovery protocol. The DLDC also contributes its expertise on the latest standards and procedures for digital data curation and archiving.

Research Database Specialists Miller Prosser and Sandra Schloen consult with researchers about their projects in order to: (1) determine the best strategy for recording and managing complex project information of different kinds; (2) assist with data entry, automatic conversion of existing data, and the integration of data within a coherent and easy-to-use framework; (3) facilitate public viewing of some or all of a project's data with appropriate user-interface options and querying capabilities; and (4) manage the process of archiving a project's data to ensure its long-term preservation.

In addition, advanced imaging services are provided by the OCHRE Data Service through the digital imaging laboratory established in the basement of the Oriental Institute by the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project directed by Matthew Stolper. The lab's specialized equipment is being used to create a highly accurate and comprehensive record of thousands of cuneiform tablets excavated decades ago by the Oriental Institute at Persepolis in Iran. The advanced imaging techniques developed for these clay tablets, namely, Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) and BetterLight scanning, are now being applied to other objects such as fossils, thereby making sets of high-quality images available to a wider range of projects. The OCHRE database system is used for the digital curation of the vast collection of large image files created by the lab, supporting the process from initial image capture to the addition of metadata to describe the images, culminating in their long-term archiving.

Active OCHRE Projects at the University of Chicago

- Electronic Chicago Hittite Dictionary (Harry Hoffner and Theo van den Hout, Oriental Institute)
- Marathi Online (Philip Engblom, South Asian Languages and Civilizations)
- Neubauer Expedition to Zincirli (David Schloen, Oriental Institute)
- Persepolis Fortification Archive Project (Matthew Stolper, Oriental Institute)
- Tell al-Judaidah Publication Project (Lynn Swartz Dodd, University of Southern California)

Pilot OCHRE Projects at the Oriental Institute, beginning Summer 2012

- Computational Research on the Ancient Near East: An Archaeological Data Integration, Simulation, and 3-D Visualization Initiative (Timothy Harrison, University of Toronto; David Schloen, Oriental Institute)
- Electronic Chicago Demotic Dictionary (Janet Johnson and Brian Muhs, Oriental Institute)
- Ras Shamra Text Inventory (Dennis Pardee and Miller Prosser, Oriental Institute)

Active OCHRE Projects beyond the University of Chicago

- Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon (Lawrence Stager, Harvard University; Daniel Master, Wheaton College)

- Conrad Akko Excavation Publication Project (Martin Peilstöcker, Israel Antiquities Authority and University of Mainz)
- Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project (Aaron Burke, University of California, Los Angeles; Martin Peilstöcker, Israel Antiquities Authority)
- Lives, Individuality and Analysis (Scott Lidgard, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; Lynn Nyhart, University of Wisconsin, Madison)
- Old Assyrian Research Environment (Edward Stratford, Brigham Young University)
- Zeitah Excavations (Ron Tappy, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary)

Anyone interested in volunteering time, data-entry skills, and mental energy to any of our projects is encouraged to contact us at ochre@uchicago.edu. To learn more about the OCHRE Data Service and the OCHRE database system, visit <http://ochre.uchicago.edu>.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

Thomas G. Urban

The full-time staff of the Publications Office remains Leslie Schramer (starting eighth year) and Thomas G. Urban (starting twenty-fourth year). Part-time staff includes Assistant Editor Rebecca Cain, now in her third year, and Editorial Assistant Zuhail Kuru, who recently began her second year. At the end of the year graduate-student Tate Paulette was hired as Editorial Assistant. Editorial Assistant Jessen O'Brien graduated from the College in June and has moved on to full-time employment in Baltimore — we miss you Jessen.

Work flow usually follows a pattern: First and foremost a manuscript is approved for publication by the Director of the Institute, after the manuscript has gone through both internal and external review. The part-time staff and students then usually initiate work on the approved publication. Bibliography is checked both against online bibliographic catalogs for accuracy and against the manuscript to be sure sources cited in the text are also in the bibliography. Artwork is gathered, inventoried, specifications are checked for publication readiness, matched with captions, and then checked against the manuscript to be sure all are referred to in the text. Then, the chapters of the manuscript are read, placed into Adobe InDesign, our page layout program, and formatted with the appropriate style for the series in which the book will appear. Once in InDesign, all diacritics are checked against and adjusted to accurately reflect the diacritics in the original manuscript. After these basic tasks are accomplished, the full-time editors check everything again, copy-edit the manuscript, prepare and distribute proofs to authors, and then complete the manuscript for publication and work with a printing company to have the book printed and shipped.

The more the part-time staff accomplish the tasks mentioned above, the closer they become to preparing manuscripts for publication. To this end, Rebecca was assigned preparation of the quarterly *News & Notes*, and Zuhail was assigned production of the yearly *Annual Report* — they do not complete all the work on these publications, but they certainly bring

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

them very close to completion — which brings an end to this overview of office procedure: simply put, all of us do the same things, just at levels commensurate with experience.

Aside from the publication of *News & Notes* and the *Annual Report*, which are published as benefits of membership for the Membership and Development offices, various staff, notably Zuhail and Leslie, prepared miscellaneous postcards, brochures, mailings, and posters for various units. To view all serial publications available from the Oriental Institute Publications Office, visit the gateway to the Publications Office web pages:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/>

At the end of the year, while preparing the forthcoming Museum publication, *Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt*, Lauren Lutz assisted with production. As always, we thank Foy Scalf and John A. Larson for all their help during the year. Also, we very much enjoyed working with Post-doctoral Scholar Deena Ragavan and Assistant Curator Mónica Vélez.

Sales

Casemate Publishers acquired the David Brown Book Company and Oxbow Books this year. Casemate Publishers & Book Distributors, LLC, was founded in 2001 and is based in Haverstown, Pennsylvania, and Rockville Centre, New York. Casemate is the leading publisher and distributor of trade military history and other related subjects in the United States. Going forward, each constituent part of the new group will retain its brand and position in the market. Resources in the production of books and sales and marketing are being pooled to enhance the group's efficiency to customers and distribution clients. The David Brown Book Company and Oxbow Books, Ltd., U.K., continue to represent the Oriental Institute for its book distribution. Although a limited number of titles are available for in-house sales in the Suq museum gift shop, please note that all external orders for Institute publications should be addressed to: The David Brown Book Company, P.O. Box 511, Oakville, CT 06779; telephone toll free: 1-800-791-9354; fax: 1-860-945-9468; e-mail: david.brown.bk.co@snet.net; website: www.oxbowbooks.com.

Information related to the sales and distribution of Oriental Institute titles may be obtained via e-mail: oi-publications@uchicago.edu

Electronic Publications

As part of the Oriental Institute's Electronic Initiative, all new titles are simultaneously issued in print and online as Adobe Acrobat PDF (Portable Document Format) files delivered through the Internet. Older titles are scanned, saved as .tif and .pdf files, with the latter being posted online, as time and funds permit. This year the Publications Office completed the scanning portion of the retroactive scanning project: forty-nine older titles were posted online and twenty-six years of *Annual Reports* (1928–1955), comprising 1,700 PDFs, have been given to John Sanders for uploading to the Publications Office online catalog. The following 280 PDFs (158 *N&N* + 122 books) are being reviewed for uploading:

158 PDFs *News & Notes* (1973–1998) (NN)

21 PDFs Assyriological Studies (AS)

9 PDFs Oriental Institute Communications (OIC)

1 PDF Oriental Institute Essay (OIE)

- 16 PDFs Oriental Institute Publications (OIP)
- 1 PDF Materials and Studies for Kassite History (MSKH)
- 50 PDFs Miscellaneous Titles (MISC)
- 24 PDFs Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization (SAOC)

In order to keep the project moving along, *Chicago House Bulletins, News & Notes*, and several of the miscellaneous titles were scanned in the office. And then a surprise: In the first sentence of the first issue of *News & Notes* (No. 1, October 15, 1973) then Director John A. Brinkman wrote: "This year we are experimenting with an expanded newsletter," which meant a newsletter existed prior to *News & Notes*. Indeed, the Oriental Institute randomly issued about twenty-three years of *Archaeological Newsletters* (October 15, 1950–March 11, 1973), and we estimate the quantity amounts to about one-thousand (plus) pages, and these, which we hope to be the last, will also be scanned in the office. Foy Scalf has loaned the Publications Office the Research Archives copies, and John Larson has loaned us his personal copies of *Archaeological Newsletters*. In next year's *Annual Report* we hope to report that the project has truly been completed and a catalog with quick reference to all Oriental Institute publications has been made available. Please see the *Electronic Resources* report for a list of all electronic titles distributed through the Internet this year.

The older titles not-scanned-in-office were scanned by Northern MicroGraphics (NMT Corporation, <http://normicro.com>), located in LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

The Electronic Initiative is very successful. The uploaded PDFs are available wherever the Internet reaches, and our older titles — all our titles, old and new — are especially appreciated in the countries where data were gathered and library shelves do not hold Oriental Institute titles.



Figure 1. Over 400 titles published by the Oriental Institute from its beginnings through 2000 are contained on these 103 disks, which rest upon some of the scanned books. The disks contain both TIFF and PDF files for nearly 450 books. Most of the PDFs are available from the Publications Office web pages, and the last 280 titles are being prepared for uploading. Photo taken by Rebecca Cain with iPad newly acquired by the Publications Office — a very handy tool to have

Volumes Published (In Print and Online)

1. *The Oriental Institute Annual Report 2010–2011*. Edited by Gil J. Stein. AR 2010–11
2. *Chicago House Bulletin* 22. W. Ray Johnson for the Epigraphic Survey. CHB 22
3. *The 1996–1997 Survey Seasons at Bir Umm Fawakhir*. Carol A. Meyer. OIC 30
4. *Ancient Israel: Highlights from the Collections of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago*. Gabrielle V. Novacek. OIMP 31

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

5. *Picturing the Past: Imagining and Imaging the Ancient Middle East*. Edited by Jack Green, Emily Teeter, and John A. Larson. OIMP 34
6. *Bismaya: Recovering the Lost City of Adab*. Karen L. Wilson. OIP 138
- 7–10. *Oriental Institute News & Notes*. Edited by Amy Weber. NN 211–214
11. *Grammatical Case in the Languages of the Middle East and Europe* (Acts of the International Colloquium Variations, concurrence et évolution des cas dans divers domaines linguistiques, Paris, 2–4 April 2007). Edited by Michèle Fruyt, Michel Mazoyer, and Dennis Pardee. SAOC 64
12. *Perspectives on Ptolemaic Thebes*. Edited by Peter F. Dorman and Betsy M. Bryan. SAOC 65
13. *Pesher Nahum: Texts and Studies in Jewish History and Literature from Antiquity through the Middle Ages Presented to Norman (Nahum) Golb*. Edited by Joel L. Kraemer and Michael G. Wechsler, with Fred Donner, Joshua Holo, and Dennis Pardee. SAOC 66

Older Titles Scanned and Uploaded to Publications Online Catalog

— see Electronic Resources for titles and URLs —

1. CHB 32 issues — I–XVII (earlier on issued twice per year)
2. OIP 14 titles — 1, 6, 7, 19, 20, 28, 29, 30, 50, 75, 76, 77, 90, and 95
3. MISC 3 titles

Volumes in Preparation

1. *The Demotic Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*, Volume T. Edited by Janet H. Johnson. CDD T
 2. *Language and Nature: Papers Presented to John Huehnergard on the Occasion of His 60th Birthday*. Edited by Rebecca Hasselbach and Na‘ama Pat-El. SAOC 67
 3. *Ancient Settlement Patterns and Cultures in the Ram Hormuz Plain, Southwestern Iran: Excavations at Tall-e Geser and Regional Survey in the Ram Hormuz Area*. Abbas Alizadeh, with contributions by Loghman Ahmadzadeh and Mehdi Omidfar
 4. *Early Megiddo on the East Slope (The “Megiddo Stages”): A Report on the Early Occupation of the East Slope of Megiddo; Results of the Oriental Institute’s Excavations, 1925–1933*. Eliot Braun, with contributions by David Ilan, Ofer Marder, Yael Braun, and Sariel Shalev
 5. *Ancient Mesopotamia: Highlights from the Collections of the Oriental Institute*. Karen L. Wilson. OIMP
 6. *Iconoclasm and Text Destruction in the Ancient Near East and Beyond*. Edited by Natalie N. May. OIS 8
 7. *Where Kingship Descended from Heaven: New Light on Ancient Kish*. Karen L. Wilson
 8. *The Hittite Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*, Volume Š, Fascicle 3. Edited by Hans G. Güterbock†, Harry A. Hoffner, and Theo van den Hout. CHD Š/3
 9. *The Monumental Complex of King Ahmose at Abydos, Volume 1: The Pyramid Temple of Ahmose and Its Environs: Architecture and Decoration*. Stephen P. Harvey
-

RESEARCH ARCHIVES

Foy Scalf

Introduction

In addition to our role in preserving the historical and institutional knowledge of ancient Near Eastern studies, our mission in the Research Archives is one of facilitation. On one side you have the faculty, staff, students, members, and visitors of the Oriental Institute. On the other side you have the book, journal, digital file, or reference they seek. It is our primary responsibility to be able to make the connections between information seekers and information. While the digital revolution in the humanities is rapidly changing how these constituents come together, physical volumes remain at the center of our collection. The Research Archives has been reluctant to go purely digital as conservation and preservation procedures for digital items have not yet caught up with the advance of digital technology. For these reasons, our growing collection needs continual maintenance and room for growth.

Important changes have taken place over the last year in the Research Archives that will have significant repercussions for the foreseeable future. These developments are both quantitative and qualitative, marking major milestones for our resources. The growth of our collection has rapidly filled the additional space made available to the Research Archives by the installation of the new wing and renovation of the museum in 1998. At the beginning of the academic year 2011–2012, planning began on the compact storage installation project in the Research Archives in order to accommodate current and future growth.

At the end of the academic year, the roughly 20,000 volumes from our monograph stacks were temporarily stored in the LaSalle Banks room and work began on removing the old shelving system and installing new compact storage. The project was completed after five weeks and the books were returned to the shelves in early July 2012. We have more than doubled the space in our monograph stacks and can accommodate current acquisition rates for the next twenty years.

In addition to the compact storage installation project, a focus of which is our physical holdings, a vast amount of time was dedicated to working on the Integrated Database project, our digital index of ancient Near Eastern studies and the Research Archives collection. For the first half of the year, we continued to work closely with KE Software engineers during the development of the library component inside their EMu museum management software. During the second half of the year, a considerable amount of effort has been devoted to migrating the data from our current library software. The process has been labor intensive and time consuming, but the improvements in data management and functionality will be worth the effort invested. We are currently scheduled to be up and running with the first version of the new website and database in October 2012. Users will find a completely new multifunctional web interface allowing for complex searching, sorting, saving, downloading, and manipulating of library records and associated files. In addition to adding a vast array of information to the database, including PDFs, images, and historical data on scholars, we will spend a portion of next academic year increasing the number of research tools with which users can mine our bibliographic data.

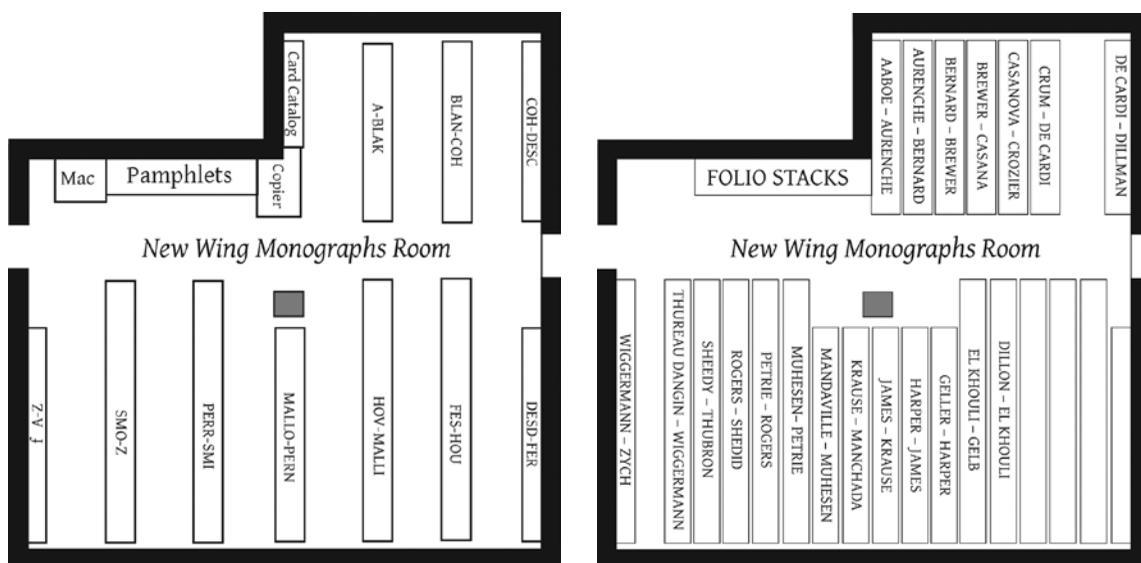


Figure 1. Plan of the Monograph Stacks in the new wing before (left) and after (right) compact storage installation

Acquisitions

Acquisitioning efforts remained at the forefront of our priorities for 2011–2012. We acquired over 1,000 volumes in an effort to maintain the required scholarly resources to meet the research needs of the Oriental Institute at a time when volumes are appearing faster and are more costly than ever. Despite the increasing pressure to transition to digital formats, we have made a conscious effort to maintain both our print and digital holdings up to the highest standards in order to ensure access to materials in whatever format they appear.

Table 1. Research Archives acquisitions, July 2011–June 2012

Month	Monographs, Series, Pamphlets	Journals	Total
July 2011	47	59	106
August 2011	47	64	111
September 2011	77	23	100
October 2011	46	30	76
November 2011	45	28	73
December 2011	35	20	55
January 2012	45	63	108
February 2012	32	43	75
March 2012	51	25	76
April 2012	26	21	47
May 2012	73	34	107
June 2012	88	34	122
Totals	612	444	1,056
	Total Volumes		1,056

Online Catalog

From July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012, the Research Archives online catalog has grown by 30,000 records, from 390,000 to 420,000 analytic records (see table 2). These records include complete analytical entries for *Revue Biblique*, *Hebrew Union College Annual*, *Archaeology Magazine*, *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean*, and we currently have 20 volumes out of 107 volumes left to catalog of *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung*, records for which already number 12,306.

Table 2. Catalog records

Year	Number of Catalog Records Added	Total Number of Catalog Records
2011–2012	30,000	420,000
2010–2011	30,000	390,000
2009–2010	40,000	360,000
2008–2009	63,000	320,000
2007–2008	62,000	257,000
2006–2007	28,000	195,000
—	—	—
2003–2004	10,000	130,000

Table 3. Links to online journal articles

Call Number	Journal	Links	Access
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>	14,818	JSTOR
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>	11,610	Ebsco
ANT	<i>Antiquity</i>	11,094	Antiquity
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>	11,019	JSTOR/AJA
ZPE	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>	7,205	JSTOR
Syria	<i>Syria</i>	5,689	JSTOR
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>	4,873	JSTOR/JNES
JEA	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>	4,143	JSTOR
Bib	<i>Biblica</i>	3,574	Open
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research</i>	3,336	JSTOR
ZDMG	<i>Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft</i>	3,360	Open
PEQ	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>	3,286	Ebsco
ZA	<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>	3,061	Open
CRAIBL	<i>Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres. Comptes rendus</i>	2,255	Open
BIAR	<i>Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly Biblical Archaeologist)</i>	2,072	JSTOR
JESHO	<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>	1,446	JSTOR

Table 3. Links to online journal articles (cont.)

<i>Call Number</i>	<i>Journal</i>	<i>Links</i>	<i>Access</i>
BIFAO	<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale</i>	1,688	Open
JARCE	<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>	1,180	JSTOR
RBL	<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>	1,084	Open
JCS	<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>	1,004	JSTOR
IRQ	<i>Iraq</i>	993	JSTOR
BiOr	<i>Bibliotheca Orientalis</i>	845	Peeters
ANS	<i>Anatolian Studies</i>	732	JSTOR
FUB	<i>Forschungen und Berichte</i>	673	JSTOR
IRN	<i>Iran</i>	685	JSTOR
PAM	<i>Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean</i>	495	Open
JANES	<i>Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society</i>	435	Open
Orj	<i>Orient: Report of the Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan</i>	380	Open
ARO	<i>Ars Orientalis</i>	317	JSTOR
BSEG	<i>Bulletin: Société d'Égyptologie Genève</i>	270	Open
KAR	<i>Cahiers de Karnak</i>	89	
BMSEAS	<i>British Museum Studies in Ancient Egypt and Sudan</i>	64	Open
LingAeg	<i>Lingua Aegyptia</i>	47	Open
ARTA	<i>Achaemenid Research on Texts and Archaeology</i>	34	Open
StOr	<i>Studia Orontica</i>	32	Open
CDLJ	<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Journal</i>	32	Open
ENiM	<i>Égypte Nilotique et Méditerranéenne</i>	28	Open
CDLB	<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Bulletin</i>	20	Open
CDLN	<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Notes</i>	19	Open
Total		103,987	

We continue to add links to online material, both new and old. Currently, there are over 105,000 links to online material in the Research Archives catalog (roughly 25% of all catalog records). As we transition to the new EMu database, this number should increase dramatically as we add PDFs directly to the database.

Resources on the Web

In addition to the online catalog, the Research Archives maintains a series of open access online resources.

Introduction & Guide

http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/research_archives_introduction&guide.pdf

An updated introduction and guide to the Research Archives contains a brief history, a guide to the Research Archives collection, and instructions for using the online catalog.

Dissertations

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/dissertation/>

With the permission of the authors, the Research Archives provides access to Adobe PDF copies of dissertations completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago.

Dissertation Proposals

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/dissertation/proposals/>

With the permission of the authors, the Research Archives provides access to PDF copies of dissertation proposals completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago.

Acquisitions Lists

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/acquisitions.html>

The acquisitions reports of the Research Archives are distributed as PDFs on a monthly basis. This process has been active and continuative since September 2007.

Annual Reports

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/annualreports.html>

Annual Reports for the Research Archives are available from 1991 to 2011.

Networking Sites

The Research Archives now maintains an official page on Facebook. Information about recent publications of Oriental Institute scholars or reviews of recent Oriental Institute publications is distributed through this page. Currently, 1,265 individuals follow the Research Archives through this presence on Facebook.

Monographs

<http://oilib.uchicago.edu>

Copies of out-of-copyright monographs have been scanned and are made available as PDFs through links in the online catalog of the Research Archives. As of June 2011, the Research Archives provides access to over 225 volumes.

Adopt-a-Journal

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/adopt-a-journal.html>

The Research Archives has launched an “Adopt-a-Journal” campaign in order to increase support for the Research Archives. Donors are recognized through personalized book plates made in their honor and placed in volumes of their choosing.

Visitors

The Research Archives continues to be a place of international collaboration among the community of scholars studying the ancient Near East. Over the past year, we had research visits from the following individuals (in alphabetical order): Flora Anthony, Richard Averbeck,

RESEARCH ARCHIVES

Laurence Bianchini, Peter Dorman, Jackie Jay, Cindy Jurisson and her class for the University of Chicago Lab Schools, Jacob Lauinger, Adam Miglio, Pavel Onderka, Jennifer Paliatka and the Great Chicago Libraries class of Elmhurst College, Amanda Podany, Joachim Friedrich Quack, Stephanie Rost, Teodozja Rzeuska, Seth Sanders, JoAnn Scurlock, Julie Stauder, Andrés Stauder, Alexandros Tsakos, Philip Venticinque, and Jennifer Westerfeld.

Acknowledgments

Many individuals have been involved with the success of the Research Archives over the past year. Without their time and help, we would not be able to provide the excellent service to our Oriental Institute and University community for which we are known. Tom Urban, Leslie Schramer, Chris Woods, Seth Richardson, Monica Crews, Erik Lindahl, Brian Zimerle, Jason Barcus, Laura D'Alessandro, Denise Davis, Adam Lubin, John Sanders, and Angela Spinazze have been instrumental in providing us with resources and facilitating our many projects. I would also like to acknowledge the additional help, donations, and support of Abbas Alizadeh, Steve Camp, Andrea Dudek, Catherine Mardikes, Gil Stein, Emily Teeter, and Bruce Williams.

In June, we were sad to say farewell to Jill Waller, our veteran Library Assistant, as she moves on to graduate studies in Egyptology at Johns Hopkins University. Our trusty Islamic Archaeology graduate student Laura Holzweg helped pick up the slack, taking over the cataloging of new acquisitions. Ahmet Tunc Sen, Taylor Coplen, and Melissa Bellah have joined our staff and have been busy with retrospective cataloging and preparing for the move to our new database software.

I have had the absolute pleasure of working with some of the finest volunteers for which anyone could ask. Not only are they amazingly helpful, but they are some of the best human beings I know and have come to consider them personal friends. Andrea Dudek and Roberta Schaffner completed the inventory of our journal collection, providing us with the first ever comprehensive database of every volume in the journal stacks. Such information has only been inconsistently maintained since the birth of the digital catalog and I cannot thank them enough for their diligent work on this project. They have now started an inventory of our series stacks! Ray Broms has continued his project of scanning volumes for the Research Archives and his work recently received an unexpected surprise when the Research Archives acquired a new color Xerox scanner. In addition to the black and white, Ray will begin scanning some of the out-of-copyright color volumes for delivery to the public through the Research Archives online catalog.

TABLET COLLECTION

Andrew Dix

It has been a very busy year for the Tablet Collection and its study space, the Tablet Room. Nicole Brisch of Cambridge University and Aage Westenholz of the University of Copenhagen each returned for the second consecutive year to continue research on cuneiform tablets

in the Oriental Institute's Tablet Collection. Lance Allred of the Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative (CDLI), based at the University of California, Los Angeles, also returned to continue scanning published tablets belonging to the Oriental Institute. The continued efforts of the CDLI have made several hundred images of tablets housed at the Oriental Institute available for viewing online at the project's website (<http://cdli.ucla.edu/>).

