

## Publications

*Jean E. Luther* The Oriental Institute's very own colophon, which was chosen from entries submitted in a contest held in 1978 for Institute members, staff, and students, made its appearance in 1979. It depicts a striding winged lion looking backward in a circular frame that represents a twisted cord, and it is based on one of the Institute's chased gold openwork bracteates from Persepolis. The bracteate is almost four and a half inches in diameter and may be the largest of its kind known. It dates

typologically and archeologically to the reign of the Persian emperor, Artaxerxes II (404–359 B.C.).

The lion's first appearance as a colophon is on the title page of the Epigraphic Survey's *The Temple of Khonsu I: Scenes of King Herihor in the Court, with Translations of Texts* (Oriental Institute Publications, Vol. 100). This volume has been published as a portfolio and contains 110 looseleaf plates and the accompanying book of translations. The portfolio format is now being used for the publications of the work of the Institute's epigraphers because of the increase in publishing costs and the disappearance of binderies that have the staff to hand-sew such oversized books. The format has the advantage of allowing the reader to compare the text translations with the plates without having to flip pages back and forth.

This, the one-hundredth volume in the Oriental Institute Publications series, is a result of the work of the Epigraphic Survey, the oldest of the Institute's field enterprises. The Epigraphic Survey was created in 1924 to copy systematically and with complete accuracy the vast body of reliefs and inscriptions in temples in the Theban area, including those on two of the best preserved—the mortuary temple of Ramesses II at Medinet Habu and the temple of Khonsu at Karnak. The records of the former temple and its complex fill eight volumes published to date. The second manuscript about the temple of Khonsu has been delivered into our hands and will appear in due course.

In addition, the Epigraphic Survey volume, *The Tomb of Kheruef: Theban Tomb No. 192* (Oriental Institute Publications, Vol. 102) has gone to press. Kheruef was a courtier of Amenhotep III and served as steward to Queen Tiye, the mother of Akhenaton.

It is interesting to compare the time required for the accurate copying of reliefs and inscriptions with the time James Henry Breasted took to record the wall paintings in the very first volume of the Oriental Institute Publications (*Oriental Forerunners of Byzantine Painting: First-Century Wall Paintings from the Fortress of Dura on the Middle Euphrates*). Published in 1924, which is the year that the Epigraphic Survey was created, these paintings were at that time the only unconcealed oriental forerunners of Byzantine painting; and they were recorded by the

1920 Oriental Institute expedition in a single day. There was a reason for that, as Mr. Breasted explains in the preface: "It was the good fortune of the University of Chicago expedition to make the first dash undertaken by white men after the Great War across this desert region and the newly proclaimed Arab state, from Baghdad to Aleppo and the Mediterranean. . . . Creeping up the Euphrates as quietly and as expeditiously as we could, and making every effort to elude the treacherous and hostile Beduin, we reached Dura-Şalihyah just as the British were about to begin their retirement down the river."

*Excavations at Nippur: Twelfth Season* (Oriental Institute Communications, No. 23) by McGuire Gibson et al., described more fully in last year's report, was published in 1979. This work is a report on the excavating begun during the eleventh season in two areas on the West Mound.

This year the Oriental Institute cooperated with The Art Institute of Chicago in producing *Ancient Textiles from Nubia*, a guidebook brought out in conjunction with the exhibition at the Art Institute from May 23 to August 5 of Egyptian Nubian textiles from Meroitic, X-group, and Christian tombs (100–600 A.D.). The volume contains an essay by Mrs. Keith C. Seele, widow of the director of the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition in 1962/63 and 1963/64, about the excavations and one by Bruce B. Williams about the historical, geographical, and archeological background of Nubia and northern Sudan.

In various stages of completion are: *Computer-Aided Analysis of Amorite* (Assyriological Studies, No. 21) by Ignace J. Gelb et al., the first of two volumes; *Chogha Mish: An Interim Report on the First Five Seasons of Excavations, 1961–71* (Oriental Institute Publications, Vol. 101) by Pinhas P. Delougaz† and Helene J. Kantor; *The Holmes Expedition to Luristan* (special publication) by Maurits N. van Loon; *Prehistoric Archeology along the Zagros Flanks* (Oriental Institute Publications, Vol. 105) by Patty Jo Watson et al., and *Excavations between Abu Simbel and the Sudan Frontier I: Middle Nubian Remains from Cemeteries T, K, and U* (Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition, Vol. 5) by Bruce B. Williams.



*The Oriental Institute colophon, after a gold roundel from Persepolis.*