

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



ORIENTAL INSTITUTE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020–21

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ON THE COVER: (FRONT): *The desk of an OI scholar, featuring the replica of a clay tablet.* (BACK): *Hand copy of a Hittite clay tablet.* Photos: Charissa Johnson.



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# INTRODUCTION

THEO VAN DEN HOUT

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When in his introduction to the annual report of the academic year 2019–20 Christopher Woods wrote that it had been “the most singular year in the Oriental Institute’s long, one-hundred-year history,” little did we know how even more singular the academic year 2020–21 was going to be. The university had to continue the lockdown all through the next year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most classes were taught remotely, with only first-year students being allowed to live on campus. The OI was closed in early spring of 2020, and as of September an occupancy rate of twenty-five percent was allowed, with a staggered schedule of staff and faculty present. When visiting the OI this past fall or winter, it looked deserted—like a ghost town. Only now, as I write this in late August 2021, do more people return, and the university expects everybody back on campus at the start of the new academic year in September. Deputy director Jean Evans expertly coordinated all things COVID, keeping us safe and informed on the latest rules dictated by the university administration and preparing us for the new year.

It was a sad and difficult year, a true *annus horribilis*. We lost some extraordinary members of our community. First, Margaret Foorman, head of our docent library, passed away in September 2020, followed by docent coach and mentor Roberto Cepeda; and Research Archives volunteer George Thomson in October; the incomparable Carlotta Maher, and Norman Golb, Ludwig Rosenberger Professor of Jewish History and Civilization—both in December 2020. On July 25, 2021, professor Robert Ritner, Egyptologist and beloved lecturer, died after a long illness. Finally, our enthusiastic, invaluable director of development, Wally Verdooren, passed away on August 26, 2021. Brief obituaries of each follow this Introduction.

Another shock went through our community when around the turn of the year director Chris Woods announced he was going to leave the OI to become the Williams Director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Of course, we are proud that an OI director was chosen for such a distinguished position, and we are happy for him, but it adds a distinct note of sadness to the past year. I’m deeply grateful to Chris for his guidance and wisdom, and for his leadership of the OI since 2017. We wish him great success in Philadelphia and hope to see him back in Chicago frequently! We also had to say goodbye to Charissa Johnson, managing editor and head of our Publications Office. Thank you, Charissa, for all the great work you did, and good luck in your future endeavors!

The OI was affected by the pandemic at every level. Excavations and survey expeditions had to be canceled. Even the Epigraphic Survey team was forced to stay home. The OI Museum and the Suq closed, and tours were suspended. But as this report makes clear, that didn’t mean, that no work was done. On the contrary, study seasons were held “at home” and publications prepared, tours went virtual, museum staff and faculty conducted their work from home. Behind the scenes, numerous requests from outside for information were fulfilled and the collections maintained. Laura D’Alessandro, Helen McDonald, and Rob Bain, along with other museum staff, maintained an on-site presence for collections care. Together with the museum staff, Tasha Vorderstrasse successfully curated the photo exhibit dedicated to the Armenian-Iranian photographer Antoin Sevruguin. The Publications Office, where Steve Townshend has now taken over as interim head, produced the

## INTRODUCTION

beautiful catalog accompanying the exhibit, as well as many other impressive publications, among them the annual report in your hands right now. During lockdown, our security staff led by Vick Cruz remained on-site in their essential roles. The financial and administrative offices with Brendan Bulger, Tauresha Florence, Matt Perley, and Mariana Perlinac assured everything continued to run smoothly. Meanwhile, scholarly output in the form of books, articles, and conference presentations, one of the few “hard” measures of our research productivity, continued unabated. And productive we were, with five books and almost forty articles having been published in the past year! Our Research Archives played an essential role in all of this by providing the necessary literature. In the challenging year that we have behind us, our collections were inaccessible, but Foy Scalf, head of the Research Archives, and his staff nevertheless delivered books and journals through PDFs, or sometimes also the physical copies. Thanks to them for that amazing service!

Despite the pandemic, our membership continued to grow, thanks to Matt Welton, Ali Mallett, and Steve Townshend providing an ever-increasing array of podcasts on YouTube. Videos of all kinds and posts on social media kept our members informed and engaged. Because of their efforts the OI even won the university’s Best in Class Digital Programming Award in 2021! Wally Verdooren and Polina Kasian shifted development activities to remote. Sue Geshwender kept the volunteers engaged and ready to reenter the OI through virtual Volunteer Days, book club discussions, and lectures. The same is true of adult education under Tasha Vorderstrasse, which gave people an opportunity to temporarily escape stressful daily life under a pandemic. School field trips and family programs continued to be offered virtually.

Essential support for all of the above activities, the research and public outreach, came from Knut Boehmer, the OI’s IT manager, who kept faculty and staff informed, digitally updated, solving crises, and keeping us digitally safe.

All in all, staff and faculty more than rose to the numerous challenges that the year 2020–21 threw our way. As a result, we’re ready for what will hopefully be a less singular year where we can live and work again as a real community.

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## IN MEMORIAM

The OI lost two invaluable professors, two irreplaceable Life Members of the Advisory Council, an extraordinary director of development, and two more beloved volunteers during the 2020–21 academic year. All of us at the OI gratefully honor and admire them for their many years of exceptional service and support, and we dearly miss them.

**ROBERTO CEPEDA (1955–2020)**

Oriental Institute docent and assistant librarian Roberto Cepeda broke our hearts with his rapid decline and demise. This vibrant, dynamic man came to the OI once or twice weekly for five years since joining our community. Always in a good mood and with a great sense of humor, he brightened every room he entered. His deep desire and love of learning led him to spend countless hours reading about the new subjects in which he became interested, and his distinctive handwriting filled notebook after notebook. A natural coach and mentor, Roberto helped many new docents learn the ropes and become tour guides.

**MARGARET EMERSON FOORMAN (1949–2020)**

Margaret Foorman, a Life Member of the OI Advisory Council, where she had served since 1995, passed away on September 14, 2020. Margaret left us in the fall after a lengthy battle with illness. Never one to let declining health get in her way, Margaret showed up for every tour and event, as well as spending countless hours curating and managing the OI's docent library. Her attitude and behavior were an inspiration. The library was a sacred position for Margaret, as she took over the responsibilities from Deb Aliber, who she respected and revered. Margaret was both the most approachable, classy and compassionate person around. Personal, thoughtful, hand-written notes were her specialty. She gave tours in 3 different languages. This multifaceted woman never ceased to surprise, and amaze and boy did she love sharing her excitement and enthusiasm for the OI with others.

**NORMAN GOLB (1928–2020)**

Norman Golb, Ludwig Rosenberger Professor Emeritus of Jewish History and Civilization, passed away on December 29, 2020. Prof. Golb, who studied here from 1948–50, joined the faculty of the OI in 1963. A prolific scholar, he is best known for his groundbreaking work on the Dead Sea Scrolls, as well as for his scholarship on Judaism in late antiquity and the Jews in the Arab and European worlds during the Middle Ages. Among his many awards and honors were two Guggenheim fellowships and an honorary doctorate from the University of Rouen.

Prof. Golb retired in 2015 after a career of no fewer than fifty-two years at our University. He had an unshaken belief in pure scholarship.



## IN MEMORIAM

In the many meetings of both NELC and the OI, he always stood firm on the issues of scholarly rigor and the purity of scholarship. A staunch defender the unique status of the OI as a pure research institution, Prof. Golb used his powerful and unique voice to remind us of the qualities and principles that make the University of Chicago what it is.

### JILL CARLOTTA MAHER (1933–2020)

Jill Carlotta Maher, a Life Member of the Advisory Council and its Executive Board, the first recipient of the James Henry Breasted medallion, a longtime supporter and volunteer of the Oriental Institute, passed away on December 15, 2020. There is not enough space to list all she did and meant to the OI. Carlotta was a part of the first docent group to be trained in 1966. She successfully completed her docent training and eventually took over leadership of the program serving as Volunteer Manager. After several years she moved on from this position, but she never stopped being involved as an advisor, counselor and guiding beacon of the OI's volunteer program, making her the longest serving active volunteer at the OI. Carlotta joyfully participated in OI expeditions in Iraq and Egypt, and in 1985 created a development program from scratch for Chicago House in Luxor that saved it from closing and that she oversaw until her death. Kind, smart, glamorous, and fearless, Carlotta was and always will be the very heart and soul of the OI.



### ROBERT K. RITNER (1953–2021)

Robert K. Ritner, Rowe Professor of Egyptology, passed away on July 25, 2021. Prof. Ritner came to the OI as a graduate student in 1976, received his PhD with honors from the University of Chicago in 1987, and taught continuously in NELC from 1996–2021.

A trailblazer in Egyptology, he made revolutionary contributions that have forever changed the way we study and understand ancient Egyptian religion, magic, and medicine. He was an extraordinarily prodigious scholar, whose work helped redefine general approaches to research on magic, introduce the concepts of emic/etic to Egyptology, reveal the extensive roots of Western biases toward ancient Egypt, and communicate such results to the public.

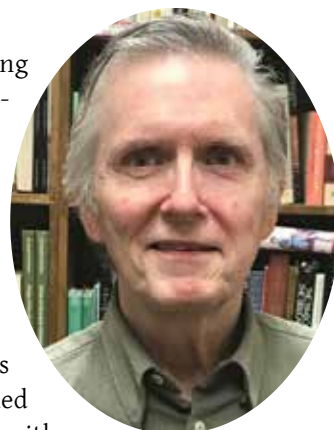


Unlike with most academics, Prof. Ritner's work was well-received beyond the ivory tower, and he shepherded an entire community of budding Egyptophiles by leading tours to Egypt (more than a dozen between 1980 and 2008), through extensive public lecturing, and as a permanent fixture in the OI's docent-training program. He was renowned for his ability to lecture extemporaneously on any topic for hours on end. Students will remember him for his talent of merging academic rigor with humor, fun, and the thrill of discovery.

Throughout his career, Prof. Ritner was a scholar's scholar. He emphasized mastery of the fundamentals above all else. As a continuous presence since 1976, he influenced every facet of the OI, and his legacy will continue to shape Egyptology for decades to come.

**GEORGE THOMSON (1951-2020)**

After retiring in 2017, George Thomson immediately began volunteering in the Research Archives of the OI. Through his dedicated, regular, weekly commitment, he helped with many special projects. Polite and soft-spoken, George could often be found wearing T-shirts bearing ancient Egyptian designs.

**WALTER (WALLY) VERDOOREN (1961-2021)\***

Wally Verdooren, the OI's director of development, passed away after a short battle with cancer on August 26, 2021. A development and external relations professional for more than thirty years, Wally joined the OI in March of 2018 and quickly won us over with

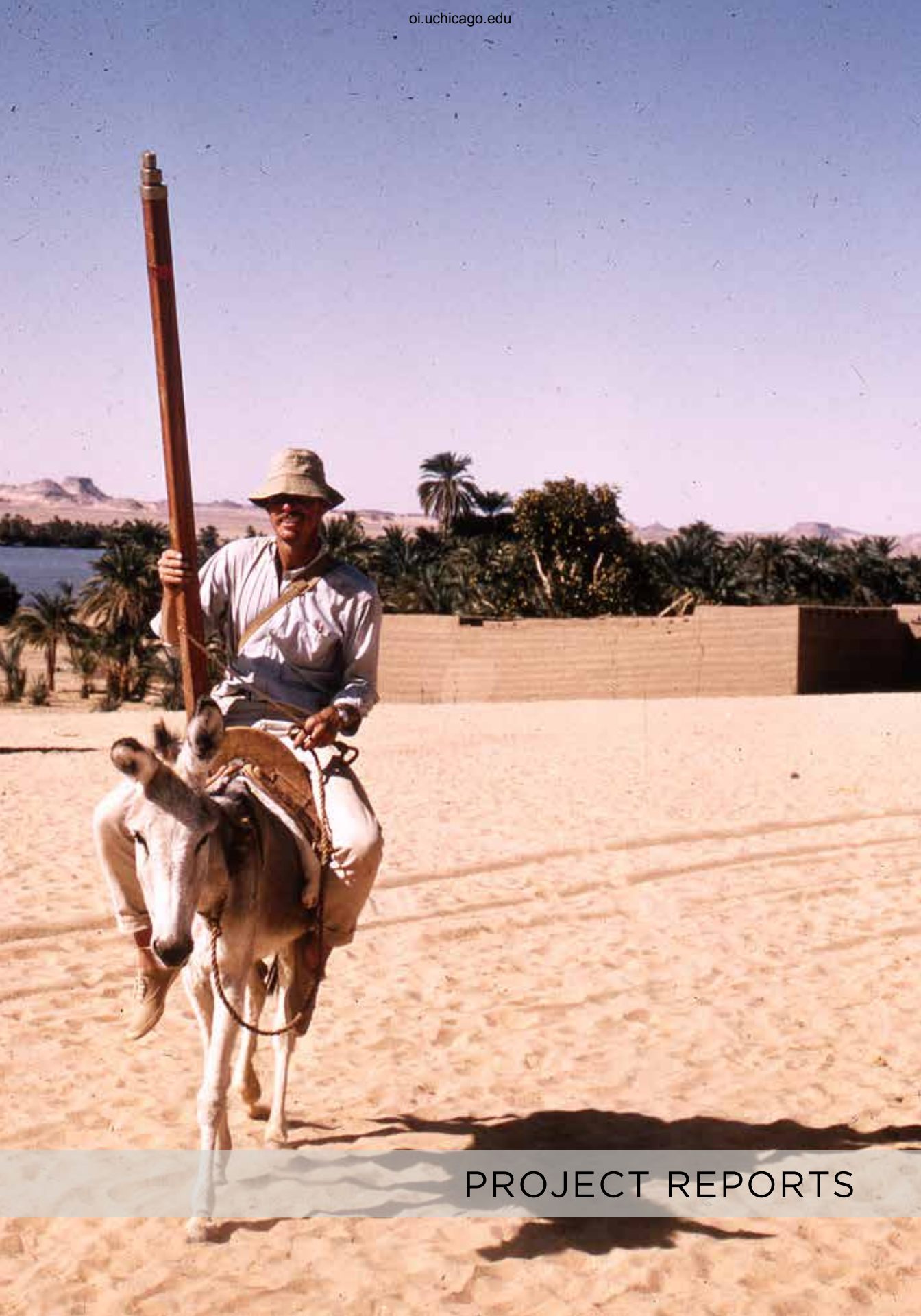


his infectious smile and perpetual good cheer. He was part of the leadership group for the University of Chicago Humanities and the Arts teams and a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council. In addition to spending his professional career in the nonprofit sector serving others, Wally was also actively involved in his local communities as a board member and volunteer leader in a variety of organizations offering arts, education, faith-based, and justice-related programming. Wally's dedication to the OI and to our community was obvious to everybody, and many of those who came into contact with him described Wally as the ideal

development person, somebody for whom fundraising was first and foremost about developing relationships. Wally was all about "sharing," one of his favorite words. He has left a big gap in the OI, as well as in our hearts, and is sorely missed.







PROJECT REPORTS





OVERLEAF: James Knudstad with his survey pole leaving Serra village and heading toward Serra East (1963).

# CHICAGO DEMOTIC DICTIONARY (CDD)

## JANET H. JOHNSON AND BRIAN MUHS

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During this year of disruption to our lives and schedules, the staff of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD) continued converting our initial Microsoft Word documents, in which we composed the CDD entries, into InDesign, the format we will use for final publication. This task involves converting the very complex formatting used to display interconnections between examples of words within individual entries, as well as converting and properly placing and identifying the thousands of photos or hand copies of individual words in every file (see fig. 1). With everyone working from home, consultations between staff more difficult, and consultation with the files in the office impossible, we nevertheless made progress. Between June 2020 and June 2021, three files (L, H, H) were completely converted to InDesign while the work of conversion progressed on other files (W, R, H, and D). Even uploading finished files was difficult if the (huge) file was sitting on the computer of a student who could not upload it to the master file. We now have eleven files (3, B, F, M, N, H, H, Š, Q, T, T) completed and uploaded, while seven files (I, ʿ, P, L, S, K, G) are completed but await uploading. This leaves two letter files (Y, H—both fairly short) and supplemental files (days of the month, months of the year, and numbers) still awaiting conversion.

Jan Johnson (editor) and Brian Muhs (associate editor) would like to acknowledge the extra effort made by all the staff this year: (in alphabetical order) Alex Cornaccia (technically an employee of the OI Publications office who is *on loan* part time and working on our file conversions [thank you Charissa Johnson—till recently, director of the Publications office]), Brendan Hainline (who received his PhD last summer after writing a dissertation on the Old Kingdom religious spells known as the Pyramid Texts and served as a teaching fellow in NELC, the CMES, and the College this year while still helping with the dictionary during both summers—2020 and 2021), Tom Urban (retired director of the OI Publications office who couldn't just retire but has been helping us with conversions), Ariel Singer (a senior graduate student completing a PhD on Egyptian medicine who is our expert on InDesign, instructing new staff, and solving problems as they come up, as well as being responsible for keeping track of each file and its accessibility), and Theresa Tiliakos (a graduate student about to begin work on her dissertation on foreign-born women in New Kingdom Egypt). Johnson and Muhs began proofreading converted files to make sure that no errors, especially of formatting, had crept into the converted files; unfortunately, the large-scale printouts from which they were working did not make it out of the office, and this work did not progress as much as we would have wished. But enough was completed to reassure us that very few errors were being added to these complex documents during the conversions (though we did find occasional typos to correct and formatting inconsistencies to systematize).

We all look forward to returning to the camaraderie of the CDD office and the OI in the coming year. To celebrate, we are bringing on board one new student to help with conversions: Rolland Long (Egyptology graduate of the College and now a graduate student in Egyptology at the University of Pennsylvania) will begin sometime in July 2021. Welcome to the team! Also worthy of mention is that we finished the year on a high note when Tasha Vorderstrasse, university and continuing education program coordinator for the OI, organized the series “Drinks with the Dictionaries,” a Zoom chance for Muhs and Johnson to talk and answer questions about the CDD for a group of OI

## PROJECT REPORTS | CHICAGO DEMOTIC DICTIONARY

members who have been active in the OI's outreach programming during the pandemic. We hope they, and all members who can, will celebrate our return toward normalcy by coming by the office to say *hello* and get a brief tour.


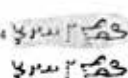



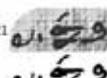

<b>msgr</b>	n.m. "ear" = EG 180-81 = Wb 2, 154/13-16 = HAAxxC CD 212b, ČED 100, KHWb 113 & 522, DELC 132a	
	for sail determinative, see M. Smith, <i>P. BM 10507</i> (1987) p. 74, n. b to 3/6	R P BM 10507, 3/6 (& 11/23) 
		R P Harkness, 3/4 
	in reread grj "leaf," below vs. Reymond, <i>Medical</i> (1976), who trans. "hearing"	R P Vienna 6257, 9/35 
VAR. <b>msge</b>		R P BM 10588, 7/13 
		R P Vienna 6257, 9/23 (& possim) 
W. EXTENDED MEANING "handle" of basket or jar		
	for discussion, see Dousa, Gaudard & Johnson, <i>Fs. Zaurich</i> (2004) p. 151, n. to l. 1/21	R P Berlin 6848, 1/21 
	in reread m-šm imp. "go!"; see under šm "to go," below for reading & trans., see Hughes, <i>Studies Williams</i> (1982) p. 59, who sugg. m-šs "certainly" (EG 520-21 & below, under šs) was written for an intended m-šm vs. Volten, <i>Studi Rosellini</i> , 2 (1955), who read msgrt "ear," & Vleeming, "Wijshheidstekst" (1983) pp. 383-84, u. n. h, who retained reading msgrt & took as part of compound n. š-msgrt "whisper" (lit., "ear-speak")	P P Louvre 2414b, 1/11 
IN COMPOUNDS/PHRASES		
	šm 'hw' (n) <b>msge</b> "to extinguish (i.e., cause to stop) putrefaction of the ears" (R P Vienna 6257, 9/25)	
	<b>msgr</b> n wnm "right ear" (R P BM 10588 vo, 1/2)	
	<b>Msgr</b> -šgm DN (EG 181) = MEOTASUTMIS IN COMPOUND	
	šyš <b>Msgr</b> (wy)-šgm "herald of Mestasytmis" (P P Cairo 30618a, 1/10)	
	<b>msgr</b> n qle.t "cat's ear (plant)"; see under qle.t "cat," below	
	šny nb n p: <b>ms'gr</b> "every illness of the ear" (R P Vienna 6257, 9/27)	

Figure 1. A sample from the CDD: M, page 138.

# CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD)

## THEO VAN DEN HOUT

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After the publication of the fourth installment of the letter Š and, as a result, the completion of that volume last year (see the OI's *Annual Report 2019-20*), with a total of more than seven hundred pages, we immediately started work on the letter T/D. (Because the Hittite cuneiform writing system makes no systematic differentiation between these two sounds at the beginning of words, T and D are traditionally treated as one letter in our field.) Although the pandemic required changes and adjustments in our daily work routine, we successfully made the transition to remote work on the CHD thanks to the excellent electronic infrastructure at the OI and the ever-effective assistance of our IT manager Knut Boehmer and head of Research Archives Foy Scalf. As far as allowed by the rules of the University, we have worked in our offices, carefully calibrating our presence and always wearing masks whenever anybody else was around.

As mentioned in last year's report, our work on the letter T/D will result in the largest volume so far. First drafts of many words starting in *t-/d-* were already written years ago by various authors (Harry Hoffner,† Richard Beal, Oğuz Soysal, Alice Mouton), and editor Richard Beal started editing all of them for consistency of style and language. Because of the time lag or because not all available textual evidence had been used and cited, new attestations and new literature also had to be added to them. Foy Scalf has been great in providing Beal with both hard-copy and electronic copies of whatever we need. This help has allowed our staff, scattered by COVID-19, to continue working with most of the resources we would have if we were in our offices. Also, sometimes new attestations bring new meanings that have had to be worked in; and in some cases when drafts had not been written at all, Beal composed them. Thus working his way through the material, he has reached words starting in *tap-*.

Meanwhile, senior editor Petra Goedegebuure has been working on the so-called *function words*. They are not your regular nouns and verbs but conjunctions (e.g., “and, if, since,” etc.), postpositions (i.e., the opposite of *prepositions*, such as the English words “on, over, under, for” not coming before a noun but after it), or certain adverbs. These words are often short and seemingly simple, such as the conjunctions *ta*, normally translated “and” or left untranslated, and *takku*, “if, when,” but the description of their functioning in the Hittite language is highly complex and therefore results in long entries. Two other examples are the postpositions/local adverbs *tapuša* and *tapuša*, “beside, alongside.” Though straightforward in their meaning, the grammatical behavior of these postpositions/adverbs has never before been fully discussed. Theo van den Hout continued work on the verb *dā-*, “to take,” which has many shades of meaning depending on the context and combination with various adverbs.

Several years ago we took up the plan to start updating the older volumes with the letters L and M for an exclusively electronic edition. In the past year Goedegebuure has made important strides in updating the L in general as well as the function words in M.

Meanwhile, work on the proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Hittitology has almost come to an end. Manuscripts have been returned to the individual authors with editorial remarks and suggestions, and we will be able to finalize the entire manuscript and deliver it to the OI Publications office shortly.

## PROJECT REPORTS | CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY

Since last summer, Dr. Susanne Görke from the University in Marburg, Germany, has been working in the CHD office whenever possible. She is the recipient of the prestigious German Feodor Lynen Fellowship, awarded by the Humboldt Foundation, and is working on a book on the development and establishment of a religious system in Hittite Anatolia.

Finally, it is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge especially the ongoing, wonderful, and loyal support of Mr. Philip Elenko from New York and from the Güterbock family, as well as all others.

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# CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION WORK IN AFGHANISTAN

GIL J. STEIN

In 2020–21 we completed the ninth year of our cultural heritage preservation work in Afghanistan. Our three ongoing projects are funded by the U.S. State Department. Since 2012, we have worked in partnership with the National Museum of Afghanistan (NMA), directed by Fahim Rahimi, and the Afghan Institute of Archaeology (AIA), directed by Noor Agha Noori. Our State Department partners are Dr. Laura Tedesco, cultural heritage program manager in the Department of Central and South Asian Affairs, and grants manager Jacqueline Viselli. At the U.S. Embassy–Kabul, cultural affairs specialist Muzhgan Azizy provides valuable administrative assistance. The OI team includes principal investigator Gil Stein, grants administrator Matthew Perley, and Afghan Heritage Mapping Partnership (AHMP) project manager Andrew Wright, as well as Kabul field director Alejandro Gallego Lopez, head conservator Fabio Columbo, and assistant conservator Elisa Pannunzio.

Our current partnership projects with the NMA and the AIA have five key goals: (1) preserve and restore the hundreds of early Buddhist sculptures at the NMA that were smashed by the Taliban in 2001 (fig. 1); (2) train NMA conservators and curators; (3) conduct museum outreach programming to high school students across Afghanistan (the Mobile Museum Project [MMP] grant); (4) work with the AIA in the AHMP to

Figure 1. Fragments of the hundreds of rare early Buddhist Gandharan style sculptures in the National Museum of Afghanistan (from the monastic center Hadda near the Khyber Pass) that were smashed by the Taliban in 2001 are being conserved and reassembled by the Hadda Sculptural Project: a partially restored standing Buddha sculpture (left) compared with a photo from the 1960's showing its condition when originally accessioned (right).





develop a GIS database of archaeological heritage sites in Afghanistan using satellite imagery; and (5) train the AIA staff to use geospatial databases for research and heritage preservation. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 disruptions of international travel and health/safety concerns, our international team continued to work remotely on all our projects in tandem with the on-site work conducted by our Afghan project staff and local partners in Kabul.

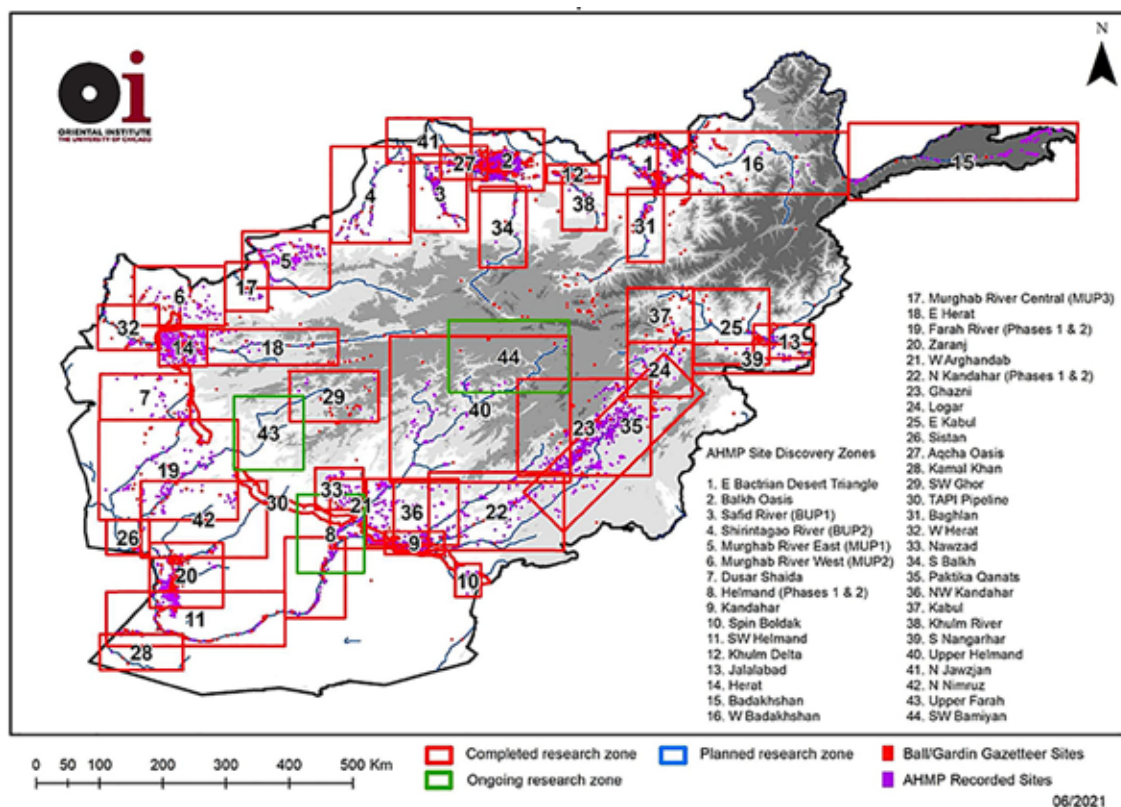
Figure 2. The Afghan Heritage Mapping Partnership identifies sites where illicit excavations and looting are taking place through time-series analysis of remote-sensing images. Comparison of the satellite image from 2018 (left) with one taken a year later in 2019 (right) shows new looting activities at the southern end of the mound in the area highlighted by the red oval.

## THE AFGHAN HERITAGE MAPPING PARTNERSHIP

Our partnership with the AIA focuses on three key areas: (1) discovery and spatial inventory of archaeological sites across Afghanistan; (2) documenting the condition of archaeological sites and monitoring looting activities (fig. 2); and (3) training the AIA staff in geospatial techniques for heritage preservation and management. The AHMP Chicago staff are Tony Lauricella (CAMEL lab acting director), Andrew Wright (project manager), Jennifer Feng (assistant project manager), and three students (data analysts).

The AHMP continued its core mission of finding archaeological sites throughout Afghanistan. In our 44 search zones examined as of June 2021, we have identified 11,996 sites and 16,423 *qanat* irrigation systems, for a total cleaned dataset of 28,419 significant ancient heritage sites (fig. 3). In 6 years, we have covered 245,153 km<sup>2</sup>—about 37 percent of the area of Afghanistan. But our current system of discovering sites by visual examination is labor intensive and far too slow. We need to develop more efficient methods to complete our inventory of heritage sites while doing so is still possible.

Recent developments in the field of artificial intelligence provide a way to accelerate significantly the AHMP's work. Deep learning uses neural networks designed to emulate human brain processes so computers can be trained to solve complex identification problems. Learning through repeated trial and error, with corrections by human experts, the computer develops an increasingly accurate "map" of the specific object it is searching for. This map can then be used to detect that same feature when examining new, unknown images. Deep-learning models have enormous potential to identify archaeological sites in the landscapes recorded in satellite images.



In spring 2021 we began a collaboration with the University of Chicago Research Computing Center to develop and implement a deep-learning model for computer identification of archaeological sites in remote-sensing images across Afghanistan. Starting with high-resolution LiDAR images, we used a training set of two thousand mounds that we had already identified visually to teach the computer model how to recognize archaeological mounds and pick them out of the surrounding landscape (fig. 4). The model has been repeatedly tested and improved and is now ready to search the entire area of Afghanistan to identify archaeological sites. Our team will visually check and correct the computer's site identifications. We are on track to complete the coverage of the remaining 63 percent of the country and create the first comprehensive archaeological map of Afghanistan by the end of 2021.

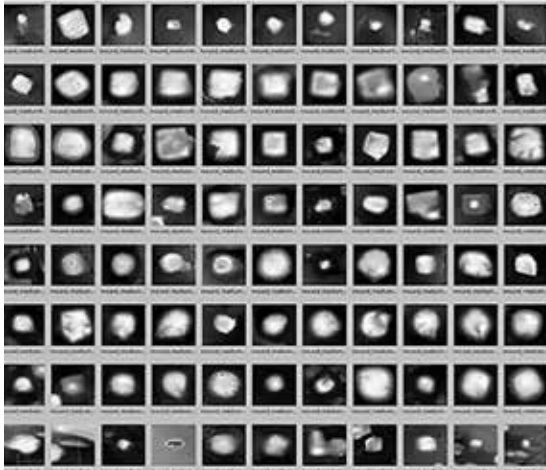
From January 9–21, 2021, Dr. Pietro Calogero (of San Francisco State University) taught our third remote training course for the AIA staff focused on the QGIS geospatial database—an open-source version of the standard GIS software. This intensive course emphasized hands-on training in QGIS applications for cultural resource management (fig. 5).

Figure 3. Map of Afghanistan showing the search blocks where archaeological heritage sites have been located through analysis of satellite imagery, archaeological gazetteers, historical maps, and inventories assembled by the Afghan Institute of Archaeology. To date, the AHMP has documented 28,419 heritage sites across the country.



## Train set

### Mounds -- positives



### Non-mounds -- negatives



TOP: Figure 4. The Afghan Heritage Mapping Partnership is collaborating with the University of Chicago's Research Computing Center to develop an artificial intelligence deep-learning model that identifies archaeological sites in remote-sensing images. The Partnership's analysts used a training set of two thousand features that had already been identified visually as mounds (at left) to teach the computer model how to recognize archaeological mounds and distinguish them from *non-mound* search units (*tiles*) in the surrounding landscape (at right).

BOTTOM: Figure 5. In 2021, the Afghan Heritage Mapping Partnership taught its third remote training course for the Afghan Institute of Archaeology focused on QGIS—an open-source version of the standard ArcGIS geospatial database. This intensive course emphasized hands-on training in QGIS applications for cultural resource management—in this case, the identification and documentation of heritage sites threatened by the construction of the TAPI natural gas pipeline across Afghanistan.




Recording

## Skill: TAPI Pipeline Case Study and Remote Survey

- AHMP discovered over 400 archaeological sites within 5km of the pipeline through remote survey
- Used the TAPI Pipeline dataset as a case study in the use of time series imagery to assess site risk

CORONA: (1965-05-27)



BuckEye: (2012-09-30)



DigitalGlobe: (2020-12-21)



*ADRASKAN RUD, threatened by urban expansion*

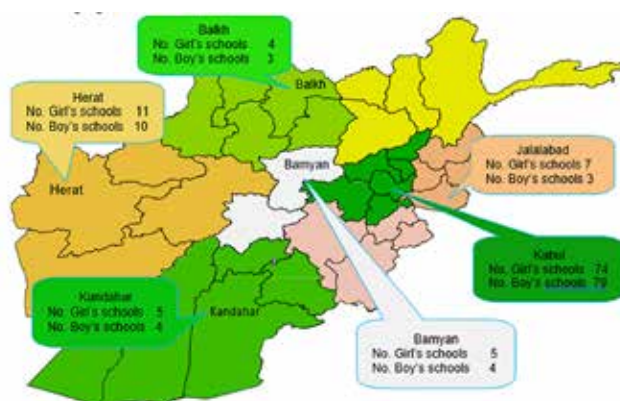
## THE MOBILE MUSEUM PROJECT

The MMP is a collaboration with the NMA to implement an educational outreach program designed to raise awareness among high-school students of the NMA's important collections through in-class presentations in boys' and girls' high schools and orphanages in the six largest cities across Afghanistan: Kabul, Herat, Mazar-i Sharif, Bamiyan, Kandahar, and Jalalabad. The Mobile Museum uses innovative digital technology, object-based learning, and traditional educational tools to engage with students. Our in-class presentations include video, 3D printed replicas of museum objects, posters and banners for permanent display, and notebooks with information about the NMA for students to take home. In 2020–21 we presented in-class or webcast programs to 10,504 students at 160 schools, orphanages, and Lincoln Learning centers in Kabul and Bamiyan (fig. 6). Our school programs halted on May 29, 2021, due to COVID-19 and the declining security situation in Afghanistan.

Fortunately, we were able to continue with two additional MMP outreach projects. In June 2021 we published two books to raise awareness about Afghanistan's cultural heritage: a children's book, *A Gift from Our Ancestors*, and a book for high-school students, *The National Museum of Afghanistan and our Cultural Heritage*. Four thousand books were published in separate Dari and Pashto versions (fig. 7). In June 2021 we also arranged the broadcast of our MMP video documentary on two Afghan television networks: TOLO TV and 1TV.

RIGHT: Figure 6. The Mobile Museum Project was designed to reach high school students in both the capital Kabul and in the largest provincial capitals across Afghanistan – Bamiyan, Herat, Mazar-i Sharif, Jalalabad and Kandahar.

BELOW: Figure 7. As part of the Mobile Museum Project's public outreach, we collaborated with the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University to produce a short book titled *The National Museum of Afghanistan and Our Cultural Heritage*. Thousands of copies were produced in both Dari and Pashto—the two national languages of Afghanistan.



## THE HADDA SCULPTURAL PROJECT

In parallel with the MMP, one of our main projects at the NMA is the Hadda Sculptural Project (HSP). The 1,500-year-old sculptures from Hadda in the NMA comprise one of the most important collections of early Buddhist (Gandharan) art in the world. These priceless sculptures were systematically smashed by the Taliban in 2001 in the months leading up to their destruction of the giant standing Buddhas at Bamiyan. At great personal risk, the NMA staff secretly collected and stored more than 7,600 fragments of these sculptures. From 2016–21, the OI team has worked to clean, stabilize, and restore these rare examples of early Buddhist art. Our team consists of head conservator Fabio Colombo, assistant conservator Elisa Pannunzio, Prof. Giuseppe Salemi (Padua University) for 3D modeling, and Kabul field director Alejandro Gallego Lopez, who has been identifying the partially reassembled sculptures from field numbers, museum records, and catalogs of the NMA's pre-war collections. We have processed more than 7,600 sculptural fragments and partially reassembled 432 of the Hadda sculptures.

The COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 forced us to suspend on-site work at the NMA. We adjusted by working remotely in *virtual* missions on the data we have accumulated thus far. Team members in Europe work remotely while linking with the Chicago team in weekly online update meetings. The virtual missions focus on four goals: (1) organizing our archived photos taken from 2016–21; (2) implementing a Digital Asset Management (DAM) searchable image database for Hadda project photos and videos; (3) building 3D renderings of selected sculptures; and (4) documenting all of our partially reassembled sculptures from Hadda.

From 2016–21, we have generated 18,144 still images and videos to document the sculptural fragments, conservation interventions, and procedures. The complete images are entered into Daminion—a cloud-based DAM system to enable searches and location of the necessary image data by conservators, art historians, archaeologists, and museum curators. Daminion allows us to group together all related images and documentation for each of these partially reassembled sculptures (fig. 8). The images are tagged with keywords to facilitate searches. At the same time, we are matching registration numbers against old accession records and published catalogs to identify the sculptures and locate photos of the objects in their complete form before they were smashed by the Taliban. In some cases, matching the fragments to the old museum registration photos allowed us to reassemble the sculptures digitally (fig. 9).

Professor Salemi continued integrating thousands of still images to build 3D models of the forty best-preserved examples of our 432 partially reassembled sculptures (fig. 10). Not only are these 3D models useful for documenting the sculp-

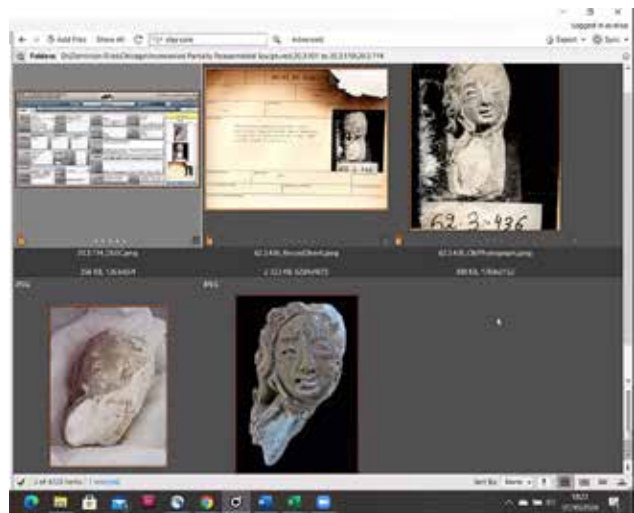


Figure 8. The Hadda Sculptural Project's Digital Assets Management system organizes our images of the early Buddhist sculptures, especially the 432 partially reassembled objects. This folder pulls together images of the OI-NMA computer inventory record of the sculpture (top left), its partially burnt original museum registration card (top center), photos showing the condition of the sculpture when it was first registered (top right), and a current photo showing the fresh break from when it was smashed by the Taliban (bottom left).



LEFT: Figure 9. A digitally reassembled sculpture of the Buddha in which color images of the reddish sculptural fragments have been superimposed at the same scale over the pre-war museum black-and-white original accession photo of the sculpture before it was smashed by the Taliban in 2001.

RIGHT: Figure 10. Computer-generated 3D model of a sculpted head of the Buddha. Professor Guiseppe Salemi, of the Hadda Sculptural Project, has stitched together thousands of overlapping digital images to create 3D renderings for forty of our partially reassembled sculptures.

tures—they also provide a valuable tool to make detailed conservation studies of the preservational condition of the objects.

In 2020–21 we also conducted three three-day training workshops for the NMA’s conservation staff and curators. The workshops focused on training in conservation and documentation skills using the Hadda sculptural fragments as the case study. Topics covered included an orientation to the site of Hadda and its excavations, object photography for conservation, and museological documentation. Participants also were trained in editing digital photographs using Photoshop.

## CONCLUSIONS

Our three ongoing projects in Afghanistan span a range of approaches to preserving different aspects of cultural heritage in this embattled country. Our conversion to online remote work combined with the exceptional work of our Kabul-based Afghan staff colleagues has enabled us to keep these programs active throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As we move into the final year of our grants, we hope to complete these projects of documentation, conservation, cataloging, training, and educational outreach.





# EASTERN BADIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT (EBAP)

YORKE ROWAN

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While the Eastern Badia Archaeological Project (EBAP) could not conduct fieldwork during the COVID-19 pandemic, research and grant writing continued. Two chapters appeared in the volume from the conference *The Archaeology and Epigraphy of Jordan's North-Eastern Desert*, held at the National Museum of Ethnology in Leiden, Netherlands (March 17–18, 2017). “Populating the Black Desert: The Late Neolithic Presence” and “Flamingos in the Desert: How a Chance Encounter Shed Light on the ‘Burin Neolithic’ of Eastern Jordan,” both co-authored with Gary Rollefson and Alexander Wasse, were published in *Landscapes of Survival: The Archaeology and Epigraphy of Jordan's North-Eastern Desert and Beyond*, edited by Peter Akkermans (Leiden: Sidestone Press, 2020). The EBAP team also contributed to broader studies of palaeoenvironmental conditions in the region by producing an article in the journal *Quaternary International* (2021) titled “The Palaeoenvironmental Potential of the Eastern Jordanian Desert Basins (Qe’an)” and preparing another one titled “Stable Isotopes and Proxies of Local Palaeoclimates for Three Sites in the Holocene Levant” for the journal *Quaternary Science Reviews*.



Figure 1. Animal traps, known as desert kites, visible from the air.

## PROJECT REPORTS | EASTERN BADIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT (EBAP)

Yorke Rowan participated with Chad Hill in the conference Framing Society in the Past: Infrastructure in Archaeological Discourse for the Winslow Series in Archaeology (Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, April 10–11, 2021). Their contribution, “Desert Kites: Neolithic Infrastructure in the Margins,” suggests that the hundreds of kilometers of animal traps (known as desert *kites*; see fig. 1) extending from Syria and across eastern Jordan constitute examples of pre-urban, prehistoric infrastructure initiated in the Neolithic period. This research forms part of the background for their new research project “Kites in Context: Prehistoric Land Use in the Black Desert of Eastern Jordan.” As part of this new initiative, Hill, Rowan, and Kathleen Morrison are principal investigators for a National Science Foundation award extending from September 2021 to August 2025 and administered through the University of Pennsylvania. The research project will consist in a multiscale investigation to document the desert kites at high resolution and excavate specific features in order to investigate their social and economic role within marginal environments.

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# EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

W. RAYMOND JOHNSON AND J. BRETT MCCLAIN

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

JAY HEIDEL, KRISZTIÁN VÉRTES, OWEN MURRAY, JENNIFER KIMPTON,  
LOTFI K. HASSAN, AND FRANK HELMHOLZ

Due to the worldwide COVID-19 health crisis of 2020–21 and consequent travel restrictions, it was not possible for the Epigraphic Survey staff to undertake fieldwork in Egypt during the course of its normal six-month field season this past year. Nevertheless, director W. Raymond Johnson, assistant director Brett McClain, and the Chicago House team successfully reoriented the work plan to focus on remote projects, including the processing of data from previous field campaigns, publication production, and planning/preparation of work to be resumed as soon as the team can return to Luxor. Remote work focused on Medinet Habu, Luxor Temple, and TT 107. Our work at Khonsu Temple in Karnak remained in hiatus this year, although Director Ray gave an overview lecture on our documentation programs there for the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) this summer. The team's progress on material from each of the three active sites is detailed below.



Figure 1. Medinet Habu—new digital watercolor technique being developed by Krisztián Vértés. Medinet Habu, MHB Ramesses III sunk-relief carving repainted in the Ptolemaic period. Drawing and photograph by Krisztián Vértés.

## LUXOR TEMPLE

The documentation program for Luxor Temple (LT) in 2020–21, carried out as part of our remote work arrangement, focused on two principal categories: (1) the finalization of ortho-photographs from previous seasons' digital photography of fragments in the blockyard, undertaken by digital photographer Hilary McDonald and digital data engineer Gina Salama under the supervision of LT site manager Jay Heidel, and (2) the digital inking and correction of facsimile drawings of fragment groups in the blockyard and of Late Roman imperial frescos and Eighteenth Dynasty wall reliefs in Rooms V and VIII, done by senior artist Krisztián Vértés and Jay Heidel, with photographic and three-dimensional (3D) modeling assistance provided by senior digital photographer Owen Murray.

This year of remote work has provided an ideal opportunity for computerized processing of digital photographs in order to build photogrammetric 3D models and create final ortho-rectified images of fragments in the LT corpus, focused primarily on the Karnak *talatat* collection in the LT blockyards.

## PROJECT REPORTS | EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

To date, nearly all the six-thousand-odd *talatat* at LT have been photographed in the field by the documentation team, and more than twenty-six hundred finished ortho-photographs thereof have been delivered for cataloging. The cataloging and organization of this material, along with the other photographic records from LT, has been carried out by digital archivists Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaud-idiés. The building of computerized 3D models and the generation of finalized ortho-photographs for the LT fragments are ongoing at this time and will continue during the summer months, with the goal of completing as many of the *talatat* as possible before fieldwork resumes. Once the team is back on site, the emphasis of this program will shift to a group of roughly five thousand blocks and fragments originating from the ruined southeastern chambers of LT, dating to the reign of Amen-hotep III.

Concurrently with the generation of ortho-photographs of the LT fragments, work is proceeding to elaborate the extant records within the LT fragment database, created and maintained by LT site manager Jay Heidel. This work is focused on a record-by-record review of each fragment in consultation with the field director

to make sure that the information available for each fragment, including not only photographs but also the date, identification, grouping, and bibliography, is as complete as possible.

Progress has also been made on the facsimile drawings of specific fragment groups from the LT blockyard during this time. Correction transfers to the drawings of the thirty-nine fragments in the Bentresh corpus have been completed, and over the winter Jay has inked forty fragment drawings from Group 1 of the Ptolemy I corpus. He is now digitally inking the facsimile drawings for Group 2 of the Ptolemy I corpus, consisting of 101 fragments.

Several months of remote work have also proven advantageous for the ongoing documentation of the Late Roman frescos in the Imperial Chamber (Room V). At the time of this writing, the reconstructed versions for the southwestern, western, and northwestern walls have all been completed by senior artist Krisztián Vértés. Additionally, he has completed a composite reconstruction drawing of the entire group of frescos in this room, including a digital overhaul of the drawings of the apse and of the northeastern, eastern, and southeastern walls, which had been done in previous seasons. Over the coming summer months, a complete overhaul will be made of all the completed fresco



Figure 2. Luxor Temple—finalized reconstruction of Late Roman fresco over Eighteenth Dynasty relief carving on the southwestern wall of the Imperial Chamber. Drawing by Krisztián Vértés.

drawings to unify their formatting and file nomenclature. Once finalized, these facsimile drawings, with the accompanying commentary, will be published in a forthcoming volume of our *Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple (RILT)* series.

An extended period of remote work has likewise provided an opportunity for Jay to make progress on documentation and digital facsimile drawings of the wall reliefs in the Second Hypostyle Hall (Room VIII), for which fieldwork (ortho-photography, penciling, inking, and collation) has been prioritized during the last several seasons. During this past winter, Jay has inked three additional enlargements depicting scenes from the eastern wall that are now ready for collation; one more enlargement is currently being inked, with yet another one ready for inking. When fieldwork is once again possible, Jay will resume penciling on several additional enlargements, as well as the collation work that was in progress during 2019–20 and the ongoing preparation of ortho-photographic enlargements for the upper register scenes. When completed, the photographs and facsimile drawings of the reliefs and inscriptions in this chamber will form the subject of an additional volume in the *RILT* series and will be the first chamber in the history of the Epigraphic Survey to be photographed, drawn, collated, and prepared for publication completely digitally.

## MEDINET HABU

It was not possible for the Epigraphic Survey to undertake fieldwork at Medinet Habu this past winter. Nevertheless, the Chicago House team successfully reoriented our work plan to focus on remote projects, including the processing of data from previous field campaigns and site management planning and preparation of the work to be continued as soon as the team can safely return to Luxor. Heartfelt thanks are here extended to USAID Egypt for the grant that has supported both the remote and on-site work. As a result, the Epigraphic Survey staff is well prepared for the resumption of on-site fieldwork in October 2021.

Our areas of focus within the temple complex included the Small Temple of Amun with its later additions, particularly the Gate of Taharqa and the Late Period Portico, along with the Chapel of



Figure 3. Medinet Habu—Taharqa Gate facsimile documentation (MH.E 86). Silver nitrate photograph by the Epigraphic Survey; digital ortho-photograph by Owen Murray; drawing by Dominique Navarro.



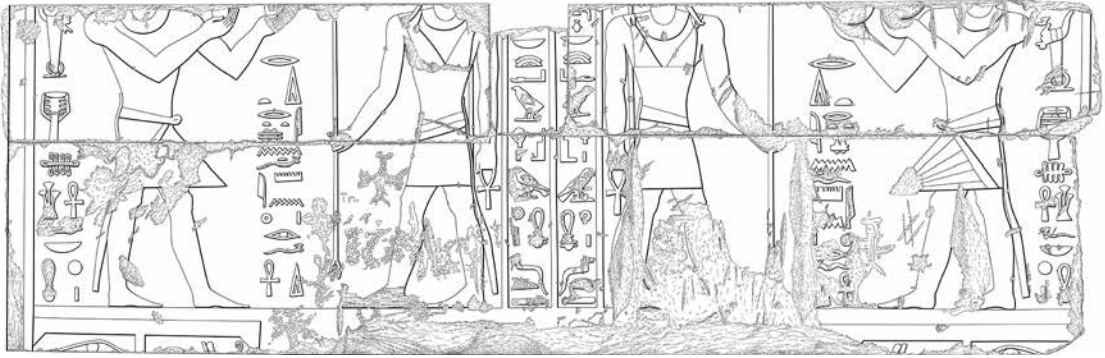


Figure 4. Medinet Habu—preliminary facsimile drawing of the Taharqa Gate lintel (MH.E 85). Drawing by Dominique Navarro.

Amenirdis, the Gate of Claudius, and the Western High Gate. In each of these sectors it has been possible to achieve significant objectives in data processing, research, and preparation to resume fieldwork next season. The staff assigned to documentation projects concerning Medinet Habu this season were photographers Yarko Kobylecky, Amanda Tetreault, and Owen Murray; senior artists Susan Osgood, Margaret De Jong, and Krisztián Vértés; artists Keli Alberts and Dominique Navarro; senior epigrapher J. Brett McClain; and epigraphers Jennifer Kimpton, Ariel Singer, and Aleksandra Hallmann.

In conjunction with the above-mentioned areas of focus, the digital photography team headed by senior digital photographer Owen Murray has used the remote-work period to develop 3D models of the Gate of Taharqa and the Gate of Claudius. These models will be used to support the work of the conservation and stonemasonry teams in planning the dismantling and restoration of these structures as part of our USAID-funded conservation and site management program for the Medinet Habu complex. In addition, as noted above, the 3D models make it possible to produce ortho-photographs that can be used for precise rectification of the facsimile drawings of these structures, either in the planning stage or already in progress.

### ***The Western High Gate at Medinet Habu***

The 2020–21 field season was cancelled due to restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, thus creating an unexpected study season for the Western High Gate (WHG) project. The project was ideally situated for such a focus: nearly all the blocks and fragments associated with the monument have been photographed, a significant portion of the core material has also been drawn, and we even have 3D models of several important pieces. What was increasingly necessary to the progress of this project was the time to sort through the material we had recorded to find the patterns and connections that would allow us to begin treating the WHG in terms of scenes and rooms rather than as disjointed pieces. In short, we needed to think, and thankfully our work in previous field seasons had provided us with enough data to be able to use this period of study to great advantage. The following report includes activities that took place during the summer of 2020 in addition to the official season of October 15, 2020, through April 15, 2021, since there was no meaningful divide this year between *summer* and *field* work.

## Inking

Keli Alberts was able to ink all the drawings she penciled during the 2019–20 field season at the WHG—a total of twenty-eight drawings. In addition, she penciled and inked a fragment known only from a Hölscher negative. (We have been unable to find the actual fragment at the WHG; see fig. 5). This summer Keli expects to pencil and ink more fragments that are known only through archival photographs.

## Isometric Drawings

In October 2020 Johannes Weninger joined the WHG project to assist us with the production of isometric drawings. Johannes used his skills with AutoCAD to develop a technique whereby he creates isometric drawings from orthomosaic images derived from 3D models of blocks. The results he obtains from this method are far more accurate than our previous methodology allowed, particularly with regard to broken surfaces and nonsquare angles (fig. 6). To date Johannes has completed nine model-based isometric drawings.

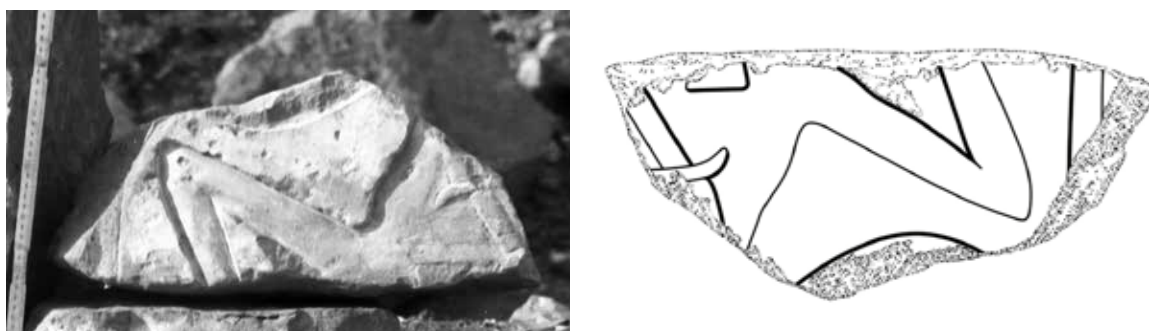


Figure 5. MHbl. 4625 in Hölscher negative (left) and as inked by K. Alberts (right).

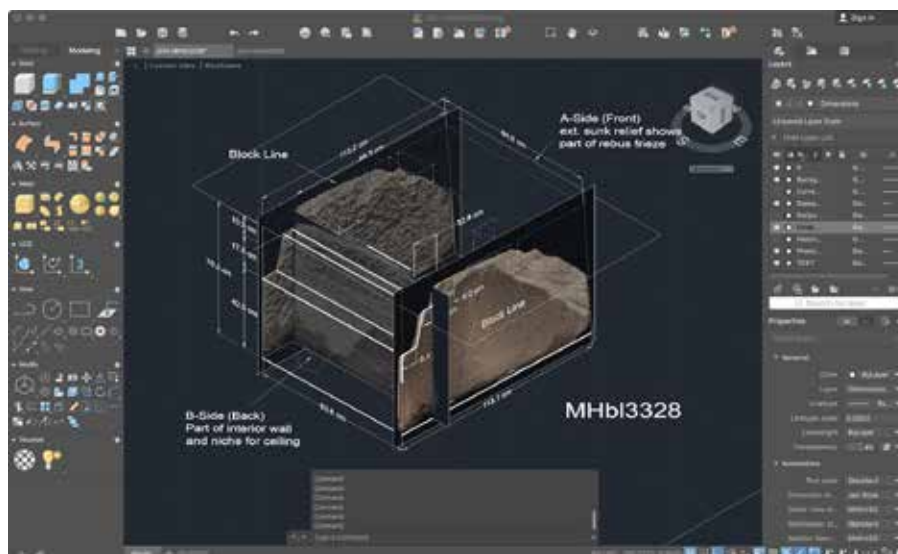


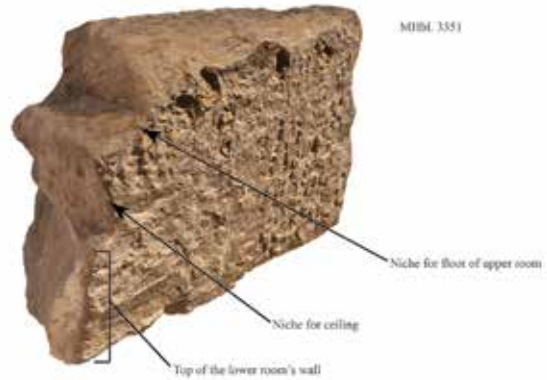
Figure 6. Screenshot showing J. Weninger's isometric drawing methodology in AutoCAD.

## Epigraphic Reports

Despite the abbreviation of the 2019–20 field season, I had completed four first collations of WHG blocks and fragments while still in Luxor. During this home-based season I wrote the reports to accompany these collations, so all four of them are ready for the second collation stage.

## Models

During the 2019–20 field season I was able to collect enough material to build eleven 3D models of WHG blocks and fragments, and these models have now been processed and put to use. For example, the model of MHbl. 3351—which is the only block we have to date that spans the upper and lower rooms of the southern tower—allowed me to calculate the heights of both of those rooms (fig. 7). Most other models were used to prove, disprove, or simply illustrate proposed wall and fragment joins (fig. 8).



ABOVE: Figure 7. View of the model of MHbl. 3351 with architectural features labeled.



LEFT: Figure 8. Group of proposed wall joins (clockwise from top MHbl. 3297, MHbl. 3373, MHbl. 3270).

## Preliminary Study of the Southern Tower's Upper-Story Room

Some of the blocks belonging to the uppermost portion of the southern tower still retain their interior faces and so allow a preliminary analysis of the upper room's decorative scheme; this year's study season granted the time for this analysis to take place. It now seems certain that the room's western wall (and possibly the entire room) was still undecorated by the end of Ramesses III's reign. Preliminary sketches in red paint were applied to the plastered walls of the room in the reign of Ramesses IX but were never subsequently carved. The red paint on these blocks—still clearly visible at the time of their excavation—has now mostly vanished, so that the current study is reliant on old photos with some assistance from the D-Stretch software. There is enough evidence, nevertheless, to demonstrate that the western wall of the upper room was intended to be decorated with three



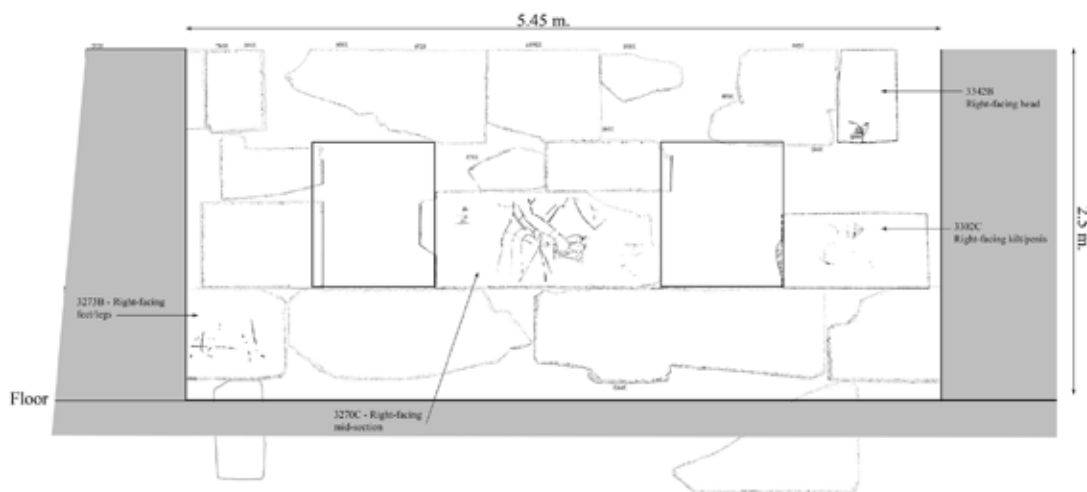


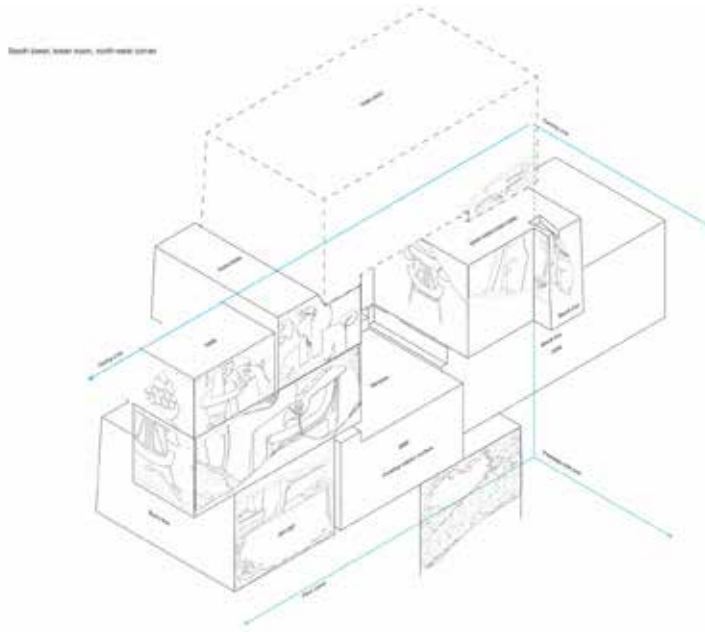
Figure 9. Preliminary study of the southern tower's upper room, western wall.

scenes of Ramesses IX performing cultic rituals; the deity to whom these rituals were directed does not seem to appear on this wall (fig. 9).

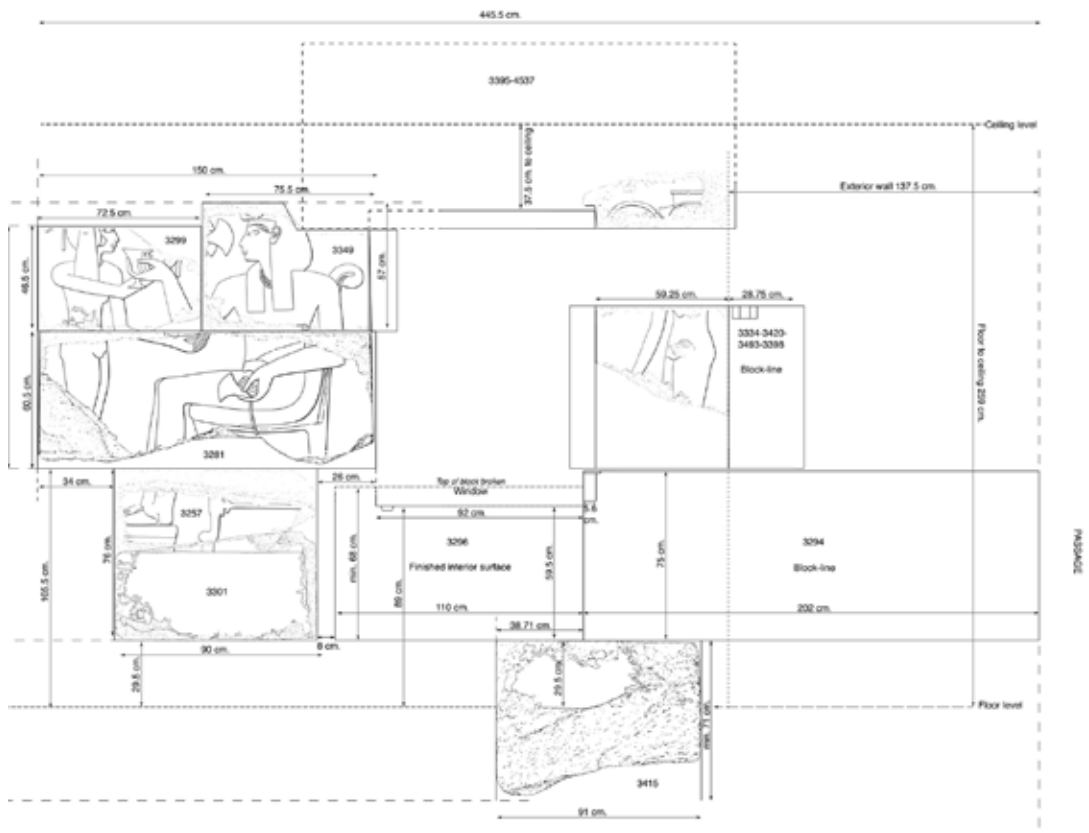
### ***Collaborative Work between Keli Alberts and Jen Kimpton***

This period of remote work has served to evolve our partnership in reconstructing the WHG, previously more ad hoc in nature, into a more formalized method of approach—and with gratifying success. Our method begins with Keli setting a topic by producing a report for a given fragment that includes every possible join or group with which the fragment may be associated based on its content and architectural features. When feasible, her report also suggests locations for the fragment or its group within the WHG based on internal evidence and/or comparative material from the Eastern High Gate (EHG). On receiving the report, I attempt to prove or disprove any of the possible joins she has suggested, taking advantage of a broad range of notes and data I have collected for the WHG fragments over the past several years, as well as parallels from the EHG. The method as described above is straightforward enough, but in practice the process of proving a single join often requires a substantial amount of complex background information. Thanks to our enforced study season, we have been fortunate enough to have the time to produce and compile the background information we need on each topic as it arises.

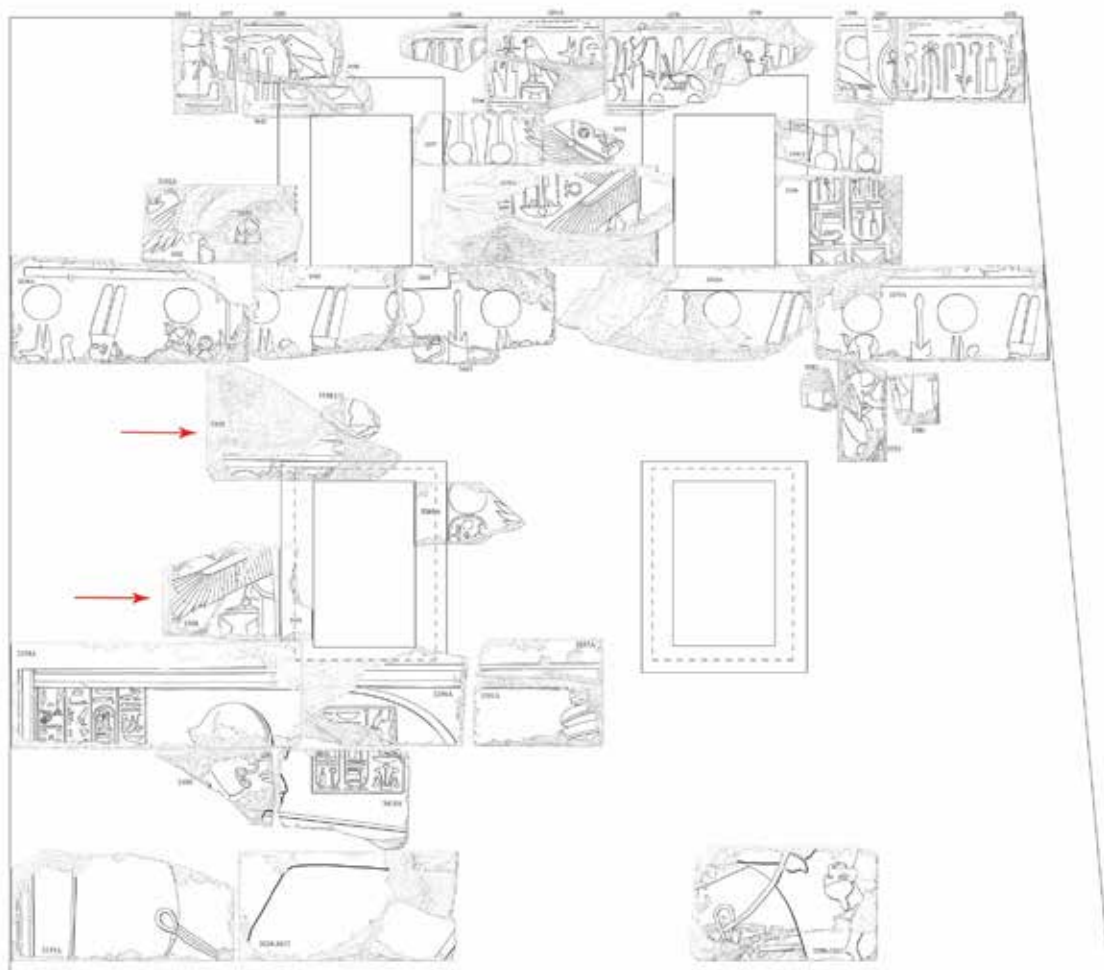
One notable area of progress resulting from this partnership is the expansion of our reconstruction of the southern tower's lower room into its northwestern corner (figs. 10 and 11). While these joins and groups must be regarded as provisional until they can be tested in the field, both the content and the architectural features of the fragments involved in this expansion are in complete harmony with the preexisting context to which we propose to add them. Fortunately, this expansion of the interior room also has implications for our reconstruction of the southern tower's exterior decoration. If our hypothesized joins are correct, we can demonstrate the presence of a left-facing Behdet in the corresponding space on the exterior side of the southern tower's western wall. This conclusion means that five of the six spaces associated with windows on that exterior wall are established as featuring left-facing Behdets (and I am willing at this point to take the sixth Behdet on faith). Thus it seems that the entirety of the upper registers of decoration are oriented toward the central passage, in opposition to the orientation of the king in the main tower scene (fig. 12).



TOP: Figure 10. Updated view of the southern tower's lower room.

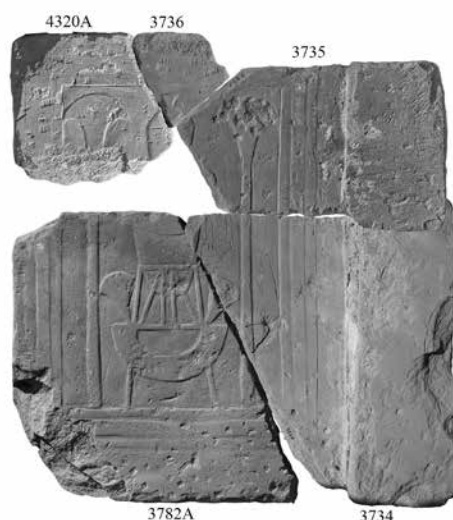


BOTTOM: Figure 11. Reconstruction of the western wall of the southern tower's lower room.



ABOVE: Figure 12. Current state of our reconstruction of the southern tower's exterior (western) wall, upper half. The red arrows indicate the blocks we have added via their relationships with the tower's lower room interior wall.

Another group of interest that we have had the opportunity to study is a set of slabs (ranging from 11 to 14 cm thick) carved with raised relief typical of the WHG's interior decoration (fig. 13). Several of these slabs featured jambs, and after producing several joins among the group it seems clear—not only by their architectural features but also by their content—that originally they were window reveals. We suspect that they were inserted into windows that were built into the mudbrick structures of the WHG complex, but further study is needed to confirm this possibility.



RIGHT: Figure 13. Two groups of joining slab fragments that appear to be window reveals.

## PROJECT REPORTS | EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

Several other joins that have resulted from our collaborative work will not be listed here because we cannot yet connect them into our larger reconstruction of the southern tower. But eventually their places are likely to be identified or at least hypothesized, thanks to our increasing knowledge of the character of the WHG's interior and exterior spaces. Our current project focuses on the passage (northern) side of the southern tower and will probably occupy a good deal of the summer season.

### ***WHG by the Numbers***

- Drawings inked: 29
- Epigraphic reports: 4
- Completed photogrammetric models: 11
- Isometric drawings: 10
- Fragment catalog: 3 new entries, With the current total of entries being 1,633, representing 1,519 blocks/fragments

### ***Conservation and Stone Masonry—Ramesses III Paved Walkway***

The restoration and recreation of the Ramses III pavement around the main temple started and continued during the five previous seasons. Preparatory documentation for the continuation of work consists in establishing the existing conditions by conducting a survey of the area to be conserved and restored, using a Leica Total station to establish and measure the area, dimensions, and inclines of the pavement.

During this remote study season, survey data acquired during the previous season were processed and analyzed. With the help of those survey points and photogrammetric images, drawings of

Figure 14. Medinet Habu—Ramesses III mortuary temple: northern side of the main temple with newly restored path. Photograph by Frank Helmholz.



the remaining north-side pavement of the main temple were created. These drawings show the condition of the pavement before intervention.

Study, documentation, the drawing of archaeological remains of the mudbrick walls through old photographs, maps, and a Chicago House survey have been prepared and planned for next season's restoration and reconstruction processes.

A walkway (passage) was created along the north-side mudbrick walls adjoining the temple to permit visitors to look at the beautiful external scenes of the northern enclosure wall of the temple. To complete the walkway of the northern side of the mortuary temple of Ramesses III, which is about 90 m long, will require about 450 tiles measuring 50 × 50 cm. A timeline for the production of the mudbrick tiles and their installation has been prepared and will be implemented on site during the 2021–22 field season.

### ***Conservation and Stone Masonry—Taharqa Gate***

With a new method of producing drawing enlargements refined for the Chicago House digital epigraphy workflow, the Taharqa gate at Medinet Habu model was a significant focus during this remote season. The model was built and refined using local coordinate survey information paired with coded targets, resulting in low error margins throughout: +/- 3 mm. After consulta-

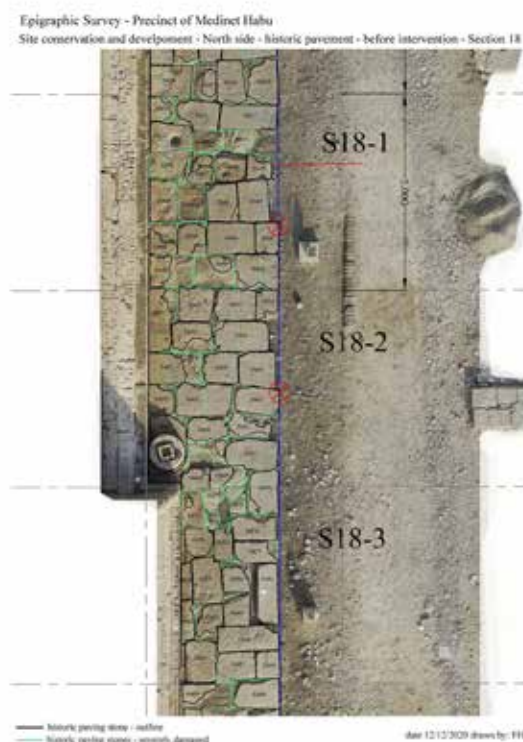


Figure 15. Epigraphic Survey—precinct of Medinet Habu: site conservation and development, north-side historic pavement before intervention, Section 18.

