

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



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R E P O R T



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R E P O R T



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Contents

INTRODUCTION

Introduction	2
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ARCHAEOLOGY

The Epigraphic Survey	6
Nippur	18
Prehistoric Project	30
Bronze Age Cemetery	33
Aqaba	36
Nubian Project	42

PHILOLOGY

Assyrian Dictionary	46
Demotic Dictionary	47
Hittite Dictionary	52

SCHOLARSHIP

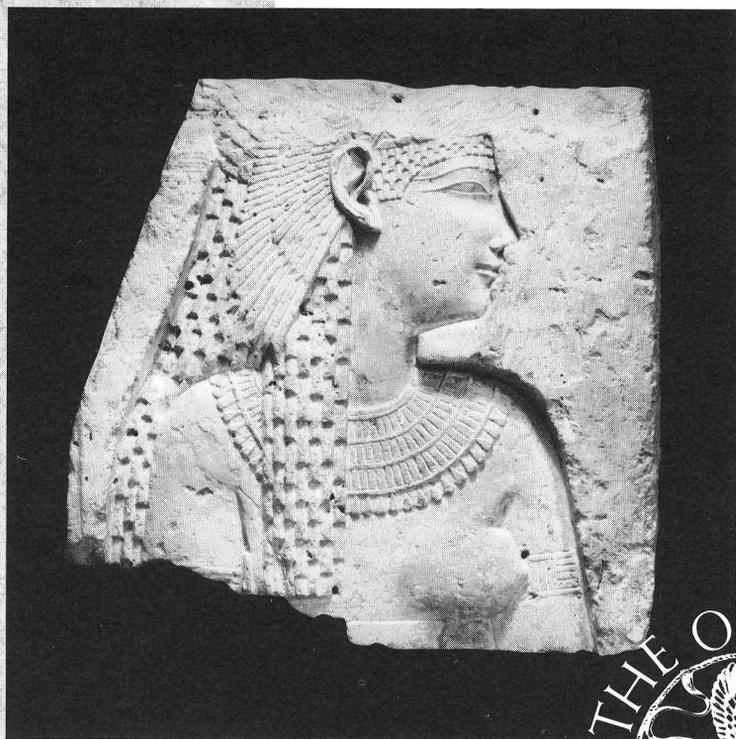
Individual Research	54
Research Archives	63
Publications Office	65

MUSEUM

The Museum	68
Museum Education	76

PEOPLE

Membership Program	82
Volunteers	85
The Suq	90
The Tripp and Schwartz Endowment Funds	91
Visiting Committee	92
Members	93
Staff	106
Membership Fund	108



Introduction

Introduction

Janet H. Johnson
Director

It is again my pleasure and privilege to welcome you all, vicariously, to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, to share with us what we (faculty, staff, and volunteers) have been doing for the last year and a few thoughts about where our work is headed. Although our primary goal is to head toward the past, to learn who, what, when, where, why, and how things happened in antiquity in the Near East, we are also heading to the future with revised questions based on what has already been learned and more and more with revised methodology and technology. Computers are revolutionizing our field work and publications (e.g., the sophisticated graphics ability of modern small computers allows the rapid preparation of site plans by computer, as mentioned by Mac Gibson in his report on Nippur) and our Museum and archival collections management (the new “data bases”) will allow staff, faculty, and visiting scholars quicker access to information about objects and to the objects and records themselves. We have a formal architectural plan for the “air conditioning” (including temperature and humidity controls and control of noxious fumes) of the Oriental Institute building, first and foremost to preserve and protect the irreplaceable objects in the collection, but also to make visits to the Museum, the lecture hall, classes, and the like much more pleasant and attractive to visitors (and staff). We hope that we’ll be able to move forward on this plan in the near future. ▼ As you read through the reports on the various projects sponsored by the Oriental Institute and the independent research which is being carried out by the faculty, staff, and senior graduate students in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, you will be struck once again with the diversity of interests and research approaches which work together to shed light on the complexity of our ancient past. Whether you are fascinated by dirt archaeology and broken pottery and what they can tell us about who, when, even why, or whether you are struck by the resemblance of ancient people to ourselves as you read translations of literature or legal texts studied by philologists, we are delighted that you share with us an appreciation for how knowledge of the human past can help make our lives more complete. You will also see as you read through this year’s *Annual Report* how we become more and more dependent on our numerous friends and benefactors (people who give of their time, as well as people who are able to provide financial support) to be able to carry out our research, analyze and prepare for scholarly publication the

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*

results of the research, and convey to the general public in an up-to-date fashion the who's, what's, when's, where's, why's, and how's as we have come to understand them.

This introduction gives me a chance to welcome to the Oriental Institute several faculty whose work you will come to know over the coming years. Doug Esse, who was a Research Associate here for several years working on the publication of the excavations at Beth Yerah (Khirbet Kerak) in Israel and then as Assistant Director for Larry Stager's Ashkelon excavations, has returned as Assistant Professor of Syro-Palestinian archaeology. He has resumed his work on the area around Beth Yerah and hopes to be in the field in the summer of 1989. Peter Dorman, our new Field Director for the Epigraphic Survey, is also returning to the Institute, having received his Ph.D. in Egyptology from the University and spending the last 10 years working in the Egyptian Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Karen Wilson, whose degree in Mesopotamian art and archaeology is from New York University, became Curator of the OI Museum in August. She worked most recently as Coordinator of Curatorial Affairs at the Jewish Museum in New York. I would especially like to take this opportunity to thank Raymond Tindel, who served as Acting Curator of the Museum for over a year while the search for the new Curator took place. Ray took on a time-consuming job which was likely to produce

innumerable headaches and very few thanks and committed himself to it with a spirit and energy which have served the Museum and the Oriental Institute extremely well. I know that he is happy to be able now to apply himself and his energies to the registration questions facing him, but we all appreciate how much of himself he gave when asked. Thanks, Ray!

Much sadder is the need to say "goodbye" to old friends of the Institute who have passed away during the past year. Mrs. C. Phillip Miller (née Florence Lowden) had been an active and valued member of the Visiting Committee to the Oriental Institute for many years. The first time she travelled to Egypt and the Near East in the late 1920s with her family, they travelled on the same boat as Breasted and the Rockefeller party and she became intrigued with the ancient Near East from listening to Breasted's lectures. When she returned, she took classes at the University for several years and she remained interested and supportive of the work of the Institute throughout her life. We shall miss her astute observations and her wonderful memories.

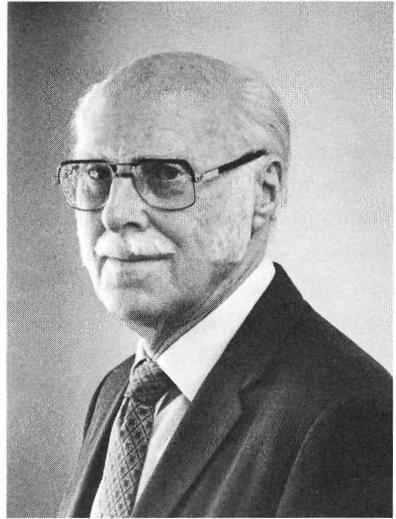
Two other long time Visiting Committee members also died in 1988. Albert Hardy Newman had served on the Committee for more than twenty years and Mrs. Chester



D. Tripp had been a member for thirty years. Their presence will also be sorely missed.

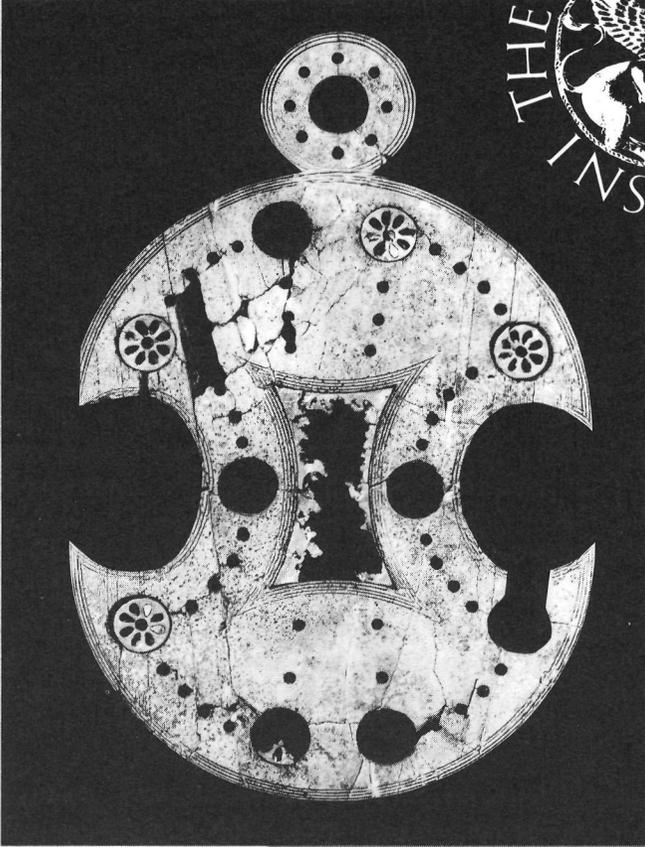
More recently the Institute suffered the loss of Professor Charles F. Nims, a retired Egyptologist who had spent most of his professional life as epigrapher, photographer, and finally Field Director of the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor. His life touched that of generations of Egyptologists as they came through Luxor and stopped at Chicago House for a chat and tea or for a chance to look up something in the library. His wide-ranging interests (from Demotic legal texts to the geography of ancient and modern Luxor), his joy at sharing his knowledge and ideas with colleagues and visitors, and his love of photography and travel (he and his wife Myrtle spent much of their time since his retirement travelling the world and making their friends slightly jealous with the wonderful photographs they brought back) mean that his loss is felt by us all.

As my second and final term as Director comes to an end and I look forward, gleefully, to the chance to return full time to teaching and my Egyptological research, I would like to take this opportunity to express to



Charles Francis Nims

all of you the pleasure which I have derived from my time as Director. It has given me the opportunity to learn in greater detail, and therefore appreciate more fully, the projects and activities of my colleagues. But even more, it has given me a chance to get to know many members of the Oriental Institute. Your questions, comments, and observations about our work and the general question of the rise of civilization in the ancient Near East have frequently set my mind to thinking and given me an exciting new perspective on an old question. I shall continue to look forward to seeing my new friends around the building, at Institute functions, or, most interestingly, somewhere in the Near East or the world's museums housing her ancient treasures.



Archaeology

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*The Epigraphic
Survey*

Lanny Bell

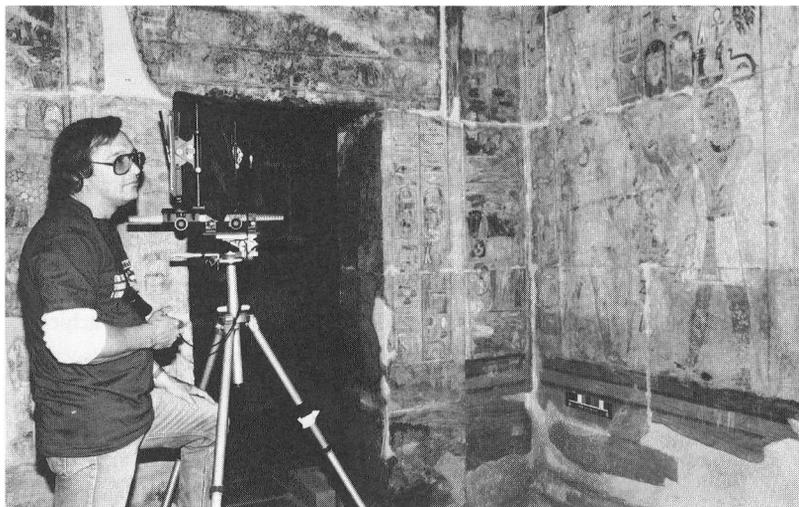


he 1987-88 season of the Epigraphic Survey was our sixty-fourth. The artists were engaged once more primarily in checking and completing

facsimile drawings in the Luxor Colonnade. Chief artist Ray Johnson pursued his reconstructions of our fragment material and used the knowledge he has gained during this extensive study to establish a chronology for the various distinctive art styles of the reign of Amenhotep III. This framework has provided him with much of the data he has recently employed in coming to some rather far-reaching conclusions about both the art and the theology of Akhenaten. ▼ The major field work of the epigraphers again consisted of the checking and correcting of our preliminary hand-copies of the decoration of the Small Temple at Medinet Habu. These hand-copies will be used to help guide the artists in the production of facsimile drawings, as well as forming the basis for a dictionary of the remaining unpublished inscriptions at this site. We were very pleased at the award of a grant from the Ford Foundation in support of our student epigrapher, Steve Parker. One of Steve's special tasks was to sort through the master dictionary cards, filling gaps by preparing prints of old negatives and replacing faded or illegible positives. In doing this he kept in close contact with John Larson, Museum archivist, to be sure that a copy of each of these cards is actually preserved at the Oriental Institute. He further checked, corrected, duplicated, and prepared for filing a whole series of supplemental cards for inscriptions already published in our previous eight *Medinet Habu* folios. In conjunction with our computer-oriented administrative assistant Rita Joyce (herself an Egyptology student), he began experimenting with the creation of a computerized data base for our dictionary files, using the Macintosh's graphic capabilities to the fullest in combining texts, transliterations, and translations with cross-reference to our drawings. We hope to be able to include a computer dictionary disk with one of our Luxor Temple volumes. ▼ The field work accomplished by our photographers was focused on the documentation of architectural and epigraphic details at Luxor and the production of general views of the setting of the Colonnade and its placement within the temple as a whole. All of the photographic field work undertaken

this season was facilitated tremendously by the gift of a modern 8"x10" camera most generously donated to us by Calumet Photographic Inc. During the course of this season we were unexpectedly presented with the exciting possibility of publishing color pho-

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*



Photographer Tom Van Eynde using new camera at Medinet Habu. Photo by Sue Lezon.

tographs of all of the delicately painted reliefs which we have cleaned in the closed Eighteenth Dynasty chapels at Medinet Habu. The preliminary color test shots which Tom Van Eynde made with this new camera were quite promising. Meanwhile, in our photo archives, Sue Lezon began the process of cleaning, consolidating, printing, and identifying the collection of nearly 1,000 early 20th century glass plate negatives which I had managed to buy in Luxor at the very end of last season. During the month of February, we were most fortunate to enjoy the presence at Chicago House of Diana Grodzins, who served us admirably in the capacity of photo archivist.

Our architectural conservation program (initiated in 1982) was resumed in both Medinet Habu and

Luxor Temple. This season our work was underwritten by a generous grant from the American Express Foundation. This allowed conservator John Stewart to buy sufficient quantities of the expensive conservation chemicals he needed, as well as to hire local craftsmen (a mason and a tile-layer) to free him from some of the more labor-intensive and non-technical aspects of his job. At the Small Temple of Medinet Habu protective working floors were completed in two more rooms (O and P). Clearing away of the loose modern debris from the surface of the ancient floor of room M revealed the sadly eroded and very friable condition of its remaining ancient flooring stones. Consolidation was begun,¹ with one particularly bad stone requiring

¹*with ester of silicic acid (WACKER OH)*

▼ ▼ ▼
 cleaning and reassembly of its fractured planes.² A final treatment will be undertaken during the next season, before laying the protective cover here.

At Luxor Temple, the reassembly of the sandstone fragments which we have identified as coming from the wall of the northeast corner of the Court of Amenhotep III was continued. As expected, their most common problem was the fissuring of surfaces. This season, however, cracks were filled³ and a hardener⁴ injected into them after their edges had been strengthened with epoxy.⁵ In fissures wide enough to permit, a filler⁶ was added⁷ to reduce the adhesive's coefficients of expansion and contraction. Three fragments were newly treated this year. The epoxy system was adopted because of the advantage of a longer curing time, giving greater work flexibility and enhanced porosity. In assessing the stability of the most friable stones in the interval since their preliminary surface consolidation last

season, it was decided to re-treat nine fragments; four additional ones were also treated.

In the actual reassembly of fragments, limited application of a sealer⁸ was successfully tested on those exterior undecorated surfaces most likely to come into even the most limited contact with wet mortar. The desired water repellency was achieved without decreasing the stone's vapor permeability. The blocks were then mortared together.⁹ A second original block was reconstructed, with a third substantially completed. Our skilled mason also laid the foundations for another waterproofed stone mastaba or "bench" for the safe storage of fragments in our Luxor Temple stoneyard. A tent was set up there to provide the minimum shelter and shade necessary for the effective treatment of stones in the field, and a small lab was established in the Healy House (one of the out-buildings in the back garden on the Chicago House grounds) for the preparation of chemicals and the conducting of analyses and preliminary tests.

In my capacity as Field Director of the Epigraphic Survey, I was pleased to serve on an Egyptian Antiquities Organization commission sent in February to inspect the

²with polyvinyl acetate (MOWILITH 50 in acetone)

³with ARALDITE AY 103

⁴Hardener HY 956 (Ciba-Geigy)

⁵through applications of preconsolident epoxy in a solution of toluene and acetone (50/50), in concentrations increasing from 5% to 90%

⁶of silica (40-50 microns)

⁷to epoxy solutions above 5%

⁸Paraloid B-72 acrylic co-polymer (10% solution in acetone)

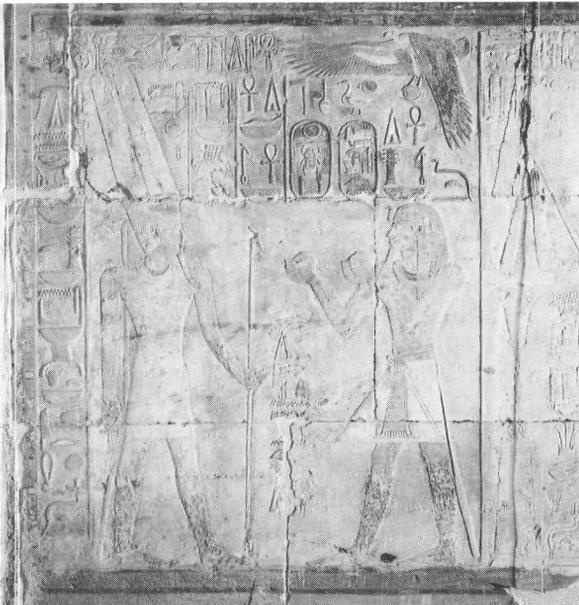
⁹A supply of low-alkali Cypriote white cement was found in Luxor, so this became the material of choice in the mortar matrix used this year (= white cement: sand: crushed red brick, in proportions of 1:4:1 by volume).

condition of several of the most important monuments of Upper Egypt (Edfu Temple, Medinet Habu, the Tomb of Sety I, and Luxor Temple). In conjunction with that committee's findings, submitted in a report to the Minister of Culture, I turned over copies of the relevant photographic documentation from the Chicago House Archives pertaining especially to the columns in the Luxor Colonnade. We have been monitoring the shockingly rapid progress in the decay of the bases of these enormous columns for the past three years, submitting periodic reports to Dr. Mohammed el-Sogheir, the Director for Antiquities in Southern Upper Egypt. A new aspect of this watch is the preparation of a dossier on the present state of each column base, to be updated annually, so that the priorities in this area can be established quickly.

In the Chicago House library, 327 books, journals, and pamphlets were accessioned, bringing the total of our holdings to more than 15,000. The very first entry in our original three volume set of leather-bound accession books was made on November 16, 1926; the books were filled and closed on April 9, 1988, when the final hand-written record, number 15,000, had been entered into the last volume. The end of an era has surely been reached. The remaining sixty entries registered this season were processed into an electronic system, which will be used henceforth. Once again, many authors presented us with copies of their new books and offprints of their articles,



Photograph of newly cleaned painted relief decoration in one of the closed chapels (N) in the Hatshepsut Temple at Medinet Habu. Photo by Tom Van Eynde.



especially those from “non-Egyptological” journals. Among the duplicates we received from the collection of the late Labib Habachi was the hard-to-find volume 1 of the *Bulletin de la Société Archéologique d’Alexandrie*, published in Alexandria in 1898.

Several more antiquarian volumes were identified and removed from open shelving to the librarian’s office for special handling, in an attempt to balance their availability for immediate use against the need to protect them and prolong their life for future generations of scholars. These include Zoëga, *Numi Aegypti Imperatorii*, published in Rome in 1787 (and still

in nearly perfect condition), as well as Fontana and Hammer, *Copie figurée d’un rouleau de papyrus trouvé en Égypte*, a facsimile edition published in Vienna in 1822 (the year of Champollion’s decipherment of the hieroglyphics) and formerly kept in a pamphlet drawer. A reform undertaken in the card catalogue is the color coding of the main entries to facilitate the locating of books which are necessarily shelved with special collections (e.g., rare, oversized, folio).

Conservation and restoration activities in the library included improving the storage conditions of such heavily used loose-leaf publications as volumes 1-6 of *Hieroglyphic Texts in the British Museum* (1911-1918). Our solution has been to wrap



Conservator John Stewart during replacement of decorated sandstone fragments on wall in Courtyard of Amenhotep III at Luxor Temple. Photo by Tom Van Eynde.

the page bundles in polyethylene film closed with velcro spots; the binders are then “tied” on using two-inch polyethylene strips held in place by velcro. The effect alerts the reader that special handling is required, while the system promotes the easiest access with the maximum protection. Polyethylene “ties” or covers have also been employed to hold delicate or damaged books together. We encapsulated two much used large-scale plans of Karnak which had been printed on very poor paper, folded up, and sewn into the *Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte*, volume 36 (1936). Long detached but stuck precariously back into their original places, they were in danger of becoming completely tattered; they are now safely stored flat in the map cabinet. The usual minor repairs and maintenance were carried on throughout the season, including tipping in loose pages, tightening bindings, sealing tears with archival tape, and oiling leather bindings. At the very end of the season we acquired ultraviolet-absorbing shields for our fluorescent light fixtures. We were ably assisted for three months in the library by Melinda Parker, and for ten days by May Trad. In addition, 123 volumes were sent to Cairo for binding during the summer under May's careful supervision.