Grant Frame of the University of Pennsylvania visited this spring to check inscriptions of the Neo-Assyrian king Sargon II from Khorsabad which will appear in his forthcoming volume on Sargon II's royal inscriptions. Clemens Reichel of the University of Toronto returned to the Oriental Institute on two separate occasions this year to work on seal impressions and sealed tablets from Tell Asmar. Finally, Dominique Charpin of the Sorbonne spent two weeks in the Tablet Room working on an archive of tablets dating to the eighteenth century BC.

The publication of the cuneiform tablets from the Gibson collection (see last year's *Annual Report* for the Tablet Collection, and also this year's contribution by Jack Green for the Museum) by Gertrud and Walter Farber has now appeared in a Festschrift for a Belgian colleague, K. Van Lerberghe.

Throughout the 2011–2012 academic year Andrea Seri used tablets from the Tablet Collection in a seminar designed to teach advanced graduate students in cuneiform studies to read original documents and make hand copies. Several other faculty members, including Robert Biggs, John Brinkman, Walter Farber, and Chris Woods, participated in this seminar, using cuneiform tablets from different periods of Mesopotamian history.

There have been several opportunities over the past year to expand the number of tablets from the Tablet Collection on display to the public. The temporary exhibit at the Oriental Institute, Commerce and Coins in the Ancient Near East, presented in conjunction with the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money, featured four tablets that illustrate some of the ways in which cuneiform tablets documented and facilitated commerce in ancient Mesopotamia. These tablets complemented our permanent display of ancient coins and other objects related to commerce in the ancient Near East.

Two loans of tablets from our collection to other institutions should also be mentioned. Several inscribed objects from the Tablet Collection are included in the Oriental Institute's loan for La Caixa Foundations's 2012 exhibit *Before the Flood: Mesopotamian Art, 3500–2000 BC* in Barcelona. This loan presented the opportunity for Oriental Institute Research Associate Gertrud Farber to publish four unpublished objects from the Tablet Collection which will be part of the exhibition. Closer to home, a three-year loan of three astronomical tablets from Uruk that date to the Seleucid period was made to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago. These tablets may now be seen at the planetarium in a display on the history of astronomy. The idea for this loan came from a talk presented at the Adler Planetarium by John Steele on the Mesopotamian astronomer-scribe Anu-Belshunu, who was the scholar who wrote one of the tablets currently on display at the planetarium.



MUSEUM

MUSEUM

Jack Green

The staff of the Museum has been extremely active over the past year both within the galleries and behind the scenes. I officially joined the Museum as Chief Curator on August 1, 2011, with several weeks of advance orientation being vital in terms of familiarizing myself with faculty and staff at the Oriental Institute and with the collections, and outlining strategies for my first year and beyond. My immediate focus was setting up a close working relationship with Museum staff and prioritizing a number of Museum projects and strategic goals. The past year has also afforded a real opportunity to gain an overview of the wide range of activities of the Museum, which continues to impress me greatly. I am grateful to my predecessor, Geoff Emberling, for the work put into the special exhibits program, grant applications, and the development of a strategic plan for the Museum. It is also important to acknowledge the challenges we face in delivering special exhibits to a high standard, reaching a greater and wider audience, juggling multiple special projects, as well as being engaged in the “business as usual” work of the Museum in providing care for and access to the collections.

Visitor numbers in the past year continue to be at around 50,000, with seasonal ebbs and flows consistent with past years. We did experience a slight rise in recorded numbers compared to last year (a 3 percent increase overall), and suggested donations per visitor did

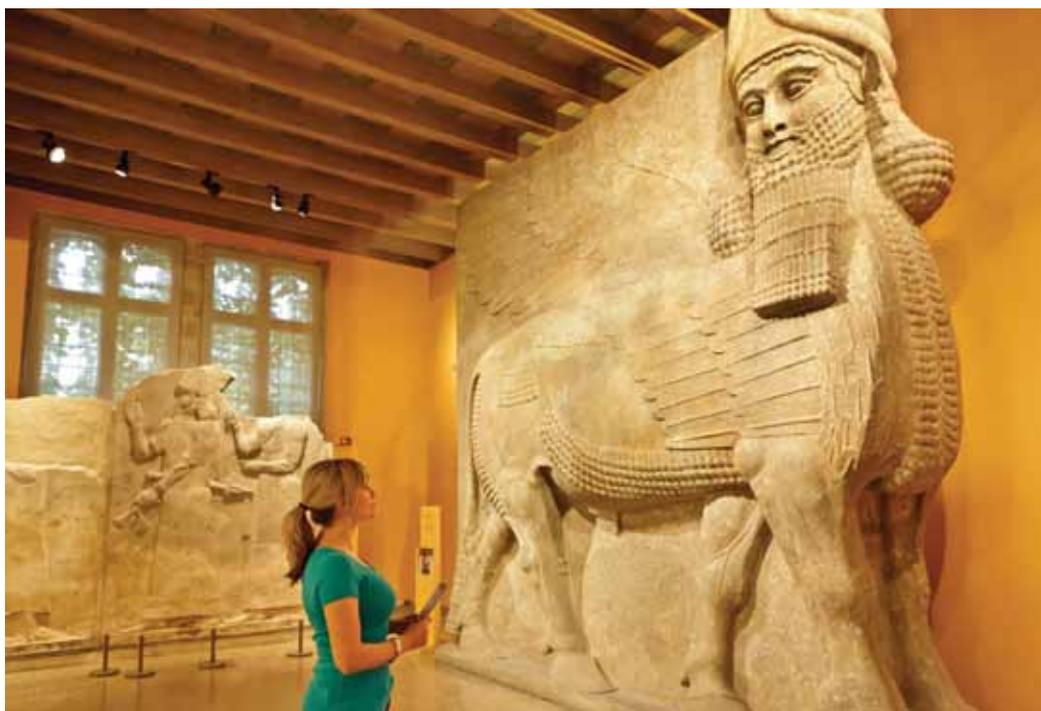


Figure 1. Photograph of the lamassu in the Yelda Khorsabad Court used for our new Visitor Guide, featuring a friend of the photographer to give scale and a sense of discovery. Photo by Anna Ressman

MUSEUM

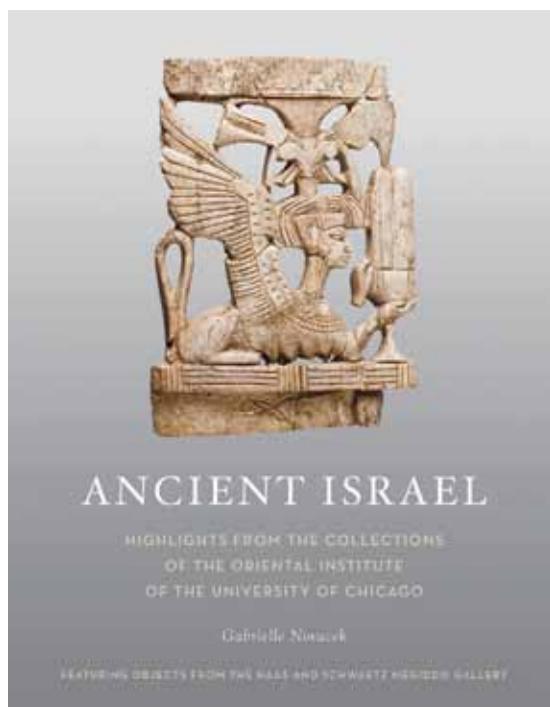


Figure 2. Cover of *Ancient Israel: Highlights from the Collections of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*. By Gabrielle V. Novacek. 2011 (OIMP 31)

show a slight increase in the last fiscal year. In addition, there was a healthy increase in Suq sales (see report below). It seems that roughly the same number of visitors are spending a little more than usual, perhaps thanks to the enticing range of products on sale. We also updated our Visitor Guide, with thanks to Anna Ressman for new photography (fig. 1) and Kat Silverstein for design work.

Dedicated publicity efforts have come largely through our special exhibits program, which continues to play a major role in bringing visitors to the Museum (see report below), but it remains unclear why these efforts do not lead to significant increases in numbers. An audience research survey of Oriental Institute Museum visitors conducted by Slover-Linnet Strategies, made possible through a grant from the Arts Engagement Exchange (Chicago Community Trust and the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs), may help us pinpoint some of the answers. The findings were presented

in a focus group meeting at the Oriental Institute (July 19, 2011). The results are currently helping us address concerns and build strategies to make our Museum more welcoming for new visitors, and, we hope, encouraging them to return to us again and again. A key outcome of the focus group was the consensus that we intend to reach out more to families with children and young professionals (under 35s).

The list of Oriental Institute Museum Publications continues to grow, and sales are increasing steadily. In November 2011, the latest Collections Highlights Catalog, *Ancient Israel: Highlights from the Collections of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago; Featuring Objects from the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery*, appeared both in print and online (fig. 2). This volume, written by Gabrielle Novacek, joins the long-standing *Ancient Egypt* gallery highlights book by Emily Teeter. Other collections highlights volumes are in various stages of development, including (in likely order of forthcoming publication) Mesopotamia, Nubia, Persia, Syro-Anatolia, and a book on the less well-known Islamic collections. We are currently working on a replacement for the long-out-of-print highlights brochure (last edition published 1989). Getting highlights catalogs published and accessible online is one of the ways of sharing our collections with researchers, museum professionals, and the wider public around the world.

The work of Emily Teeter in the curation of the special exhibit *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization* deserves special acknowledgment and appreciation. This exhibit was extremely well received by scholars and the public alike and included a loan of two fabulous objects from the Ashmolean Museum at the University of Oxford: one of the earliest known stone sculptures of an Egyptian ruler, Khasakhem, and the Battlefield Palette

fragment. It was sad to bid farewell to these old friends as they made their return journey in November.

In my first few months as Chief Curator, I was immersed in an intense period of curation and research in preparation for the special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East* (opened February 6). It was a great pleasure to work on this exhibit and catalog and to provide significant creative and academic input into the show, even at a relatively late stage in its development. I am extremely grateful to co-curators Emily Teeter and John Larson, and our Museum team, especially Erik Lindahl and Brian Zimerle who designed and built the show, which has been very well received. A particular thrill for me was the opportunity to insert the model of “King Solomon’s Stables” (fig. 3) and items related to aerial photography at Megiddo into the exhibition, building on my prior research. We hope the catalog continues to highlight the wealth of the Oriental Institute’s archival collections beyond the lifetime of the exhibit.

Preparations are now underway for our next special exhibit, *Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt*, guest curated by Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer (NELC). It opens with a Members’ preview on October 15, 2012. In addition we are planning the future “Connections” photography exhibit (see *Special Exhibits* below) to open later in 2013. I am grateful to our Special Exhibits Committee (Donald Whitcomb, Christopher Woods, Yorke Rowan, Emily Teeter, Carole Krucoff) for critically reviewing submitted exhibit ideas, and to individuals who offered us a new and exciting range of ideas. The Community Focus Group that met three times in the past year has also been valuable in shaping and improving the standards our special exhibits.

Numerous smaller-scale temporary exhibits, changes, and display rotations took place over the past year. In the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery, a mini-exhibit entitled *Commerce and Coins in the Ancient Near East* was installed (August 11–October 30, 2011). Co-curated by doctoral students Brittany Hayden (NELC) and Andrew Dix (Assistant Curator, Tablet Collection), this interdisciplinary exhibit presented early coinage and “pre-



Figure 3. Model of “King Solomon’s Stables” at Megiddo, built by Olaf Lind, 1931. Featured in the *Picturing the Past* exhibit (Catalog No. 34 in the exhibit catalog, OIMP 34). Photo by Anna Ressman

MUSEUM

currency” silver from Mesopotamia and Anatolia alongside clay balls and tablets that relate to early accounting, exchanges of goods and contracts. It coincided with the American Numismatic Association’s World’s Fair of Money, Chicago (August 16–20, 2011).

In the Mesopotamian gallery we updated, as part of the Mesopotamia relabeling project, part of the development of writing exhibit to incorporate two cuneiform tablets (OIM A160995 & A161000) donated by members of the Gibson family, in memory of Joseph W. Gibson, who had acquired them from Edgar J. Banks. These come from a group of seven Ur III to Old Babylonian period tablets registered last summer to the Oriental Institute Tablet Collection. Thanks to Walter Farber, Gertrud Farber, and Andrew Dix for their assistance with this display.

Other temporary developments in the Mesopotamian gallery have been somewhat less welcome but extremely necessary. In May, the Oriental Institute was formally notified of the potential impact of works on the new Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics building (former Chicago Theological Seminary building) on 58th Street immediately opposite the Oriental Institute. This has led to the temporary removal of a number of fragile or restored objects from display that may be more prone to vibration impact. Vibration monitors have been installed along the north side of the gallery and we moved smaller display cases to the south side of the gallery as a precaution. We continue to work closely with vibration consultants and engineers Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE; contracted by the University of Chicago’s Capital Projects), who are taking steps to keep vibrations to a minimum.

In the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery, the “Egyptian Scripts” display was updated in August, incorporating a well-preserved fourth-century BC Demotic papyrus from the Faiyum featuring an annuity contract (OIM E17481; fig. 4). Later in the fiscal year, the temporary “Fakes” display was deinstalled, which will allow the mummy of Meresamun to be moved closer to her interactive screen. In the Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery, we changed the textiles display in December, replacing the Meroitic carpet fragment from Qustul (late fourth century AD) with a selection of other dyed and woven textiles of the same period (*News & Notes* 213 [2012], pp. 30–31). We are grateful to Bruce Williams, who helped us select a range of fragments of tapes or belts, plain textiles, bead necklaces, and even a pair of leather sandals. Lastly, in the Dr. Norman Solhkhah Family Assyrian Empire Gallery, a new wall panel

was installed entitled “Assyrian kings built pleasure gardens,” which complements the reliefs from Khorsabad adjacent to it and also illustrates the Oriental Institute’s work on the Assyrian aqueduct at Jerwan.

In the Lower Level corridor, we temporarily revived the 2008 special exhibit *Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq’s Past* following a review of our past exhibit panels by Erik Lindahl. A selection of panels from the show, originally co-



Figure 4. New installation of the fourth-century BC Demotic papyrus from the Faiyum (annuity contract) (OIM E17481)

curated by Geoff Emberling, Katharyn Hanson, and McGuire Gibson, was put up in April. The information on these panels remains relevant as looting continues not only in Iraq, but more extensively across the Middle East. This also provides an important cultural heritage perspective for Museum visitors, including school groups using our Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center (see *Public Education* section), who are learning about the importance of archaeological recording and context.

In March, soon after the opening *Picturing the Past*, we installed an Apple iPad within the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Gallery for Special Exhibits. This replaces the visitor survey that gathers information and feedback from visitors about their visit to the Museum and the special exhibit. This installation begins our experimentation with iPads and other forms digital technology in the galleries, which we intend to explore further in the coming year, through focus groups, surveys, and the preparation of grant applications. During an overseas research trip in April, I took the opportunity to visit a number of museums and review digital technology and interactives, ranging from iPads and smart-phones, video projections and tech-tables, as well as “low tech” installations. I visited museums in London and Oxford in the U.K., Warsaw in Poland, Jerusalem in Israel, and Amman in Jordan. This was also an opportunity for the Oriental Institute Museum to make connections with museums in the Middle East — especially through meeting senior curators at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, and the Jordan Museum, Amman. Over the past year, I have also visited museums and collections in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, San Diego, and Chicago.

Professional development activities included two all-Museum staff visits to Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History. Firstly, we visited *Natural Wonders: A Roman Mosaic from Lod, Israel*, kindly led by Jim Phillips (December 16), and secondly, *Opening the Vaults: Mummies as well as Genghis Khan* (March 16). Thanks to J. P. Brown for facilitating this latter visit. Both field trips helped us to bond as a team, see how other museums carry out their work, as well as critically review aspects of exhibit design. This research has been vital as we intend to selectively enhance the Oriental Institute’s galleries with content-driven multimedia displays, integrate low-tech educational group activities within the galleries, and consider the needs of visitors with disabilities.

The past year has witnessed several staff changes for the Museum. Thomas (Tom) James (fig. 5) left at the end of August 2011 to take up an opportunity as a Historic Preservation Specialist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He now supervises fieldwork for the Mississippi Recovery Office assessing the impact of Hurricane Katrina on historic and archaeological sites. Tom came to the Oriental Institute as a temporary employee in June 2004, and was soon hired as Curatorial Assistant at the Museum. In October 2009, his job-title changed to Assistant Curator of Digital Collections, reflecting his role



Figure 5. Tom James. Photo by Anna Ressman

MUSEUM



Figure 6. Mónica Vélez

in managing the image database, photo orders, social media, tackling other technical and digital needs, and numerous other tasks (see *Prep Shop* report). We thank Tom and wish him every future success.

Tobin Hartnell assisted us with our photo orders in the interim months between Tom's departure and the establishment of his successor. On November 1, 2011, Mónica Vélez joined the Museum in her role as Curatorial Assistant (fig. 6). She is a graduate in anthropology and museum studies from New York University and also worked in the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Mónica has made excellent headway, having streamlined our photo-order process, resulting in increased orders for academic, educational (including

eBooks), and commercial uses, bringing us vital revenue. In addition to assisting the Museum at various levels, including regular assistance on special exhibits, she continues to update our archival image database and manages volunteers and interns engaged on this ongoing project. Given the pace of newly scanned images and photography (see *Archives* and *Photography* reports) there will be no shortage of future work for database entry and image management. Mónica also plays an important role in building our social media following, particularly on Facebook, alongside Amy Weber (Membership).

Jason Barcus joined us as our new Head of Visitor Services and Security in January this year, replacing Adam Lubin (now Financial Management Assistant for the Oriental Institute). I thank both Adam and Jason for their management of the gallery attendants, for reporting and facilitating maintenance issues that directly impact the Museum. Special thanks to Jason for overseeing our recent security upgrades.

We recently said farewell to Carole Krucoff, who served the Oriental Institute as Head of Public Education for the past two decades. Her contributions to the Museum are impossible for me to summarize in such a short space, but it suffices to say that she will be a tough act to follow. We look forward to soon working with her successor, Catherine Kenyon. The Museum continues to work closely with Public Education and Outreach. Key collaborations included docent training for the Biblical Emphasis Tours, the Ground to Gallery course, and the Public Symposium in connection with *Picturing the Past*. I am particularly grateful to Carole and Sue Geshwender for making these events a great success.

Many interns and volunteers assisted us over the past year, mentioned in subsequent reports from other sections of the Museum. We are extremely grateful to the volunteers and work-study interns who come to us through the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS) program. Thanks to Morris Fred (Anthropology) for his help in finding candidates and promoting the program.

Volunteers who assisted the Museum Office include Augusta Gudemann, who worked on social media and the highlights catalog, and Lucie Adler, who has assisted with the image database (and archives). We hosted two interns through externally financed programs, for which we are very grateful. From February to March 2012, François Bridey, a postgraduate of the Institut National du Patrimoine (INP), Paris, funded through the French national curatorial program, joined us for a six-week internship. He conducted a review of the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery, as well as an assessment of archives and artifacts not

currently displayed. His expertise on prehistoric material from Iran was of particular value in his reassessment of our prehistory case, providing useful ideas we are likely implement when it comes to updating the gallery, or making small-scale modifications.

Mariam Qaryaqs, a former employee of the Iraq Museum, Baghdad, and currently a masters student in museum studies at the University of Western Illinois, joined the Museum and the Public Education Department in June for a ten-week internship supported by the Fulbright Foreign Student Program and America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST). Her role is as the Oriental Institute's "ambassador" to Arab-American and Iraqi communities in the Chicago area. She is developing an online survey helping us to learn more about how we can reach out to these communities in developing our tours and programs.

The Museum continues to facilitate collections study for researchers within the Oriental Institute, the United States, and around the world (see *Registration* and *Archives* reports). This year has been particularly active in the preparation of publications of our collections from the Nubian Salvage Project. Bruce Williams has been working alongside researchers from the University of Warsaw who are busy helping to bring material from sites such as Qasr el-Wizz and Dorginarti to publication (see *News & Notes* 214 [2012], pp. 3–9; see also *Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition* report). Publication preparation and collections research by necessity also generates new registration numbers — a total of 8,500 objects were registered this year, and many more moved or updated during the course of various projects and research visits. Teaching using our reserve collections has also grown in the last year, and we encourage other members of the faculty to make more use of the collections. Work continued on Eleanor Guralnick's Khorsabad publication project, leading to further large and small sections of reliefs being cleaned, photographed, and moved. It was with very great sadness that we heard of Eleanor's passing in July. She had done so much to highlight the Khorsabad relief fragments in storage, and had made good progress in preparing these pieces for final publication.

Loans continue to play an important role in widening the reach and reputation of the Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago at multiple levels — within Chicago itself, domestically (from Toledo to Atlanta), with international loans being prepared to go



Figure 7. Carved relief depicting a winged genie with part of a standard inscription from Nimrud (OIM A34980). A life-size image of the relief (112 cm high) was featured in the *Write Now* exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Center, September 30–April 29, 2012. Photo by Anna Ressler

MUSEUM

to Madrid and Barcelona later this year (see *Registration* report). Closer to home, we are assisting the Art Institute of Chicago as they prepare their new galleries of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine art, due to open in November 2012. Among other artifacts, the Oriental Institute will loan sections of Byzantine church floor mosaics from the Oriental Institute's expedition at Bet Yerah (Khirbet Kerak), Israel, in the 1950s; these have not been seen by the public for decades. It is worthwhile that such material can be made more accessible, and it is hoped that these will serve as downtown signposts to the Oriental Institute. In a similar vein, this March saw a loan of astronomical clay tablets from the Oriental Institute installed at the Adler Planetarium — which we see as a mutually beneficial collaboration (see *News & Notes* 215 [2012]). Although not a loan, a new color photograph of our Assyrian winged genie from Nimrud (fig. 6) was the opening item in the Write Now: Artists and Letterforms exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Center, curated by Nathan Mason. It was reproduced at 1:1 scale to show the cuneiform inscription.

Ongoing essential work to conserve, preserve, and document the collections was made possible through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Metals Room Cabinet renewal project. This involves an upgrade of purpose-built cabinets, the last group of which was delivered and installed in June, into which newly conserved and better documented and photographed metal objects will now be transferred. Work continues on the conservation, registration, and photography components of the project in the coming year. As John Larson's report states, steady progress has also been made with the transfer of archival material into compact storage.

The Integrated Database (IDB) project funded by the Institute for Museums and Library Services (IMLS) is still in progress (see separate reports, *Integrated Database*, *Public Education Initiative*, and *Registration*) and has been the largest-scale project for Registration over the past year. This first stage of the project is nearly complete, and involves the integration of two major silos of data into the new EMu (Electronic Museum) database designed by KE Software — one from the Research Archives and the second being the Museum artifact database. For Registration staff Helen McDonald and Susan Allison this has been a complex, detailed, and lengthy procedure, but one that will ultimately pay off when the collections can be accessed and used more readily by Museum staff, faculty, and eventually everyone with Internet access. In November 2011, a grant application was submitted to IMLS for Stage 2 of the Integrated Database Project, which will involve the integration of digital images of museum collections in varied silos and formats into our updated online database, so they can be more readily accessible online to researchers, educators, and the wider public.

As discussed in Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein's special report (see separate report), in May the Oriental Institute initiated its partnership project with the National Museum of Afghanistan (NMA) in Kabul, Afghanistan, the aim of which is to create an electronic inventory, conservation assessment, and repacking of collections there. Oriental Institute Museum staff who visited the NMA in Kabul this year included Laura D'Alessandro and myself (who helped write the grant application), and Erik Lindahl of our Preparation and Exhibits Design Department. Erik remained as the Project Registrar with other team members to help initiate the project in its first few months. We were able to have discussions with the Director General of the NMA, Mr. Massoudi, as well as meetings and workshops with curators, conservators, and other staff. Laura gave training sessions for the NMA's conservation department, building on training she gave to Afghan conservators who came to the Oriental Institute in 2007.

We are pleased with progress made so far, thankful to the staff of the NMA, and hopeful for positive outcomes for the future of cultural and world heritage in Afghanistan.

The past year went unbelievably quickly, and I remain immensely impressed at the strength, vitality, and resourcefulness of our Museum team. I am grateful for their support in helping to deliver our objectives, sometimes within constrained time periods and with limited resources. Lastly, I wish to thank Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein and Executive Director Steve Camp for providing great support and encouragement over the past year. In the coming year, we will continue to work very closely together on improvements for the Museum, to ensure that we serve our role in preserving and conserving its rich collections, facilitating access to researchers here and from around the world, and presenting the rich tapestry of ancient Near Eastern cultures and civilization to the public through our exhibits, programs, and publications.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Emily Teeter

The period covered by this report includes the exhibits *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization* (March 29–December 31, 2011) and *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*, which opened on February 7 and runs through September 2, 2012.

For background on *Before the Pyramids*, please see pages 194–96 of the *2010–2011 Annual Report*. The show aged well, and from my perspective, the materials kept on raising new questions making it fun to tour and to discuss. Unfortunately, but inevitably, the statue of Khasekhem and the fragment of the Battlefield Palette borrowed from the Ashmolean Museum had to be returned before the end of our show in order to be present for the opening of their new Egyptian gallery. *Before the Pyramids*, like many of the other shows we have done, had a tremendous amount of residual benefit for the Museum because it entailed research on the collection, conservation, and photography, all aspects of the proper care of our holdings.