Figure 16. Medinet Habu—Taharqa Gate 3D model and extracted orthomosaic from the northern side, 1–5 @ 300ppi. Finalized 3D model by Owen Murray.





## PROJECT REPORTS | EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

tion with the master stonemason, a series of orthomosaics helpful to his documentation and eventual rebuilding of the structure were extracted at 1–5 @ 300ppi.

This gate from the reign of Taharqa on the northern side of the Small Amun Temple at Medinet Habu is also in danger of collapsing due to eroded first-course stones on both sides. It was decided the best course of action would be to dismantle the entire gate and restore it with a stronger foundation and some new stones in the first courses. Documentation of the gate took place using photography and surveying with a Leica Total Station as well as photogrammetry during the previous season. These survey data and photogrammetric images were used to create drawings documenting conditions, as well as record the dimensions and block layout for the future refurbishment of the gate after its dismantling.

The preparation of data sheets for studies of the state of conservation of the stone gate and mudbricks was carried out as a condition report, including the method of treatment. Preliminary, naked-eye investigation of the mudbrick remains at the Taharqa gate indicates that there are two types of mudbricks used in it: large, thick bricks appear to be used in walls, and thin types appear to be used in vaults. On site we will have greater opportunity to investigate further, but here we offer drawings of two possibilities for the mudbrick structure based on the naked-eye investigation noted above. More research will be needed to determine the original structure.

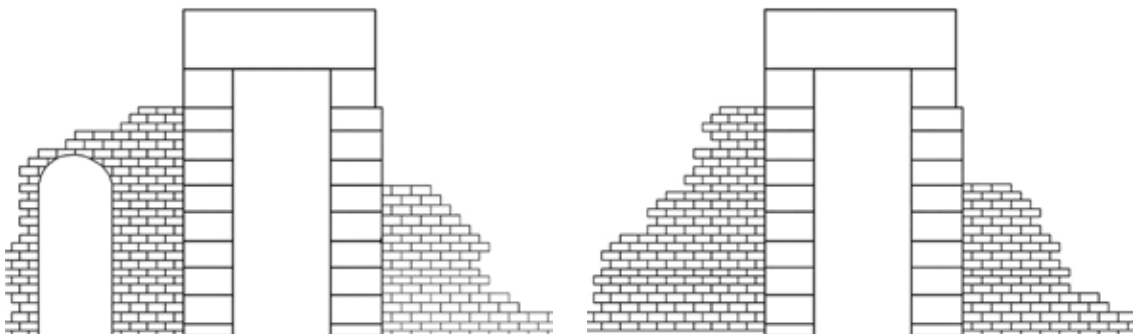
### ***Conservation and Documentation—Kushite Pylon Portico***

Epigraphic documentation, focused on the preparation of facsimile drawings of damaged reliefs from the Late Dynastic period, continued during our time of remote work. Artist Dominique Navarro prepared a number of drawings for collation. In addition, the



TOP: Figure 17. Taharqa gate March 2020 before intervention. Photograph by Frank Helmholz.

BOTTOM: Figure 18. Taharqa Gate—possible schemes for the restoration of mudbrick structures. Drawings by Lotfi K. Hassan.





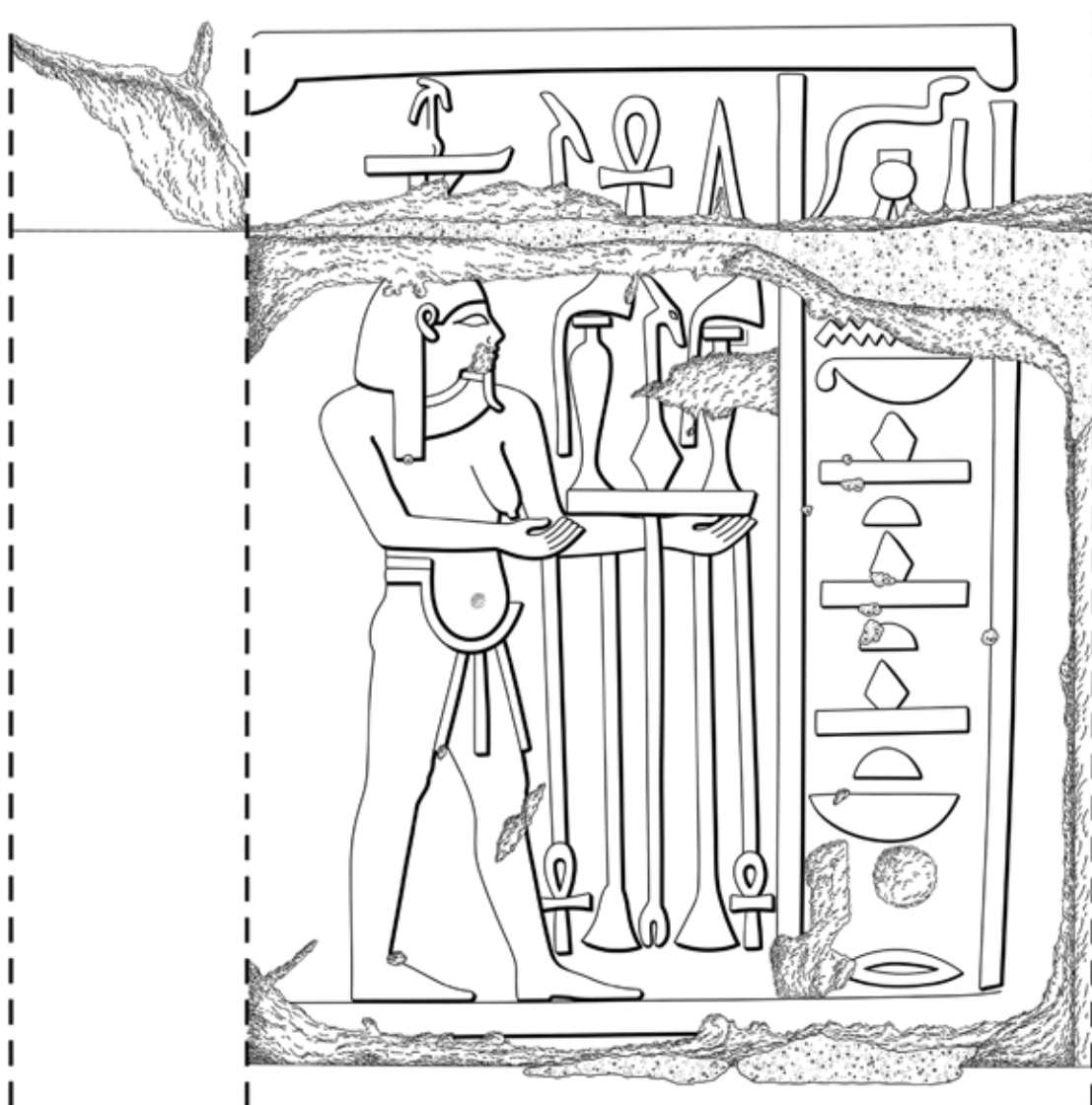


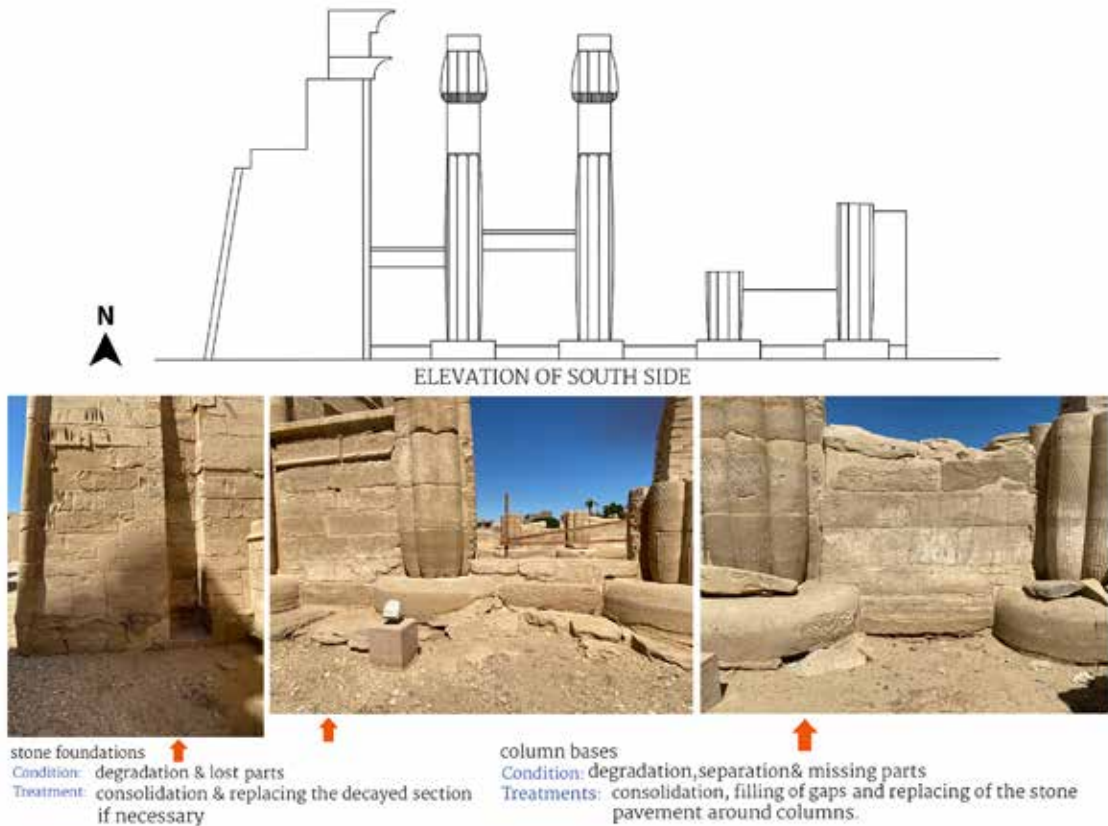
Figure 19. Medinet Habu—preliminary facsimile drawing from the Kushite Pylon Portico (MH.B 257B). Drawing by Dominique Navarro.

conservation supervisor developed a work plan for the conservation processes to be implemented in this section of the temple complex, as follows:

- removing the filling to detect the condition of the stone underneath;
- consolidating the decayed stone;
- cleaning and removing the filling to detect the condition of the stone underneath;
- consolidating the decayed stone;
- replacing the decayed stone and missing parts with new stone if necessary; and
- replacing the stone pavement around columns.

This work plan will be used to guide the implementation of conservation and site management measures during the 2021–22 field season.

## PROJECT REPORTS | EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY



ABOVE: Figure 20. Schematic overview of conservation plan for the Kushite Pylon Portico. Elevation and photographs by Lotfi Hassan. Conservation and Stone Masonry—Claudius Gate.

LEFT: Figure 21. Claudius Gate, site cleaned, before removal (February 2020). Photograph by Frank Helmholtz.



The small remains of a gate erected during the Roman period under the emperor Claudius were in imminent danger of collapse. The initial dismantling of the stones of the Claudius Gate was undertaken by the stonemasonry team during the 2019–20 field season, and complete photographic documentation was carried out on site. From these data, the digital photographer has created a series of 3D photogrammetric models of the gate prior to its dismantling, and based on these models the master stonemason has developed an AutoCAD plan and elevation drawings that will be used to guide the reinstallation.

tion of the feature, including a new foundation and carving replacement stone blocks where necessary, when fieldwork resumes.

Complete documentation and recording were carried out for all cases of damage and manifestations of alteration on the stone blocks of the gate (signed as coded graphics using Adobe Photoshop) as a first process before starting the conservation work on the individual blocks. The graphic documentation signed as the coded graphics for most cases of alteration and damage of stone blocks has been prepared and recorded from previous reports and recent photographs and will be verified on site next season.

## TT 107—THE TOMB OF NEFERSEKHERU

Our work on material from the Tomb of Nefersekheru (TT 107) this winter was also constrained by the lack of a field season. Nevertheless it has been possible to utilize this time of remote work for processing of photographs and inking drawings of fragments and groups that had been penciled during the winter 2020 campaign. Photographers Yarko Kobylecky and



Location: Medinet Habu, Claudius Gate  
Description: North Profile, January 16/2020.  
Scale: 1:10 @ 200dpi  
Produced by: Owen Murray for Frank Heitschke

TOP: Figure 22. Claudius Gate, northern face of western jamb. 3D photogrammetric model by Owen Murray.

BOTTOM: Figure 23. Claudius Gate documentation—state of conservation.



Medinet Habu – Claudius gate  
Documentation  
State of conservation

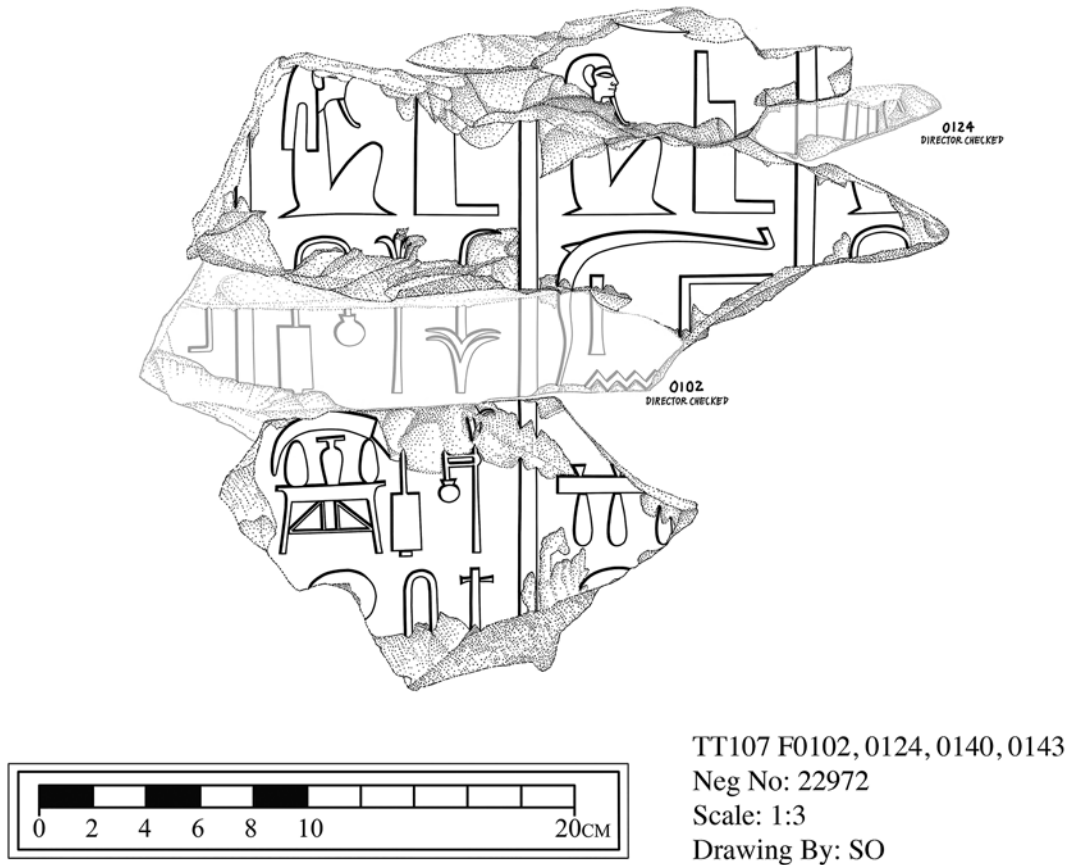


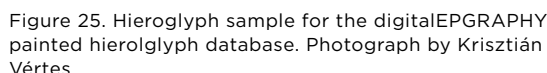
Figure 24. Fragment group from the façade of TT 107. Drawing by Susan Osgood.

Amanda Tetreault and senior artist Susan Osgood worked on these tasks during 2020–21, and inking of additional fragments and wall scenes from the tomb continued this year. An additional sixty-three fragments have been photographed, and these photographs will be prepared for penciling when we return to the field during the 2021–22 season. Project conservator Hiroko Kariya is presently putting together a database to track the fragments, their treatment, and their reassembly.

## digitalEPIGRAPHY WEBSITE 2020–21

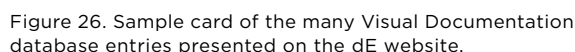
Most of the year has been spent writing and releasing articles written by our core team and many contributing colleagues. digitalEPIGRAPHY's most recent article series focuses on the "evolution of epigraphy" by introducing professionals who played vital roles in shaping visual documentation of ancient Egyptian monuments. A wide range of articles were presented at [www.digital-epigraphy.com](http://www.digital-epigraphy.com) in the past year, a number of them authored by Chicago House team members. In addition, we created two supplementary collections that extend the information provided by the regularly added articles of digital documentation tools, methods, and case studies. The Visual Documentation Database (<https://www.digital-epigraphy.com/visual-documentations>) aims to collect relevant contemporary and historic visual documentation efforts related to ancient Egypt and present them





Additionally, every week the OI continues to post articles and news items from the digitalEPIGRAPHY web page on the OI's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter platforms: <https://www.facebook.com/OrientalInstitute>, <https://twitter.com/orientalinst>, and <https://www.instagram.com/theorientalinstitute>. Oriental Institute lectures are also accessible online at <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheOrientalInstitute>.

Another aspect of teaching our colleagues about digital documentation techniques consists in workshops. Last autumn, digitalePIGRAPHY held a three-day online course organized by Universität Basel, followed in the spring by Scanning the Horizon, an open discussion about the future of epigraphy, held by Swansea University. Finally, one of digitalePIGRAPHY's case studies was presented as an online lecture at Universität Wien on its YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tATLWEHIQs>).



## CHICAGO HOUSE AND THE MARJORIE M. FISHER CHICAGO HOUSE LIBRARY

Throughout the period of remote work imposed by the COVID-19 crisis, although it has been impossible for our professional staff to work on site, we have nevertheless continued the full-time employment of our Luxor-based permanent work force during this time. Finance manager Essam el-Sayid, administrator Samir Guindy, and administrative assistant Samwell Maher have continued to provide financial oversight and monthly reporting to Brendan Bulger at the OI per usual. Our forty full-time workmen, supervised by *reis* Badawy Abdullah and chief engineer Nashat Sidhom, have protected the Chicago House facility, provided logistical support, and carried out a wide range of infrastructure repairs and maintenance at Chicago House in our absence under the capable direction of Tina Di Cerbo. These tasks include the cleaning and repainting of both halls of the Chicago House Library; dismantling, cleaning, and reassembling all the bookshelves; replacing the lighting in both halls; completely replacing the hot-water heating pipes in the library and office wing; and reorganizing and restacking the entirety of the library's holdings, as well as conducting a massive overhaul of the library's database (accomplished by Tina, Ariel Singer, and Chicago House librarian Anait Helmholz). We will publish more details of this and much more work in the next *Chicago House Bulletin*, but I must acknowledge here that we owe Tina, Badawy, Nashat, and all our workmen an enormous debt for safely accomplishing these projects at the House during this challenging time. Our gratitude to Tina and our Luxor staff is simply beyond words.

Figure 27. Chicago House Library Second Hall, reassembly of bookshelves. Photograph by Tina Di Cerbo.





## TRANSITIONS

It is with a heavy heart that I must note here the passing of several friends and former team members since I wrote last: former Chicago House librarian Marie Bryan; our beloved Carlotta Maher, who was the heart and soul of Chicago House for almost forty years; our dear colleague and friend Prof. Robert Ritner; and long-term Chicago House supporters and friends Dan and Lucia Woods Lindley. They all are a cherished part of the history of Chicago House, and we are terribly diminished by their passing. Proper tributes will be forthcoming.

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The Epigraphic Survey professional staff during this past season consisted of W. Raymond Johnson, director; J. Brett McClain, assistant director/senior epigrapher; Jen Kimpton, epigrapher and MH Western High Gate site manager; Christina Di Cerbo, Ariel Singer, and Aleksandra Hallmann Weninger, epigraphers; Boyo Ockinga and Susanne Binder, project archaeologist/epigraphers; Margaret De Jong, Susan Osgood, and Krisztián Vértés, senior artists; Keli Alberts and Dominique Navarro, artists; Jay Heidel, Luxor Temple site manager/architect/artist; Gina Salama, Luxor Temple assistant/digital data engineer; Yarko Kobylecky, chief staff photographer; Amanda Tetreault, assistant photographer; Owen Murray, senior digital photographer; Hilary McDonald, digital photographer; Susan Lezon, photo archivist; Elinor Smith, photo archives registrar; Carlotta Maher†, assistant to the director emerita; Essam El Sayed, finance manager; Samir Guindy, administrator; Samwell Maher, assistant administrator; Anait Helmholz, Chicago House head librarian/Medinet Habu Western High Gate assistant; Martina Roshdy Maher, assistant librarian; Frank Helmholz, master mason; Johannes Weninger, assistant stonemason; Lotfi K. Hassan, Medinet Habu conservation supervisor; and Hiroko Kariya, project conservator for Luxor Temple and TT 107. Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudis worked on the Chicago House digital archives database. Special thanks as always must go to our forty full-time Egyptian workmen, without whom we could do nothing.

Sincerest thanks to the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) and the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Dr. Khaled el-Enany, SCA Secretary General Dr. Mostafa Waziri, and all our friends and colleagues in Egypt for our remote collaboration this year. Sincerest thanks must go to the many friends of the Oriental Institute and Chicago House, whose generous support allows us to conduct our documentation, conservation, and restoration programs in Luxor. Thanks to the former Chargé d’Affaires of the U.S. Embassy the Honorable Thomas Goldberger; to former U.S. Ambassador to Egypt R. Stephen Beecroft; to former U.S. Ambassador to Egypt the Honorable Anne Patterson; former U.S. Ambassador to Egypt the Honorable Margaret Scobey; former mission directors of the United States Agency for International Development in Egypt directors Sherry Carlin, Mary Ott, Walter North, Jim Bever, Hilda (Bambi) Arellano, Ken Ellis, and Bill Pearson; to Sylvia Atalla and Mohamed Abdel Rahman, USAID Egypt; to David Rockefeller Sr.† and Marnie Pillsbury; to Dr. Marjorie M. Fisher; David and Carlotta Maher†; O. J. and Angie Sopranos; Misty and Lewis Gruber; Ward and Diane Zumsteg; Andrea Dudek; Nassef Sawiris; Kitty Picken; Daniel Lindley† and Lucia Woods Lindley†; Ellen and Tom Granger; David and Allison Harley; Eric and Andrea Colombel; Piers and Jenny Litherland; Tom Van Eynde; Jan Johnson and Donald Whitcomb; Marjorie B. Kiewit; Nancy N. Lassalle; Tom and Linda Heagy; Shafik Gabr, ARTOC Group, Cairo; Holly J. Mulvey; Judge and Mrs. Warren Siegel; Barbara Breasted Whitesides and George Whitesides; Miriam Reitz Baer; Beth Noujaim; James Lichtenstein; Jack Josephson and Magda Saleh; Priscilla (Peppy)

## PROJECT REPORTS | EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

Bath; Charlie Secchia; Emily Fine; Nan Ray; Anna White; Willard White; Janet and Karim Mostafa; Elisabeth R. French; Waheeb and Christine Kamil; Caroline Lynch; Polly Kelly; Louise Grunwald; Lowri Lee Sprung; Andrew Nourse and Patty Hardy, Kate Pitcairn; Dr. Lorna Straus; Dr. Ben Harer; Dr. Roxie Walker; Tony and Lawrie Dean; Mr. Charles L. Michod Jr; Dr. Louise Bertini and Mary Sadek of the American Research Center in Egypt; and all our friends and colleagues at the Oriental Institute. I must also express our special gratitude to British Petroleum, the Getty Grant Program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, LaSalle National Bank, Mobil Oil, Vodafone Egypt, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF), Curt Ferguson and Coca Cola Egypt (Atlantic Industries), and the World Monuments Fund (WMF) for their past support of our work.

Finally, we would like to express special gratitude to USAID Egypt for the continuing and vital support of our conservation and site-management program for the temple complex of Medinet Habu, especially during this most difficult year of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as to our colleagues in the Ministry of Antiquities/Supreme Council of Antiquities, without whose consideration none of our work in Egypt would be possible. This year of enforced remote work has posed numerous challenges for us all, but thanks to the ongoing funding provided by this award we have been able to adapt our work plan to an unprecedented set of circumstances and to continue our support and economic stimulus of the local community and the cultural heritage sector in Luxor. USAID Egypt's support has enabled us to prepare for the efficient implementation of the planned on-site measures with the goal of conserving the monumental area and enhancing visitors' access to the complex when our team returns to Medinet Habu in October 2021. The gratitude of the Luxor community—and Chicago House—is heartfelt.

## 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  
tel. (773) 702-9524  
fax. (773) 702-9853

# GALILEE PREHISTORY PROJECT

YORKE ROWAN AND MORAG M. KERSEL

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Although it was not possible for the Galilee Prehistory Project (GPP) team to conduct fieldwork during the COVID-19 pandemic, our research and publication continued. In 2015 the GPP team conducted intensive investigations of a small area in the Lower Galilee to evaluate the potential for a future excavation. Intensive survey (pedestrian, drone, and geophysical) complemented by methodical shovel tests along the Wadi el-Ashert directly south of Kibbutz Hanaton were discussed in the OI's *Annual Report 2015–16*. The results of this season in the Galilee were published in the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* (385, no. 1 [2021]: 1–32) by Yorke Rowan, Morag M. Kersel, Austin “Chad” Hill, and Thomas Urban. As an extension of that research, we enlisted the help of Ruby Deneen, an Oberlin undergraduate student supported by an American Society of Overseas Research summer grant, who will collect data on late prehistoric sites of the Upper and Lower Galilee. That data will be used to investigate change in the number of sites and site placement over the course of several millennia. During the 2019 season at Horvat Duvshan, in the eastern Galilee, Hill, Kersel, and Rowan tested an experimental application of a new technology for point data collection in the field. The results of that trial were developed into a paper titled “On Hedgehogs and Marvelous Minds: A New Technology for Point Data Collection?” currently in press with the Society of American Archaeology's journal *Advances in Archaeological Practice*.

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# GIZA PLATEAU MAPPING PROJECT

## MARK LEHNER | ANCIENT EGYPT RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Between September and December 2020 we carried out fieldwork for our Great Pyramid Temple Project (GPTP), while postponing our usual January through April excavation season until 2022. The GPTP is the subject of the report that follows.

The Great Pyramid of Khufu is the largest pyramid ever built and one of the most popular tourist sites in the world. But few of its visitors ever knew that a grand temple once rose on the eastern side of the pyramid. Nor did they realize, as they walked or rode horses and camels across the area, that they were helping erase the scant remains of the temple, the central focus of the Great Pyramid Complex—a complex that included, a causeway, valley temple, queen's pyramids, and boat pits (fig. 1).

After 1995, when the Ministry of Antiquities removed an asphalt road that covered much of the temple remains, the temple still endured an onslaught of foot traffic every day—visitors, souvenir sellers, camels, horses, as well as horse-drawn buggies—and it became a parking lot for camels and horses.

Something had to be done to save what remained of the temple. Accordingly, Zahi Hawass and I launched the GPTP to conserve the temple and present it to visitors.

Supported by the Antiquities Endowment Fund (AEF) of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), we began work in September 2020. Our first task was to document the remains comprehensively, thus completing work that a team and I had nearly finished in 1995. We assigned a number to every physical feature left by an archaeological process or event, such as a hole cut into the bedrock. Some features reflect the initial layout and construction of the building. Others predate the temple, and others date much later, such as blocks displaced when it was dismantled. With all the visible archaeological features recorded, we could work out how Khufu's builders conceived and constructed the temple and gain some idea of its use and destruction. Figure 2 shows our reconstruction of the temple's plan as it may have looked in its heyday.

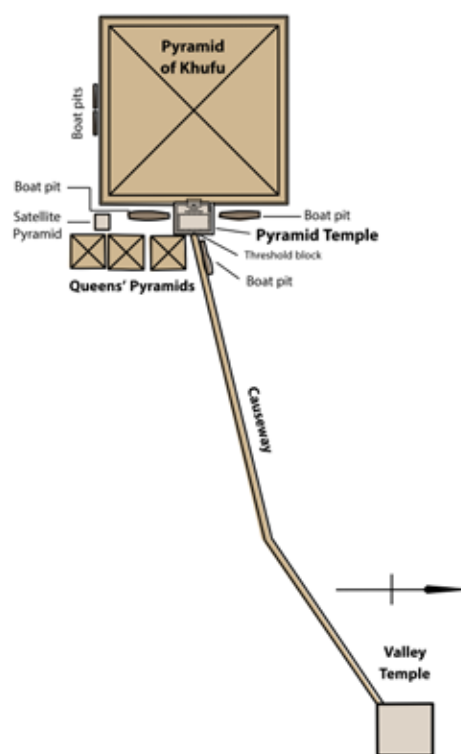


Figure 1. Schematic plan of the Great Pyramid Complex by Rebekah Miracle, AERA GIS.

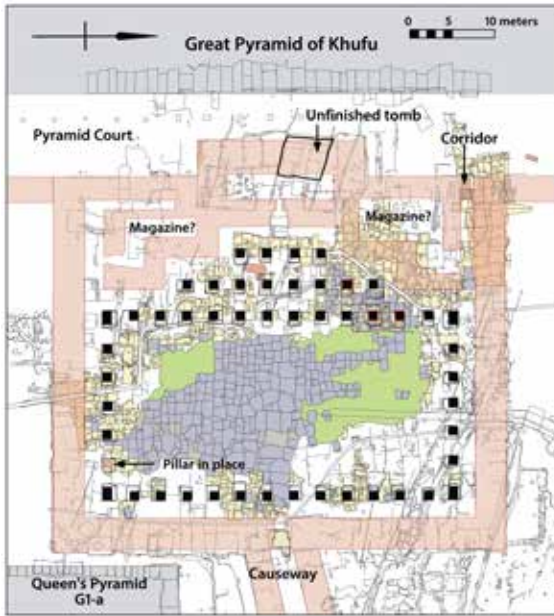


Figure 2. The Great Pyramid Temple site showing all the features recorded and our proposed reconstruction (pink) of the temple walls. Three pillar sockets are highlighted in red to indicate where we excavated fill and discovered wall fragments bearing scenes of Khufu's thirty-year jubilee. Figure 4 shows one of the fragments. Map by Rebekah Miracle from AERA GIS.

of the bay gazing out to the east through the spaces between the pillars, illuminated only by light from the court or from slits at the tops of the walls. The statues would have been seen as emerging in the liminal zone between dark and light, from the Netherworld.

In the inner sanctuary, where little remains today, other statues might have stood in niches, and a *false door* may have allowed the dead king to emerge from his tomb to receive offerings. But the only remaining trace of the sanctuary is a sunken foundation, which was partially destroyed by an unfinished tomb shaft excavated into bedrock 16 m deep, probably two thousand years or more after Khufu's time.

How was this temple built? Khufu's workers first prepared a level surface for the temple wall by pounding out a foundation in the limestone bedrock. Next, they cut sockets into the bedrock for the fifty pillars and thresholds of the temple doorways. Builders cut the sockets to different depths to accommodate pillars of varying lengths, so that they would stand at the same height to support the roof. To achieve a level surface for the basalt floor of the court, they prepared an underlayer of limestone pieces arranged and cut to conform to the angular bottoms of the basalt slabs (fig. 3). Because basalt is



Figure 3. Basalt pavement slabs set over underlayer of limestone cut to conform to the bottoms of the slabs. Photo by Dan Jones.

A long causeway ran from Khufu's valley temple, which lay down near the floodplain 850 m to the east-northeast, up to the black basalt threshold at the pyramid temple entrance. Here a double door would swing open to an open court with sunlight blazing down on a burnished floor of black basalt slabs and reflecting off the polished white casing of the pyramid. If the causeway had been roofed and poorly lit, perhaps with a narrow slit, the effect on entering the open court would have been startling and blinding—a gigantic special effect wrought in stone.

Fifty huge, red granite pillars lined the sides of the court. Each one measured 1.5 m (2 ancient Egyptian cubits) square, except for the four slightly larger corner blocks. In the north-western corner a narrow corridor ran along the north wall and opened into the court around the pyramid.

On the western side of the temple the walls receded into a stepped bay populated with two rows of the pillars flanking a narrow passageway down into the inner sanctuary. Statues of the king might have stood against the back wall





TOP: Figure 4. A fragment of painted, carved relief discovered in a pillar socket of the Great Pyramid Temple. The person depicted is a "Controller of the Palace," indicated by the sash and emblem of the goddess Bat, a female face with cow's ears and inward-curving horns. Photo by Mark Lehner.

BOTTOM: Figure 5. View to the northwest of the completed Great Pyramid Temple walkway. In the foreground the walkway runs along the western side of the unfinished tomb shaft. Photo by Dan Jones.

extremely hard, they chose to work the soft limestone rather than the irregular basalt slabs. They joined the basalt slabs like a jigsaw puzzle rather than cut them into standard shapes. Once the floor was installed, the builders moved on to the outer walls and roofed areas of the temple.

After the temple was excavated from the debris of the ages in 1939, the basalt pavement was crudely "restored" with gray cement and pieces of displaced basalt. We received permission to remove the blocks over three of the pillar sockets. When we excavated the fill, we found limestone pieces with remains of relief-carved decoration showing scenes of Khufu's *sed* festival, his thirty-year jubilee. One fragment shows the torso and arm of a man wearing a sash hung with an emblem of the goddess Bat, indicating that he is a *Kherep Ah*, "Controller of the Palace," an attendant to the king's *sed* jubilee (fig. 4). The relief scenes must have decorated the inner walls of the temple, thereby magically ensuring perpetual jubilees in the Afterlife.

We completed the fall 2020 work at the temple by installing a wooden walkway around the outer wall line of the temple (fig. 5). The walkway is open to the temple; no fencing is needed to keep visitors out, since they generally



## PROJECT REPORTS | GIZA PLATEAU MAPPING PROJECT

choose to stay on the walkway rather than try to make their way across the irregular surface of the temple remains. To complement the walkway and improve visitors' experience, we plan to install three large information panels around the temple. One will explain the layout of Khufu's pyramid complex, the second will give information about the temple itself, and the third will inform about the sanctuary and unfinished tomb shaft. With support from another ARCE AEF grant, we will resume work on the GPTP in winter 2021–22.

### ***Acknowledgments***

For a successful fall 2020 field season, we would like to thank Dr. Khaled El-Enany, minister of tourism and antiquities, Ashraf Mohedein, director of Giza, and inspectors Mohamed Abd El-Rahman and Mohamed Helmi, who represented the ministry on site.

Special thanks to my co-director, Dr. Zahi Hawass, senior archaeologist Dan Jones, overseer of workers Sayed Salah Abd El-Hakim, surveyor Mohamed Hemi, and AERA GIS director Rebekah Miracle. For the excellent work designing and implementing the walkway, I thank Engineer Wa'edallah Abu Ala'lla of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and Nour El-Rahman contractors Mohamed Hasan and Kamal Hassan. I would like to thank Dr. Florence Friedman for references to representations of the *Kherep Ah*, "Controller of the Palace."

Our work in the Great Pyramid Temple was made possible by a generous grant from the Antiquities Endowment Fund of the American Research Center in Egypt. I thank Dr. Louise Bertini, ARCE's executive director, and Mariam Foun, AEF grant and membership administrator.

Major support from Charles Simonyi and Microsoft, Dr. Walter Gilbert, and Ann Lurie made AERA's work possible in 2020. We thank our anonymous donors who also gave major support that made possible AERA's 2020 research and dissemination. We thank Cameron and Linda Myhrvold, the Marjorie M. Fisher Fund, Howard and Louise Phanstiel, Ed and Kathy Fries, William Frank, Janice Jerde and Peter Del Rosso, Bruce Ludwig, Kathy DeRue, and Matthew McCauley for their major contributions.

# ISLAMIC ARCHAEOLOGY LABORATORY

## VERONICA MORRISS AND DONALD WHITCOMB

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Over the last four decades, the OI has supported the survey and excavation of several important sites throughout the Middle East under the direction of Donald Whitcomb. These projects produced mountains of paperwork, photographs, artifacts, illustrations, and reports. This summer, Whitcomb and PhD candidate Veronica Morriss began the massive undertaking of digitizing, organizing, and cataloging the excavation archives held in the laboratory—a process Whitcomb describes as doing an archaeology of archaeology. Morriss is currently digitizing the collections of field notes from Aqaba (Jordan), Quseir al-Qadim (Egypt), Kahramanmarash (Turkey), and Hadir Qinnasrin (Syria). Oriental Institute IT manager Knut Boehmer has been instrumental in getting the project set up with a new scanner and helping dig old files out of an array of ancient, dust-covered computers. After the initial wave of documentation, Morriss will proceed to work on some of the unpublished material.

