

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.