It was good timing that our new Chief Curator, Jack Green, arrived as *Picturing the Past* was in its formative stages, allowing him to make a meaningful contribution to the structure and content of the show and to give the remarks at the Members' preview (fig. 1). The concept of the show was the result of several factors. Foremost was the goal of giving the public an idea of the very important role that the Oriental Institute has played in the documentation of the ancient



Figure 1. Chief Curator Jack Green and his wife Akemi Horii at the Members' preview of *Picturing the Past*. Photo by Anna Ressman

SPECIAL EXHIBITS



Figure 2. Section of the exhibit on J. H. Breasted's quest for accuracy and the development of the Chicago Method of epigraphy. Photo by Anna Ressler

Middle East. The impact of our work is easily seen. For example, Google “Sumerian temple” and a version of Hamilton Darby’s 1934 pencil and watercolor of the Temple Oval at Khafajah (the original of which is in the exhibit), will pop up. The exhibit was also designed to show how sites, inscriptions, and buildings are documented, preserved, and virtually restored by archaeologists and artists, and also to explore how architectural reconstructions are done, posing the question “What is really there and what is imagined, and why?” The Google test was illuminating for this question as well. Search for “ziggurat” and

the top results include a version of our model of the ziggurat at Babylon — which, as we demonstrate in our show, has some problematic aspects. We also wanted to show the different methods that have been and are presently used to “picture the past” and also to display spectacular examples of archaeological illustration in our collection, many of which have rarely, or never, been exhibited. It was also desirable that the show not be “object heavy” to give Conservation and Registration, upon whom a huge burden of preparing for special exhibits falls, a chance to catch up on their routine work and special projects.

The show opens with the story of James Henry Breasted and his quest to make accurate copies of texts and representations ultimately leading to the development of the “Chicago Method” of epigraphy, which is illustrated by a sequence of a photo, drawing, blueprint, collation sheet, and final printed plate — material kindly loaned to us by our Epigraphic Survey (fig. 2). This section included two of Breasted’s copybooks and his camera. In addition to epigraphy, the show was divided into sections devoted to making facsimile copies of tomb and temple reliefs, architectural illustration and reconstruction, photography and documentation (including materials as diverse as a 1920s Harry Burton image from the tomb of Tutankhamun and a CORONA satellite image, the latter supplied by our CAMEL lab). The show was enlivened by models of a ziggurat, “Solomon’s stables,” a copy of the bust of Nefertiti (see fig. 3, right foreground), and a few artifacts. Many of the artworks in the show, even those that have been reproduced repeatedly in books, had not been exhibited for decades. For example, Joseph Lindon Smith’s huge (205 x 133 cm) impressionistic image of the Apadana at Persepolis (and three of its companion paintings) had been crated in the basement since their return from an exhibition in New York in 1940. The paintings are so beautiful that Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein replaced the Nina Davies Egyptian tempera that had hung above the fireplace in the Director’s office (which we think had been there since 1931!) with another Smith study of Scythian tribute bearers. We were delighted that in June, the artist’s granddaughter Lindon Gaspar and her husband Jay visited the Institute to see her grandfather’s work.



Figure 3. View of the entrance to *Picturing the Past*. Photo by Anna Ressman

We were very pleased to have several special loans to the show. The first is a painting of Nippur by Chicago artist (and former Oriental Institute staff member) Peggy Sanders (fig. 4). From farther afield are two spectacular ink-and-watercolor renderings of Medinet Habu by artist/Egyptologist Jean Claude Golvin, one of the most highly regarded artists in the field of architectural reconstruction. We are very grateful to Mr. Golvin, and to Alain Charron, Curator in Chief of the Musée départemental Arles antique from whose collection they were borrowed. In the same breath, the curators must thank Registrar Helen McDonald and Head Conservator Laura D’Alessandro for all the extra effort this loan required.

A popular feature of the show is a large flat-screen monitor that shows the newest methods of documentation with sites as diverse as Giza, the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem, the palace of Ashurnasirpal II at Nimrud, Karnak, Chogha Mish, and Persepolis. Our Curatorial Assistant Mónica Vélez was responsible for securing the reproduction rights for the footage (a huge and complicated job) and our designer Brian Zimerle edited the excerpts into a continuous loop. A kiosk nearby features static images of reconstructions from cultures all through the region.

As indicated in the acknowledgments to the catalog, the curators (Jack Green, John Larson, and I) called upon a great many of



Figure 4. Chicago artist Peggy Sanders with her painting of Nippur at the Members’ preview of the exhibit. Photo by Anna Ressman

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

our colleagues here at the Oriental Institute and elsewhere to gather the information for the show. We are very grateful for their contributions and input concerning the show.

The exhibit was designed by Erik Lindahl and Brian Zimerle. The walls were painted a soft gray that went well with the artwork and gave the space a contemporary feel. Because the material in the show was colorful, the installation itself was deliberately understated. Brian designed very handsome art museum-style labels (fig. 5). Erik and Brian experimented with a new (to us) technique, printing the introductory panel of the show (with a large image of Joseph Lindon Smith at his easel at Persepolis) on canvas (see fig. 3, on panel in left foreground). The panel had an introductory quote from T. S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" (ferreted out by Gil) that set the tone of the show with its reference to "a heap of broken images." Brian also developed graphics for the entrance to the Marshall and Deborah Holleb Family Gallery for Special Exhibits (fig. 6) to differentiate it from the permanent exhibits.

The audio guide for the show was the result of a collaboration between Jack, John Larson, Seth Richardson, Gil, and me. The audio was produced by Tiffany Salone of Chicago Media Initiatives Group of the University of Chicago, the campus organization that has worked with us on many other projects.

As with other exhibits, *Picturing the Past* benefited from the advice of our Museum Focus Group. We met on November 11 for an evaluation of the themes and organization of the show. Among the very good suggestions to come from the discussion was to add photographs of the sites to the labels to enable the visitor to judge for themselves how well preserved a site was and thus how much may have been speculation on the part of the artist. The group met again on February 29, when they commented on the exhibit in its final state. The group consists of Randy Adamsick (Chicago History Museum), Nathan Mason (Chicago Cultural Center), Angela Adams (South Shore Cultural Center), Matt Matcuk (Field Museum), Molly Woulfe (journalist), Beverly Serrell and Patty McNamara (exhibit evaluators), and Dianne Hanau-Strain (exhibit designer).

The catalog turned out to be especially interesting and diverse, with a much more "arty" slant than our usual volumes. Twenty-one au-

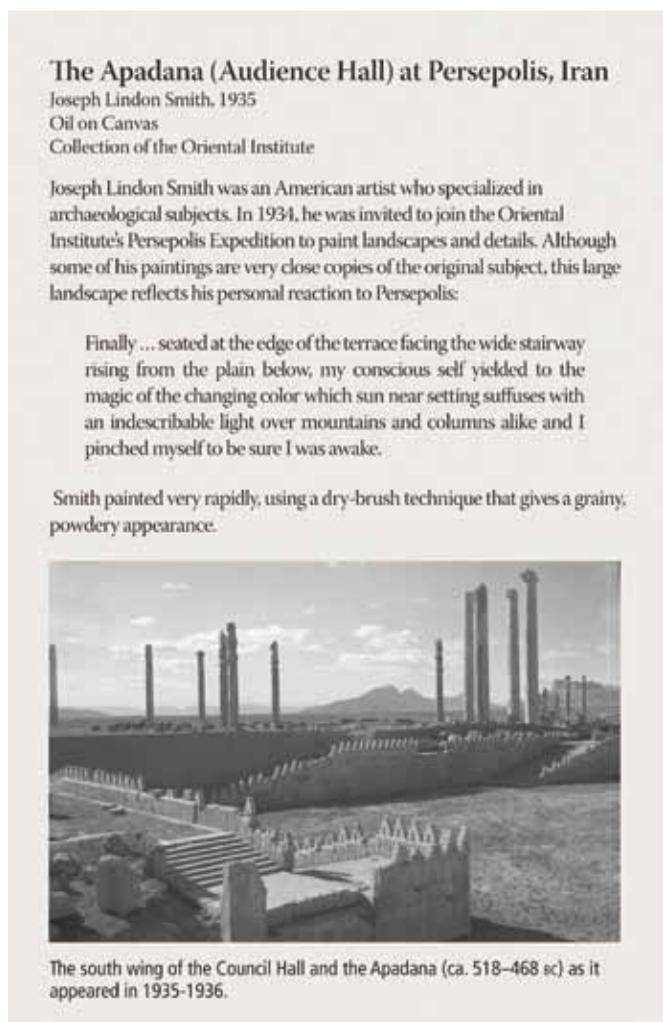


Figure 5. Sample label from *Picturing the Past*

thors contributed essays and entries and special thanks are due to Farzin Rezaeian, who graciously allowed us to put his striking reconstruction of a palace/temple from Chogha Mish on the cover. Again, the Museum finds itself in awe of and in debt to our publications department, Tom Urban and Leslie Schramer (assisted by Rebecca Cain, Zuhul Kuru, and Jessen O'Brien), for their skill at taking a zillion files and images and transforming them into a beautiful book. As usual, their careful planning meant that the catalog was ready for the opening, no mean feat considering the short turn around time for production and printing. The catalog for this exhibit is selling well, as are the catalogs from prior exhibits, especially *Visible Language* and *Before the Pyramids*. The print run for the current catalog was 1,000 copies.

We continue to produce free brochures with Mandarin and Spanish translations of the major text panels for our special exhibits. I thank Mónica Vélez for the Spanish translation and Huiying Chen for the Mandarin text. This is the second exhibit for which we have produced multi-lingual materials (those for *Before the Pyramids* were introduced after the appearance of the last *Annual Report*) (fig. 7). We hope that the brochures, designed by Brian Zimerle, make our Chinese and Latino visitors feel welcome.



Figure 6. View of the entrance to the special exhibits gallery with graphics designed by Brian Zimerle

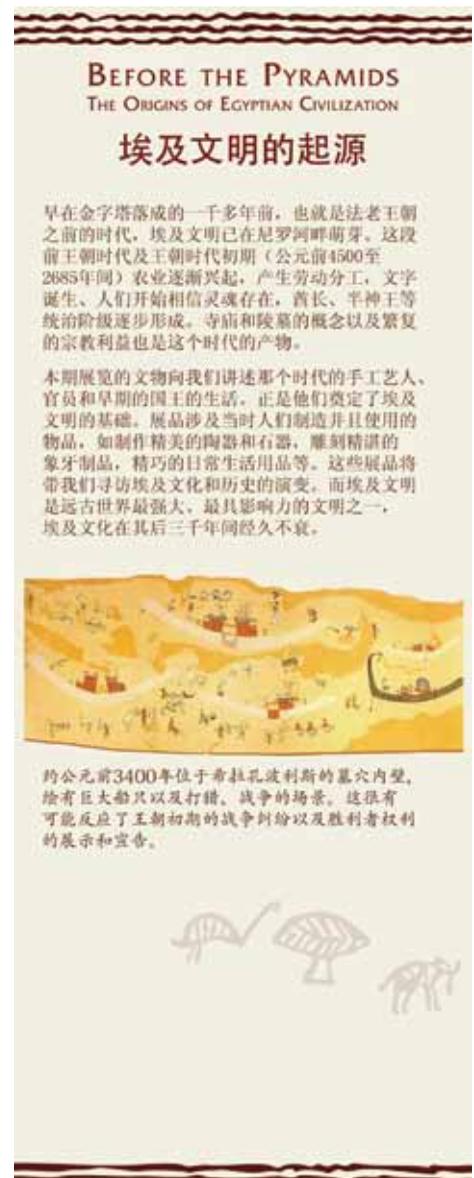


Figure 7. Brochure with Mandarin translation of text panels for *Before the Pyramids*

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

As usual, we are working on several shows at a time trying to maintain a three-year advance schedule. Jack and I are working closely with Egyptology doctoral candidate Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer, who is the guest curator for the next exhibit, *Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt* (October 15 Members' preview through July 28, 2013). The extended run of the show allows for programming in prime bird-watching season and we have partnered with the Audubon Society on public programs for the exhibit. Rozenn, who has a naturalist's interest in birds, does a wonderful job of combining her knowledge of bird behavior with Egyptology to tease out all sorts of interesting features of the objects in the exhibit. In 2010, Rozenn started working with Assistant Registrar Susan Allison to survey the Egyptian and Nubian collection for any and all objects that pertain to birds. As of the writing of this report, the exhibit is moving along well, with the conservation and photography of the objects completed, wall color and fabric selected, and a floor plan established. The focus group commented on the show on February 29, giving Rozenn and all of us very frank and helpful input. The group met again on June 20 to evaluate the progress of the show. For that meeting, the group had some new members. Oscar Sanchez of the National Museum of Mexican Arts replaced Randy Adamsack, and Jacqueline Dale of the DuSable Museum joined the group.

We are also working on the next exhibit with the tentative title "Connections" that will be a series of photographs that connect ancient and modern culture. We will select artifacts that reflect continuities with today's world, such as a tablet with a medical text, a scythe, and a statue of a policeman to refer to today's professions of doctor, farmer, and security guard, respectively. We will invite people who represent those (and many more) professions to come to the Oriental Institute and sit for a portrait with "their object." This will be a fun experiment involving the community with the planning and implementation of an exhibit.

An essential and never-ending task associated with the shows is securing funding. We were honored and so fortunate that Tom and Linda Heagy were major benefactors of *Before the Pyramids*. Additional funding came from Exelon and the Antiquities Endowment Fund of the American Research Center in Egypt. Exelon again supplied partial funding for *Picturing the Past*. We also thank the consistent support of our members.

The special exhibits program, now in its seventh year, continues to delight and challenge us with the complexity of conceptualizing, designing, and implementing shows one after the other. We work closely with Development on funding, with the Publications Department on the catalog, with the Public Education Department on a wide variety of public programs, and we consult frequently with the faculty. As a result, each show is truly the result of a collaborative process. The special exhibits program has matured into an integral part of the operations of the Oriental Institute and its Museum and it is hard to recall what life here was like before the program was instituted. As a sign of its success, a recent visitor survey indicated that 78 percent of the respondents viewed the special exhibit during their visit, the vast majority finding the show to be very interesting.

Current and Upcoming Exhibits (some titles and dates are tentative)

Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt

October 15, 2012–July 28, 2013

Connections

August 19, 2013–February 23, 2014

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

Emily Teeter

Traditional Media

Our publicity and marketing strategy is formulated to attract a larger and more diverse audience. We continue to partner with the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau (CCTB; now renamed Choose Chicago) in their efforts to attract visitors from China. In September, I attended a CCTB-sponsored Educational Seminar on Foreign Tourism building on our effort to attract Chinese leisure and business travelers. In October, we hosted a delegation from the Chinese TV program “Getaway” for a tour of the galleries and to see the Mandarin-language resources including our highlights of the collection and the Mandarin translation of the major text panels for our special exhibit (see illustration in *Special Exhibits* report). On a less specialized level, in June, Jack, again in conjunction with Choose Chicago, hosted a group from Destination Management Company (tour operators) to tell them about the Oriental Institute and to encourage them to add us to their itineraries.

In October, Carole Krucoff, Amy Weber, and I attended the annual Spotlight on Chicago to present the Museum and its programs to the press, concierges, and tour operators.

From October to June, intern Claire Gainer assisted with a variety of publicity-related projects. She reached out to University of Chicago student clubs (such as archaeology and anthropology) as part of our effort to increase student membership. She updated online Chicago travel site listings to include information about the current exhibit, reviewed some of the audio tours to identify inconsistencies between the Museum’s posted information and the audio tour, and explained which parts were the most useful for a layperson and why. Claire also maintained the electronic comment book (see further below), producing biweekly reports.

Claire also wrote and formatted a fifteen-question survey about the new exhibit and the Museum in general. She used the response data to write a series of biweekly reports charting visitor habits, preferences, and reactions to the exhibits. She also created and operated a visitor tracking project for *Picturing the Past*, observing over seventy visits to the gallery, noting the time spent at each artifact, the number of artifacts viewed, and other data. This study is very helpful for our evaluation of the effectiveness of the special exhibit and it allows us to improve our future exhibits.

We received good press coverage throughout the year. William Harms of the University News Office



Figure 1. Rack card for *Picturing the Past*, designed by Brian Zimerle

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

continues to be a huge support and help in getting the word out about our research, programs, and exhibits. General coverage of the Museum and the Institute appeared on WTTW, in the *Hyde Park Herald*, and on the websites Trip Advisor and Concierge Preferred in their valuable list of things to do in Hyde Park. The Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture included us in the City's official FourSquare badge, which generated quite a bit of publicity. "Picturing the Past" was featured in the column "Museum Pick of the Week" in the *Chicago Tribune*. We were pleased to be the subject of a *Time Out Chicago* blog entry "New Oriental Institute Exhibit: Best Thing I Did This Week." The show was profiled in a feature story in the *Chicago Tribune* "Can you

Trust Her?," a reference to the "improvements" on our copy of the bust of Nefertiti. Another story, "A Matter of Interpretation" in the *Hyde Park Herald*, and a third, titled "Oriental Institute Exhibit Shows Seeing Isn't Always Believing," was authored by William Harms. Two stories about the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center appeared in *Chicago Parent*, and another on the sources in the online publication Palos Patch. An article on Breasted (with the Indiana Jones "hook") appeared on the Examiner.com. Press coverage of Oriental Institute research included a major story on the Persepolis tablets in *Archaeology Magazine* and another on Donald Whitcomb's excavations at Jericho-Mafjar produced by Bill Harms in the University of Chicago News Office.

Trip Advisor issued a Certificate of Excellence to the Museum for 2012 based on the overwhelmingly positive comments (four and a half stars out of five) by visitors posted to their site.

The galleries were in demand for filming. Because the construction on 58th Street disrupted the galleries and produced noise (see *Museum* report), we were not able to accommodate all the requests, deferring several until later in the year. Among the projects shot in the galleries was a three-minute biography on James Henry Breasted by Pablo Korona for his series "Rockford: Our City, Our Story," another on Assyrians and their cultural heritage by Al Rasho, and a seventeen-minute student-authored feature film *A Visit to the Museum*, directed by Don Rossi of Latino Art Beat complete with a mummy chasing overly inquisitive students. The film will premiere at a Halloween-themed family event at the Oriental Institute.

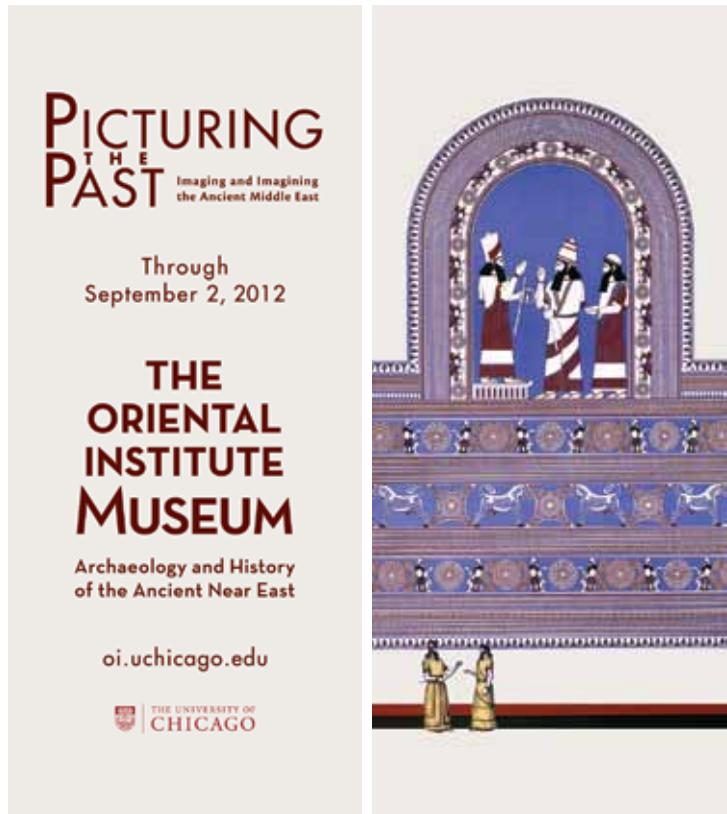


Figure 2. *Picturing the Past* street pole banners, designed by Brian Zimerle

Our small budget for paid promotion is used primarily to advertise the current special exhibit. We ran two ads in the *Hyde Park Herald*, printed 4,000 rack cards, and commissioned sets of street pole banners that are displayed throughout the neighborhood. We also sponsored spots on WBEZ for the opening of the show. A continuing problem that I have referred to in many of these reports, and which is not unique to us, is the difficulty of evaluating the effectiveness of paid advertising. To help us gain a better idea of who is visiting the Museum and why, we now have an electronic visitors' book on an Apple iPad in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery. The data is collected and analyzed through Survey Monkey, an online survey program. The numbers are indeed interesting. The most recent data records that 70 percent of our visitors said that they heard about the Oriental Institute "from friends and family." Out of fifty responses, only 10 percent cited our website, another 8 percent indicated that the street banners directed them to us, and — very surprising — only 3 percent cited Facebook and Twitter. However people hear about us, we are indeed building new audiences. A full 70 percent of the visitors who left comments stated that it was their first visit. The reasons given for visiting include "just for fun" (46.4%), "family outing" (28.6%), and "religious group" (10.7%).

NEW MEDIA

Amy Weber and Mónica Vélez

Since October 2009, the Membership Office has been publishing the *E-Tablet*, our e-newsletter, with great success. Almost 8,000 friends and supporters of the Oriental Institute receive the *E-Tablet*, which keeps them up-to-date with news, events, and announcements. This year the *E-Tablet* received a face-lift with a new template and layout. The *E-Tablet* is published on the first week of every month and is free. To sign up for the *E-Tablet*, visit our website — <http://oi.uchicago.edu> — and click on "Subscribe to our e-newsletter" at the bottom of the page. A new addition to our e-mail campaign is an option to subscribe to different e-mail lists including Event Reminders, Family Programs, Member, Special Discount Offers, and Travel. Members receive an exclusive Members' Newsletter keeping them in the know about Oriental Institute breaking news, academic lecturers, and Members' events and programs.

In addition to the *E-Tablet*, the Membership Office has been involved in maintaining several New Media profiles and sites with the assistance of the New Media Working Group (Mónica Vélez, John Sanders, Emily Teeter, Wendy Ennes, and Amy Weber). Members are encouraged to visit the Oriental Institute page on Facebook, our channel on YouTube, follow us on Twitter, and visit our website to interact with and learn more about the Oriental Institute and our online community.

We continue to build audiences via Facebook; to date, the Oriental Institute page has 5,545 "Likes." When our constituents "Like" our page it allows us to see their newsfeeds with our postings of stories, photographs, and listed events from Membership and Education. If they choose to "Like" a specific post instead, it allows our post to appear on their newsfeeds, which can then be seen by their circle of friends (viral users). As of June, this means that we are potentially reaching as many as two million individuals, not including our own followers, who can become our fans or also "Like" and share any of our posts, furthering our outreach. Thus far, this system has allowed us to reach an average of 1.5–2.5 thousand viral users through our fans, in addition to the two thousand primary users that view our posts weekly.

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

One important statistic that contributes to this great potential is the age demographic that we are attracting: college-aged individuals and young professionals who make up the majority of active Facebook users. The majority of our constituents on Facebook are between the ages of 25 and 34 and equal approximately 20 percent of our total outreach. The next age bracket to offer substantial support is the 35–44 group, who comprise about 12 percent of our outreach. Both of these groups likely link closely to college students of all levels, and young professionals in the field of ancient Middle Eastern studies as well as museum studies. It is also important to note that the majority of our followers on Facebook are based locally in Chicago, followed by fans in Egypt and Italy. The regional outreach may speak to the effectiveness of our membership and education events as many of our visitors are local to the Chicagoland area.

REGISTRATION

Helen McDonald and Susan Allison

Registration's main priority this year has been the continuing process of moving our data from dbase 3 to KE Software's new museum-specific program EMu (Electronic Museum), thanks to the Museums for America grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). KE Software has now built us a database modeled on the design used by the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at Pennsylvania, but with extensive modifications to make it suitable for our own material and records. We subjected the new database to three rounds of testing over the winter and were able to request further modifications. At the time of writing (early July) we have just finished the testing of the database with our data loaded into it. That is just the first round of testing, however, and we have now re-submitted our data to be loaded a second time and will start the next round of testing as soon as we get it back. As we have been testing we have not only seen things that have not loaded correctly, but have also discovered ways of improving our data-mapping to load data in a more meaningful way and have sometimes discovered mistakes to correct. We hope to be using the new system by the end of the summer. Over the autumn and winter we found time to continue with the cleanup of our data mentioned in last year's report; we did some data cleanup on the "period" and "date" fields in the object database. We would like to thank Abbas Alizadeh, Tasha Vorderstrasse, and Bruce Williams for answering specific dating questions relating to their areas of expertise; George Sundell for taking part in our dating cleanup sessions and converting our dbase files into .csv files for KE to load; and Courtney Jacobson, who took part in extensive testing of the new EMu database. The database has absorbed the majority of Registration's time this year, but we are hoping the end result will make it all worthwhile.

Assistant Registrar Susan Allison has continued to fulfill the registration component in the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Metals Survey and Re-Housing grant; keeping track of object locations, printing labels, and helping move objects to temporary locations in preparation for the deliveries of new cabinets that took place in September and June. She has also kept track of objects used in the special exhibits, during the dismantling

of *Before the Pyramids* and the installation of *Picturing the Past*, as well as the object movements related to the forthcoming *Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt*.

The Museum received a gift of a painted Iranian ceramic vessel dating to the second millennium BC from Susan Bazargan and Richard Raskin (OIM A163001). There were no other acquisitions this fiscal year.