Currently, the primary focus is preparing the OI excavations at the port of Ayla (modern Aqaba) for the final publication. Several articles and preliminary reports have been released over the years<sup>1</sup>; however, there is much more material that needs to be published, as well as a final study of the site. The port of Ayla is situated along the northeastern tip of the Red Sea in Jordan. It was a thriving settlement during the Byzantine period (when it was known as *Aila*) and continued as an important early Islamic port until the arrival of the Crusaders in 1116 CE. The town was connected to both inland and maritime trade routes and served as the primary hub for the southward shipment of agricultural products from Syria-Palestine. Travelers and explorers showed some interest in the site during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Traveler Eduard Rüppel visited the ruins of Ayla in 1822, followed by T. E. Lawrence, Alois Musil, and Nelson Glueck, among others.

Despite the curiosity of scholars, Ayla did not receive significant archaeological attention until 1985, when Whitcomb identified the buried remains of the port city based on earlier accounts and surface finds. The first season of excavation in 1986 confirmed its identity as the early Islamic port of Ayla. The University of Chicago continued excavating and documenting the site through 1995, with generous support from the local Jordanian authorities and from grants and donors.

The decade of work at Ayla produced numerous crucial discoveries that helped rewrite the history of the Red Sea. The Byzantine and Islamic towns are well-known for their diagnostic Ayla-Axum amphorae, which have been discovered at sites throughout the region and on shipwrecks throughout Africa and the Indian Ocean. These maritime transport containers attest to the flourishing regional trade of agricultural products and luxury items, such as fruits and nuts, throughout the Red Sea and beyond. Significantly, a mid-eighth-century kiln complex discovered during the excavations at Ayla indicates the continued production of these amphorae, as well as other ceramic types, following the transition to Islamic rule. Diverse artifacts found during the excavations also attest to the site's important role as a commercial hub. These finds include steatite vessels from Arabia, worked ivory from East Africa, and cream-surface storage jars, many of which have direct parallels at the site of al-Qulzum, a parallel Red Sea port near modern Suez. Additionally, Chinese ceramics from Ayla demonstrate the site's connections with the Far East during the site's later occupation. The settlement was devastated by a series of earthquakes over the centuries, the last of which in 1068 CE resulted in the partial abandonment of the city.

After all these years and the initial flurry of publications, the site continues to yield discoveries and make important contributions to the field. Whitcomb and Morriss recently published a chapter, “The Umayyad Red Sea,” in which they stress the importance of Ayla in shaping exchange, travel, and trade routes during the seventh and eighth centuries and the site’s role in laying the groundwork for future commercial systems in the region.<sup>2</sup> This November, university and continuing education program director/research associate Tasha Vorderstrasse will give a talk for the American Schools of Oriental Research conference focusing on Ayla and its interconnections through an examination of certain classes of artifacts, including the Chinese ceramics and the Ayla-Axum amphorae that were discovered during the OI’s excavations. It is our hope that through our re-excavating the old field reports in preparation for new publications, the site of Ayla will continue to yield new archaeological discoveries.

Already, shuffling through the old papers archived in the lab has revealed some exciting and surprising finds, such as old letters and boxes of photographs that provide invaluable documentation of the original site, as well as glimpses into life on the dig. As a maritime archaeologist, Morriss was particularly excited to discover a letter from Cheryl Ward and Doug Haldane describing their plans to help establish an underwater archaeology program in Alexandria. This program is still going strong and is responsible for training a new generation of Egyptian underwater archaeologists.

We would like to acknowledge all the support we have received from donors and our colleagues at the OI and other institutions over the years. None of these excavations would have been possible without your assistance.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> The Ayla material has served as the basis for several scholarly publications by Donald Whitcomb, including: “Coptic Glazed Ceramics from the Excavations at Aqaba, Jordan,” *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 26 (1989): 167–82; “The Misr of Ayla: Settlement at Aqaba in the Early Islamic Period,” in *The Byzantine and Early Islamic Near East II: Land Use and Settlement Patterns*, edited by Geoffrey R. D. King and Averil Cameron (Princeton, NJ: Darwin Press, 1994), 155–70; “The Misr of Ayla: New Evidence for the Early Islamic City,” in *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan* 5, edited by A. Hadidi (Amman: Department of Antiquities, 1995), 277–88; “Ceramic Production at Aqaba in the Early Islamic Period,” in *La Céramique Byzantine et Proto Islamique En Syrie-Jordanie (IVe–VIIIe Siècles Apr. J.-C.): Actes Du Colloque Tenu à Amman Les 3, 4 et 5 Décembre 1994*, edited by E. Villeneuve and P. M. Watson (Beirut: Institut Français d’Archaeologie du Proche-Orient, 2001), 296–303. Preliminary reports include *Aqaba, “Port of Palestine on the China Sea”* (Amman: Al Kutba, 1988) and *Ayla, Art and Industry in the Islamic Port of Aqaba* (Chicago: Oriental Institute Museum Publications, 1994), as well as reports in the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 31–37 (1987–1995) and in *The Oriental Institute Annual Report* (see <https://oi.uchicago.edu/about/annual-reports/oriental-institute-annual-reports>).

<sup>2</sup> Veronica Morriss and Donald Whitcomb, “The Umayyad Red Sea as an Islamic Mare Nostrum,” in *The Umayyad World*, edited by Andrew Marsham 267–92 (London/New York: Routledge, 2021).

# MUMMY LABEL DATABASE (MLD)

FRANÇOIS GAUDARD

The past academic year was quieter than usual for the team of the Mummy Label Database and Death on the Nile projects due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, which makes travel, meetings, and access to museum collections and research libraries more difficult or even impossible.

Since the study of mummy labels is part of the scope of papyrology, our colleague Klaas Worp, co-editor of the MLD, let us know that he published a book entitled *A History of Papyrology in Holland (1830-2015)* (see below and fig. 1).

A little more than a year after its publication, François Gaudard's first article<sup>1</sup> in his series dedicated to the study of the OI Museum funerary shrouds from the Greco-Roman period is now available online for free download as a pdf:

[https://www.academia.edu/49909817/\\_Funerary\\_Shrouds\\_from\\_Dendera\\_in\\_the\\_Oriental\\_Institute\\_Museum\\_of\\_the\\_University\\_of\\_Chicago\\_Part\\_I\\_Shroud\\_OIM\\_E4786\\_in\\_Sur\\_les\\_pistes\\_du\\_d%C3%A9sert\\_M%C3%A9langes\\_offerts\\_%C3%A0\\_Michel\\_Valloggia\\_edited\\_by\\_Sandrine\\_Vuilleumier\\_and\\_Pierre\\_Meyrat\\_pp\\_63\\_70\\_Gollion\\_Infolio\\_2019](https://www.academia.edu/49909817/_Funerary_Shrouds_from_Dendera_in_the_Oriental_Institute_Museum_of_the_University_of_Chicago_Part_I_Shroud_OIM_E4786_in_Sur_les_pistes_du_d%C3%A9sert_M%C3%A9langes_offerts_%C3%A0_Michel_Valloggia_edited_by_Sandrine_Vuilleumier_and_Pierre_Meyrat_pp_63_70_Gollion_Infolio_2019)

For further information on the MLD and Death on the Nile, joint projects of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona), the Universidad Complutense (Madrid), and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, readers may consult previous annual reports available online in pdf format (<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/mummy-label-database-mld>) and the following article: François Gaudard, Raquel Martín Hernández, and Sofía Torallas Tovar, "The Mummy Label Database (MLD)," in *Discovering New Pasts: The OI at 100*, edited by Theo van den Hout, 213–19 (Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 2019), also available online ([https://www.academia.edu/40513993/\\_The\\_Mummy\\_Label\\_Database\\_MLD\\_in\\_Discovering\\_New\\_Pasts\\_The\\_OI\\_at\\_100\\_edited\\_by\\_Theo\\_van\\_den\\_Hout\\_pp\\_213-19\\_Chicago\\_The\\_Oriental\\_Institute\\_2019](https://www.academia.edu/40513993/_The_Mummy_Label_Database_MLD_in_Discovering_New_Pasts_The_OI_at_100_edited_by_Theo_van_den_Hout_pp_213-19_Chicago_The_Oriental_Institute_2019)).

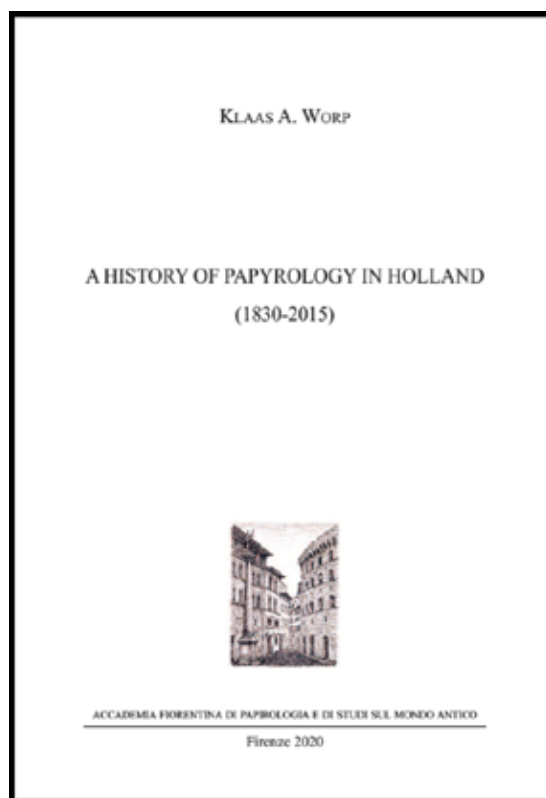


Figure 1. Klaas A. Worp, *A History of Papyrology in Holland (1830-2015)*.

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS BY TEAM MEMBERS

The following book and articles have been published or are in press or in preparation:

- Klaas A. Worp, *A History of Papyrology in Holland (1830–2015)*. Margaritae, Collana di Studi dell'Accademia Fiorentina di Papirologia e di Studi sul Mondo Antico 6. Florence: Accademia Fiorentina di Papirologia e di Studi sul Mondo Antico, 2020.
- François Gaudard, “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part II: Shroud OIM E4789.” Forthcoming in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (in press).
- François Gaudard, “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part III: Shroud OIM E4788 (= OIM E42046)” (in preparation).
- François Gaudard, “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part IV: Shroud OIM E4787” (in preparation).

### **Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> François Gaudard, “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part I: Shroud OIM E4786,” in *Sur les pistes du désert: Mélanges offerts à Michel Valloggia*, edited by Sandrine Vuilleumier and Pierre Meyrat, 63–70 (Gollion: Infolio, 2019).

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# NIPPUR EXPEDITION

ABBAS ALIZADEH

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University's administration introduced policies restricting overseas travel for academic staff and faculty who wished to conduct University-supported academic projects abroad. Under special and compelling circumstances, however, permission to travel would be granted. In April 2021, I requested a travel exception, which was granted in early May. I intended to have a short season with limited field activity with the help of local Iraqi archaeologists and workers, because due to the pandemic none of my colleagues from the U.S. or Europe could participate.

Because the Ramadhan (the month of fasting) would end in mid-May, I planned to go to Nippur after Ramadhan during the third week of May and work for two weeks. Meanwhile, I had sent my old passport to be renewed. Much to my surprise and dismay, I was informed by the Office of Homeland Security that because of the huge reduction in the number of staff due to the pandemic, it would take more than eight weeks for my passport to be renewed. Eventually, after ten weeks, I received my new passport in early June, when it was simply too hot to go to the field.

I am hoping that the search to fill the Mesopotamian archaeology position be successful by the end of the summer, so that the new faculty member will assume the responsibility for Nippur. Otherwise, I believe it is imperative that the OI formally claim the two new sites of Puzrish Dagan and Tummal as soon as it is possible by excavating two small trenches, one at each site. (See the OI's *Annual Report 2019-20* [pp. 95-98] for the description of these sites.) The change of the guards at the Department of Antiquities of Iraq and the fact that some other archaeologists are very keen to secure permits to excavate these two important sites makes this plan urgent.

Given the short time (two to three weeks) we will be at Nippur,



Figure 1. Restoration of the columns of the Parthian monumental building at Nippur.



Figure 2. The location of the Court of Columns on the West Mound and its superimposed top plan.



## PROJECT REPORTS | NIPPUR EXPEDITION



Figure 3: The University of Pennsylvania expedition's building on top of the ziggurat.



Figure 4. The state of preservation of the Nippur ziggurat.



Figure 5. Tamarisk/Tamarix trees.

we cannot embark on any major fieldwork, especially since we will not have a staff from the U.S. or Europe. In 2019, Iraq's Department of Antiquities, desiring to create a tourist attraction at Nippur, requested that we do some restoration on the ziggurat and on a Parthian monumental building known as the *Court of Columns*, on the West Mound, that was excavated in the late nineteenth century by the University of Pennsylvania expedition. The ziggurat and Court of Columns are the two architectural remains at Nippur that are still visible on the mound. In 2019 we solidified the remaining four columns and, with the help of a pipe, redirected the runoff water from this area (fig. 1). The Iraqi authorities requested that we articulate the remnants of the walls still visible on the mound so that Iraqi restorers could reconstruct the entire building (fig. 2).

The work on the ziggurat is more complicated and requires the expertise of Iraqi engineers. In 1896 John Henry Haynes, the official photographer of the University of Pennsylvania expedition, used baked bricks from the site to erect a brick building on the summit of the ziggurat, presumably for protection. The foundation of this building, now itself a relic, has been damaged by erosion, and further damage may result in its collapse (fig. 3).

We explained to the Iraqi authorities that the cleaning of the debris (wash) around the ziggurat and the restoration of the staircases (fig. 4) require the help of local engineers and that we will be happy to consult with them in carrying out this major task.

Another pressing issue at Nippur is the invasion of Tamarisk/Tamarix (*Tamarix aphilla*; Arabic ناصغالا قلىحن قرجش ءافرطلا) trees on the site, especially on its southwestern part and in WC trench on the northern part of the West Mound, where the Gula temple remains buried. The roots of this invasive species can penetrate many meters below the surface and destroy archaeological remains (fig. 5).

WC trench is the locus of the Gula temple. The southwestern part of the mound is the location of WC 1 and WC 2–3 trenches, where in the 1970s McGuire Gibson discovered remains of the city wall and architectural remains of the Kassite, Old Babylonian, and Ur III periods. The U.S. National Park Service has used three

methods to eradicate this plant: physically removing it, herbicides, and introducing tamarisk-eating beetles (*Diorhabda carinulata*). Of these methods, we can use only the first one safely and see the results. We will, however, discuss these options with the Iraqi officials when we return to the country.

# ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION (OINE) PUBLICATION REPORT

BRUCE WILLIAMS AND LISA HEIDORN

We begin this year's report by noting the passing of James E. Knudstad on October 3, 2019 (fig. 1). Sadly, this news traveled slowly, even in Britain. He lived with his spouse, Rosa Frey, for many years in a beautifully restored residence in Cornwall. Jim spent his life as what he called a "digging architect." He had little interest in accumulating publications or the trappings of academic life, and instead he and Rosa worked far and wide on others' excavations. Almost no part of the ancient Near East, including Egypt and Sudan, was untouched by his trowel or unsurveyed by his theodolite. His work enriched Nubian studies particularly, and the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition (OINE) especially. We have previously featured his work and both Rosa's and Jim's photographs in our annual reports. Here we will note that our knowledge of many major sites would be deeply impoverished without his work. He led the excavation at Serra East and Dorginarti for the OINE in 1963–64, and he later went on to excavate major sites in the Second Cataract region for the Sudan Survey. Instead of sampling, as so often happened in salvage operations, Jim worked comprehensively and systematically. While he certainly recovered ground plans, the normal state for archaeological remains, he was in his element recording standing walls and buildings. He not only created plans for all his sites but also provided elevations and sections and meticulously recorded details in measured sketches. In addition, he retained all the survey data, which allowed a later OINE architect, Nadejda Reshetnikova, to create fully digital plans that can be scaled and transformed into three-dimensional models (fig. 2). The latter work was made possible by Larry Lisak, who programmed a process to convert sur-



TOP: Figure 1. James Knudstad with his survey pole leaving Serra village and heading toward Serra East (1963). BOTTOM: Figure 2. Rendering of late Christian Cerro Matto (Serra East) by Nadejda Reshetnikova using Knudstad's survey records.





TOP: Figure 3. A typical Lower Nubian house before the flooding of the region by the Aswan High Dam. Photo by James Knudstad. BOTTOM: Figure 4. The Batn el-Hajar cataract in Lower Nubia before the flooding of the region under Lake Nubia (Nasser). Photo by James Knudstad.

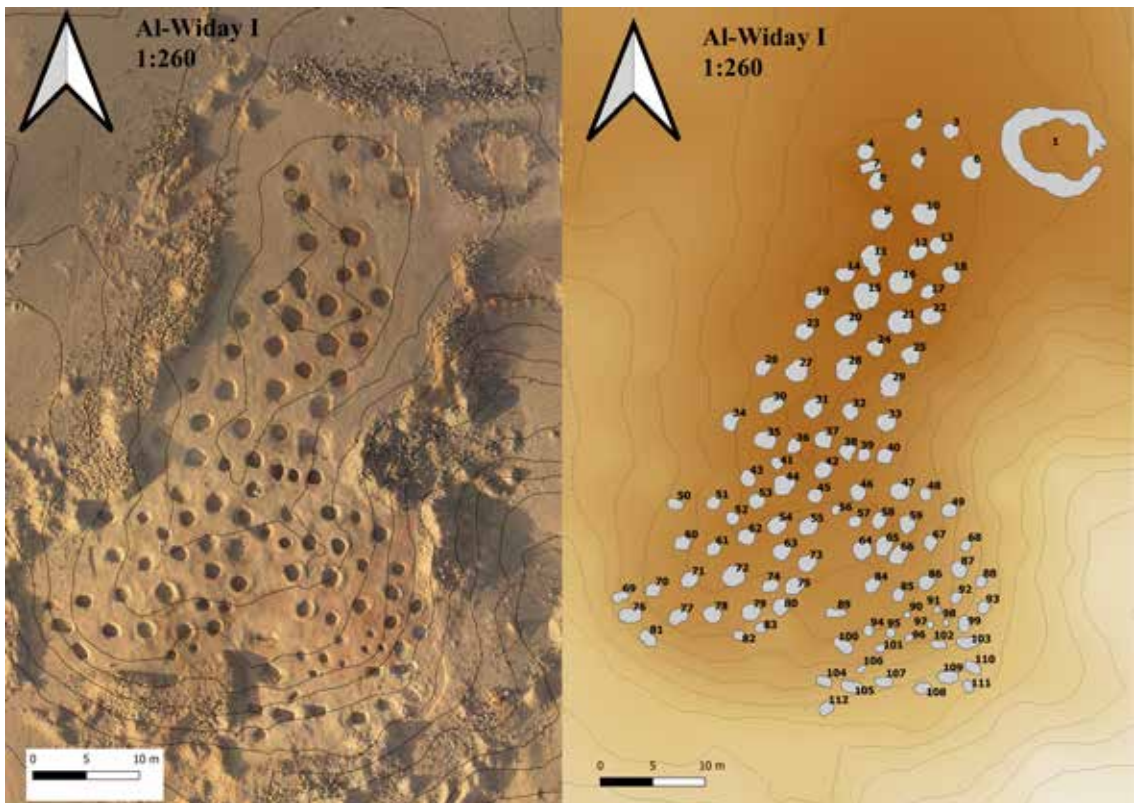


Figure 5. A geo-rectified photograph (left) and a plan (right) of Al-Widay I cemetery. Photo by Adrian Chlebowski.

vey data from angles to coordinates. As a result, it has been possible to reconstruct a large part of the town of Serra East and the fortress of Dorginarti in three dimensions.

In his travels, Knudstad took a high-quality Leica camera and Kodak film that miraculously kept its color after decades. His photographs in Nubia vividly recorded a world that now no longer exists (figs. 3–4). Scans of many of these photographs are featured in our past and future publications and are now part of the OI’s archives. Knudstad’s career in fieldwork lasted from the 1950s until 2014 and ranged from Nippur in Mesopotamia, Korucutepe and the Tigris-Euphrates survey in Anatolia, Tell el-Borg in North Sinai, Dakhla in the Western Desert, and Naga and Gebel Barkal in the Sudan. Rosa Frey, an archaeologist, joined Jim in his later work in Egypt and Sudan. In addition, Knudstad worked in Syria (Qasr al-Hayr), for the Smithsonian Institute’s Afghanistan expedition, for the Saudi Arabian Department of Antiquities, and at many other sites throughout the Mediterranean and Middle East. We, and many others, will miss his prodigious talent and his devotion to archaeological and architectural recording.

Moving on to our work over the last year, we have concentrated on a number of new and old projects. A considerable amount of time was spent on research, drawing, and writing a manuscript on the cemeteries of Al-Widay, primarily the large cemetery Al-Widay I (AW I) located at the Fourth Cataract in the Sudan (figs. 5–6). This cemetery had 112 graves and contexts that could be arranged in an ordered sequence, so the pottery from the closed burial contexts forms the foundation for our future study of the sherds from the gold-mining site at Hosh el-Geruf, which lacked sealed archaeological contexts. This pottery from AW I will also help date the materials from the OINE’s third area of focus, the nearby island of Umm Gebir, where scattered sites of many periods were

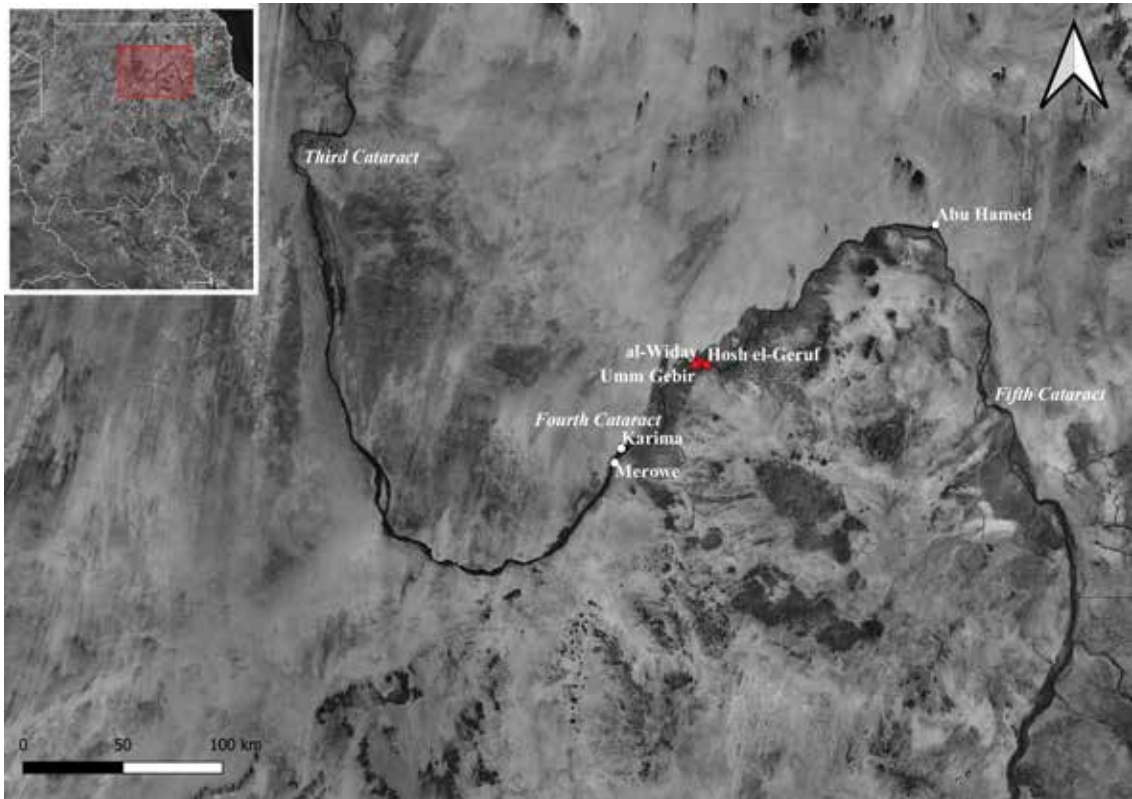


Figure 6. A geo-rectified satellite photograph of the Fourth Cataract region with the location of the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition's three sites. Photo by Adrian Chlebowski.

found and where time and personnel restraints meant that only limited excavations could be conducted. Further major efforts were spent formatting manuscripts to fit the new requirements of the Publications office and on further editing and updating of proofs for OINE 14, the fortress at Dorginarti (Heidorn); OINE 12, the Christian Period town at Serra East (Williams); and OINE 16, the beads from the OI's Nubian excavations (Then-Obluska).

We have described in these pages how the cemetery at Al-Widay I spread from north to south, allowing typological phases to be ordered convincingly. With two or three exceptions, the tombs all belonged to the earlier second millennium BCE, alternately called Middle and Classic Kerma or Old Kush II and III. Neither terminology is wholly satisfactory. This phase in the Fourth Cataract is quite different from the Kerma culture farther downstream, and "Old Kush" would also imply a political and social association that might not reflect reality. Nevertheless, here we use Old Kush because it is the more neutral of the two choices.

Although strongly differentiated from the Kerma culture, the tomb remains at Al-Widay made quite evident the trade relations between the two areas, and those relations extended far downstream to Egypt, thus correlating the earlier phase of the cemetery, Old Kush II (A–C), to Middle Kerma (ca. 1800–1650 BCE) and the later phase, Old Kush III, to Classic Kerma (ca. 1650–1575 BCE). Because most archeological work in the Fourth Cataract salvage was sampling, the contexts at Al-Widay I will form a major chronological standard for the period 1800–1500 BCE in the entire region.

We have noted that there was a distinct relationship between this Fourth Cataract culture and the so-called Pan Graves from Lower Nubia and Egypt but also to other archaeological groups found in the southern Atbai or Eastern Desert near the modern Ethiopian border. Despite the relationships,



the cultures in these three regions are far from identical, a situation found also today in the varied Bedja groups that inhabit the Eastern Desert.

A typical tomb in Al-Widay I was a shallow circular pit, even more pan-like than the Pan-Grave structures in both Lower Nubia and Egypt (fig. 7). The body was placed in a crouched position, mostly on the right side, and often a caprid was placed opposite the upper body. The burial shaft was surrounded by a loose circle of rocks, perhaps set in place to support the superstructure above. Among and outside the stones, the mourners placed a couple of bowls and sometimes a jar. Beads of ostrich eggshell and faience were commonly included, as more rarely were carnelian and still more rarely a scarab. The grave was filled in and a simple, convex, fieldstone tumulus erected above. While stones covered the entire tumulus, it was not thickly built of them except for the outer double ring. The organization and material remains were simple but coherent. Because this area comprises the largest group of contexts completely excavated in the region, we plan a large-scale publication that can serve as a central resource for the study of Nubia.

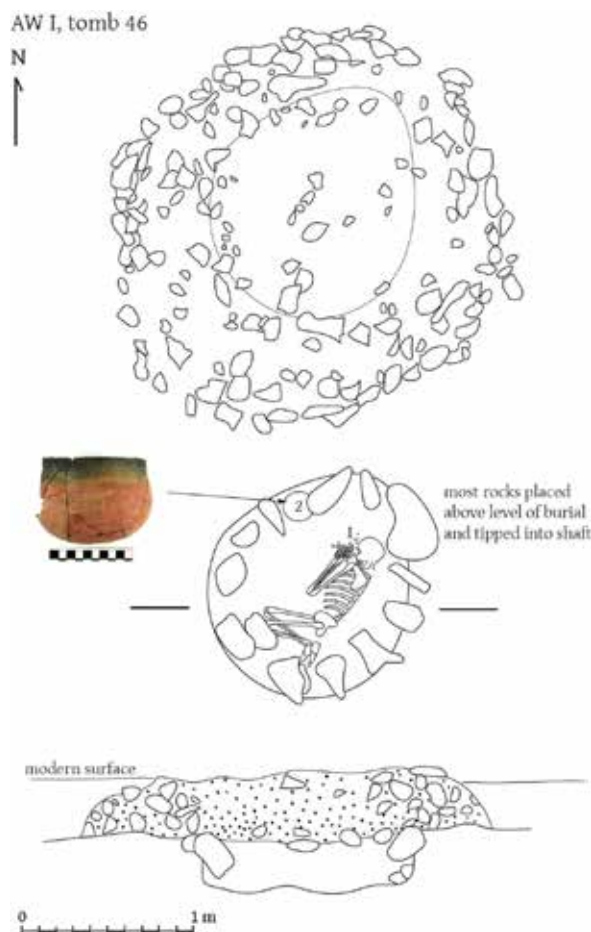


Figure 7. Vectorized drawing using field sketches and photographic records for Al-Widay I, tomb 46.



# PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

MATTHEW W. STOLPER

The inscription on the tomb of Darius I near Persepolis invites readers to consider the reliefs on the tomb's façade in order to understand how far Persian conquest and control reached (fig. 1). Work published this year by Persepolis Fortification Archive (PFA) Project editors Mark B. Garrison (Trinity University, San Antonio) and Wouter F. M. Henkelman (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris) on sealed bullae from the reign of Darius II (fig. 2), invites readers to consider the images impressed on those bullae in order to appreciate how far the PFA's implications reach across space and time.<sup>1</sup>

The discovery that the seal used by Aršāma, satrap of Egypt in the late 400s BCE, had already been used on Fortification tablets by another Aršāma two generations earlier (fig. 3) was described in the OI's *Annual Report 2012–13* (pp. 105ff.) and illustrated in the *Annual Report 2014–15* (p. 144, fig. 1). Now, Garrison and Henkelman unfold the implications of that discovery with a full description of the seal; a presentation of the documentary dossiers of the two Aršāmas in Aramaic, Elamite, and Babylonian; an excursus on Aramaic seal inscriptions in the PFA; an exposition of the travels of the satrap Aršāma's Egyptian minion, Nakhtḥor, in the context of the PFA's rich evidence for travels under satrapal orders; a survey of satraps in the reign of Darius I and the network of communications among them; and an appendix on the seals used by other satraps and satrap-level administrators. The seal of Aršāma opens a window to the organization, logistics, and expression of Achaemenid Persian control.

As this volume shows, the stream of PFA-related publications continues to flow, even in a year when a pandemic made research visits to Chicago impossible for some Project members, severely restricted access to the tablets for most, and slowed work from home for all, so that primary recording of Fortification tablets came to a standstill and processing of existing records advanced slowly.

Despite the limitations of home internet connections, indefatigable student worker Young Bok Kim (NELC) processed Polynomial Texture Mapping (PTM) scans of about four thousand surfaces of almost four hundred Elamite Fortification tablets and uploaded them to OCHRE. Kim's work has cut

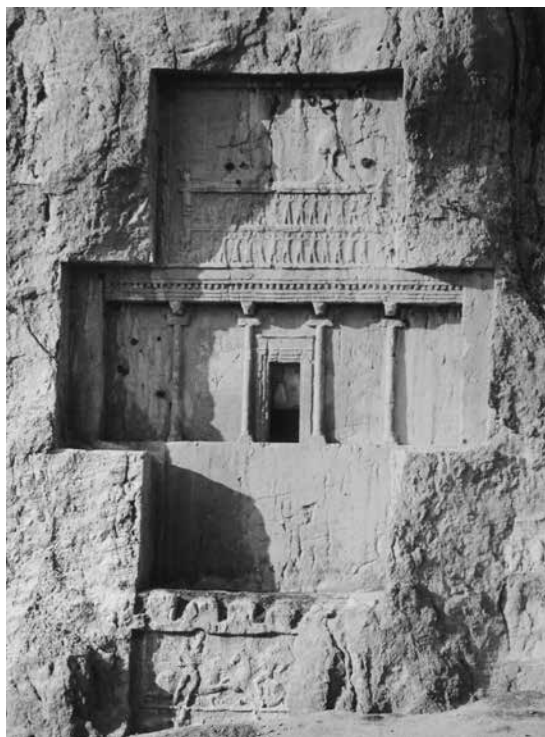


FIGURE 1. Tomb of Darius I at Naqš-e Rostām, near Persepolis. Oriental Institute Photograph.



the long-standing backlog of unprocessed PTM scans by half. Since production of new scans is suspended, he expects to clear the backlog entirely about the end of this calendar year. One of the emergency priorities of the PFA Project has been to make records of the tablets that will be useful when the tablets themselves are not accessible. Now, the importance of these high-quality images for continuing research has been dramatically affirmed.

Veteran student worker Teagan Wolter (NELC), facing not only home internet limits but also unforeseen effects of software updates, entered, glossed, and parsed about fifty new Elamite texts in OCHRE. She completed and/or corrected many others (including corrections that stem from my collations and re-collations). She added new lemmas and new forms to OCHRE's Elamite glossary.

PFA Project editors Annalisa Azzoni (Vanderbilt University), Elspeth Dusinberre (University of Colorado), and Mark B. Garrison continued to prepare a volume cataloging the 708 seals represented by impressions on the monolingual Aramaic Fortification tablets. Garrison concentrated on writing commentaries on seal usage, style, and iconography. Oriental Institute postdoctoral fellow Delphine Poinot returned to work on a subcorpus of PFA seals, the stamp seals that represent single animals, studying iconography, style, and usage and making final collated drawings. These seals form one

FIGURE 2. Letter-bulla Sigill.Aram. V, obverse, with an impression of the seal of Aršāma.

Bodleian Library Pell. Aram. V. Image: Bodleian Library, Oxford; Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford.



FIGURE 3. Collated drawing of the inscribed seal of Aršāma, PFS 2899\*, by Mark B. Garrison.

of the largest thematic groups in the PFA seal corpus, more than four hundred items—that is, about one in ten of the seals cataloged until now (fig. 4).

One of the volumes mentioned in the OI's *Annual Report 2019–20* appeared in 2021<sup>2</sup> with articles by Azzoni, Garrison, and Henkelman that include new PFA texts and seals. Since new evidence often entails a need for still more supplementary evidence and analysis, one supplementary article by Henkelman on palynological and lexical evidence bearing on fruit growing at Persepolis also appeared.<sup>3</sup> I added another article about administrative recording of fruit production that documents a newly defined category of interim accounts (illustrated in fig. 2 of last year's annual report) and treats related formal and lexical matters, along with editions and illustrations of thirty-eight new Elamite Fortification documents.<sup>4</sup>

In another vein, looking at how the documents are written leads to insights about the people who produced the documents. Considering the syllabary of the Elamite Fortification texts, I concluded that at least some of the writers of the texts were conversant with a larger repertoire of the Mesopotamian syllabary than they ordinarily used to produce receipts, accounts, and tables<sup>5</sup>; to paraphrase Dr. Spock, they knew more than we think they did. Henkelman, considering the use of determinatives (that is, signs used as semantic classifiers rather than as representations of syllables), observed that scribes in the settlements around Persepolis tended to mark the months of the Achaemenid calendar grammatically as



FIGURE 4. Stamp seal PFUTS 0595s, impressed on uninscribed Fortification tablets, showing a crouching goat or ibex with sweeping horns and an elongated body. Drawing by Delphine Poinsoot.



Figure 5. Cover of *Šāh va nokhbeḡān dar šāhanšāhī-ye Hakhāmanešī* (*King and Elite in the Achaemenid Empire*, Henkelman 2021b), with Fārsi translations of studies by PFA Project editors.

animate beings, but scribes at Persepolis itself marked them as inanimate, thus hinting at both professional and social differences.<sup>6</sup>

Lectures and conference papers arising from the PFA Project were mostly presented remotely. They include a lecture series by Henkelman and another by Garrison delivered to Fudan University, Shanghai, on the PFA, the seals, and the Achaemenid world; Henkelman's lectures on the PFA and Iranian religion delivered to the University of Zürich, on the PFA and palynological evidence to the German Archaeological Institute, and on the PFA and the institutional landscape to the Cambridge Ancient Near Eastern Seminar. Garrison and Christina Chandler (Bryn Mawr) presented a paper on inscribed seals in the PFA to the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) in November 2020.

In preparation for the next meeting of ASOR is a paper reporting early findings of the Deep Scribe Project, a collaboration between OCHRE Data Research and Computer Sciences (see OCHRE Data Service section in this report). Drawing on tagged images of Elamite Fortification tablets, the investigators find that artificial intelligence tools are not only effective at automating sign detection and classification but also learn mathematical representations of the data that seem to align with human scholars' suppositions about how signs are grouped and classified. For the time being, at least, the Robot Overlords are content with humble human wedge-watchers.

Representing the generational change in PFA work, Christina Chandler will submit and defend her PhD dissertation on the 207 inscribed PFA seals documented until now, as this report appears. In May 2021, PFA Project alumnus Rhyne King defended his dissertation simultaneously at the University of Chicago and the École Pratique des Hautes Études; it treats the houses of satraps in the structure and dynamics of the Achaemenid Empire and draws extensively on PFA evidence both to frame the topic and to document satrapal networks, assets, and powers.



