

*THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
1997-1998
ANNUAL REPORT*

Cover Illustration:

Epigraphic Survey photographer Susan Lezon photographing forearea of Medinet Habu complex from first pylon of Ramesses III's Mortuary Temple, western Thebes. Shown from left to right: small Amun Temple of Hatshepsut and Thutmosis III (Eighteenth Dynasty) and later additions (Twenty-fifth Dynasty through the Roman period), Ramesses III High Gate (Twentieth Dynasty), and God's Wives funerary chapels (Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Dynasties). Photograph by Thomas van Eynde

Title Page Illustration (overleaf):

New Chicago House, Luxor, Egypt. Photograph by Thomas van Eynde

The pages that divide the sections of this year's report feature illustrations of the Epigraphic Survey, celebrating its seventy-fifth year

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INTRODUCTION

Overleaf. Epigraphers at wall of Colonnade Hall at Luxor Temple. Photograph by W. Raymond Johnson

INTRODUCTION

Gene Gragg

Faculty and Staff

As I end my first year as director, with the Oriental Institute gradually expanding back into its new and renewed quarters, I take note of the departures of individuals whose vision and work and persistence made all of this possible, and who left the Oriental Institute a different place than the one they found. First and foremost is William Sumner, who came to us in 1989 from far off Columbus, Ohio. Friend, archaeological colleague, former Naval supply officer, and now Director of the Oriental Institute, Bill was given a problem to solve, a climate-control crisis. Bill sized up the situation, drew up a plan, and carried it through. Ably aided from 1993 on by Assistant Director for Development Cynthia Echols, with the help of a tireless Executive Committee and supportive Visiting Committee, they put together for the first time in the seventy-five year history of the Oriental Institute a major fund-raising campaign which, as I write, in its final months, is approaching its \$10.1 million goal. Bill retired as of the end of this year and went back to the campus town he left to join us. We expect to see him at regular intervals as we put back into full commission our renewed and expanded building. Cynthia has not escaped so far, having moved on to Foundation Relations at the University of Chicago, and will continue to suffer, gladly she graciously insists, the importunate queries of her Oriental Institute friends and neighbors.

In terms of faculty configuration, Bill Sumner's retirement was the only formal change this year. But we know that in coming years, here as in other academic institutions, the cadence of retirements will only pick up, and we are very much concerned with how our faculty will look in the first decade or so of the next century. Bill Sumner had been, of course, very much occupied by the directorship, but he still found time to represent Iranian archaeology vigorously here, and his departure means one less presence of archaeological expertise in our midst — a discipline that is so central to the Oriental Institute. Since the search that was suspended in the interest of the building campaign was for a position in Egyptian archaeology, this makes the archaeology gap all the more perceptible. It has been an immense help, at least for our teaching program, that we have been able to have an occasional visiting position in Egyptian archaeology. In spring 1998 we had a newly minted Ph.D. from Pennsylvania, Stephen Harvey. Clearly a high priority for post-Legacy, post-reinstallation development will be to make up this gap.

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A pleasant reminder of how much the position of the Oriental Institute in ancient Near Eastern studies owes to an extraordinary faculty — and an occasion to reflect on what we must do to retain that eminence — was a pair of 90th birthdays: Robert Braidwood (July 1997; celebrated in October 1997) and Hans Güterbock (May 1998; celebrated in October 1998)

Museum and Reinstallation

The new wing was finished and occupied this year by the storage, archival, registration, conservation, and preparation facets of our museum operation — esthetically and functionally it elicits universal praise. At this moment the archaeologists are about to occupy their newly renovated laboratories and workspaces. We now need to reinstall galleries worthy of the building and renovation effort. Given both donor and public expectations, we estimate that three years is about as long as we can take for reinstallation before we turn to concentrate our funding efforts on pressing research needs. Over this period, by keeping our plan to reinstall gallery by gallery coordinated with our fund-raising activity, we expect to be able to meet our reinstallation goal. We plan to open the Egyptian Gallery in spring 1999. If we can open another major gallery by spring 2000 (we are committed to hosting a major traveling exhibit on the Ur Royal Cemetery from Pennsylvania in fall 2000), we should be in a good position to have the remaining galleries at or near completion in 2001.

Programs and Projects

As you will read in the following pages, the work of the Oriental Institute is going forward on all fronts. Our long-term philological projects are making solid headway. The Demotic Dictionary has been getting intensive work this year and should publish the year after next. As for the dictionaries funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Chicago Hittite Dictionary published volume P/3; the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, one of the defining projects of the Oriental Institute, is seeing two volumes through press (R and T) and is about to begin editing its last three volumes. In Luxor the Epigraphic Survey, another defining project of the Oriental Institute, continued its indispensable work of the recording and conservation of monuments; plates and text were finished for the Epigraphic Survey's Luxor Temple, Volume 2 (OIP 116). At the same time the Theban Desert Road project continued to break new ground in a rich and virtually untouched source of information about ancient Egypt.

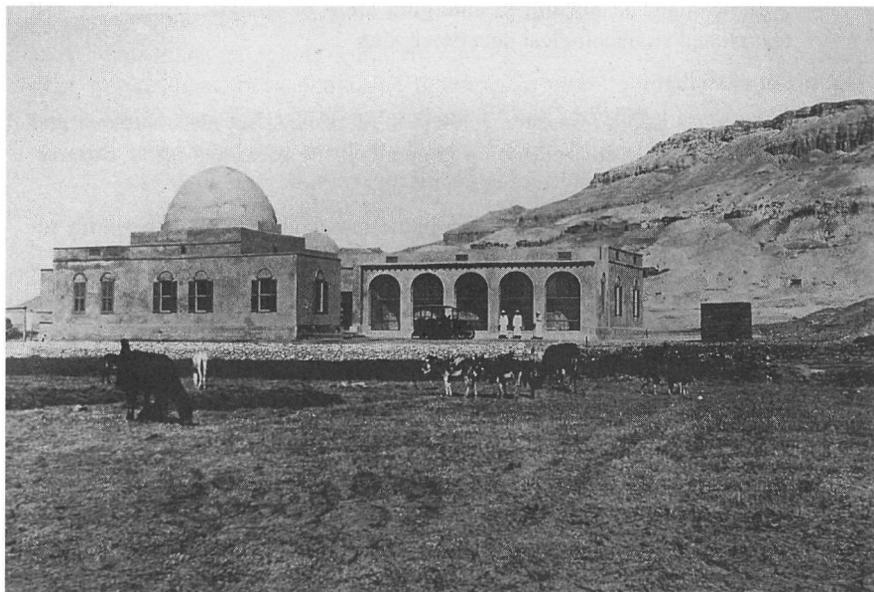
As is becoming almost routine in these annual reports, there is exciting news to pass on this year also in the area of electronic text and data processing. The Oriental Institute is already recognized as a leader in this area; during the year our Website has been averaging more than 100,000 hits a week, with between 1.5 and 2.0 gigabytes of data being downloaded from it each week. On 1 April we put on line the Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions: Persepolis (<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/ARI/ARI.html>). This is an edition, with glossary and links to archaeological plans and expedition photographs of the Old Persian, Elamite, and Akkadian royal inscriptions of the Persian Empire. It serves also as a pilot project for electronic publication of ancient Near Eastern texts and archaeological data, which will be extended to include all areas of activity of the Oriental Institute. We are currently

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planning to bring our text and data markup into conformity with the recently promulgated XML (eXtended Markup Language) standard. A conference on XML, *Networking the <Past>: Archaeological and Philological Publication on the World-Wide Web Using XML*, is being organized by David Schloen, possibly in conjunction with the Chicago Humanities Institute.

At the intersection of document processing and teaching, a four year, \$950,000 Mellon grant to adapt the recent developments in computer technology to new modes of instruction for teaching three less commonly taught languages was awarded to a group of scholars at the University of Michigan, the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and the University of Wisconsin. Janet Johnson is responsible for the Egyptian language component. The long-range goal of this project is to enable universities to employ technology in innovative ways to rethink the relationship between student and teacher, the difference between classroom learning and distance learning, and the differences between self-paced instruction and instruction that follows the academic calendar. An immediate goal is to create a new paradigm for language instruction, one that can be adapted to a variety of languages in the future.

