

ARCHIVES

John A. Larson

As of December 2015, John Larson has served as Head of the Archives for thirty-five years. As he writes this, it is with the knowledge that this annual report is to be his swan song, because he is retiring at the end of December 2016.

Scholars visiting the Oriental Institute Archives during fiscal year 2015/2016 included Patrizia Piacentini, Professor and Scientific Director of the Archives of Egyptology at the University of Milan, who stopped in on July 16, 2015, during her visit to Chicago; Thomas L. Gertzen, Research Associate at the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies, Potsdam, Germany, who looked at the correspondence of Nathaniel Reich on October 23, 2015; Alexander Nagel, Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, who dropped by to do some research on Persepolis on November 5, 2015; Robert Bewley of the EAMENA Project (Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa), who came to look at Aerial Survey of Iran photographs on November 16–17, 2015; Kathleen Sheppard of the Missouri University of Science and Technology, who returned to do research on Caroline Ransom Williams in James Henry Breasted's correspondence on December 7–8, 2015; during the week of May 9, 2016, Melissa Cradic came to do research in the Megiddo Archive on her dissertation topic, "Transformations in Death: Funerary Practices and Personhood in the Bronze Age Levant" at the University of California, Berkeley; and, beginning on June 28, 2016, for two weeks, Azra Dawood, a graduate student in the History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art program and the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology came to do research on her dissertation topic, "John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and the Architecture of 'Protestant Modernism' (1919–1946)."

From within our own Oriental Institute community, Jennifer Kimpton, Kiersten Neumann, Tasha Vorderstrasse, Bruce Williams, and Karen L. Wilson have conducted research using Archives materials.

Several acquisitions were made by the Oriental Institute Archives during this fiscal year. On December 3, 2015, Professor Emeritus John A. Brinkman presented to the Archives some papers of the late Professor Edward Chiera. On May 31, 2016, we received the gift of two lithographs by E. F. Beaumont from Shelley H. Wilson of Henniker, New Hampshire: "Sunrise on Galilee" and "Beside the Still Water"; both date to 1935. They will join the other works by E. F. Beaumont, which came into the collections in 2014. On June 23, 2016, David C. Woolman and his wife Ina donated some letters, a diary, and some other materials belonging to his parents, Laurance C. and Janet Woolman, who worked at Megiddo (Palestine) and Chicago House (Luxor, Egypt) in 1929–1932.

Carole Yoshida has continued as an Archives volunteer during fiscal year 2015/2016 and has scanned a large number of lantern slides for the Integrated Database (IDB) Project. We are grateful to have benefited from the help of this dedicated volunteer, and we thank her here for all of her efforts on behalf of the Archives. Rebecca Wang, a NELC graduate student, has been assisting John since February 2016, by scanning Robert K. Ritner's collection of 35mm color transparencies. Anne Flannery has been assisted on the IDB Project during this

academic year by Middle East Center graduate student Joseph Hermiz. We would like to thank him for his efforts.

During the past fiscal year, the Oriental Institute Archives and the IDB Project have performed a physical reorganization of the Oriental Institute Archives, including shelf labeling, collections re-organization, and the installation of an IDB workspace in the Archives storage room. To date, we have cataloged over 23,000 Oriental Institute Archives records (up from 7,500 records last year) into the Integrated Database. This has been done by the IDB Project Manager, Anne Flannery, under the general direction of Foy Scalf, and six student workers and volunteers. Anne worked with Foy Scalf to develop “Crystal Reports” to generate finding aids for cataloged collections. We implemented the Oriental Institute Archives online interface in summer 2015. This allowed Oriental Institute Archives records to be searchable by the public for the first time. We cataloged the Khorsabad Archive down to the item level, and this is available online. We cataloged a few collections, such as the Diyala Archive and the Persepolis Archive, down to the folder level, but others, such as the Director’s Office Correspondence Files, are being cataloged down to the box level. This is all done in order to give a general sense of what is available to researchers. We started workflows to incorporate new collection items into the Integrated Database and the Oriental Institute Archives storage room, such as materials from the Epigraphic Survey, the WARKA Survey, Oriental Institute Financial Records, and the Syriac Manuscript Project. In May 2016, the Oriental Institute Archives met their IMLS grant requirements four months ahead of schedule. The Oriental Institute Archives IDB team will use summer 2016 to add information to already existing records and to continue to catalog the records of field expeditions and faculty/staff papers.

We have accomplished a great deal. Though just in its initial stages, the launch online of the Oriental Institute Archives has enabled greater awareness of the Oriental Institute Archives to both internal and visiting researchers. Special thanks are due to Anne Flannery and Foy Scalf for a job well done.