The installation of the two Macintosh SE computers which we were given last summer brought the total of computers at Chicago House to four. With another generous gift of a Macintosh Plus for use in our

Chicago office during the summer, and a considerable amount of software, we were solidly established in the computer age. Even black-outs, brown-outs, and electrical surges in Luxor no longer present the spectre they once did, since the connection of a Topaz Powermaker Micro UPS voltage regulator and battery back-up system, also contributed in conjunction with the two new field computers. The donation of printed paper and envelopes, along with numerous other computer accessories presented by McGregor Paper & Computer Supplies, will now mean the nearly complete modernization of our office facilities. This season marked the first time that I had a computer available and fully functioning at Chicago House right from the very day of my arrival in Luxor. Our computers have been made available to all staff members for personal work during off hours, on a time sharing basis; Rita Joyce gladly initiated all interested beginners into the computerized world and assisted others in expanding their skills or trying out new programs.

Any of our scientific and administrative tasks have been made immeasurably simpler by access to a Xerox machine at Chicago House, kindly made available to us gratis on a long-term lease basis by Xerox Egypt. As a full measure of its usefulness, let me just note that we have so far made

▼ ▼ ▼
*Condition of cleared
 ancient flooring stones,
 bases of walls, and
 foundation under re-
 constructed red granite
 naos in chapel P of
 Hatshepsut Temple at
 Medinet Habu. Photo
 by John Stewart.*



some 8,700 copies in house. This season was also the first in which I finally had adequate administrative assistance in Luxor, with both an office manager (Rita Joyce) and household manager (Roxanne Gordon) to handle full-time the many complex duties of running the various institute functions of Chicago House. Once more, our computers permitted us continually to update our constantly changing calendar and bulletin board. Another advance toward state-of-the-art electronics was our purchase of a color television set and a VCR player to replace our in-house series of 16 mm rental films transported monthly from Cairo.

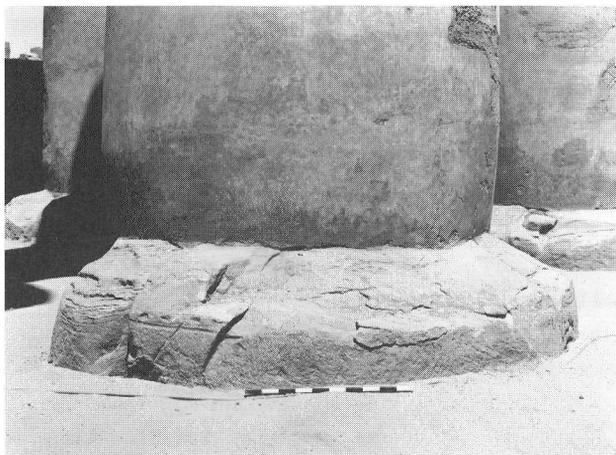
Significant repairs and improvements completed at Chicago House include the replacement or refurbishing of the water heaters in both the library and residence wings. The horrifying discovery of water dripping down the cord of a ceiling light in the main reading room of the library after a heavy ten-minute rainfall in mid-October sent us scrambling to sweep its three-story-high roof. Before leaving Luxor in May, I supervised the regrouting of the library roof tiles. In April, a 20 meter high palm tree beside the front driveway suddenly creaked and fell toward the library, fortunately inflicting no injury and doing only minor damage in the garden. Strong wind storms after the end of the season took the tops out of a ficus and a eucalyptus tree and brought down many large branches, again with only minimal damage. Our recording thermometer in the library revealed that the inside temperature at floor level had reached 101° F

during the summer of 1987; and in the week of April 5-11 of this year outdoor highs in the shade of the Chicago House garden never registered below 101-102° — our aluminum scaffolding at Luxor Temple was too hot for artist Carol Meyer to touch in the afternoons of those days. In the last week Martha and I spent at Chicago House during the month of Ramadan which fell in April-May this year, our dogs located a meter-long cobra outside the kitchen. It got away from us in the morning, and when it reappeared in the late afternoon, all the workmen, who had been fasting all day, were far away. Fearing it would escape again, there was nothing to do but grab a long broom handle and bludgeon it, as I had seen them do several times before.

Our chief engineer Saleh gave me a most pleasant surprise after the end of the season by locating in Cairo and having sent to Luxor, without even a word from me, two vintage replacement glass water bottles for our 1924 Frigidaire water cooler. The original bottle had been broken during cleaning late in the previous season, and we had really missed the refreshing pause which it afforded after a hot stint at the temple wall. Finally, Saleh had the motor of our 1950 Chevrolet (which had blown in the Eastern Desert last spring) rebuilt in Luxor, reboring the engine block of a junker 1950 Chevy which we bought just for this purpose and refitting it with genuine factory replacement parts still



*Condition of deteriorating column base in Colonnade of Tutankhamun at Luxor Temple.
Photo by Tom Van Eynde.*





available very inexpensively from the shelves of an old automobile store hidden somewhere in the back streets of Cairo. A trip to the body shop and repainting with the original metallic blue completed the resurrection. With the pride of the Chicago House fleet once more touring about town, Saleh took the opportunity to recondition the motor of our 1978 Land Rover in anticipation of the increasingly stringent vehicle inspection it must pass in the coming season.

This season I spent 25 days in Cairo on eight different occasions, from October to June, on fund-raising business. Our major fund-raising activities included a marvellous reception in December for the Friends of Chicago House in Egypt hosted by the United States Ambassador to Egypt, His Excellency Frank Wisner and Mrs. Christine Wisner at their Residence. In January we were presented with our American Express Foundation conservation grant at an enormous reception in Cairo lavishly prepared by American Express of Egypt; John Stewart and Ray Johnson were able to join Carlotta Maher and me at this gala. In early February we conducted our third annual Friends of Chicago House archaeological tour to Upper Egypt, introducing the work of Chicago House to more people from

the Cairo business community, visiting especially the monuments at which the Epigraphic Survey has worked in Luxor and some of the less easily seen sites of the Abydos area. Once more all travel arrangements were made by Saad Riad in Cairo and Fathi Salib of American Express in Luxor. The great success of this tour, and of our whole Egyptian fund-raising program in general, is due in large part to the tireless enthusiasm and efforts of Ann and Ron Wolfe of Professional Business Services in Cairo. I was also very happy to be able to introduce Secretary of State George Shultz, a former University of Chicago faculty member, and Energy Secretary John Herrington to the Epigraphic Survey in the context of their tours of the ancient wonders of the Luxor area.

We were pleased to be able to entertain a number of Oriental Institute members (traveling alone or with the Oriental Institute's Egypt tour conducted by Robert Ritner), as well as representatives of Amoco and the American Express Foundation at Chicago House, getting to know them a little better and showing them our work close-up. We wish to thank here all of our faithful Friends of Chicago House, our Friends of Chicago House in Egypt, and our major corporate donors, especially Amoco Egypt (our earliest contributor in Egypt) and the Amoco

Foundation, the American Express Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and many others for the most gratifying success which we have achieved in the initial stages of our fund-raising campaign on behalf of the future of Chicago House.

Our professional staff this season consisted of myself as Field Director; Martha R. Bell as Chicago House librarian; Stephen Parker, epigrapher; W. Raymond Johnson, Dr. Carol Meyer, Barbara Arnold, and Kathleen Baker, artists; Thomas Van Eynde and Susan Lezon, photographers; John Stewart, conservator; Jill Carlotta Maher, assistant to the field director for development; Rita Joyce and Roxanne Gordon, administrative assistants; and Saleh Shehat Suleiman, chief engineer. Our thanks go to Dr. Henri Riad for his progress in organizing and managing the Labib Habachi Archives (whose rich

materials scholars now consult regularly) and for his continuing efforts in the areas of public relations, official liaison, and translation. We all enjoyed the presence of Ben Parker who lived with us for nearly three months and celebrated his second birthday at Chicago House just as he and his mother were returning to Chicago. The members of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization to whom we owe a special debt of gratitude include Dr. Ahmed Qadry, former Chairman; Mutawia Balboush, Supervisor of Antiquities



Remains of the town mound of Medieval Luxor and structures in the Courtyard of Ramesses II at Luxor Temple as seen from the roof of the portico before the clearance of the Pylon entrance and Avenue of Sphinxes in 1956-60. Print produced by Sue Lezon from glass plate negative of Luxor photographer Seif Taudros Ibrahim in the Chicago House archive.





View across the Nile toward Luxor Temple and the Winter Palace Hotel at around the time of the founding of the Epigraphic Survey. Seif photo in Chicago House archive.

for Upper Egypt; Dr. Mohammed el-Sogheir, Director of Antiquities for Southern Upper Egypt; Sayid el-Higazy, Chief Inspector of Karnak and Luxor; Abd el-Hamid Marouf, Inspector of Karnak; and Mohammed Nasr, Chief Inspector of Qurna.

In addition to those already mentioned for their specific contributions to the successes of our field season, we would further like to

acknowledge Jean-Claude Golvin, Robert Vergnieux, and Daniel Le Fur of the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak; Jadwiga Lipinska of the Polish Mission to the Temple of Thutmose III at Deir el-Bahari; Terry Walz, Robert Betts, Amira Khattab, and Albert Abdel Ahad of the American Research Center in Egypt; the United States Ambassador to Egypt, His Excellency Frank Wisner; Dick Undeland, Ken Robinson, and Jim Phillips of the United States Embassy in Cairo; Shafik Gabr of the



American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt; Steve Halsey of the American Express Foundation; Ken Fleming and Adel Akladios of American Express of Egypt; Lee Travers of the Ford Foundation; Richard Weinberger and Jack Britain of Trans World Airlines; Norm Rubash of Amoco; Oswaldo Liang of Xerox Egypt; Gerry Vincent, our special computer angel; Lou Byron of McGregor Paper & Computer Supplies; Kathy Houde and David Grempp of Calumet Photgraphic; David O'Connor of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania; Jane Ayer Scott of the Harvard Sardis Expedition; Carlie Cleveland of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; Linda Noe Laine and Christel Noe Laine; May Trad, Gretel Braidwood, Ann Roth, and Gerry Quinn.

Let me once more remind Oriental Institute members and other friends that we welcome visitors to Chicago House during our season, from October 15 through April 15. Please only let us know, as far ahead as you can, when you expect to be in Luxor; and contact us immediately upon your arrival to reconfirm your visit, so that we can arrange the best possible and most convenient tour for you. Our address is: Chicago House, Luxor, Arab Republic of Egypt; our telephone (which can even be direct-dialed from the United States {011-20-95-38- 2525}) is Luxor 38-2525.

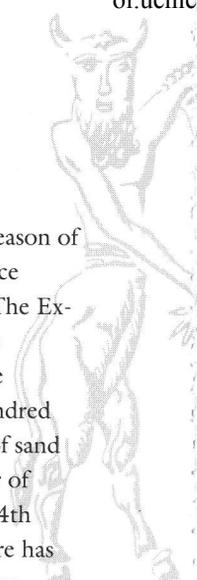
Finally, we all wish to express here our grief at the death in Alexandria of our long-time colleague and friend, Atteiya Habachi. My brief obituary notice on her, incorporating an article written by her on her first impressions of the Oriental Institute, has already appeared in the Newsletter of the American Research Center in Egypt.

Nippur

McGuire Gibson

The Oriental Institute's 17th Season of excavation at Nippur took place during the autumn of 1987. The Expedition arrived in Iraq in late September and excavated from October 10 until December 12. ▼ The primary aim of the 17th Season was to investigate a low mound five hundred meters northeast of the ziggurat, outside the city wall; the movement of sand dunes in 1985 had exposed architectural traces and a rich surface scatter of sherds there. The coins collected from the surface were datable to the 14th century A.D., the Ilkhanid period following the Mongol conquest. There has been almost no controlled excavation of sites of the 14th century and any results we achieved would be important. ▼ Since we were going to be working to the northeast of the city, we also decided to put in a trench at the city wall in this area to verify the account given by the University of Pennsylvania expedition in the 1890's and to compare the findings there with our own from the city wall at the southern end of the city, Area WC. The Pennsylvania excavators had indicated that there were Early Dynastic (c. 2600 B.C.) and Akkadian (c. 2300 B.C.) versions of the city wall directly under the Ur III (c. 2200 B.C.) one here. We have wanted for some time to view material from these periods in one stratigraphic sequence and we believed that a trench at the city wall should achieve this result. ▼ While the architect John Sanders was laying out a grid over the Islamic mound (Area M), Margaret Brandt and Augusta McMahan carried out a random sampling of the surface debris. This collection of artifacts from more than twenty locations on the mound gave us information on different activity areas within the site. For instance, iron and copper were worked on the northern end of the site. On the southern end, the Islamic settlement rested in part on a low Seleucid (c. 200 B.C.) mound. In the middle of the site, which was no more than fifty centimeters higher than the surrounding plain, we laid out a set of squares over the remains of mudbrick walls visible on the surface. About twenty meters to the south was the bed of the canal that fed the site. We have, so far, traced this canal upstream about half a kilometer northwest of Nippur. It comes down to the city, runs just inside the city wall, and turns out through the wall toward Area M. Beyond Area M, it turns southeast for another kilometer until it is hidden under sand dunes. This canal had never been noticed before, because it is now a very shallow trough in the earth and does not become easily apparent until after a rain, when the bed retains water longer than the surround-

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Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*



ing ground. It is clear now that it was the cutting of this canal which caused the gap in the city wall that previous excavators have explained as the work of the Parthians (c. A.D. 150).

James A. Armstrong was responsible for excavations on the Islamic mound, and with his usual meticulousness, he began to articulate the mudbricks of the walls and to define floors. Within two days it became obvious that the cultural remains we could map or gather on the surface were the best record we would ever have of the settlement. Wind erosion has removed all but the lowest course of mudbricks from the buildings, and the beaten earth floors were intact only against the walls. Armstrong continued working for about a week and was able to prove that the plain,



The 17th Season expedition photo, with the newly acquired Maytag washer.

hand-formed, crude pottery on the site was contemporary with the very well-made, blue-black-and-white-glazed specimens, since both kinds of pottery were found on the remnants of floors in buildings. This finding is important because crude wares very similar in shape and decoration to those from Area M can also be found on sites as late as the end of the 19th century, for instance around the ruins of shaykhs' forts.

Having decided that further excavation in Area M was not necessary, we concentrated all attention on Area EA, the stratigraphic trench at the city wall near the ziggurat. This trench was positioned at the end of a high ridge at the southeast edge of the gap in the city wall. Pennsylvania's work here in the 1890's had revealed that the ridge consisted of a massive wall of the





A group of bowls found alongside walls of Ur III houses in area WC-3 (c. 2100 B.C.). The bowls, found in pairs as pictured, sometimes contained animal bones. These are thought to be deposits made to ward off evil.

Parthian period (c. A.D. 150), sitting on a wall of “small bricks.” We assumed that the small bricks were part of the Ur III (c. 2100-2000 B.C.) city wall, and that below we would be Akkadian and Early Dynastic versions.

We had intended to expose and articulate only the bottom few courses of Parthian mudbricks in Area EA but found that this construction went much lower than anticipated. In order to make a firm foundation for their defenses around the ziggurat, the Parthians cut far down into earlier levels in some places. We would reconstruct a total height of more than fifteen meters (about 50 feet) of Parthian mudbrick wall and foundation in Area EA.

Under the Parthian walls we found constructions of small bricks. They were not rectangular as Ur III bricks would be, but plano-convex, a brick shape that is more typical of Early Dynastic and Akkadian construction. The pottery very soon made it clear that the walls we were beginning to define under the Parthian were Early Dynastic. The Parthians had cut away all of the Ur III and Akkadian brickwork that might have existed here. Pennsylvania’s trench had then cut away the top part of the remaining Early Dynastic walls in two giant steps, so we had only to remove the sand and back-fill from that old operation to reach even older levels. While defining intact Early Dynastic brickwork, we came upon the remains of a baked brick drain that Pennsylvania had already exposed and published. The drain had been cut down into a narrow alley of the Early Dynastic period, so not much of the Early Dynastic buildings were harmed by it. When Steve Cole took the drain apart, he found that several of the bricks had a stamped in-

scription of the Akkadian king Sharkalisharri (c. 2217-2193 B.C.). These bricks may date the drain to the reign of this king, who did considerable reconstruction in the ziggurat complex. But, without better stratigraphic information, we cannot be certain that this it was not built in Ur III times reusing Akkadian bricks.

In the upper Early Dynastic levels we exposed part of a very large building with walls as thick as three meters. We found intact only the southeastern outer wall and doorway, part of a courtyard, and part of one room. The building continues beyond the area of our excavation to the southwest and northeast, but the entire northwestern end had been removed by Pennsylvania. There were two plastered floors inside the building, both fairly irregular. On each of the floors was a layer of deliberate fill, composed of dirt, ashes, and sherds. Associated with the upper floor was an impressive stairway leading up through the doorway to the alley on the southeast. This stairway had been coated with bitumen to protect it. We found very few objects in this building but assume that it must have been part of the city wall fortifications or a subsidiary building next to the city wall.

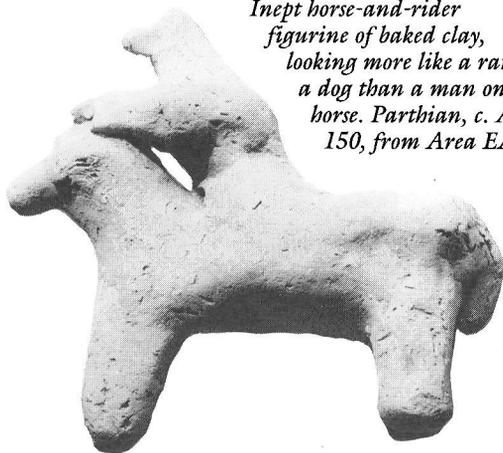
In the lower step of the trench, to the northwest, we found remnants of an earlier building in the sides of the trench. We then cut a test pit, 1 x 5 meters in size, in the bottom of the trench, to see if the area might produce sufficient information to

justify continuing the operation. In the pit, which went down more than three meters, we recovered no more architecture, only layers of almost pure clay, alternating with beds of deliberate fill made up of ashes and sherds. We encountered ground water about three meters below plain level, just as we were finding exclusively sherds of Early Dynastic I pottery types. We had begun to hope that we could go below the Early Dynastic into Uruk and Ubaid levels, and maybe to virgin soil, but the water made that impossible.

An investigation into the earliest levels at Nippur would be very rewarding. Pennsylvania reached virgin soil under the ziggurat, but we know little of their findings. Chicago's work since 1948 has not penetrated below the Uruk period (c. 3500 B.C.). We find sherds and other items of Ubaid and Uruk date on many parts of the site and can judge



Inept horse-and-rider figurine of baked clay, looking more like a rat on a dog than a man on a horse. Parthian, c. A.D. 150, from Area EA.



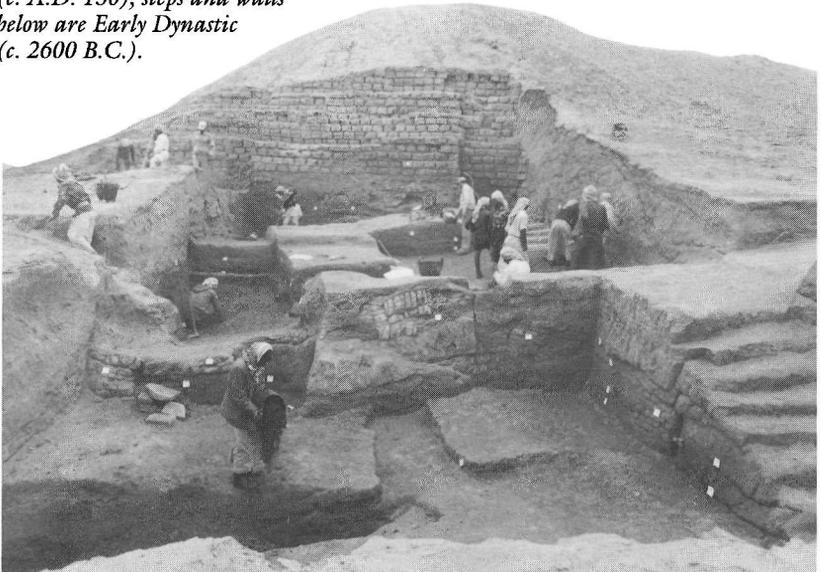
that the Hajji Muhammad phase of the Ubaid (c. 5000 B.C.) was probably the earliest occupation of Nippur. But we have known for some time that this scatter of early material is the result of Parthian building, not a reflection of the actual size of the most ancient settlement. Whenever we break apart Parthian mudbricks, we find pottery of almost any previous period, including Ubaid and Uruk. We also find baked clay and stone cones, which must originally have been associated with public buildings of the Uruk period. It has been suggested by several excavators at Nippur that the large, low basin enclosed by the city wall to the north of the ziggurat was created by the Parthians when they used this part of

the site as a quarry for material to make their mudbricks, destroying layers of early buildings as they excavated. This suggestion is very sensible and we hoped that our EA trench, located on the edge of that basin, might encounter the remains of some public building of the Uruk period over Ubaid strata. We now know, however, that to reach these levels, we would need to create an elaborate pumping system, which is not possible under present conditions.