Profound innovations are going on in archaeology also. Here two University of Chicago-Argonne National Laboratory seed grants promise to have far-reaching effects on the way archaeology is done here (and elsewhere!). One, headed by Aslihan Yener, involves analytic techniques using such facilities as the Advanced Photon Source (its progress was followed by the press, at one point with a front-page article in the *Chicago Tribune*); the other, directed by McGuire Gibson and Tony Wilkinson, is for computational simulation of socio-economic development



Old Chicago House, on the West Bank of the Nile, was in use from 1924 to 1932 when the crew moved to the present house; the old house continued to be used by the Epigraphic Survey for storage and meals during work days; it is now a hotel

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(awarded this year). Out of these has grown the idea of a Center for the Study of Ancient Technology and Environment (CSATE), a joint enterprise of a group of Midwestern universities involving projects in the ancient Near East, East Africa, and Central and South America, and headquartered in the Oriental Institute. A preproposal to the National Science Foundation was accepted (one of 44 out of 283) and a proposal has been submitted. The intellectual promise of the proposal's content is shown by its success up to this point.

For new and ongoing archaeology projects, it seems safe to say that environment, technology, and socio-economic modeling issues will loom large across the board for some time to come. Clearly, this is so for the gold mines of Bir Umm Fawakhir (Carol Meyer), the beginning of urbanism in the Arabian Peninsula at Dhamar (Gibson and Wilkinson), and early Islamic urbanism at Aqaba (Whitcomb). The Amuq Plain (Yener and Wilkinson), an extraordinarily rich archaeological area with literally hundreds of sites, neolithic through classical, is the scene of a return in force, for a long-term involvement, to an area first surveyed by the Oriental Institute in the 1930s. This area, especially, will be the workbench and testing ground for the kind of ideas and techniques that are coming out of the seed grants.

Major Strengths and Challenges

As we end this year, I think we can identify our major strengths as:

- enhanced physical plant
- proven base of support in a donor community
- acknowledged leadership in emerging areas of analytic techniques and textual and archaeological data processing

Our major challenges:

- construct a public presence (galleries, of course, but also outreach and wider, non-specialist education generally) that measures up to expectations created thus far
- with the building complete, coordinate our development effort with research priorities of the Oriental Institute
- set a research agenda that will strike the next century as being as coherent and urgent as the agenda with which James Henry Breasted inspired generations of researchers and supporters in this century
- recruit a set of scholars who can carry on the work of those who are leaving and who have left

Of these challenges, it is clear that a solution to the last two can only emerge from the consensus and intelligent collaboration of the scholars who make up the Oriental Institute. As a beginning in this process, we held a two-day faculty retreat on Saturday 18 April (at the downtown Gleacher Center) and Saturday 2 May (Ida Noyes). Our major collective task this year is to begin to test, concretize, and put into effect some of the concepts which began to emerge during that process.



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Overleaf. Yarko Kobylecky photographing Kushite additions to Amun Temple at Medinet Habu. Photograph by W. Raymond Johnson

AMUQ VALLEY REGIONAL PROJECT

K. Aslıhan Yener and Tony J. Wilkinson

In 1997 a short one month season (12 September to 12 October) continued the ongoing regional program of geoarchaeology and archaeological survey in the Amuq Valley. Directed by Tony J. Wilkinson, the initial aim was to reconstruct the palaeoenvironment of the Amuq. During this first phase of our investigations several new sites were discovered in the drained Lake Antioch basin and unsurveyed sectors of the Amuq Valley, bringing the total to 203 sites. Preliminary topographical maps and settlement pattern distributions were completed. Our intent in the future is to assess long-term changes in the region's population and ecology and to place the Amuq into a broader regional context by examining areas of potential metal extraction within the Amanus Mountains. By finding and recording gold and copper sources and by determining their dates of extraction from the mines we hope to describe the archaeological diversity of the Amuq. Tell Kurdu, a major Chalcolithic period site dating to ca. 4500 BC, is targeted for large scale excavations in 1998.

The 1997 season was conducted under the auspices of the Turkish Ministry of Culture, Directorate General of Monuments and Museums. The 1997 team consisted of K. Aslıhan Yener, Tony J. Wilkinson, Eleanor Barbanes, Simrit Dhesi, Kubra

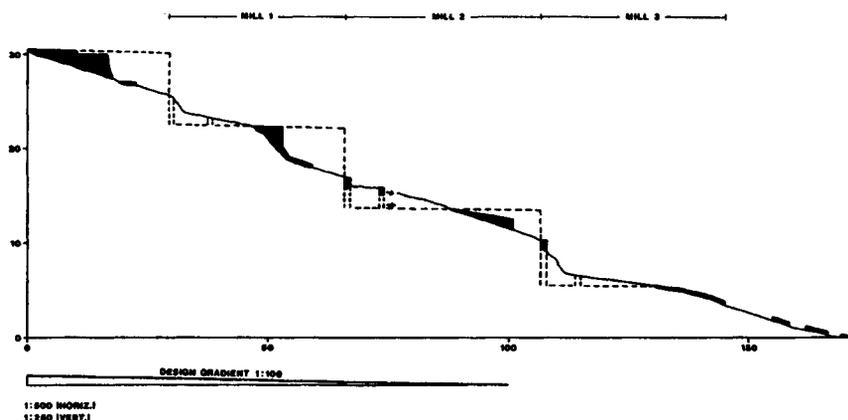


Figure 1. Reconstruction of flight of three Roman/Byzantine water mills west of Yenişehir, mapped by Eleanor Barbanes and Simrit Dhesi. Millstones, located in milling chambers below penstocks (shaded and dotted), were turned by water emitted under pressure from vertical pressure pipe

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Ensert, Hatice Pamir, and Jan Verstraete. We are particularly grateful to both the Oriental Institute and its members — especially Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Haas, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice D. Schwartz, and Melanie Ann Weill — who contributed financially to the success of the project. Special thanks go to Mrs. Theodore D. Tieken and Malcolm H. Wiener and the Institute of Aegean Prehistory for their continuing support of the project. Research assistants Simrit Dhesi and Jonathan Smolin in Chicago greatly added to our ability to process finds from the sites, and we thank them sincerely. We gratefully acknowledge Ercan Alp, Elizabeth Friedman, Denny Mills, Dean Haeffner, and Laura D'Alessandro for the guidance and special attention given to the analysis of the Amuq figurine and core samples from Lake Gölbaşı at the Advanced Photon Source in Argonne National Laboratory. We thank the Antakya Archaeological Museum director and staff members Hüseyin Dinçer, Faruk Kılınç, and Lale Saraç and also the newly established Mustafa Kemal University and its Rector (President), Prof. Haluk Ipek, and Provost, Miklat Doğanlar, for their continued help and guidance. Thanks also go to members of the Hatay and Reyhanlı administration, Utku Acun (Vali), Ayhan Çiftaslan (Assistant Vali), Hasan Elicaçık (Culture), Ibrahim Oflazoğlu (Tourism), Mehmet Hazırlar (Library), Ömer Doğanay (Kaymakam).