Several incoming and outgoing loans have taken place this year. We lent a model of a mastaba tomb at Abusir (OIM C213) to the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University in Atlanta for an exhibit entitled *Life and Death in the Pyramid Age*; it went out in August and returned in January. That same month a loan of Egyptian material returned to us from the Toledo Museum of Art. A long-term loan to the Walters Art Museum (Baltimore) returned in September. Registrar Helen McDonald together with Head of Preparation Erik Lindahl made multiple trips to collect Nippur Expedition potsherds, excavation records, and books from the house of Dr. Judith Franke (Lewistown, Illinois). The Nippur sherds are now housed in Museum storage, the excavation records are with Prof. McGuire Gibson, and the books were donated to the Research Archives. Dr. Franke (a previous Registrar and Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum) is moving closer to family near Pittsburgh. Three astronomical tablets went to the Adler Planetarium in March and will be there for three years. The current special exhibit *Picturing the Past* has included two watercolor-and-ink works of the temple at Medinet Habu by Jean-Claude Golvin on loan from the collection of the Musée départemental Arles antique (France). A couple of loans took place for research purposes. The first of these went out last July when a group of Uruk-period token balls from the site of Chogha Mish were taken out to North Star Imaging in Minnesota to be scanned, in order that the tokens inside the balls could be seen and studied. This research is being carried out by Prof. Christopher Woods and Dr. Abbas Alizadeh. In April, a loan of obsidian tools from the Syrian site of Abu Hureyra went to McMaster University (Canada) for study by Dr. Tristan Carter, who will be subjecting them to non-destructive energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence (EDXRF) analysis; this loan will return in a year's time. Loan contracts have been drafted and objects are being prepared for loans to the La Caixa Foundation venues in Barcelona and Madrid and for the Art Institute here in Chicago. The La Caixa exhibit is entitled *Before the Flood: Sumerian Art (3500–2000 BC)*. The Art Institute is re-installing their galleries of ancient Greek, Roman, and Byzantine art and have requested the loan of several pieces of a floor mosaic from the Byzantine church excavated at Khirbet Kerak (OIM A30490 A–E; fragment “F” of this mosaic is on display in our own Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery and will be remaining here). Both loans go out later this year. With regard to loan renewals, the Registrar paid a visit to the DuSable Museum to check the condition of two objects we have on loan there: a Nubian A-Group pot and a ushebti. The objects are unchanged and the loan will now be renewed for two more years. We have just started the process of renewing loans to both the University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania (pots from the embalmer's cache of Tutankhamun) and the Michael C. Carlos Museum (Diyala material). Both renewals will require visits by our Conservation staff to re-assess and record the condition of the objects.

The Registration Department has moved or inventoried almost 22,500 objects this year (a total of nearly 38,000 object movements). Over 8,500 objects were registered and nearly 3,800 had new labels printed and applied to bags or containers. Newly registered material includes pots from Mendes (Egypt), sherds from Tepe Sohz (Iran) and Semna South (Sudan), as well as wooden ethnographic models of agricultural tools made by a workman at Alishar Hüyük (Turkey) in the 1930s. Almost 6,000 objects were the subject of research of all kinds.

REGISTRATION

Nearly 3,900 had their locations updated, checked, or corrected. More than 2,000 objects were moved as part of the Metals Survey and Re-Housing grant. Almost 300 objects were moved for display-related reasons; including the Mesopotamian Relabeling project. Over 140 objects (representing 281 separate object movements) were moved related to loans or while being considered for loans of various sorts. A further 300 sherds were moved into the Teaching Collection cabinets. Around 90 objects were moved for temporary exhibits that were installed, dismantled, or in preparation, and 54 objects were used in teaching. We had fewer outside researchers this year due to the pressure of work on the database, but use of the collections by students and faculty for research and teaching continued unabated.

Visiting researchers:

- Helen Taylor (PhD candidate, University of Cambridge, U.K.) came in August for a second look at the Bakun-phase sherds from the Kur River basin survey (Iran).
- Lidija McKnight of the Animal Mummy BioBank (University of Manchester) visited to take a quick look at our animal mummies in August.
- Artur Obluski (Polish Center of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw) and Alex Tsakos (Humbolt University) visited for the month of September to begin work on the Qasr el-Wizz material. A monastery and church were excavated by George Scanlon at this Nubian site as part of the Aswan High Dam salvage project. Artur and Alex are part of the team that will write up the final publication. Artur returned as a visiting scholar in April for a year working on the Wizz material.
- Joanna Then-Obluska (Oriental Institute Research Associate and the University of Warsaw) also arrived in April and has been carrying out research on the Nubian beads in our collection.
- Brian Janeway (University of Toronto) visited briefly in October to look again at the Iron Age II pottery from Tell Tayinat.
- In November, Daniela Galazzo (University of Paris IV-Sorbonne) visited to research New Kingdom statues and monuments made of quartzite.
- Clemens Reichel (University of Toronto/Royal Ontario Museum) visited and photographed a selection of Diyala sealings and tablets in February and March.
- Nyree Manoukian (student, University of Toronto) came in May to study sherds of Early Bronze Age Khirbet Kerak ware from a variety of sites.
- Aleksandra Hallmann (PhD candidate, University of Warsaw) studied Egyptian objects with representations of private costume from the Twenty-fifth–Thirty-first Dynasties in July 2011.

Oriental Institute faculty, staff, researchers, and students:

- Tasha Vorderstrasse has begun to study all the Islamic material in our collections in preparation for a book on Islamic archaeology that she and Dr. Donald Whitcomb are working on. In response to their interest we have begun to register the sherds from the Iranian site of Istakhr. Tasha has already looked at more than a thousand objects and sherds.
- Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer and others have studied objects relating to the catalog for the forthcoming exhibit, *Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt*.

- Tate Paulette and Mike Fisher looked at a small group of Diyala pots that may be associated with brewing.
- Lisa Heidorn finished a first pass through the sixty boxes of unregistered Dorginarti sherds and is now drawing selected sherds for the Dorginarti publication. She has made selections of registration priorities for material that will be illustrated in the volume.
- Karen Wilson has continued working on the publication of the Inanna temple sounding at Nippur with McGuire Gibson and others. She also kindly inventoried all the Bismaya material, now that her volume on J. Edgar Banks' excavations at the site has appeared in print.
- Angela Altenhofen has continued to draw seal impressions from Nippur and the Diyala, among other projects.
- Katharyn Grossman looked through the Hacinebi and Gritille bone boxes in June in search of sheep/goat teeth for Melissa Zolnier who is using them in her thesis.
- Robert Ritner used a number of heart scarabs for the Beginning Hieroglyphs class
- Brian Muhs used a number of stelae (glyphs) and papyri (Demotic) in his classes in the winter and spring terms.
- Donald Whitcomb borrowed a selection of Islamic pots and sherds for a class on Islamic ceramics in the autumn term.
- Yorke Rowan borrowed a selection of objects in the winter term for a class on chipped and ground stone industries and also some of the flint from Abu Hureyra for students to write papers about.
- Registration gave a talk and tour to the Egyptology high school summer class being taught this year by Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer. Natasha Ayers used a selection of Egyptian pots and sherds for a session with the students on the study of Egyptian ceramics.
- In November a selection of possible fakes and forgeries kept in storage were made available to the adult education class, From Ground to Gallery, taught by Megaera Lorenz.

These accomplishments have been made possible with the assistance of a wonderful group of volunteers and interns, including Courtney Jacobson, Ila Patlogan, Michael Lombard, Daila Shefner, Toni Smith, O. J. Sopranos, and George Sundell. Janet Helman and Yalda Razmahang have continued to register Tall i-Geser sherds (Iran) as part of assisting Abbas Alizadeh with the publication of that site. Although we had to call a halt to our regular volunteer activity in January, due to the pressure of work on the KE EMU transition, we are looking forward to seeing them again as soon as we have the Integrated Database up and running. In June, Courtney Jacobson left Chicago and we wish her all the best in San Diego.

ARCHIVES

John A. Larson

As of December 2011, John Larson has served as Museum Archivist for thirty-one years.

Archives

Visiting scholars during fiscal year 2011–2012 included Jeffrey Abt of Wayne State University, who came to Chicago in December 2011 for a signing of his new book, *American Egyptologist: The Life of James Henry Breasted and the Creation of His Oriental Institute*, and stayed to do some research in the Papers of James Henry Breasted on behalf of Jason Thompson; Lindsay Ambridge of the University of Michigan, who worked on the wartime (World War I) correspondence of James Henry Breasted in May 2012; Artur Obluski, who is visiting from Poland to work on the Nubian site of Qasr el-Wizz; Barbara Richter from the University of California at Berkeley, who came to look at photographs of the Egyptian site of Dendera; and Barbara Breasted Whitesides, who is reading Breasted Family diaries and correspondence. From within our own Oriental Institute community, Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer, John A. Brinkman, Fred Donner, Jack Green, Randy Shonkwiler, Emily Teeter, Bruce Williams, and Karen L. Wilson have conducted research using Archives materials.

Recent Acquisitions

On July 12, 2011, Mary Shea presented the Archives with the gift of some docent records. Throughout the summer, the inactive records of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary Project were deposited in the Archives; this now constitutes the largest record group in the collections and includes the card catalog of the CAD as well as some correspondence relating to the project. In May 2012, the records of Robert McCormick Adams' Akkad Survey were turned over to the Archives by Scott Branting, after they were scanned by the CAMEL Lab.

Volunteers and Student Assistants

The following people have contributed their time as Archives volunteers during fiscal year 2011–2012 and have made it possible for us to continue a number of projects in the Oriental Institute Archives that would not have been possible without their generous assistance: Jean Fincher, Peggy Grant, Sandra Jacobsohn, Robert Wagner, and Carole Yoshida. In January 2012, Jean Fincher moved to Florida, where we hope she will be very happy. We are saddened by the retirement of Sandy Jacobsohn from volunteering but look forward to seeing her often in the future. We are grateful to have benefited from the help of these dedicated volunteers, and we thank them here for all of their efforts on behalf of the Archives. In addition to the regular volunteers in the Archives, Roberta Buchanan and Nancy Rose volunteered for Bruce Williams and the Nubian Salvage Publication Project.

Undergraduate student Matthew Williams assisted in the Archives throughout the summer of 2011, and MAPSS graduate student Gerard Dougher continued working with Archivist John Larson until August 2011. John has been assisted in the Oriental Institute Archives during this academic year by MAPSS graduate student Kye Barker. On May 22, 2012, Lucie Adler

began an internship in the Archives and with the Photographic Database, which lasted until the end of July.

Archives Compact-Storage Project

John Larson's principal accomplishment during the past fiscal year is the continuing re-organization of the Archives, which was made possible by the successful application to the University of Chicago's Capital Projects Program by Gil Stein and Steve Camp. By September 2010, the installation of new compact storage shelving had been accomplished, and a version of the shelf-list had been completed. The shelf-list is a work in progress. During the summer of 2012, we will be transferring the flat files (contents of the old map-cases) into the new map-cases, re-housing the collections generally, and updating the shelf-list accordingly.

In addition to the routine of running the Archives, we have scanned 10,000 additional existing images for the online photographic database, in preparation for Phase 2 of the Integrated Database project.

Picturing the Past

The temporary exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East* opened on February 7, 2012, and ran through September 2, 2012. Among the items exhibited, there are a number of pieces from the Archives, including drawings, plans, and photographs. Easily lost in the overall exhibit is my personal favorite, a reinforced photograph of a relief from the Nubian site of Abu Simbel (fig. 1), with a paper and ink attachment showing how

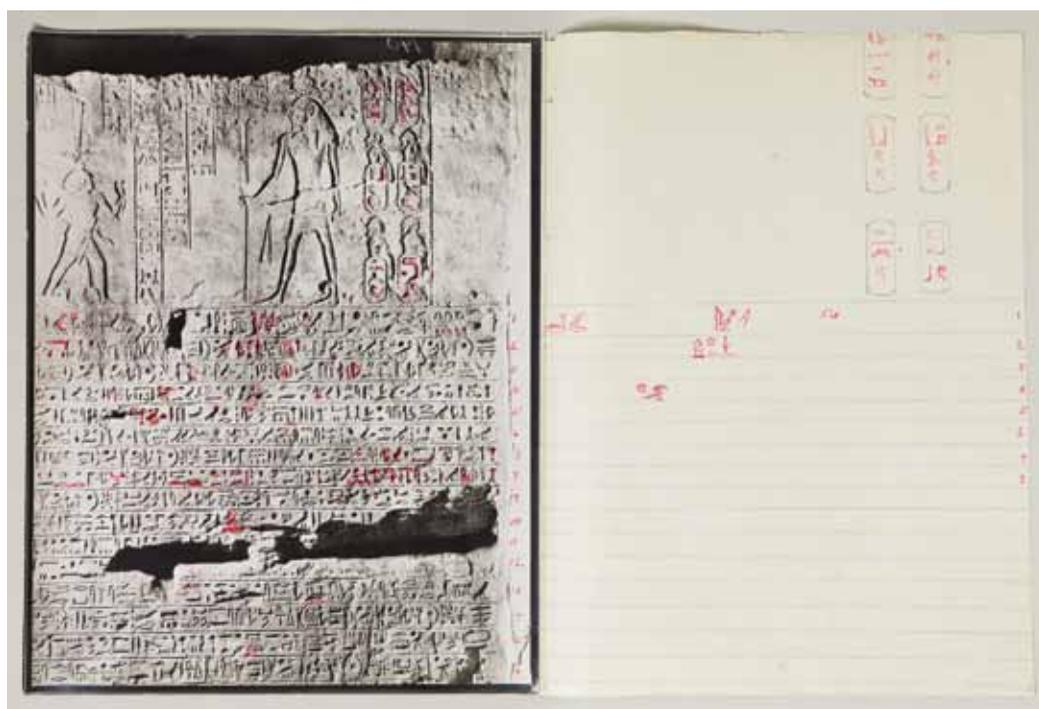


Figure 1. Reinforced photograph: Relief from Abu Simbel. Collection of the Oriental Institute, digital image no. 17464. Photo by James Henry Breasted (Catalog No. 4 in the exhibit catalog for *Picturing the Past*, OIMP 34)

James Henry Breasted first envisioned the more sophisticated method now used by the Epigraphic Survey of the Oriental Institute.

CONSERVATION

Laura D'Alessandro

This past year has been a very intense and exciting time for the Conservation Laboratory. The changing displays in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery have provided the Museum with a wonderful way to reach out to new audiences and use our collections in fresh and interesting ways. It also serves to keep the Conservation staff busy with the needs it places on the collection and the work that is associated with mounting new exhibits. In the same way, our active loan schedule is important to the life of the Museum and our colleagues in the museum world, but it obviously has a great impact on the staff within the Museum. Conservation, in particular, spends a large proportion of its time dealing with the various activities that are involved in getting an object ready for travel. The Conservation staff has been kept occupied keeping up with these demands and maintaining our other responsibilities to the collections within our care.

Alison Whyte, the laboratory's Associate Conservator, had a particularly full year juggling the needs of multiple projects. In between conducting conservation assessments and treatments for objects to be included in our own upcoming exhibits, she handled many responsibilities associated with our very active loan schedule. In the midst of all this, Alison took on the job of preparing our very fragile bird mummies for travel to the University of



Figure 1 (left). Bird mummies undergoing CT scanning at the University of Chicago Medical Center (OIM E9164, E9237, and E42440)

Figure 2 (below). Small bird mummy (OIM E42440) about to undergo microCT scanning



Chicago Medical Center's CT scanners for imaging (figs. 1, 2). These images provide valuable information on the identity and condition of the mummified birds in our collection and will serve as a resource for the upcoming exhibit *Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt*. The packing of these small, delicate bundles of mummified remains and brittle fabric were a challenge that Alison met with very inventive solutions. As a result of this work, Alison authored an article for *News & Notes* (#214 [2012]) entitled "Bird Mummy Conservation: A Delicate Balance." Alison also found the time to co-author an article with Gil Stein, "Before the Pyramids: An Exhibit Presented with Support of AEF," for the spring 2012 issue of *Bulletin of American Research Center in Egypt*. In the spring, Alison was invited to present a lecture entitled "Soluble Salts and Archaeological Objects: A Case Study from the Oriental Institute Museum" to the Anthropology Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago, an example of outreach to our local professional colleagues that was very well received.

Simona Cristanetti, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)-funded Metals Room conservator, had a very productive year as she continued to make great strides in this critical project to assess and re-house our metals collection. Simona is in the second year of this two-year project funded by an award from NEH Preservation and Access: Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections. This award supports the conservation assessment, imaging, and re-housing of the Oriental Institute's metals collection of over 11,000 objects. Over the past year, Simona completed the conservation assessment of the entire coin collection and oversaw the labeling and re-housing of over 1,500 coins. She also began the survey of the three-dimensional objects, making a great start in their initial assessment. To date, over 4,500 objects have been surveyed and the re-housing of this portion of the metals collection has begun (figs. 3, 4).

One of the more interesting purchases for this project was a DinoLite hand-held digital microscope that allows for detailed record views of an object's condition, in situations where



Figure 3 (left). Re-housed bronze statue of a deity. Medinet Habu. Photo by Simona Cristanetti

Figure 4 (below). Re-housed bronze model hoes. Medinet Habu. Photo by Simona Cristanetti



CONSERVATION

the metal exhibits a particular problem. The magnified images obtained with the DinoLite microscope are now part of the conservation assessment database for these objects. This past year also saw the delivery of the remaining Delta Designs cabinets that complete the purchase of the NEH-funded cabinets for the Metals Room. These beautiful, museum-quality cabinets are custom sized to make the most efficient use of the room's small footprint.

All of this could not have been done without the assistance of our cadre of willing conservation volunteers supervised by Simona: Kate Aguirre, Ashley DeLio, Jennifer Hunt Johnson, Anna Kosters, Ryan Lavery, Hannah Lee, Amy Lukas, Laura Moeller, Megan Mueller, Liz Sorokin, and Evelina Zielinski. These talented young interns are planning to make a career in conservation and their time spent working on the project helps them to fulfill an entrance requirement for the graduate programs in conservation. We are fortunate to have the assistance of these fledgling conservation professionals and enjoy getting to know them and serving as mentors.

Robyn Haynie, the dedicated conservator of the Persepolis Fortification Archive (PFA) Project supported by a grant from the PARSA Community Foundation, spent another year cleaning away the dirt and debris of millennia to reveal the texts and seal impressions on tablets from Persepolis. Her painstaking cleaning, stabilizing, and rejoining of the small fragments of unbaked clay takes unremitting patience and fine hand skills. One tablet came to her in over thirty fragments; she reconstructed and cleaned it using a structural support that enabled the tablet to be safely handled, making the combined Elamite and Aramaic texts, and seal impressions, visible to PFA Project imaging specialists and editors. Most recently, Robyn discovered an unrecognized Aramaic inscription hidden beneath soil on a sealed tablet that PFA Project editor Matt Stolper cataloged for editing (fig. 5). Robyn particularly enjoyed working on tablets sealed with the images of worship scenes after attending Mark Garrison's Oriental Institute members' lecture on fire altars found in the seals and sealings of the Persian Empire. This instance serves as a wonderful example of how our members' lecture series can serve many audiences.

This account of the past year would not be complete without mention of our most interesting research project to date. In October, Conservation staff attended a conservation science seminar sponsored by the Art Institute of Chicago and Northwestern University and held at the Advanced Photon Source (APS) of Argonne National Laboratory. The topic was synchrotron research in cultural heritage science and provided an exciting opportunity to hear about current research in our field from leading scientists in the field of material science. One of the speakers, Dr. Steve Heald, is the director of Sector 20 at the APS. After Dr. Heald's presentation, I approached him about a project that we were pursuing that seemed ideally suited to his work at Argonne. This meeting led to an invitation by Dr. Heald to run



Figure 5. Tablet with revealed Aramaic epigraph after removal of an obscuring layer of soil (see also fig. 5 in the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project report)

preliminary tests at the APS to determine the suitability of his equipment to our research question, that of identifying the changes that have taken place over time in the ancient blue pigments on our eighth-century BC Assyrian reliefs from Sargon II's palace. Following the successful conclusion of these tests, and with Dr. Heald's support, we have submitted a request for beamtime at the APS to pursue this project in the coming year. We hope to report next year on the continuation of this promising research.

All of these projects and activities were overshadowed by the Oriental Institute's award to take part in a major project to inventory and re-house the collections of the National Museum of Afghanistan (NMA). When news of the award from the Department of State reached us early in the new year we were thrilled. It is both an amazing responsibility and an incredible opportunity, one with which we are so very pleased to be faced. As part of the team that visited Kabul in May, I was able to reconnect with our Afghan colleagues. It was a wonderful experience, made more so by the welcome we received by all the staff at the National Museum in Kabul, from the director, Mr. Massoudi, to the curators and conservators. Their generosity of spirit, professionalism, and commitment to cultural heritage are an inspiration to all of us.

PREP SHOP

Erik Lindahl

This *Annual Report* marks my tenth year at the Oriental Institute. In my time here I have been lucky to be a big and small part of many exciting projects and events. I'd like to thank the Oriental Institute for these opportunities past, present, and future. Currently, I am writing this report from Kabul, Afghanistan, where I function as registrar (in its initial stages) for the National Museum of Afghanistan-Oriental Institute (NMA-OI) partnership program. It is the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the Oriental Institute and I am thankful to be a part of it.

2011 has been a busy year. It started with King Khasekhem returning to the Ashmolean Museum and our new Chief Curator Jack Green coming to the Oriental Institute from the same institution. As with any year we have continued to assist with several long-term projects such as the registration and publication of the Oriental Institute collection of reliefs from Khorsabad, the relabeling of the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery, and the Oriental Institute Research Archives compact storage project (now in its second year).

The special exhibits program has continued strongly under the guidance of Dr. Green. *Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt* has been in preparation since the last report. It will open in October. The exhibits team is excited for the arrival of several well-chosen, beautiful loans and the production of what looks to be a very dynamic exhibit. We are hoping to integrate classic Egyptian motifs and multimedia content to recreate the atmosphere of the Nile Valley in ancient times.

Brian Zimerle has continued to contribute above and beyond his official role as part-time preparator assisting with special exhibits (fig. 1). Over the last year he has accomplished much, including the designing of graphics and multimedia content for the special exhibits program, designing outdoor signage, and working on the installation of temporary exhibits.

PREP SHOP

For the *Picturing the Past* exhibit Brian designed the graphic panels, produced the interactive computer kiosk, and edited the video of reconstruction fly-throughs. Some of his other accomplishments for the year have been designing Oriental Institute advertisements for the *New York Times* and other publications as well as making several large, meter-tall reproductions of ancient Sumerian beer-brewing vessels for a collaborative brewing project between the Oriental Institute and a local craft brewery.

The Prep Shop would like to thank, welcome, and say good-bye to several people that graced us with their presence. 2011 marked the end of Tom James' time at the Oriental Institute. He is missed and his contributions to the Oriental Institute will be felt for years to come. Jack Green arrived as Chief Curator in August 2011 and has been busy getting to know the place, making plans, and making improvements. One of his accomplishments of the year has been to change the rotation schedule for special exhibits from two exhibits a year to two exhibits every eighteen months. He has also been furthering the Museum's cause by making research trips, being a part of the NMA-OI project, guest lecturing, and writing grants for future projects. Mónica Vélez is the Oriental Institute's new Curatorial Assistant. She has become an important member of the exhibits team and is becoming a vital part of the Institute as a whole. Jason Barcus as the new Head of Visitor Services and Security has been very helpful to the Prep Shop and the exhibits team through facilitating work done by facilities and generally going above and beyond his duties to assist the Museum with anything within his powers. Jason Hunt was our intern for 2011–2012. He quickly became a key part of the Museum team and things would not have run as smoothly if he had not been so dedicated and flexible. We wish him luck in his future endeavors. Michael McSherry also contributed as assistant preparator to the exhibits team. His construction skills and eye for detail were greatly appreciated.

There are several smaller noteworthy projects, missions, and surprises from this fiscal year that deserve note. In conjunction with a numismatics conference held in Chicago the



Figure 1. Installing Breasted's camera and notebooks for the *Picturing the Past* exhibit. Left to right: Emily Teeter, John A. Larson, Brian Zimerle, Erik Lindahl

Prep Shop helped put together a small display on Commerce and Coins in the Ancient Near East. Andrew Dix and Brittany Hayden did a wonderful job curating the exhibit under the guidance of Emily Teeter. The Prep Shop has been working with Conservation and Registration on the Metals Room re-housing program by assisting with the installation of new storage cabinets. The Adler Planetarium requested a loan of astronomical tablets for their history of astronomy exhibit; the Prep Shop constructed the mounts and assisted in the installation of the display. Erik Lindahl accompanied Helen McDonald to central Illinois three times in the past fiscal year to collect an outstanding study loan and donations of books and other items from Judith Franke. It was wonderful to spend time with Judith, who has a deep history with the Oriental Institute, especially through her involvement in the Nippur Expedition. This year also saw for the first time in many decades the hanging of a new painting in the Director's office. Inspired by the Picturing the Past exhibit and at the recommendation of Emily Teeter, Gil Stein requested that Joseph Lindon Smith's painting of a relief from Persepolis be conserved and installed above the fireplace. From the hallway you now see a procession of Scythians bearing gifts walking toward the Director's desk. There have also been several minor water leaks and other facilities-related projects and emergencies that the Prep Shop has needed to assist with by moving display cases, escorting workers, and repairing damage.

The Prep Shop is looking forward to the coming year. The Birds in Ancient Egypt exhibit looks to reach new heights as we build upon much we have learned from our previous exhibits, many of our outstanding projects will hopefully be completed, and with any luck the Museum will have another productive year.

SUQ

Denise Browning

This was an exceptional year for the Suq so that we were able to surpass last year's sales feat — which was an accomplishment in itself with a 24 percent increase. This year our net sales were up a very healthy 7 percent over last year's sales.

It was an exciting year developing merchandise for the special exhibits. Special thanks to Erik Lindahl, who scanned James Henry Breasted's old stereocards so that we could sell the reproductions in the Suq. We had two book signings: *American Egyptologist: The Life of James Henry Breasted and the Creation of His Oriental Institute* by Jeffrey Abt, and *Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam* by Fred Donner. It was perfect timing that in December the magazine *Time Out Chicago Kids* did an article on the Suq, which encouraged many new shoppers. The first weekend in June we had a 20' x 30' tent outside in the parking lot filled with rugs from Afghanistan! It went well and it may become an annual event. We are currently working on ways to improve our online sales and redesigning the layout of the Suq.

Many thanks to our loyal volunteers who greet and educate the public about the Oriental Institute. It is their cheerful enthusiasm that generates all those sales. Many thanks to Ray Broms, Judy Bell-Qualls, Peggy Grant, Jane Meloy, and Norma van der Meulen. Additionally, Norma designs and creates many beautiful jewelry pieces for the Suq which draw



Figure 1. Florence Ovadia in the Suq

many returning customers. Unfortunately, we had to say good-bye to Jane at the beginning of this fiscal year. She had some great ideas for display that we augmented in the Suq. She even donated the framing for two of our posters, which did sell this year! Our student employees Matthew Hess who has been invaluable in the office and Dylan Genest who keeps us well stocked have been a delight to work with.