Not having found Ur III and Akkadian remains under the Parthian in Area EA, Augusta McMahon put in exploratory trenches on either side of the ridge (Areas EB and EC). Area EB was located on the outer side of the city wall, at a place where Pennsylvania indicated that it had found Parthian mudbricks above smaller ones. At this



Area EA, on the city wall northeast of the ziggurat. Large bricks are Parthian (c. A.D. 150), steps and walls below are Early Dynastic (c. 2600 B.C.).



place, the large mudbricks were easily visible above smaller, rectangular bricks. Upon cleaning and defining these bricks and excavating below the smaller bricks, McMahon was able to recover a few sherds of probable Akkadian and Ur III date. We are fairly certain that the small bricks here are Ur III. She also cleaned debris from a stretch of Pennsylvania's exposures, and we were able to plan the details of Parthian construction already noted by the old expedition. Further work in EB would have entailed the removal of a mass of Parthian brickwork, which we were not prepared to carry out. McMahon therefore transferred her team to the southwest side of the ridge where a burned wall of small mudbricks had been left by Pennsylvania. This operation also met Parthian interference. These late builders had left a tiny area of Early Dynastic floors and walls bordered on all sides by deep trenches that were then filled with Parthian foundations. There was no Akkadian or Ur III here either. McMahon did notice a nearby ridge made up in large part of ashes, pottery-making slag, twisted sherds, and fragments of pottery kilns. This ridge might be the focus of a systematic investigation in future. From surface indications, this pottery-making area was in use in several periods, the last being the Early Islamic.

In mid-November, having reached water in Area EA, having recorded more than six meters' depth of Early Dynastic activity, and having been blocked from the Akkadian and Ur

III in EB and EC, we had to decide whether or not it would be fruitful to expand our work here. We already had a stratified sample of pottery from Early Dynastic I to III, which would allow interesting comparisons with the Inanna Temple sequence established in the early 1960's. We judged that the scale of architecture in EA was so enormous that it would require a much larger effort than we could afford in the three weeks remaining of the season. But we knew that in that time we could make great strides in answering a set of questions about Area WC, on the southern end of the site. We decided, therefore, to shut down EA and return to the city wall and houses at WC.

During the 13th and 14th Seasons (1975-76), the Nippur Expedition spent a great deal of time working on the city wall in Area WC. At that time, the evidence seemed to show that the fortifications were built in three phases. The earliest version of the city wall appeared to be very regularly planned, with small rectangular rooms running along its length. In the second phase, casemate foundations were built up against the first phase wall. Later, in the third phase, a superstructure was laid over the foundations and the earliest phase. We could date the first phase within or after the reign of Ur-Nammu, the first king of the Ur III dynasty (2112-2095

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 B.C.) by means of a seal impression mentioning him. The second phase could be dated to some time after the 44th year of Ur-Nammu's son Shulgi (2094-2047 B.C.) from a dated tablet found at this level. The phase-three superstructure was also built within the Ur III period, probably in the reign of the last king Ibbi-Sin who claimed to have built the wall of Nippur in his 6th year (c. 2023 B.C.).

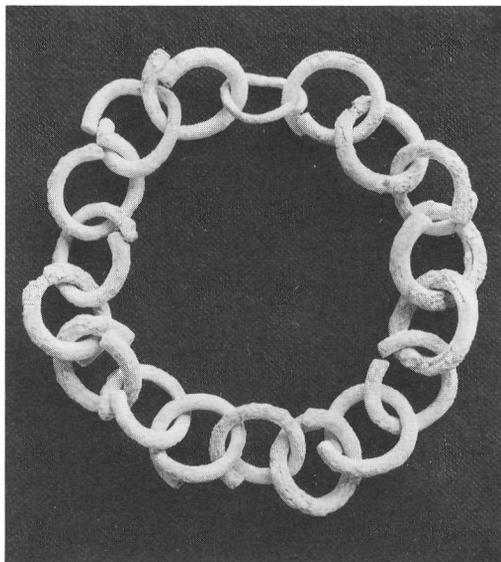
As we have worked to publish the final report on our work in WC, we have become increasingly uneasy with this reconstruction of events, because the first-phase "city wall" stopped and turned a corner towards the northeast when it should have continued to run northwest. In previous seasons, we were unable to remove the upper strata and follow the wall to see if it turned back to the northwest, making this deviation only the edge of a buttress. Until we could examine the

corner in detail, we had to face the possibility that the first phase was not a city wall at all, but only a large building.

We also had problems with the later history of the southern corner. We had found remains of a five-meter-wide city wall in the debris above the Ur III versions. Although in one place it seemed to be Kassite (c. 1250 B.C.), in another place, with better preserved stratigraphy, it was clearly built at the same time as late 7th century B.C. houses.

To resolve all difficulties, we laid out a long trench that was two meters wide on the outside of the city wall and three to four meters inside. We removed all late debris and the remnant of the superstructure (third phase) of the Ur III city wall, then exposed the earliest Ur III building, cutting to virgin soil in three places in

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*A bracelet made of lead,
 from the Ur III houses in
 Area WC-3 (c. 2100
 B.C.).*





Islamic pottery bowl fragment, in blue and black over white, glazed, from Area M, 14th century A.D.

the trench. This operation was an unqualified success.

Virgin soil consisted of greenish-yellow sand — real sand, not the clay and sand mixture called *aparna* that we see in the dunes at Nippur today. On the sand were layers of black, ashy debris from cooking fires, containing a few Ur III sherds. We can say with confidence that the southern corner of the site was not occupied before this period. Then, mudbrick houses were built. In these buildings in previous seasons we had found tablets, including administrative records regarding food preparation and distribution. A short time after the houses were occupied, the “first-phase city wall” was built, but we can now say for certain that this was not a city wall, but rather a very large, impressive, public building. We cannot yet determine its function since we have seen only some

portions of three of its walls. To build this large structure, one of the houses was partially demolished; then, its walls were rebuilt and run directly against the larger building. We assume that this house and the new building

were functionally linked, otherwise the house would not have been allowed to touch the new building. Large ovens and smaller bread ovens in and between the houses continued in use while the large building was in existence, so all buildings in the area may have served in provisioning the city. Later, the large building was leveled, and the foundations of the city wall were built against it (our old “second phase”). Finally, the city wall superstructure was laid over everything. This superstructure and its foundations constitute the the only city wall construction in the southern end of the site. We continue to think that the wall was the work of Ibbi-Sin (2028-2004 B.C.), the last king of the dynasty. Some new information argues for this dating of the wall. Under a



part of the superstructure we found a partially destroyed baked-brick chamber. The bricks of the chamber included two with a stamp of Amar-Suen (2046-38 B.C.). Since part of the foundation for the superstructure was laid inside this chamber, we can say that the foundations must date after the beginning of the reign of Amar-Suen. Ibbsin began ruling just ten years after Amar-Suen.

After the Ur III period, this part of the site was abandoned as a living area and the city wall decayed into a ridge. Some burials and other activities took place here in the Isin-Larsa and Old Babylonian periods (c. 2100-1600 B.C.), but this was not an area of housing. In the 13th century, Nippur was revived by the Kassites and once again dwellings were built in Area WC. We now know that at this time a five- or six-meter-wide city wall was built above the Ur III fortifications. At the same time, a moat was cut, ten meters wide and three meters deep. We had found the inner edge of the moat in earlier seasons, but had been unable to reach its lowest part because of groundwater, so we were obliged to date it by the latest pottery found in it, i.e. 7th century. We were able to reach the lowest levels in the current season and found beds of water-laid clay which were deposited when the moat was in use. The potsherds in these clay layers are no later than Kassite, so we can

correctly redate the moat to that period. After the Kassite period, Area WC was again deserted, and the moat filled up with wind-blown sand and clayey sediments that rain water brought down from the mound. In the 7th century, B.C., when Nippur experienced another expansion, the area was again used for housing. Another five-meter-wide city wall was built above the Ur III and Kassite versions, and the outer part of the old moat was re-excavated, although not filled with water, to make a defensive ditch. At the inside edge of the ditch a two stepped-defensive wall was built, meaning that an enemy had to get down into and over the ditch, then over the two-stepped wall before facing about fifteen meters of upsloping ground that lay in front of the actual city wall.

Besides working on the long trench at the city wall, we also re-examined the 7th century houses in the area. James Armstrong is finishing his doctoral dissertation on material from these buildings and he needed to resolve some stratigraphic problems. He worked for about a week with a small team and then joined the rest of the staff in the long trench.

As in previous seasons, Margaret Brandt carried out geomorphological and environmental observations around the site.

The staff for the 17th Season consisted of myself as director, Sayyid Muhammad Yahya as government representative, James A. Armstrong as assistant director and archaeologist, John C. Sanders as architect, Peggy Bruce Sanders as artist and photographer, Margaret Brandt as geomorpholo-

gist, Stephen Cole as epigrapher, Augusta McMahon as archaeologist and registrar. For ten days Abraham Van As and Loe Jacobs of the Belgian Expedition to Tell ed-Deir joined us to study the Nippur pottery. The Nippur Expedition and the Belgian Expedition are cooperating on a set of projects, predominantly geomorphological and ceramic.

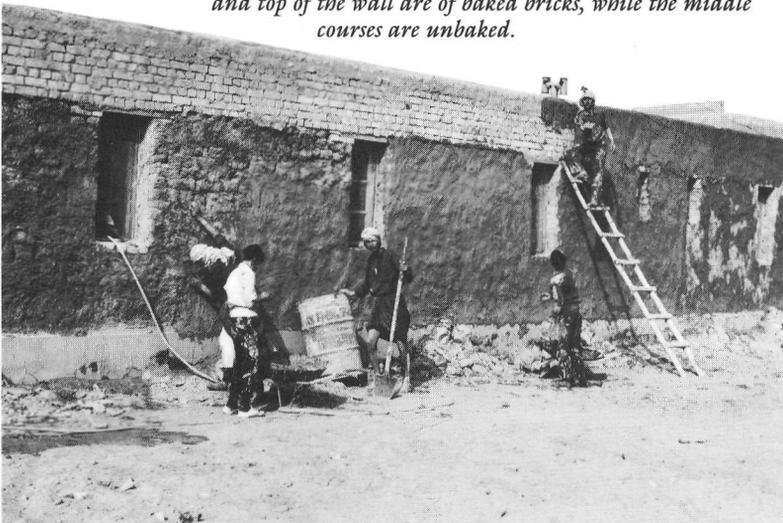
We were very fortunate this season to have the services of Sayyid Khalaf Bedawi, who had been foreman at Nippur in the 1940s and 1950s. Thereafter he served for years as an official with the Directorate General of Antiquities. He has now retired from government service and is available once again for Nippur. Our work gained greatly from his presence.

The 17th Season will be remembered by the staff as the year we obtained a washing machine. The Belgian Expedition sold us a Maytag, which it had bought from a sale of U.S. Embassy goods in 1972. The machine, made in 1967, worked well for the Belgians and is now back in American hands, still performing beautifully, making our dig life a little cleaner.

As in all seasons, we owe a great debt of thanks to Dr. Moayyad Sa'ïd Damirchi, the Director of Antiquities, and his staff for their help and encouragement in our work. We must especially mention Dr. Bahija Ismail, Director of the Iraq Museum, for her kindness in allowing samples to be exported for analysis. We were also aided in a number of ways by Ambassador and Mrs. David Newton, Mr. and



Replastering the Nippur expedition house with mud. The old plaster, from twenty years ago, had first been removed. The bottom and top of the wall are of baked bricks, while the middle courses are unbaked.





Mrs. Jack McCreary, and other members of the U. S. Embassy staff.

Here in Chicago, the year was an unusually eventful one. A special exhibition on Nippur was mounted in the Museum, opening with a dinner and a special program on May 16. A hundred years ago, the University of Pennsylvania sent out the first American expedition ever to work in Mesopotamia. In choosing Nippur, that expedition also became the first American team to excavate an ancient Near Eastern site rather than a Classical one. Although the expedition took place a few years before the birth of the University of Chicago, there was a Chicago connection. On the first expedition was a young Assyriologist, Robert Francis Harper, who wrote letters back to his brother, the eminent orientalist William Rainey Harper, then on the faculty at Yale. In the letters, the Harpers discussed the offer that had been made to W. R. Harper to become the University of Chicago's first president. Shortly after he took up the post, President Harper arranged for his brother, Robert Francis, to come to the University of Chicago as its first Assyriologist. This appointment, along with that of an Egyptologist and a Hebrew specialist, formed the department which grew into the Oriental Institute.

In 1988, we also celebrate the 40th anniversary of Chicago's commitment to Nippur, which began as a joint

expedition with Pennsylvania. The thousands of cuneiform documents found at Nippur by the old Pennsylvania expedition had acted as a vital stimulus for Akkadian and Sumerian studies, and it was thought that a return to the site would add substantially to the body of texts. The Joint Expedition also intended to apply modern techniques of excavation to the site in order to put the older finds in better context. After Pennsylvania's departure from the expedition in 1952, the American Schools of Oriental Research became the partner until 1962. Since then, Chicago has continued alone. Our current program of research is a continuation of the commitment made in 1948, adding aspects of environmental and anthropological research to the problems and unique opportunities provided by the site.

At the end of the 17th Season, we returned to Chicago and were almost immediately involved in preparations for the exhibition. John and Peggy Sanders prepared the graphic illustrations on computer and thus we were able to mount numerous five-color plans. Augusta McMahon researched the exhibit, working through old publications and unpublished notes from Pennsylvania's days and from the early Chicago years. She also edited and proofread my label copy and helped pick out objects for a special case on "securing a house" in ancient Mesopotamia, using items from Nippur.

Since so many of the objects on permanent exhibition in the Meso-

potamian Hall came from Nippur, we devised a guide to highlight these objects and to indicate how excavation at Nippur and subsequent work on finds have contributed to our understanding of Mesopotamian civilization in general. Once again, Augusta McMahan did the basic research on the items in the cases and edited my text. She also drew and reproduced illustrations for the guide.

Probably the most visually interesting part of the special exhibit was the set of photographs from the 1890s Pennsylvania expedition. We acknowledge the generous assistance of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania in providing these photographs. Richard L. Zettler, a former Nippur expedition member who is now at Pennsylvania, was very helpful in choosing specific photographs and expediting the orders.

The most affecting part of the exhibit for Oriental Institute staff and our long-term public supporters was probably a section with photos of past expedition teams, especially those featuring the late Carl Haines and his wife Irene with Carleton and Alice, their children who grew up in Afaj. Irene, Carleton, and Alice were able to join us for the opening night.

The turn-away crowd at the dinner had a chance to see the latest computer methods of presenting plans and objects. John and Peggy Sanders came from Arizona to show the results of their latest work with our material. We need to thank IBM for the loan of a PS2-80 computer and monitor and Jerry Rubin of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for other

hardware and for technical assistance in making this demonstration possible.

The expedition owes a debt of gratitude for the exhibit to the Museum Staff, especially Ray Tindel, James Richerson, Philip Petrie, Laura D'Alessandro, John Larson, and Jean Grant. We would also like to thank Kim Coventry for her special efforts to gain publicity for the exhibition. I must also mention Joan Barghusen, who produced a digested, two-page version of the walking guide to Nippur in the Mesopotamian Hall as part of her educational program.

Gretel Braidwood and Kathy St. John in the the Membership Office are also to be acknowledged for making the event a success. A great deal of volunteer effort lay behind the evening. Several "Friends of Nippur" furnished their time, ideas, and work. These include Eileen Hamer, Rita and Kitty Picken, Kathryn Kimball, Jane Imberman, Dorothy Hawley, Marie Louise Gardner, and Margaret Schröder. Prior to opening night Mary Jo Khuri and Mary Shea hosted a Friends of Nippur tea. I am especially grateful to Mary Jo Khuri for the preparation and mailing of Friends of Nippur newsletters during the year and to Janet Helman for preparing a computerized mailing list.

I wish to acknowledge the continuing financial support of all the Friends of Nippur, whose generosity makes our work possible. This private aid has been critical during the past few seasons when wartime conditions have made foundation grants even less obtainable.



The Prehistoric Project

*Linda S. Braidwood
Robert J. Braidwood*



about ten years ago, Bob invented what he calls "Braidwood's Law Number 53" (you've doubtlessly heard it): ▼ *"The wise archeologist*

goes to a site for only one season, digs only one small exposure and interpretation is simple and easy; one must not return and expose more!" ▼ We've just reread our "Archeological Newsletter" to the Oriental Institute dated June 22, 1964. We had just completed our first season's digging at Çayönü. We had opened two modest squares that together equalled about the area of one tennis court. There was enough yield in artifacts, however, to assure us that Çayönü was a site of great promise. The architectural remains were especially impressive. In addition, there was promise of much evidence (animal bones, plant material, etc.) to help in understanding the natural environment of Çayönü's time. ▼ In twelve seasons of work at Çayönü we've exposed areas equivalent to about nineteen tennis courts, most of it to some depth and with stratigraphic changes. There are thousands of artifacts and thousands of non-artifactual finds of which only a small fraction has yet been analyzed. By law, none of the artifacts may leave Turkey so that analysis must be done either in the field or in Istanbul University. The cost of keeping our own graduate students there for the analysis/processing is prohibitive. We are, however, participating in the training of an increasing number of very good young Turkish students and this is a good feeling. In addition, one thing has become increasingly clear over the years: Çayönü was definitely not the comparatively simple village we naively thought, in 1964, it would turn out to be. ▼ The broad areas opened at Çayönü have yielded an astonishing variety of architectural remains and we were most fortunate when our colleagues from Karlsruhe joined forces with us. The excavating tradition in Germany has long been one of concern with the use of stone as building material. In addition, Wulf Schirmer and his staff with their interest in the history of architecture are superbly equipped to get the greatest meaning from the building remains we find at Çayönü. This is especially important because it may be that — in what seems to be a transition from casual hut-like shelters to the beginnings of formalized building planning — ARCHITECTURE was being born. ▼ As to actual excavation in the 1987 season — we had hoped to finish the large public building, the "skull" building, but several pits containing masses of human bones turned up very late in the season. This is extremely time-consuming work and had to be left for the 1988 season. Some work was

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*



Air view. The exposure of building foundations in the easternmost of the two areas of excavation at Çayönü.

done on the earliest sub-phase containing wattle and daub huts, but unfortunately the area exposed had only meagre remains of this sub-phase. We were more fortunate in working on the latest sub-phase, for although the excavated area was very close to the surface, fairly numerous building remains were exposed. More await the 1988 digging season. We are fascinated to know whether these remains — which include pottery — will turn out to be the latest aspect of the main Çayönü prehistoric phase.

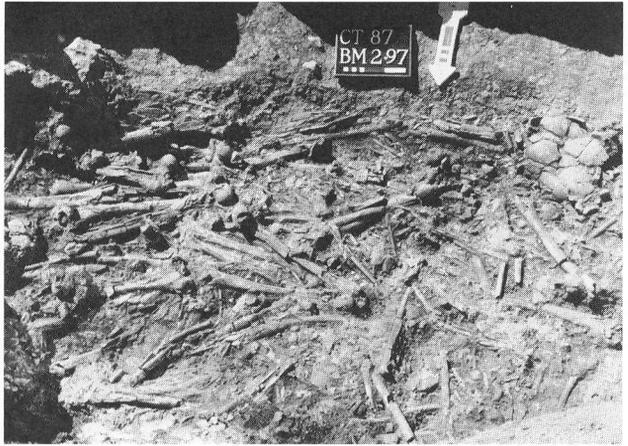
During the spring of 1988, Prof. Wulf Schirmer arranged a working session at Karlsruhe to correlate all the different levels and findspots at Çayönü. Asli Özdoğan (the wife of Mehmet Özdoğan, Çayönü's field director), a Ph.D candidate at Istanbul University with many seasons' experience on the site, Erhan Bıçakçı, another Turkish field hand, who is



Air view. The exposure of building foundations at the end of the 1964 (the first) season of excavation.

now a Ph.D. candidate at the Karlsruhe Institute, and our regular field assistant of many years, Mike Davis, were all at Wulf's institute for several months for the correlation job. This should put us a long way

▼ ▼ ▼
One of the clusters of human bones in the deeper aspect of the "skull building," exposed in 1987.



ahead, since there has never been time at the end of any given field season to make the correlation of the records of that season with those of earlier seasons.

We used to complain bitterly about radiocarbon determinations while working on Jarmo in north Iraq, for we had a stupendous range of radioactive carbon age assays to choose from. Cayönü is acting most civilized as regards its carbon age assays (most come from Groningen University's

counter in Holland). The twenty-one assays from the upper-middle to the basal levels all fall within seven hundred years - 6800 to 7500 B.C. (uncalibrated). Given the new agreements on the additional calibration necessary for the time range of these twenty-one assays, we feel assured that Çayönü was a flourishing, far from simple, village of ten thousand years ago.