Preliminary archaeological survey has charted the dynamics of human settlement and has shown that there has been significant change in settlement locations over the past seven or eight thousand years. The discovery of the small site of Dutlu Höyük (AS 200) considerably enhances our knowledge of the Neolithic of the plain. Half of this site was removed by earthmoving machinery a number of years ago, with the result that masses of pottery are strewn over the ground. Being mainly of Amuq Phases A and B date, this is one of the rare examples of a single-period ceramic Neolithic site in the Amuq. During the Chalcolithic period through the beginning of the Early Bronze Age, ca. 3000 BC, the largest sites in the Amuq appear to

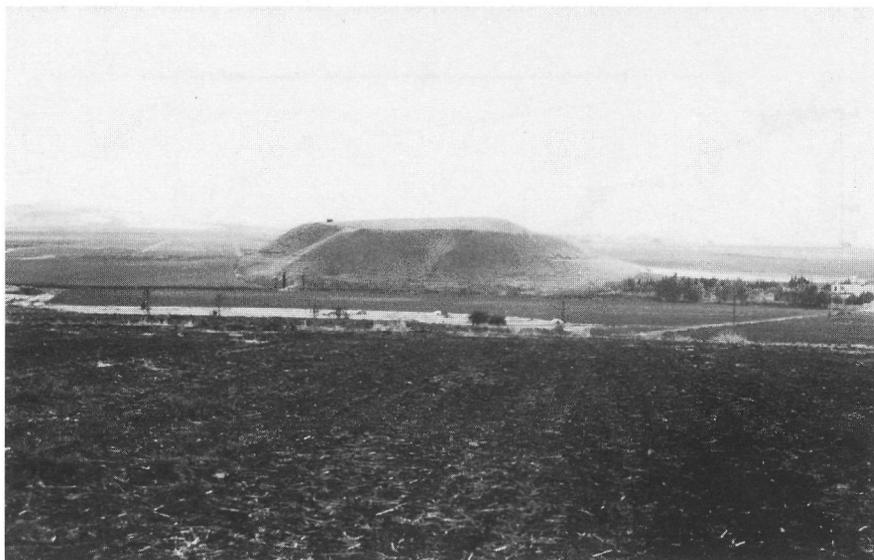


Figure 2. View of Daudpaşar on Afrin River, originally discovered by Robert Braidwood

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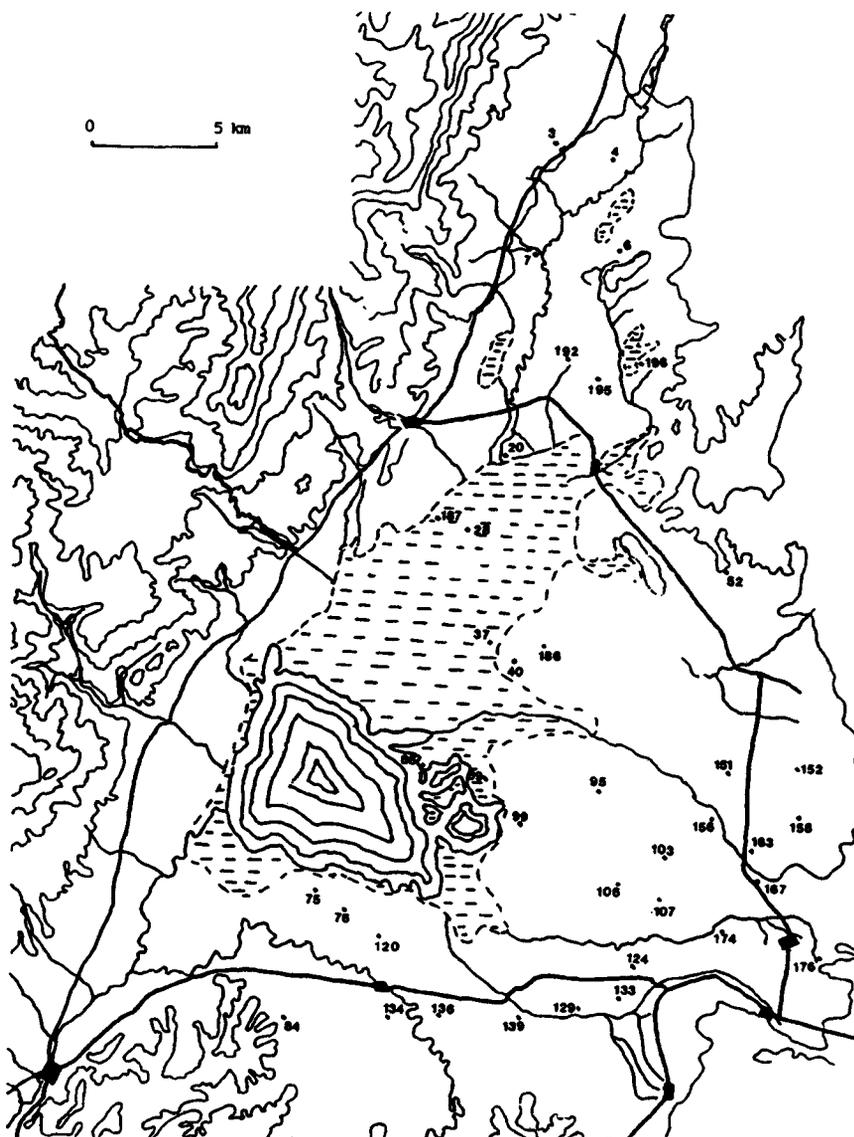


Figure 3. Distribution of Late Bronze Age sites in Amuq Plain. Drawing by J. Verstraete

have been Tell Kurdu (Amuq Phases C–E) and neighboring Tell ‘Imar (Amuq Phases E–G) located near the center of the valley. After a hiatus of perhaps a few centuries, the main settlement of the plain shifted towards the southern fringes of the plain where Tells Ta’yinat and Atchana (Alalakh) grew up nearer to the main east-west route linking the Aleppo region with the Mediterranean coast. The alternating nature of occupation between these twin urban center sites may result from periodic environmental events or socio-economic factors. Finally, with the integration of the area into the Seleucid Empire, the capital appears to have shifted west, first to Antigonía, and then to Antioch. During the Roman period, the pre-eminent

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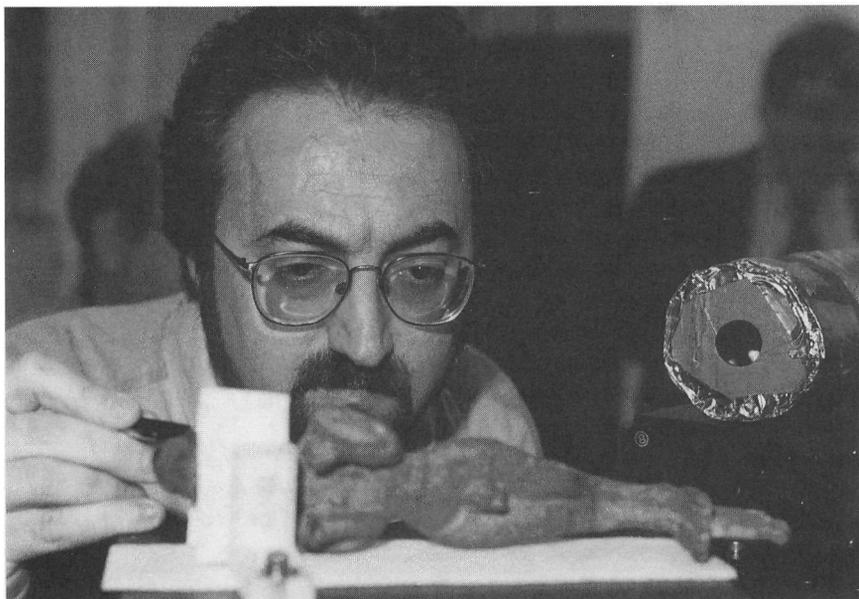


Figure 4. Ercan Alp oversees analysis of Judaidah figurine at Argonne National Laboratory's Advanced Photon Source

site within the plain was Imma, located at modern Yenişehir in the southeast sector of the Amuq Plain. In this sector of the plain we find that the landscape of the limestone uplands intersects with that of the plain, and at Khirbet al-Tahun we were able to record a full flight of Roman/Byzantine water mills that must have operated just outside town of Imma (fig. 1). Further processing of survey data will help isolate whether factors such as the growth of Lake Antioch, riverine flooding, or economic changes were influential in such shifts of settlement. One testable hypothesis is that there was a change in the valley economy from farming of major staple crops and pastoralism to that of “wealth finance” or trade-based systems. The wealth economy would have been based, we think, on metal production centered on the nearby Amanus or Taurus Mountains. A relocation of settlements towards major routes of access is one such indication of a shift in the economy towards increased trade and exchange of economic products.

As part of the Amuq Project, a new project, directed by Jan Verstraete of the University of Cincinnati, was established in 1996 to document the relationship between the Aegean (including Cyprus) and the local cultures of the plain. During the 1997 season 31 known sites were visited, located by Global Positioning System (GPS), described, measured, drawn, photographed, and sampled, and 7 new sites were discovered and recorded. In total over the 1996 and 1997 field seasons 116 sites were visited, of which 94 are previously known from the original Braidwood survey and 22 are new discoveries (fig. 2).