Chief Conservator Laura D'Alessandro packed about twenty-six hundred Elamite Fortification tablets and several hundred monolingual Aramaic Fortification tablets for return to the National Museum of Iran. Student worker Grace Clements (CMES) compiled images to accompany the packing list. The balance of this second shipment, altogether about thirty-five hundred items, will be packed by the end of the summer, ready to send to Iran when export licenses are issued and public-health conditions permit. In the meantime, a large step in making the significance and richness of the PFA known to Persian-language readers is a volume edited by Henkelman with translated articles by Azzoni, Garrison, Henkelman, and me, including some articles that laid the groundwork for the PFA Project as early as 1991 (fig. 5).<sup>7</sup>

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Garrison, Henkelman, and Kaptan 2020.
- <sup>2</sup> Agut-Labordère et al. 2021.
- <sup>3</sup> Henkelman 2021a.
- <sup>4</sup> Stolper forthcoming a.
- <sup>5</sup> Stolper forthcoming b.
- <sup>6</sup> Henkelman forthcoming.
- <sup>7</sup> Henkelman 2021b.

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Forthcoming b "'Mesopotamianisms' in the Achaemenid Elamite Adaptation of Cuneiform." In Proceedings of the conference "Signs of Writing," Paris 2016, in preparation.



# TRANSMISSION OF MAGICAL KNOWLEDGE: MAGICAL HANDBOOKS ON PAPYRUS

SOFÍA TORALLAS TOVAR AND CHRISTOPHER A. FARAONE

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When we first applied for project funding at the *Neubauer Collegium* at the University of Chicago in 2015 we were sure of two things: that the magical papyri deserved renewed attention, and that it would be an arduous task. Ever since then, as the two general editors of the project *Transmission of Magical Knowledge: Magical Handbooks on Papyrus*, we have led a group of international scholars in the task of reediting, translating, and studying the magical handbooks from Egypt that have been preserved on papyrus. We understand a clear difference between formularies or handbooks and applied texts. Formularies typically contain one or more prescriptions (i.e., instructions for magical rituals), often present titles, or subtitles (rubrics), and use a generic marker (δεῖνα or *mn*, “NN”) to indicate the name of the client or victim. In contradistinction, the applied texts (amulets, curses) were created for specific rituals, often contain personal names, are often folded, and show signs of use.

Thanks to the climatological conditions and scribal practices of Greco-Roman Egypt, several handbooks from that region have reached us. These handbooks are precious witnesses to practices and processes of cultural transmission, that is, the creation, communication, transformation, and preservation of knowledge, both in text and image, across history. Among these handbooks some of the most numerous concern magical knowledge, a field of extraordinary diffusion and interest, from Mesopotamia to the present. These ancient magical handbooks provide a unique entry into a corpus of knowledge at a particular period in a very long history that is otherwise lightly documented, as well as into the practices by which that field of knowledge was taught and transmitted. More than eighty such handbooks survive, some of them in a fragmentary state. Our project’s first aim was to reedit and retranslate these handbooks and carry out their first large-scale study as material objects and media of cultural transmission.

The first edition of the papyrus magical handbooks from antiquity—the first two volumes of *Papyri Graecae magicae*, by K. Preisendanz—was finished between the World Wars, that is, between 1928 and 1931. Referred to as *PGM*, this work has since that time been used as one of the most important sources for the study of Greek magic. This 1928–31 edition was once lightly revised in 1974 by A. Henrichs and today presents several substantial problems that need to be addressed. The edition needed a thorough revision and the original papyri needed to be checked and reedited. Preisendanz did a very good job for his time, but he did not have access to good images, he followed editing practices that have since been much improved, and he ignored many aspects of the manuscripts, including non-Greek text, lectional signs, and images. The 1990s edition of the corpus known as *Supplementum Magicum* (by R. Daniel and F. Maltomini) has set an example for us as far as papyrological techniques. Moreover, in the last decades new fragments have come to light that need to be added to the corpus and that affect the reading of the other texts.

The *PGM* provides texts for only those papyri that are in Greek and ignores spells and recipes in other, usually Egyptian languages. This omission creates the false impression that these texts originated in a monolingual environment when, in fact, they are interesting precisely because of the diversity they represent. Our corpus and new edition include the texts in the three languages

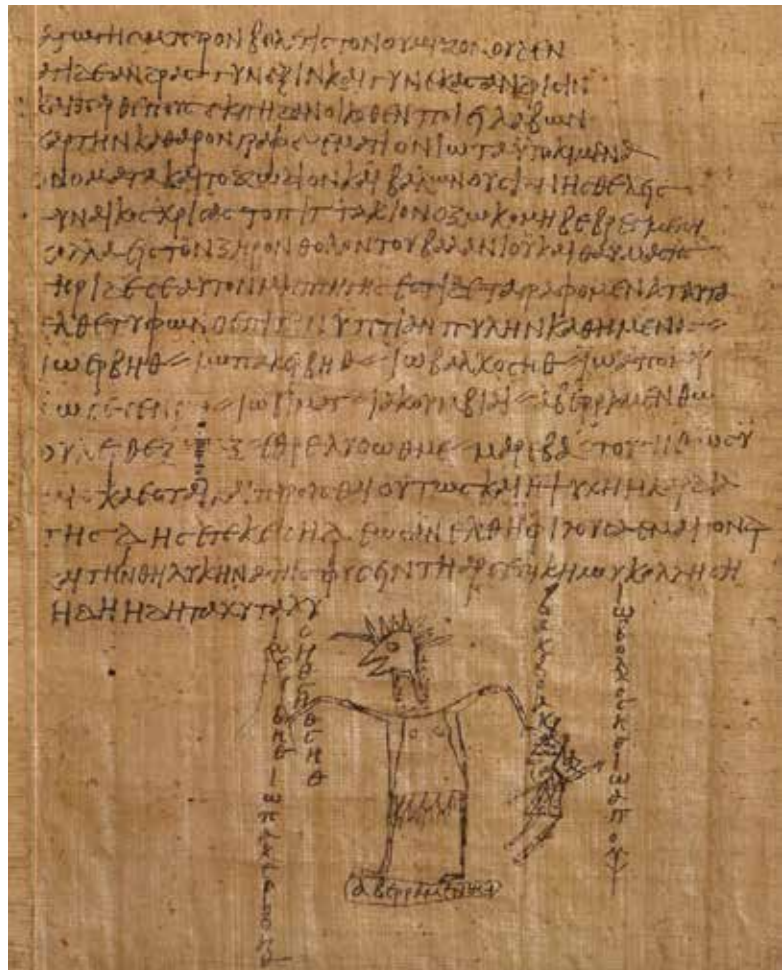
(Greek, Demotic, and Coptic). In many ways, this initiative follows in the footsteps of the famous Chicago translation of the Greek magical papyri, spearheaded by H. D. Betz in the 1980s, which for the first time presented translations of all of these languages in a single volume.

Among our collaborators is Prof. Janet Johnson, who famously edited the text of some of the bilingual formularies (Demotic-Greek) included in our corpus: they are PDM/PGM XII, PDM/PGM XIV, PDM/PGM LXI, and PDM Suppl. (GEMF 15–18). We have chosen to limit ourselves to these four items since there is currently a project led by Joachim Quack in Heidelberg that will include all magical texts, formularies, and applied texts in Demotic. The four handbooks we have included are much more than just a sampling—they are the longest and best preserved of all known Demotic or Greek-Demotic formularies.

The material dimension of these handbooks has generally been neglected. Too often the texts of these handbooks were studied without taking into account the material on which they were written. Scholars often treat them as having the same origin even though it is clear that they were produced independently and often betray several layers of recension, which date to different historical periods. They probably also derive from different traditions and reflect a variety of different practices. Our edition includes individual bibliological studies of each of these *handbooks* focusing on their idiosyncrasies and attending to details of palaeography, codicology, and lectional marks, details that will help both individuate them and establish typologies for different kinds of magical codices—also a desideratum in the broader field of study we term *history of the ancient book*.

From the first five years of the project, the tangible results are the first volume, containing editions of fifty-four magical handbooks—a work of about five hundred pages, all produced following a guideline, revised by our board of editors, and including a large number of commentaries and analysis of both the textual and material dimensions of this corpus. It will be published under the title *Greco-Egyptian Magical Formularies*. The second volume will contain

Figure 1: P.Oslo 1, courtesy of the University of Oslo papyrus collection.



the remaining thirty-four handbooks. It is in preparation, and we expect to complete the manuscript by the summer of 2022.

The systematic revision of the material characteristics of these books, together with the assessment of the paleography, has helped reorganize chronologically this invaluable corpus of ancient magical knowledge. This kind of reorganization, which is new for this corpus, helps us better understand the transmission of magical knowledge and the influence of some texts on others. New dates assigned to some pieces have also changed the perception of book formats and scribal practices. These observations have led a few of our collaborators to produce a book of essays containing studies on the materiality of the magical handbooks as books: *Greek and Egyptian Magical Formularies: Libraries, Books, Recipes* will come out at the end of 2021 in the series New Texts (University of Michigan Press).

We are very grateful, once again, for the support the Neubauer Collegium is providing for our project on the magical papyri, and for our colleagues listed below for their invaluable collaboration, wisdom, generosity, and hard work.

### ***Editorial Board***

Korshi Dosoo, Richard Gordon, Franco Maltomini, Anastasia Maravela, Raquel Martín Hernández, Alberto Nodar Domínguez, Panagiota Sarischouli, and Michael Zellmann-Rohrer

### ***Contributors***

Miriam Blanco Cesteros, Malcolm Choat, Eleni Chronopoulou, Matthew Cohn, Daniela Colomo, Jacco Dieleman, Marina Escolano-Poveda, Jean-Luc Fournet, Alejandro García Molinos, Marius Gerhardt, Janet Johnson, Edward Love, Agnes Mihálykó Tothne, Ariel Singer, Emilio Suárez de la Torre, Philip Venticinque, and Rachel Yuen-Collingridge

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INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH



OVERLEAF:  
Medinet Habu—new  
digital watercolor  
technique being  
developed by  
Krisztián Vértés.  
Medinet Habu,  
MHB Ramesses  
III sunk-relief  
carving repainted  
in the Ptolemaic  
period. Drawing  
and photograph by  
Krisztián Vértés.

# INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

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**RICHARD H. BEAL** spent the last year mostly sitting at home in front of the computer, venturing forth only for weekly shopping until vaccination in late January and early February. Even after receiving the jab, he remained mostly at home, with vacations canceled for the second year in a row. This confinement benefited the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project (CHD), as all his time has been spent working on the dictionary. Beal has spent this time updating the manuscripts for the CHD's T volume, many of which were written more than two decades ago by Prof. Hoffner, Oğuz Soysal, Alice Mouton, and Beal himself. But many more tablets, much new research, and many more editions of texts have come out over that time. A few words with many attestations were never finished, and Beal had to finish them. A few dictionary entries either were never written or were lost in the move from one computer system to another, so drafts of those entries have now been written. This work has been possible because since his undergraduate days Beal has accumulated a large library, which he keeps at home; because many journals and even some books are now available online through the university's library; and because the OI's librarian Foy Scalf has been extremely helpful in finding needed materials. It should also be mentioned that without the Konkordanz der hethitischen Keilschrifttafeln of former CHD research associate Silvin Košak and the editions at hethiter.net, this work would have been far more time consuming in the best of circumstances and almost impossible to accomplish during confinement.

Beal also wrote "Open your ears and listen! The Role of the Senses Among the Hittites," a chapter for the *Routledge Handbook of the Senses in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Allison Thomason and the OI's own Kiersten Neumann (to be released in September 2021). The eyes, ears, mouth, and nose are discussed along with the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells that a Hittite would have encountered, especially in the many festivals held for the gods over the course of a year.

He also wrote a review of Gary Beckman's *The Hittite Gilgamesh*, an edition of the Akkadian, Hittite, and Hurrian pieces of the Gilgamesh story that were found at Boğazköy. These items are important because they form a bridge between the Old Babylonian versions and the Neo-Assyrian version and also seem to be a bit more interested in events closer to Anatolia. The review is scheduled to appear this fall in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 80.

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After serving for seventeen years as co-editor (with Marten Stol) of the series *Die babylonisch-assyrische Medizin in Texten und Untersuchungen*, which saw the publication of seven volumes on various aspects of ancient Mesopotamian medicine, **ROBERT BIGGS** decided to resign to permit the appointment of a younger scholar to carry on the series. His recent publications include a study of Ur III administrative documents in the volume honoring McGuire Gibson. He is now preparing for publication the cuneiform texts from the 1977 excavations at Umm al-Hafriyat to be included in Gibson's volume on the excavations at the site, now totally destroyed by looters.

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## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

With Elizabeth Fagan, assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, **ALAIN BRESSON** organized at the OI the online symposium “Ancient Armenia: Center and Peripheries,” which took place on Friday, April 9, 2021. The symposium is now available at [bit.ly/ancient-armenia](https://bit.ly/ancient-armenia).

The event was cosponsored by the OI, the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies, and by three departments of the University of Chicago: classics, history, and Near Eastern languages and civilizations. It was also part of the Dumanian Lecture Series in Armenian Studies. The organizers wish to express their warmest thanks to these institutions for their constant help and support, including the technical support of the OI in the organization of the event.

The symposium opened with introductory remarks by Prof. Anne Robertson, dean of humanities at the University of Chicago; Theo van den Hout, interim director of the OI; and Richard Neer, director of the Franke Institute, to whom we are especially grateful. The period treated in the symposium was very broad, and our “Ancient Armenia” must be understood in the *longue durée*. We began in the Bronze Age and ended in the early Middle Ages. The goal of the symposium was to *recenter* the image of Armenia by focusing on a period when Armenia was not the *marginal* country it is now supposed to be but was instead one of the main political centers of Western Asia for cultural, political, and economic development.

The seven presenters and their papers included: Timothy Clark, “Trajanic Representations of Roman-Armenian Relations”; Lara Fabian, “Crossing the Greater Caucasus: Dynastic Politics and the Evidence for Interaction between the North and South Caucasus (ca. 300 BCE–400 CE)”; Elizabeth Fagan and Alain Bresson, “Evidence for the Christianization of Armenia: Moses Khorenatsi and Beyond”; Rachel Goshgarian, “Armeno-Turkish and the Space of Language in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Worlds: Manuscript Production and the Circulation of Ideas, Literature, and People”; Hripsime Haroutunian, “What If She Said ‘Yes’ to the King? The Story of One Little Maiden Who Fought Like a Man and Turned Around the Course of History”; Christina Maranci, “Hard as Stone, Smooth as Wax: Interpreting Urartian Spolia in Medieval Armenian Architecture”; and Kate Franklin, “‘World-rulers’ and Local Worlds: Medieval Armenia and the Mongol Ecumene.” Our colleagues Katie Kearns and Clifford Ando provided concluding remarks to the symposium.

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**JOHN BRINKMAN**’s work on Nippur and Khorsabad publications has been curtailed during the past year because of very limited access to research materials housed in the OI building. He has instead focused on expanding and updating his databases on Middle Babylonian prosopography, official and occupational titles, place names, and text catalogues. He published a short article about a pair of fourteenth-century Babylonian governors, each attested in fewer than five texts and from their seal impressions on tablets: “Two Little-Known Governors of Nippur under the Kassite Dynasty: Bēlānu and Ninurta-apla-iddina” in *Nouvelles assyriologiques brèves et utilitaires*, 2020, pp. 238–242.

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**FRANÇOIS GAUDARD** completed his twenty-seventh year as a member of the Oriental Institute scholarly community. Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, which made access to research libraries and museum collections difficult, he managed to work on his various text edition projects and the Mummy Label Database (MLD; see separate report), although he was often unable to consult the books he needed.

François continued working on his series of articles dedicated to the study of the OI Museum funerary shrouds from the Greco-Roman period. A little more than a year after its publication, the first article in this series, dealing with Shroud OIM E4786,<sup>1</sup> is now available online for free download as a pdf: [https://www.academia.edu/49909817/\\_Funerary\\_Shrouds\\_from\\_Dendera\\_in\\_the\\_Oriental\\_Institute\\_Museum\\_of\\_the\\_University\\_of\\_Chicago\\_Part\\_I\\_Shroud\\_OIM\\_E4786\\_in\\_Sur\\_les\\_pistes\\_du\\_d%C3%A9sert\\_M%C3%A9langes\\_offerts\\_%C3%A0\\_Michel\\_Valloggia\\_edited\\_by\\_Sandrine\\_Vuilleumier\\_and\\_Pierre\\_Meyrat\\_pp\\_63\\_70\\_Gollion\\_Infolio\\_2019](https://www.academia.edu/49909817/_Funerary_Shrouds_from_Dendera_in_the_Oriental_Institute_Museum_of_the_University_of_Chicago_Part_I_Shroud_OIM_E4786_in_Sur_les_pistes_du_d%C3%A9sert_M%C3%A9langes_offerts_%C3%A0_Michel_Valloggia_edited_by_Sandrine_Vuilleumier_and_Pierre_Meyrat_pp_63_70_Gollion_Infolio_2019).

The second article in this series, about Shroud OIM E4789, is now in press. François also wrote a third article as part of his other series, dedicated to little-known aspects of the god Seth. It deals with an obscure avatar of this deity, referred to as “Seth the Gleaming One.”

The following articles by François have been submitted or are in press or in preparation:

- “Seth the Gleaming One.” Forthcoming in a Festschrift honoring Robert K. Ritner (submitted).
- “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part II: Shroud OIM E4789.” Forthcoming in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (in press).
- “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part III: Shroud OIM E4788 (= OIM E42046)” (in preparation).
- “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part IV: Shroud OIM E4787” (in preparation).
- “A Demotic Accounting Text from the Ptolemaic Period” (in preparation).

It was with great shock and deep sorrow that François learned about the passing of his former professor, colleague, and friend Robert K. Ritner on July 25, 2021. Robert, who served as the Rowe Professor of Egyptology, was a pillar of the Oriental Institute, always ready to explore still unknown “Egyptological territories” to advance the science to which he had devoted his life. The illness may have gotten the upper hand, but for all his colleagues, his students, and the entire Egyptological community, Robert will always remain the Keeper of the Flame.



‘nh by=fr nh dt

May his soul live forever and eternally!

<sup>1</sup> François Gaudard, “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago. Part I: Shroud OIM E4786,” in *Sur les pistes du désert: Mélanges offerts à Michel Valloggia*, edited by Sandrine Vuilleumier and Pierre Meyrat, 63–70 (Gollion: Infolio, 2019).

**PETRA GOEDEGEBUURE**’s research this year was mainly geared toward her project *Expressing Agency and Point of View*. The Hittite common and neuter gender endings denoting the subject and object evolved from a system in which nouns were not common gender or neuter gender but were count nouns or mass nouns and collectives. Common gender endings were used for count nouns, that is, nouns that tend to be agentive, while neuter endings were used for collectives and masses,

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

or nouns that do not tend to be agentive. But sometimes a mass noun or collective needs to be used as a count noun. (In English one may say *one water, please*, with *water* being treated as a count noun.) In Hittite this use is morphologically marked by means of the individuating suffix *-ant-*, but only in Old and Middle Hittite. This suffix was replaced in Neo-Hittite by the suffix *-a-*. Unfortunately, this change means that individuated nouns ending in *-as* (i.e., *-a-* + the nominative ending *-s*) have the same form as the so-called *free-standing genitives*, that is, words with the genitive ending *-as*. Goedegebuure has developed criteria to differentiate between these two types of words in an article in progress (“Hittite Individuating *-a-*: Thematization or Free-standing Genitive?”).

The study of the nominative, a marker of the subject, led to an interesting case of wordplay in Hittite. Goedegebuure corrected the meaning of the short sentence *n=as warkesta*, “he became fat,” to “he became angry.” The root *wark-* still means “fat,” and therefore Goedegebuure could show that the Hittites used the typologically common *swell* metaphor to express anger (“The Fat and the Furious. \**w(o)rg-* ‘fat, furious, strong’ and Derivatives in Hittite and Luwian,” in *Proceedings of the 31st Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, edited by David M. Goldstein, Stephanie W. Jamison, and Brent Vine, 121–37 [Hamburg: Buske, 2020]).

Reviving some old interests, Goedegebuure discussed the demonstratives in the Anatolian languages (“The Fate of the Proto-Anatolian Demonstrative \**ési*,” Virtual East Coast Indo-European Conference XL, June 19, 2021; “Language that Points, Images that Talk, or How Language and Art Interact,” OI [virtual] Volunteer Day, June 15, 2021).

Goedegebuure very much enjoyed writing an article on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project for *News & Notes* on the occasion of the appointment of our interim director, Theo van den Hout (“An Inside Look in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project,” *News & Notes Quarterly Newsletter* 249: 8–15). For Goedegebuure’s work on the CHD itself, see the report on the project in this issue of the OI’s annual report.

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**GENE GRAGG** put COVID-19 isolation to good use by a long and rather tedious transformation of all the data files on the fifty-two languages currently represented in the Afroasiatic Morphological Archive (AAMA) from the less well-known Extended Data Notation (EDN) format to the much more widely used JavaScript Object Notation (JSON). This format will be more familiar and hopefully more easily usable for Python, the one programming/scripting language that has fairly wide currency among working linguists. Gragg is also working out and uploading some sample Python scripts for the display, manipulation, contrasting, and indexing of the morphological paradigms contained in AAMA (and elsewhere). He will eventually maintain and update the current, less accessible Clojure (Lisp) application, intended for online utilization. The current state of the results may be inspected, as always, at <https://aama.github.io>.

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**REBECCA HASSELBACH-ANDEE** worked on several projects this academic year. She completed the final revisions on her translation and revision of Josef Tropper’s *Altäthiopisch: Grammatik des Geʿez mit Übungstexten und Glossar* (Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2002), published as *Classical Ethiopic: A Grammar of Geʿez* (State College, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2021). Furthermore, she completed her work on a volume in honor of John Huehnergard, which she co-edited with her colleague Naʿama Pat-El from the University of Texas at Austin. The volume, titled *Bēl Lišāni: Studies in Akkadian Historical Linguistics*,



is now in press with Eisenbrauns and will appear in the fall. In addition, Hasselbach-Andee continued her work on Eblaite and its socio-linguistic background. Some of her results were presented in an online lecture organized by University College London and King's College London. The lecture, titled "Language Contact in the Third Millennium BCE: The Case of Eblaite," described features and inconsistencies in the grammar of Eblaite that can best be explained by substrate influence, that is, by the influence of the native language of the city of Ebla on the language that was used as the written idiom. The differentiation of different strata of language(s) in the Eblaite material is crucial for our understanding of what kind of language is presented in the written materials of the city, in other words, whether they represent the local language of the city or a learned and imported idiom. Lastly, Hasselbach-Andee continued her work on the alignment of certain Neo-Aramaic dialects, dialects of Aramaic that are spoken today in some areas of Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. The results of this study will be published in the form of an article in a journal.

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**JAN JOHNSON** spent her year of lockdown learning how to teach, attend lectures and conferences, and call meetings via Zoom, which has provided a way to include people who are physically distant but topically important to the gathering. So something positive has come from the isolation, but she looks forward to the resumption of personal interactions on campus. She would like to thank all the OI staff who have gone out of their way to help faculty and each other during the lockdown, making it possible for all of us to continue our work.

Most of Johnson's time this year was spent preparing for classes and reading and commenting on student work; everything seemed to take longer to do. But she has also been able to keep working on entries for her Sourcebook on nonroyal women in ancient Egypt. This volume is intended to include translations of texts by or (mostly) about women, what they did, how they did it, sometimes even what they thought, from the Old Kingdom into the Ptolemaic period, spanning almost three millennia. Some of these texts are *old friends*, texts that she was introduced to as a student and that she introduces to her students. But many are less well-known texts in which she has found women doing a wide range of interesting things, sometimes serving as a bit of counterbalance to the heavy dose of men found in the history of government and politics, religion, war, or economic affairs, or even simply as tomb owners. She keeps finding images of women in art: sculpture, tomb paintings, and the like, which would be wonderful complements to flesh out her translations; but first she must finish her commitment to the women in her texts. (The book is already behind schedule, only partly to be blamed on the pandemic.) At this point, Johnson is envisioning sections of the volume on personal/family life, women's health, women and violence, women and the state, women and the economy, women and religion, and women and the law. But one thing she has learned already is that all these categories intertwine in the texts just as they do in real life. She hopes she'll be able to capture some of the diversity and complexity of women's lives in ancient Egypt.

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This year **W. RAYMOND JOHNSON** completed his forty-second year working for the Epigraphic Survey/Chicago House and his twenty-fourth season as director of Chicago House. On November 6, 2020, he presented the University of Memphis's fifteenth William J. Murnane Memorial Lecture, titled "Tutankhamun's Life, Death, and Afterlife: New Evidence from Thebes" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuHCL88qpFw>). On June 1, 2021, Johnson gave an online lecture titled "Amarna Talatat Blocks and New Joins: Windows onto Akhenaten and Nefertiti's Vanished World" for the

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Metropolitan Museum of Art/Egyptian Art Department's Friends of Egyptian Art lecture series. Then on July 24th he presented an American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) online lecture titled "The Epigraphic Survey, ARCE, and Khonsu Temple: Ancient Secrets Revealed." (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2la0dStHww0>). He contributed the article "The Amarna 'Coregents' Talatat Block from Hermopolis and a New Join" to *Guardian of Ancient Egypt: Essays in Honor of Zahi Hawass*, edited by J. Kamrin, M. Bárta, S. Ikram, M. Lehner, and M. Megahed (Prague: Charles University, Faculty of Arts, 2020). This summer Johnson continued to participate in biweekly Zoom meetings of the Minya Akhenaten Museum Steering Committee, for which he serves as Amarna art consultant and is helping plan the museum's Amarna *talatat* block displays.

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Fortunately, the OI supports long-term projects. **CAROL MEYER** continued work on two of them: the publication of the glass from eleven excavation seasons at Aqaba, Jordan, and the preparation of pottery drawings from al-Widay at the Fourth Cataract in the Sudan. All the glass from the last season at Aqaba in 1995 was tabulated and all but the last few sherds drawn. Once everything is digitally inked, the pieces can be re-sorted into a nearly final typology, and the preparation of the text and plates for publication can begin. The database now comprises 10,119 entries for 15,142 sherds, of which a little more than ten percent have been drawn. As an aid to refining the dating of the material, some 1,297 comparanda have been located so far for 597 of the entries. Also fortunately, Meyer had a significant backlog of penciled drawings from al-Widay that she could digitally ink at home until limited access to the OI in September permitted her to resume work on actual pots and sherds. (See Williams and Heidorns's report on the OINE project in this volume.)

Finally, two long articles were proofed and should appear soon in *Bulletin of ASOR* and *Journal of Glass Studies*. The first article treats the Islamic glass from Nippur, Iraq, and suggests that some occupation continued at the site well into the tenth century, when the rest of the region was virtually depopulated. The second article, written in collaboration with Laure Dussubieux of the Field Museum of Natural History, concerns the corpus of emerald green glass from Aqaba, a distinctive, luxury item that was traded in the Medieval Islamic Fatimid period (late tenth through early twelfth centuries) from Spain to Indonesia. Both articles cite important preliminary reports in *The Oriental Institute Annual Report* that publish data as yet unavailable elsewhere.

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**BRIAN MUHS** submitted two manuscripts for publication in 2020–21: the article "Two Early Ptolemaic Demotic Receipts for the Burial Tax and Theban Ostraca Archives," forthcoming in a *Festschrift*, and the article "Patronage and Protection in Late Pharaonic and Ptolemaic Egypt," in *Proceedings of the 3rd Lady Wallis Budge Egyptology Symposium, Compulsion and Control in Ancient Egypt, Christ's College, Cambridge, 27–28 August 2020*, edited by Alexandre Loktionov (Oxford: Archaeopress, forthcoming), as well as a review of *The Epigraphy of Ptolemaic Egypt*, edited by Alan Bowman and Charles Crowther (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020), to appear in the journal *Religion and Literature*.

Muhs also revised several manuscripts previously submitted for publication, including the article "Egyptian Scholars, Priests and Temples between Autonomy and State Authority," in *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern History* 8 (online ahead of print, 2021); a book chapter titled "Egypt and the Mediterranean in the Early Iron Age," in *The Connected Iron Age*, edited by James Osborne and Jonathan Hall (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, forthcoming); and a book co-authored with Foy

Scalf and Jackie Jay titled *The Archive of Thotsutmis, Son of Panouphis: Early Ptolemaic Ostraca from Deir el Bahari* (O. Edgerton), OIP146 (Chicago: Oriental Institute).

Muhs gave two academic lectures in 2020–21: “Patronage and Protection in Late Pharaonic and Ptolemaic Egypt,” a paper presented online at the 3rd Lady Wallis Budge Egyptology Symposium, Compulsion and Control in Ancient Egypt, Christ’s College, Cambridge, 27–28 August 2020; and “Textual Variants in Kushite and Napatan Mortuary Texts and their Significance,” a paper given online at the 72nd (Virtual) Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, 22–25 April 2021.

This past year Muhs also participated in community outreach on several occasions: he gave online lectures titled “The Autobiography of Hadrian?” for Session 4 of the OI Ancient Literature Workshops, March 6, 2021; “Ancient Nubian Funerary Culture in the First Millennium BCE” for OI Volunteer Day, April 13, 2021; and with Janet H. Johnson, “Drinks with the Dictionaries: The Chicago Demotic Dictionary” for the OI adult education program, June 30, 2021.

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The OI’s *Annual Report 2019–20* described the exciting findings of **JAMES OSBORNE**’s Türkmen-Karahöyük Intensive Survey Project (TISP) in the summer of 2019. Unfortunately, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, travel to Turkey was suspended for the duration of 2020, so the TISP field season could not take place. Plans to return to Turkey exist this summer (2021), and the TISP team looks forward to another productive collaboration with the Konya Regional Archaeological Survey Project. With field work temporarily in abeyance, much of Osborne’s academic year focused on publication efforts. His monograph *The Syro-Anatolian City-States: An Iron Age Culture* was published by Oxford University Press in 2021, thus bringing to completion a writing project that had begun several years earlier. The premise of the book is to provide a reevaluation of the collection of city-states that surrounded the northeastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea during the Iron Age, roughly 1200–600 BCE. While undertaking research on this region as a graduate student and postdoctoral scholar, Osborne repeatedly came across two significant problems in the scholarly literature on the topic: First, this culture lacks a broad synthetic treatment that critically examines the entire collection of city-states macroscopically. Second, the underlying assumptions of much of the scholarship on these kingdoms are anachronistic and in need of revision in light of developments in neighboring fields in the humanities and social sciences. *The Syro-Anatolian City-States* addresses both concerns, thus offering Near Eastern scholarship the first comprehensive treatment of this Iron Age culture.

Osborne’s second major publication effort has been a volume co-edited with Jonathan Hall, in the University of Chicago’s Classics Department. Deriving from a conference Osborne and Hall co-chaired in 2018, the resulting manuscript, titled “The Connected Iron Age: Interregional Networks in the Eastern Mediterranean 900–600 BCE,” underwent thorough editing and peer review. University of Chicago Press placed the manuscript under contract, and the volume will appear in print in 2022. Chapters were contributed by OI faculty member Brian Muhs, Mickey Dietler of the anthropology department, and a range of leading scholars from around the country.

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The COVID-19 crisis made traveling for research and conferences impossible for **SUSANNE PAULUS**, and reformatting her courses for online teaching demanded significant work. After Chris Woods’s departure, upholding the Sumerian program became a central focus of her teaching: she taught a new, two-quarter sequence on scribal education in Nippur based on the tablets housed at the OI.

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Paulus continued her work on the Kassite texts from Babylon in the Vorderasiatische Museum (VAM), Berlin. Travel restrictions prohibited another research stay in Berlin, so she devoted more time to studying and reading the photos of the tablets. The VAM generously provided her with the original excavation photos vital to the reconstruction of tablets that are now lost or more severely damaged. She presented the results of her initial research in a well-attended lecture titled “House Hunters: Babylon, 1300 BCE” for the Dean’s Salon at the University of Chicago. Already the texts from Babylon allow new insights into developments in legal and economic history from 1300 to 1150 BCE. Paulus was also invited to present her research virtually at the University of Oxford.

Several of Paulus’s articles were published this year: “Taxation and Management of Resources in Kassite Babylonia” explores the complex terminology of different dues collected mainly from farmers and landowners and argues that some people had to pay land rent as well as taxes to the provincial and royal administration. “Turn! Turn! Turn!” examines the mysterious term of *turning one’s hand* and its administrative and legal connotation. She established that the expression means “to recompense” and is mostly used in inter-institutional exchanges of commodities. The article was part of a larger volume on *Babylonia under the Sealand and Kassite Dynasties*, which she edited with Tim Clayden (Oxford). The book covers the latest research on Babylonia in the second half of the second millennium BCE. Paulus and Clayden were incredibly proud to incorporate innovative contributions by renowned and emerging scholars, including Iraqi colleagues. Finally, Paulus’s translation of the Sumerian farmer’s almanac, a scholarly text dealing with agricultural advice for a junior farmer with complex technological terms, was published in a German anthology.

Beyond her core research, Paulus continued to work on two interdisciplinary research projects. She served as the cuneiform specialist for the DeepScribe Project, which uses artificial intelligence to decipher cuneiform tablets. This project is a collaboration between Sanjay Krishnan (computer science) and Eddie Williams, Sandra Schloen, and Miller Prosser (OCHRE Data Service) using the data of Matthew Stolper’s Fortification Project (see OCHRE section). Paulus also continued as principal investigator for the project Far From Home: Exploring the Application of Non-destructive XRF Clay Analysis for the Provenance Study of Cuneiform Tablets. The National Endowment for the Humanities currently funds this research.

For more updates on Paulus’s work as Tablet Collection curator, see the Tablet Collection report.

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During this, her second year as a postdoctoral fellow at the OI, **DELPHINE POINSOT** was partly focused on the publication of the proceedings of the 16th Oriental Institute Seminar, Sealing Theories and Practices in the Ancient Near East (March 5–6, 2020). This conference brought together scholars from different areas of study, thus allowing a complete picture of the sources and methods of analysis available in understanding the socio-administrative practices, systems of thought, and beliefs surrounding seals and sealings. As a result, a very exciting volume is in preparation that will make an important contribution to our knowledge of those corpuses throughout the Ancient Near East.

This year Poinsoot also developed her work on the practice of art history in the ancient Near East. She taught a class titled The Kings on the Mountains on the rock reliefs that were patronized by the kings of the Sasanian dynasty (244–651 CE) in Iran in late antiquity. Particular attention was paid to how these images formulated conceptions of royal power and witnessed to the exercise of that power. The class also proposed a critical use of the main *methodologies/theories* of art history for the study of the Sasanian rock reliefs.

Thanks to her colleague Tasha Vorderstrasse, Poinsoot was given the opportunity to work on the notion of the *double-gaze* through a study of Antoin Sevruguin’s photographs (on display in an

exhibition curated by Vorderstrasse at the OI Museum). She contributed to the exhibit's catalog an article on the artistic gaze of Antoin Sevruguin on the Sasanian reliefs—an article titled “Regarding the One Who Is Regarding the Past.” Another published article continued Poinsoot’s work on the Sasanian reliefs: “Au service du roi: la cavalerie en Iran sassanide—Représentations et fonctions des cavaliers à Bišāpūr III.”

Finally, Poinsoot devoted her time to working on the seals from the Persepolis archive in collaboration with the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project at the OI (see Persepolis Fortification Archive Project in Research). She is thankful for her two years at the OI and the very inspiring scientific inspiration she has found here.

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During the academic year 2020–21, **HERVÉ RECULEAU** devoted a great deal of his time to teaching, mentoring, and academic service as the COVID-19 pandemic wore on. His ongoing collaborations with the Humanities Without Walls-sponsored project Coping with Changing Climates in Early Antiquity: Comparative Approaches between Empiricism and Theory (abbreviated 3CEA; see the OI’s 2018–19 and 2019–20 annual reports) and the Franco-Russian lexicography project Laying the Groundwork for a Corpus-Based Dictionary of Old Babylonian (see the OI’s *Annual Report 2019–20*) suffered unwanted delays due to the impossibility for project members to meet in person and hold the expected workshops and conferences. Work is expected to carry on in academic year 2021–22 as vaccine coverage and general immunity allow for the resumption of normal academic life. Reculeau’s third ongoing collaboration, that with the Computational Research on the Ancient Near East project (CRANE; see the 2018–19 and 2019–20 annual reports), has continued virtually with interdisciplinary research on methods for estimating ancient agricultural productivity conducted in collaboration with Lynn Welton (University of Toronto), Simone Riehl (University of Tübingen), and Dan Lawrence (Durham University). The resulting paper will be presented by Welton at the 2021 Meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research in November, and a subsequent publication is expected in 2022. In addition, Reculeau attended and/or participated in e-conferences about climate change in antiquity, agrarian history, and more generally the history and archaeology of the ancient Near East; these e-conferences were held in the United States, the United Kingdom, and continental Europe.

This year saw Reculeau’s finalization of three articles scheduled to appear in print by the end of 2021 or early in 2022: “Esclaves domestiques, prisonniers de guerre et citoyens endettés: Mari et la haute Mésopotamie, XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle avant notre ère,” in *Les mondes de l’esclavage : Une histoire comparée*, edited by P. Ismard, B. Rossi, and C. Vidal, 19–27 (Paris: Seuil, 2021); “Assyria in the Late Bronze Age,” in *The Oxford History of the Ancient Near East*, vol. 3, edited by N. Moeller, D. Potts, and K. Radner, 707–800 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022); and “Opener of Canals, Provider of Abundance and Plenty: Royal Investment in Large-Scale Irrigation in Second Millennium BCE Upper Mesopotamia,” in *Irrigation in Early States: New Perspectives*, Oriental Institute Seminars 13, edited by S. Rost (Chicago: Oriental Institute, forthcoming).