It is with a very heavy heart that we say good-bye to Florence Ovadia (fig. 1). She has meticulously installed and maintained the displays for the Suq for over thirty years! Her art background and her knowledge of the Near East have been invaluable! The Suq will not be the same without her.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Anna R. Ressman

The past year has been a fruitful time for the Photography Department. We were helped in all our work by Digital Photography Assistant Bryce Lowry, a current PhD candidate in anthropology. He has been working hard on the record photography aspect of the current Metals Survey and Re-housing Project as well as acting as an assistant and object handler in the Photography Studio. We were helped by an excellent volunteer, Mac Ragan, who diligently spent over fifty hours on the recent images produced for the Khorsabad Large Objects Project from November 2011 through March 2012. From March to June 2012 we were joined by John J. Whitcomb, an architectural student intern learning the effects of light on three-dimensional space and how to modify light for specific effects. The Photography Department is very grateful to these three people; without their hard work and dedication, much of what we accomplished this year would have been impossible.

A new rapid digital imaging station was set up in Small Objects Storage so that record photography of the Metals Survey and Re-housing Project could go forward in tandem with regularly scheduled studio photography work. We are very lucky to have Bryce Lowry committed to continuing the work on this project through the upcoming fiscal year of 2012–2013. He came to the Photography Department as the first MAPSS intern in the 2007–2008 term with no prior photography experience. He returned in 2010 and has since worked very hard to learn the complex skills needed to do the lighting and photography for this project as well as the many computer programs needed to process and catalog the resulting images. The new rapid digital imaging station allows the record photography of metals objects to be

done as they are re-housed by the conservators as well as providing a work station for the processing and cataloging of the thousands of images the project is creating. This new rapid digital imaging station also paves the way for future rapid digital imaging projects, giving the Photography Department, and the Museum, an important and flexible resource for years to come.

In August 2011 work began on new photography for the catalog for the special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*. A total of 45 archaeological objects and archival items were photographed, resulting in 163 new images. In February of 2012, work began on new photography for the upcoming special exhibit *Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt* (fig. 1). There were



Figure 1. Photographing OIM E10504 with new photography studio equipment

65 archaeological objects and archival items photographed, and 204 new photographs were created. Throughout the 2011–2012 year, an additional 64 objects and architectural features were photographed for miscellaneous individual requests for study, publication, loan, and exhibition. These requests resulted in 503 new photographs. Oriental Institute Museum photography has been published in numerous national and international outlets over the past year and a large, fine art print was exhibited at the Chicago Cultural Center as part of the exhibition *Write Now: Artists and Letterforms*.

Beginning in September 2011 and finishing in June 2012, the Photography Studio has undergone a dramatic renovation. All the old equipment, and the shelving that housed it, was taken out of the studio thanks to some hard labor by Bryce Lowry, Erik Lindahl, and Brian Zimerle. With new funding from the Oriental Institute, we were able to upgrade the studio equipment to current and future-compatible digital photography technologies. High-output fluorescent lights, flexible stands, a new light table, LED lights, and a new studio stand were all purchased. The Photography Studio equipment now matches the recent upgrades to new computer and camera equipment upgraded over the past couple of years. It has even been upgraded to High Definition video capabilities. Overall, the 2011–2012 fiscal year has been an exciting and productive year for the Photography Department.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

Overleaf: Restoration of Neo-Assyrian wall painting from Residence K, Khorsabad, Iraq. Charles B. Altman, ca. 1935. Archival print. 75 x 48 cm. Collection of the Oriental Institute. Oriental Institute digital image D. 17478. Picturing the Past Catalog No. 20. Photo by Anna Ressler

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Carole Krucoff

Introduction

Innovation, productivity, and collaboration were the watchwords for Public Education this past year. The vitality of the department is due to the dedication and creativity of its staff and interns, its extraordinary volunteers, and the support and expertise of Oriental Institute faculty, staff, and students. This past year we worked together to develop public programs that attracted 5,689 adults, children, and their families — more than 10 percent of the Museum's 50,000 visitors. Our programs ranged from concerts in partnership with the Hyde Park Jazz Festival to seminars where museum experts offered rare glimpses of the fascinating living histories of ancient artifacts as they traveled “from ground to gallery” (fig. 1).

We also provided more than 5,100 school and community group visitors with a docent led-tour of the galleries, and we reached over 750,000 online visitors — a record-breaking number — with our web-based educational services for teachers, students, and families.

It was a pleasure this year to welcome new staff members, who brought us their energy and fresh ideas. Sue Geshwender became Volunteer Programs Associate in September 2011. Moriah Grooms-Garcia joined us in February 2012 as Education Programs Associate, the position held previously by Kathryn (Kat) Silverstein. While Kat is no longer with us, her development of creative new program initiatives is described in the pages that follow.

Each year since my arrival to head the Oriental Institute's Public Education Department in 1992, I have had the opportunity to write an annual report describing the department's successes, along with its occasional challenges, as we developed programming to bring the ancient world and the work of the Oriental Institute to life for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. By the time this year's report is published, I will have retired as Head of Public Education and the department will have welcomed a new leader. So this year I have asked Education staff to share their own thoughts about their specific areas of concentration. Wendy Ennes, Associate Head of Education, joined by Kathryn Grossman, graduate student content advisor, will tell you about groundbreaking online initiatives. Moriah Grooms-Garcia, Education Programs Associate, will describe the successes of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center (KADC) and the



Figure 1. Laura D'Alessandro, Head of Conservation, points out a trace of original pigment on a Khorsabad relief during the program *From Ground to Gallery: The Secret Life of Museum Objects*. Photo by Carole Krucoff

PUBLIC EDUCATION

related programs that she, Kat Silverstein, and graduate student content advisor Megaera Lorenz, have developed. Education Outreach Specialists Cathy Dueñas and Terry Friedman, assisted by Sue Geshwender, will portray a year filled with new and meaningful initiatives for our docents and volunteers. All these new ventures have benefitted from the invaluable guidance and support of Public Education's Faculty Working Group. Its members are Fred Donner, Professor of Near Eastern history, Chairman; Jack Green, Oriental Institute Museum Chief Curator; Donald Whitcomb, Research Associate (Assistant Professor) of Islamic archaeology; and Christopher Woods, Associate Professor of Sumerian.

My role for this report is to describe the adult education and youth and family projects that have been my particular areas of concentration this year, and then offer some reflections as I look back on the past twenty years of public programming at the Oriental Institute.

Adult Education

Presenting rich and meaningful adult education programming to serve longtime friends and attract new audiences has always been central to the mission of the Public Education Department. This past year we partnered with faculty, graduate students, Museum staff, and community organizations to develop a broad range of courses and events inspired by the Museum's special exhibits and Oriental Institute research.

Courses

Most of our on-campus adult education courses are offered by Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations graduate students in collaboration with the University of Chicago's Graham School of General Studies. This year, our joint multi-session courses included:

- Ancient Egyptian Religion, taught by Jonathan Winnerman
- Beyond the Stereotypes: The Persian Empire Revealed, taught by Tytus Mikołajczak
- Elam: Iran's Oldest Civilization, taught by Tobin Hartnell

While multi-session adult education courses such as these have long been a popular option at the Oriental Institute, recent years have seen a drop in enrollment, with many members and friends telling us they no longer have the time to commit to class sessions that take place over several weeks. With that in mind, this year we developed *From Ground to Gallery: The Secret Life of Museum Objects*, a special four-session series with each session focused on the fascinating living history — from ancient times to the present — of a selected object in the Museum's collection.

The brainchild of Megaera Lorenz, a graduate student content advisor for Public Education, the *Ground to Gallery* series enabled participants to sign up for as many sessions as would fit their schedule. The sessions included:

- The Lamassu and the Khorsabad Reliefs, presented by Jack Green, Chief Curator, and Laura D'Alessandro, Head of the Conservation Laboratory (fig. 2)
- The Persepolis Fortification Archives, presented by Matthew Stolper, John A. Wilson Professor of Oriental Studies and Director of the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project; Miller Prosser, Research Project Professional; and graduate student Tytus Mikołajczak

- The Dead Sea Scrolls, presented by Norman Golb, Ludwig Rosenberger Professor of Jewish History and Civilization, and Eric Jobe, PhD candidate in Northwest Semitic philology
- Ancient Egyptian Fakes and Forgeries, presented by Helen McDonald, Registrar, and Megaera Lorenz, PhD candidate in Egyptology

The popularity of this series, whose sessions sold out almost as soon as they were announced, gave us a new model to meet the changing needs and interests of our adult education audience.

Our correspondence courses are another way to provide adult education — particularly for far-flung members and friends, or those who for other reasons cannot commit to attending courses on campus. This past year, Hieroglyphs by Mail, taught by Andrew Baumann and Vanessa Davies, and Cuneiform by Mail, taught by Monica Phillips and Seunghee Yie, attracted ninety-seven participants whose locations ranged from New York to California, and from Norway to Chile. Distance-learning courses featuring the best practices in online education are an exciting new departmental initiative that Wendy Ennes describes in her section of this report.



Figure 2. Chief Curator Jack Green shares “behind-the-scenes” information about the Museum’s collection during the program *From Ground to Gallery: The Secret Life of Museum Objects*. Photo by Carole Krucoff

Special Adult Education Events

In addition to formal courses, we offered a wide variety of single-session adult education events throughout the year. Many highlighted the Museum’s special exhibits and featured presentations by faculty, Museum staff, students, and guest speakers.

In the summer and fall we offered five public programs led by Emily Teeter in conjunction with the special exhibit *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization*. Emily, who curated this special exhibit, offered two lunchtime tours of *Before the Pyramids*, each attracting many visitors from across the campus and Hyde Park. We also partnered with two Hyde Park cultural institutions on unique programs that introduced us to new audiences. Robie House, the Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece that is our neighbor on campus, invited us to join their After Hours evening program. This wine-and-hors d’oeuvres reception included informal tours of Robie House and also a lecture on *Before the Pyramids* by Emily. Then all the guests joined Emily at the Oriental Institute for a private, after-hours tour of the exhibit. Participants included many Robie House members as well as Chicago newcomers who had never visited the Oriental Institute.

We also partnered with the Hyde Park Art Center on *Cocktails and Clay: Ancient Egyptian Style*, an evening event that introduced us to a new, young adult audience. A regular feature at the Art Center, *Cocktails and Clay* invites guests to try their hand at ceramic-art making. At this version of the event, Emily Teeter brought images of ancient Egyptian ceramics and

PUBLIC EDUCATION



Figure 3. Emily Teeter, far right, points out decorative details on ancient Egyptian pottery as participants make sketches during the program *Decorating Ancient-Style Ceramics*.



Figure 4. (left) This participant was inspired to paint a ceramic piece with motifs from ancient Iran during *Decorating Ancient-Style Ceramics*. Photos by Carole Krucoff

a reproduction of a vessel on view in *Before the Pyramids* for a presentation that gave guests examples to use in the clay sessions.

As a follow-up to *Cocktails and Clay*, we offered *Decorating Ancient-Style Ceramics*, a hands-on workshop at the Oriental Institute. Guests toured the galleries with Emily to learn about and sketch the exquisitely decorated ceramic art on exhibit (fig. 3) and then joined teaching artist Aurora Tabor to decorate their own version of a pre-fired ancient-style pot. One of the beautiful outcomes of their work is pictured in figure 4.

The special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East* inspired several programs. A highlight was the public symposium developed with our museum colleagues to explore the many ways archaeological sites and artifacts have been documented by paintings, models, photographs, and the latest high-tech visualizations. Breasted Hall was filled to near capacity as presenters examined the ways these images are produced and the impact they can have on our understanding — or misunderstanding — of the ancient Middle East.

The *Picturing the Past* symposium featured speakers from the Oriental Institute as well as guest lecturers, who all fielded numerous questions from the audience during a lively panel discussion after the individual presentations. Speakers from the Oriental Institute included:

- Jack Green, Chief Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum and Co-Curator of *Picturing the Past*
- Emily Teeter, Special Exhibits Coordinator and exhibit Co-Curator.

Guest speakers included:

- Eric Carlson, archaeologist and archaeological illustrator
- Donald H. Sanders, President of the Institute for the Visualization of History

- Michael J. Seymour, Research Associate in the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and former Project Curator in the Department of the Middle East, British Museum (fig. 5)

Picturing the Past also inspired two special film series with screenings accompanied by discussion sessions with scholars. “Virtual Iran” presented three documentaries by internationally acclaimed filmmaker Farzin Rezaeian, who uses cutting-edge technologies to showcase the art and archaeology of Iran. Tobin Hartnell, graduate of the University’s Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, led a discussion after each screening and then invited everyone to see how clips from the films were integrated into the Picturing the Past exhibit.

“Hollywood Pictures the Past” let us explore a topic not covered in the special exhibit — how movies have influenced our views about the ancient world. Morag Kersel, Oriental Institute Research Associate and Assistant Professor of anthropology at DePaul University, led discussions on how some directors and producers designed their films purely as entertainment, while others turned to historical and literary sources in an effort to convey the complexity of life in ancient times. The films in this series included:

- *The Ten Commandments* (1923) Cecil B. DeMille’s lavish silent film masterpiece
- *The Egyptian* (1954) A classic of the “sword and sandal” era (fig. 6)
- *Troy* (2004) a blockbuster depiction of the Trojan War, loosely based on the Iliad

Curator-led tours are always well received by our visitors. Each of the three co-curators of Picturing the Past offered public tours of the exhibit this past year. Emily Teeter gave an introductory tour, Jack Green gave a unique guided look at the exhibit’s behind-the-scenes development, and John Larson, Oriental Institute Mu-



Figure 5. Michael J. Seymour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a guest presenter for the Picturing the Past symposium, discusses a widely recognized, but utterly incorrect, image of the ziggurat at Babylon, a structure often considered the basis for the biblical account of the Tower of Babel. Photo by Wendy Ennes

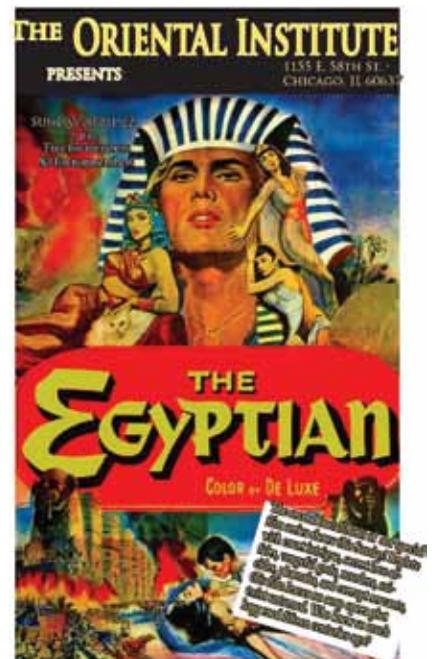


Figure 6. Poster for the showing of the sword-and-sandal classic *The Egyptian* during the “Hollywood Pictures the Past” film series. Design by Augusta Gudeman

PUBLIC EDUCATION



Figure 7. François Gaudard points out an image of ancient Egyptians harvesting grapes to use in wine-making for the *Uncorking the Past* tour and wine-tasting program. Photo by Carole Krucoff

seum Archivist, shared his expertise on the role photography has played in recording archaeological expeditions and discoveries.

Other special programs also attracted new audiences. *Uncorking the Past*, a museum tour and wine reception, highlighted ancient wine-making, drinking practices, and the cultural significance of alcoholic beverages in the ancient Middle East. Led by François Gaudard, Egyptologist and Oriental Institute Research Associate, and Tate Paulette, PhD candidate in ancient Near Eastern art and archaeology, the tour portion of the program featured the many objects on view that relate to wine making and drinking (fig. 7). This event, which included a tasting of contemporary Middle Eastern wines, received city-wide publicity and attracted a sold-out crowd of visitors, many of whom had never before come to the Oriental Institute. Most told us this kind of single-session program, which combines a rich learning experience with a social gathering, is just the kind of activity they are seeking as an introduction to a cultural institution.

Hosting jazz concerts as part of the Hyde Park Jazz Festival continues to draw our largest audi-

ence of new visitors. This year, Breasted Hall was filled to overflowing as vocal stylist Sarah Marie Young, backed by the Tom Fitzgerald Quartet, thrilled the crowd with her stellar jazz abilities, sassy personality, and sparkling showmanship (fig. 8). Long lines also filled the building as jazz fans awaited seating in the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery for two performances presented by the Tomeka Reid trio. An increasingly acclaimed figure on the Chicago jazz scene, cellist Reid, joined by bassist Josh Abrams and guitarist Matt Schneider, filled the Persian Gallery's magnificent setting with luminous sounds that merged jazz, classical, and experimental music. All told, our Jazz Festival concerts attracted more than 600 visitors, many of whom had never been to the Oriental Institute. Most asked to be signed up for the *E-Tablet* and are now regularly receiving event and membership information.



Figure 8. Vocal stylist Sarah Marie Young, backed by the Tom Fitzgerald Quartet, filled Breasted Hall to overflowing during her Hyde Park Jazz Festival concert at the Oriental Institute. Photo by Carole Krucoff

Outreach and Partnerships with the University Community

Collaboration with departments and organizations on campus to serve the University and the wider community remained important for us this year. We offered special docent-led tours featuring the *Before the Pyramids* special exhibit during the University's Humanities Day in the fall. These tours filled to capacity with many visitors who were new to the Institute. During alumni weekend in June we offered tours and special hands-on programming for families, along with the opportunity to join in a simulated excavation in the KADC. However, outreach to the University's student community took center stage for us this year.

During orientation week in September, we joined with the Membership Department to take part in campus-wide student resource fairs, where we informed new arrivals of our free student membership program. We also offered a museum tour and reception that attracted eighty new freshmen. These outreach efforts brought us many new student members, who continued their relationship with the Oriental Institute throughout the year during special Membership events arranged for both new and returning student members. Membership and Education agree that the student membership program is key to building on-campus awareness and making the Oriental Institute integral to student life.

Providing opportunities for students to have an in-depth internship experience at the Oriental Institute was also a high priority. Over the past several years we have partnered with Morris Fred of the University of Chicago's Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS) to provide students with a "laboratory" to experience the many ways the Institute and its Museum serve both the academic and wider community. This year eight MAPSS interns joined us, some working for the Museum Archives, Registration, or doing marketing research; their contributions will be described in the *Museum* section of this annual report.

Public Education could not have managed without the invaluable support of MAPSS interns Kyle Fashel, KADC Facilitor; Corey McGee, Education Programs Assistant; and Jane Messah-Ericksen and Margaret Schillington, who worked alongside Wendy Ennes on the content editing as well as the technological aspects for new online courses. In addition, some graduates from the previous year's MAPSS program stayed on to continue contributing their time and talents as interns. These included KADC Facilitor Matthew Nunnelley, Abigail Abisinito, who focused on marketing, and Huiying Chen, whose database skills, organizational abilities, and programmatic insights benefitted both Education and the Museum. Chen served as a program presenter and evaluator. She also began the Museum's process of translating special exhibit labels into Chinese for the growing tourist audience, and she helped with research on ways museums of all disciplines serve those who have low vision or are blind, an initiative that Public Education is exploring as an important outreach venture.



Figure 9. Staff and several of our many invaluable interns take a break to smile for the camera during a planning session for new programs. Seated left: Megaera Lorenz, graduate student content advisor. Seated right: Intern Kendra Grimmert. Standing, left to right: Kat Silverstein, former Education Programs Associate, and interns Allison Hegel, Susan Jones, and Huiying Chen. Photo by Carole Krucoff

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Interns beyond the MAPSS program also deserve special mention. Augusta Gudeman, a University of Chicago undergraduate in anthropology, used her writing and design skills to become our public relations expert. Allison Hegel, a University of Chicago Metcalf Scholarship intern, assisted Wendy with the ACCESS teacher professional development project that is described in the following pages. Kendra Grimmett, recent University of Chicago graduate in art history, who had previously interned as KADC facilitator, stayed on to lend her insights and expertise for new program development (fig. 9). Contributions to the Volunteer Program by interns Arparupa Chakravarti, Susan Jones, and Erin Minnaugh will appear in the *Volunteer Program* section.

Youth and Family Programs

Public Education offered long-time favorite programs as well as a new initiative for youth and families this year. Outreach formats helped us reach new audiences. Programs at the Museum enabled us to serve old friends and attract new visitors.

Outreach Programs

Reorganization and structural change in the administration of the city of Chicago's cultural programming this past year brought about an hiatus in the myriad of opportunities that had enabled us, and other museums, to interact with hundreds, even thousands, of parents and children city wide. The department is working on ways to collaborate once more with the city, but in the meantime we focused this year on two highly successful outreach programs with local partners.

The 57th Street Children's Book Fair has been an annual Hyde Park celebration of books and reading since its start twenty-six years ago. The Oriental Institute has the distinction of being the only community institution that has taken part in the fair since it began. This year, our Book Fair booth was surrounded by parents and children eager to make ancient Egyptian-style scrolls, learn about scribes and hieroglyphic script, and stamp hieroglyphs onto papyrus strips to make their own bookmarks (fig. 10). As in the past, the Book Fair let us introduce the Oriental Institute to both local and citywide families at this fall event.

In the spring, we partnered with the National Museum of Mexican Art for *Día del Niño*, an annual event that attracts thousands of families from the Latino community. This program enables us to share information about all the bilingual services now available at the Oriental Institute. These include English/Spanish museum activity cards and interactive computer kiosks, audio tours for children and adults, special exhibit labels in Spanish, and an *Información en Español* page on the Institute's website. During *Día del Niño* more than 1,000 parents and children

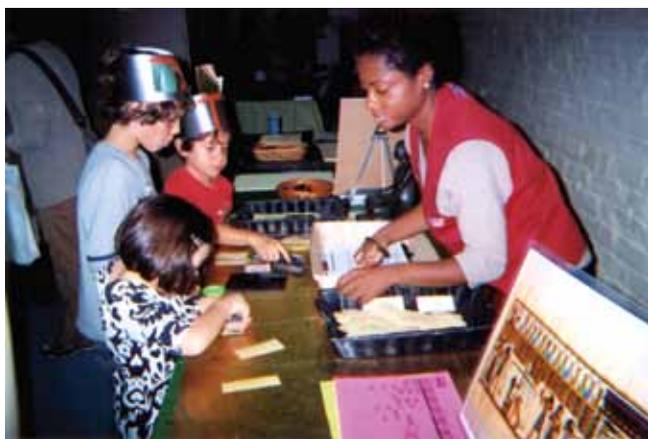


Figure 10. Volunteer Erica Griffin helps children at the Oriental Institute booth make a papyrus bookmark during the 57th Street Children's Book Fair. Photo by Carole Krucoff

lined up at our table to make ancient-Egyptian style crowns and necklaces, and receive samples of our bilingual materials as well as directions to the Oriental Institute (fig. 11). This is our fourth year at the event, and each time we encounter more families who have heard of the Institute, some telling us that they have seen the bilingual posters and materials we have sent to all of Chicago's public libraries. As encouragement to visit the Museum we provided everyone who stopped by our table with a coupon to redeem at the Suq for a free museum audio tour. This will allow the department to track attendance inspired by *Día del Niño*.

At the Museum

Mummies took center stage at the Museum in October, when more than 250 parents and children joined us for Mummies Night, our pre-Halloween celebration that has become a Hyde Park tradition. Docents, interns, and staff joined together to present a “tomb-full” of favorite activities ranging from getting up close and personal with a reproduction mummy to dressing up in costumes from “King Tut's Closet,” and from folding origami pyramids, to joining in the “Guess the Mummy Lollipops” contest. New activities included face painting, creating spooky spiders, and decoding a secret message from the mummy Meresamun (fig. 12). A good time was had by all!

Our reproduction mummy, affectionately named Jesser-hotep, reappeared to play a starring role in “The Secret of the Mummies,” a special activity for families developed as part of the Volunteer Program's new thematic tour initiative spearheaded by Sue Geshwender. On select Sunday afternoons, visitors can take a hands-on role in a recreated mummification process, enjoy a tour featuring the mummies in our Egyptian Gallery, and then view *Mummies Made in Egypt*, the award-winning children's film from the Reading Rainbow series.

Along with special programs for parents and children, every day is family day at the Oriental Institute. Our interactive computers are regularly in use (fig. 13) and this past year over 9,000 of our full-color Family Activity Cards, which can be found in nearly every gallery, were taken home by museum visitors.



Figure 11. An exhausted but happy crew sit behind an empty table after more than 1,000 visitors used up nearly all our supplies during the *Día del Niño* event. Seated left to right: Interns Augusta Gudeman and Corey McGee, and Catherine Dueñas, Volunteer Coordinator. Standing left to right: docents Semra Prescott and Gabriele DaSilva. Photo by Carole Krucoff



Figure 12. Dressed in ancient Egyptian-style costume, docents Rebecca Binkley-Albright and Stephen Ritzel help visitors decode a secret hieroglyphic message during Mummy's Night. Photo by Wendy Ennes

A Look Back and a Look to the Future

Looking back over the history of the past twenty years, I am reminded of the many people who have made the achievements of the Education Department possible. I would like to thank my predecessor Joan Barghusen for the strong foundation she laid to ensure that public education would grow and thrive at the Oriental Institute. My gratitude to Gil Stein and Steve Camp, who guide, support, and honor the work of Public Education. The department truly appreciates your generosity and your belief in us.

Heartfelt thanks to Karen Wilson, former Museum director, who hired me, and then gave her full support to new ventures, as did Geoff Emberling when he arrived to lead the Museum, and as do Jack Green and Emily Teeter today.

A special thank-you to Oriental Institute faculty, staff, and students — many mentioned in this report — who have always willingly shared their time and expertise. While it is not possible to mention by name everyone who has supported us over time, I am grateful to you all for helping to make the work of Public Education rewarding and professionally fulfilling.