Jan Verstraete reports the following results: Sixty-one sites could be dated to the Middle Bronze to early Iron Age. Preliminary conclusions drawn from the data suggest that during the Middle Bronze Age (Amuq Phase L) the Amuq was densely occupied, with sites evenly spread over the plain. During the next phase, the Late

AMUQ VALLEY REGIONAL PROJECT

Bronze Age (Amuq Phase M), sites were concentrated at the eastern and southern sides of the Amuq, mainly along the Orontes and Afrin Rivers (fig. 3). At the beginning of the Iron Age (Amuq Phase N) there was a marked increase in the number of settlements (forty-two sites) especially at the eastern and western edges of the plain.

Aegean or "Aegeanizing" pottery was found on twenty-three sites, but only four of these sites had definite Bronze Age sherds. The sites with Aegean pottery are concentrated in the northern part of the plain, along the Kara Su River, and at the southern and eastern edges, along the Orontes and Afrin Rivers. During 1997, a more intensive survey was conducted on two sites, Baytarli-Toprakli (AS 40) and Ta'yinat (AS 126). Comparisons were sought respectively between the small, unexcavated site AS 40, which was occupied during the Middle Bronze and Late Bronze Ages, and the larger site of Ta'yinat, excavated during the original campaigns of the Oriental Institute during the 1930s.

While fieldwork was progressing, ongoing programs of instrumental analysis generated a great deal of interest in the press. A Collaborative Seed Grant between the University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory was renewed for a second year with exciting results. A source of brilliant non-destructive X-rays, the Advanced Photon Source (APS), was made available to us for high precision compositional identification. Predicted to provide compositions to parts per billion, the APS has the distinct advantage of not damaging artifacts. The beamlines at APS/SRI and ChemMatCARS (the University of Chicago facility) include a capability, synchrotron radiation X-ray fluorescence (SR-XRF), that measures the spectra emitted from

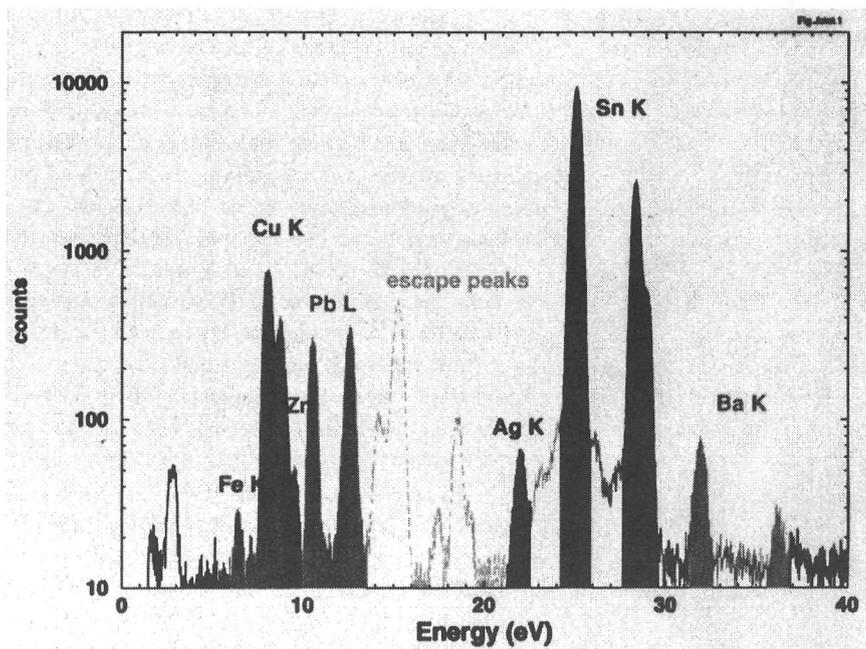


Figure 5. Elemental analysis of Judaidah figurine showing peaks corresponding to tin (Sn), copper (Cu), and lead (Pb). By Ercan Alp, Liz Friedman, and colleagues at Argonne National Laboratory

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Figure 6. Hellenistic/Roman wall in Arpali quarries near Kirikhan, buried under ca. 3 m of alluvial fan deposits

the object. Each chemical element has its own recognizable spectrum, and with the aid of a sophisticated software package, these emissions can then be converted into chemical compositions. The brilliance of the X-ray source also enabled the detection of niobium, an exotic element not easily analyzed with other methods. The niobium may eventually prove useful in the identification of metal sources.

The APS beamline is also targeted for tomographic imaging and CAT scans of objects from the Oriental Institute and Field Museum collections. These imaging techniques use high-energy X-rays and phase contrasting which gives us a peek into the internal macro- and microstructure of artifacts without having to cut them. Consequently, information that was previously impossible to obtain from museum quality artifacts, such as methods of manufacture, kiln or furnace temperatures, alloying techniques and processes such as casting, annealing and welding, can now be gathered. The Amuq figurine from Judaidah Phase G (fig. 4; ca. 3000 BC) and a Japanese Samurai sword from the Field Museum were brought to Argonne and scanned. Analysis of the figurine revealed signs of breakage at the knees and ancient welding with lead. Made of bronze with high amounts of tin, the figurine (fig. 5) had silver/gold decorations on its belt and chest and a silver helmet. The high peaks for barium suggest the use of flux. Even X-ray diffraction patterns were obtained that suggest the next step, the internal structure of the metals, may indeed be within our reach next winter. Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations graduate student Liz Friedman is now an intern in training at the APS working towards actualizing this.

Another relic from the past, in the form of a crucible excavated in 1936 from Tell Judaidah (Phase G), was re-examined using a Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometer (SIMS). Analysis by Mieke Aedriaens of the University of Antwerp demonstrated that the crucible residue is a result of alloying of copper and tin, and that the alloying procedures were actually done at the site. Point analyses within the slag en-

AMUQ VALLEY REGIONAL PROJECT

crustation and prills (globules and droplets of metal) show that they were of bronze varying in tin concentration between 35% and 75%. This is quite substantial and suggests that the smiths were dealing with high levels of tin during the formative periods of tin bronze metallurgy, and that they had easy access to the tin sources of the Taurus Mountains and Kestel Mine are very relevant. We will continue to explore the Amuq and its technological role within the region.

Geoarchaeological work continues to show that whereas parts of the plain have experienced little sedimentation, elsewhere the plain is blanketed in deep accumulations of sediment. Deep accumulations are particularly apparent to the northwest of Lake Antioch, where buildings of the Hellenistic/Roman period are buried beneath some 3 m of gravel and loam washed from the adjacent Amanus Mountains (fig. 6). Such evidence suggests that along this part of the plain, the apparent lack of sites may partly result from the burial of former settlements beneath deep sedimentary accumulations.

Another effort, again in collaboration with the APS, was to recognize signals of environmental change resulting from human agencies or natural factors. Thanks to Liz Friedman, as well as Ercan Alp and colleagues at Argonne, we now have preliminary results from cores taken through Lake Gölbaşı located to the north of the Lake Antioch basin. These analyses show changes in the quantity of trace elements through time in the ancient lake sediments. Of all the trace elements analyzed the most useful so far have been potassium, calcium, and chromium. Potassium, being associated with clay minerals, appears to relate to clay deposition within early lakes, while calcium might have accumulated as a result of the drying up of the lakes and the consequent formation of soils on the lake bed. Finally, chromium (and associated nickel) is probably a result of the erosion of the Amanus Mountains, the component rocks of which are rich in these minerals. We can now tentatively suggest that Lake Gölbaşı was at its greatest extent in the Chalcolithic period and was then dry during the Bronze and Iron Ages, when soils formed. Finally there appears to have been a second growth of lakes around the Hellenistic and Roman periods. This late development of a lake appears to have been roughly in phase with the growth of Lake Antioch which, as we have shown in the *1996/97 Annual Report*, grew at some time in the first millennium BC.

AQABA

Donald Whitcomb

Archaeological research in the Aqaba region has revealed a succession of settlements, from the Chalcolithic to the modern period. The excavations of the Oriental Institute, beginning in 1985, produced a completely unexpected chapter in this story, the remains of the early Islamic city of Ayla in the heart of the modern city.