▼ ▼ ▼

*An Early Bronze
Age Cemetery in the
Northern Jordan
Valley, Israel*

Douglas L. Esse

Since my return from Jerusalem in the fall of 1987, I have renewed my work on the material from the Oriental Institute excavations at Beth Yerah

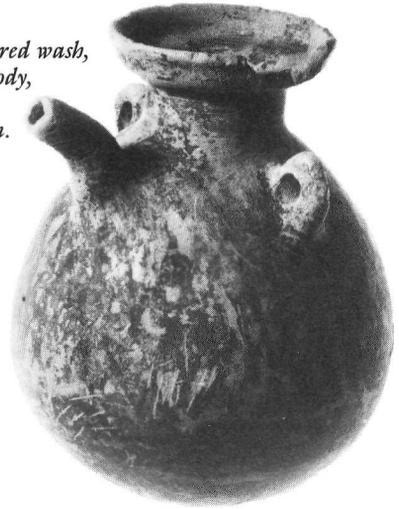
(Khirbet Kerak) in the northern Jordan Valley of Israel. Although much of the preparation has been done for the material dating to the latter part of the Early Bronze Age (EB II-III), the earliest phase of the occupation at the site (EB I) has not been examined in detail. ▼ In order to supplement the excavated sherds from Beth Yerah with whole vessel forms of the EB I, I began to examine the EB tomb deposits excavated by the Oriental Institute at Nahal Tabor, about 10 kilometers south of Beth Yerah. The deposits from the tombs of this cemetery proved to be exceedingly rich, both in quantity and in diversity of type. This led to my decision to gather the various records of the excavation (some were in Chicago and some in Jerusalem) and to prepare the finds for a complete publication. ▼ At the request of the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums, Prof. P. Delougaz, who at the time was excavating at nearby Beth Yerah, agreed to conduct salvage excavations at the cemetery in 1964 and 1966. Assisted by several members of Kibbutz Gesher and some of the staff from the Beth Yerah excavations, Delougaz cleared a total of 19 tombs. Although some tombs had been looted, most contained at least a few complete vessels. Some of the tomb deposits were quite large, with numerous whole vessels, and one tomb had more than 60 complete pots from the Early Bronze Age. Most of the tombs in the cemetery dated to the first part of the Early Bronze Age, but one tomb contained Middle Bronze Age vessels and two tombs dated to the the Late Bronze I period. Several tombs also included vessels that may date to the very end of the third millennium (EB IV/MB I). ▼ The cemetery was located on a hillside just at the point where the Nahal Tabor (Wadi Bira) debouches from the hills of Lower Galilee into the flatland of the Jordan Valley. Most of the tombs were roughly semi-circular. They had originally been hewn into the soft rock of the hillside, but severe erosion for the past several millennia had removed the chamber roofs, and when they were excavated the tombs were simply depressions in the earth. In some cases flat limestone slabs were carefully laid to form a floor for the tomb chamber. ▼

Because of the severe erosion, preservation of skeletal material was not good. In some of the chambers the number of skulls and skull fragments indicates multiple burial, but accurate counts of buried individuals and their placement at death will be

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*



"Teapot." Buff ware with red wash, lattice burnish on upper body, lower body completely burnished. Height 12.6 cm. Early Bronze I, Tomb 4.



difficult to reconstruct. Skeletal analysis will be able to provide a tally of the minimum number of individuals in each tomb, however.

Because we are still at an early stage of analysis, it is difficult to provide a precise chronological span for the tomb deposits, but three of the tombs do contain excellent examples of Gray Burnished ware. Although the number of vessels accompanying the Gray Burnished ware vessels is small, it should at least broaden the known assemblage of vessels from this earliest phase of the Early Bronze I period.

The tombs have numerous examples of high loop-handled cups (ubiquitous in EB I tombs), bowls with conoid projections (common in deposits in northern Palestine), "teapots," and other spouted vessels. Only one tomb yielded a significant number of vessel types that may go into EB II (Tomb 44). This tomb also contained one example of a Khirbet Kerak ware bowl, but its context is uncertain.

The Early Bronze Age vessels from Nahal Tabor have much in common with the cemetery excavated by Garstang and Kenyon at Jericho. The recent excavations by M. Sebbane at En HaNaziv have also produced an assemblage which is strikingly similar to that of Nahal Tabor.

Several daggers and one axe were recovered, and in at least one case the rivets for fastening the dagger to a wooden handle were still preserved in the butt of the blade. The metal weapons found in these tombs were in excellent condition, probably due to the relatively dry conditions of the Jordan Valley. One limestone macehead was also found.

The publication of the Nahal Tabor cemetery should be seen in the context of the veritable explosion of information on the Early Bronze Age which has occurred in the last decade. New excavations and the publication of older excavations have provided us with a wealth of data to begin a

serious analysis of the process of urbanization and possible state formation in late fourth and early third millennium Palestine.

In addition to the study of these large-scale political and cultural questions made possible by these excavations, we are beginning to be able to draw our regional maps with more confidence. The identification of relatively small regional territories is giving sharper definition to our chronology of the EB I, a problem which has always plagued us in our attempt to study the transformation from the "village" culture of EB I to the relatively more "urban" EB II-III period. The Nahal Tabor cemetery should prove to be a useful contribu-

tion to the burgeoning study of Early Bronze Age sites in the Rift Valley from Tel Dan in the north to Bab edh-Dhra in the south.

Although some of the vessels have been published separately, it is important to present the full context of these pieces. It should also provide a good selection of whole forms against which we can compare the fragmentary sherd material excavated from settlement sites, as well as contributing to our knowledge of burial customs from this early period. Though the excavations at Nahal Tabor were conducted more than 20 years ago, we are confident that the publication of the cemetery will serve as a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the material culture of Palestine in the Early Bronze Age.



The cemetery is on the slope in the foreground, Kibbutz Gesher in the background. View to the North.



Aqaba

Donald Whitcomb

The port of Aqaba is Jordan's southern window on the world and has become a commercial port and tourist resort of primary importance. The castle of

Aqaba, where pilgrims to Mecca rested in Mamluk and Ottoman times, was the focus of only the most recent settlement. Before Saladin fought the Crusaders in this place, merchants of the Abbasid and Fatimid periods traded in goods from areas stretching from the Maghreb to China. And before this, a procession of Byzantine, Roman, Nabataean, and even Biblical peoples inhabited this town.

▼ For the last 50 years, in the midst of the development of the modern city, little attention has been paid to these ruins in the heart of the city and the land on which they stand ran the risk of being sold for development. In these circumstances the Oriental Institute began limited soundings in the spring of 1986, followed by major excavations in the spring of 1987. These excavations have revealed a complex architectural and artifactual documentation of great importance for the history of Aqaba, Jordan, and the entire Middle East.¹ ▼ The medieval city of Aqaba is on a slight rise above the beach near the center of the modern town. The ruins are cut by a deep drainage ditch, called the wadi, north of the Coast Guard station and extend between the Corniche road and

¹The excavations were made possible with the assistance of many people, especially Dr. Adnan Hadidi, Dr. Ghazi Bisheh, and Mr. Suleiman Farajat, from the Department of Antiquities, Mr. Nasri Atalla of the Department of Tourism, and Dr. Dureid Mahasneh of the Aqaba Region Authority. Special thanks are due to Dr. David Mc Creery for assistance and facilities at ACOR and to Mr. Rami Khoury, for initial encouragement and brilliant reportage. We are also indebted to the people of Aqaba, who took an active interest in the wonder of their past. The excavations were funded by grants from the National Geographic Society and the United States Agency for International Development as well as through contributions to the Oriental Institute. ▼ The staff included Ghazi Bisheh, Suleiman Farajat, Khairieh Amir, Hanan Azar, from the Department of Antiquities, Robin Brown, Rosa Frey, Jessica Hallett, Janet Johnson, Allison McQuitty, Carol Meyer, Yvonne Seng, Guillermo Algaze, Essam Ellhadi, James Knudstadt, and Robert Smithers. Mary Lassen and Debbie Schwartz helped process materials from the excavation which had been brought to Chicago for study.

**The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report**

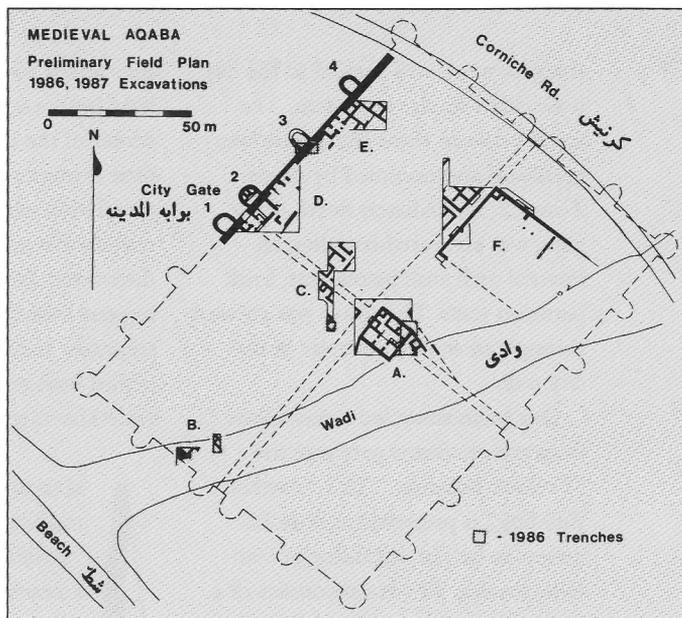


1987 city plan

the beach. Only flat sand and a palm grove could be seen on the surface before excavations, which revealed a great walled city, its walls and buildings preserved at least 4 meters in height. An historic sequence from a pre-Umayyad foundation (early 7th

century) through the Fatimid until destruction by the Crusaders (early 12th century) was identified. During this occupation, and particularly the Abbasid period, ceramics indicate participation in an extensive trade network connecting Egypt and Syria with Iraq and China.

The city of Ayla, medieval Aqaba, was rectangular in plan, 120 x 160 meters, enclosed by a stone city wall with towers, preserved 4.5 meters in height. Work during the 1987 season concentrated on this enclosure wall and several elements of the city's urban architecture. The faces of the city wall consisted of granite and sandstone blocks with, in certain portions, a good lime plaster. The matrix of the wall was mud mixed with quantities of small cobbles. Circular towers were found along the length of the wall. Between the towers, the city wall narrowed to a



thinner curtain wall to accommodate buildings.

One city gate flanked by two such towers was excavated, revealing a complex history of rebuilding. The total preserved height of the wall was at least 4.5 meters, at which depth the water table prevented reaching the wall foundations and street pavement. The gate was 3 meters wide with a round arch in its earliest form; this was narrowed and, as the street levels rose, a secondary pointed arch was built into the filled in gateway. Eventually only a basalt drain pipe ran through the small doorway. Within the fill in front of the gate were blocks with a monumental Kufic inscription containing parts of the Ayat al-Kursi, a Quranic quotation used for protection of the city. Inside

▼ ▼ ▼
 the gate was a wall parallel to the city wall with a similar large arch. The space between these arches was later narrowed and occupied by shops. Tower 2, immediately north of the gate, was excavated revealing an internal arch and, below that, brick partition walls. The tower was entered through an arched doorway in the city wall.

One main street led across town from the excavated gate past the “Pavilion Building.” This “Pavilion Building” is preserved at least 3.5 meters in height, including at least two rebuilds. The latest consists of a series of rooms around small courts; entrance stairs are on the northwest. One of the south rooms has fresco decoration on one wall, consisting of very fragmentary floral motifs and geometric designs in red and black paint. Both the southwest and southeast exterior walls of the building were originally built with 3.5 meter wide arches, suggesting that

the earliest form of this building may have been a sort of pavilion in the center of the city. While there is too little evidence for a palace, some association with a governor’s residence is not unlikely. Artifacts discovered during the excavations suggest that the structure was originally built during the Umayyad period with reuse and rebuilding in the Abbasid period.

A second possible merchant’s residence similar to the “Pavilion Building” fronted on a nearby street with layered debris 4.5 meters deep. Late reuse, north of and intruding into the original street, included structures built almost entirely of mud-brick, rather than stone, and featuring numerous ovens in an irregular court.

The second main city street, perpendicular to the first, ran from



▼ ▼ ▼
The visit to the site of Aqaba of the United States Ambassador to Jordan, His Excellency Roscoe Suddarth.



A Chinese stoneware jar with green glaze, the make-shift lid is the base of another jar of a type produced in Iraq in the 9th century. The excavator beams next to her discovery.



the open area in front of the “Pavilion Building” to the northeast gate. East of this street were the long walls of the “large enclosure,” characterized by substantial construction with grey mortar. A well-constructed platform and stairway associated with an elaborate drain may mark an entrance to this building, whose function has not yet been determined.

The artifacts from each of these areas have revealed the remarkable character of this city. The earliest ceramics are sherds of fine Nabataean painted bowls and Roman wares, found out of context. The earliest in situ materials are Late Roman types found in association with ones known from late Byzantine and Umayyad contexts. While these latter types are known from Palestine, stylistic characteristics point to a connection with Coptic Egypt.

From the 9th century on, ceramics include glazed wares, most commonly bowls and jars with a glossy monochrome glaze, yellow, brown or green. In some examples, the decoration, as well as the vessel forms, are distinctively Samarran, characteristic of the 9th century caliphal capital north of Baghdad. Numerous pieces of the finest Abbasid ceramic art, bowls with lustre colors, have been found. While most of these come from Iraq, some may be the products

of Tulunid Egypt. These fine wares are associated with fragments of blue-green glazed storage jars, probably produced in Basra. Far Eastern ceramics were found in association with these Abbasid wares; e.g., a large celadon jar was found with the broken base of a Basra storage jar used as a lid. Dating of these celadons and porcelains precisely matches that of the Islamic ceramics.²

Ceramics of the Fatimid period illustrate a strong dichotomy on this site. On the one hand there are fine glazes, including lustre depictions. There are also increasing amounts of hand made, very crude cups, bowls

²*The Far Eastern ceramics are the subject of special studies by John Carswell and Dr. Ho Chui-mei.*

▼ ▼ ▼ and basins (the nesting range of sizes and common characteristics led to these being called “Tupperware” during the excavation). Many of these have painted decorations; some of the painted styles clearly anticipate the geometric painted wares which predominate during the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods.

Chronological and inter-regional trade implications derived from study of the ceramics are confirmed by other artifactual categories. For instance, glass sherds representing each of the periods are present, though the majority are glass bowls and cups of the Abbasid period.³ Numerous architectural elements of carved stone, usually limestone, were found. Also uncovered were parts of a chancel screen and a capital made of marble and typical of late Byzantine church elements, e.g., at Mt. Nebo. Fragments of an imperial Roman dedicatory plaque were also discovered.

The issue of the pre-Islamic town remains problematic. Whatever the nature of the Nabataean and earlier settlements, there must have existed a large Roman camp, which accommodated the Xth legion Fretensis in the 4th century. While Nabataean, Ro-

man and early Byzantine sherds have been found on the site, mainly in the matrix of the walls, no distinctive levels or concentrations have been found. On the other hand, surface sharding to the northwest of the site, for a distance of about 500 meters, has produced just such ceramic material. Though no walls of a legionary camp are visible yet, one may suggest that ruins of the earlier town lie next to the Islamic town.

This has important implications for the foundation of the Islamic town. One of the characteristics of the *amsār*, the camp towns founded during the Muslim conquest, is that they tended to be situated next to older towns. Further, research into the history of Aqaba, combined with study of the earliest ceramics in deep stratigraphic probes, suggests that the foundation of this site probably occurred during the caliphate of ‘Uthmân, about 650 A.D. The archaeological implications of this hypothesis are that in Aqaba one has pre-Umayyad (and early Umayyad) ceramics, architecture, and urban planning. This is one of the first, clear archaeological examples of this transition, of the earliest stages in the development of Muslim civilization.

The Abbasid and Fatimid periods at Aqaba represent important additions to the history of Jordan, deriving from a unique opportunity to clarify the archaeology of these two neglected periods. Aqaba was an active participant in the prosperity of Abbasid times, with connections to

³*This summary is based on an analysis of the glass prepared by Dr. Carol Meyer.*

Egypt, Iraq, and the Far East. Parallels with Egypt are mainly with Fustat; more dramatic are the connections with the Abbasid corpus from Samarra. Thus, from the fine lustre wares, the blue-green storage jars, and the celadon bowls found at Aqaba comes the first irrefutable proof of the participation of the “port of Palestine” in the extensive international commerce of the eastern Caliphate. Towards the end of occupation at this site, the architecture and ceramics signal the growing turbulence of the 11th century and anticipate aspects of the archaeologically better known Ayyubid and Mamluk periods in Jordan.



Excavation of the Egyptian gate by Guillermo Algaze; earlier arch is just visible and its jambs continue down another 2 meters.



The site of medieval Aqaba is unique in Jordan and, although half of the city has been destroyed, it is almost miraculous that so much of it remains to be studied. The preserved height of its towered city walls, its streets and houses, means that complete excavation will reveal an Islamic city comparable to Jerash. In some ways, medieval Aqaba is even more important than Jerash, since it provides two opportunities: first, as a clear contribution to understanding the development of Islamic cultural history, and second, as a focus for regional interaction and inter-regional commerce in medieval times. In these and other areas of interest, the site of Aqaba may hopefully enhance historical understanding and provide models for the archaeology of the more remote past.

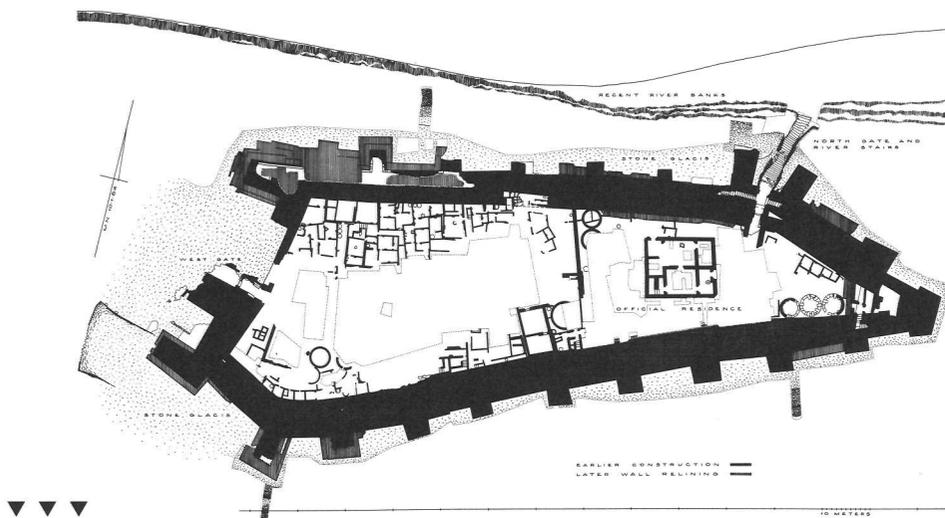
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*Nubian
Publication
Project*

*Lisa Heidorn
Bruce Williams*

The first millennium B.C. contains one of the great blank spaces in the archaeology of the Nile Valley. Although the region between Napata, almost at the Fourth Cataract, and Aswan contains a number of stone monuments, evidence of a civil population such as habitations and cemeteries is sparse. Several centuries are unrepresented altogether, or their remains lie unrecognized in the records and artifacts from long-finished excavations. This situation is surprising, for the period saw the rise of the Empire of Kush at Napata and Meroe which ruled Egypt as its Twenty-Fifth Dynasty and championed her civilization against the foreign rulers that beset her. In recent years, the discovery of a major cemetery at the Third Cataract and a small number of graves excavated by the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition (OINE) at Qustul (*Oriental Institute Annual Report 1980-1981*, p. 31) has led to the identification of scattered remains of Twenty-Fifth Dynasty date. The indications, though definite, lacked the substance and form offered by the excavation of a major habitation site. ▼ The best surprise of all came when Ph. D. candidate Lisa Heidorn undertook the study of Dorginarti, which she quickly found was the much-needed major site of the first millennium. This discovery will take its place as one of the most significant made in the entire Nubian rescue, even though it happened over twenty years after the excavation. Her account follows. *B.W.* ▼ In 1964 the Oriental Institute conducted a salvage campaign on the island of Dorginarti, a site located at the lower end of the Second Cataract in Sudanese Nubia. The archaeological materials uncovered during the excavation give evidence of a substantial fortified settlement which played an important role in the interaction between Nubia and Egypt in the first millennium B.C. The analysis of these materials is the initial stage in my dissertation research and, in the fall of 1986, these artifacts were viewed for the first time since the expedition of 1964. ▼ The earliest finds, including most of the ceramic material and small objects, have proven to be of a first millennium B.C. date, and at least some of the ceramics can be dated more specifically to the 6th century B.C. The precise dating of Egyptian ceramics after 1100 B.C. has proven to be a somewhat elusive process for Egyptian archaeologists, and not much material has been published from well-stratified sites of these time periods. The analysis of the partially stratified finds from Dorginarti should help to clarify the Third Intermediate and Late Period ceramic sequences in both Egypt and Nubia.

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*



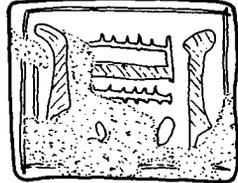
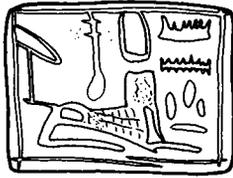
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*Plan of Dorginarti Fort
 in the Napatan Period.*

Detailed evidence for the date of at least one phase of settlement at Dorginarti, and the extensive contacts of Lower Nubia with the regions to the north, are attested at the site by a few exotic forms of pottery brought in by mercenaries or by trade. These examples include a Chian wine amphora of a type well dated by the Athenian Agora excavations and found at sites in the Nile Delta, a Phoenician type flask of Iron Age date, and a four-handled krater and Phoenician amphorae fragments of types known from Late Iron Age contexts in the eastern Delta and the Levant. A majority of the pottery is Egyptian, but a small amount of handmade Nubian pottery also appears. Meroitic and Christian pottery from the top strata of the fort testifies to a limited activity at the site during these periods.