Finally, thank-you to the Public Education staff, my colleagues and friends; Wendy Ennes, Associate Head of Public Education, who has continually motivated us with her brilliance, vision, and drive; Moriah Grooms-Garcia, newest on staff, who has mastered so beautifully all aspects of her position as Education Programs Associate that it feels as if she has always been with us. Sue Geshwender, Volunteer Program Associate, who has revitalized us all with her fresh outlook on data management and tour techniques. The dedication, generosity, and creativity of Cathy Dueñas and Terry Friedman, Education Outreach Specialists, have made them role models and sources of inspiration for their colleagues and all of our volunteers. There are no words to express how grateful I am for what Public Education's staff and volunteers do for the Institute, the University, and the many communities we strive to serve. This past

year the volunteers who contributed their gifts of time and talent to special public events and programs included: Michael Begun, Christel Betz, Rebecca Binkley-Albright, Grace Brody, Gabriella Cohen, D'Ann Condes, Gabriele DaSilva, Margaret Foorman, Dario Giacomoni, Erica Griffin, Stuart Kleven, Marilyn Murray, Kathy Minneck, Demetria Nanos, Semra Prescott, Stephen Ritzel, Deloris Sanders, Mae Simon, Dee Spiech, Mari Terman, Robert Threate, Carole Yoshida, and Agnes Zellner.

I would like to end by saying that the work of an education department, whether in a museum or a cultural institution such as ours, sometimes seems so much more ephemeral than an exhibit, or a book, or a body of research. But the outcomes of such programs as a symposium or a course that makes meaningful connections between ancient and contemporary times, or the presentation of a teachers' program that transforms an educator's classroom practice, or the opportunity for a child touring the museum to discover what it might be like to make a significant archaeological discovery — these are as lasting as any other educational experience a cultural institution can provide, and they



Figure 13. A father and his children are intently engaged with the interactives on our museum gallery computer kiosks. Photo by Wendy Ennes

are what can form a bond between that visitor and the institution. I truly appreciate the opportunity to have led a department filled with masters of such educational programming. Read on to experience the quality of their work and their dedication to it in the reports they have provided. These will show that the department is ready to forge ahead with exciting, innovative, and lasting ways to share the history, written traditions, and art of the ancient Middle East with ever more wide-ranging and diverse audiences. Stay tuned!

Public Education Initiative: Developing the Virtual Classroom

Wendy Ennes

As University of Chicago graduate students move toward the completion of their doctoral studies they benefit from opportunities to develop and practice their own approach to teaching within the context of the university setting. To that end, for thirty years, the Oriental Institute's Public Education Department has offered enriched graduate-level teaching opportunities and experiences to students in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Teaching an adult education course offers every nascent professor the opportunity to hone their craft, develop a unique intellectual presentation style, and provides a responsive adult audience who appreciates our research and fresh approaches to scholarly content.

Since the Internet and computer technologies continue to advance the ways we communicate with one another and share information, we have witnessed our attendance slowly drop off for our traditional multi-session, on-campus adult education courses. Fewer people have the time to commit to a six- or eight-session course that requires them to commute to the University for class sessions. In keeping with these times, Public Education embarked on the exciting journey of delivering Oriental Institute content and research using the Internet.

The Oriental Institute has always been at the forefront of innovation in its research as well as its educational outreach to our public audiences. In 1996, when the Internet was still in its infancy, the Public Education Department announced its first online course, *An Introduction to Ancient Egypt*. Taught by Peter Piccione, then a graduate student and now Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of Charleston, South Carolina, the course was offered twice and both sessions filled to capacity. That same year, this online venture — a first for the Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago — was acknowledged as a major education innovation by the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Over the next several years, the Public Education Department offered online courses on a variety of topics. While they did not employ the sophisticated online learning management systems available today, these courses used the functionality of the Internet to great advantage and paved the way for things to come.

In 2003, the Public Education Department won a National Leadership grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to support the creation of the national online resource *Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History*. Aside from developing the Institute's first publicly accessible database of artifacts from the Oriental Institute Museum and the creation of learning interactives for K-12 students, a portion of the same federal

PUBLIC EDUCATION

support went toward the development, completion, and offering of an online course about ancient Mesopotamian history. Intended to expose K–12 educators to sound academic scholarship about ancient Mesopotamia, the Public Education Department collaborated with the Graham School in 2007, 2008, and 2009 to offer the course as a graduate credit opportunity for K–12 teachers across the country. When it became clear that the cost of University of Chicago graduate credit was unsustainable for this audience, we made the decision in 2010 to refocus the course and offer it as a new adult education opportunity.

In 2011, the stars finally aligned for this important Public Education initiative to truly take off. As the first University of Chicago unit to offer an online course to the public using Chalk, once again the Oriental Institute was at the forefront of innovation. The Chalk team implemented a major upgrade of the Chalk Learning Management System software to a much more user-friendly version of Blackboard. We partnered with the University’s Information Technology Services team to find database workarounds to manually register and provide CNET ids and access to Chalk for all of our adult continuing-education clients. Finally, and most importantly, we invited Public Education’s graduate student content advisor, Kathryn Grossman, to write and develop the content for a new adult education online course entitled *The Dawn of History: Society and Culture in Ancient Mesopotamia* (fig. 14). Christopher Woods, Assistant Professor of Sumerology, and Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein both contributed to reviewing and editing Kathryn’s content.

The development process to produce an excellent online course experience for any learner should adhere to best industry practices. It somewhat follows the same process as the development of a major website containing numerous web pages. Written content is “chunked” for easy reading over the Internet and supplemented by copyright-approved

The screenshot shows the Chalk LMS interface. At the top, the University of Chicago logo and 'CHALK' branding are visible. The user is logged in as 'Wendy Jones'. The course title is 'OIC (Wiscor 123) The Dawn of History: Society and Culture in Ancient Mesopotamia'. The main content area is titled 'INTRODUCTION' and shows the beginning of a text block: 'The remains of the great civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia were virtually unknown to the western world prior to their "rediscovery" in the mid 19th century. Since that time, our knowledge of these Mesopotamian societies has grown in leaps and bounds. For many people, however, the region still exerts the pull of the "mysterious Orient" - a fascination driven by romantic images of once-vibrant cities now standing isolated in desert wastelands and by the compelling historical connections to well-known Biblical stories. For Americans, in particular, several decades of war in Iraq have brought images of the Tigris and Euphrates Valleys into our homes through television and newspapers. And yet, for all that exposure, the history and archaeology of ancient Mesopotamia remain much less well known to the general public than those of ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome.' Below the text is a painting of a landscape with a large mound of earth and several figures in the foreground. The interface also includes a 'Table of Contents' sidebar and a 'COURSE MANAGEMENT' sidebar.

Figure 14. Beginning with the Orientation, course participants are first guided through the online course interface, then onto the Introduction to Course Content

or copyright-free images, videos, audio recordings, and academic readings. All content is housed within the Chalk environment. Participants are provided with clear instructional and navigational pathways through an Orientation to the web interface, an introductory discussion board exercise called an “icebreaker,” course expectations, and then on to learning the scholarly content. Since everyone learns differently — some people are auditory learners, some are visual, some learn by doing, and some absorb information by reading — it is important to provide a wide range of ways and resources for these audiences to engage with our online content. And, since many of our learners are also retirees, some of whom have limited technical expertise navigating the Internet and using different software and plug-ins, it is especially important to provide trouble-free technological inroads to online course content as well as 24/7 technical support.

The discussion board is the life-blood of any distance learning activity that employs best practices. Timing and pacing a course to encourage asynchronous learning and a sense of community among participants that are scattered across countries and continents can be tricky. An asynchronous course means that students, teachers, and facilitators can log in and out of the course environment and engage with the course content according to their own personal schedules. To foster that critical sense of community for Kathryn’s inaugural Chalk course we provided deadlines and guidelines in tandem with readings, links, and imagery that were tied in with engaging assessment strategies as well as participatory incentives, such as grading and journaling.

On January 16, 2012, Kathryn Grossman’s eight-week online course, *The Dawn of History: Society and Culture in Ancient Mesopotamia*, was launched. It was filled to capacity with twenty-five passionate, adult twenty-first century learners from across the United States, Canada, and Brazil. With the resounding success of this online course Public Education’s future plans include developing more online courses so that we can continue to meet the needs and interests of the large world-wide population of retiring baby boomers around the world who embrace learning. We are also in the process of developing a training program for NELC graduate students who should learn best practices before undertaking teaching online. Now, please enjoy following Kathryn’s story below as she experienced teaching online for the first time!

Teaching in the Virtual Classroom

Kathryn Grossman

The Dawn of History: Society and Culture in Ancient Mesopotamia was a very different — and incredibly rewarding — teaching experience. Most Oriental Institute adult education courses are lectures, augmented with outside readings and in-class discussions; this course, however, was hosted entirely on the web, allowing students from around the world to participate. Most courses have a regular weekly meeting time on campus or at the Gleacher Center downtown; this course was asynchronous, meaning that course materials were available around the clock and that all interactions between the students and the instructor would take place as posts and responses hosted on the course website. Instead of listening to a traditional

The image shows a screenshot of the Chalk course interface. At the top, the University of Chicago logo and 'CHALK' branding are visible. The navigation bar includes 'My Chalk', 'Coming Soon', 'Dashboard', 'Help Resources', 'Community', and 'Services'. The main content area is titled 'SCRIBES AND LITERACY' and is page 13 of 26. On the left, there is a 'Table of Contents' sidebar with a tree view showing sections like 'INTRODUCTION', 'MESOPOTAMIAN SCRIPTS AND LANGUAGES', 'SCRIBES AND LITERACY', and 'TYPES OF TEXTS'. The 'SCRIBES AND LITERACY' section is expanded, showing sub-items like 'Scribes and Society', 'Scribal Training', and 'Oral Traditions'. The main content area features a text block about Mesopotamian literacy and an embedded video player. The video player shows a man with glasses speaking in front of a bookshelf. Below the video, the title 'Scribes in Mesopotamia' and video details are visible.

Figure 15. Embedded videos enhance learning within the Chalk course interface

lecture, students had access each week to a new “module.” Each module included a weekly reading, richly illustrated with web links and audio, video, and image files (fig. 15). Modules also contained a glossary of terms, a map of sites mentioned in the reading, a short quiz, a private journaling task, and a discussion assignment, all organized around a common theme.

Of all these components, it was the students’ avid participation in the discussion board that became the focal point of the course. Each week, students were asked to engage with the module’s theme by examining images of artifacts, reading scholarly articles, or watching videos of lectures and then answering a series of questions in the discussion board forum. Although the discussion board assignment was usually due six days after it was posted on the website, responses to the assignment often began appearing less than twelve hours after it had been posted! A typical week saw the twenty-five students in the course writing upwards of 150 posts — long, thoughtful, and often beautifully composed answers to the complex questions posed — as well as comments on other students’ posts. In fact, the time-stamps showed students posting on the discussion board at all hours of the day and night! My role in these discussions was to keep the points relevant to the module, make sure everyone’s voice was heard, correct mistakes, answer the questions that inevitably arose, and, at the end of the week, tie it all together with thoughts on the week’s discussion. Despite the lack of a physical classroom setting, the interaction with the students was, through the back-and-forth of the discussion board, far more intense than in traditional lecture-style courses.

These extensive online conversations — and the asynchronous nature of the course — gave the students a much more personal educational experience. For example, students who might not otherwise speak up in a traditional classroom setting were more comfortable contributing to the online discussions. At the same time, students with prior knowledge of aspects of Near Eastern history and culture were able to add their own experiences to the

group conversation, expanding the scope and range of the topics that we addressed. In addition, students with busy schedules were able to join in at times that suited their lifestyle, a flexibility that encouraged them to participate more fully than set meeting times might allow.

The course was a huge success from the opening of the registration period (which saw it quickly over-subscribed) to the “post-course discussion board” (a forum requested by students who wanted to continue their conversations following the eight-week class). Most course participants logged in at least once a day to check on the progress of a discussion, to add their voice, and to read through the modules. The suggestions and comments that the students submitted weekly in their private online journals were overwhelmingly positive and constructive. And, finally, a survey that students filled out during the last week of the course showed that they were overwhelmingly pleased with the Dawn of History and wanted more online course offerings from the Oriental Institute’s Public Education Department.

The ArcGIS Common Core Education for Sixth Grade Students Project (ACCESS)

Wendy Ennes

Given the recent turmoil and restructuring underway in the Chicago Public Schools, much was accomplished for the ArcGIS Common Core Education for Sixth Grade Students Project (ACCESS), which began in late summer 2010. Generously funded by the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, the ACCESS project was designed by Scott Branting, Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL), and Wendy Ennes, Associate Head of Public Education, in partnership with Martin Moe, Manager of Social Studies and Dr. John Loehr, the past Director of STEM Education for Chicago Public Schools (CPS). The goal of the project is to provide enriched educational opportunities for underserved Chicago Public School students by providing their teachers with new ways to present diverse types of spatial, tabular, and textual data in ways that can engage students who possess a wide variety of learning styles and needs. Because many Chicago Public School students struggle to work with data, form hypotheses, and understand the conceptual connections between cause and effect and since spatial reasoning and the use of spatial technologies are increasingly important in today’s world, there is a need for innovative and easily accessed tools to help educators teach these skills. ArcGIS, which is a suite of industry-standard Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software products, allows users to view, query, manipulate, and edit maps and other sorts of spatial data. The ACCESS project’s focus on ArcGIS for professional development and curriculum creation has enormous potential to assist educators in helping their students to develop vital spatial reasoning, data analysis and critical thinking skills.

The goals of the ACCESS project are to:

1. *Teach* a core group of three top-notch three-person teacher teams (a total of nine teachers, with each team comprised of a social studies, science, and technology teacher) from three underserved CPS schools how to use ArcGIS
2. *Work* with the three-teacher teams to *brainstorm* new curriculum ideas based upon what they learned in the ArcGIS workshops and to have them identify, using evalua-

PUBLIC EDUCATION

tion techniques and tools, six curriculum-related modules that support CPS middle-school curriculum needs and teaching goals.

3. *Produce* six modules in keeping with the curricular goals of the teacher teams
4. *Test* those six modules in the three teacher-team schools
5. And finally, at the end of Year Two, to *provide system-wide distribution of those modules* to all CPS teachers via CPS's online professional development vehicle, Safari Montage.

During this fiscal year, Wendy Ennes, with the help of Metcalf Scholarship intern Allison Hegel, successfully rewrote and redesigned eleven comprehensive ArcGIS teacher-training labs based on the materials used by CAMEL courses for University of Chicago Students. All the labs were revamped with new images, icons, and instructional text (fig. 16). Wendy also worked closely with evaluation specialist Dr. Jonathan Margolin of the American Institutes for Research to create an evaluation crosswalk template, a logic model of the ACCESS pro-

Lab 3: Remote Sensing & Georectification

Introduction

In this lab, we will use ArcGIS to take images, such as scans of paper maps or **Remote Sensing Images**, and link them to a traditional coordinate system. This process is called **georectification**. Once we have georectified our maps and images, we will be able to superimpose them on top of one another.

Remote Sensing Images are the results of mechanisms that capture pictures of the land's surface from a distance, such as photos taken from a satellite. You can get these images from Google Maps or Google Earth. In our labs you'll notice we've used additional sources, such as MODIS, ASTER and CORONA. These are just different types of satellite images. At the end of this lab we've provided a guide to these different formats and links to find these images for free online.

Georectification, a.k.a. georeferencing, means creating reference points to tie our image to ArcMap's coordinate system.

Exercise 1: Georectifying Remote Sensing Images

Objectives

- Tie images to ArcMap's coordinate system
- Manipulate existing and imported maps

Preparing to Georectify an Image

1. Open ArcMap. Choose 'New' from the file menu and select 'Blank Map'. Add *Turkey_clip.tif* using the Add data icon on the Tools bar.

If prompted to build pyramids for the image, click YES.
2. Switch from Layout to Data view.
3. Under the Customize menu, select Toolbars, and then select Georeferencing. This toolbar is what you will use to georectify your images by creating corresponding links between the rectified and unrectified datasets.



1

Figure 16. Redesigned ArcGIS training labs facilitate the ACCESS teacher professional development program

gram that details inputs and outcomes of the project, a pre-training evaluation tool before embarking on the ArcGIS training and a post-training evaluation tool to collect ideas and feedback from educators.

Despite our progress, this fiscal year was a challenging one for the ACCESS project. The largest challenge was scheduling the professional development training for the nine educators during July 2012. Despite the Chicago Public Schools being on the brink of a teacher strike, we were successful in finding five schools that were interested in participating in the project but were unable to reach a consensus as to a suitable date for attending the two week-long ArcGIS training. Once events in Chicago Public Schools have settled down, with continued support from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, we are hopeful that this upcoming school year will prove to be more successful.

The Development of the Front End for the Museum Collections and Research Archives Database

Wendy Ennes

Getting the Oriental Institute's collections database up and running has been a major institutional initiative for the past several years. Developing the web front end, the graphical user interface (GUI), and the search features and functions for a framework that will house all data and serve our various audiences — faculty, scholars, research associates, volunteers, the public, and staff — is but one facet in the very long and involved process of digitizing our collections. With support of a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a team comprised of many people throughout the Oriental Institute and beyond worked hard this fiscal year to make the development of a web front-end a reality for museum collections and the Research Archives catalog data.

With invaluable assistance from Project Manager Angela Spinazze, Project Director Scott Branting, Integrated Database Team Member John Sanders (for more information about this project, please see the *Computer Laboratory* section), Evaluator Julia Brazas, Web Designers Steven Lane and Dora Fraeman, and Programmer Alan Takaoka, Wendy Ennes ran three separate evaluation sessions with three very different types of user groups to tease out Internet and research use patterns. Our user groups were shown a number of live museum websites from around the world including the very popular Ashmolean Museum website. Each user group was asked a series of questions designed to ignite discussion and tease out the various ways people prefer to conduct searches, see information arranged on a web page, and access imagery related to collections and libraries. Our goal was to incorporate these multiple requests of what our audience needs from a user-friendly web front-end when they access the Museum's collection or the Research Archives catalog online. An effective web front-end sets the tone of our institutional outreach to all our users and it will also provide ease of use for all who come to see the Oriental Institute's collections online.

The three evaluation sessions were conducted in October 2011. During each evaluation session we listened carefully to every user and discussed a wide range of possibilities for the look, feel, and functionality of Internet access to our collections. Once all user responses were

PUBLIC EDUCATION

collected, we consolidated this important feedback and shared it with Web Designers Steven Lane and Dora Fraeman. Steven and Dora then collaborated to develop several wire-frames that illustrate specific search and results functionalities (fig. 17).

The first evaluation session included scholars, researchers, and Oriental Institute faculty. Special thanks to Nadine Moeller, Yorke Rowan, Michael Fisher, Kathryn Grossman, Petra Goedegebuure, Andrew Dix, and Karen Wilson for their invaluable insights. A second evaluation was then conducted with a distinguished group of docents, volunteers, and donors. Special thanks to George Sundell, Andrea Dudek, Sue Geshwender, Terry Friedman, Susan Bazargan, and Margaret Foorman for their clever ideas and suggestions. The third group to provide feedback was a group of K-12 teachers from suburban and Chicago Public Schools. The Oriental Institute's Public Education Department is indebted to the service provided by educators Monica Swope, Jeff Sadoff, Mary Cobb, Maryhelen Matijevic, Janene Maclin, and Lindsay Johnson for reminding us to consider the needs of K-12 teachers and students when they come to the Oriental Institute website to access curriculum-related aspects of the Oriental Institute's collection.

In December 2011, Wendy conducted a final use case study with Oriental Institute researchers and graduate students to finalize our understanding of online research practices. Many thanks go to Nadine Moeller, Kathryn Grossman, Arne Wossink, and Andrew Dix for giving their support to the Oriental Institute's integrated database project. Since so much comprehensive evaluation work was conducted in the earliest stages of development for the

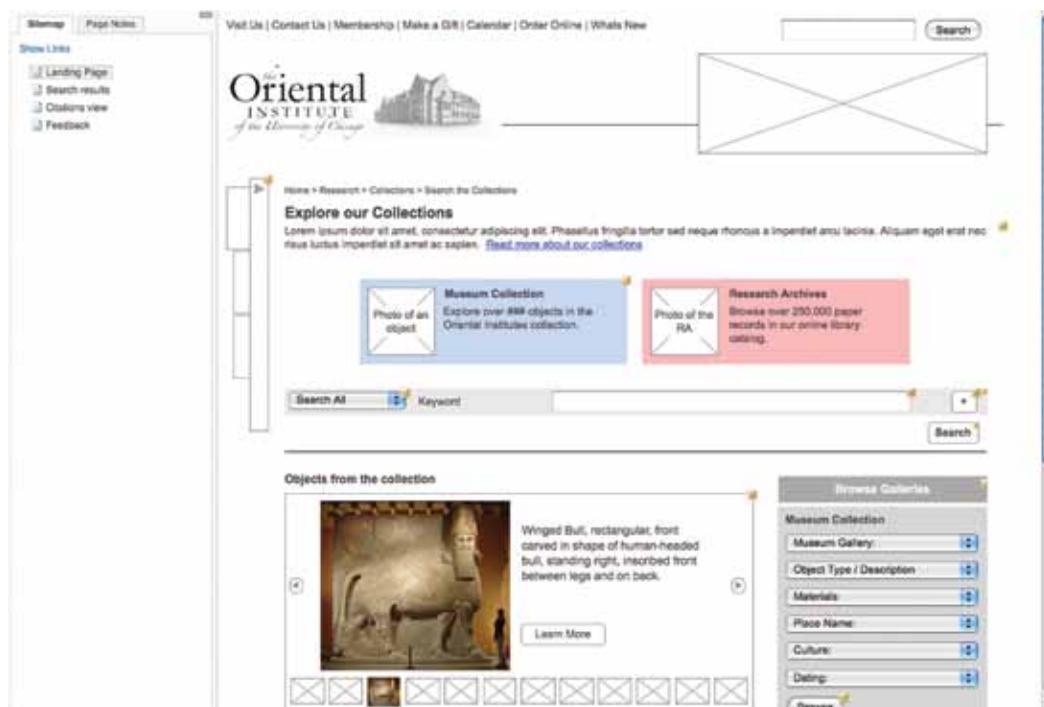


Figure 17. This wireframe of the Oriental Institute's Collections landing page contains the search features and functionality that users will employ to access the collections database. The final web design is currently underway

Institute's collections database, we can be assured that the look and feel of the new front end for Oriental Institute collections will be useful and usable for years to come.

The Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center (KADC) and Artifact Analysis Programs

Moriah Grooms-Garcia

The Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center

This past year a total of 915 visitors dug into the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center (KADC). This simulated archaeological site is based on Tel Megiddo, a major trading hub of the ancient Near East. School groups, families, Boy Scouts, and a University of Chicago class got a chance to explore the science of archaeology hands-on. Using the real tools and systematic (albeit simplified) methods of the pros they uncover replicas of ancient objects, many of which can be found in the Oriental Institute's galleries (fig. 18).

This two-hour program is better than ever with the additions and adjustments made by Kat Silverstein and our graduate student content advisor Megaera Lorenz. The gallery tour, which makes up the second half of the KADC program, now includes interactives to illustrate key ideas: As participants learn about the development of agriculture they handle grain; students roll a replica cylinder seal across moist clay while standing among the cases of Mesopotamian cylinder seals; a picture of a lit ancient lamp facilitates the understanding of lighting a room by oil and wick. These are just three of the interactives held in the KADC facilitators' bag of goodies that give an added tactile element to the gallery tours.

Quotes from KADC participant surveys:

"We loved the dig. ... We liked how we actually got to feel like real archeologists." — Sixth Grader, Highcrest Middle School



Figure 18. Moriah Grooms-Garcia explains the proper use of archaeological tools to the students from Thomas Middle School in Arlington Heights

PUBLIC EDUCATION

“Students have not stopped talking about it! They loved it and really are interested in archaeology.” — Sixth Grade Teacher, Mitchell Elementary School

“I would come back here with my family ... but it wouldn’t be as good, because the [facilitator] makes it.” — Sixth Grader, Caluh Christian School

“I will spread the word of how great it was and we look forward to coming back next year!” — Sixth Grade Teacher, Immaculate Conception St. Joseph School

The last six months has seen the Boy Scout Archaeology Merit Badge program take off. Three of these KADC-centered programs were run, assisting fifty-six boy scouts in earning their badges. Reworked by Megaera Lorenz, the program can now boast to cover three-quarters of the badge’s requirements. Both Megaera and Moriah served as the archaeologists for these sessions, with Erica Griffin and Joshua Day facilitating the other aspects of the badge-earning experience. We enter the next year with the intention of running monthly Boy Scout programs (fig. 19).



Figure 19. Boy Scout troop 729 from Palos Heights earned their archaeology badges with the help of the KADC program

The tel was also put to use during the Be An Ancient Egyptian Artist Camp, which the Oriental Institute co-hosted with the north-side Lillstreet Art Center. In total, forty-five youngsters between the ages of five and eleven attended the week-long camp, which was offered for two sessions during the summer of 2011 and then again in spring 2012. For half the camp’s duration our own KADC facilitators filled the role of “artist-in-residence,” facilitating the making of Egyptian-themed crafts. Based at the Lillstreet Art Center, the camp culminated in a trip to the Oriental

Institute’s KADC and galleries. Over the course of the year Josh Day, Kyle Fahsel, Kendra Grimmett, Moriah Grooms-Garcia, Carole Krucoff, and Matthew Nunnelley were all involved in the presentation of this camp.

The KADC also proved to be a hit for the whole family. Our spring “Junior Archaeologists” program filled to the maximum, bringing in families from as far as Wisconsin. Parents hit the trench right alongside their kids, discovering the ancient past and the science of archaeology as a family.

We will continue to further develop and advertise the KADC, seeking to reach new populations and create variations on the original program. This year we filmed our facilitator Kyle Fahsel present the KADC to a group from the Hyde Park William H. Ray Elementary School. We plan to use the footage for training future KADC facilitators and create promotional footage.

Thanks to our 2011–12 KADC Facilitators! Joshua Day, graduate student-at-large Kyle Fahsel, MAPSS program; Erica Griffin, volunteer; and Emily Ho, undergraduate student.