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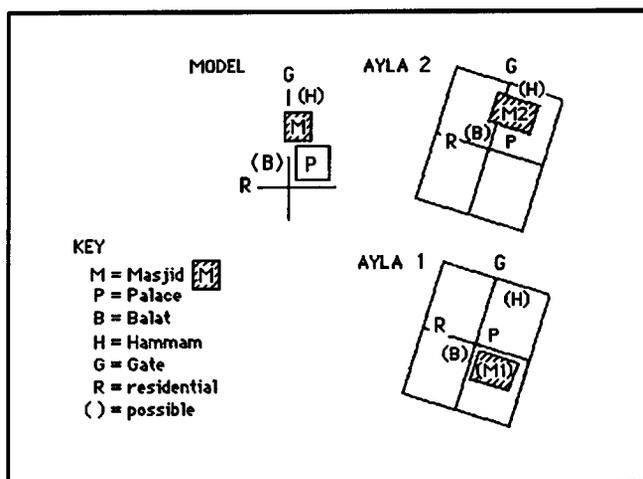


Figure 1. Model for early Islamic development of Ayla

This town was occupied from ca. AD 650 to the arrival of the Crusaders in AD 1116, a period of ca. 450 years. The archaeological evidence of this period provides important information on the sequence of cultural changes between Late Antiquity and the formation of Early Islam. Further, it provides documentation on the stages of development during the great fluo-

rescence of the Abbasid and Fatimid periods antecedent to the transformations of the medieval world. The Islamic Aqaba Project has been engaged in the interpretation of walls and sherds in light of these historical contexts, while being concerned for the touristic development and explanation of this site in the modern city (as discussed in the 1996/97 Annual Report).

The interpretative understanding of archaeological evidence holds an importance at least equal to the process of discovery. This will be an obvious statement for members of the Oriental Institute, yet needs some repetition for many others, especially some governmental agencies. With this in mind, the Islamic Aqaba Project has shifted its emphasis to processing information already recovered and, perhaps more importantly, examining this data in the context of a new theory of urbanism, the explication of the beginnings of the Islamic city. The study of the early Islamic city may profitably take its focus from study of the so-called desert castles located in Bilad al-Sham (Syria-Palestine). These monuments, mostly dated to the late Umayyad period, have been intensively analyzed from art historical vantages, with multiple hypotheses on their functional rationale. More recently, however, the author has combined the results from Aqaba with evidence from Anjar in Lebanon and other sites to bring a more nuanced perspective to these sites.

The present thesis hypothesizes that these early Islamic settlements were all constructed as *incipient urban entities*. They contain structural elements typical of more recognizable cities, such as bath houses, gates, the palatial or better administrative structures, mosques, and residential elements. Thus monuments, from the perspective of internal archaeological context, are considered as aspects of urban planning. The Muslim conquest initiated a conscious attempt to recreate specific morphological features that constituted an urban pattern characteristic of western and southwestern Arabian culture. The institutional components of this South Arabian city were adapted to the religious, administrative, and commercial needs of the new Islamic polity, a transformation which set a trajectory for medieval cities throughout the Middle East (and perhaps even Europe of the early Middle Ages).

Thus an Arabian concept of urbanism lies at the foundation of the early Islamic city; the existence of a distinctive "Islamic city" from the beginnings of Islam begins to take form with specific archaeological characteristics. This hypothesis is derived from Aqaba and other urban plans and can be tested on other sites in Arabia and the Levant.

Spatial Patterns in the Early Islamic City

An initial breakthrough in the study of structural elements centered on the location of the bath house. In the early Islamic city, the bath house (*hammam*) was a primary urban element, one which adopts a Hellenistic technological apparatus. While one finds baths in extra-urban situations, there seems to be a pattern within cities. Analysis of a number of sites revealed a constant relationship in distance and direction to the "palace" (or administrative center), with the bath house located to the north (or northwest) at 50–60 m distance. Further, the bath is often located just east of the north gate, which appears to function as the principal entrance into the city.

The city of Ayla is oriented with corners to the cardinal directions; nevertheless, the northeast gate appears to be associated with the direction of Syria and hence a functional "north." As luck would have it, there is no evidence for the location of a bath house at Aqaba, though some reports during building of the Corniche road suggest that hypocausts might have been found east of the Syrian Gate. During the 1995 season of excavations, a large building, decorated with external pilasters, was found just northeast of the Central Pavilion. If this was the administrative structure or "palace" of Ayla, its location would be the predicted distance and direction from the putative bath and north gate (fig. 1).

In general, there were two administrative structures in the early Islamic city. One of these was the Dar al-Imara, the place of the amir, of the social leadership, and of the military. The second structure was the Balat (a term deriving from Palatium), related to the Diwan, to the administrative apparatus, to the financial offices, the bureaucracy. Both of these buildings had fixed locations relative to the mosque. The Dar al-Imara was located

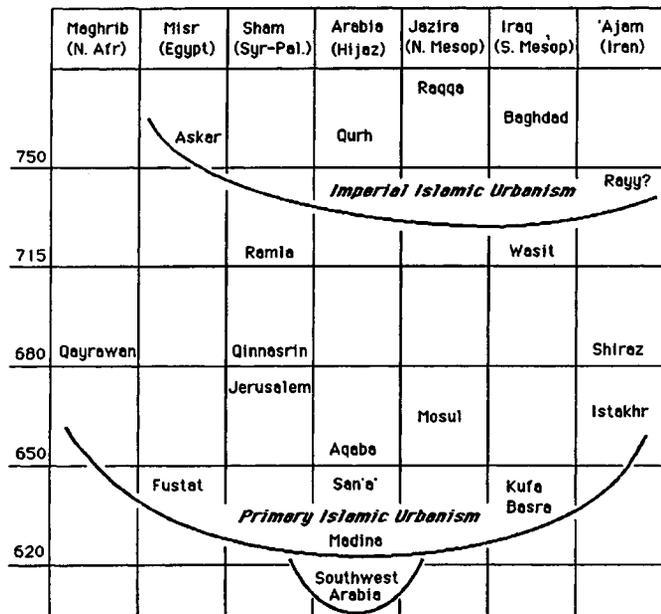


Figure 2. Chart illustrating the development of early Islamic urbanism

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to the *qibla* (south) side of the mosque; and the Balat was located west of the palace. This topographic configuration would correspond to the axial relationship of the Ayla congregational mosque, excavated in 1993, and the palace structure mentioned above. The model would predict a Balat or financial offices to be located in the unexcavated area west of the palace.

Nothing is ever completely straightforward, even in the best of models. The mosque excavated in Aqaba is a secondary structure, belonging to the Abbasid period (after the mid-eighth century), which imitates the original congregational mosque. The Umayyad mosque, which was probably that founded by 'Uthman ibn 'Affan, is not beneath the later mosque and has not been found. Another pattern may be postulated: location of the palace on the *qibla* side of the mosque appears to have been an innovation of the caliph al-Mu'awiya (ca. 680). Before this time, the palace seems to have been either north or east of the mosque, possibly in imitation of the locational relationship between the house of the Prophet and the mosque (*haram*) in Medina. This pattern would suggest that the first mosque at Ayla will be found south of the palace building. The area has not been excavated but lies in the path of the wadi; if the wadi is a fault formed in the 748 earthquake, then there was an ample reason for abandoning its first location and building an imitation on solid ground to the north of the palace.

Conclusions

This very brief description of a model of the early Islamic city has an obvious function in providing an empirical basis for understanding Ayla or other archaeological sites. Perhaps of more interest for the Oriental Institute is the strong indication that, among other aspects, the early Islamic city was a ritual city. Rather like Persepolis, the ritual city is a functional framework that has underpinned urbanism since very early times. One may trace this phenomenon from the ancient Near East into its late antique manifestations in southwest Arabia. In this sense, the early Islamic city was an oriental phenomenon, one of cultural continuity which encompassed varied tribal and ethnic identities into the Islamic community (*umma*). This was an Arabian concept of urbanism that proved appropriate as *the material referent* for the theocratic state which began in the Hijaz during the early seventh century.