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**SETH RICHARDSON** spent a good part of the past year writing a book—he wrote about half a manuscript on the kingdom of Babylon in the seventeenth century BC, with the hope of completing it by the time the OI’s annual report for 2021–22 is published.

Three of Richardson’s articles were also published this year: Co-authored with OI postdoctoral fellow Kathryn Morgan, “Wine from Mamma: *alluḫarum*-pots in 17th-century Trade Networks,”



## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

in *Iraq* 82 (2020): 179–205, made a rare and wonderful identification by matching an ancient word (*alluḥarum*, whose meaning had been misunderstood as the name for a kind of dye) with a type of wine flask known from excavation contexts everywhere from Anatolia to Babylonia. From this identification, the authors reconstructed a previously unknown Syro-Mesopotamian trade network operating during the seventeenth century BC.

Richardson's second article, "The Origin of Foreign Slaves in the Late Old Babylonian Period," in *KASKAL* 17 (2020): 53–73, examined how foreign slaves came to Babylonia during this same period. Through an analysis of sale documents, Richardson determined that slaves were not brought to Babylonia as captives, war booty, or products of a mass market but individually, sold by their families for debt—the same way in which Babylonians themselves became enslaved.

The third article, "Old Babylonian Taxation as Political Mechanism," in *Economic Complexity in the Ancient Near East: Management of Taxation and Resources* (3rd–2nd millennia BC), ed. J. Mynářová and Sergio Alvernini (Prague: Charles University, 2020), 217–247, explored the political dimension of taxation (that most dismal of all topics). By sifting through the evidence—the names for taxes and collectors, how taxes were discussed in letters and literature, and the social settings of assessment and payment—he argued that the primary function of taxation was to create and condition political relations between rulers and different groups of ruled clientele. He also published a review of Odette Boivin's comprehensive *The First Dynasty of the Sealand in Mesopotamia* (Berlin: DeGruyter, 2018). *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 111 (2021): 290–296.

Richardson kept up with colleagues through a number of online events—and tried not to think about where he would have been able to travel for lectures had he not been declaiming them in his living room. There was a talk on warlords for ASOR (notionally in Boston); divination (Florence); *histoire conjoncturelle* and household memory (New York); the economic marginality of women (Bologna/Prague); and funerary traditions (Boston again). As spring emerged, however, Richardson was happy for the opportunity to teach again in person, this time a course on the political life of states. At this writing, Richardson has eight articles and two book reviews in press, with several more in preparation.

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In Chicago due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, **YORKE ROWAN** planned for future fieldwork and worked on publications based on his two field research projects, the Galilee Prehistory Project (GPP) and the Eastern Badia Archaeological Project (EBAP). In connection with the EBAP he was lead author (with Gary Rollefson and Alexander Wasse) on the chapter "Populating the Black Desert: The Late Neolithic Presence" and co-author with Rollefson and Wasse on "Flamingos in the Desert: How a Chance Encounter Shed Light on the 'Burin Neolithic' of Eastern Jordan," both published in *Landscapes of Survival: The Archaeology and Epigraphy of Jordan's North-Eastern Desert and Beyond*, edited by Peter Akkermans (Leiden: Sidestone Press, 2020).

With Chad Hill, Rowan participated in *Framing Society in the Past: Infrastructure in Archaeological Discourse for the Winslow Series in Archaeology* (Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, April 10–11, 2021) by contributing "Desert Kites: Neolithic Infrastructure in the Margins." With multiple authors, he contributed to "The Palaeoenvironmental Potential of the Eastern Jordanian Desert Basins (Qe'an)," which appeared in the journal *Quaternary International* (June 26, 2021). In addition, "Stable Isotopes and Proxies of Local Palaeoclimates for Three Sites in the Holocene Levant," a multiauthored article that deals with data for interpreting palaeoclimates, is currently in preparation for the journal *Quaternary Science Reviews*.

As part of the Galilee Prehistory Project (GPP), Rowan published the results of fieldwork at Wadi el-Ashert with Morag Kersel, Chad Hill, and Thomas Urban. Appearing in the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 385, no. 1 (2021): 1–32, “Later Prehistory of the Lower Galilee: Multi-Faceted Investigations of Wadi el-Ashert” presents the results of aerial, terrestrial, and remote-sensing survey as well as subsurface methodical testing. Also part of the GPP project, Rowan and Kersel co-authored with Chad Hill the results of an experimental application of a new technology for collecting point data in the field. The paper, “On Hedgehogs and Marvelous Minds: A New Technology for Point Data Collection?” is currently in press with the journal *Advances in Archaeological Practice*.

This year was Rowan’s final one on the Fellowship Committee for the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman and his first year serving on the NEH-Getty Research Institute Review Committee. He also continues his role on the editorial board of *Near Eastern Archaeology*. Rowan chaired the Prehistoric Archaeology session via Zoom for the 2020 Annual Meetings of the American Schools of Oriental Research, and with Hill, Wasse, and Rollefson presented the paper “Petroglyphs and Desert Kites at Wisad Pools, Jordan” on November 22.

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**FOY SCALF** helped increase the online profile of the OI by curating and designing several online exhibits for Google Arts & Culture with the help of several colleagues, including Tasha Vorderstrasse. These exhibits included *Magic in the Ancient World*, *Papyrus Milbank: Unrolling the Book of the Dead Papyrus of Irtyuru*, and *Book of the Dead: Becoming God in Ancient Egypt*. From them, Google produced two condensed exhibits, *Book of the Dead* and *God of the Dead*, giving the OI eight online exhibitions through the platform.

Scalf had several important publications appear this year. With much relief to him, Brian Muhs, and Jackie Jay, *The Archive of Thotsutmis* went to the printer and should be available for download and purchase in August 2021, just in time for a final mention in the OI’s 2021–22 annual report! Scalf’s article on a Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago) First Book of Breathing papyrus appeared in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 79, no. 2 (2020): 151–82. His contribution to an American Anthropological Association online teaching panel highlighting his prepandemic experience in the OI’s adult education program appeared in *Journal of Archaeology and Education* 5 (2021).

Scalf’s article on a stela of Sety I and Ramses II in the OI (OIM E10507) was accepted for publication in *JNES*. In the article, he argues that the stela was originally erected at Abydos, not Saqqara as previously thought. The argument derives from Scalf’s observation that the cartouche of Sety I used on the stela is *Osirianized*, as known primarily from Abydos. Scalf also submitted the chapter “Gone, But Alive! Life in the Beyond” form and began collaborating with Sara Cole on a catalog of the Book of the Dead manuscripts for the Getty Museum. Press reports highlighted preliminary work and Scalf’s role in confirming a join between inscribed linen fragments in the Getty and Teece museums, as originally suggested by Judith Barr. With the gracious help of Brian Muhs and Anne Peale, Scalf has taken up another project to publish a collection of Book of the Dead manuscripts held at Williams College (Williamstown, Massachusetts) in the Chapin Library and Museum of Art.

Scalf taught two classes for the OI’s adult education program over the course of the year. With the help of Tasha Vorderstrasse, these classes became two of the most popular, well-attended courses in the program’s history. The transition to Zoom has reinvigorated the program’s ability to engage directly with students. Scalf also taught his book history class for Dominican University. He gave many public lectures during the year, including at ASOR’s annual meeting with Anne Flannery and

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

the American Research Center in Egypt's Chicago chapter with Tasha Vorderstrasse. He also participated in Arts@Graham on measuring time in ancient Egypt.

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In 2020–21, **GIL STEIN**'s excavations on behalf of the OI at the prehistoric site of Surezha, in the Kurdistan region of northeastern Iraq, were temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the continuing impact of the virus, Gil, as principal investigator of the OI's three cultural heritage grants in Afghanistan, worked remotely with our international staff in Europe and with our partners at both the National Museum of Afghanistan (NMA) and the Afghan Institute of Archaeology (AIA). This activity included work at the NMA on the Hadda Sculptural Restoration Project and ongoing efforts to identify what objects have been looted from the National Museum. Gil also continued working remotely on the National Museum of Afghanistan Outreach-Mobile Museum Project (MMP) and the Afghan Heritage Mapping Partnership (AHMP).

Additionally, Gil continued his work on a second cultural heritage preservation project—one focused on the five post-Soviet republics of Central Asia (also known as the C5). The three-year CTPAC training program for conservators from the five national museums of the C5 republics had been scheduled to hold its third capacity-building workshop in September 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic prevented holding the planned autumn workshop in Tashkent. The program is scheduled to resume in September 2021, if possible.

In 2020, the U.S. State Department awarded Gil a second grant for cultural heritage work in central Asia for a new two-year project: Cultural Heritage Site Preservation and Economic Development in the Central Asian Republics. This project will be carried out through the new Chicago Center for Cultural Heritage Preservation (C3HP).

In tandem with his cultural heritage work, Gil published three articles last academic year: "Leadership Strategies and the Multi-linear Development of Social Complexity in Ubaid Mesopotamia and Susa A Southwestern Iran (5500–4000 BCE)," in *Pathways through Arslantepe: Essays in Honour of Marcella Frangipane*, edited by F. Balossi Restelli, A. Cardarelli, G. M. Di Nocera, L. Manzanilla, L. Mori, G. Palumbi, and H. Pittman, 173–87 (Viterbo: Università di Roma La Sapienza and Sette Città, 2020); "Cultural Heritage Preservation Work in Afghanistan and Central Asia," in *Oriental Institute Annual Report 2019–20*, 21–31 (Chicago: Oriental Institute, 2020); and with Michael Fisher, "Surezha Excavations 2019: Erbil Plain, Kurdistan region, Iraq," *Oriental Institute Annual Report 2019–20*, 129–47 (Chicago: Oriental Institute, 2020).

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**EMILY TEETER** has started a new research project: writing the history of the Epigraphic Survey for its centennial in 2024. She is working primarily with the thousands of pages of correspondence in the archives of the OI, Chicago House, and other institutions and is conducting interviews with former and current members of the expedition. The book will be published by the OI.

Teeter continues to conduct research on objects in the OI and other museums. Her publications for the year include "A New Version of Book of the Dead 30B: Art Institute Chicago Heart Scarab 1894.1359," in *The Afterlives of Egyptian History: Reuse and Reformulation of Objects, Places, and Texts*, in Honor of Edward Bleiberg, edited by Y. Barbash, K. Cooney, and K. Zurek-Doule, 153–64 (Cairo/New York: The American University in Cairo Press, 2021); "Egypt in Chicago: The Century of Progress Exposition 1933, and Lorado Taft and his Dream Museum," in *Guardian of Ancient Egypt: Essays in Honor of Zahi Hawass*, vol. 3, edited by J. Kamrin, M. Bárta, S. Ikram, M. Lehner, and M. Megahed, 1555–64

(Prague: Czech Institute of Egyptology, 2021); and “Scarabs, Scaraboids, Seals, Seal Impressions, and Knotted Cords,” in *The Phoebe A. Hearst Expedition to Naga ed-Deir, Cemeteries N 2000 and N 2500*, edited by Vanessa Davies, 308–28 (Leiden: Brill, 2020).

Teeter has several articles in press: one of them deals with female figures from Medinet Habu, another with a stela of To, the Vizier of Ramesses II (OIM E14655). Her Zoom talks in the pandemic year included “James Henry Breasted and the Birth of American Egyptology” for the Georgia chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt; “Daily Life in Ancient Egypt” for Smithsonian Journeys; “Thebes, City of Amun,” for the OI’s Armchair Traveler series; and “Curious Collectors and the Role of Private Collections and Gifts in the Growth of Museums” for Field Museum of Natural History docents.

Teeter reviewed book manuscripts for the American University in Cairo Press and Princeton University Press, serves on the board of SBL Press’s Writings from the Ancient World series, and continues to serve as the editor of the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*. She received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Research Center in Egypt for her many years of work on the board, and she continues to be very active in its Chicago chapter. She is serving as an academic advisor for an upcoming exhibit on death at the Field Museum and she also advised the Department of Homeland Security on artifacts intercepted by U.S. Customs.

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For **THEO VAN DEN HOUT** the past year began relatively quietly with online and in-person classes. At the beginning of the year his new book appeared: *A History of Hittite Literacy: Writing and Reading in Late Bronze Age Anatolia (1650–1200 BC)* (Cambridge University Press). Together with his colleague Petra Goedegebuure (as well as with James Osborne, Michele Massa, Christoph Bachhuber, and Fatma Şahin) he published an edition of the hieroglyphic Luwian inscription found by Osborne and Massa: “TÜRKMEN-KARAHÖYÜK 1: A New Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscription from Great King Hartapu, Son of Mursili, Conqueror of Phrygia,” *Anatolian Studies* 70 (2020): 29–43. Another article by van den Hout, “Hittite Society, Economy, and Ritual,” appeared in the Japanese journal *Orient* 55 (2020), 3–11. This article represents the printed version of a keynote lecture he delivered in 2018 at Doshisha University in Kyoto (see the OI’s *Annual Report 2017–18*). A popular article, “From ‘an’ to ‘the’: The OI at 100,” about the OI’s centennial book was posted online in *The Ancient Near East Today: Current News about the Ancient Past* 8, no. 8 (August 2020): <http://www.asor.org/anetoday/2020/08/OI-at-100>. In the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 80, no. 3 (2020): 514–16, van den Hout reviewed *Libraries before Alexandria: Ancient Near Eastern Traditions*, edited by Kim Ryholt and Gøtje Barjamovic (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

During the year van den Hout also delivered several virtual lectures: in Paris, in Florence, and in Torino, with the latter being a keynote address titled “Hittite Foodways: The Hittite King as the Provider of His People” at the 67th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale.

For the OI van den Hout produced three podcasts—two on the Hittite Plague Prayers of King Mursili II and one in the Armchair Traveler series about the Hittite capital Hattusa.

The international workshop on Hittite visual culture (see the OI’s *Annual Report 2019–20*), originally planned for the spring of 2020, was postponed and can hopefully take place in May 2022. Finally, in January 2021 provost Ka Yee Lee asked van den Hout to step in as interim director of the OI.

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**TASHA VORDERSTRASSE**, university and continuing education program coordinator at the OI, facilitated multiple adult education courses and talks and taught several adult education classes and teacher workshops (see the education department's annual report). She curated the OI Museum's exhibition *Antoin Sevruguin: Past and Present*, was responsible for its complete online exhibition, and curated its catalog, *Antoin Sevruguin: Past and Present*, for which she wrote several articles.

In addition, Vorderstrasse presented the following: "The Silk Roads III: Weaving Fantasy," Oriental Institute Community Scholars Lecture with Soma Roy, Nourishment Project, July 2020; lecture for ARCE Chicago with Foy Scalf; "The Synagogue at Dura Europos and Its Decoration in Context," Oriental Institute Community Scholars Lecture, Hadassah, October 2020; "Trade in Roman Glass Vessels: Comparing Arabia, Nubia, and Beyond," ASOR Virtual Annual Meeting talk, November 2020; "Exploring the Photographs of the 19th-Century Photographer Antoin Sevruguin," Virtual Oriental Institute Gallery talk, December 2020; "OI Armchair Travelers: Georgia," OI Armchair Travelers talk; "Sevruguin and Orientalism," Breasted Society lecture, January 2021; "1000 Nights at the Oriental Institute," Virtual Oriental Institute lecture for YouTube; "Sevruguin and the Exploration of the Iranian Past," Virtual Nowruz lecture at the Oriental Institute, March 2021; "Intentionality and Sevruguin," lecture for the virtual opening of the Antoin Sevruguin exhibition; "Manuscript Illumination in Nubia: Investigating the Role of Serra East," lecture for The Art of Medieval Nubia symposium organized by Global Horizons in Pre-Modern Art, University of Bern, April 2021; "(Re-) Interpreting the Photographs of Antoin Sevruguin: A Close Look," University of Chicago Giving Day lecture; "Sevruguin and the Art of Qajar Iran," OI Volunteers Day lecture, May 2021; "Antoin Sevruguin: An Armenian-Iranian Photographer in Qajar Iran," Armenian Circle lecture; "Perspectives on the Armenian-Iranian Photographer Antoin Sevruguin: A Conversation," National Association for Armenian Studies and Research lecture with Charissa Johnson and Polina Kasian, June 2021.

Vorderstrasse also published the following: "Arabic Ostraca from Abydos," in *Abydos in the First Millennium AD*, British Museum Publications on Egypt and the Sudan 9, edited by E. O'Connell, 259–70 (Leuven: Peeters, 2020); "Limits of the Kushan Empire in the Tarim Basin," in *The Limits of Empire in Ancient Afghanistan: Rule and Resistance in the Hindu Kush, circa 600 BCE–600 CE*, edited by R. Payne and R. King, 169–200, (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2020); and with A. Eger, "Gaps or Transitions? North Syrian/South Anatolian Ceramics in the Early, Middle, and Late Islamic Periods," *Herom* 9 (2020): 381–420.

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**JOHN WEE** authored the following academic articles and essays accepted for publication in 2020–21: "A Systemic Etiology of Sicknesses from Ancient Iraq: Organ Systems and the Functional Holism of the Babylonian Body," in *Ancient Holisms*, edited by C. Thumiger, 318–56 (Leiden: Brill, 2021); "Medicine, Mesopotamia," in *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (Oxford University Press, 26 May 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.013.8632>); "Ghosts In and Outside the Machine: A Phenomenology of Intelligence, Psychic Possession, and Prophetic Ecstasy in Ancient Mesopotamia," in *The Routledge Companion to Ecstatic Experience in the Ancient World*, edited by D. Stein, S. Costello, and K. Foster, chapter 22 (Abingdon: Routledge, 2021); and "The Lamashtu Amulet: A Portrait of the Caregiver as a Demoness," in *The History of Contagion in Harvard Library Collections*, special edition of *Harvard Library Bulletin* (2021).

In preparation are his article "Proclus and His Right Triangles: Pythagorean Number Theory and New Meanings for a Babylonian Rule," in *Anchoring Technology in Greco-Roman Antiquity*, edited by M. Flohr, S. Mols, and T. Tieleman (Euhormos/Leiden: Greco-Roman Studies in Anchoring Innovation/Brill); an invited essay in *Plague in Antiquity*, special edition of *Ancient Near Eastern Studies* 59 (2022); and "Astronomy and Medicine," in *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Astronomy*, edited by J. M. Steele (Oxford:



Oxford University Press, forthcoming). Wee will also present an invited the paper “Medicinal Plant as Actor: Therapeutic Ingredients and Medical Astrology in Ancient Mesopotamia” at a conference titled Prescription to Prediction: The Ancient Sciences in Cross-Cultural Perspective at the Johns Hopkins University in September 2022.

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**KAREN L. WILSON** is pleased to share that the manuscript “Nippur VI: The Inanna Temple” has been accepted for publication by the Oriental Institute in its excavation report series, edited by McGuire Gibson. The volume, authored by Richard L. Zettler, Karen L. Wilson, Jean M. Evans, and Robert D. Biggs, with contributions by R. C. Haines and Donald P. Hansen, will constitute the final publication of the OI’s excavation of the Inanna Temple at the site of Nippur during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The OI’s publications office is currently editing and formatting the volumes, and Wilson is working through proofs of various chapters as they become available.

This past year Wilson also continued to serve as Kish project coordinator and research associate at Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History; she prepared aspects of the publication of the work of the Joint Field Museum and Oxford University Expedition to Kish in 1923–32. The Oriental Institute Publications Committee has agreed to publish the manuscript as a volume in the OIP series. The volume will present the results of a symposium conducted in November 2008 that focused on current research and updated excavations at the site. Chapters cover studies of the human remains, textual evidence, lithics, animal figurines, seals, and stucco, as well as a catalog of the Field Museum’s holdings from Kish and Jamdat Nasr. Wilson is currently working through the proofs for this manuscript as well.

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RESEARCH SUPPORT



OVERLEAF: Cover illustration  
for SAOC 71, *From Sherds to  
Landscapes: Studies on the  
Ancient Near East in Honor of  
McGuire Gibson*, edited by Mark  
Altaweel and Carrie Hritz.

"McGuire Gibson, Üçtepe, 1978"  
Drawing by Peggy Sanders.

# COMPUTER LABORATORY

KNUT BOEHMER

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When I wrote last year's report, it had become clear that COVID-19 would affect work at the OI for a while, but I doubt anyone had anticipated this would be the case for more than a year. While the opportunity to support staff and faculty working from their "home bases" shaped up to be a welcome daily challenge, it also meant finding new ways to connect with people who had technical issues—in some cases, even the inability to connect to the internet. This new, decentralized work structure was also a driving force behind digital workflow overhauls. At the same time, there were new, major, global digital threats that arose, severe exploits that were uncovered and needed remediation, and finally, of course, the small day-to-day tasks that still needed attention. All in all, 2020–21 was an unprecedented, mostly digital year for the information technology (IT) department, and for most of the computer-centric work of staff and faculty it will have ripple effects for years to come.

## **Zoom**

While the first half of 2020 saw the first rollout and experiences of getting to know Zoom, the program became a staple in everyone's workday over the last year. Hardly a day went by without several video meetings. But several larger changes to functions and features in Zoom still made it a challenging task to stay on top of everything. New, useful tools were rolled out, and the positions or symbols of some items changed, all of which information had to be communicated in personal briefings and documentation.

## ***Event Coordination, Support, and Recordings***

With nearly all OI programming going fully online, most larger events have become an all-hands-on-deck situation, which I have gladly contributed to. Over the last year, we had an unprecedented variety of events—to name a few, besides the many regular live lectures, we broadcasted recorded lectures, online book clubs, interactive learning and crafting events for children, a few live behind-the-scenes tours (with the *visitors* being shown around from their homes), and, unfortunately, also a few remembrance ceremonies for people close to the OI that had passed during the year. Each one of these virtual events came with its own set of rules, risks, and challenges, depending on audience size, interactivity, and many more factors. Happily, we have a great team that has grown to a solid unit composed of people who are constantly helping each other out, so that 99 percent of all our events went off without a hitch. Additionally, the fully digital events allowed recordings to be made, so that in most cases would-be participants who could not make it to a given event in person did not miss out on our interesting topics, thereby further boosting our growth on social media.

## ***Ancient Armenia Conference***

On April 9, 2021, Alain Bresson and Elizabeth Fagan hosted the online conference Ancient Armenia: Center and Peripheries. With all hosts and speakers in North America and Europe, as well as all guests being located all around the globe, this event was the first fully online-only conference that I had to plan and execute from a technical standpoint. The symposium, having a total of fifteen

speakers and eight talks across three panels and around two hundred viewers over the course of the day, proceeded without any problems, and a subsequently edited recording was produced and later given to the organizers.

### ***Crowdstrike***

2020 saw an unprecedented rise in the number of cyber-attacks, increased spread of scams and ransomware, and so forth. With the University's contract with Symantec running out in November of 2020, IT Services (ITS) found a new service provider in the cyber-security technology company Crowdstrike. The major challenge here was to roll it out in a situation where most of the computers in use for the OI never came to campus (and to date still have not returned), thus leading to a series of remote calls and long-distance installations made a bit more complex than initially anticipated by the diversity of the off-campus home networks.

As of the time of writing this report, about half the OI's faculty and staff machines have been supplied with the new security software. We project completion of this project by November if the current return to campus (September) is realized.

### ***Code42***

The second big software rollout for the OI was Code42, formerly CrashPlan, which is a cloud-based backup program added as a new offer by ITS to all faculty and staff of the University of Chicago in the last year. Code42 features a minimally distracting interface and ensures that all data is automatically being backed up to a safe cloud location once set up. I began to roll it out in May 2020, and it is being used by about 40 percent of OI computers so far. The expected full completion date to cover all computers with valuable data is November 2021. This program has already proven invaluable for several cases of accidentally deleted data by recovering lost days or even weeks of work for both faculty and staff.

### ***Breasted Hall Upgrade***

With events returning to Breasted Hall later in 2021, the shift in how events will be held going forward meant that the technical expectations also slightly shifted. Having been conceptualized as a room that can stream events only outward, Breasted Hall's original setup did not include any options to allow the room to be used for two-way video conferencing. Working with college admissions and the ITS audiovisual (AV) team, I mapped out the necessary changes to the already installed systems. Going forward, not only will the changes make it possible to use the room for hybrid events by essentially turning it into one of campus's largest webcams, but they will also expand on presentation possibilities by adding a second, audience-facing camera, as well as improving camera quality. The upgrades are expected to be installed in September 2021 and will help cement Breasted Hall as one of the most attractive conference spaces on campus once physical events return.

### ***Going Forward***

As of the writing of this report, the University is planning to resume in-person activities in early September 2021. For staff, a transitional period of six months is planned: most meetings and events will be held in a hybrid model that allows remote workers to participate from home. This plan comes with its own set of challenges from an IT perspective, as most meeting rooms in the OI are not (yet) equipped with webcams, screens, and microphones necessary for these types of meetings. Also, with everyone returning regularly multiple times per week, I expect a small wave of problems arising for devices that have been largely dormant for a year and a half.



A second major task will consist in completing the rollout of the new backup and security solutions for people who have not yet returned to campus even occasionally. This work is necessary to ensure that we are safe from cyberthreats and prepared in case of potential, unexpected data loss.

Finally, I look forward to tackling the new challenges and tasks that will undoubtedly come up in the next year and to striving to ensure that everyone has the best digital work environment possible.

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# JOURNAL OF NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

## SETH RICHARDSON

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Work continued apace at the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (*JNES*) this year, despite pandemic conditions, with both issues of the academic year coming out on schedule: *JNES* 79, no. 2 (October 2020), weighed in at 250 pages, and *JNES* 80, no. 1 (April 2021), at 230 pages. These issues between them included nineteen major articles and thirty-one book reviews. Our authors from outside the U.S. hailed from Istanbul, Paris, Liverpool, Tehran, Turin, Berlin, Ankara, Cambridge, Jerusalem, and Barcelona; our reviewers from Amsterdam, Warsaw, Tel Aviv, Rome, Ankara, London, Çanakkale, Vancouver, Marburg, Tokyo, Durham, Istanbul, Leiden, Birmingham, and Göttingen. Among our published articles were studies of ancient Egyptian funerary literature, the relationship of Islamic to Roman law, the seasonal breeding patterns of sheep and goats in Mesopotamia, the reconstructed biography of a Babylonian physician traveling to Hattuša, animal-bone oracles from the Levant, and emerald mines in Roman Egypt. Our April issue also featured two important studies of early Qur'anic manuscripts and premiered a new and permanent Forum section of the journal featuring a critical dialogue between the author of one article and an invited panel of other scholars.

Some statistics to help illustrate the work of the journal: from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, *JNES* received 110 new article manuscripts submitted for consideration. Of them, the editors rejected 82, returned 11 to the authors for revision, have 7 under current review, and have accepted 10. (The journal's current acceptance rate thus stands at 9 percent.) 43 of the 110 manuscripts were sent out for review to 140 reviewers; in only one instance was a reviewer invited to read more than one manuscript (i.e., two). Of these 141 invitations to review, more than half (75) were sent to scholars at non-U.S. institutions (reflecting the international reach and standing of the journal), including colleagues working in Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Israel, China, and Japan. Sixty-four full formal reviews were completed through our double-blind process, where the author remains anonymous to the reviewers and vice versa. The (often voluminous!) reviewer comments returned to authors provide invaluable critical feedback for revision even when manuscripts go on to be published elsewhere. Many University of Chicago colleagues contributed reviews and advice this year, both informally and formally: Fred Donner, Dennis Pardee, Martha Roth, Holly Shissler, Cornell Fleischer, Ahmed El Shamsy, Simeon Chavel, Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee, Brian Muhs, Sofía Torallas Tovar, Jeffrey Stackert, John Wee, Foy Scalf, Ray Johnson, Theo van den Hout, Hervé Reculeau, Frank Lewis, James Robinson, Emily Teeter, Chris Faraone, Phil Venticinque, Kate Morgan, Jean Evans, Kiersten Neumann, Bruce Williams, Morag Kersel, Luiza Osorio da Silva, and Ella Karev. We are grateful to them and to all our reviewers, without whom the work of the journal could simply not be accomplished.

The number of people and range of expertise it takes to produce *JNES* tells us something about why and how it differs from other journals. It is true that the journal is a *grand dame* (at the ripe young age of 138), with prestige and genealogy and so forth. But the Chicago imprimatur doesn't exist for ivory-tower reputation (alone): it exists because *JNES* so energetically continues its work as one of the last great area-studies journals with a generalist outlook. It is not a journal specializing in Islamic law, cuneiform literature, landscape archaeology, or any one subject area; nor does it specialize in the prehistoric, ancient, or medieval period alone. Instead, *JNES* embraces all these disciplines and epochs and, in a day and age of specialization, continues to strive to bring a diversity

of scholars and studies into conversation with each other. For all these reasons, the work we publish must both make important new research contributions *and* communicate findings to scholars working in other and allied fields of study. So we do not and cannot rely on an editorial board only of insiders—of four or six or eight decision-makers. Instead, we rely on the entire world-community of scholarship: to evaluate and critique, but mostly to connect.

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# OCHRE DATA SERVICE

SANDRA SCHLOEN

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The global pandemic brought profound disruption and change to many, but at the OCHRE Data Service our work continued mostly as normal. As a support center for projects that use the Online Cultural and Historical Research Environment (OCHRE), we have long been used to working remotely with collaborators all over the world. Being available around the clock and accommodating meetings in different time zones was always a normal part of our work. As archaeological projects were canceled due to the pandemic, scholars turned to analysis and publication of their existing data, thus keeping us busier than ever. And as the University of Chicago (UChicago) was shutting down and sending students home, we were able to step up and provide online research opportunities to fill the gap created by the sudden cancellation of in-person student internships. We were pleased to be able to mentor two interns for the [summer lab program](#) of the University's [Center for Data and Computing](#), which was forced to adopt a remote format. We were also delighted to "get things done and discover new talent" by hiring several students who received paid internships through the [College Micro-Metcalf Program](#) and the [College Research Fellows Program](#).

But the OCHRE Data Service, too, is embracing a new normal in the summer of 2021. As we celebrate our tenth anniversary and approach the landmark of ten million database items managed by the OCHRE platform, we are excited to be expanding and broadening our reach. Effective July 1, 2021, the OCHRE Data Service has moved from the OI to the Division of the Humanities in association with the program [Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History](#), directed by OI professor and archaeologist [David Schloen](#). Sandra Schloen continues to manage the OCHRE Data Service and is now the technology director for digital studies, joining [Miller Prosser](#), who transitioned to the role of associate director of digital studies in September 2020 while continuing to support OCHRE projects. Going forward, we will be better positioned to work with students and faculty in all fields of the humanities: ancient, medieval, and modern. We will provide database services, consultation, and training for students and faculty in all departments, including continued support for research at the OI.

In fact, the staff of the OCHRE Data Service have already been working closely with faculty and students in various departments outside the OI for several years. For example, we have played a key role in the interdisciplinary [initiative](#) Critical Editions for Digital Analysis and Research ([CEDAR](#)), whose principal investigators are in the divinity school (Prof. Jeffrey Stackert) and the English department (Prof. Ellen MacKay). We have also enabled faculty-led digital projects based in the departments of art history (Prof. Niall Atkinson's study of the Florentine Catasto of 1427; see fig. 1) and linguistics (Prof. Alan C. Yu's research on the Washo language and culture), and we expect to engage with many more projects in more departments in the future.

As the OCHRE Data Service transitions to its new home in the Division of the Humanities, it is with great appreciation for its beginnings at the OI, which served as fertile ground in which OCHRE could grow and blossom. Indeed, the unusual types of data and research engaged in by the OI faculty posed a significant computational challenge and served as a spur for OCHRE's technological innovations. Non-alphabetic texts written in Egyptian hieroglyphs and Mesopotamian cuneiform demand a computational approach that goes beyond what is found in ordinary, off-the-shelf software. Like-

## RESEARCH SUPPORT | OCHRE DATA SERVICE

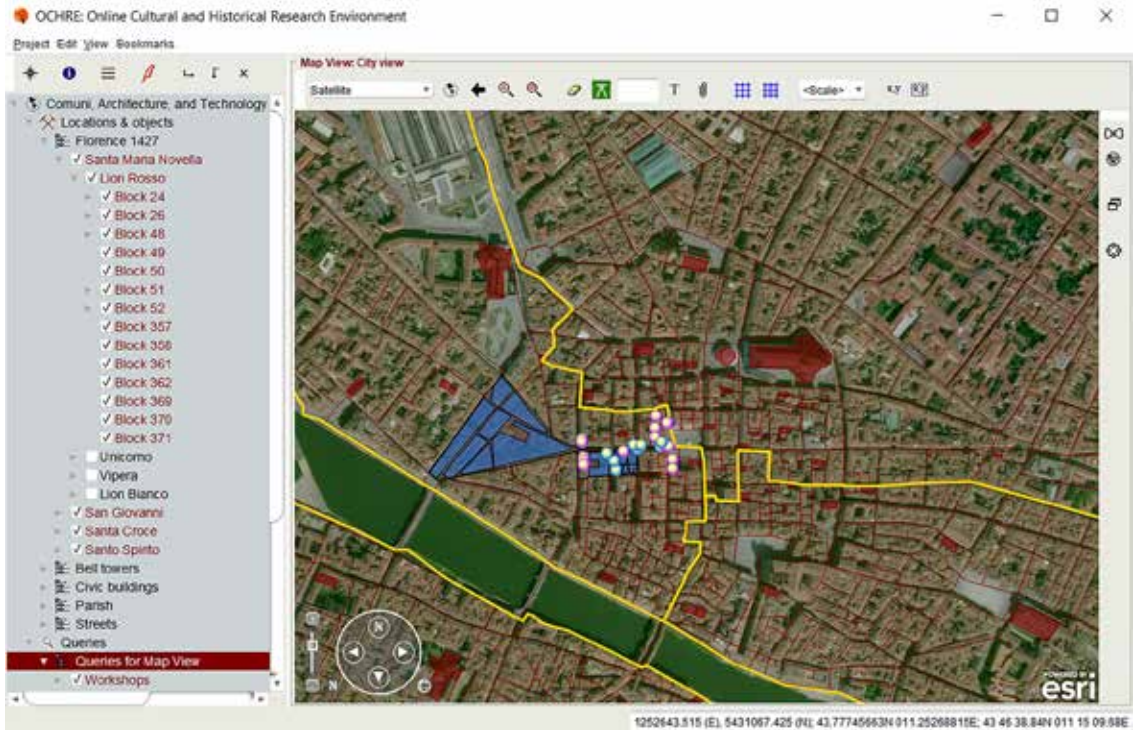


Figure 1. A cluster of workshops listed in the 1427 Catasto, plotted in the Lion Rosso district of Florence.

wise, the great variability and idiosyncratic nature of archaeological data and recording methods do not suit the rigid format of a typical relational database. A more flexible and comprehensive computational approach was needed. As early as 1999, the [Middle Egyptian Textual Environment for Online Research](#) (METEOR; see fig. 2) was developed for Prof. Janet Johnson's Annotated Egyptian Readingbook Project—an interactive and creative presentation of a collection of hieroglyphic texts. In the early 2000s, in response to the vision of the late Prof. Harry Hoffner and former OI director Gene Gragg, OCHRE was adapted to handle complex lexicographical data so it could serve as the platform for the [electronic version of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary](#) (CHD). When Prof. Matthew Stolper needed a data management solution for his [Persepolis Fortification Archive Project](#) to integrate the complex array of information generated by the analysis, transcription, and imaging of tens of thousands of tablets bearing Elamite and Aramaic texts, as well as thousands of seal impressions, OCHRE met the challenge. Prof. David Schloen's archaeology projects at [Ashkelon](#) (Israel) and [Zincirli](#) (Turkey) depended on OCHRE to manage large amounts of data, including thousands of plans, drawings, and photographs.

