

Tasha Vorderstrasse

In the academic year 2012–2013 **Tasha Vorderstrasse** continued to work as a research associate on the catalog of Islamic archaeology at the Oriental Institute Museum as well as on a publication of highlights of the Islamic collection. As a result of this work, she was able to re-discover important material in the Oriental Institute Museum collections, including some fragments that are supposed to be from the medieval Cairo Genizah that had been bought by the museum in the 1930s. In addition to her work in the museum, she spent two weeks in Jerusalem at the Rockefeller Museum working on the inscribed marble objects from the 1930s–1940s excavations at Khirbet al-Mafjar that have never been thoroughly studied. Thanks are due to Ms. Alegre Savariego at the Rockefeller for assisting this work, and the Oriental Institute and the Palestine Exploration Fund for providing financial assistance. She also continued her work on Chinese sources for the Balkh Art and Cultural Heiritage Project (BACH).

Vorderstrasse also gave a variety of lectures, including two at the 2012 annual meeting of the American Society of Oriental Research in November: “Chinese Material Culture from Moščevaja Balka in the North Caucasus,” and “Reconstructing a Medieval Tomb at Antioch.” The second lecture has been submitted as a pre-conference paper to a symposium at the University of Balamand. An expanded version of the first paper was given at the Late Antique and Byzantine Studies Workshop at the University of Chicago “Texts, Textiles, and Trade in the North Caucasus.” She presented two lectures at the University of Chicago Armenian Circle: “Excavating at the Medieval City of Dvin in Armenia” and “Armenians and Armenian Material Culture in Jerusalem” in November and April respectively. In December she gave a lecture at DACOR (Diplomatic and Consular Office Retired) in Washington, DC: “Beyond the Gold: Interpreting the Site of Tillya Tepe in Afghanistan.” In January she gave a lecture on “Re-Discovering Alan Wace’s Excavations at Alexandria” for the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) Chicago chapter, and in April she also participated in the Household Archaeology Oriental Institute mini-series, giving a talk “Reconstructing Houses and Archives in Early Islamic Egypt.” In May she presented as part of Connecting with the Caucasus Speaker Series: “Medieval Wall Paintings of Georgia: Iconography of Patronage” by the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies (CEERES).

She submitted an article “An Overview of the Medieval Pottery from the Antiochene Region Excavated by Mécérian” to the *Mélanges de Université de Saint-Joseph*, and the following articles appeared in print: “Descriptions of the Pharos of Alexandria in Islamic and Chinese Sources: Collective Memory and Textual Transmission,” in *The Lineaments of Islam: Studies in Honor of Fred McGraw Donner*, edited by P. M. Cobb, pp. 457–81 (Leiden: Brill, 2012); “Coinage and the Monetary Economy in 7th Century Nubia,” in *Arab-Byzantine Coins and History*, edited by T. Goodwin, pp. 169–81 (London: Archetype, 2012); “Medieval Encounters between China, Mongolia, Antioch, and Cilicia,” in *East and West in the Medieval Eastern Mediterranean*, Vol. 2: *Antioch from the Byzantine Reconquest until the End of the Crusader Principality* (acts of the congress held at Hernen Castle (the Netherlands) in May 2006), edited by K. Ciggaar and V. van Aalst, pp. 345–66 (*Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta* 199; Leuven: Peeters, 2013).