It may not be inappropriate at the Oriental Institute to express the generalizing pattern of this urbanism in an adaptation of Robert Braidwood's famous "dipchart," originally intended to display much earlier patterns of settlement (fig. 2). Like Jarmo, the centrality of the excavations at Aqaba may prove to be accidental with accumulation of much further archaeological study.

TELL BEYDAR SURVEY

Tony J. Wilkinson

In summer 1998, at the invitation of Marc Lebeau of the European/Syrian Archaeological Project at Tell Beydar, and Karel van Lerberghe of the Catholic University, Leuven, a small archaeological survey was initiated in the Wadi 'Awaidj within the Khabur basin of northern Syria (fig. 1). Our aim was simply to attempt a moderately intensive survey in order to obtain a record of the history of human settlement through the last 8,000 years or so. This record, we hoped, would help us understand the processes that led up to the rise of urbanization in the region, as well as help chart what happened after settlement declined in the late third and second millennium BC. Another objective of the fieldwork was to describe and interpret the full record of landscape features, such as roads and canals, and to place them within an environmental context.

The results described come from three weeks of survey in September 1997. Our base was at the Tell Beydar excavation house, and survey took place up to a distance of 12 km from that site. The field team comprised the writer, Eleanor Barbanes, and Patricia Van Dorpe; mapping from SPOT satellite images was con-

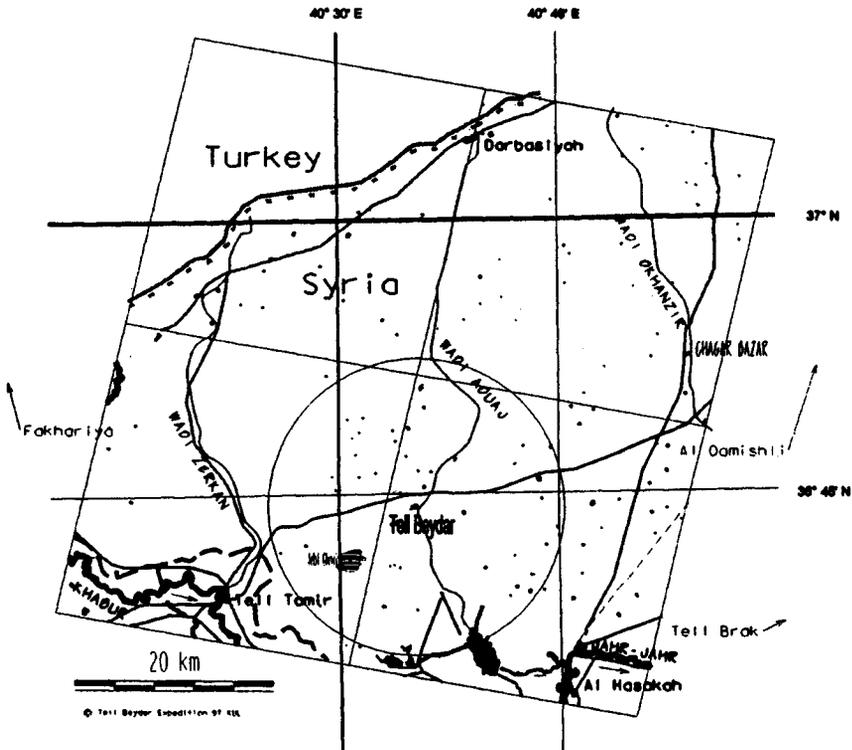


Figure 1. Northwest Khabur basin showing mapping framework. Drawing by Kris Verhoeven

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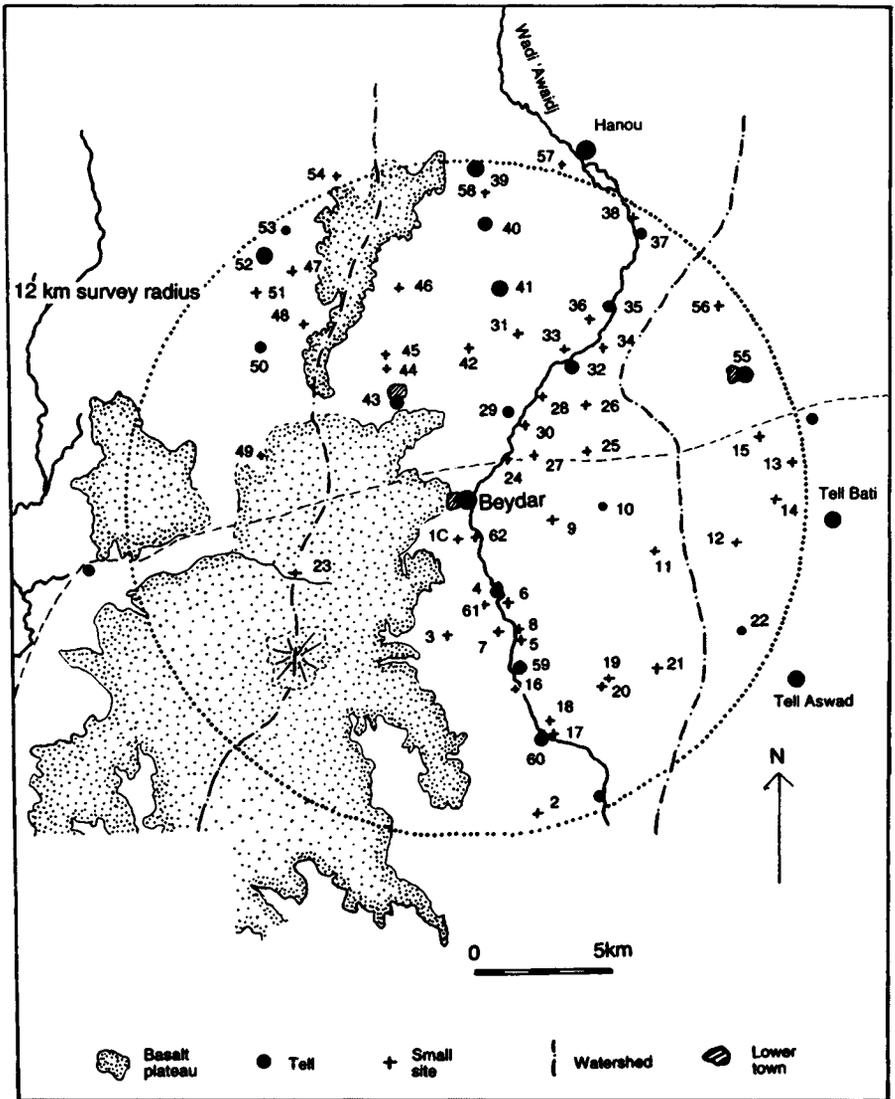


Figure 2. Twelve kilometer radius survey area with surveyed sites (TBS numbers), other sites, and main topographic features

ducted by Kris Verhoeven of the University of Ghent and from CORONA images by the author. I especially wish to thank Prof. Dr. Sultan Muhesen, Director General of Antiquities, Damascus, for permission to survey. Thanks go also to Marc Lebeau, Karel van Lerberghe, Antoine Suleiman, and various Syrian colleagues, all of whom provided considerable assistance in the field, to Elena Rova, Tom Broekmans, and Olivier Nieuwenhuys who supplied advice on ceramics, and to Bertille Lyonnet who provided valuable data from her own surveys of the area.

This survey follows up the archaeological survey of 1990 when Bertille Lyonnet undertook a large scale reconnaissance survey of the Upper Khabur basin. The



Figure 3. View of east-facing basalt scarp showing ancient fields

present survey is therefore the first detailed survey of the Beydar area and was specifically undertaken to provide a context for the site and its neighborhood. The 1997 survey employed SPOT satellite images to provide a basic map of the area at 1:50,000 (figs. 1 and 2). This work, undertaken in Ghent by Kris Verhoeven, produced a detailed record of major topographic features, wadis (all dry at the time of survey), wadi flood plains, rural dirt tracks, modern roads, and villages. In addition, we attempted to recognize tells on the various images, but because they were very similar to villages on the images, sites and villages were often confused. Although archaeological feature recognition was not perfect, the SPOT-generated maps provided an excellent basis for field reconnaissance and provided our basic mapping framework. In addition, two sets of declassified CORONA satellite photographs taken during May 1965 and August 1969 provided a rather detailed record of topographic features, tells, and landscape features for the region.