Since those early days, the results of other OI archaeology projects have been digitized and preserved in the OCHRE platform, including legacy projects such as [Tell Judaidah](#) and [Megiddo](#) from the 1930s and more recent projects at [Tel Yaqush](#) and [Tell Keisan](#) in Israel and the renewed project at [Nippur](#) in Iraq. Beyond the OI, OCHRE is being used to manage and publish data from archaeological excavations at Antioch (Princeton University), Corinth (University of Missouri), Gezer (Hebrew Union College and others), Hippos-Sussita (Zinman Institute of Archaeology), Idalion (Lycoming College), Jaffa (UCLA), Tell Tayinat (University of Toronto), Tel Shimron (Wheaton College), and Tel Zayit (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary). And beyond the Middle East, OCHRE is being used to manage data from archaeological investigations of the Amache Relocation Camp, a World War II Japanese



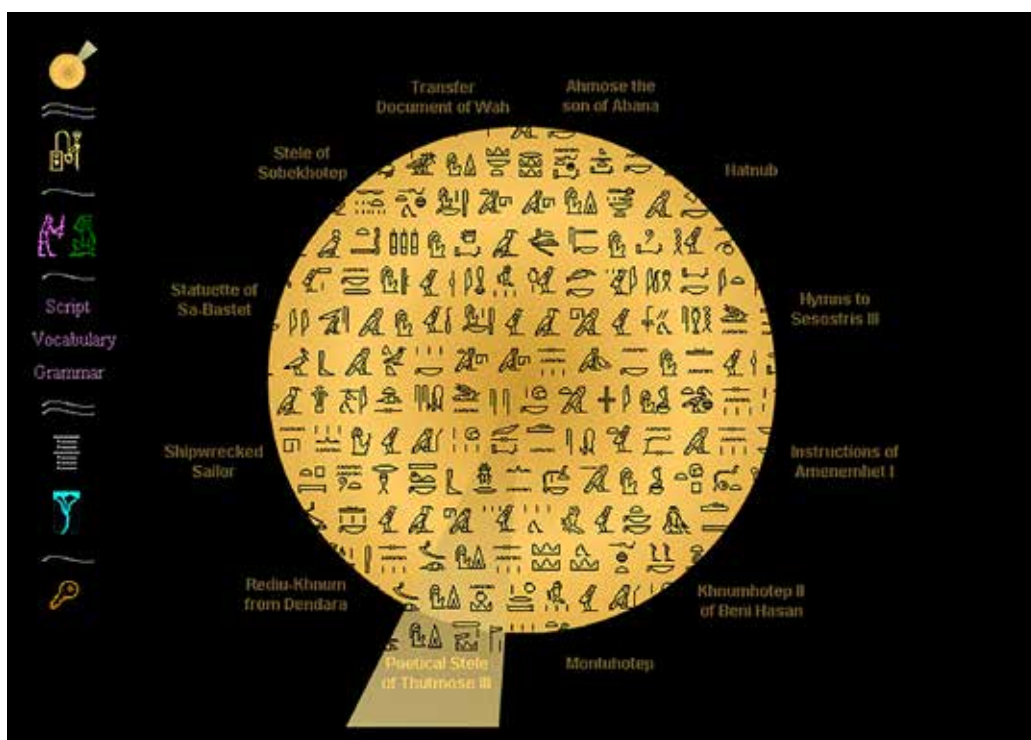


Figure 2. Main menu of METEOR, Sandra Schloen's first digital project at the OI.

internment camp in southeastern Colorado (University of Denver), and from the Corral-Redondo Expedition to Peru, the [Proyecto Wila Jawira](#) investigations in Bolivia, and the [Gobero excavations](#) in Niger (all three being projects of UChicago).

Several textual and lexical projects—such as the [Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online](#) project, led by Foy Scalf (UChicago Egyptology PhD and now head of the OI Research Archives); the [Old Assyrian Research Environment](#) project, led by Edward Stratford (UChicago Assyriology PhD and now a professor at Brigham Young University); and the [Ras Shamra Tablet Inventory](#) project, led by Miller Prosser (UChicago Northwest Semitic Philology PhD and, as noted above, associate director of digital studies) with Prof. Dennis Pardee—have amassed comprehensive data concerning Demotic Egyptian, Old Assyrian, and Ugaritic archives, respectively. Meanwhile, OCHRE has been used for language-learning tools developed at UChicago to teach [Marathi](#) and [Yucatec Mayan](#), thus demonstrating OCHRE's ability to integrate audiovisual materials for pedagogical purposes.

More traditional digital humanities projects, such as the [Peripheral Manuscripts Project](#) at Indiana University, which is digitizing medieval manuscripts housed in institutions throughout the Midwest, are finding OCHRE to be a flexible and full-featured tool. And all this information—archaeological, philological, cultural, linguistic, and historical—in all digital formats, including texts, maps, images, audio, and video, can be easily published from the OCHRE database platform to the World Wide Web via the OCHRE Application Programming Interface (API), which uses open standards to provide free and open access to the data for scholars and students everywhere, while preserving it and keeping it accessible indefinitely on servers maintained by the [University of Chicago Library](#).

Finally, although OCHRE was initially developed to facilitate traditional methods in ancient studies, it is also being used to support cutting-edge research that employs the latest scientific methods. OCHRE is used by the [DeepScribe Project](#), a collaboration that includes OI Assyriologist Susanne

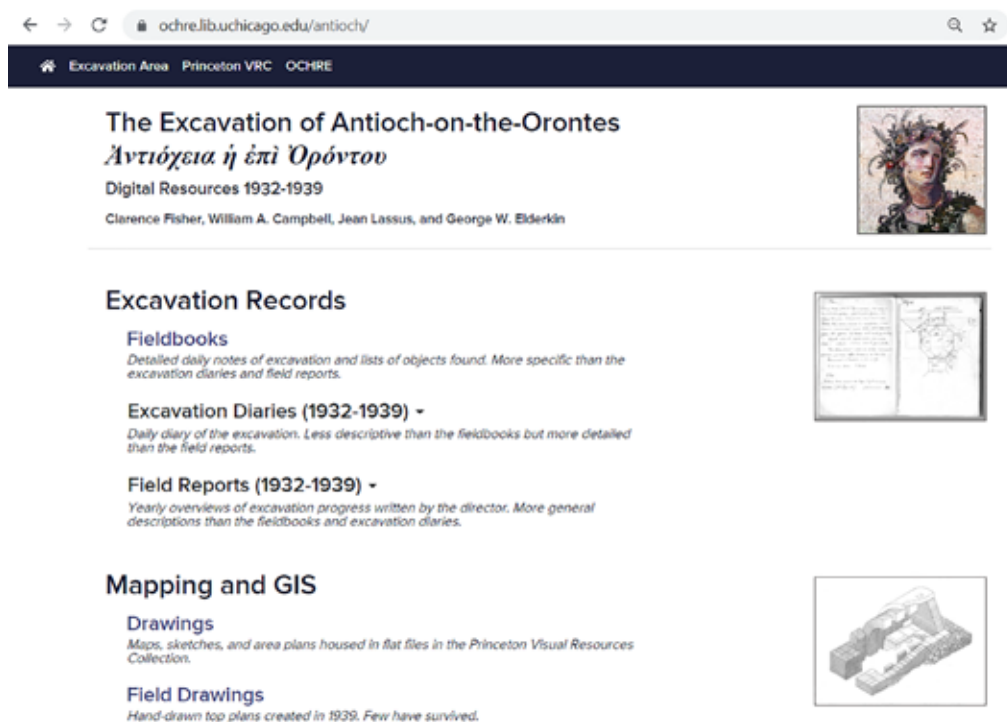


Figure 3. Web publication of ancient Antioch, with assistance from [Nicholas Schulte](#), OCHRE technology consultant.

Paulus and computer scientist Sanjay Krishnan of the computer science department and is funded by UChicago's [Center for Data and Computing](#). This project has achieved significant progress in *training* computer software automatically to detect and classify ancient cuneiform signs on clay tablets using the latest artificial intelligence (AI) methods of computer vision. A crucial role is played by a *training set* of more than one hundred thousand annotated images of cuneiform signs stored in OCHRE that were extracted from the Persepolis Fortification Archive's digitized photographs. Results to date will be presented at the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Chicago in November 2021.

OCHRE will also be used in a new project on [Genomes, Migrations, and Culture in the Early Civilizations of the Middle East](#), a collaboration between OI archaeologists David Schloen and James Osborne and geneticists John Novembre and Maanasa Raghavan of the human genetics department. This project will extract and analyze DNA from ancient human remains excavated many years ago by the OI and the Field Museum of Natural History at three Bronze Age sites: Alişar in Turkey, Kish in Iraq, and Nahal Tabor in Israel. OCHRE will be used to store and manage the project's archaeological and genetic data and to support a computational workflow suitable for sophisticated and efficient querying and analyzing of ancient genomes in their temporal, spatial, and cultural contexts.

At the OCHRE Data Service, even as we safeguard what is old, we embrace what is new: new projects, new collaborators, new student assistants, new technologies, and new adventures! For us, new is normal. Our website remains the same ([ochre.uchicago.edu](http://ochre.uchicago.edu)), but as the University reopens this fall we will have a new home in the center of campus at 5720 South Woodlawn Avenue. We welcome you to visit us there!

# PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

CHARISSA JOHNSON

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The 2020–21 academic year was busy as usual for Publications. While the pandemic halted several projects, working remotely allowed for a higher level of productivity, and Publications still published eight titles, has an additional title at press, and reprinted three publications. Included was the publication of the *Annual Report* and three issues of *News & Notes*.

Two grant-funded publications got bumped to the front of the queue due to grant deadlines and were also completed: *Afghanistan's Heritage: Restoring Spirit and Stone* (edited by Tim McGirk, with photographs by Robert Nickelsberg), Pashto translation; and *Antoin Sevruguin: Past & Present* (OIMP 40, edited by Tasha Vorderstrasse). The latter, accompanied by the exhibition, publishes for the first time the OI Museum's complete collection of nineteenth-century Iranian photographs, most of which were created by Sevruguin.

Work continues on the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD) and the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD) as well. In addition, copy editing continues with museum exhibit labels, brochures, lecture series fliers, eTablet emails, and other notices. Lastly, a special project headed by Steve Townshend was the redesign of the online catalog.

Word and InDesign templates continue to be utilized for manuscripts. All authors are now being asked to put manuscripts into the Word templates themselves; their doing so reduces publication time significantly. The Word templates are available online for authors to download: [oi.uchicago.edu/research/oriental-institute-publications-office](https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/oriental-institute-publications-office). Additionally, authors are responsible for making sure that their manuscript adheres to *The Chicago Manual of Style* and that their images are formatted for press. Authors can consult our submission guidelines for more information: [oi.uchicago.edu/sites/oi.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/shared/docs/Publications/Guidelines/OI%20Manuscript%20Submission%20Guidelines.pdf](https://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/oi.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/shared/docs/Publications/Guidelines/OI%20Manuscript%20Submission%20Guidelines.pdf).

## STAFF

Full-time staff includes Charissa Johnson (fifth year), managing editor, and Steven Townshend (third year). Johnson resigned from her position July 9, with Townshend taking on the interim managing editor position while the OI searches for a new managing editor. Part-time staff includes assistant editors Rebecca Cain (twelfth year), Emily Smith (seventh year), and Alexandra Cornacchia (fifth year). Emily Smith received a fellowship at the University of Chicago Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and as such, her last day in Publications was September 18, 2021. Many congratulations to you, Emily! Alexandra Witsell (fifth year) continues contracted work on *Nippur VI: The Inanna Temple* (OIP 145). Mike Ramberg (second year) continues his work-study position in Publications. Additionally, Connie Gundry Tappy has provided contract copy editing for seven manuscripts. I cannot thank my team enough for your continual support, expertise, hard work, and good humor. Since I started in 2017, we've produced nearly fifty publications. Sincerest thanks to each one of you. I could not ask for a better team, and I am better for knowing you! Publications would not be what it is without you. Special thanks to Steve for carrying Publications after my leave

## RESEARCH SUPPORT | PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

and for continually being the best right-hand man. I am also deeply grateful to have gotten to work with so many incredible staff and faculty. It has been an absolute pleasure. I will miss you all dearly.

## SALES

The bulk of OI book distribution is handled by [ISD Book Distribution](#). United Kingdom and Europe sales are handled by University of Exeter Press. A limited number of titles are also available for in-house sales through the OI Museum gift shop, the Suq.

***For book order information, please contact:***

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Members of the OI receive a 20% discount on all titles.

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## ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

The Publications office continues to upload PDFs of new publications simultaneously with the release of corresponding printed titles. Downloads of printed materials remain complimentary. To access the complete catalog of OI titles, which includes annual reports, *News & Notes*, and *Chicago House Bulletin*, please visit: [oi.uchicago.edu/research/catalog-publications](http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/catalog-publications).

## TITLES PUBLISHED (JULY 2020—PRESENT)

### *In print and/or online*

1. [\*Pioneer to the Past: The Story of James Henry Breasted, Archaeologist, Told by His Son Charles Breasted\*](#). Charles Breasted. Paperback edition. 2020.
2. [\*Oriental Institute Annual Report 2019–20\*](#). Edited by Christopher Woods.
3. [\*Antoin Sevruguin: Past & Present\*](#). Edited by Tasha Vorderstrasse. OIMP 40.

4. *The Sheik's House at Quseir al-Qadim: Documenting a Thirteenth-Century Red Sea Port*. Katherine Strange Burke. OIP 144.
5. *Excavations at the Cappadotia Gate: Kerkenes Final Reports 1*. Geoffrey D. Summers, with contributions by Yılmaz Selim Erdal, Susanne Berndt, Evangelia Pişkin, Yasemin Özarslan, Noël Siver, Françoise Summers, Robert Tate, and Nilüfer Baturayoğlu Yöney. Introduction by David Stronach and summary translated into Turkish by Güzin Eren. OIP 145.
6. *From Sherds to Landscapes: Studies on the Ancient Near East in Honor of McGuire Gibson*. Edited by Mark Altaweel and Carrie Hritz. SAOC 71.
7. *Afghanistan's Heritage: Restoring Spirit and Stone*. Photographs by Robert Nickelsberg. Design and layout by Sharon Okamoto. Edited by Tim McGirk. Pashto translation. Miscellaneous (not for purchase).
- 8–10. *Oriental Institute News & Notes*. Edited by Matthew Welton, Charissa Johnson, Rebecca Cain, Steven Townshend, and Tasha Vorderstrasse. NN 244–247. Quarterly.

### Reprinted

11. *Embroidering Identities: A Century of Palestinian Clothing*. Iman Saca, in collaboration with Maha Saca. 2006. OIMP 25.
12. *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond*. Edited by Christopher Woods, with Emily Teeter and Geoff Emberling. OIMP 32.
13. *Afghanistan's Heritage: Restoring Spirit and Stone*. Photographs by Robert Nickelsberg. Design and layout by Sharon Okamoto. Edited by Tim McGirk. Dari translation. Miscellaneous (not for purchase).

### At press

14. *The Archive of Thotsutmis, son of Panouphis: Early Ptolemaic Ostraca from Deir el Bahari (O. Edgerton)*. Brian P. Muhs, Foy D. Scalf, Jacqueline E. Jay.

## VOLUMES IN PREPARATION

1. *Where Kingship Descended from Heaven: New Light on Ancient Kish*. Karen L. Wilson and Deborah Bekken. OIP.
2. *Nippur VI: The Inanna Temple*. Richard L. Zettler and Karen L. Wilson, with contributions by Jean M. Evans, Robert D. Biggs, Richard C. Haines, Donald P. Hansen, McGuire Gibson, James Knudstad, and John C. Sanders. OIP.
3. *Tell Abada: An Ubaid Village in Central Mesopotamia*. Sabah Aboud Jasim. OIP.
4. *Like 'Īlu Are You Wise: Studies in Northwest Semitic Languages and Literature in Honor of Dennis G. Pardee*. Edited by H. H. Hardy II, Joseph Lam, and Eric D. Reymond. SAOC 73.
5. *The Second Cataract Fortress of Dorginati*. Lisa Heidorn. OINE 14.
6. *Center and Periphery: Archaeology of Politics at Ešnunna*. Clemens Reichel. SAOC 74.
7. *Excavations at Serra East, Part 8*. Bruce Williams et al. OINE 12.
8. *Excavations at Serra East, Part 9*. Bruce Williams et al. OINE 13.
9. *Beads from Excavations at Q, B, A, SE, and D*. Joanna Then-Obluska. OINE 16.
10. *Lowland Susiana in the Fourth Millennium*. Abbas Alizadeh.
11. *Kerkenes Final Reports 2. Excavations at the Palatial Complex*. Geoffrey D. Summers, with contributions by Susanne Berndt-Ersöz, Ahmet Çinici, Yılmaz Selim Erdal, Evangelia

- Ioannidou-Pişkin, Noël Siver, and Françoise Summers. Introduction by Nicholas D. Cahill and summary translated into Turkish by Güzin Eren. OIP 149.
12. *Iraqi Excavations in the Diyala: New Excavations at Tell Asmar, Ancient Eshnunna 2001–2002 and Excavations at Tell Muqaddiya 1980*. Hussein Ali Hamza and Salah Rmaydh. Translation and initial editing by Mark Altaweel, final editing and additional notes by McGuire Gibson, with contributions by Daniel Mahoney, Alexandra Witsel, and Hervé Reculeau.
  13. *Irrigation in Early States: New Directions*. Edited by Stephanie Rost. OIS 13.
  14. *New Insights into Islamic Archaeology and Material Culture: A Conference in Jerusalem*. Edited by Katia Cytryn-Silverman, Kristoffer Damgaard, and Donald Whitcomb.
  15. *Ancient Iran: Highlights from the Collections of the Oriental Institute*. Abbas Alizadeh.
  16. *Mural Decoration in the Theban New Kingdom Necropolis*. Betsy M. Bryan and Peter F. Dorman.
  17. *Scripts and Scripture: Writing and Religion in Arabia, ca. 500–700 CE*. Edited by Fred M. Donner and Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee. LAMINE 3.
  18. *Technological Advances: Materiality of Greek and Roman Curse Tablets*. Edited by Sofia Torallas Tovar and Raquel Martin Hernandez.
  19. *Seen Not Heard: Composition, Iconicity, and the Classifier Systems of Logosyllabic Scripts*. Edited by Ilona Zsolnay. OIS 14.

### ***In review***

20. *Pomp, Circumstance, and the Performance of Politics: Acting Politically Correct in the Ancient World*. Edited by Kathryn Morgan. OIS 16.

### ***Backlog***

21. *Medinet Habu X*. Epigraphic Survey.

### ***Ongoing***

22. *The Demotic Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*. Edited by Janet H. Johnson. CDD.
23. *The Hittite Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*. Edited by Theo van den Hout. CHD.



# RESEARCH ARCHIVES

FOY SCALF

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## INTRODUCTION

Following state, local, and university guidelines, the Research Archives remained closed to patrons over the course of the academic year 2020–21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to this ongoing situation, Research Archives staff pivoted to provide remote research support to the OI, University of Chicago, and community of scholars studying the ancient Middle East. Over the course of the year, we fielded 1,862 research requests for digital materials and provided researchers with more than 3,000 files in response. These services were crucial to ensuring that research and teaching continued to meet the highest expectations for which the University and OI are known. A substantial portion of staff time during the first six months of the pandemic was spent organizing and cataloging digital assets for research support.

Our facilities have once again benefited from the generous help of staff in the OI prep shop, particularly Rob Bain, who made replacement shelves for several deteriorating shelves in the reading room. These replacements helped create additional space for growth and supplement the reorganization of the serial volumes in the Elizabeth Morse Genius reading room completed by Research Archives staff. All books in the series stacks were shifted to the west, thus taking advantage of the space provided by shifting the series at the end of the alphabet into the monograph stacks several years ago. This reorganization has provided badly needed space at the beginning of the series alphabet (call number S/A), which lacked any room for growth. Research Archives staff shifted more than 12,300 volumes during the year to make growth space for the next five to ten years (see staff acknowledgment section below).

Onsite visitors were not hosted during the academic year, but orientation for graduate students and a workshop on using Zotero were held over Zoom in the autumn quarter. Hundreds of digital resources were shared with our global colleagues to aid in their ongoing research and teaching. While these remote services are by no means perfect substitutes for onsite access to the Research Archives library, we hope that we have enabled researchers, scholars, students, and teachers to stay on the cutting edge of their fields by providing them with the latest results and newest discoveries.

## ***Acquisitions***

Acquisitions for 2020–21 were on pace with previous years. But these numbers will not be accurately reflected in table 1 below due to a pandemic-related cataloging backlog. This backlog in cataloging, likewise reflected in the catalog records numbers shown in table 2, is reflective of the critical contributions made to the Research Archives by our volunteers. Volunteers could not be welcomed onsite, and typical volunteer tasks had to be converted and adjusted for remote access. As of June 2021, we had begun tackling this accessioning backlog in earnest and expect to be caught up by the end of autumn quarter. By an overwhelming margin, acquisitions continue to be through purchases (193), supplemented with very important additions through gifts (15) and exchanges (7), for which refer to the section on donations below. Over the course of the year, the Research Archives expen-

## RESEARCH SUPPORT | RESEARCH ARCHIVES

ditures included more than \$43,000 on new acquisitions purchasing, a 16 percent increase over last year, and more than \$2,700 in shipping charges.

Table 1. Research Archives Acquisitions July 2020—June 2021

<i>Month</i>	<i>Number of Accession Lots</i>	<i>Monographs, Series, Pamphlets</i>	<i>Journals</i>	<i>Total Volumes</i>
July 2020	8	13	1	14
August 2020	16	31	4	35
September 2020	18	30	5	35
October 2020	16	33	11	44
November 2020	25	38	11	49
December 2020	17	15	21	36
January 2021	29	55	11	66
February 2021	15	32	6	38
March 2021	25	24	24	48
April 2021	15	19	9	28
May 2021	21	27	4	31
June 2021	11	16	9	25
Totals	216	333	116	
		Total Volumes		449

### Online Catalog

Research Archives staff added approximately 5,000 new records to the library catalog in EMu this year (table 2). Like the acquisitions backlog, this number is down from our average over previous years, once again reflecting the important contributions our volunteers have made to all aspects of the library. Records are available online for searching, sorting, and downloading in a variety of formats (<https://oi-idb.uchicago.edu>).

Table 2. Catalog Records

<i>Year</i>	<i># of Catalog Records Added</i>	<i>Total # of Catalog Records</i>
2020–21	5,000	570,000
2019–20	10,000	565,000
2018–19	10,000	555,000
2017–18	10,000	545,000

By the time that cataloging of the acquisitions backlog is completed, the Research Archives library collection will exceed 70,000 volumes (table 3), an important milestone in the growth of the physical collections. In the next five to ten years, we will double the size of the collection from the roughly 40,000 volumes in the Oriental Institute library in 1969 prior to the founding of the Research Archives.

Table 3. Research Archives Analytics

<i>Type</i>	<i>Total # of Records</i>
Total Volumes	69,268
Monographs	17,270
Monograph Sections	72,174
Series	1,806
Series Volumes	21,911
Series Volume Sections	98,528
Journals	1,028
Journal Volumes	29,026
Journal Volume Articles	323,960
Thesis	1,061
Pamphlets	3000
Reviews	122,717
Festschriften (Volumes)	692
Digital Invoice Records	2173
Digital Cover Art Records	11,342
Adobe PDF	41,446

Catalog records with links pointing to online content continued to grow, reaching more than 122,000 records. In addition to the labor required for entering these links, they needed maintenance, since websites often change the structure of their URL addresses, thus requiring updates to the links' records in our catalog. When Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) are available, we include them in our metadata to help ensure long-term viability of links in the catalog, and we encourage publishers of online content to employ a registered permalink or DOI system from the beginning for sustainable access to these online materials. In many cases, our records include multiple links, one directly to publishers' online options and others directing users to aggregating databases such as JSTOR. A continuing desideratum to incorporate into the catalog over the coming years consists in links to general online web resources such as online dictionaries, grammars, and text editions.

## DONATIONS

The Research Archives continues to benefit greatly from generous donations of both funds and books. For their thoughtful gifts, we would like to thank the following (in alphabetical order): Susan Allison and OI image permissions; Bob Biggs and Clarence Anderson; Gretel Braidwood and Ray Tindel; Anne Flannery; McGuire Gibson and the estate of Robert McCormick Adams; Kathryn Gerten and the estate of Eugene Cruz-Urbe; Shirlee Hoffman, Wally Verdooren, and the OI volunteers in honor of Roberto Cepeda; James Holland; Charissa Johnson; Janet Johnson and Don Whitcomb; the family and estate of Shelley Marie Luppert-Barnard; Malcolm Mosher Jr.; Pavel Onderka; Bridget Ragnarsson in honor of James L. Phillips; Peter Raulwing; Seth Richardson and JNES; Martha Roth and the estate of Miguel Civil; Roberta Schaffner; Malcolm Stebbins; Emily Teeter; Tasha Vorderstrasse; Barbara Breasted Whitesides; and Bruce Williams.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Sue Geshwender and all the Research Archives volunteers, some of whom have continued contributing to OI projects by working remotely throughout the pandemic. Their efforts are essential to our mission, and we owe them immense gratitude. Everything we do will be greatly improved when we can welcome them back on-site. Many thanks to Betty Bush, Gabriella Cigarroa, Kym Crawford, Irene Glasner, Dannica Hannah, Jane Clinkert-White, Roberta Schaffner, Gabriele Correa da Silva, and Eric Whitacre.

We also welcomed two students to the Research Archives this year. Rachel Madden participated in an internship for Loyola University focused on public history, during which she has completely redesigned a virtual version of the OI's Visible Language exhibition for the Google Arts & Culture platform. We are looking forward to releasing the results of her work to the public in the fall. Claire Mokrauer-Madden began a practicum through Dominican University for an archives certificate. She has been working to digitize, catalog, and transcribe materials from the directors' correspondence files of John A. Wilson between 1936 and 1945. Claire's work is part of a larger project in collaboration with Dr. Anne Flannery and the Museum Archives to study more closely the history of the institute in the immediate aftermath of Breasted's untimely death, the Great Depression, and World War II. We hope to incorporate Claire's extremely useful contributions into a future grant-funded project to produce a published volume on this period.

As I mention each year, the operation of the Research Archives is no solo task. Between the pandemic and our volunteers' being off-site, it was especially important that this year I had a reliable, trustworthy, and flexible team of staff to help ensure that everyone had what was needed in a timely fashion and that our facilities were well cared for. To Clay Catlin, Sunwoo Lee, Tanya Olsen, Rebecca Wang, and Amy Zillman, I thank you for all the hard work, cooperation, teamwork, flexibility, and collegiality over the past, stressful year.

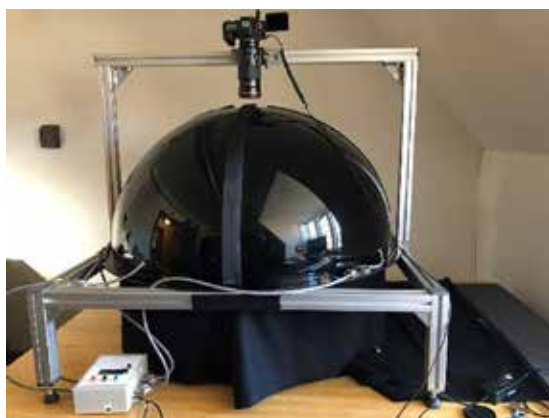
# TABLET COLLECTION

SUSANNE PAULUS

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Susanne Paulus wants to start this report with a heartfelt thank you to our donors Al Liventials, Abhay Parekh, and Annette Youngberg, whose generous support made our work possible. In addition, we received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the College Center for Research and Fellowships.

During this year, COVID-19 still made a severe impact on our research and work with the tablet collection. In October, the University allowed part of the collection team to return to work. We followed the University's health pact, which meant that some continued to work remotely, while others, following strict guidelines, could work with the objects in person. We navigated challenges such as limiting the number of people per room, new ways to access the facilities and the tablets,



Figures 1-4. The RTI dome came in an enormous aluminum crate. Knut Boehmer built the dome from scratch.

## RESEARCH SUPPORT | TABLET COLLECTION

and wearing gloves to protect the objects and ourselves. We made good progress in digitization and the XRF project and supported more researchers and their projects than ever before.

Our most substantial update was the arrival of the Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) dome. The production of the dome (built by Custom Imaging of the University of Southampton, U.K.) was severely delayed due to COVID-19. Typically, Prof. Kirk Martinez, the dome's developer, would have delivered and installed the dome himself. As we did not want to delay delivery any further, however, we decided that Martinez would ship the dome, and Paulus would assemble it herself with our IT manager Knut Boehmer. The dome arrived safely in Chicago in October, and Boehmer and Paulus spent many hours building, adjusting, and calibrating the unit with remote help from Martinez. While this process was certainly slower, we learned a lot about the dome's mechanics and inner workings—knowledge that will be helpful when we move the dome in the future.

Since our hours in the OI were limited, we spent most of November getting accustomed to the dome, camera, and software and to calibrating it. At the end of November, we had a successful training workshop with Klaus Wagensohn from the Yale Babylonian Collection.

To adhere to the strict distancing rules, we split the digitization work between the whole team: Nicole Brandt took over the coordination of tablet movement and worked closely with our registrar, Helen McDonald. Over the year, she completed 1,157 tablet moves, which shows how busy the collection team kept during this difficult time. Clara Mikhail focused on photography and developed excellent skills in putting our tablets in the best possible light. Based on the quality of her work and the better equipment, we moved from scanning tablets to using photographs, which allows for better resolution. Joshua (Eyshe) Beirich joined the team this year and quickly became a specialist on the RTI dome; he mastered the complex settings and postproduction. His RTI images were especially useful to support tablets in an educational context, since students had no access to the originals. "Is there an RTI?" quickly became a standard request in classes. Finally, Madeline Ouimet worked remotely from Wisconsin and transformed our images into composites that we published for everyone via the OI's integrated database (IDB). In addition, she augmented our database with valuable information about the tablets. Over the period of the lockdown we digitized 740 tablets. All three of our undergraduate researchers presented their work at the University Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.

We began a new project—digitizing and cataloging the tablets excavated by the OI at Nippur. These tablets cover more than two millennia and contain essential information about literature, religion, schooling, and daily life in this religious center. As a first step, Colton Siegmund, assistant curator of the collection, added the excavation file cards to provide information about the tablets. Clara Mikhail stayed on over the summer and digitized tablets from the third season. Many of the tablets from Nippur featured in my two-quarter sequence on education in Nippur. In this new class, we followed the journey of scribal students from Nippur from their first elementary exercises through lexical lists, model contracts, and proverbs to advanced literary texts.

We continued the X-ray fluorescence analysis, which received a massive boost with the arrival of a new Bruker 5g tracer. After getting socially distanced but personal security training on the latest equipment in conservation, Siegmund and I started to explore the potential of the new machine. It comes with a unique calibration that allows excellent quantitative and qualitative analysis of our tablets' clays. Fun fact: The calibration "mudrock" was initially developed for the oil industry, but is also helpful for cuneiform tablets because they come from the same geological environment. A camera in the tracer allows the exact placement of the sample, which helps us avoid air pockets. Also, the tracer is much more reliable for lighter elements such as aluminum, chloride, and potassium, which play an essential role in clay sourcing. Siegmund's work allowed us to make good use of the tracer, and we have now almost concluded experiments for our clay sourcing research. In a first step,



we (re)ran tablets from securely excavated contexts and then turned to unprovenanced tablets to see whether we can attribute their findspots. We will wrap up our work in the next academic year and present our final results.

As no researchers could come to the OI, we had a flurry of requests to support them with photos and research images. Research topics ranged from sealings of the Ur III period to school and scientific texts to economic and legal documents. This year we supported the work of Nadia Ait Said-Ghanem (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, U.K.), Odette Boivin (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York), Enrique Jiménez (Ludwig Maximilian University [LMU] of Munich, Germany), Yujeong (Erin) Lee (Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana), Gianni Marchesi (University of Bologna, Italy), Rudi Mayr (Independent Researcher, U.S.), Sara Milstein (University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada), David Musgrave (Hebrew Union College), Toni Mitto and Jamie Novotny (LMU Munich, Germany), Jeremiah Peterson (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia), Nicholas Postgate (University of Cambridge, U.K.), Gabriella Spada (Sapienza, Rome, Italy), Marten Stol (Leiden University, Netherlands), Lorenzo Verderame (Sapienza, Rome, Italy), and Klaus Wagonsonner (Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut).

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OVERLEAF: Antoin Sevruguin photograph (cat. no. 99, P. 1203 / N. 24251) featured in the OI Museum special exhibition *Antoin Sevruguin: Past and Present* and its accompanying publication (OIMP 40).

# MUSEUM

DENISE BROWNING, LAURA D'ALESSANDRO, JEAN M. EVANS,  
ANNE FLANNERY, HELEN McDONALD, AND KIERSTEN NEUMANN

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This year was an extraordinary one for the OI Museum due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In compliance with public-health protocols, we were closed for two separate periods of time. Our first closure extended from March 17 to September 29, 2020. We reopened in September at 25 percent capacity until November 14, 2020, when we closed for a second time. We reopened again on February 2, 2021, also at 25 percent capacity, and we have remained open since then. Slowly, as public-health protocols have allowed, we have expanded our visitor capacity and hours. We plan to be fully reopened at the beginning of the 2021–22 academic year.

It is remarkable that, given our periods of closure—and our shortened hours and strict capacity limits when we were open—that nearly six thousand visitors still enjoyed the OI Museum. It has been suggested that museums will be able to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic more quickly than other cultural venues. Museums such as ours offer large, open galleries that allow visitors to practice social distancing and ease back into public spaces. But there is also something more profound driving museum attendance as we emerge from the pandemic. When we experience our own histories in museums, we connect with others. From that connection we can contemplate, process, and make sense of the significance of our collective experiences, including those we had during the pandemic.

At the time of this writing, we have been regularly welcoming more than one hundred visitors each day, and we expect our visitor numbers to grow. To navigate the required capacity limits for visitor attendance when we reopened, we implemented the Tock reservation system, which allows visitors to make reservations online in advance of their visit. A by-product of using Tock is that we have been gaining valuable information about when people prefer to visit the OI Museum. This fall we plan to experiment with our hours so that we can maximize our ability to welcome visitors and continue to grow our attendance—to even greater than prepandemic numbers.

Everyone had to pivot during the pandemic. Staff of the OI Museum maintained an on-site presence for collections care, but many of us worked remotely in some capacity throughout the year. When we were at the OI, we wore masks, maintained the requisite distance from one another, and followed other health protocols. But we were still able to carry out many of our usual work activities.

In the Museum Archives, for example, more than one hundred requests were completed, and more substantial digitization projects were engaged. The Museum Archives also acquired a number of new collections this past year. The Cultural Heritage Experiment (CHE) also continued and accommodated students by adopting an online format. Conservation was able to find workarounds for restrictions that prevented non-University colleagues and contractors from visiting, and they packed some thirty-four hundred tablets for the Persepolis Fortification Tablets (PFT) packing project. I could cite many more examples that attest to the creativity, determination, and hard work of the OI Museum staff.

The virtual programs that emerged as a necessity of the pandemic were very well attended. Again, we pivoted. Our prepandemic gallery talks became Zoom meetings at which various OI Museum staff gave presentations full of behind-the-scenes details about their work. In fact, these presentations were so well attended that we have decided to continue our behind-the-scenes approach

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with a collections series that looks at objects in storage. Although we all look forward to a time when we can confidently say that the pandemic and its restrictions are behind us, we have learned from this challenging time, and we take those lessons with us as we return to a new normal. I would like to thank all the individuals on the OI Museum staff for their hard work this past year.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS



The OI Museum special exhibitions program had yet another successful year, despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The OI centennial exhibition, *We Start Here: The OI at 100*, which opened in fall 2019 in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Gallery for Special Exhibits in honor of the OI's centennial, closed in March 2021 and was followed by *Antoin Sevruguin: Past and Present*, which opened in April and runs through December 2021. This exhibit, featuring the late-nineteenth-century photographs of Antoin Sevruguin and curated by Dr. Tasha Vorderstrasse, presents to the public for the first time the OI Museum's collection of more than 150 photographic prints attributed primarily to this acclaimed photographer of Qajar Iran (figs. 1–3). An additional focus of the exhibition is the lasting impact of Sevruguin's unique vision, as demonstrated through the work of Iranian-Canadian artist Yassaman Ameri. Using Qajar photography to investigate her own personal history in a series titled *The Inheritance*, Ameri's work shows how the past and present can come together to create unique artworks that speak across generations. Exhibited are seven pieces from *The Inheritance* (fig. 4).

The accompanying exhibition catalog, *Antoin Sevruguin: Past and Present* (OIMP 40), publishes for the first time the OI Museum's complete collection of photographs attributed to Sevruguin. Accompanying the photographs is a series of essays that investigate Sevruguin's life and photographic career, as well as the lasting impact of his unique vision. The Museum has also hosted a range of associated

Figures 1–3. OI Museum special exhibition, *Antoin Sevruguin: Past and Present*, 2021.





Figure 4. Yassaman Ameri, *The Inheritance* nos. 30, 36, 33, 16 (clockwise, beginning top left).

virtual programs. To mark the opening of the Sevruguin exhibition, Tasha Vorderstrasse gave a lecture titled “Intentionality and Sevruguin.” Museum gallery talks in April, May, and July similarly showcased the work of Sevruguin, including Delphine Poinso’s talk “Antoin Sevruguin: ‘photographies artistiques,’” Polina Kasian’s talk “Antoin Sevruguin in the Context of Russian Culture in the Caucasus,” and Kiersten Neumann’s talk “Capturing Persepolis—From the Camera to the Canvas,” respectively. A guided tour of the exhibition is available to visitors on the OI Museum mobile app, while our website features a virtual tour and a virtual exhibition.

The exhibition and its catalog are supported by the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund, American Institute of Iranian Studies, and the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research. The generous grant from the American Institute of Iranian studies also funded the conservation of the original albumen prints.

## CONSERVATION

The 2020–21 year began much as the previous year had ended—the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be a global phenomenon affecting all aspects of our lives. Those of us who routinely work together—curators, registrars, preparators, and conservators formed our own “pod.” We wore masks, maintained the requisite working distance, and were able to function almost normally in terms of our usual work activities. And the nature of a museum means that the work is never done. Most recently, the recalling of objects that were on loan in our galleries necessitated the rearranging and updating of display cases in those galleries. Conservation worked alongside our curators, preparators, and registrars by preparing objects from storage for display in the galleries. Due to the inability of couriers to travel to the OI, conservation oversaw the deinstallation, condition assessment, and supervision of the packing of the loaned objects. The size and weight of the stone stela on loan from the Art Institute of Chicago necessitated bringing in a fine-arts packer/shipper with the necessary workforce and equipment to handle this artifact properly—in one of the few instances in which an outside contractor received permission to work in the OI building during this time.

