

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, an 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.