The work so far has consisted of the drawing and classification of the pottery and has been interspersed with archival research aimed at dating the site and defining the historical context in which the fortress existed. The Nubian military adventures of the Saite king Psammetichus II (595-589 B.C.) and the isolated inscription of Amasis (570-526 B.C.) from Elephantine, perhaps referring to a trade caravan with a military guard, are the last interactions between Egypt and Nubia that we hear of during the 6th century B.C., and the advance of the first Persian kings into Nubia as reported in Herodotus (III 97, 2) is often considered to be of no historical



*Small objects of the
Napatan Period
from Dorginarti:
1) Incised steatite
plaque of the
Napatan Period*



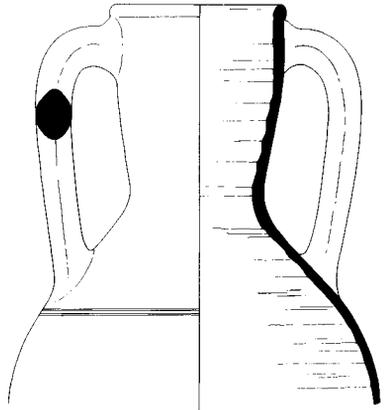
merit. This new evidence, along with some of the new evidence from other sites in Nubia, is proving that the Kushites did not totally retreat to their isolated capital in the south after they lost control of Egypt, but that some kind of military and economic activity continued to occur between the north and the south via routes in Lower Nubia. The nature of this activity and the chronological range of the site of Dorginarti will be defined only through further research. *L.H.*

The excitement of discovery did not change the project's daily routine in 1987-1988, which has concentrated on the editing of OINE IV, the production (reduction and masking)

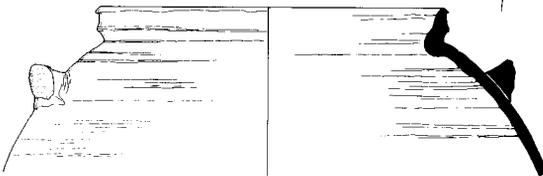
of the illustrations for OINE IV, VIII, and IX, and the conversion of OINE VIII and IX into usable electronic manuscripts. Research and writing continues on manuscripts still outstanding, and a study of the chemistry of clays used in local pottery is expected to yield results shortly. *B.W.*



2) Chian amphora



*3) Twenty-Fifth Dynasty
or Saite jar rim*





Philology

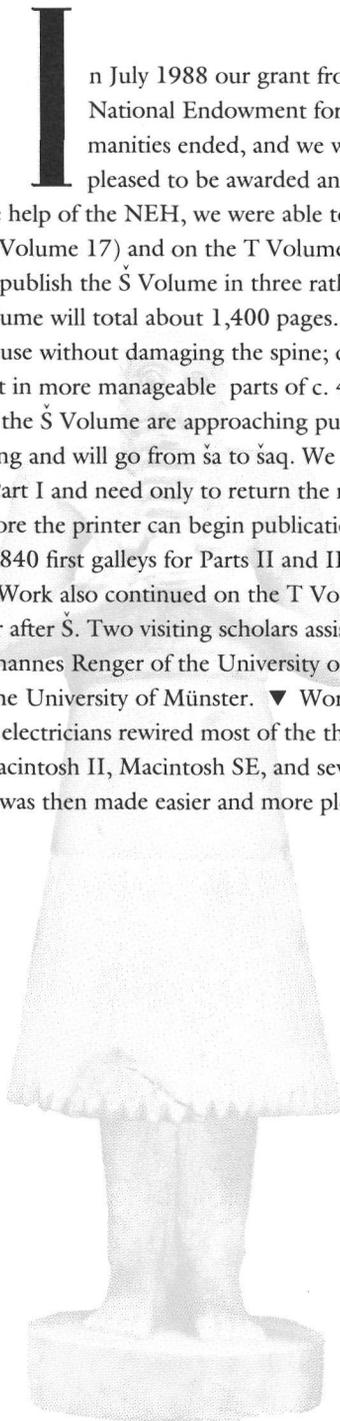
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*Chicago Assyrian
Dictionary*

Erica Reiner

In July 1988 our grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities ended, and we were very pleased to be awarded another two-year grant by the NEH. With the help of the NEH, we were able to make progress on both the Š Volume (Volume 17) and on the T Volume (Volume 18). We made a final decision to publish the Š Volume in three rather than two parts after estimating that the volume will total about 1,400 pages. A volume of 700 pages would be too large to use without damaging the spine; dividing the volume into three parts will result in more manageable parts of c. 450-500 pages each. ▼ All three parts of the Š Volume are approaching publication. Part I will be about 520 pages long and will go from ša to šaq. We have already returned page proofs 1-411 for Part I and need only to return the remaining page proofs and front matter before the printer can begin publication. Additionally, the printer has returned 840 first galleys for Parts II and III, representing 3,500 manuscript pages. ▼ Work also continued on the T Volume, which will be the next volume to appear after Š. Two visiting scholars assisted in writing drafts for T, Professor Johannes Renger of the University of Berlin and Dr. Marie-Christine Ludwig of the University of Münster. ▼ Work was disrupted for several weeks while electricians rewired most of the third floor in preparation for the arrival of a Macintosh II, Macintosh SE, and several window air conditioners. However, work was then made easier and more pleasant by the addition of these improvements.

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*



Demotic Dictionary

*Demotic Facsimiles -
Reasons, Methods,
and Problems*

Robert K. Ritner

During the past year, the Demotic Dictionary staff has continued the arduous but necessary process of standardizing and proofreading all text

entries for the dictionary supplement. In addition the bibliographic sources for all cited texts were compiled and entered on computer, with specific information provided when possible for each text's place of origin, date and present accessibility. The designations for place of origin and date, are accompanied by brief explanatory notations including FS ("Find Spot"), meaning that the text was actually discovered there; I ("Internal" evidence), meaning that the text itself indicates its origin or date; onomastics, meaning that recognizable personal names suggest a location or date; and paleography, which means that the style of the handwriting indicates location and date. ▼ The latter problem of paleography has dominated much of the staff's efforts this year. We have just begun making facsimiles of all the words which will appear in the supplement. While our previous research on meanings, nuance, idiomatic expressions, etymology, general discussions, and bibliography will fill most of the supplement, the exact reproduction of words and phrases in their individual handwriting styles will provide the heart of the volume and may well be its most important feature. As case with most dictionaries, our Demotic Dictionary will be consulted more often for "spelling" than for definitions, and "spelling" is a particularly difficult matter in Demotic, where a single word may have a wide range of forms. Copies of "samples" of individual words in distinct handwritings are already found in the *Demotisches Glossar* of W. Erichsen (1954) which served as the basis of our supplement. Unfortunately, virtually none of Erichsen's copies is identified by text. Without knowing where specific words were found, the scholar gains little information on changes in writing across regions or time periods. Most of Erichsen's entries are copied in an idealized "normalschrift" ("normal script") which reflects no specifically attested writing and which shows none of the ligatures which link signs in handwriting. Such ligatures are the characteristic feature which distinguishes any "longhand" from "printed" script, and they are also the source of most problems in reading "longhand" scripts. Much to the chagrin of student and scholar, the Demoticist rarely encounters a neatly "printed" handwriting in "normalschrift." Instead, he daily confronts a bewildering array of signs compressed and spun together with ink, deformed from their "ideal" shapes almost to the point of unrecognizability. Lacking a

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*



documented, representative selection of handwritings, scholars often misread even common words, for an unrecognized single flick or dot of ink may result in a wildly inaccurate translation. Therefore, the Chicago Demotic Dictionary is including copies of every new, distinctive handwriting of each word examined in the supplement.

The critical need for careful facsimiles derives from the nature of Demotic itself. Designed primarily for handwriting, the Demotic script was known as *šš* or “letter writing” in Egyptian and was intended for correspondence, records, receipts, and other personal and business documents. Only secondarily was it used for formal carved texts, which were normally in hieroglyphs, or for religious purposes, in which the hieroglyphic or hieratic scripts were preferred for reasons of tradition. If carved or painted hieroglyphs should be seen as the Egyptian equivalent of “printing,” Demotic represents the end result of centuries of simplifications of the traditional “longhand” script known as hieratic. In both hieratic and Demotic, many originally distinct hieroglyphic signs may be ligatured together by pulling the brush from one sign to another in a continuous stroke. In the cursive Demotic script, however, these ligatures predominate, leaving few individual signs and yielding a quick Egyptian “shorthand.” Most importantly, the shapes of these ligatures are constantly reduced by the scribes to conform to a few common patterns, so that many linked signs

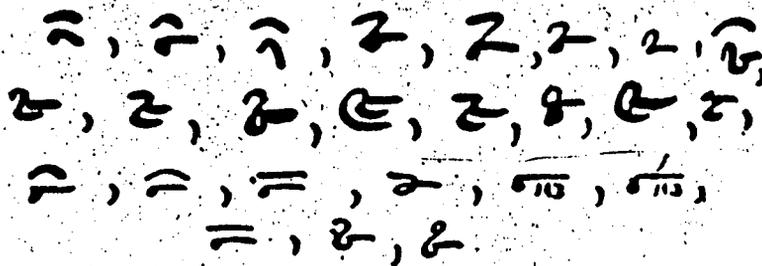
come to be indistinguishable:

b+n, c+n, t+n, r+n, r+t all appear as the group Σ , which also serves to write *qt* “to build,” *cwy* “house,” etc. With simplification and speed governing the script, words are often reduced to a few essential strokes, with only a few dots or lines distinguishing any one of a dozen different words. The writing system itself then often depends primarily not on letters or signs, but on specific graphic indicators such as common groups and accompanying strokes. Minute differences in ink may make major differences in meaning. Consider these words, whose signs have been reduced to forms of the group Σ :

bēk “servant”	bnr “outside”
	
ph “to reach”	šm “to go”
	

The problem of recognizing such distinctions is made much more complicated by the idiosyncracies of personal handwriting, as can be demonstrated by a few examples, illustrated on the top of the following page, of the simple phrase “to you”.

As is evident, the forms vary greatly, and in certain hands the phrase even becomes identical with the previous group Σ . To make matters worse, some of these writings are equally indistinguishable from forms of the words *wš* “lacking,” *km* “black,” *nšy* “these,” and the phrase *m-ir* “Don’t!” No simple transliteration or “normalschrift” can capture the range of such forms. If the Dictionary’s definitions and discussions will aid in the translation of the language, only by



reproducing the paleographic distinctions of handwriting can the Dictionary aid in the decipherment of its script.

Given the importance of accurate copies of words for decipherment, and for the study of geographical, temporal and individual scribal peculiarities, the Dictionary staff has designed a method for obtaining the best reproductions possible. For every example to be copied within each section, a slip of paper with identifying text and supplemental page reference(s) is prepared to hold the facsimile. We determine what access we have to any given text: whether by Dictionary photograph, published photograph, editor's handcopy or any combination of these. All sources of the text are examined for the best copy of the specific word desired, giving preference to photographics over handcopies. If the quality of a photograph or published handcopy is good, it is xeroxed onto parchment tracing paper. If the quality is marginal, a xerox copy is made and then retouched. If the quality is poor, we make our own handcopies on vellum. We use rapidograph pens of varying fineness in an effort to capture the ductus of the original brush or pen. Copies are double

checked by a senior member of the Dictionary staff, and the completed copy is affixed to its slip and filed. Later it will be photo-offset at the right margin of the completed supplement page.

It is most efficient in terms of ease, speed, and accuracy to rely on xerox copies when possible, but most texts reproduce poorly and must either be strengthened or completely drawn. Because any element of modern drawing might introduce error, all our copies are designated on the slips and in the supplement as retouched xerox (x↔), editor's handcopy (e↔) or Dictionary handcopy (↔). Difficulties (and potential errors) arise in making handcopies for various reasons. A poor quality (dark, grainy) photo is the most common source of problems. The copyist must distinguish between extraneous fibres, genuine ink and shadows or holes in the text, all of which may show up equally dark. With no contrast between words and surrounding dark patches and flecks, the copyist may easily be misled.

The varying thickness of ink strokes is another factor which must be noted in making copies. Stroke thickness is important for determining the order in which a scribe wrote a word - by noting where the brush or pen begins

▼ ▼ ▼
to run out of ink. It is also important for dating handwritings; the traditional brush with its thick strokes gives way in the Roman period to a reed pen and a thin spidery line. As noted above, our copies are made with pens of different thicknesses to reproduce this feature as much as possible. Carved texts present a different set of problems; one must decide what is carving and what is surface shadow, pitting or scratches, and whether to draw the inside or outside of a carved line. Moreover, since Demotic was designed as a “letter script,” its rounded flowing line adapts poorly to carving, and signs are often malformed, being made blocky or squared.

Broken texts or words require particular attention. The words are indicated as broken on the slips and in the supplement, and the copyist must decide what remains of the ink or carved traces at the edges of holes, on scratched or flaking surfaces and where fibres have been split from the middle of a papyrus. If the text is a palimpsest (one text written atop a poorly erased older text), the copyist must decide which strokes and flecks go with the surface text and which with the earlier. Similarly, where words overlap within any text, the copyist must disentangle the strokes, and conventions must also be applied when words span two or more lines. Problems of disentangling words are equally common when the text is a graffito. Whether carved or painted,

graffiti suffer from random scratches, weathering, and, not infrequently, other overlapping graffiti.

A different set of problems may arise if no photograph is available of a text, and the dictionary must rely on editors’ handcopies. Older handcopies can be notoriously inaccurate, especially if the editor did not understand the Demotic he was copying. With such examples, the Dictionary can only reproduce the handcopy with an explanation of its questionable nature. If different editors’ handcopies are in disagreement and photos are lacking or unclear, all versions of the copied word must be given. Thus on the Moschion stela, a carved Demotic crossword puzzle from the 2nd to 3rd century AD, the same word has been copied both as “ends” and “prisons.” Poor photography coupled with surface scratches on the original stela defeat any attempt to decide between these interpretations. The selection of handcopies from the letter aleph on the following page illustrates a few of the problems and peculiarities of the Demotic script.

Many people have worked this year on different aspects of the Dictionary process. Jan Johnson and I remain the senior members of the staff, checking and correcting both manuscripts and facsimiles. Joe Manning, John Darnell, and Drew Baumann have worked at bibliography compilation and the preparation of facsimiles. Sally Zimmerman spent hours proof-reading the short and long versions of the bibliography, trying to make us consistent and accurate in our manner of citation. The short version, requested by other Demotists at the

“Normalschrift” writing of ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ
 “District of Arsinoe”

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ

Ptolemaic writing with brush of
 ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ “character”
 P. BM 10508, 11/11

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ “enclosure”
 P. BM 10575, 6

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ “field (of) grapes,
 vinyard” P.
 Oxford
 Griffith 4,
 3-4

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ

actual example in P. Cairo 30606, 1/5

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ

Roman writing with reed pen
 P. Harkness, 6/7

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ

P. Serpot, 2/1

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ “Egyptian grape”
 P. Magical 29/28

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ

Example of ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ “oikonomos,
 steward” in P. Lille 58, B/5

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ

Broken example of ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ
 “oikonomos, steward” in P. Cairo 3129, 7

ⲉⲧⲉⲣⲥⲓⲛⲟⲩ

1987 International Congress of Demotic Studies in Cambridge (attended by Ritner, Manning, and Johnson) will be published in the Demotic studies journal, *Enchoria*, providing consistent forms of reference for the more esoteric of Demotic publications. Visitors Ursula Kaplony-Heckel, a Demotist from Marburg, West Germany, and Jan Quaegebeur and Willy Clarysse, Demotists and Greek papyrologists from Leuven, Belgium, kindly offered additions and corrections from their own work.

Our main storehouse of knowledge, references, and reasonableness has remained George R. Hughes, through whose mind and memory we continue to check possibilities, probabilities, and references, even

though his eyes have, to our great loss and that of Demotic studies, grown less serviceable.

We have also suffered a loss this year with the death of Charles Francis Nims, who rekindled interest in and commitment to the Demotic Dictionary by his presentation to the International Congress of Orientalists in Paris in the 1970s of the plan under which the current Demotic Dictionary Project was begun. We regret the passing of a major Demotic scholar, an inspiration to our work and, most of all, a friend who loved Egypt, Egyptians, Egyptology, travel, students, teaching, and sharing his thoughts and memories with all his colleagues.



*The Hittite
Dictionary*

*Harry A. Hoffner, Jr.
Hans G. Güterbock*



here have been several interesting developments during the past year for the Hittite Dictionary Project. First, in July we were awarded another two-

year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which will continue its financial support through June 30, 1990. ▼ Secondly, we have had a staff turnover. Dr. Ahmet Ünal, who was a Research Associate on the project for the past three years, has left us to accept an appointment as Professor of Hittitology at the University of Munich in Germany. We are pleased that "alumni" of our project are assuming such prestigious positions. To replace Dr. Ünal we have hired Dr. Theo Van den Hout from the Netherlands. Dr. Van den Hout has recently completed his doctorate at the University of Amsterdam and has already published several articles on the prosopography of the final century of the Hittite empire. During his doctoral program he took instruction from Professors Houwink ten Cate in Amsterdam and Erich Neu in Bochum. Dr. Van den Hout brings to his tasks the approaches learned from these two eminent scholars. We expect his contribution to our work to be significant. Together with Dr. Richard Beal, who is continuing in the other Research Associateship, he will maintain the completeness of the lexical file, contribute to the bibliographical files, compose first drafts of dictionary articles, and advise the editors in the revision of first drafts and the preparation of final dictionary copy. ▼ Thirdly, we had an unusually productive summer of 1988, due in large measure to the coincidence that neither of the editors traveled abroad. This made it possible for them to consult each other on a daily basis and to convert a large number of first and second drafts into final copy. As of this writing (early October 1988) we find ourselves in the happy position of having prepared the entire final copy for the fourth fascicle of the dictionary. This copy will be sent off to our photocompositor in November, who within a space of two or three months should be able to prepare camera-ready copy. It is quite probable that the fourth fascicle will be in print by March of 1989. That will complete the third volume of the dictionary, containing words beginning with L, M and N. The next volume, the first drafts for most of which have already been written, will contain words beginning with P, S and T. Hittite has no words beginning with R. ▼ In our last annual report we expressed our interest

in using volunteers to perform certain tasks on the dictionary. Several people have inquired about this. We are grateful for this response. If you would like to help out in some way, please direct your inquiry to Professor Hoffner at (312) 702-9527. Thank you.

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*



Scholarship

Individual Research

Mesopotamia and Syria in the third millennium B.C. continued to be a major focus of **ROBERT BIGGS'** research. In February he lectured to the Chicago Society of the

Archaeological Institute of America on the third millennium texts from Ebla. In March he gave a lecture on the personal names from Abu Salabikh and Ebla at U.C.L.A. and conducted seminars on the Ebla and Abu Salabikh texts.



JOHN A. BRINKMAN has submitted a chapter "Babylonia in the Shadow of Assyria, 747-626 B.C." for the revised version of the *Cambridge Ancient History*, vol. 3, part 2. For the volume *Assyriology and the Humanities: Essays in Honor of William L. Moran* (to appear in the *Harvard Semitic Series*), he contributed an article "The Babylonian Chronicle Revisited," reevaluating the Neo-Babylonian chronicle tradition. A study of "Political Covenants, Treaties, and Loyalty Oaths in Babylonia and between Assyria and Babylonia" will appear in the volume *I Trattati nel mondo antico: forma, ideologia, funzione* edited by Mario Liverani; these are the updated proceedings of a conference held in Rome in March 1986. For the Oriental Institute publication of *The Holmes Expedition to Luristan*, edited by Maurits van Loon, Brinkman completed a chapter on "The Inscriptions," covering Middle and Neo-Babylonian texts found in the excavations by Erich Schmidt in the late 1930's. His study of the use of bronze in Babylonia in the early Iron Age has appeared in John E. Curtis, ed., *Bronzeworking Centres of Western Asia c. 1000-539 B.C.* (London: Kegan Paul, 1988). During June and July 1988, he directed a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar for college teachers on "The Assyrian and Babylonian Empires, 745-539 B.C."



This year **MIGUEL CIVIL** has published copies of additional fragments of the "Instructions of Šuruppak," a traditional Sumerian didactic text, and of the remaining Sargonic tablets from Ur which are in University Museum, Pennsylvania. The latter complete the corpus recently published by A. Alberti and F.

The Oriental Institute 1987-1988 Annual Report

Pomponio and provide some new month names. The book with the "Farmers Instructions," announced last year, is now in press. Also in press is a study of a lengthy inscription on a statuette from Šulgi's reign which is in the Eames Collection (New York). This

statuette is of a type so far unknown in the Ur III empire. As a preliminary result of his work on the lexical texts from Meskéné-Emar, he has revised completely the editions published by D. Arnaud (Emar VI/4), and an article listing dozens of joins and providing a reader's "guide" to the new texts is in press in *Aula Orientalis*. He has recently started a revision of his old manuscripts of a complete catalogue of Sumerian literature and of a book on Sumerian writing and phonology and plans to devote a good deal of his time in 1989 to these projects. He has helped in the establishment of cuneiform studies at the University of Barcelona, where Akkadian and Sumerian are now taught on a regular basis, and participated in the organization of an archeological expedition from the same university to Tell Maled in Syria (halfway between Aleppo and the Turkish border) planned for spring of 1989.