Work also continued on refreshing The Robert F. Pickens Family Nubian Gallery, with conservation’s being responsible for updating the material identifications where possible based on the

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latest information available. As the material identifications were updated, labels and texts had to be reprinted. Conservation also worked behind the scenes on the special exhibit *Antoin Sevruguin: Past and Present*—we were responsible for the photo documentation of the 152 albumen prints and arranging for their packing and transport to the conservation studio where they are being treated.

Thanks to a generous donation, the OI acquired another portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometer, a second Bruker Tracer 5g. This nondestructive type of device allows for elemental analysis of inorganic materials and has been a mainstay of the conservation laboratory for nearly ten years. With two spectrometers, the OI will be able to maintain one of the machines in the conservation lab, available to conservation staff as well as visiting researchers. The second machine, under the purview of Susanne Paulus, curator of the tablet collection, will become the workhorse for off-site research and will travel abroad as needed. Alison Whyte, associate conservator, spent part of the year preparing for a collaborative workshop that will be conducted next year in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, as part of Gil Stein's Heritage Site Preservation in the Central Asian Republics grant. Alison will form part of a team of conservators working on the project and will be presenting classes on preventive conservation and materials analysis. She is scheduled to travel to Tashkent in the fall with the Tracer 5g on its maiden voyage.

An aspect of the COVID-19 restrictions that had the greatest impact on us was the restriction of nonessential visitors to campus. This affected our work in unexpected and unprecedented ways. Workarounds became the order of the day, but work was unavoidably delayed where no solution could be found. Despite these restrictions, Whyte was able to maintain her public outreach efforts with a remote gallery talk titled "Conservation of the Coffin of Ipi Ha Ishutef" in November and a remote OI Adult Education course titled "Caring for the Collection" in the spring.

With the visitor restrictions in place, further work on the analysis of our Fayum portraits for the Ancient Panel Painting: Examination, Analysis and Research (APPEAR) project was also stalled. But a senior scientist at the British Museum, Dr. Caroline Cartwright, generously offered to identify the wood used in the panel painting of our Fayum portrait of a male figure (OIM E2053). Wood identification normally requires a 1-cm cube of the wood for a sample with sufficient material to see the anatomy of the wood's structure. But Cartwright has developed a method of examining the anatomy of wood on a microscopic scale by using scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and light microscopy (LM) to identify the diagnostic cellular structures on very small samples. We were able to take a 2-mm sample from the back of the wooden panel to send to her, and we eagerly await the results of her work.

Our first remote courier "trip" occurred with the return of a tablet on loan to the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. The opening of the exhibit took place in the prepandemic world, and a courier accompanied the tablet to Yale. But by the time the display was taken down, travel restrictions were in place and forced tablet curator Paulus and me (Laura D'Alessandro) to oversee the deinstallation and packing of the tablet via Zoom. It was an interesting experience, and remote courier work has been temporarily adopted by many museums and other cultural institutions. The limitations imposed by remotely overseeing this critical function, however, were readily apparent. The majority of museums expect to resume more typical courier activities as travel, both domestic and international, once again becomes possible.

Conservation also continued its role in the ancient DNA project involving the Alishar remains. Working with faculty and members of the ancient DNA lab on campus, the remains continued to be recorded prior to the samples' being taken. Conservation is responsible for the photo documentation of the remains. Josh Tulisiak, from our preparation department, was responsible for capturing 3D images of the skulls and other samples slated for sampling. Personnel from the ancient DNA lab will be visiting the conservation lab next year to acquire the samples from this material.

With the stay-at-home mandate in place much of this past year, the Persepolis Fortification Tablets (PFT) packing project was also affected. Packing of the second shipment of more than thirty-six hundred tablets was well underway when the pandemic hit. Despite the lack of additional helpers, thirty-four hundred tablets were packed by the end of June. The remaining tablets are on track to be packed by the end of the summer. And in April, a graduate student in the University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Grace Clements, joined the project. Working remotely, Grace continued the work of choosing appropriate images of the tablets that would accompany the shipment. Stopping briefly to acquire her master's degree, Grace continued with her work on the project through June.

One very positive development this past year has been the news that the OI finally made the top of the University's capital projects list regarding the necessary upgrading of our HVAC system. The climate-control system that was installed as part of the 1996–98 construction project was considered state-of-the-art at the time of its completion. But twenty-four years later, critical components of the system have aged out, and the need to replace key pieces of equipment had become urgent. The OI has spent the past year working with the facilities department and a contractor to determine the details of the work that will take place while minimizing disruption of work within the building as well as being careful to maintain the necessary levels of humidity and temperature the collection requires to maintain stability. The actual replacement of key components will take place next year, but planning has moved forward despite the pandemic and the difficulty of obtaining parts and equipment. We are pleased that all parties are making the maintenance of the climate-control parameters in the Museum's galleries and storage areas a priority throughout the project. Equipment will be changed out with regard to the seasons: in the summer, when dehumidification is needed, the humidification equipment will be replaced. Likewise in the winter, when humidification is required, the dehumidification equipment will be changed out. We will be monitoring the relative humidity and temperature of all the Museum's gallery and storage areas throughout the project to ensure that the temperature and relative humidity stay within their specified range.

The OI was invited to join an international working group researching gold and silver tablets from the Neo-Assyrian period in collections around the world. The OI's gold tablet (A2529), dating to the reign of Shalmaneser III (ninth century BCE), is the subject of our work. In the fall, Jean Evans, Susanne Paulus, Kiersten Neuman, Alison Whyte, and I will be presenting current research on our tablet to the members of the working group.

Although work on the unpacking and stabilization of the OI's glazed bricks from the Sin Temple at Khorsabad halted once again, research on the analysis of the glazes and brick bodies continued. Conservation was invited to contribute a short appendix to the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East's publication of its recent workshop on decorated bricks from the Achaemenid period. Conservation is working hard this summer to prepare new samples as well as looking again at older samples to see what new information can be learned from them. Our colleagues at the University's Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) have indicated that we would be welcome to use their facilities. We look forward to taking advantage of this opportunity and welcome ending the year on such a positive note.

## REGISTRATION

Once again, the COVID-19 situation has affected many aspects of our work. But it has also given us time to work on a lot of matters in storage, both physical and digital. A clearing out of nonmuseum items in storage was carried out in summer 2020. In addition, nearly 520 temporary storage boxes (TSBs) were moved to make better use of our limited storage space. Twenty-five TS boxes containing

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nearly 430 objects were unpacked and rehoused. We still have more than 2000 TS boxes in use, 1700 in museum storage, and the rest in the archaeology labs. Professor McGuire Gibson has continued to hand over material for storage. Boxes of sherds from the Dhamar survey (Yemen) have been moved to museum storage, rehoused, given TSB numbers, and entered into the integrated database (IDB). The Blosser donation of Iranian pots and objects was unpacked and rehoused by Conservation and Registration.

The Museum staff has been responsible for the movement of 5550 objects this year. In addition, Registration inventoried more than 2690 objects in the Mesopotamian collection. The inventory and other activities in storage brought to light a variety of small groups of unregistered material, so 275 objects have now been registered. Registration is also conducting an inventory of the papyrus collection. The condition of the papyri and their housing is being noted, and measurements and reference photos are being taken. More than 500 papyri have been surveyed so far.”

### ***Oriental Institute Faculty, Staff, Researchers, and Students***

The DNA analysis project of skulls from Alishar has been expanded to potentially include skull material from Nahal Tabor, following a successful application to the Neubauer Collegium (by professors James Osborne and David Schloen). More Alishar skull material came to light in storage and was registered. Human DNA was retrieved from the first test sample, and more samples will be taken once all the skulls and teeth have been 3D scanned. Human bone material from Nahal Tabor was unpacked and rehoused by conservator Alison Whyte and registered by Helen McDonald.

### ***Photo Permissions and Photography***

We have received more than 200 photo-permission requests this year, including new external and internal photography requests. More than 1,000 images (new and existing) have been added to the database, more than 500 of which were existing images located on the server but never added to the database. All the images required some form of processing before being registered and uploaded to the database. The images came mostly from two large batches found on the server—one a collection of Nubian objects, and the other of Mesopotamian objects. About 170 objects were photographed, including both publication photography and study photos. In addition, as objects came off display from the galleries, we have continued to take the opportunity to take digital-record shots of them for the IDB. The photography of all the new display cases labeled with object registration numbers has been completed.

### ***Loans***

When the Centennial exhibit closed, the Japanese bronze flowers borrowed for it were returned to the Smart Museum. The installation of the new *Antoin Sevruguin: Past and Present* special exhibit involved a loan of photographic prints from artist Yassaman Ameri. The loans of art works by two other living artists, Michael Rakowitz and Mohamad Hafez, have been extended. Two objects on loan from the Art Institute of Chicago were returned this year. An orant figure (AIC 1894.375) displayed in the chronology case in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian gallery was returned in August, and the stela (AIC 1920.264) displayed in the mummification case was returned in June. It will, however, soon be on display at the Art Institute in its reinstalled Egyptian gallery. The stela was replaced by one from our own collection, a New Kingdom funerary stela from Petrie’s excavations at Sedment el-Gebel (OIM E11696). (Emily Teeter suggested the latter as a replacement.) Our loan of objects displayed in the lobby of the Booth School of Business has been further renewed to the end of the year, when it will be replaced by a new display. A tablet (A7821) lent to the Yale Babylonian collection

for the *Mesopotamia Speaks* exhibit returned. Preparations have continued for three upcoming loans whose exhibits were postponed for one year. (These loans will be to the Pierpont Morgan Library, the Louvre, and the J. Paul Getty Museum.)

### ***Researchers, Requests, and Collections Research Grant (CRG) Recipients***

This year Registration has responded to more than forty requests. They included providing digital-record shots and information to the registration department at the Penn Museum (University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology) for a group of pots we acquired from the museum as part of an exchange. We have also continued with the survey of unregistered Chogha Mish material following a few research queries. The conservation staff took samples from a series of Islamic sherds studied by Kyra Kaercher (University of Cambridge) in 2019. The samples were registered and sent to her for analysis as part of her PhD dissertation.

Due to COVID-19 no one was able to make research visits this year, and visits by most of the 2019–20 CRG recipients are still on hold (Fr. Iskandar Bcheiry, Mudit Trivedi, Moritz Jansen, Alice Williams, and Bart Vanthuyne). We hope that all these visits will be possible in the 2021–22 academic year; however, we have managed to do a certain amount remotely. The preparators uncrated the Amarna house model, which was cleaned by the conservation staff, photographed by Susan Allison, and then shown to Alice Williams in a recorded Zoom call. The registrar took photos of about seventy-five pots excavated by William Flinders Petrie at Naqada and by James Quibell at Ballas for Bart Vanthuyne. The photos enabled him to resolve many site and tomb number issues, and the corrected information has been inputted into the IDB. So this work both assisted with Vanthuyne's research and improved our own records. Now that that our database and the Petrie and related excavation records are available online, we expect to receive more queries about such material.

While in some ways it has been a quieter year than usual, we have not run out of work! And we have made some useful progress on improving our storage of objects and their documentation.

## MUSEUM ARCHIVES

The first full year of work during the pandemic was a productive one for the archives. Workflows and their expectations were successfully shifted online with in-house processing still taking center stage throughout the academic year. Cataloging born-digital materials has become a primary focus, due to the fact that correspondence is almost completely paper free, while podcasts and lectures need to be stored in the database for years to come. More than one hundred research and image requests were completed this year, and more substantial digitization projects, such as those for the Epigraphic Survey team are still ongoing.

### ***New Acquisitions, Cataloging, and Access***

The Museum Archives was able to acquire a large number of new collections this year through donation and active solicitation. Some examples include field records from Ain Ghazal; John McLeod images from Megiddo; Trever images



Figure 5. 28\_Proph.Isa.Qumran. Trever Images.

## MUSEUM

from the Qumran Scrolls formerly held by the Claremont Seminary; Eugene Cruz-Urbe's archival papers; correspondence of Jim Knudstad; and the "Secret History of the OI," written by John A. Wilson. An additional collection was acquired from the library at Tantur in Jerusalem, where the remaining papers of Joan Westenholz were held. These papers were processed via Zoom with the help of Sarah Winitzer, who was able to organize the papers and ship them from Israel this spring.

### *Special Projects and Outreach*

The Museum Archives has become increasingly committed to reaching out to our campus community and engaging with scholars beyond Chicago. This outreach includes undergraduate engagement, conferences, oral histories, and instruction. In 2020–21 the OI's archival lending program, the Cultural Heritage Experiment (CHE), took place with a major pivot to accommodate students during the pandemic. Since students were unable to come to campus and collect new archival objects to live with, the program adopted an online format in which students from previous iterations of the project were invited to share their own personal archive and receive a digital object they could print at home. This program allowed students to interact with the OI Museum Archives from locations as varied as California, Texas, and Florida in addition to Chicago. In commemoration of the 2020–21 CHE, a small exhibit case will be on display in the OI's lobby in time for fall quarter 2021.



Figure 6. Westenholz papers processing in Jerusalem.



Figure 7. Fall 2020 course taught by Anne Flannery through UChicagoGRAD and the Graham School.

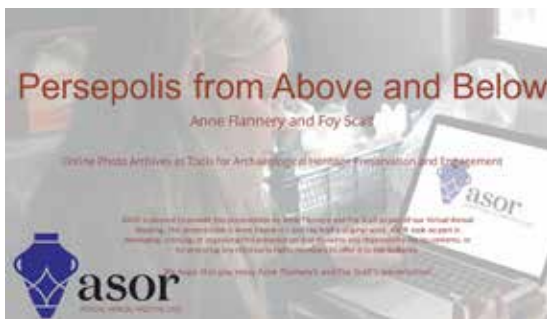


Figure 8. Anne Flannery and Foy Scalf collaborated on a paper for ASOR's November 2020 virtual conference.

Additionally, through UChicagoGRAD and the Graham School, Anne Flannery taught the course *Managing the Past: Careers in Archives and Special Collections* during fall quarter 2020. This course was available to University of Chicago graduate students and covered a short history of archives while introducing students to archival and library practices, concepts, and contemporary challenges. The students took a virtual tour of the OI's archives and were able to create a portfolio that highlighted necessary skills and resources.

The ASOR virtual conference took place in November 2020, and for it Foy Scalf and Anne Flannery collaborated on a paper about photographic archives. This conference examined how flat access to imagery often constrains the methodologies used in cultural-heritage research. What affects could photo archives have on how an ancient city is envisioned? Focusing on the ancient site of Persepolis, this paper explored ways in which the OI's photographic archives in-





Figure 9. Oral History with Matt Stolper, Pierre Briant, Anne Flannery, and Foy Scalf, June 2021.

fluence visualizations of ancient sites and are influenced by ongoing cultural-heritage digital innovations in the research of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

The OI's Oral History Project continues, and despite the restrictions on in-person meetings, the Research Archives and Museum Archives collaborated to produce an interview with Prof. Matt Stolper. This interview was the first fully remote oral history and was able to accommodate an additional interviewer in Prof. Pierre Briant, from France.

### ***Special Exhibit Support***

The Museum Archives supported curation and conservation by preparing, cataloging, and rehousing the photographs for the spring 2021 special exhibit on Antoin Sevruguin.

### ***Acknowledgments***

Many thanks to Susan Allison, Knut Boehmer, Jean Evans, Helen McDonald, Foy Scalf, Josh Tulisiak, and Vick Cruz for all their support of the archives this year. And a general thank you to Chris Woods and Theo van den Hout and the staff of the OI for making sure the building, including the archives, remained safe and secure during the pandemic.

## **THE SUQ**

The Suq was closed during the entire 2019–20 year due to the University's COVID-19 restrictions. We were able to restore our online store starting September 18, 2019. Working from home and with limited access to the OI, we were able to expand our website and realized good online sales, especially during the holiday season.





PUBLIC EDUCATION



OVERLEAF: Nowruz Celebration  
2020. Photo: Steven Townshend.

# ADULT EDUCATION

TASHA VORDERSTRASSE

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Adult education classes continued to be held entirely virtually over Zoom during the 2020–21 year. The following classes were offered: in summer 2020, “Old Babylonian: Introduction to Akkadian and Cuneiform,” with associate professor of Assyriology Susanne Paulus, “Introduction to Papyrological Greek,” with NELC PhD student Ella Karev, and “Jewish Scripts throughout History,” with NELC PhD student Joey Cross; in fall 2020, “Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs,” with head of the OI’s Research Archives, Foy Scalf, “Nubian Queens,” with university and continuing education program coordinator/research associate, Tasha Vorderstrasse, and “‘Put Me on a Good Path’: Travelers of Ancient Egypt,” with NELC PhD student Rebecca Wang; in winter 2021, “Introduction to Reading Coptic,” with NELC PhD student Ella Karev, “Continuing Egyptian Hieroglyphs,” with Foy Scalf, and “Nubian Queens” (held again for the St. Louis Art Museum docents) and “Understanding the Past: Looking at Museums,” with Tasha Vorderstrasse; and in spring 2021, “Caring for the Collection: Art Conservation at the Oriental Institute,” with conservator Alison Whyte, “Languages and Writing Systems of Anatolia,” with NELC PhD student Emily Smyth, and “Archaeology of Bactria,” with Tasha Vorderstrasse and Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL) lab assistant/Afghan Heritage Mapping Project staff member Harrison Morin. “Telling Their Stories: Writing Workshop” was organized by Malayna Evans, PhD in Egyptology.

In the Sunday Seminar series over Zoom, OI postdoctoral student Delphine Poinot lectured on “Animals in Administration,” and NELC PhD student Joey Cross spoke on “Who Are the Samaritans?” Starting in fall 2020, responsibility for the gallery talks was transferred from adult education (which had run the program since developing it) to OI Museum curator Kiersten Neumann. The fact that the University of Chicago was now online limited the demand for virtual university tours, and the numbers fell sharply. Only one postcolonial tour was given—in the fall for the Center for Middle Eastern Studies MA program (ancient track). Other tours were “Queens and Princesses in the Ancient World” tour for the Blind Service Association, “Medicine at the Oriental Institute” for the 2021 AGME annual conference in February 2021, “Media and Aesthetics: Aspects of Writing in Ancient Egypt” for Media Aesthetics UChicago Core sequence in Winter 2021, and Ancient Inscriptions: Aspects of Writing at the Oriental Institute for St Louis Art Museum docents. Additionally, in the fall occurred an OI student book club on *Of One Blood*, by Pauline Hopkins.

## OI TEACHER WORKSHOPS

In the fall quarter of 2020, the OI began a series of teacher workshops. The workshops were organized in a series of three one-hour sessions on different themes. In the fall the theme was Teaching Archaeology in the Virtual Classroom. Free lesson plans from Project Archaeology were presented to the teachers and other interested members of the public by Calgary Haines-Trautman. Each lesson plan was accompanied by a short lecture by Tasha Vorderstrasse on how to apply the methodology to different topics in the ancient Near East and North Africa. The “Investigating Shelter” lesson plan was accompanied by a discussion of caring for animals in the Neolithic community; the “Investigat-

ing Nutrition” lesson plan was accompanied by a discussion on the changing climate and on the origins of agriculture in prehistoric Egypt and Nubia; and “Investigating Rock Art” looked at the depiction of cattle in rock art in Nubia and compared it to the Ennedi in Chad.

In winter 2021 the teacher workshops began to look not only at topics within the field of ancient Near Eastern and North African studies but also at *why* we study the past in the way we do (and how scholars’ attitudes of the past have influenced us in the present) and at *how* we study the past. Three workshops in the series Teaching Art History and Archaeology in the Virtual Classroom considered these issues. “Women in Antiquity: Nubian Royal Women” included a lecture by NELC PhD student Catie Witt; “19th-Century Photography: Documenting the Middle East and North Africa” included a lecture by Tasha Vorderstrasse on the Egyptian-Armenian photographer Gabriel Lekegian; and “Coinage and Money in Antiquity” included a lecture by Harrison Morin on coins and GIS.

In spring 2021 the focus on the past and how it is studied continued with the series Teaching Art History and Archaeology in the Virtual Classroom. “Documenting Empire: Egypt” compared the Egyptian Middle Kingdom occupation of Nubia with New Kingdom occupation of Levant. A lecture on the Levant was presented by NELC PhD student Avigail Ben-Gad. Another workshop was “Afrofuturism, Artistic Visions, and Nubia,” which looked at the work of three early twentieth-century Black female scholars, intellectuals, and artists—Pauline Hopkins, Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, and Drusilla Dunjee Houston—and how they understood and presented Nubia. The lecture also looked at why their visions of Nubia did not become part of the established scholarly canon. A comparison with the nineteenth-century Black-Indigenous sculptress Edmonia Lewis looked at how this artist created her own identity to market her art, including works depicting Egyptian subjects, to a primarily White and Abolitionist clientele. “Meaning and Movement of Motifs” looked at the movement and production of monumental statuary in Nubia by focusing on how the Nubians themselves understood Egyptian statuary created for Nubia, brought Egyptian statuary to Nubia, and created their own statuary. It also looked at how Nubian statue caches have been understood and distributed to museums outside Sudan and issues of cultural heritage. Samantha Suppes, also a NELC PhD student, gave a talk on motifs in the Levant as a comparison.

## YOUTH AND FAMILY

The Youth and Family program saw personnel changes in the 2020–21 academic year. Calgary Haines-Trautman, who ran the program, left at the end of December 2020 to pursue a master’s degree at the Rhode Island School of Design. Charlie Kolodziej, the facilitator lead, and Kirsten Forsberg, facilitator, both ran the program from January through June 2021. The program continued Calgary’s model of virtual field trips and family programs, while the teacher workshops were run by the adult education program (see above).

The Highlights of the Collection tours, which are led by OI docents, did not operate this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The main offerings were virtual field trips operated by OI graduate and undergraduate student facilitators in fall 2020 through spring 2021. The three field trips included “Artifact Analysis,” “Myths and Magic,” and “Secret of the Mummies.” The virtual nature of the program meant that for the first time it was possible to serve schools from places as far away as New York City.

In summer 2020 a series of interactive family activities was organized for children ages five through twelve and their families: “OI Explorers! Summer Family Workshop Series.” These workshops took place in July and August and focused on different themes from the ancient world, particularly Egypt and Mesopotamia. Other fall events included Malayna Evans’s talk about her middle-grade



book series in “Escape the Tomb!”; a collaborative family day with the Smart Museum titled “Cool Coins and Tools of the Trade”; and, of course, “Mummies’ Night,” which attracted nearly one hundred registrants to participate virtually. In winter 2021 the events included “All the Rage: Ancient Fashion!” which looked at fashion in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, “All Bones About It,” and the Persian New Year Festival, “Nowruz.” Spring 2021 events were “Secret of the Mummies,” “What’s Up, King Tut?” and “Ancient Game Day” for Alumni Weekend.

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VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



OVERLEAF: OI docent and assistant librarian Roberto Cepeda† helping guests at Nowruz Celebration 2020. Photo: Steven Townshend.

# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

SUE GESHWENDER

The volunteer program was completely virtual for the entire academic year. Although the Museum reopened, occupancy and visitor restrictions were such that no guided tours occurred, nor did any other in-person volunteering. That said, we did a lot in terms of Volunteer Days and Book Clubs and maintained higher attendance than prepandemic levels.

In addition to stellar lectures for Volunteer Days from Theo van den Hout, Robert Ritner, Susanne Paulus, Brian Muhs, Tasha Vorderstrasse, and Petra Goedegebuure, we covered two unique topics. In November Morag Kersel, associate professor at DePaul University, presented “Are Museums Neutral?” Joining this discussion were OI director Chris Woods and deputy director Jean Evans, who talked about how recent social issues require us to reflect on what happens in museums in terms of relating to wide and diverse audiences. For something completely different, in February Maanasa Raghavan, assistant professor of human genetics here at the University of Chicago, spoke to us about ancient DNA. This topic was a spin-off of interest generated from Book Club selections that covered ancient DNA and even Neanderthals.

A virtual going-away party for Chris Woods honored his contributions as OI director and wished him the best. Virtual memorial services for Carlotta Maher and Margret Foorman were moving and provided ways to reminisce and honor two people who meant so much to the OI’s Volunteer Program.

The OI’s Book Club is bigger than ever! Attendance has tripled from prepandemic levels, and new members have grown by 20 percent! That virtual discussions have enabled

Figure 1. Virtual Field Trips. Boy, the teachers have their hands full! Here is a slide we present to show where items in our collection were excavated.





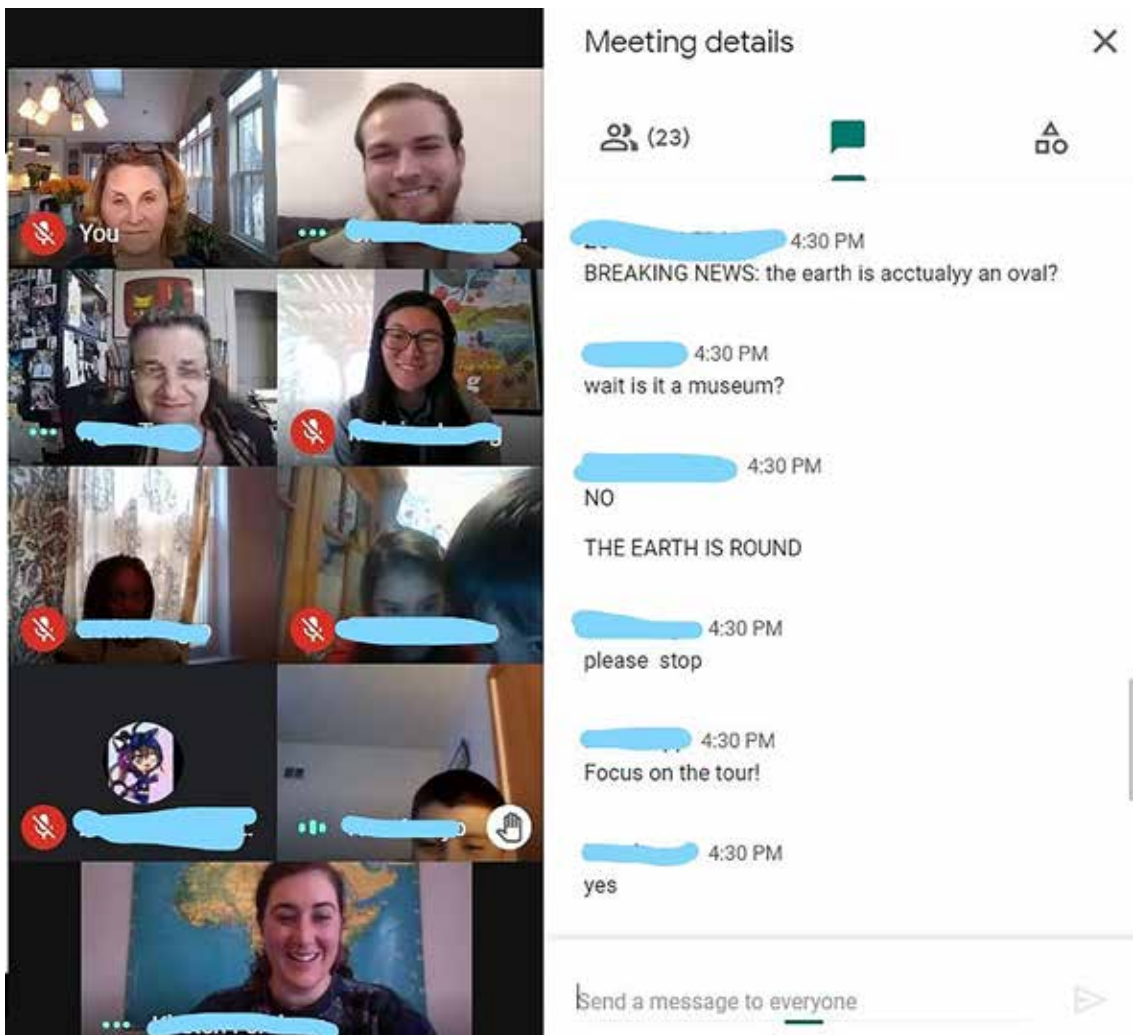
## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

people from all over the country to join in has added fun and different perspectives to our discussions. The books we discussed ranged from a title originally published in 1949 (*Gods, Graves and Scholars*) to a few that were hot-off-the-press published this year.

My dear friend and colleague Calgary Haines-Troutman left in January, but not before developing several virtual field trips (figs. 1–2), which were well received and much appreciated by teachers. The OI's student facilitators gave more than forty of these virtual field trips for school groups that would normally have come in person, plus several groups from schools new to our program and nowhere near the OI.

Finally, we suffered especially devastating losses with the passing of volunteers Roberto Cepeda, Margaret Foorman, Carlotta Maher, and George Thomson. We are so thankful for all the time these vibrant individuals devoted to the OI.

Figure 2. This after-school group was getting a little rowdy and having fun. Take a look at the discussion . . . !





# News & Notes

MEMBERS' MAGAZINE

ISSUE 246 | SUMMER 2020

LOVE IN EGYPT



DEVELOPMENT

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



OVERLEAF: Cover of *News & Notes* Members' Magazine 246.

# DEVELOPMENT

WALLY VERDOOREN,<sup>†</sup> MATTHEW WELTON, POLINA KASIAN,  
AND ALI MALLET

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The OI's development and membership team oversees and manages all activities related to philanthropic support, membership programming, and special events. These three interrelated and collaborative areas of activity work together to build and integrate a more strategic and effective approach to attracting, sustaining, expanding, and strengthening a base of partners and supporters committed to advancing the OI's mission and goals. Our team comprises Wally Verdooren, director of development; Matt Welton, associate director of membership programming, marketing, and communications; Polina Kasian, assistant director of development and events; and Ali Mallett, digital marketing and member engagement manager.

It is important to note that the past fiscal year (spanning July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021) was extremely affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and social crisis, which resulted in severe health and economic challenges on local and worldwide levels. This crisis created great financial stress for almost every business corporation, educational institution, and nonprofit organization, certainly including the OI. While this section of *The Oriental Institute Annual Report 2020-21* will once again conclude with the honor roll of donors and members, we want to recognize and thank our many partners and supporters also at the start of this report for providing, renewing, and often increasing their annual philanthropic contributions during this very difficult year. Now more than ever, the OI's research pursuits and educational programs would not be possible without your steadfast financial commitment to our mission.

The OI's development team works across the organization with senior administrative leaders, faculty, researchers, program staff, Advisory Council members, and other volunteers, as well as with colleagues in the University of Chicago's alumni relations and development office to advance the important philanthropic, membership, and community-engagement efforts of the OI.

## PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

Throughout the preceding fiscal year, the OI's many members and partners generously supported our mission to heighten the scholarly understanding of the ancient Middle East through research initiatives, cultural preservation efforts, educational programming, and the OI Museum and its collections. Contributions from the Advisory Council, annual members, volunteers, and other donors continue to maintain and strengthen the OI's standing as the world's leading center for scholarship on the ancient Middle East.

The chart below provides a comparison summary of fundraising results in key giving categories over the last two fiscal years, and all the categories of philanthropic revenue represented in these figures are making the OI's important work possible.

## DEVELOPMENT | PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

<i><b>Fundraising Giving Categories</b></i>	<i><b>FY 2019-20 \$ Amounts</b></i>	<i><b>FY 2020-21 \$ Amounts</b></i>
Fund Raising Progress (FRP)*	\$6,609,596	\$1,506,263
Expendable Cash	\$2,061,327	\$1,349,249
Realized Bequests	\$291,173	\$209,931
Payments on Multi-Year Pledges	\$1,392,960	\$1,624,908
New Pledge Commitments	\$4,006,170	\$155,685
New Deferred Gifts and Documented Bequests	\$1,297,000	\$200,000

\* FRP is the total combined dollar amount of all new gifts, memberships, multiyear pledges, and documented estate commitments received during the fiscal year.

All these philanthropic achievements during the 2020-21 program year provided the OI with essential resources for continued scholarly and programmatic growth, and this growth is only possible through the ongoing commitment and support of the OI's many members and partners.

## MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMMING

Though the global pandemic has made an impact on in-person events and OI Museum visits, our dedicated members remained by our side. Eager to engage with the scholarship of the ancient Middle East from the comfort of their homes, OI members met the challenges of the pandemic by utilizing new avenues to dig deeper into our shared ancient past. Membership retention remained steady, with an impressive increase in new-member acquisition, largely due to the increase and global reach of our online programming. We are excited to report that our membership base continues to grow, with many new members joining us from distant states and countries. We welcome each one of these new members into a community of explorers and supporters, and we look forward to continuing our efforts in online engagement.

Thanks to the support of our members, our free, monthly lecture series continued through the pandemic with minimal disruption. Unable to host our lectures in person, we transitioned our Members' Lectures online through our OI YouTube channel. Reach and viewership of these lectures increased impressively. As a perk of transitioning our lectures online, we were able to invite speakers who would not normally be able to travel to the U.S. due to prior commitments and passport and travel restrictions. While we hope to return to in-person lectures for the 2021-22 Members' Lectures season, we will continue to livestream and post them on our YouTube channel so that all our members outside the greater Chicago area have the opportunity to choose to watch at home as each lecture occurs or later, at their convenience. Members of the Breasted Society, the OI's exclusive upper-tier membership level, enjoyed a continuation of our virtual online Salon series, including a live presentation and conversation with our new interim director, Theo van den Hout.

Our members-sponsored podcast series and OI Workshop series continued to grow and foster engagement online during this past fiscal year. The OI welcomed guest scholars for podcast series on ancient Egyptian religious practices and the use of ancient works and themes in contemporary arts. In addition to our continuing podcast series, we also presented workshops exploring several aspects of ancient languages and a number of Armchair Traveler episodes that allowed our members and patrons to travel the word virtually with OI faculty and tour leaders as their online guides. Though



COVID-19 travel restrictions put a pause to our OI Member's Travel program, we hope to return this spring with a rescheduled tour of Greece and Turkey.

In addition to our online video programming, the OI continues to engage with our members and with prospective members and patrons at large through our social media outlets. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have provided us with forums to present thematic exploration that has grown engagement daily.

We are pleased to announce that in 2021 the OI was the recipient of the Best in Class Digital Programming Award from the University of Chicago. This award is a testament to our dedicated staff, who have met the pandemic with new and exciting ways of engaging with the world online by bringing the OI directly into our patrons' homes. This award, and the programming it celebrates, would not be possible without the financial support of our membership base. To explore our online programming for members, please visit the OI YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheOrientalInstitute>. Make sure to click *Subscribe* and *Like* for up-to-date video notification.

The University's office restrictions in 2020–21 year hampered our ability to print and mail copies of *News & Notes*, our quarterly members' magazine. Switching to a temporary virtual format, over the year we published three virtual issues that provided our members with an in-depth look at the history of *News & Notes*, the OI's work on the Hittite dictionary, and insight into ancient pandemics. We will return to printed and mailed copies of *News & Notes* starting in fall 2021, with a proposed schedule of three printed issues and one virtual issue each year.

During this historic year, the OI remains thankful for each of our new and renewing members. We are grateful that our membership base has remained with us, and we look forward to bringing the work and history of the OI to our new and growing international base. The continued investment and advocacy of our members allows us to further our scholarship and research and helps us share the work of the OI in new and exciting ways. Thank you for your support.

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The Oriental Institute gratefully recognizes the many supporters who have furthered the mission and impact of the OI with a new gift, documented pledge, or documented estate commitment of \$100 or more during fiscal year 2020–21 (spanning July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021). The following pages list the many members, partners, and contributors whose support helps ensure and inspire excellence at the OI. We celebrate your commitment and are pleased to recognize publicly the impact of your generosity on the OI and our community. The OI's ongoing research and discovery would not be possible without your financial investment in our work.

### THANK YOU!

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THE CHICAGO HITTITE  
DICTIONARY



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OVERLEAF: The Chicago Hittite Dictionary Office.  
Photo: Charissa Johnson.

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FACULTY, ASSOCIATES, AND STAFF

# INFORMATION

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1155 EAST 58th STREET | CHICAGO, IL 60637

## Social Media:

Website: [oi.uchicago.edu](http://oi.uchicago.edu)  
Facebook: [@OrientalInstitute](https://www.facebook.com/OrientalInstitute)  
Instagram: [@theorientalinstitute](https://www.instagram.com/theorientalinstitute)  
Twitter: [@orientalinst](https://twitter.com/orientalinst)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/JamesHenryBreasted](http://www.youtube.com/JamesHenryBreasted)  
Snapchat: [@oichicago](https://www.snapchat.com/add/oichicago)

## Museum & Suq Gift Shop

### Hours\*:

Tue, Thu–Sun: 10am–5pm  
Wed: 10am–8pm  
Mon: Closed

*\*Due to COVID-19 precautions, hours may vary and be by reservation only. Please contact the museum for current hours.*

## OI CONTACT INFORMATION

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Computer Laboratory | 773.702.0989  
Conservation Laboratory | 773.702.9519  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations | 773.702.9512  
Demotic Dictionary Project | 773.702.9528  
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Director's Office | 773.834.8098  
Epigraphic Survey | 773.702.9524  
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Museum Registration | 773.702.9518  
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Security | 773.702.9522  
Suq Gift and Book Shop | 773.702.9510  
Suq Office | 773.702.9509  
Volunteer Office | [oi-volunteers@uchicago.edu](mailto:oi-volunteers@uchicago.edu) | 773.702.1845





Handwritten text in German, likely a title or description of the map, partially obscured by the map itself.

KAB XXXIII