Artifact Analysis Program

Originally the brainchild of Kat Silverstein, this brand-new hands-on program was further developed by Megaera Lorenz and Moriah Grooms-Garcia. The Artifact Analysis Program can take seventy-six students at a time, doubling our workshop-style program capacity. This is a larger-scale alternative to the KADC, particularly necessary as schools must bring ever-larger groups on field trips due to new protocols and budget control. Since its inception in September, Artifact Analysis has had 689 participants.

The first half of this two-hour program places students in the position of an archaeologist post-dig. Each group of three to four students is given a box filled with artifacts that have supposedly been found in a particular “locus” of a site. Engaging their deductive reasoning skills, students draw conclusions about the people who created these artifacts. Science, literacy, and history are emphasized as students discover that their locus was, for example, a middle-class Mesopotamian woman’s room, the tomb of a wealthy Egyptian, or a kitchen. The second half of the program is devoted to a tour of the galleries led by the Oriental Institute docents.

In addition to the eleven school groups that participated in the Artifact Analysis Program, two non-school groups tried it out. A mixed-age church group used the program to set off their Biblical Emphasis tour. On a separate occasion, the University’s IT department came, finding it extremely “interesting and entertaining.” We look forward to further exploring the versatile audience this program could interest.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman

Introduction

The Oriental Institute has over the decades made groundbreaking contributions toward our knowledge of the ancient Near East. The Institute is not only a world-famous research center, but within its walls its museum also showcases some of the most significant archaeological discoveries to emerge from this region.

Since its inception forty-five years ago, the Institute’s Docent/Volunteer Program has played an integral role in how the public views the museum collection. Guided by a devoted cadre of museum docents, visitors of all ages can enjoy the advantages of docent-led tours. As goodwill ambassadors, the docents use their passion for infusing meaning into the museum’s artifacts to help bring history alive.

Last year was a testament to the program’s exceptional ability to evolve and change over time. Throughout the decades, the Volunteer Program has engaged new audiences through outreach, inventive programming, and numerous technological and organizational initiatives to help teach and interpret the past in all its complexity. This report highlights many of the Program’s accomplishments this past year.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Professional Liasons – VCCI

The Volunteer Coordinators of Cultural Institutions (VCCI) provides professional advocacy as well as education for its members, who represent cultural institutions throughout metropolitan Chicago. The quarterly VCCI meetings provide a collegial forum for discussions of mutual concern and professional growth.

For the October meeting, held at the Chicago History Museum, we were honored to serve as panelists with our VCCI colleagues. The topic of discussion, “Volunteer Recognition,” sparked a lively debate among the attendees.

In January we were pleased to welcome our VCCI colleagues to the Oriental Institute for an exchange of creative ideas on how to delegate power and authority to volunteers (fig. 1). The subject, “Giving Up the Power,” generated a variety of productive viewpoints and possibilities for future action.



Figure 1. In January we hosted our colleagues from the Volunteer Coordinators of Cultural Institutions (VCCI) for a roundtable discussion about “Giving Up the Power.” Photo by Terry Friedman

Volunteer Training

Revision of Volunteer Training Manual: Second Installment, Mesopotamia

This year we began the second phase of the revision of the Volunteer Training Manual, focusing our attention on the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. Kate Grossman, PhD candidate in Mesopotamian archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, served as our content specialist (fig. 2). Her scholarship, enthusiasm, and outstanding writing skills produced the new and revised Mesopotamian section of the Volunteer Training Manual. This new section will be a valuable resource of information for the Docents and Volunteers for years to come.

The Faculty Working Group assisted Kate in this process. Gil Stein, Oriental Institute Director, created the Faculty Working Group as part of an initiative to ensure that the materials produced and distributed through the Public Education Department maintain the highest standards of academic accuracy while remaining interesting and engaging to the general public. We are honored to have our academic colleagues Fred Donner, Professor of

Near Eastern History; Jack Green, Oriental Institute Museum Chief Curator; Don Whitcomb, Research Associate (Assistant Professor) of Islamic archaeology; and Chris Woods, Associate Professor of Sumerian and Editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, as members of this important working group.

In regard to the Mesopotamian materials project, we would like to express our gratitude for the vetting and valuable recommendations of Jack Green, Gil Stein, and Chris Woods.

Summer Workshops 2011

Volunteers energized their minds during a series of informal gallery workshops offered throughout July and August (figs. 3–5). These workshops were a wonderful opportunity to spark interest and curiosity among the docents as well as to enhance their tour content and focus. We would like to thank the following docent presenters for an outstanding series of talks on some thought provoking topics: Kitty Picken, “Notes on Nubia”; Jean Nye, “The Roles of Women in Ancient Times”; Gabriele DaSilva, “Trade and Economy in Antiquity”; and Semra Prescott, “Art in the Museum Galleries.”



Figure 2. Kate Grossman served as our content specialist for the revision of the Mesopotamian training materials. The new section of the Volunteer Training Manual was debuted during our September Volunteer Day program. After introducing us to the written materials, Kate took the volunteers on a tour of the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. Photo by Terry Friedman



Counterclockwise from left: Figure 3. Kitty Picken. Figure 4. Jean Nye. Figure 5. Semra Prescott. Photos by Terry Friedman



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Fall 2011 Mini-Series

Order From Chaos: Law in the Ancient Near East

This year's series brought together professors from three separate departments from the University of Chicago including the Classics Department, the Divinity School, and the Oriental Institute to discuss *Order from Chaos: Law in the Ancient Near East*.

The combined efforts of Clifford Ando, Ahmed El Shamsy, Brian Muhs, Andrea Seri, and Jeffrey Stackert produced an extraordinary series of lectures (fig. 6). This year's topic sparked the interest and imagination of the docents and volunteers, the Oriental Institute membership, as well as a wider University of Chicago audience.

Each lecture underscored the complexities involved with the development of a legal system and what we as twenty-first century citizens of the world have inherited from our collective past. The series generated a fundamental appreciation for law and how over the centuries, it has defined order from chaos.



Figure 6. Presenters from the Fall 2011 Mini-series, *Order From Chaos: Law in the Ancient Near East*, enjoyed a lively exchange of ideas during the panel discussion on the final day of the series. Seated from left to right: Ahmed El Shamsy, Clifford Ando, Brian Muhs, and Jeffrey Stackert

Volunteer Days

The Volunteer Program is committed to providing meaningful, ongoing educational opportunities for docents and volunteers. Volunteer Day programs provide a stimulating learning environment for volunteers to explore a variety of scholarly interests while also helping them develop informative and up-to-date tours. The 2011–2012 season featured many successful programs and training workshops. We wish to thank Jack Green, Kate Grossman, Karin

Jacobson, Yorke Rowan, Foy Scalf, Kathryn (Kat) Silverstein, and Emily Teeter for contributing their time and expertise to these programs

Field Trips

As part of the celebration for National Volunteer Month in April, Oriental Institute volunteers were invited to the Field Museum by Volunteer Manager Mary Ann Bloom for a special viewing of two thought-provoking exhibits, *Opening the Vault: Mummies and Genghis Khan*. Our program began with a wonderful lecture from Dr. Robert Martin, who discussed some of the Egyptian and Peruvian mummies featured in the exhibit. We were delighted to have two very knowledgeable and engaging docents, Dennis Kinzig and Ellis Caspary, accompany us through each of the exhibits. Our thanks to our colleagues at The Field Museum, who helped make this field trip a memorable experience for everyone.

Volunteer Voice

The Volunteer Voice is the monthly newsletter for the Oriental Institute's Docent/Volunteer Program and continues to serve as an important vehicle of communication for the volunteers, faculty, and staff at the Institute. As a major source of current information about the Volunteer Program and its activities, the newsletter is a valuable resource to get a quick overview of each month's news and updates. The *Volunteer Voice* can be received by e-mail, United States postal service, or a copy can be found and read in the Docent Library.

Volunteer Management

Docent Captain System

The Docent Captain system has long been the successful link between administrative staff and museum docents. Each captain is responsible for scheduling current docents for tours and for mentoring new docents-in-training assigned to a specific day of the week. This year, two new computer programs have been introduced to streamline procedures for the captains and their docent teams. GARY, an office computer dedicated to a Google calendar listing all tours, makes it possible for captains and docents to see at a glance the backgrounds, locations, and interests of groups ranging from schools to community organizations (fig. 7). Another program, The Shift Planner, was introduced in May. It is designed to give captains and docents greater flexibility in scheduling docent-led tours. Both captains and docents will be testing this program's effectiveness over the summer. Out thanks to: Douglas Baldwin, Mylicent Buchanan, Gabriele DaSilva, Joe Diamond, Dennis Kelley, Larry Lissak, Demetria Nanos, Stephen Ritzel, Lucie Sandel, Deloris



Figure 7. Moriah with GARY, an office computer dedicated to a Google calendar listing all tours, where captains and docents can see at a glance the tour schedule, the group's background and interests, as well as the docents who are giving that specific tour. GARY was introduced to the Volunteer Program during this past year by Moriah Grooms-Garcia. Photo by Terry Friedman

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Sanders, Hilda Schlatter, and Carole Yoshida. These are the hard-working captains whose vigilance and dedication help keep our Volunteer Program running smoothly.

A special note of thanks to Lucie Sandel, who will be stepping down from her role as Saturday morning co-captain because of her responsibilities at the University of Chicago Alumni Office. We want to thank Lucie for her dedication to the Volunteer Program both as a long-standing docent captain and as a museum docent. We are pleased that Lucie will continue to give tours of the galleries, when her work schedule permits.

In August, Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein hosted a luncheon to thank the captains for their dedication to the Volunteer Program and to introduce some new initiatives for the coming year. This informal gathering in the Director's Study provided an excellent opportunity for everyone to talk and brainstorm about new programs.

New Initiatives

Volunteer Spotlight

Several members of the volunteer corps stepped into the spotlight as part of a new feature article in *Oriental Institute News & Notes*. This new addition to the members' quarterly publication focuses on an in-depth interview with a volunteer. Oriental Institute members have an opportunity to gain an insider's perspective about each person's passion and motivation behind their volunteer service. Congratulations to George Sundell, Carole Yoshida, and Margaret Foorman, who were highlighted this past year.

Volunteer Directory

Following her hard work updating the volunteer databases for the past two years, Volunteer Program Associate Sue Geshwender has continued to contribute many hours helping the office become more sophisticated with the use of technology. One of her major efforts culminated with the production of the third edition of the Volunteer Directory (2012). This year's directory was produced as a pamphlet, which included pictures of each volunteer. We appreciate Sue's continued efforts to help our team of volunteers stay connected. A special note of thanks to Zuhel Kuru, Editorial Assistant for Oriental Institute Publications, who created the design and layout for this year's directory.

Volunteer Time Log

In January, the Time Log took on a slightly different appearance. It continues to remain in the same red folder, but was moved to a more prominent place in room 221 (in front of the printer) so volunteers can have easy access to it. Volunteers have been assigned their own page, where they can record their volunteer hours and activities at the Institute. The Time Log is now sorted alphabetically by last name, which will make the process of tracking hours on a quarterly basis easier and more accurate. All the information gleaned from this data will assist us in determining when and where the volunteers are concentrating their work efforts, and their time spent on continuing education. This process will help develop a baseline criteria for docent and volunteer recognition.

Tracking New Volunteer Recruits

This year we instituted a different procedure to keep track of our new volunteer recruits. We developed a volunteer checklist to help document the progress for each new candidate. This provides a quick and easy overview of each person's history, from their initial contact through their training and placement into the program.

Thematic Tours

The development of three themed tours was a major initiative introduced into the Docent Program's tour repertoire this past year. This project generated many new and creative approaches to research, marketing, and engaging new audiences. Sue Geshwender was brought on staff by the Director, Gil Stein, to spearhead this effort from concept to completion. The three areas of focus were tours with a Biblical Emphasis, Highlights of the Collections for Families with Children, and Art in the Ancient Near East.

It has been said that one of the best ways to give an engaging tour is by telling a story built around a theme that ties together objects in different galleries. Over the years docents

Figures 8-11. Photos from The Biblical Emphasis Tour Workshop, which took place in February. Photos by Sue Geshwender



Figure 8. Stu Kleven using a map to help explain biblical sites in ancient Israel



Figure 9. Deloris Sanders standing at the Babylonian Lions to explain their biblical significance



Figure 10. Sue Geshwender welcomes the volunteers to the Biblical Emphasis Workshop



Figure 11. Carole Yoshida explaining Hammurabi's Code during a tour

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

have done an excellent job of developing their knowledge in particular areas of interest and building unique tours on a variety of different themes. Starting in September, Sue assembled committees of docents well versed in particular themes. The goal of these committees was to identify objects and guidelines for their fellow docents who were interested in adding a new theme to their touring repertoire. Once it was underway, the process of developing themed tours proved to be an excellent opportunity to strengthen and expand tour content while learning new interactive touring techniques for audiences of all ages.

The theme-tour process began by focusing on giving a tour with a biblical emphasis, an option that many docents already offer (figs. 8–11). There is also the Biblical Emphasis iPod tour available in the Suq, which is enjoyed by many visitors. Sue's goal was to consolidate into one resource packet the information on objects relating to the Biblical Emphasis iPod tour in combination with independent docent research. The resulting packet was vetted and approved by Jack Green, Chief Curator of the Oriental Institute, and will be available for docents to use, when giving tours with a biblical emphasis. In February, Jack presented a special training day to introduce the tour content as well as to offer useful tips relating to sensitivity training for religious tours.



Figure 12. Erica Griffin demonstrated the process of mummification on our life-size replica mummy, during the March Training Day. Photo by Sue Geshwender



Figure 13. Docents Dee Spiech and Jean Nye carry the life-size mummy into the galleries for a family activity event offered to visitors this past April. Photo by Sue Geshwender

The committee of docents/volunteers who worked on this project included: Rev. Dennis Bailey, Doug Baldwin, Gabriella Cohen, Margaret Foorman, Wahied Girgis, Stu Kleven, Larry Lissak, Sherry McGuire, Shel Newman, Steve Ritzel, Lucie Sandel, Deloris Sanders, Mari Terman, Steve Wolfgang, and Carole Yoshida. We thank them for their hard work over the past several months. A special note of thanks to Craig Tews for photographing the objects included in the resource packet.

Sue's next project was to develop a tour targeting families with children. This topic generated much discussion and debate as to the ways children learn and retain information. The committee decided to engage this audience through use of an interactive device. A life-size mummy replica was chosen to teach about mummification (figs. 12–13). Children participate in removing the mummy's "organs" and wrapping it in bandages while learning about the customs and practices of mummification in ancient Egypt. After wrapping the mummy, the hands-on program is followed by a guided gallery tour, which focuses on objects related to mummification.

To further explore this new interactive approach, Sue invited a guest speaker to the

March Volunteer Training Session. Karin Jacobsen from the Art Institute of Chicago gave a presentation on how to give an engaging tour to children by asking questions, then layering in facts and information. Her discussion was followed by volunteer Erica Griffin's demonstration of the mummification activity. The last segment of the program gave the docents the opportunity to try the new touring approach with objects in the galleries. Our thanks to Committee members: Gabriele DaSilva, Erica Griffin, Alfia Lambert, Jean Nye, Dee Spiech, Toni Smith, and Steve Wolfgang for their work on this project.

In the fall, work will begin on a thematic tour dealing with Art in the Ancient Near East. The committee for this project includes Rebecca Binkley-Albright, Yulia Chmelenko, Barbara Friedell, Lee Herbst, Mark Hirsch, Akemi Horii, Debra Mack, Margaret Manteufel, Don McVicker, Marilyn Murray, Demetria Nanos, Mary O'Shea, Semra Prescott, Mary Shea, Mari Terman, Wendy Ennes, and Karen Wilson.

We were pleased to observe that over half of our active docents and volunteers enthusiastically participated on one or more of these theme tour committees.

Tours

"The Museum is a gem, but Docents are needed to interpret the displays, both to younger visitors as well as to adults. Certainly the artifacts are well chosen and charmingly displayed, but it is the human voice, explaining and describing, which gives emphasis to what the eyes see."

Taken from *News & Notes*, April 1974, "Reflections of A Volunteer Docent" by Ida Depencier, who was a member of the first Docent Training class in 1966.

As the above quote from Ida Depencier describes, tours are an integral part of the program's essence as well as its success. Docent-led tours help explain and interpret the Oriental Institute's world-renowned collection to museum visitors of all ages.

Over the course of the past several years, we began collecting data to help us track statistical information regarding museum tours and our visitor profile. Numbers can be meaningless unless you are able to evaluate and interpret their significance. To help us conceptualize and utilize all our data and information, Sue brought in Kate Lieber, a skilled computer programmer, who volunteered to customize and create a program to meet the needs of the volunteer office. This year-long process has resulted in a user-friendly format that should decrease the chance for errors while also increasing the functionality to generate reports for our colleagues throughout the Museum. We are pleased to announce that the process of transferring and importing this multi-year data set into the new program, FileMaker Pro, has worked well and the project is nearing its completion.

The following section is a synopsis of what some of the data has revealed.

What is the Big Picture?

- Approximately 10 percent of the visitors who came to the Museum this year received a docent-lead tour — that's 5,137 people!

The Good News Is ...

- Almost half of all the tour groups that came this year were first-time visitors!

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

What's the Difference in Tours?

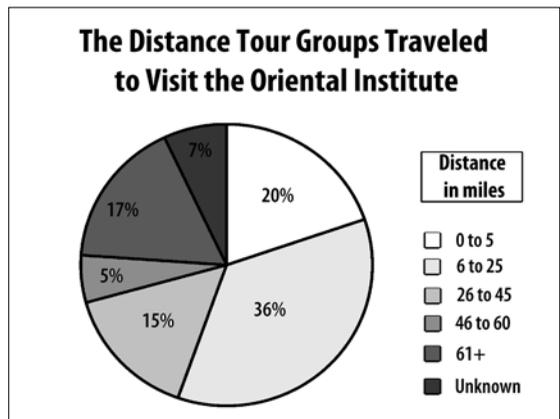
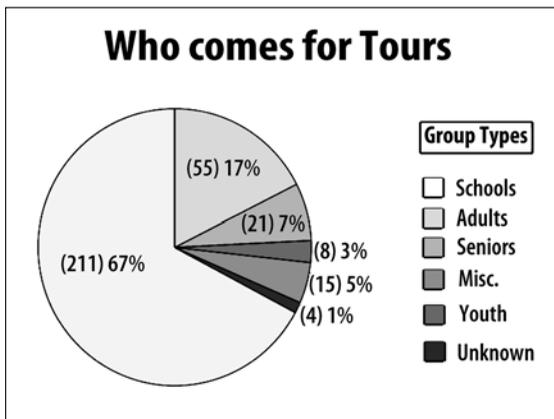
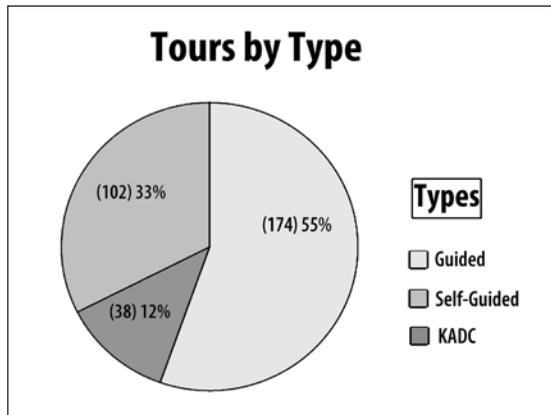
- Oriental Institute Docent-led Guided tours generate revenue for the Volunteer Program.
- Although the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center (KADC) is included in the guided tour total, this program does not use Docents or Volunteers. These tours are presented by paid University of Chicago student facilitators.
- Self-guided tours are free and the Oriental Institute does not provide a guide. To compile better records on these self-guided tour groups that come in and are not on the schedule, the front desk is now filling out a form to help us capture this data.
 - For the past two years the number of guided tours and self-guided tours have been about equal. This year guided tours have gone up and represent 70 percent while the number of self-guided tours reported has decreased.

The Bottom Line on Overall Tours?

- We've had about 10 percent fewer tours than last year. This is mainly due to a decrease in self-guided tours.

Who Comes for Tours?

- Schools represent the largest amount of all tour groups at 67 percent, followed at a distance by adult groups and seniors.



- The grade levels for the school groups are evenly distributed between elementary, middle, high school, and college.
- Religious groups of all ages make up almost a quarter of the total number of tour groups, although they are not necessarily coming in for tours with a biblical emphasis. In the coming year, we will be looking at what types of thematic tours are scheduled, and will have numbers to report on biblical emphasis-themed tour next year.

When?

- The spring has been the busiest time for guided tours.
- Most (80%) of the guided tours are during the week, Tuesday through Friday.
- Guided tours have been given on 60 percent of the days this year.

Where Do Tour Groups Come From?

- It's interesting to note that the Hyde Park neighborhood, a radius of five miles or less, accounts for one fifth of all tours.
- Nearly the same amount of tours, slightly less than one-fifth, come from over an hour away.
- Over half of the tours come from within a 25 mile radius.

December Volunteer Day and Volunteer Recognition

December Volunteer Day has become an annual tradition when docents, faculty, staff, and volunteers gather to enjoy a festive holiday celebration together. This year's December Volunteer Day was a time of special recognition and festivities as we celebrated the 45th anniversary of the Volunteer Program. This highly anticipated program featured a presentation from Chief Curator Jack Green, the introduction of the new volunteer recruits in the class of 2011, and the Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony.

The morning program began with a presentation from Jack Green on "The Oriental Institute: First Impressions and Future Direction." His talk was an insightful commentary highlighting his vision and goals for the museum. He shared with us many of the exciting projects and plans that are already underway.

Immediately following Jack's presentation, we were delighted to introduce the new volunteers who joined the class of 2011:

Volunteers of 2011-2012

Mervyn Barenie	Alicia French	Marilyn Murray
Michael Begun	Wahied Girgis	Srila Nayak
Melissa Bellah	Alfia Lambert	Hamdy Oraby
David Berry	Kate Lieber	Nancy Rose
Daniel Bloom	Debra Mack	Jasna Spahovic
Aparupa Chakravarti	Donald McVicker	Dee Spiech
Yulia Chmelenko	Karina Meza	Robert Treatte
Ginny Clark		Steve Wolfgang

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Figure 14. This year's Volunteer Recognition Ceremony took place on December 12. It was a time of special recognition and festivities as we celebrated an important milestone in the history of the Volunteer Program, the 45th anniversary of its founding. The following volunteers were on hand to receive their recognition awards for years of service: Standing from left to right: Stephen Ritzel, Ljubica Sarenac, O. J. Sopranos, Carlotta Maher, Joan Curry, Peggy Grant, Margaret Foorman, Mae Simon, Mort Jaffe, and Ron Wideman. Photo by Craig Tews



Figure 15. The recognition ceremony culminated with a special presentation by Gil Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute, who offered his congratulations to all the volunteers, and presented a letter of recognition written by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to honor Carlotta Maher and O. J. Sopranos on the occasion of their forty-five years of service to the Oriental Institute. Both Carlotta and O. J. were members of the first Oriental Institute volunteer training class founded by Carolyn Livingood in 1966. Photo by Craig Tews

At the conclusion of the introduction, we continued with the Recognition Ceremony. This year the following seventeen people were recognized for their years of volunteer service to the Oriental Institute.

Active Volunteers

5 years

John DeWerd
Alexander Elwyn
Barbara Friedell
Morton Jaffe
Sherry McGuire
Ljubica Sarenac
Mae Simon
Ronald Wideman

10 years

Andrew Buncis
Joan Curry
Lo Luong Lo
Toni Smith

25 years

Margaret Foorman

30 years

Stephen Ritzel

40 years

Peggy Grant

45 years

Carlotta Maher
O. J. Sopranos

The recognition ceremony culminated with a special presentation by Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein, who offered his congratulations to all the volunteers (fig. 14). He also presented a letter of recognition written by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to honor Carlotta Maher and O. J. Sopranos for their forty-five years of service to the Oriental Institute (fig. 15). Both Carlotta and O. J. were members of the first Oriental Institute Volunteer Training Class started by Carolyn Livingood in 1966. Their commitment exemplifies the true spirit of dedication and leadership through volunteer service, a legacy that holds true to this day.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, faculty, staff, and volunteers gathered at the Quadrangle Club for a champagne toast and festive holiday lunch as guests of Gil Stein.

In Memoriam

The Volunteer Program lost five loyal friends and supporters this past year: Bettie Dwinell; Cissy Haas, who along with her husband Bud was a member of the first Volunteer Training Class in 1966; Helen Halpern; Ruth Hyman; and Robert McGuiness. These individuals exemplified the true spirit of volunteerism by devoting their time, unique talents, and generous financial support to help further the goals and mission of the Oriental Institute. We will greatly miss them and we are thankful that they chose to spend a portion of their lives with us.

Public Education Staff

We would also like to thank our colleagues in Public Education for their ongoing support and astute advice throughout this past year: Kathryn Silverstein, who was with us June–January, and Moriah Grooms-Garcia, who came on board in January as Education Programs Associate; Wendy Ennes, Associate Head of Public Education; Sue Geshwender, who joined the team in September as Volunteer Program’s Associate; and Carole Krucoff, Head of Public Education.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In our shared office space bustling with activity, their sense of humor and calm demeanor foster a congenial and productive work environment.

A special note of thanks to our intern, Aparupa Chakravarti, who has worked closely with the new FileMaker Pro database since November, performing both data entry as well as data verification and clean up. She has made many valuable suggestions for improvements to the database interface and has helped Sue Geshwender develop a training manual for other database users. Aparupa has also assisted with the writing and editing of this report. Her organizational skills along with her pleasant demeanor are greatly appreciated by everyone who has worked with her.

We would also like to thank our 2012 summer intern Erin Minnaugh, who is in the master's program in archaeology and museum studies at Koç University in Istanbul, Turkey. Over the course of her internship with us, Erin has worked on revising the Anatolian Training materials, making the narrative both themed and object oriented. She interpreted and developed the pie charts from the database and helped edit the annual volunteer report. Erin has been an asset to the Volunteer Office as well as a joy to work with and we wish her every success as she returns to complete her graduate studies in Istanbul this fall.