Ground control was then undertaken in order to recognize, describe, and date all visible sites, to obtain basic information on the physical landscape, and to describe off-site features such as radial lines previously noted by van Liere and Lauffray. This part of the survey proceeded by systematic coverage of the area by minibus; sites recognized were allocated a number (TBS 1, etc.; i.e., Tell Beydar Survey), together with topographically distinct site subdivisions (A, B, C). Potential sites recognized on the satellite images, together with any sites recognizable on the ground from the rural road system, were visited, paced, leveled, and geographically fixed using a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS).

Physical Geography of the Beydar Area

Topographically the area is a little more lively than much of the Syrian Jazira with broad north-south valleys and their axial alluvial plains cutting through broader undulating uplands. West of the Wadi 'Awaidj a low basalt plateau fringed by a steep

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scarp slope forms an extensive undulating upland with thin soils and minimal water resources. In the past this basalt plateau probably provided upland grazing, a hunting resource, as well as a source for building stones and basalt grindstones. Some hint of an earlier extension of cultivated land onto the basalt plateau occurs southwest of Beydar (in the region of TBS 3) where relict fields and numerous stone-clearance mounds occur on the basalt scarp (fig. 3). Today the Beydar area, with a mean annual rainfall slightly less than 300 mm, is mainly under rain-fed cereals, or, where ground water resources permit, irrigated cotton.

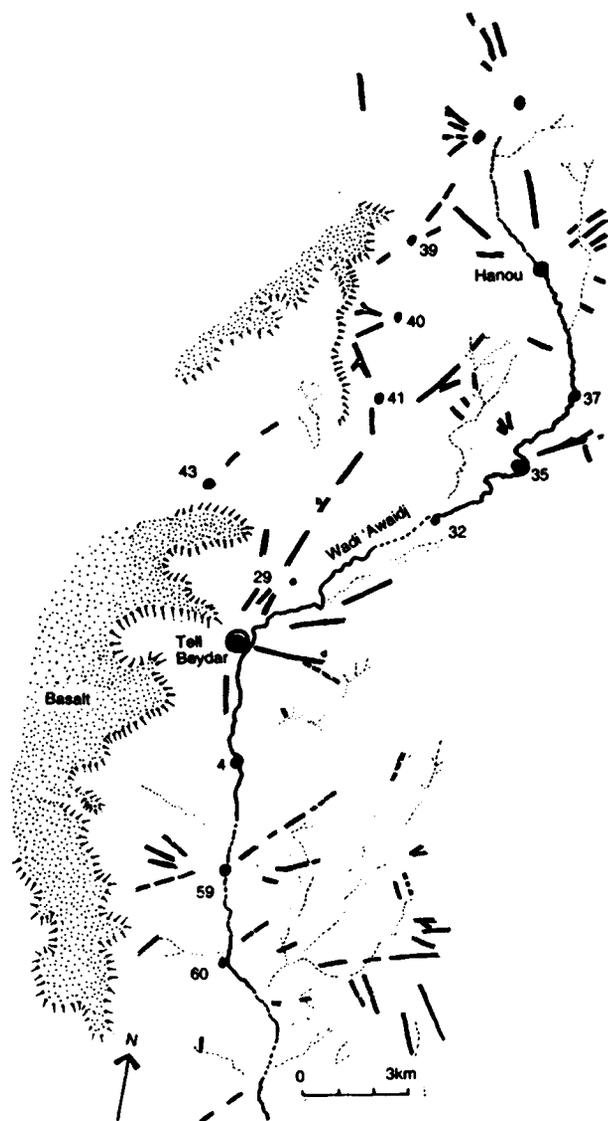


Figure 4. Linear hollows to north and south of Tell Beydar

Archaeological Landscape

Off-site features were recorded both during and prior to fieldwork by means of CORONA images. Linear hollows, as originally recognized, form broad dark alignments across the landscape. On the CORONA photographs the alignments radiate from major tell sites as gray lines (fig. 4); in certain cases they can be quite conspicuous, frequently being more obvious than the smaller sites. On the ground, when visible, linear hollows mainly appear as broad very shallow and faint depressions. In many cases what had once been fairly distinctive features now appear to have been removed by persistent plowing. Nevertheless, on the ground moderately clear examples were recorded to the north of Tell Beydar, and to the northwest, west, and southeast of Tell Jamilo (TBS 59). Because these linear hollows connect tells, all of



Figure 5. Tell Beydar

which have major Early Bronze Age (and presumably earlier) occupations, it seems likely that the routes themselves are of Bronze Age date or even slightly earlier. In addition, basalt quarries and relict fields were noted on the basalt plateau, and off-site scatters of sherds (field scatters) were often noted on the fields between sites.

Results of Regional Survey

Although most people regard the typical Near Eastern site as being the tell, sites in the Beydar area are more varied. Most common are small low mounds that cover usually from 1.0 to 1.5 ha, and are usually either pre- or post-Bronze Age in date. That is, they are usually either prehistoric or are Iron Age or later. In addition, occasional lower towns — extensive sprawling areas of low mounding — appear to represent the remains of Iron Age lower towns. Finally classic tells are present, and these were mainly occupied between about 4000 BC and 2500 BC or somewhat later. Of these, the kranzhügel of Tell Beydar, being a large mound within an annular enclosure wall, falls outside the three classes noted above. Tell Beydar, excavated by the Euro-Syrian mission (figs. 4–5), has yielded extensive private and public buildings as well as a large cache of tablets written in a form of pre-Sargonic Akkadian.

Settlement Patterns Through Time

Altogether some sixty-two sites were recorded in the 1997 field season. This allows some broad generalizations to be made about the distribution of sites through the last eight or nine thousand years.

During the ceramic Neolithic, Halaf, and Ubaid periods the population appears to have mainly occupied small dispersed sites (fig. 6). Compared to the Early Bronze Age, settlement was therefore rather dispersed, a phenomenon reported from other parts of the Jazira as well. By the Ubaid period there was both a decrease in smaller sites and a slight shift towards the occupation of mounded sites. The de-

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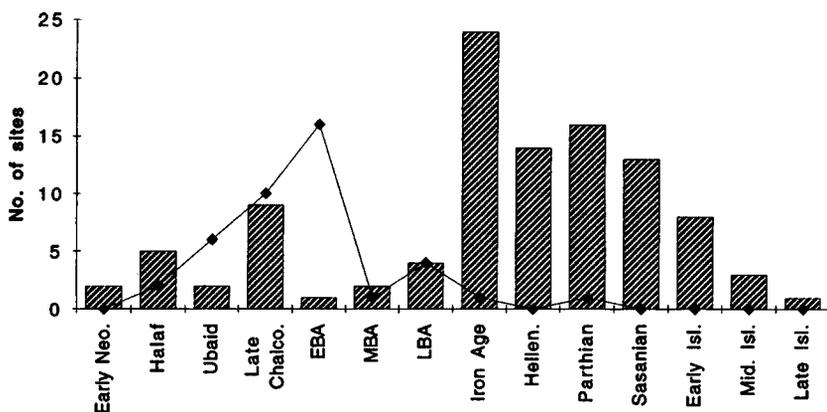


Figure 6. Number of small sites (columns) and tells (solid lozenges) through time

crease in small sites may be simply because of the small sample size, but the concentration on tells appears to be more valid. The phenomenon of settlement associated with tells becomes clearer with the earlier part of the late Chalcolithic, and in general for this period (i.e., the late Ubaid and Late Chalcolithic) it is evident that tells formed an important focus of occupation. Nevertheless a significant part of the population continued to live in small, dispersed sites during this time period. The steep slopes of the tells suggests that tells were already surrounded by fortification walls at this time, but this cannot be proved by survey alone. In general survey evidence suggests that nucleated settlement on tell sites therefore probably started in the Ubaid or late Chalcolithic periods.