STEVEN W. COLE'S dissertation concerns Nippur in late Assyrian times (ca. 745-612 B.C.). He has put together a rough portrait of Nippur during the mid-eighth century B.C. based on information taken from an archive of unpublished Babylonian letters excavated by the Oriental Institute Nippur Expedition in 1973.

In the mid-eighth century B.C., just before Assyria sought to bring southern Mesopotamia into her burgeoning imperial realm, Nippur

was one of many politically autonomous regions in the alluvial plain of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers to the south. In the flat expanse of deserts, marshes, and cultivated fields of the alluvium were located the old urban centers of Mesopotamian civilization. But in this region, tribal groups have always been as influential as the bureaucracies of cities and states that come and go. And so it was now, in the mid-eighth century B.C. The power of vigorous tribal groups overshadowed these once dominant centers. From the capital, Babylon, to where the rivers met the sea, the water of the Euphrates and its canals belonged to sedentary tribesmen known as Chaldeans, who tilled the land and cultivated date palms. The lucrative Gulf trade was also in their hands. The uncultivated countryside was also inhabited by tribesmen, migrating peoples called Arameans, who herded flocks of sheep and goats. Their pastoral orbits took them in and out of fertile Chaldea, the highlands eastward, the upland plains of Assyria and the Khabur, and the tamarisk jungles and flood plains along the incised valley of the Euphrates, from where it enters the alluvial plain as far as the Turkish frontier. In addition, tribes of camel herding nomads came each year from the great deserts of the west to the border of Chaldea for summer grazing. None of the important old

▼ ▼ ▼ cities (towns, really) of this region was situated very far from the orbit of at least one of the important tribes. Nippur itself was on the border between Chaldean and Aramean dominated territories — between the fertile riverain districts of the Chaldeans to the west and south and the arid domains of the Aramean pastoralists who roamed eastwards.

Like Babylon and Uruk, Nippur maintained many of the old urban religious and cultural traditions to which she was heiress. But long alone in a tribal sea, Nippur was now strongly influenced by peoples whose social and political loyalties were expressed genealogically and who possessed strong traditions of independence. The tribes and towns of the alluvium were brought together by ephemeral alliances, not by support of a common leader. Yet in spite of this apparent lack of political unity, the markets of the region traded in a luxuriance of goods that only an expansive, stable network of cooperative trade could engender.

When the armies of Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria entered the alluvium in 745 B.C., they confronted towns and tribes ruled by independent-minded governors and sheikhs, some of whom paid nominal allegiance to Babylon, but most of whom did not. They were united not by a common ruler, but by a common interest in unobstructed commerce; almost all, however, joined in resisting the new Assyrian presence.

Later, in the seventh century B.C., Assyrian influence came to pervade almost every aspect of political life in Nippur, but loyalty to the tribe dominated the hearts and minds of the vast majority of its people. Caught between the well-nigh irresistible might of Assyria and these ties to local kinsmen, Nippur evolved turbulently during this period, from a town on the tribal frontier to a large city under direct Assyrian control. Cole's dissertation will describe Nippur during these years.

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Having spent the 1986-87 season as the third woman epigrapher in the sixty-two year history of the Epigraphic Survey (the first female epigrapher, Caroline Ransom Williams of the Metropolitan Museum, spent only three months on the staff from December, 1926 to February, 1927; Ann Roth, Ph.D. '85, was the first full-time female staff epigrapher), **LORELEI H. CORCORAN** lectured on her experiences to various interested groups. Although it was initially introduced into the summer schedule of the Sunday afternoon film series as a "one-time presentation," she repeated her slide lecture, "A Season in Egypt," for the members of the Oriental Institute Docent Program and the Young Presidents' Organization. In November, she participated in the panel of lecturers for the symposium on Amarna sponsored by the Oriental Institute, contributing a

lecture on "The Art of Amarna." A paper, presented at the 1988 annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Chicago, focused on the cultural and artistic continuity of the Late Period. Her related research in this area produced an Oriental Institute Museum featured object brochure and formed a corpus of entries on Late Period funerary material for the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, exhibition catalog, *Mummies and Magic*. Upon the completion of her dissertation, "Portrait Mummies from Roman Egypt," she received her Ph.D. in Egyptology in June.



During the past year, **WALTER FARBER** finished and sent to press several articles, one dealing with incantations against *Wardat-lilim* (another one of the infamous Babylonian demons), a second elaborating on some Sumero-Akkadian bilingual matters, and a third editing omens derived from bathing practices and the resulting dirty water. In addition, a lengthy review discusses some cultic texts with mythological background.

In summer 1987, he attended the XXXIV Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Istanbul and took this opportunity to make a brief visit to Bogazköy. In September, he was invited by the University of Helsinki to teach a seminar and give a public lecture on Lamaštu. In December, he accepted still another invitation to lecture at four German universities

(Münster, Heidelberg, Würzburg, and Munich). In his talks there, he concentrated on several aspects of Old Babylonian incantations with regard to folk poetry, oral traditions, and the Mesopotamian concept of magic. Quite unexpectedly, a press release by the West German press agency, DPA, led to wide (and in a few cases hilariously distorted) media coverage of his lectures.

Back in Chicago, he attended the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in March, joined some friends in a performance of R. Fuchs' clarinet quintet in the University's Goodspeed Hall, and finally saw his book on baby incantations through the last stages of printing.



McGUIRE GIBSON'S research and publication during the past year were in great part connected with Nippur. But he continued to work on larger-scale issues such as inter-regional contacts around the Indian Ocean; some of this research is connected with his position as Chairman of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. He also continues to work toward a synthesis of the ancient Mesopotamian ecological system and a corpus of Mesopotamian pottery in a joint effort between the Nippur Expedition and the Belgian Archaeological Expedition in Iraq.



During September of 1987 he was a guest of the Iraqi government at the first Babylon Festival. In May, 1988, he attended the first meeting of the Academic Committee of the International Conference on Oriental Carpets. The Conference will take place in San Francisco in 1990.



GENE GRAGG is continuing the second year of the National Science Foundation grant for the Cushitic/Omotic Etymological Database project. At this point almost all Cushitic cognates which have been identified in the literature have been entered into the database (including related words in Egyptian, Semitic, Berber, and Chadic, where these have been recognized). At this point we will begin searching lexical sources for new cognates. More important however is the task of writing programs which will enable users to explore the database from various possible points of view — that is, programs which will deliver answers to questions such as : “What Semitic words are related to the Eastern Cushitic word for ‘grind?’;” “What evidence is there for a phoneme /f/ in initial position in Proto-Cushitic, and what does this evidence suggest for proto-Afroasiatic?” In March, 1988, Professor I. M. Diakonoff of the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad (and, in

1963, visiting professor at our own Oriental Institute in Chicago) came to Chicago to receive an honorary degree. One outcome of his visit here is that the Cushitic/Omotic project will be contributing data to, and be otherwise coordinated with, the important, long-standing Afroasiatic dictionary project in Leningrad. Gragg gave a paper on linguistic reconstruction in Cushitic to the Conference on Afroasiatic linguistics held in conjunction with the American Oriental Society meeting in Chicago and gave an Oriental Institute members’ talk on the Afroasiatic language family as a whole.



Most of **JANET H. JOHNSON’S** research time during the past year has been spent working on the Demotic Dictionary (see separate report) although she did manage to participate in the Aqaba excavations (see separate report) for a month. She gave lectures to the 3rd International Congress of Demotic Studies, in Cambridge, England, held in September, on the topic of Demotic semantics and in Boston for the University of Chicago Alumni Association on the work of the Epigraphic Survey. She has submitted articles, one on semantics in Demotic and one on objects found in the recent excavations at Luxor Temple, for two *Festschrift’s* for admired colleagues. She has remained the American representative to the International Association of Egyptologists, a member of the Board of

Governors of the American Research Center in Egypt, and a member of the Board of Directors of the David and Alfred Smart Gallery.



In his work as Senior Artist at Chicago House, **RAY JOHNSON** continued to supervise the Epigraphic Survey art staff's ongoing copying of the Luxor Temple Colonnade Hall reliefs this past season. He also continued the identification, analysis, and reassembly of decorated stone fragments quarried in antiquity from the Colonnade Hall ("the Lost Colonnade") and other parts of Luxor Temple. On his way to Egypt in October he gave a lecture at the Egyptological Seminar in New York City on the fragment work dating to the reign of Tutankhamun, and in November he returned briefly to the States to present a paper at the International Symposium on the Art of Amenhotep III (the builder of the Colonnade Hall and most of Luxor Temple) at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The paper (to be published later this year in the Symposium *Proceedings*) highlighted new information derived from the fragment reconstruction work which suggests a close relationship between Amenhotep III's changing artistic styles, his deification as the sun god, and the appearance of the Aten cult. In March Johnson gave a slide lecture on the relief styles of Amenhotep III at the Karnak Franco-Egyptian Center in Luxor, and he expanded his Cleveland paper for presentation at the Oriental

Institute's Sunday Slide Talks and Summer Lecture Series in July. His primary research project at the moment (and the subject of his dissertation) is the reconstruction and analysis of a large, fragmentary battle scene from one of Tutankhamun's Karnak monuments.



Most of the personal research undertaken by **CAROL MEYER** in the past year concerned ancient Near Eastern glass, an artifact category too often skimpily published by excavations and hence drastically underutilized. Her monograph on the Roman through Islamic Glass excavated by the American Center for Oriental Research team at Jerash (Jordan) appeared in the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research Supplement 25*. This is the first large, stratigraphically excavated glass corpus from Jordan to be published. A preliminary report on the glass (New Kingdom and later) from the Thutmose I Treasury at the Montu Temple, Karnak, was prepared for inclusion with the report on the excavations by Jean and Helen Jacquet. After leaving Chicago House in April, Meyer spent two weeks at the Institute of Archaeology in London, with partial support from that Institute, studying glass from Tell Nebi Mend, Syria. Trench V on

▼ ▼ ▼ the high mound yielded a valuable series of Hellenistic to Roman ribbed bowls. Material from the low mound, Trench X, was almost exclusively Byzantine and when published it will constitute the first large, excavated Byzantine corpus from Syria.

In Chicago in May, Meyer gave a talk on the work of the Epigraphic Survey to the Society of Women Geographers. Over the summer a paper on the development of crown or bull's-eye window panes was proofed for publication. The paper advances a 6th century (Justinian) rather than 4th century (Constantinian) date and suggests a link to Justinian's imperial building program. Another article, discussing a frequency distribution of Jerash glass types, was submitted to the *Annals of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan*. A longer report on the glass collected by the Southern Ghors and Northeast 'Araba Archaeological Survey, conducted by Burton MacDonald, was completed and is scheduled to appear in 1989. The survey glass was an opportunity to date the collection sites independently and then check the glass dating against the pottery and other dating evidence. Study continues on the massive glass corpus from Donald Whitcomb's Aqaba site in Jordan, and when completed it will constitute a primary corpus of Abbasid glass.

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ERICA REINER spent five weeks in London in December of 1987 and January of 1988. Part of her research was in the British Museum, where she prepared for publication yet another fascicle of *Babylonian Planetary Omens*, a joint project with Professor David Pingree, formerly at the Oriental Institute and now at Brown University. In addition, she worked at the Warburg Institute of the University of London, collecting material for her study of magic in Babylonia. In March, she delivered the ninth annual George G. Cameron Lecture at the University of Michigan, and in April she directed a session on translating Babylonian texts in the Translation Seminar at Boston University. For her work with the *Chicago Assyrian Dictionary*, see the separate report.

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MARTHA T. ROTH continued her study of first millennium B.C. Mesopotamian family and legal history. Her "Age at Marriage and the Household" appeared in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*; an article on adultery, "'She will die by the iron dagger,'" appeared in *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*; and a note on the scribal invocation "*ina amat DN lišlim*" appeared in *Journal of Semitic Studies*. Roth's *Babylonian Marriage Agreements, 7th-3rd Centuries B.C.*, presenting critical editions of forty-five documents with an introduction to the formulas and terminology of

marriage formation, has just appeared.

In November 1987, Roth participated in a conference at Brown University on Women in the Ancient Near East, where she read a paper on "Marriage and Matrimonial Property in the First Millennium B.C." In July 1988, at the Rencontre Internationale Assyriologique held in Philadelphia, she presented a paper on "Women Without Men: Widows, Divorcées, and Prostitutes."



EDWARD WALKER'S dissertation is on "Aspects of the Primaeval Nature of Egyptian Kingship: Pharaoh as Atun," and explores the nature of divine kingship as it is expressed in pharaoh's role as sungod and creator god. This research began while he was an epigrapher at Chicago House during the 1986-87 season. During his lunch breaks while working at the temple of Medinet Habu (Ramesses III's mortuary complex on the west bank of the Nile), he investigated the as yet unpublished "wells" and their relationship to the main temple. The subterranean wells represent the source of the Nile, the sungod, and a dissertation topic. Walker continues his research in the field this year as a fellow of the American Research Center in Egypt and as the 1988-89 Kress Pre-doctoral Fellow in Egyptian Art and Architecture.



DONALD WHITCOMB'S research during the current year has concentrated on his excavations at the early Islamic port of Aqaba, Jordan (see separate report). He gave a report on the season's excavations to the Explorer's Club in New York City, at the Kevorkian Center at New York University, at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan, at an international conference on Islamic archaeology held in Paris in March, and for the members of the Oriental Institute in conjunction with the opening of the special exhibit entitled Aqaba — "Port of Palestine on the China Sea" (see Museum report). He also lectured on the Egyptian Coptic connections of early glazed pottery from Aqaba at the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Chicago in April. He presented invited papers on Umayyad Aqaba at the Third Conference on the History of Bilad al-Sham held at the University of Jordan in Amman in October, 1987, and on the "Coptic" glazed wares from Aqaba at an international workshop on Coptic and Nubian pottery held in Warsaw in the spring. The latter discussion will appear in a forthcoming volume of the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*; his article on the Fatimid period residence at Aqaba, and a general report on the excavation season, will appear in the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* while his discussion of the Umayyad at Aqaba will appear in the proceedings of the Bilad al-Sham



conference. He prepared a short introduction to Aqaba which was published through al-Kutba Press in Jordan to serve both as an introduction for visitors to the site and as a catalogue of the exhibit which was put together at the Oriental Institute. After several months in Chicago the exhibit returned to Jordan where it was first set up in Amman but will eventually be housed in Aqaba for the benefit of future visitors to the city.



The publication of *Decorated Pottery and the Art of Naqada III* (Münchner Ägyptologische Studien, vol. 45) marked a phase in the development of **BRUCE WILLIAMS'** research into the emergence of Egypt's unique historical personality before the First Dynasty. This year, that research changed direction somewhat, from pursuing the pharaonic ruler's central place in images to exploring the relationship with the gods. Important schools of thought have held that the basic structure and character of the Egyptian universe appeared relatively late, as theological speculations created by highly trained priests. Evidence of elaborate early cults of Egyptian type was often dated to later ages, corroborating this opinion. Three colossal statues of the god Min from Coptos stand at the heart of the problem, for their ithyphallic pose clearly implies the existence of Egypt's central myth of creation. Although many scholars had dated them to the Archaic Period, evidence was not clear, and some had

sought to place them as late as the Eleventh Dynasty. During a visit to Cairo last year, Williams examined the Min colossus in the Egyptian Museum for graffiti that might settle the issue and two of early date were found, one of which was the catfish sign used by Narmer in his name. When carved decoration on the sides of these statues was reviewed, two damaged signs on the Cairo statue could definitely be restored as Narmer. As a result, artistic evidence derived from the decoration dated large amounts of temple furniture to the period before the First Dynasty. The statues' dimensions were used to reconstruct the appearance of some early temples, and Egypt's central myth and organizing principle, the creation, with the role of the ruler in it, could be dated to the earliest times. The results were summarised in a paper given at the American Research Center in Egypt annual meeting in Chicago in April and they have been presented in detail in an article submitted to the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*. Other themes have been partially explored, the problem of social relations and the economic development of the Upper Egyptian landscape to name just two. But rewarding as the pursuit of individual themes might be, the goal is a more complete and coherent understanding of Egypt's emergence.

*Research Archives**Charles E. Jones*

One of the primary goals of the Research Archives' staff during the past year has been to identify and correct gaps and areas of particular difficulty in the access to our collections through the card catalogue. As a part of our ongoing (and undoubtedly endless) project to clarify and simplify our catalogue, we have achieved a great degree of success. Difficult citations have been clarified, spurious series have been dissolved and recatalogued more appropriately, and individual volumes have been gathered and restored to their rightful places on the serials shelves. ▼ We have, in addition, identified areas of inadequacy in the Research Archives in terms of both bibliographical and physical resources. These include certain text series, encyclopedic and bibliographic references and items of hardware. I hope that we can begin to whittle away on this list in the near future. ▼ In the late summer of 1987, we installed a Macintosh computer in the office of the Research Archive. At that time, I expected a personal computer to fulfill some but not all of the functions desirable in a computerized library. After a year of intensive interaction, I have come to the following conclusions: 1 - Use of a computer radically simplifies the administration of the Research Archives; and for this purpose even a personal computer, such as the Apple Macintosh now in use, is entirely adequate. 2 - The development of a full scale on-line bibliographical database is a real possibility, but a personal computer is not adequate to perform the requisite tasks. ▼ Consequently, I have begun the second phase of investigation: To determine the availability of hardware-software packages which would permit us to produce and manage a database of essentially unlimited size and with sufficient power to enable scholars using the Research Archives to have 'immediate' access to detailed bibliographical information. ▼ The Research Archives is an extraordinary resource. In breadth and scope it is unequalled outside of a dwindling number of large university libraries with bibliographers dedicated to the ancient Near East. Because of our breadth, and because of our relatively large resident constituency of scholars who advise and contribute as well as use the Research Archives, we are uniquely suited for the development of an on-line bibliographic tool without equal. As a long term project, the construction of the database has several phases.

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*

Primary is the cataloguing of the collections of the Research Archives in a standard form. Secondary phases include the analysis of all periodicals and other serials; detailed cross-referencing by language, area,



culture, historical period, etc.; keying to published objects and text identifications, type of object and genre of text, museum collection, archaeological site.

As an auxiliary to this large scale project, we have begun a users-group of individuals and offices in the Oriental Institute who are interested in sharing bibliographical data collected for various projects. Using a personal computer program package called ProCite, scholars can collect in a standard form small scale bibliographies which, when shared through the group, can give access to otherwise uncollected and disorganized bibliographical resources. Among the resources now available in this form is the catalogue of the library of the late Professor Klaus Baer, compiled and prepared by my very able assistant Terry Wilfong.

Acquisitions in the Research Archives continue to concentrate almost exclusively on current publications. Sensitive to the needs of our constituency, we do attempt to acquire older publications if requested. However the high prices of the antiquarian book market and the generally poor state of preservation of older material on the ancient Near East makes most

purchases unjustifiable. We continue to be indebted to the Publications Coordinator and the Editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* for their willingness to support our exchange efforts.

ACQUISITIONS STATISTICS 1987-1988

	April 1987 - March 1988	Total
Monographs	592	10,032
Series	150	4,113
Journals	236	7,295
Total Books	978	21,440
Maps pamphlets	43	153

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*Publications
Office*

Thomas A. Holland

The Publications Office is happy to announce that during the 1987-1988 fiscal year three of the four new books planned for publication were

completed, bringing the total number of titles now available to fifty-one.

The new volumes are:

- ▼ Robert M. Whiting Jr., *Old Babylonian Letters from Tell Asmar* (AS 2)
- ▼ Elizabeth C. Stone, *Nippur Neighborhoods* (SAOC 44)
- ▼ McGuire Gibson and Robert D. Biggs, eds. *The Organization of Power: Aspects of Bureaucracy in the Ancient Near East* (SAOC 46)

Unfortunately, the manuscript for the fourth volume dealing with the Idalion excavations during 1973-1980 was not completed and is still in the production stage. Editorial and production work continued on the following four volumes:

- ▼ Ignace J. Gelb, Piotr Steinkeller, and Robert M. Whiting, Jr. *The Earliest Land Tenure Systems in the Middle East: Ancient Kudurrus* (OIP 104)
- ▼ Erich F. Schmidt, Maurits N. van Loon, and Hans H. Curvers, *The Holmes Expeditions to Luristan* (OIP 108)
- ▼ Bruce B. Williams, *Excavations Between Abu Simbel and the Sudan Frontier. Neolithic, A-Group and Post A-Group Remains from Ballana and Qustul: Cemeteries W, V, S, T, Q, and a Cave East of Cemetery K* (OINE IV)
- ▼ Thorkild Jacobsen et al. *Old Babylonian Buildings in the Diyala Region: Excavations at Ischali and Khafajah Mounds, B, C, and D* (OIP 108)

We are grateful for all the work done on the above books by our Production Coordinator, Joan Hives, during the year.

Concerning the publication's sales office, congratulations are in order for Thomas Urban who has kept the sales moving and the books shipped on time. The number of volumes sold in each of the Oriental Institute series and miscellaneous titles is illustrated in the table on the following page.