Farewell to a Friend and Colleague

After twenty years as Head of Public Programs, Carole Krucoff has decided to retire. It is hard to imagine that our colleague and friend will no longer be part of our team. So much has happened since she began her tenure here two decades ago. Both as friend and colleague, she has always been there to help guide and encourage us every step of the way. The legacy she leaves behind is a tribute to her distinguished years of service to the Oriental Institute and how the program has grown and flourished under her leadership. The scope and impact of her creative work are well respected and have broadened our exposure to national and international audiences. We thank her for the many ways she has helped us grow in our professional lives and we wish her every success as she begins a new chapter in her life.

Reflections

The docents and volunteers form a vital part of the Oriental Institute's community and we are grateful for their steadfast dedication, loyalty, and friendship throughout these past forty-five years. Their enthusiasm, intellectual curiosity, and support have always been the core elements of the program's strength. The volunteers are a dynamic group of individuals whose passion for learning, pride in the Institute's research and projects, and knowledge of the Museum's collection have formed the cornerstone for the program's success and have helped to sustain its historic longevity.

Advisors to the Volunteer Program

Peggy Grant

Janet Helman

Carlotta Maher

Interns

Abigail Abisinito Huiying Chen
Aparupa Chakravarti Susan Jones

Summer 2012 Intern

Erin Minnaugh

Class of 2011-2012

David Berry	Ted Gold	Donald McVicker
Daniel Bloom	Akemi Horii	Hamdy Oraby
Aparupa Chakravarti	Courtney Jacobson	Mac Ragan
Yulia Chmelenko	Dake Kang	Emily Skiba
Ginny Clark	Kate Lieber	Jodi Stapleton
Wahied Girgis		David Westergaart

Active Museum Docents

Rev. Dennis Bailey	Anita Greenberg	Mary O'Connell
Douglas Baldwin	Erica Griffin	Mary O'Shea
Nancy Baum	Ira Hardman	Nancy Patterson
Susan Bazargan	Janet Helman	Kitty Picken
David Berry	Lee Herbst	Semra Prescott
Christel Betz	Mark Hirsch	Stephen Ritzel
Rebecca Binkley-Albright	Dennis Kelley	Lucie Sandel
Daniel Bloom	Stuart Kleven	Deloris Sanders
Noel Brusman	Panagiotis Koutsouris	Ljubica Sarenac
Myllicent Buchanan	Alfia Lambert	Hilda Schlatter
Robertta Buchanan	Larry Lissak	Joy Schochet
Yulia Chmelenko	Debra Mack	Anne Schumacher
Gabriella Cohen	Carlotta Maher	Mary Shea
Joan Curry	Paul Mallory	Mae Simon
Gabriele DaSilva	Margaret Manteufel	Toni Smith
John DeWerd	Sherry McGuire	Dee Spiech
Joe Diamond	Donald McVicker	Mari D. Terman
Jean Fincher	Kathleen Mineck	Craig Tews
Mary Finn	Marilyn Murray	Siwei Wang
Margaret Foorman	Demetria Nanos	Ronald Wideman
Barbara Friedell	Srila Nayak	Inge Winer
Dario Giacomoni	Jean Nye	Steve Wolfgang
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VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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New Students Orientation

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Margaret Foorman
Moriah Grooms-Garcia
Kathleen Mineck
Deloris Sanders
Mari D. Terman

Humanities Day

Sue Geshwender
Dario Giacomoni
Stuart Kleven
Demetria Nanos
Carole Yoshida

Mummies Night

Abigail Abisinito
Rebecca Binkley-Albright
Michael Begun
Christel Betz
Huiying Chen
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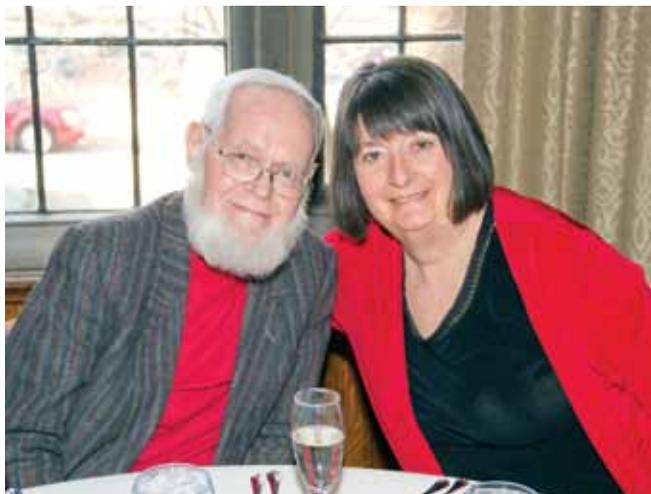
**CELEBRATIONS AND MILESTONES:
RECOGNITION LUNCHEON PHOTO GALLERY**



Deloris Sanders, Chris Woods, and Jean Nye. Photo by Craig Tews

CELEBRATIONS AND MILESTONES: RECOGNITION LUNCHEON PHOTO GALLERY

*Mary Shea and Susan
Bazargan. Photo by
Craig Tews*



*Ira Hardman and Hilda
Schlatter. Photo by
Craig Tews*

*Dario Giacomoni explains the
intricacies of touring, with Yulia
Chmelenko. Photo by
Craig Tews*



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

CELEBRATIONS AND MILESTONES:
RECOGNITION LUNCHEON PHOTO GALLERY



Shirley Watson, Debra Mack, and Demetria Nanos. Photo by Craig Tews



Mort Jaffe and Jack Green. Photo by Craig Tews

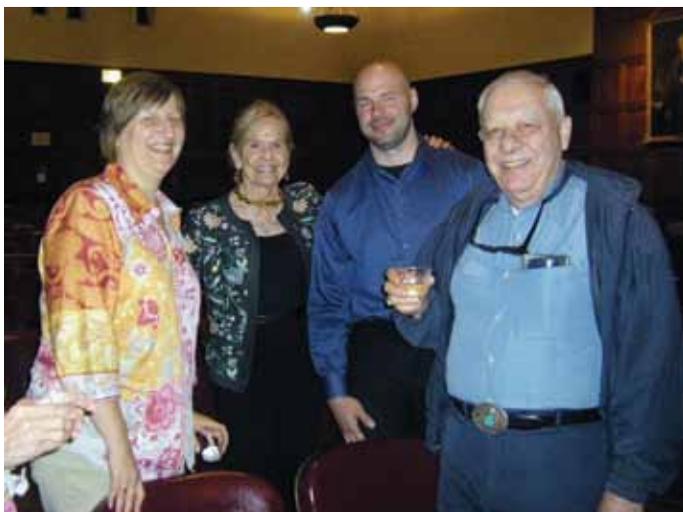
CAROLE KRUCOFF'S RETIREMENT PARTY PHOTO GALLERY

*Myllicent Buchanan and
Martha Roth drop by
to wish Carole a happy
retirement. All photos by
Sue Geshwender*



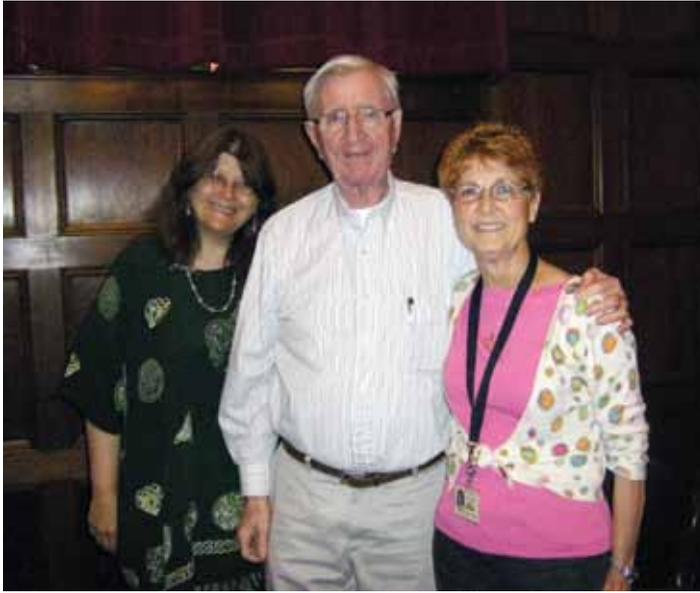
*Rebecca Binkley-Albright, Janet
Helman, and Margaret Foorman*

*Andrea Dudek, Carlotta Maher,
Foy Scalf, and O. J. Sopranos*



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

CAROLE KRUCOFF'S
RETIREMENT PARTY PHOTO GALLERY



Demetria Nanos, Joe Diamond, and Terry Gillespie

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY



Volunteer Coordinators took time out to pose with Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein. Standing from left to right: Terry Friedman, Gil Stein, Carlotta Maher, Peggy Grant, Janet Helman, and Cathy Dueñas. Photo by Craig Tews



DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

Overleaf: An offering bearer from a scene in the Tomb of Tjenra at Thebes (Theban Tomb 101), showing Nina de Garis Davies's rendering of damage and layering of color (Davies 1936, vol. 1, pl. 34)

DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

DEVELOPMENT

Tracy Tajbl

Through the loyal support of its many donors, the Oriental Institute continued to weather turbulent economic times. Consistent donor support made it possible for the Oriental Institute to fund a wide range of projects, including new discoveries at archaeological digs in Egypt, Turkey, Israel, and the Palestinian territories; ongoing recording and conservation work with the Persepolis Fortification Archive; and development of the Museum's special exhibit, *Picturing the Past*, among others. Along with many individual donors, we were fortunate to receive generous support from numerous local and national foundations, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Exelon Foundation, among others.

The Oriental Institute community welcomed me as the new Director of Development this year. I will focus my efforts on expanding the ranks of active Oriental Institute donors, strengthening our Visiting Committee, developing our Adopt-A-Dig initiative, and launching a special planned giving program in association with the University's Alumni Relations and Development Office.

Meghan Winston, our Associate Director of Development for Special Events was accepted into the business school at Wake Forest University this year. We thank Meghan for her dedicated service and wish her the very best in this new challenge.

Our University of Chicago student assistants make much of our work possible. Thanks go to Kristin Derby and Janaya Gripper for their excellent management of our donor acknowledgement and gift-processing programs. Eran Flicker made significant contributions through his work with donor data analysis and foundation research.

Above all, we thank each of you for the loyalty you have shown to and the generosity that you continue to share with the Oriental Institute. With your support, the Oriental Institute has been able to continue making new discoveries about the ancient world, sharing them with a worldwide audience of all ages and backgrounds.

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The Oriental Institute Visiting Committee 2011-2012

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** Denotes Life Member*

MEMBERSHIP

Amy Weber

Publications

With the assistance of the Publications Office, the Membership Office continues to publish *News & Notes*, the quarterly Members' magazine. The fall 2011 issue (#211) featured a report on the excavations at Hamoukar, Syria, from 2005 to 2010. The winter 2011 issue (#212) treated Members to a recap of the third season of excavations at the Chalcolithic site of Marj Rabba and preview of the special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*. The lead article in the spring 2012 issue (#213) was "The Edfu Pyramid Project: Recent Investigation at the Last Provincial Step Pyramid." The issue also included an insider look at the Museum collection with "A Stitch in Time: Textiles from Meroitic Nubia at the Oriental Institute." Finally, in summer 2012 (#214), in full color production, Members were reacquainted with the Nubian Salvage Campaign with "Fulfilling the Rescue" and had a sneak preview of fall special exhibit with "Bird Mummies of the Oriental Institute Museum Get a Checkup." Additionally, *News & Notes* honored the following members, donors, and volunteers for their support of the Oriental Institute:

- Winter 2011: George Sundell
- Spring 2012: Carole Yoshida and the 2011 Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients (for a full listing of recipients, please see the *Volunteer Program* section of this annual report)
- Summer 2012: Margaret Foorman

The Membership Office is greatly appreciative of the Publications Office for their hard work and guidance in producing *News & Notes*, as well as to all of the authors and staff contributors who provide exciting and engaging articles and program notices each quarter for our Members.

Student Memberships

As part of the University of Chicago's Art Pass program the Oriental Institute began offering free membership to all University students in May 2010. As of June 2012, the Institute had over 800 University of Chicago student members, more than any other campus organization. Kim Peitso, graduate student, was brought on to manage this program. Through partnerships with the Office of Publication and the Museum, the Membership Office was able to host several successful student member events throughout the year:

- Treasures of the Oriental Institute (September 2011) — a tour of the Museum for new college students as part of O Week activities (co-sponsored by Public Education, Museum, and Volunteer Program)
- Study at the OI (December 2011 and March & June 2012) — quarterly, late-night study hall hosted in the Museum galleries

MEMBERSHIP

- The Scorpion King Movie Night (April 2012)

In total, we hosted over 1,000 university students at the Institute during the academic year through these special events and programs. The student membership program aims to increase student awareness of the Oriental Institute, make the Oriental Institute an integral part of the student and campus experience at the University, and become active participant in student events.

Events

Members enjoyed a wide variety of events in 2011–2012:

- James Henry Breasted Society Event — Journey to the Orient (September 14, 2011)
- Associate Members' Event — Introducing Jack Green Chief Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum (November 20, 2011)
- Members' Preview — Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East (February 6, 2012)

For in-depth information on the above mentioned events, please see the *Special Events* section of this annual report.

In addition to Members' Events, Oriental Institute Members enjoyed a comprehensive Members' Lecture Series in 2011–2012 with topics ranging from Islam's origins to a recap of Chicago House's past couple of seasons of work in Luxor, Egypt:

- Excavations at Tell Tayinat, Turkey — Tim Harrison (October 5, 2011)
- Symbol and Meaning in the Art of Predynastic Egypt — Stan Hendrickx (November 2, 2011)
- Of Temples, Towers, and Altars: New Visual Evidence for Achaemenid Ritual in Persepolitan Glyptic Art — Mark Garrison (December 7, 2011)
- How Islam Began — Fred Donner (January 11, 2012)
- The Neolithic Jordan — Alan Simmons (February 8, 2012); co-sponsored by the AIA
- Seventy-five Years of Excavation at Tell Hariri-Mari, Syria — Pascal Butterlin (March 7, 2012)
- Women's Rights in Ancient Egypt — Janet Johnson (April 4, 2012)
- America Digs Iran — Ali Mousavi (May 2, 2012)
- A Year in Transition — W. Raymond Johnson (June 6, 2012)

A very special thank-you is in order for all our lecturers, co-sponsors, and members for participating the 2011–2012 Members' Lecture Series. The Oriental Institute Members' Lecture Series aims to bring a varied selection of the most recent work and scholarship on the ancient Middle East to our Members and the local community. We look forward to an exciting and dynamic lecture line up for the 2012–2013 series, which begins in November 2012.

Members' Events would not be possible without the hard work of many dedicated Oriental Institute staff members and volunteers and the Membership Office is thankful for all of their assistance with a very successful 2011–2012 events season.

Travel

The Oriental Institute offered two international travel programs to the Middle East and one domestic tour in 2011–12. In November 2011, a handful of Oriental Institute Members participated in the Voyage through the Red Sea: Jordan, Egypt & Sudan, led by Oriental Institute Research Associate Emily Teeter along with other expert lecturers, explored an astounding array of archaeological sites along the Red Sea. Braving the cold twenty-nine Oriental Institute Members joined Dr. Robert Ritner at the Milwaukee Public Museum on January 21, 2012, for a lecture and tour of Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt. Our sold out Wonders of Ancient Egypt tour departed in March 2012 led by Dr. Lanny Bell and Dr. Brett McClain. Seventeen pack days of travel from Cairo to Abu Simbel and back gave the twenty-one participants a wide breadth and scope of ancient Egypt. We currently have two additional tours scheduled in 2012. Persian Splendor: Journey to Ancient Iran, from September 13 to September 28, 2012, will be led by Dr. Abbas Alizadeh, and Legendary Empires: Giza, Baalbek, Byblos, Petra, Luxor, from October 15 to November 3, 2012, will be led by Emily Teeter and other expert lecturers. In March 2013, join Dr. Lanny Bell for Wonders of Ancient Egypt. The tour is scheduled to depart on March 9, 2013, and registration for this program is currently ongoing.

Oriental Institute travel programs are a unique in that our travelers experience exclusive site visits and on-site learning privileges not enjoyed by other institutions or travel groups. Our Members learn directly from some of the most eminent scholars in the world, at sites the Oriental Institute has been working on and researching for almost a century. For more information on Oriental Institute travel programs, contact the Membership Office at oi-membership@uchicago.edu or visit our website at <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/member/travel.html> or visit our Facebook Oriental Institute Members Travel page at www.facebook.com/OIMemberTravel.

Administrative Notes and Benefits

This year, there were staffing changes for the Membership Office. In July 2011, Maeve Reed, Membership Coordinator, left the Oriental Institute to start a new job at the Adler Planetarium. In September 2011, Amy Weber joined the Oriental Institute as Membership Program Manager. In June 2012, Emma Harper, Membership Programs Assistant, and Kim Peitso, UChicago Arts Pass Coordinator, graduated. The Membership Department is grateful for all their contributions and wishes them well in their future endeavors. Megan Anderluh joined the office in April 2012 as the new Membership Programs Assistant and has been doing an excellent job managing the membership database, hosting events, and responding to Members' questions and inquiries.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Meghan A. Winston

The 2011–2012 event schedule was an exciting one for the Oriental Institute! We welcomed over 500 guests through a variety of events, including one Members' preview, a number of conferences, and a Festschrift celebration. We also welcomed many different groups including the Association of Art Museum Directors and various University of Chicago departments. It was truly a pleasure to host our members and donors, only through whom our work is possible.

Pathways to Power Conference

Between Thursday, November 3, and Saturday, November 5, the Oriental Institute hosted twenty leading international researchers to compare the development of incipient complex societies across the Near East, in Egypt, the southern Levant, Syria, Anatolia, the southern Caucasus, Mesopotamia, and Iran during the sixth–fifth millennia BC. On Thursday evening, conference participants were welcomed to a Persian dinner catered by Masouleh Restaurant in the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery. On Friday, guests enjoyed breakfast and the first and second sessions of papers. On Friday evening, guests dined at the Quadrangle Club. On Saturday, after breakfast and two more sessions of papers, guests traveled to dinner at Phoenix in Chinatown. The menu included steamed sea bass, shrimp with mixed vegetables, and other Chinese delicacies.

A special thank-you goes out to Mariana Perlinac, Gil Stein, Yorke Rowan, and Abbas Alizadeh.

Introduction to Jack Green

On November 11, the Oriental Institute and thirty associate members welcomed our new Chief Curator, Dr. Jack Green. Members, who arrived around 7:00 PM that evening, enjoyed a special presentation on the role of chief curator and gained insight into upcoming special exhibits and behind-the-scenes projects at the Museum.

Following Green's presentation, members were invited to a reception in the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery. Guests dined on hors d'oeuvres provided by Amazing Edibles catering, which included caprese and lemongrass chicken skewers, pinwheel sandwiches, and gourmet lemon cookies.

A special thanks goes out to Jack Green and Amy Weber for all they did to ensure the night's success.

American Egyptologist Book Signing

On December 14, forty Oriental Institute members joined us for a presentation of *American Egyptologist: The Life of James Henry Breasted and the Creation of His Oriental Institute*, by author

Jeffrey Abt. A presentation of the book and book signing began in Breasted Hall at 7:00 PM. After an introduction by Gil J. Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute, Abt discussed James Henry Breasted as an accomplished scholar, academic entrepreneur, and talented author who brought ancient history to life and demystified ancient Egypt for the general public. Following the presentation, guests were treated to a book signing and reception, catered by Amazing Edibles, in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.

A special thanks goes out to everyone involved who ensured the night's success.

Picturing the Past Members' Preview

On February 6, 230 Oriental Institute members enjoyed an exclusive preview of *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East*, a special exhibit featuring paintings, architectural reconstructions, facsimiles, casts, models, photographs, and computer-aided reconstructions that show how the architecture, sites, and artifacts of the ancient Middle East have been documented.

After Gil Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute, welcomed all guests, Jack Green, Chief Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum, helped members understand how the publication of modern images and computer reconstructions have shaped and obscured our interpretation of the ancient Middle East.

Following Green's lecture, guests were invited to tour the exhibit and to enjoy a reception with food provided by Amazing Edibles Catering in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. Members enjoyed delectable hors d'oeuvres in addition to a special expansion of the Suq, which featured specially ordered merchandise and autographed copies of exhibit catalogs.

A special thank-you goes out to Emily Teeter, Amy Weber, Erik Lindahl, Brian Zimerle, and Jason Barcus for all they did to ensure the night's success.

2012 Post-Doctoral Seminar – Temple Topography, Ritual Practice, and Cosmic Symbolism

From March 1 to 3, the Oriental Institute welcomed eighteen scholars from various universities spanning North America and Europe for its annual post-doctoral seminar. Participants who arrived on Thursday night were treated to a dinner at the University's Quadrangle Club.

After a day of papers, on Friday evening, various Oriental Institute professors, in addition to conference participants, attended a small reception for our guests in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery followed by a trip to Chicago's Chinatown for dinner. Guests dined on dumplings, sea bass, sesame chicken, and other delicacies.

To round out the weekend, we enjoyed one last session of papers as well as a pizza lunch. We are grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee Herbst for their support of the Oriental Institute Post-doctoral Seminars. A special thanks goes out to Mariana Perlinac and Deena Ragavan for all they did to ensure the weekend's success.

Norman Golb Festschrift

On May 2, the Institute welcomed seventy-five guests to celebrate Professor Norman Golb and the publication of his Festschrift, *Peshar Naḥum*. Golb, the Ludwig Rosenberger Profes-

SPECIAL EVENTS

sor of Jewish History and Civilization, was commemorated beginning with a presentation in Breasted Hall and a reception in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.

The program began at 4:00 PM and started with opening remarks by Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein. Following Stein's presentation, various contributors to the publication lauded Golb's research and accomplishments. At the end of the program, Golb was presented with a hardcover version of the publication.

Following the program, guests enjoyed cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. The hors d'oeuvres, provided by Food for Thought catering, included miniature turkey club sandwiches, shrimp spring rolls, and crispy potato ravioli.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS AND MEMBERS

* THE JAMES HENRY BREASTED SOCIETY *

Named for the founder of the Oriental Institute, the James Henry Breasted Society is an elite group of donors whose contributions are vital for the support of major research programs, as well as the day-to-day operation of the Oriental Institute. Patrons of the James Henry Breasted Society contribute \$1,000-\$2,499 annually, while we welcome donors of \$2,500 or more into the Director's Circle.

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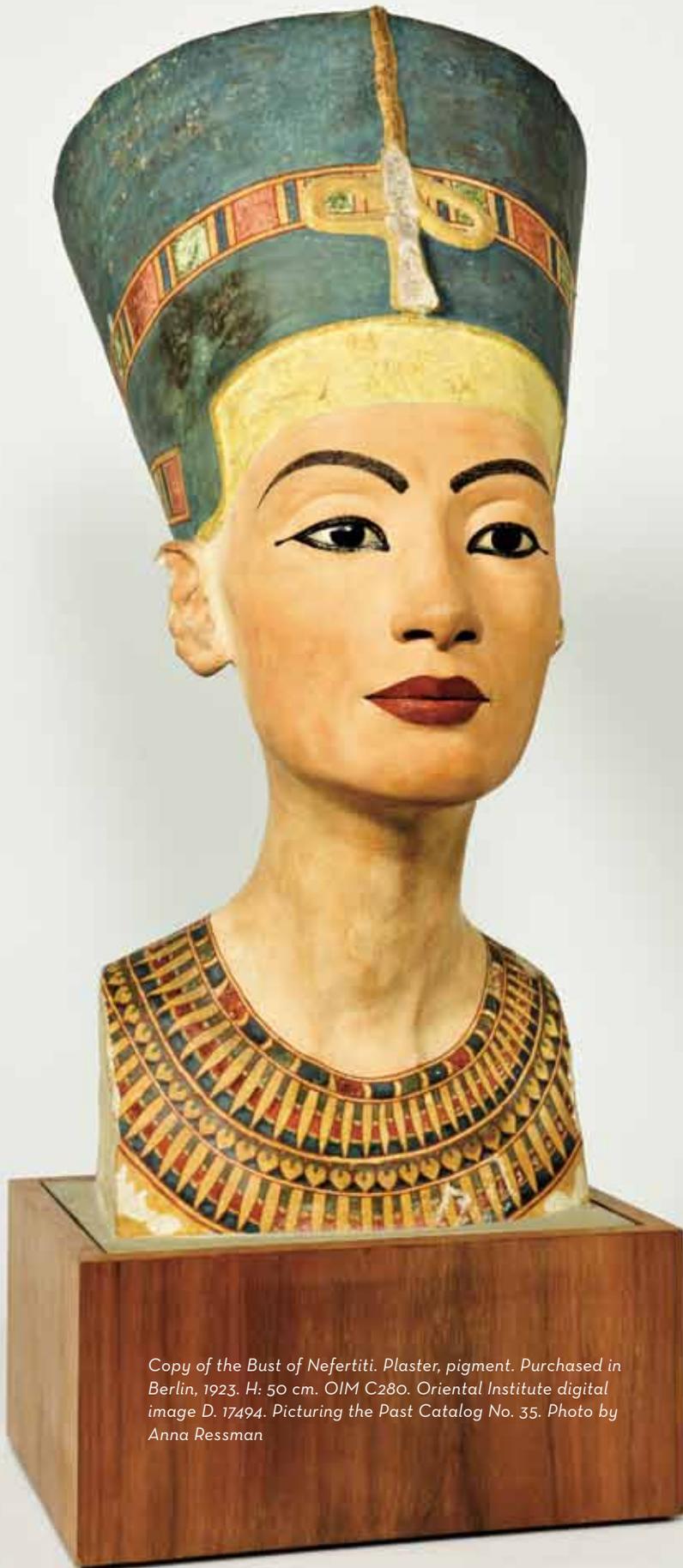
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Copy of the Bust of Nefertiti. Plaster, pigment. Purchased in Berlin, 1923. H: 50 cm. OIM C280. Oriental Institute digital image D. 17494. Picturing the Past Catalog No. 35. Photo by Anna Ressman

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