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*

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TABLE OF SALES

AS	(Assyriological Studies)	213
CAD	(Chicago Assyrian Dictionary)	492
CHD	(Chicago Hittite Dictionary)	89
MSKH	(Materials and Studies for Kassite History)	10
OIC	(Oriental Institute Communications)	6
OINE	(Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition)	30
OIP	(Oriental Institute Publications)	81
SAOC	(Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization)	774
MISC	(Miscellaneous volumes ¹)	91
Total		1,786

¹The miscellaneous volumes which are not published by the Oriental Institute are:

1. *Ancient Textiles from Nubia: Meroitic, X-Group, and Christian Fabrics from Ballana and Qustul* by Christa C. Mayer Thurman, Bruce Williams et al.
2. *Quseir Al-Qadim 1978: Preliminary Report* by Donald S. Whitcomb and Janet H. Johnson.
3. *The Joint Istanbul-Chicago Universities' Prehistoric Research in Southeastern Anatolia* by Halet Çambel, Robert J. Braidwood et al.
4. *Uch Tepe I: Tell Razuk, Tell Ahmed Al-Mughbir, Tell Ajamat*, edited by McGuire Gibson



Museum

*The Museum**Raymond D.
Tindel*

We are pleased to announce that, as of August 15, 1988, the Museum has a new curator, Karen L. Wilson. She was chosen by the faculty after an

exhaustive study of the Museum, its function within the Institute, and its responsibilities to the public and the scholarly community. Karen holds her Ph.D. from New York University where she specialized in Mesopotamian archaeology. She has worked extensively in the Near East, in particular in Iraq, Iran, and Egypt. Most recently she was curatorial co-ordinator at the Jewish Museum in New York. We welcome her to the Oriental Institute Museum.

▼ 1988 also brought the retirement of senior preparator Honorio Torres after twenty years of service to the Oriental Institute. He was not only senior preparator but the senior member of the staff overall. We extend to him our congratulations, best wishes, and thanks for all he has done for the Institute.

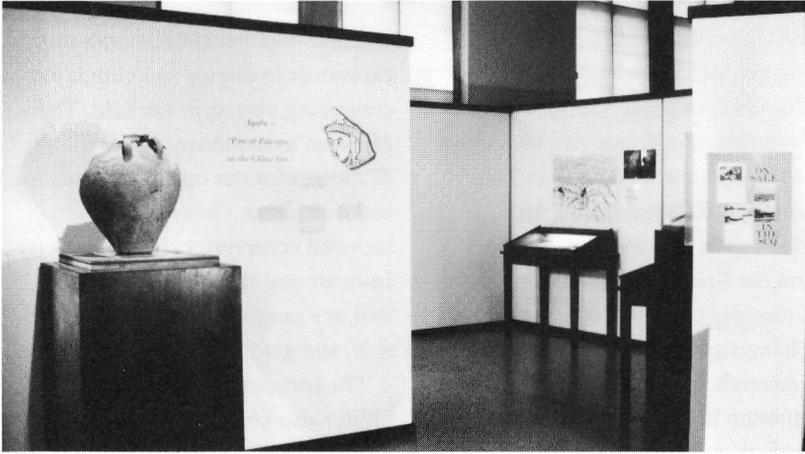
Our new preparator is Philip Petrie who comes to us from the Alexander Milliken Gallery in New York. Phil has a B.A. in history from the University of Rhode Island and a M.F.A. in painting from Ohio University. He works with Jim Richerson in the maintenance of the galleries and the production of exhibits. His duties are myriad, ranging from the daily cleaning of exhibits and the repair of the seats in Breasted Hall, to the movement of fragile artifacts. He is a welcome addition to the Museum staff. ▼ We reported last year that the Museum's veteran security supervisor Jack Kish had departed for the Art

Institute of Chicago where he now supervises its security training program. Our new security supervisor is John Kirulis. Since his arrival the security attendants have been equipped with walkie-talkies to facilitate supervision and to improve communication in case of an emergency. During this past year John has also attended a security workshop at the Art Institute. He is currently working with the Chicago Museum Security Group to set up a city-wide co-operative task force to cope with emergencies. ▼ Exhibits this year featured Oriental

Institute research. Exhibit designer and co-ordinator Jim Richerson and Martha Roth organized a display of Mesopotamian household and dowery items to complement Martha's Oriental Institute Members' lecture on Babylonian family law. Jim and Ray Johnson arranged a display to go with Ray's summer lecture on his research on Amenhotep III. ▼

Together with the Membership Office, the Museum presented a special display on the Oriental Institute's excavations at Nippur. It opened in May in conjunction with the the annual Members' Dinner. 1988

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*



*View of the exhibit,
Aqaba - "Port of Palestine on the
China Sea."*

marks the one hundredth anniversary of American excavations at Nippur and the fortieth year since the Oriental Institute began work there. The display, produced by Jim and Mac Gibson, contrasted the excavation techniques of the nineteenth century, where hundreds of workmen moved mountains of earth in search of artifacts, with the more finely honed methods of the present where all data is meticulously analyzed and computers aid archaeologists in the reconstruction of past cultures. Nippur objects on permanent exhibit were highlighted. Two brochures accompanied the exhibit, one prepared by Mac and one by Joan Barghusen. We thank Augusta McMahon for her help in producing the display.

The Museum's major exhibit for the year was *Aqaba - "Port of Palestine on the China Sea,"* featuring Don Whitcomb's current excavations

at that site. Don's work has concentrated on the new Islamic town which was built at Aqaba alongside the older Roman-Byzantine city shortly after the Islamic conquest. It flourished down until the time of the Crusades, drawing commerce, as the title of the exhibit suggests, even from as far away as China. Don's excavations have revealed a city gate and parts of the town plan. These were featured in the exhibition along with some 200 objects from the excavations. The exhibit was curated by Don and designed and erected by Jim. At the end of its venue at the Institute it goes to Jordan for permanent installation. Don provided a booklet on the site and Joan Barghusen produced a brochure to go with the exhibit.

The Museum has also lent objects for display over the past year to a number of other museums, including The Art Institute of Chicago, the

Museum of Art and Archaeology of the University of Missouri at Columbia, the McKissick Museum of the University of South Carolina at Columbia, the Kresge Art Museum at Michigan State University in East Lansing, the Birmingham Art Museum in Birmingham, Alabama, and the Krannert Art Museum of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Museum also made a research loan to the University Museum in Philadelphia. In total, more than fifty objects were involved.

For the fifth year, the Museum, the Renaissance Society, and the David and Alfred Smart Gallery shared a display booth at the Chicago International Art Exposition at Navy Pier. We are particularly grateful to the volunteers who staffed it and helped to publicize the Institute.

The Institute was host to a workshop sponsored by the Getty Conservation Institute on "Conserva-

tion in Field Archaeology." It brought together conservators and excavators to discuss procedures for conserving objects in the field. The Museum's conservator Laura D'Alessandro was one of the panelists and organizers. Other participants included conservators from the Getty Institute and the Field Museum as well as a number of Institute faculty, staff, and graduate students.

The Institute and the Middle East Center also hosted the annual meetings of the American Research Center in Egypt. By all accounts the meetings went very smoothly, due in large part to the preparation and supervision of museum office manager Pat Monaghan.

Pat, incidentally, is one of those people who hold the Museum and



Exhibit marking the one hundredth anniversary of American excavations at Nippur and the fortieth year since the Oriental Institute began excavating there.



the Institute together. She manages the Museum's operating budget, rentals, and purchasing, helps us develop budgets for grant applications and, when the application is successful, monitors the funds. She also co-ordinates the maintenance of the Institute building. She has done much of the research and writing for the climate-control project, about which more in due course. She is assisted by secretary Margaret Schröder and volunteer Harold Dunkel.

Behind the scenes, we at last have some real progress to report on climate control. Thanks to a successful grant application written by Laura D'Alessandro, we received a grant from the Institute of Museum Services to install climate-controlled storage for the Museum's organic collections. Much of our time and effort this year has gone into the preparation of this new facility. The area of the basement under the Persian Hall has been walled off, cleaned, painted with vapor-barrier paint, and outfitted with equipment which will maintain stable conditions of 68° Fahrenheit and 50% relative humidity year-round. Recording hygrothermographs provide a round-the-clock record of temperature and humidity. The installation was carried out under the supervision of Lynn Bender, Mitchell Goldman, Bernard Krawczyk, and James Garcia of the University Office of Physical Planning and Construction, and we are most grateful for their assistance.

The installation of the new organics room also required a major reorganization of the Museum's artifact storage area. Laura and assistant curator Kim Coventry are in the process of repacking the organic objects in clean, archival storage materials preparatory to moving them into the new storage area. Meanwhile, those of us who work in the registry, staff and volunteers, undertook the massive chore of reorganizing the storage of the Mesopotamian and Egyptian collections. The Mesopotamian collection had to be removed, piece by piece, from what had become the new organics room, each object identified, a new location found for it, and its records updated. To make room for the Mesopotamian collection, most of the Egyptian pottery and stone also had to be relocated. Thousands of palaeolithic flints, hundreds of ushebtis and small statues, countless pots, and a few dozen very heavy pieces of stone relief all had to be moved.

As a part of the organics room project, Jim and Phil have installed an industrial dust extractor for the preparations shop. It vacuums up the sawdust and shavings produced by the shop's saws, sanders, planers, etc. As a result the whole basement area will be cleaner.

The organics room is only a first step. The next step is to get air conditioning and climate control for the entire Institute - galleries, work

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 areas, offices, classrooms. It is a pleasure to report progress on this front. Director Janet Johnson has formed a climate-control committee consisting of Gretel Braidwood, Kim Coventry, Laura D'Alessandro, Pat Monaghan, and me; Karen joined the group upon her arrival. Preliminary planning for the project is already well underway; faculty and staff have been interviewed, the broad outlines of the project have been sketched, and a basic case statement has been prepared to justify the project. We visited a number of other institutions, such as the Newberry Library and the Deering Library at Northwestern University, to see how they had coped with similar situations. At the behest of the University administration the consultant firm of Grumman, Butkis, and Associates has been retained to undertake a feasibility study and prepare preliminary specifications and cost estimates. We have been assisted throughout by the University Development Office, in particular by Doug Twells, Gary Messinger, Marianne Briscoe, and Margaret O'Dell; and by the Office of Physical Planning and Construction. Watch for further developments.

In other matters conservatorial, the Museum has received a grant from the Institute for Museum Services, thanks to the efforts of archivist John Larson, Pat Monaghan, and Laura D'Alessan-

dro, which will provide for a survey of the Museum's photographic archives and a comprehensive plan for their conservation and storage.

Laura rounded out her year with a number of lectures and conferences. She attended, *inter alia*, the Jubilee Conference on conservation at the Institute of Archaeology in London and the annual meeting of the American Institute of Conservation in New Orleans. She lectured the Oriental Institute membership on "Conservation Concerns at the Oriental Institute." In between, she processed over eighty objects and supervised volunteer assistants Mitchell Merbeck, Debbie Schwartz, and Edward Driggers.

The Museum's activities have been publicized by Kim Coventry who placed feature or special highlight stories in a number of local and national publications. A story on the Aqaba exhibit appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and the exhibit was highlighted in *Archaeology Magazine* and the *American Schools of Oriental Research Newsletter*. The Museum was also featured in *Shell Update Magazine*, "Weekend Update Plus" of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Daily Herald*, and the *Post-Tribune*. Kim also produced a new four-color brochure on the Museum, of which nearly 15,000 have already been distributed. When not involved with publicity, she has been cataloguing the Museum's glass and repacking the organics collections. She also



presented a paper on professionalism in university museums at the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums in Pittsburgh and has completed a certificate course on collections care and management funded by the Bay Foundation at the Art Institute of Chicago.

In the registry work has continued this year on the physical inventory of the collections and on the computerization of the Museum's collections management records. The inventory is now approximately 80% complete, and data has been entered for more than half of the Egyptian collection of some 30,000 objects. Data entry has been facilitated by the purchase of an additional IBM computer and printer. We have been fortunate this past year to have the capable assistance in the



A fragment of a lustre ware bowl, showing a man with a turban, made in Fatimid Egypt during the 10th or 11th century and found at Aqaba. Below the fragment is a modern copy of a lustre ware plate showing how the medieval bowl might have appeared. The drawing on the sherd was used as a logo for the Aqaba exhibit.

registry of Frank Yurco and David Anderson, along with an excellent group of volunteers: Debbie Aliber, Rebecca Binkley, Irv Diamond, Cliff Dossel, Thorin Evans, Lilla Fano, Margaret Foorman, Leila Foster, Di Grodzins, Betty Harre, Steve Knapp, Georgie Maynard, Barbara Ramlo, Lillian Schwartz, and Peggy Wick. Together they have kept up the inventory, reorganized storage for the organics room, found lost objects, gathered material for visiting scholars, processed loans, and cleaned dusty storage cabinets. They have spent many hours typing data into the computers and kept all the innumerable lists, records, and files involved with managing the collections of the Oriental Institute Museum.

John Larson divides his time among the eternal demands of managing the Institute's archives of photographs and expedition field records. He also has the assistance of an dedicated group of volunteers, several of whom - Hertsell Conway, Lilian Cropsey, Kay Ginther, Kate

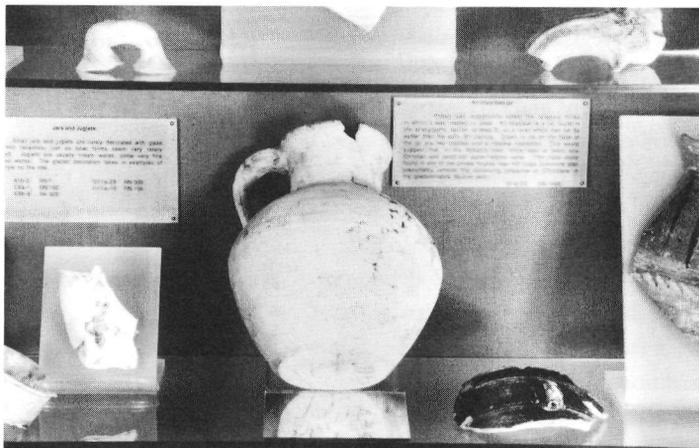
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 Grodzins, and Joan Rosenberg - are now experienced hands. A major concern is the deterioration of many of the older photographs and negatives. Hertsell has been busy resleeving negatives in new, archival-quality envelopes, separating out deteriorating specimens to avoid chemical contamination of sound negatives. Kay is computerizing the records of the Megiddo photographic archive while Kate has been sorting and repairing the Museum's ever-expanding 35 mm slide collection. An additional IBM computer has been purchased for use in the archives, which will facilitate the computerization of the archives photographic records. Meanwhile, Joan continues her work reorganizing and cataloguing the surviving records of the Institute's excavations at Medinet Habu, on which see her article in

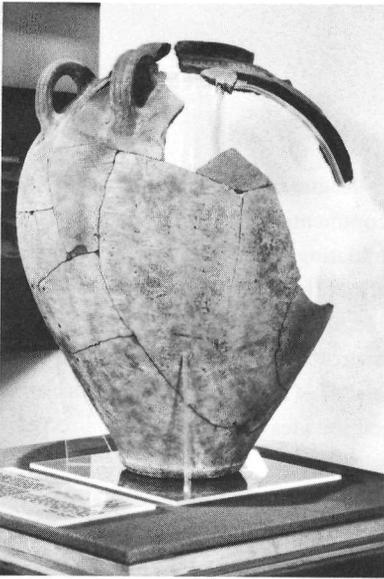
News & Notes no. 110 (September-October, 1987). John also had the assistance over a briefer period of Kuo Chien-Hui who registered new photographs and negatives, and of Chris Urban. Chris, a former student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, has produced a finding aid for the field records for the Institute's Diyala excavations as a part of an archives course at Rosary College.

As keeper of the Institute's excavation records, John also makes them available to visiting scholars. Among those who came this year were Graham I. Davies of Cambridge University, who came to work with the Megiddo records, and Ann Gunter of the Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution, who came to consult John on the records of Ernst Herzfeld, first director of the Institute's excavations at Persepolis. Other visiting scholars included

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Jars, juglets, and sherds from the site of Aqaba. The center jar is inscribed on the bottom in pen and ink with a magical inscription in Aramaic.





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A large storage jar, excavated from the site of Aqaba, typical of the 11th century but with block impressions imitating Chinese inscriptions.

Ziony Zevit from California, Douglas Haller from the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, and David Kennedy of Sheffield, England.

John's scholarly activities have been diverse this year. He spoke on the Pharaoh Akhenaton at the Institute's "Amarna Symposium," chaired a session at the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, lectured to the docents and to participants in John A. Brinkman's summer seminar, and served as the Museum's ready reference on all matters Egyptological.

As a major research center, the Oriental Institute receives dozens of requests each year for photographs of objects in the collections or prints from excavation negatives. These are the province of the Museum's photographer Jean Grant. Requests came from near and far, ranging from the Sunday School Board, the

Chicago Tribune, and the University of Minnesota, to scholars and museums in Berlin, Paris, and Cairo. She has printed stacks of site photos from Megiddo, Tell Agrab, Aqaba, and dozens of object photos for loans and scholarly requests. She has also undertaken the mammoth project of copying the Institute's substantial collection of some 14,000 lantern slides to modern 35 mm slides. These lantern slides are a major resource for reference and teaching, but are difficult to use because of their obsolete format. They will be much more accessible in 35 mm. Much of the work for this project falls on her capable volunteers, particularly Joe Denov, as well as Ria Ahlström, Kate Grodzins, Gregory Braswell, Carol Johnson, Adam Nadel, and David Deckert.

This coming year should see further progress in several areas. There will certainly be developments in the Institute's air conditioning and climate control project, and now that the Museum has a permanent curator, we can begin to make some longer-range plans. We look forward to the coming year.

*Museum
Education
Program*

Joan D. Bargusen

A colleague of mine once remarked, commenting on the difficulty of initiating something new, that it takes about three years for an idea to

become a reality. According to this timetable, the Oriental Institute's first symposium for members and teachers, presented in the fall of 1987, was right on schedule. For just about three years, the staff of the Membership Office and the Museum Education Office had discussed the idea of a symposium directed to the general public, designed especially with members and teachers in mind; it would be a program that would furnish a comprehensive and authoritative overview of the chosen topic, with presentations appropriate for an interested audience without prior background in the subject. ▼ Breasted Hall, with its 272 seats, was filled to capacity when the day-long symposium "Egypt of the Amarna Period" became a reality on November 7, 1987, under the joint sponsorship of the Membership and Museum Education Offices. Seven Egyptologists surveyed the topic from perspectives that included archaeology and political history as well as religious and artistic changes. Immediate and enthusiastic inquiries about when the next symposium would occur confirmed our impression that this kind of educational event should be among the Institute's programs for the general public. A second annual symposium was planned for the fall of 1988. ▼ Inauguration of new programs and resources has been a hallmark of the Museum Education Office since its origin eight years ago. Now a roster of projects, some on-going, some seasonal, attracts a variety of audiences including children and adults, teachers and school groups. ▼ Children 6-12 years old participate in several kinds of activities intended to educate in an enjoyable manner. This past winter children in the Saturday morning workshops learned about artifacts and made crafts related to the ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian worlds. They made sock doll mummies with their own coffins, replicas of Egyptian amulets, models of the Mesopotamian demon Pazuzu as a hand puppet with movable wings, masks of the Egyptian gods Anubis and Sekhmet, and replicas of Egyptian royal jewelry. These popular Saturday tour and craft workshops depend for their successful planning and implementation on the knowledgeable and innovative help of

volunteers Kitty Picken, Joan Hives, and Georgie Maynard. Tours on topics of special interest to children are given on Thursday mornings in the summer months of July and August by the team of Thursday morning docents under the leadership of

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*

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*Children at a craft activity
in the Winter Saturday
morning workshops.
Photo by Herb Barghusen.*

Kitty Picken. This past year a group of 15-30 children and parents gathered in the lobby each week for these tours.

The interest of young people in Museum activities is further indicated by their use of more than 5000 Children's Adventure Sheets over the past year; these are gallery activity guides meant to be used by children visiting the Museum with their families.

Approximately 300 children stood in line on a sunny September afternoon to have their names written in hieroglyphs by Education Office scribes as the Oriental Institute participated in the First Annual 57th Street Children's Book Fair. A dramatic retelling of ancient Near Eastern stories was also presented at this community event celebrating the return of students to school in the fall.

The Sketching Is Seeing program, a six-session drawing workshop for teenagers, enjoyed its fourth season with its usual capacity enrollment. This workshop allows students to



sketch objects on display in the Museum under the guidance of an artist. For most of the participants it is their first exposure to the Oriental Institute and for many it is their first professional artistic instruction as well, since many schools have cut art programs in response to budget restrictions. The support of the Illinois Arts Council has made it possible to keep costs to participants at a minimal level, making it possible for students from a wide range of economic backgrounds to take part in this project. The workshop is taught by artist Myra Herr, assisted by artist Eileen Lynch.

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The Sunday film series was enriched this summer with the addition of two slide talks by advanced graduate students in the University's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Augusta McMahon talked about her recent work in Syria and Ray Johnson presented the results of several years of research at Luxor in Egypt.

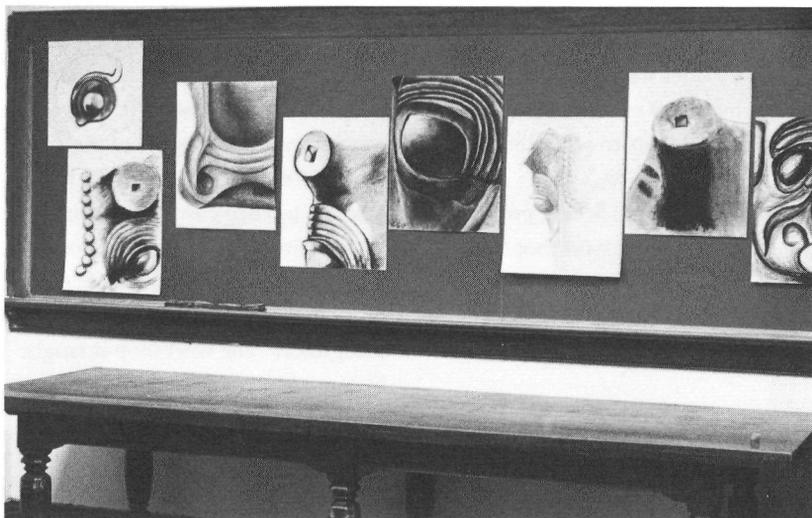
The current Featured Object brochure, number 7 in the series, was authored by Lorelei Corcoran and discusses the mummy mask shown on the cover of the new Museum brochure released in the fall of 1987. The mask has recently been placed on display, with copies of the four-page Featured Object brochure located next to it in the gallery. These

brochures are available free of charge to Museum visitors and can be sent to Oriental Institute members upon request.

Spring of 1988 saw the conclusion of a two-year sequence of Egyptian History classes offered in the Members' Course program. Of the original class of approximately 35 students, 20 students completed the six-quarter sequence, giving them a total of 96 class hours under the tutelage of instructor Frank Yurco, and reminding us once again of the serious interest of many of our program participants. Other Members' courses given throughout the year included "Queens of Ancient Egypt" (given



A display of drawings from the Sketching Is Seeing workshop for teenagers. Photo by Herb Barghusen.





Artist Myra Herr demonstrating a sketching technique to a student in the Sketching Is Seeing workshop for teenagers. Photo by Herb Barghusen.

twice in order to accommodate the large number of interested participants), "Anatolia after the Hittites," "Modern Turkish" (a year-long course), "Ptolemaic Egypt and the Hellenistic World," "Egyptian Hieroglyphic Calligraphy," and "Introductory Hieroglyphs-By-Mail," which attracted 28 students including one from England and one from Spain.

An important part of the work of the Museum Education Office is providing resources for teachers. This past year a new slide talk was added to the series, now numbering 11 titles, which makes available to teachers sets of 50-75 slides with narrative scripts for classroom use. The new slide talk, "Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt," was developed with the help of Peggy Grant, former Volunteer Chairman and continuing supporter of the

Museum Education Office programs, and the advice of faculty member Robert Ritner. Last year these slide sets were used by over 100 teachers. The mini-Museums, collections of replicas accompanied by information cards, were borrowed by 14 teachers. Sixty Teacher's Kits were sold. Several speakers were arranged for school and other groups, and a number of special programs were planned. The most ambitious of the special programs was for a group of 200 Latin students from throughout northern Illinois; the students came here for a special "Alexander in the East" tour and then participated in a competition to test the knowledge they had acquired in the galleries while using materials from the Advanced Level Teacher's Kit.

The Elementary Teacher's Kit developed in 1980 was revised this year, primarily to accommodate changes in gallery displays, necessitating changes in the guide sheets which are part of the Kit. This Kit, along with the Advanced Level Kit, is designed to help teachers prepare their students for a visit to the Oriental Institute Museum, and to date over a thousand of these Kits



have been purchased by teachers and school districts. Evaluation sheets returned by group leaders indicate that approximately one third of visiting groups used these materials either at school or while visiting the Museum.

For the past year programs of the Education Office were supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council. Many teacher resources and public programs have been developed over the past eight years with seed monies from Illinois Arts Council grants. We are grateful for the Council's interest and for its long-standing support.

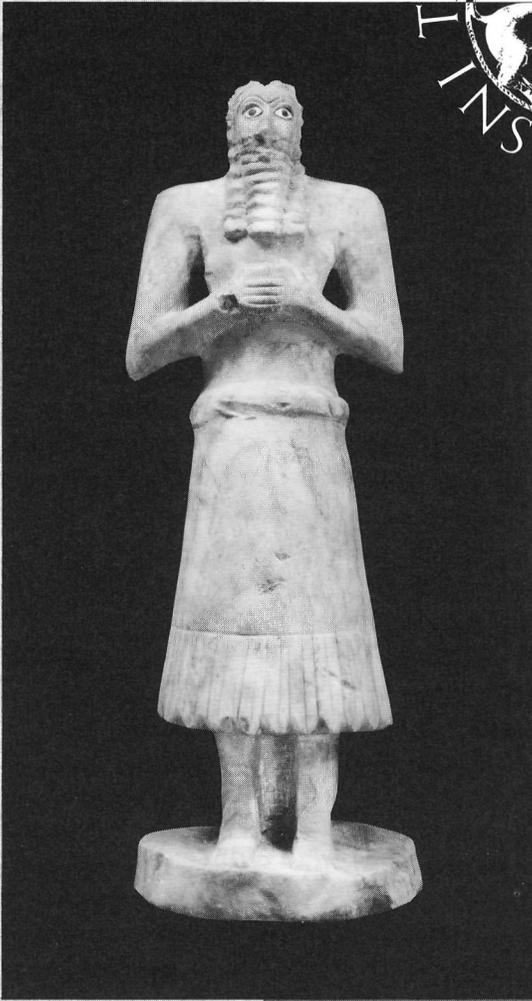
The counsel and cooperation of Janet Helman, the Volunteer Chairman, is deeply appreciated. Her on-going support is crucial to all aspects of the Museum Education Program.

The extremely able assistance of work-study student Lisa Boulden, who joined our office this past year, has eased the administrative burden

of our work and we look forward to Lisa's return for the next year.

The participation of the Museum docents is the foundation of gallery programs for the public. I commend their abilities and their willingness to rise to whatever task is asked of them, whether it is a tour on a special topic or a tour for a group with special needs, such as children with learning disabilities.

In the process of building bridges between the scholarly world and the world of the general public, the Education Office enlists the cooperation and participation of volunteers, staff, and faculty at the Oriental Institute. We thank the many individuals who have contributed their talents, time and interest to programs of the Education Office.



People

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*Membership
Program*

Gretel Braidwood

The Oriental Institute maintains an active membership program to help our members keep current with the ever increasing knowledge about the

rise of man's civilization in the ancient Near East. ▼ Members receive a bi-monthly newsletter and an *Annual Report*. An evening lecture series for members, with both outside lecturers and speakers from the Oriental Institute, is offered and members may also participate in archaeological tours to the Near East. The offices and basement of the Institute are opened to members for Members' Day every year and a half, with behind-the-scenes tours of the projects and workrooms of the Oriental Institute. The opening lecture for the 1987-88 membership series was presented in October by Edith Porada, Columbia University, on "Monsters, Demons, and Other Figures of Ancient Mesopotamian Art" and was followed by a gala reception in the Museum. In November we heard from James Sanders of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center in Claremont, California, on "The Dead Sea Scrolls Today," followed later in the month by David O'Connor, University Museum, Philadelphia, on "Palace and Cosmos in Ancient Egypt." In December, the Oriental Institute's Martha Roth presented "Matrimony and Patrimony: Marriage in First Millennium Babylonia." January lecturers were Alan Peatfield, The British School of Archaeology, Athens, talking on "Minoan Religion: New Developments and Near Eastern Connections" (jointly sponsored by the Chicago Society of the A.I.A.) and the Institute's Donald Whitcomb on "Aqaba - Port of Palestine on the China Sea." February saw three more Oriental Institute lecturers, Thomas Holland on "Sweyhat: an Ur III Outpost on the Euphrates River in Syria" and Gene Gragg and Dennis Pardee speaking jointly about "Shem, Ham (and Japeth): Were Do the Languages of the Ancient Near East Come From?" March brought another joint lecture with the Chicago Society of the A.I.A., Thomas Jacobson of Indiana University on "Man and the Sea in Prehistoric Greece and the Aegean Islands." In April we heard from William Dever, the University of Arizona, on "Archaeology and "Popular Cult" in Ancient Israel," and Gus Van Beek from the Smithsonian Institution gave us an "Overview of the Excavations of Tell Jemmeh, Israel." The series ended in May with a

presentation by Douglas Esse, The Oriental Institute, on "Ashkelon in the Persian Period: a Levantine Emporium." There were also three summer lectures. In June Oriental Institute Conservator, Laura D'Alessandro, spoke on "Conservation Concerns at The

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*

Oriental Institute,” in July the Institute’s W. Raymond Johnson told us about “A New Perspective on the Deified Amenhotep III and His Role in the Cult of the Aten,” and in August Michael Wise, the University of Chicago, presented “A Dead Sea Scroll Enigma: The Purpose and Provenance of the Temple Scroll.” Each of the lectures was followed by a reception in the Museum halls or the Institute’s garden, allowing the speakers and audience a chance to chat informally.

News & Notes, the bimonthly newsletter, has articles about the current work of the Oriental Institute, both in the field and here in Chicago; and also lists the various upcoming programs, events, exhibitions, lectures, and the members’ courses offered every quarter by the Institute’s Education Office.

In November the Membership and Education Offices joined forces to present a day-long symposium about Egypt’s Amarna period. Seven Egyptologists lectured on every phase of this important moment in Egyptian history. The exhausted audience remained enthusiastic to the end, every seat in the auditorium was filled and a number of disappointed people had to be turned away.

Egyptologist Robert Ritner led the Institute’s annual tour to Egypt in March. His enthusiastic group are mostly ready to travel with him again if he does a “second-timers” tour as he promises.

The Visiting Committee to the Oriental Institute presented its annual dinner this year on the 16th of May. Honoring the Institute’s excavations



Guests at the Visiting Committee’s May dinner for the excavations at Nippur examining the special exhibit mounted for the occasion.





*The Egypt tour relaxes on a felucca ride in Aswan.
Photo by William Hoffman*

at Nippur, it featured a special exhibition celebrating 100 years of American work at Nippur, and 40 years of Oriental Institute's excavations at this important site in Iraq. Those attending enjoyed cocktails in the Iranian Hall and the courtyard garden and dinner among the mummies and Assyrian reliefs in the Museum.

People are what make the membership program work. Long-time volunteer Helen Glennon prepares and sends out the never-ending cycle of monthly renewal notices. The head of the Institute's Visiting Committee's



Sub-committee on Development Jill Carlotta Maher works with us on every phase of raising money for the Institute and its projects. Other volunteers lend a hand when we are pressed and, last but not least, new Membership Associate Kathryn St John helps make sure everything and everyone works together.

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*The Volunteer
Guide Program*
Janet Helman

The Docent Office offered a new class this year and had new materials to use in training volunteers for the Museum and *Sug* as well as for the Registrar, the Archivist, and other offices. Training has always been one of the great strengths of the Docent Program; we offer to our docents-in-training a mini-university course in the history and culture of the ancient Near East, taught by faculty and advanced graduate students. ▼ This year's Docent Training course expanded to include a Wednesday evening class aimed at recruiting weekend docents. The sessions, which evolved into seminar discussions held around the table in Room 202, were attended by both docents-in-training and active docents. Some docents came exclusively on Wednesday nights, and some used it as an occasional substitute for the traditional Monday course. Week by week, the group worked their way with readings and discussion through a curriculum that paralleled the course that is annually given on nine successive Mondays during the spring quarter. ▼ The course is accompanied by a long and varied reading list and a kit of materials related to our Museum. Our materials were supplemented this year by a new edition of the *Docent Guide to the Museum*, a case-by-case catalog of the Museum displays. The original guide, which was prepared by Carolyn Livingood, was brought up to date as of the fall of 1987. Formatting and preparation of the material for the printer were done by Joan Hives, to whom the Docent Program is always indebted. ▼ The Monday docent course started in late March and continued to the end of May. It consisted of films, lectures, and gallery workshops. Lecturers included MacGuire Gibson, John Brinkman, Douglas Esse, Greg McMahon, Edward Wente, Janet Johnson, John Larson, and Robert Ritner. Doug Esse also acted as adviser to the docent program replacing the late Klaus Baer. ▼ A large group of new docents completed the program and are set to join the ranks of tour guides in the Museum. They are: Gayle Altur, William Boone, Charlotte Collier, John Gay, Mary Grimshaw, Barbara Gubbins, Elizabeth Hughes, Joan Margolis, Pauline Pantsios, Daila Shefner ▼ New docents mean more latitude for the captains in organizing the daily tours for students and other visitors who go through our Museum. Captains are asked to

organize their docents to deal competently and considerately with groups which range all the way from senior citizens whose interest is Bible history to nursery schoolers who are tall enough to see only some of our larger artifacts. This year's captains are:

*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*

▼ ▼ ▼
 Tuesday morning: Mary Jo Khuri
 Tuesday afternoon: Terry Friedman
 Wednesday morning: Jane Imberman
 Wednesday afternoon: Muriel Nerad
 Thursday morning: Kitty Picken
 Thursday afternoon:
 Elizabeth Spiegel
 Friday morning: Debbie Aliber
 Friday afternoon: Gloria Orwin
 Saturday morning: Georgie Maynard
 Saturday afternoon: Dorothy Blindt
 Sunday: Peter Hancon,
 Teresa Hintzke, Steve Ritzel

Docent Training has always been supplemented by monthly Docent Days, usually the second Monday of the month. This year's Docent Day programs were given by staff and faculty members: Laura D'Alessandro spoke on *Conservation Concerns for Docents in the Galleries*; Janet Johnson on *Egyptian Language, How Do We Know it and How Was It Used?*; Don Whitcomb spoke about and led a tour of the Aqaba Exhibit; Martha Roth told us about *Matrimony and Patrimony in First Millennium Babylon*; and Carol Meyer ended our season talking on *The Season at Chicago House*. At our annual Christmas Buffet, Frank Yurco spoke on *Egyptians Abroad*, and our annual spring Picnic coincided with a lecture by Christian Loeben on *Some*

Objects of Tutankhamun's Tomb Reconsidered. On our January Docent Day, we visited the Contemporary Art Workshop to see paintings by James Mesplé inspired by the *Epic of Gilgamesh*.

Afternoon programs on Docent Days included a tour of the Conservation lab, a tour on Egyptian magic given by Kitty and Rita Picken, a film, *Jordan and the Wonders of Petra*, a lecture on *How to tell Time in Ancient Babylon* by Erhard Loewinsohn and a slide talk by Joan Barghusen, *The Oriental Institute: Its Treasures and its Work*.

Our volunteer newsletter, The Docent Digest, runs articles and book reviews written by volunteers as well as by scholars. This year's feature articles included: *Sumerian Statues* by Elise Auerbach; *Ancient Harps* by Barbara Stemer; a review of "Has the Garden of Eden Been Found?" by Elda Maynard; notes on the Featured Object, the gilded funerary mask by Lorelei Corcoran; reviews of *Omm Sety* by Muriel Nerad; *Babylonian Astronomy* by Erhard Loewinsohn; and *A City in Sumer* by Peggy Grant.

All this educational material helps to keep docents up-to-date with developments in the study of the ancient Near East, and that helps to keep our tours lively and timely. We have always believed that the intellectual stimulation of the material as well as the interest of the faculty and staff account in great part for the longevity of service of our docents and volunteers.



Saturday afternoon docent Carole Yoshida discussing a fine point of Assyrian sculpture with Joan Barghusen, Museum education Coordinator. Photo by Herb Barghusen.

Longevity is recognized at our annual Christmas Buffet. Awards were made to:

▼ *5 Years* Nina Longley

▼ *10 Years*
Teddy Buddington Kitty Picken
Lilian Cropsey Rita Picken

▼ *15 Years*
Marianne Ford Kathryn Kimball
Janet Russell Peggy Wick

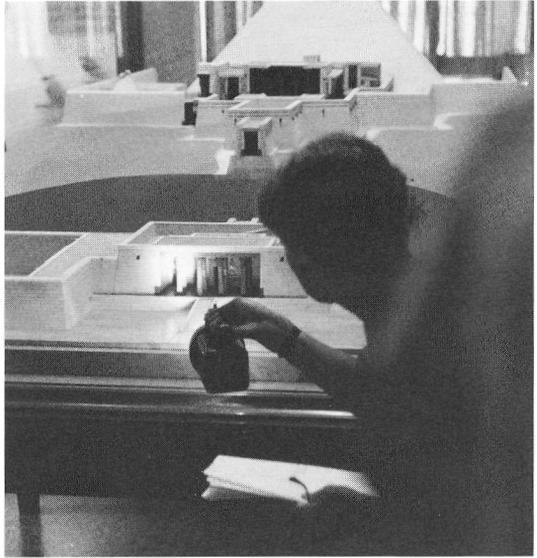
Our congratulations and our thanks to every one of our volunteers.

Volunteers at the Oriental Institute perform a host of services besides giving tours. A group of faithful volunteers staffs the *Sug*, our very successful gift shop, and manages to stay serene and helpful even when inundated with 60 ardent 6th graders anxious to buy three things each.

Volunteers also work for the archivist, the registrar, the photographer, the Membership Office, the Education Office, the Museum Office, and several faculty members. Many of them are graduates of the Docent Training Course, and many bring with them special skills of their own. Without them, the work of the Institute as well as the Museum, would be greatly hindered.

Without Joan Barghusen, whose knowledge and ideas are an irreplaceable resource of the Docent Program, we would be lost. Our constant thanks go to her.

▼ ▼ ▼
*Volunteer Chairman
Janet Helman shines a
light on painted reliefs
in the pyramid model
while discussing
this exhibit in a workshop
for teachers. Photo by
Herb Barghusen.*



In addition to the
captains and new
docents already
mentioned we have:

▼ *Regularly Scheduled
Docents*

Ute Bernhardt
Christel Betz
Rebecca Binkley
Teddy Buddington
John Burton
David Cooper
Lilian Cropsey
Catherine Duenas
Gordon Evison
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Carole Yoshida

▼ *Part Time Museum
Docents*

Betty Baum
Ida DePencier
Mary D'Ouille
Peggy Grant
Bud Haas
Cissy Haas
Erhard Loewinsohn
Alice Mulberry

▼ *Regularly Scheduled
Sup Docents*

Sonja Allen
Muriel Brauer
Charlotte Collier
Evelyn Dyba
Tanya Epstein
Kate Grodzins
Barbara Gubbins
Jane Hildebrand

Carol High Johnson
Chris Kim
Inger Kirsten
Peggy Kovacs
Carmen McGarry
Norma van der Meulen
Pat Mjølhus
Susan Nowak
Rochelle Rossin
Jeanne Schalk
Mary Schulman
Eleanor Swift
Mardi Trosman
Barbara Watson

▼ *Part Time Suq
Docents*

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Betty Baum
Barbara Frey
Peggy Grant
Carol Green
Sarah Helman
Jo Jackson
Yvonne Wesley
Lee Weaver

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(Nicole)
Hertsell Conway
Lilian Cropsey
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▼ *Museum Office
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Carol High Johnson
Adam Nadel

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Education Office*

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Dictionary and
AqabaProject*

Sally Zimmerman

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Project*

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Membership Office*

Helen Glennon

▼ *Volunteer in
Conservation Lab*

Mitchell Merbeck

▼ ▼ ▼

The Suq
Denise Browning

This was a relatively quiet year for the *Suq*, with no extracurricular activities like the Harper Court Christmas store and the Museum benefit of last year. However, our gross sales for the store were up by a slight margin (2%), probably due to our extended hours on Wednesday evenings during November and December. But more importantly, our profits were up by a large percent (73%). This is partly due to getting more of our merchandise directly from the Near East, instead of going through several vendors, partly because we made more of our own jewelry, and partly because we purchased stock at low prices from companies going out of business. The last method is good and bad. We got the merchandise at a great bargain, but it will be the last of its kind. ▼ We developed a new card this year depicting one of our own Assyrian reliefs, a paper weight that is an exact reproduction of an Akkadian tablet from our collection, and a necklace from one of our cylinder seals. ▼ A special thanks to our staff, Florence Ovadia who creates our beautiful displays, Barbara Baird who made many of the necklaces, Ed LeMay who handled all of our mail orders, and Michael Westerhouse who helped with the book stock. ▼ A special thanks, also, to Eleanor Swift who gives so much of her time to keep us well organized, and to Georgie Maynard who has been helping us restock our books on Monday. ▼ But, as much as anything, credit for our success in these economically hard times goes to our *Suq* docents. It is they who face the public everyday with such energy and enthusiasm, answering questions and offering help to individual customers as well as to the large groups of children who descend upon the store. ▼ Our valiant volunteers:

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*The Oriental
Institute
1987-1988
Annual Report*

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Fund*



Under the terms of the will of Mr. Tripp, who died in 1974, an endowment fund was established to support the programs of the Oriental Institute. During 1987-88, income from the fund helped support the following activities and projects:

- payment of salary for the Nippur site guard
- purchase of reference material for the Research Archives

*The Maurice D.
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Louise B. Schwartz
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This past year the income from the Schwartz Endowment underwrote:

- portions of production and printing costs for Oriental Institute publications



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1987-1988
Annual Report*

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* *Resigned August, 1988*
** *Died April 27, 1988*
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1987-1988
Annual Report*

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Philip Petrie,
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(until 4/29/88)

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Evada Waller,
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Balance: July 1, 1987	9,870	9,870
Income: July 1, 1987 - June 30, 1988		
Members' dues	<u>84,500</u>	
Total:	94,370	94,370
 Expenditures: July 1, 1987 - June 30, 1988		
Salaries and benefits	39,000	
Publications:		
<i>Annual Report, News & Notes</i> , etc.	24,709	
Lecture program	5,499	
Postage	5,370	
Supplies, equipment, operating expenses	7,325	
Computing expenses	<u>1,999</u>	
Total:	83,902	<u>83,902</u>
 Balance: June 30, 1988		10,468

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