In the Wadi 'Awaidj northeast of Tell Beydar, two small sites (TBS 34 and 38) yielded small collections of beveled rim bowls, together with a few other Late Uruk sherds. Both sites are unrounded and lie between or away from the small Chalcolithic mounds. One site, TBS 34, lies roughly halfway between two Chalcolithic mounds (TBS 32 and 35), in a location that was probably close to the territorial boundary between the two sites. Such locations, some distance away from tell sites or obvious local late Chalcolithic centers, have also been observed by the writer in the North Jazira (Iraq), the Karababa Dam area (Turkey), and the Balikh Valley (Syria). Because the Beydar area sites with beveled rim bowls lack the full assemblage of southern Uruk diagnostics, it would be premature to include them with the Uruk "stations" as classified by Algaze. Nevertheless, they appear to be part of the same phenomenon in which small ceramically specialized settlements were established along routes and outside the limits of pre-existing late Chalcolithic settlements.

Bronze Age occupation occurs in the form of a distinctive pattern of tells ranging in size from the 1.75 ha and 15 m high Tell Kaferu (TBS 10), up to Tell Beydar (TBS 1) which at 26 ha and 27 m high is the most massive site in the area. With the exception of the few Early Bronze Age sherds on the small Halaf site of TBS 61, it seems that no small sites were occupied during the third millennium BC. Bronze Age tells formed a distinct alignment along the Wadi 'Awaidj (fig. 7: TBS 60, 59, 4, 1) up to Tell Beydar. North of this point, smaller Bronze Age tells (but with a sig-

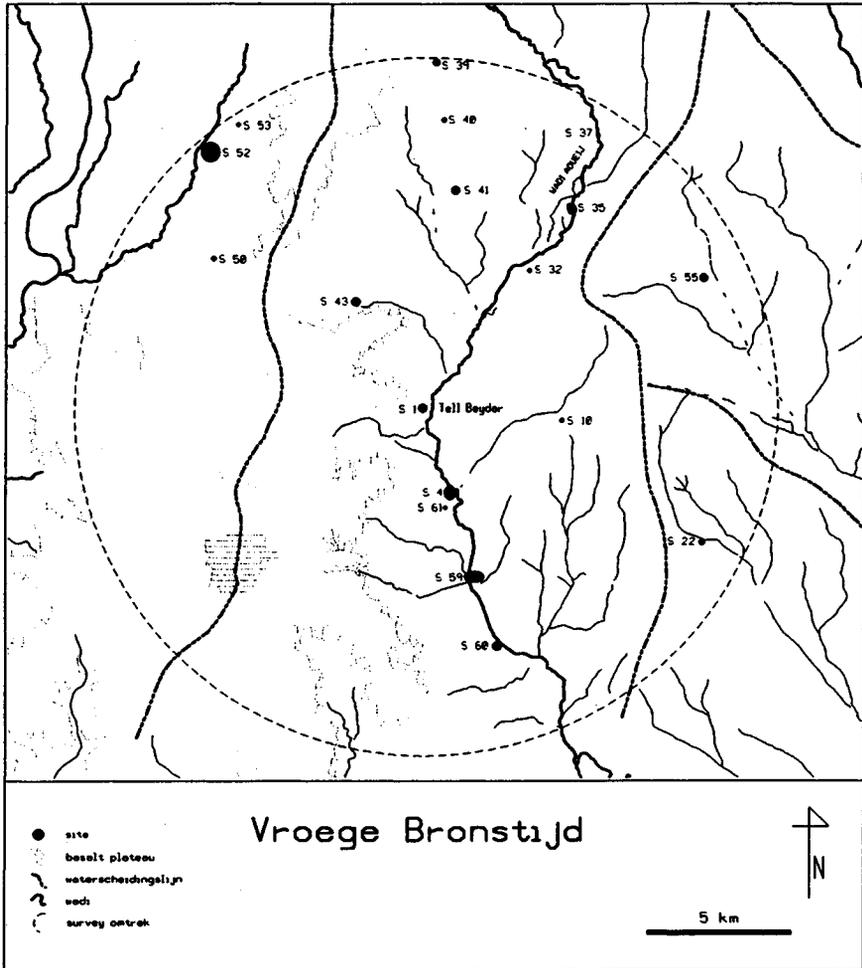


Figure 7. Distribution of Early Bronze Age sites

nificant visible presence of late Chalcolithic) followed up the Wadi 'Awaïdj along its distinctive eastern bend: TBS 32, 35, 37, and onward to Tell Hanou. Interestingly, the alignment of large tells followed north from Tell Beydar, along the western side of the valley through TBS 41, 40, and 39. These sites are not on any major wadi, and instead the inhabitants probably obtained their water from springs issuing from the foot of the basalt escarpment. Their size, which is significantly larger than TBS 32, 35, and 37, suggests that the greatest population and perhaps traffic during the third millennium BC occurred along the western side of the valley (see below). In the Wadi 'Awaïdj, the main site was clearly Tell Beydar, while the valley to the east was dominated by the medium-size mounds of Tells Aswad Fouqani, Bati, and Effendi (TBS 55). To the west, in a broad, fertile valley leading to the Wadi Zerkan, the dominant site is Tell Farfara (TBS 52), a large rectangular apparently walled site of some 9 ha.

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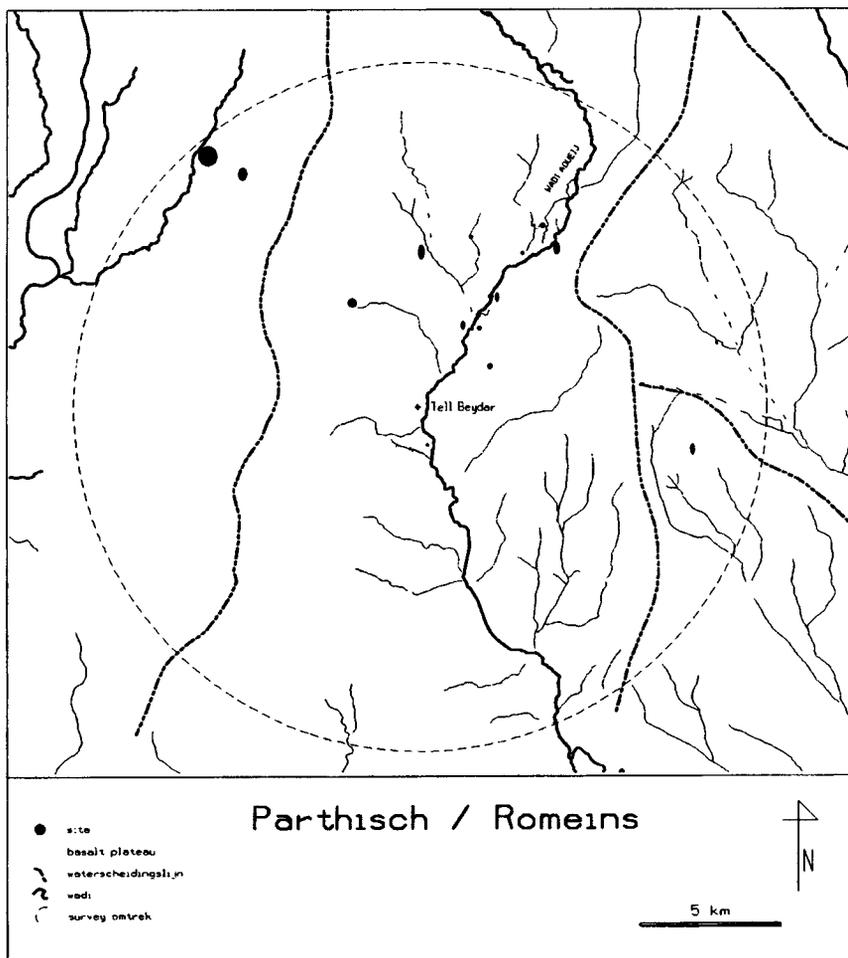


Figure 8. Distribution of Parthian/Roman sites

At this stage of the survey no attempt has been made to subdivide the Early Bronze Age sites into ceramic sub-periods. Nevertheless, by the close of the third millennium BC few tells were heavily occupied, and by the early second millennium, when Khabur wares provide a conspicuous ceramic indicator, virtually no sites appear to have been significantly occupied. However, the evidence for the early second millennium is not simply negative because two sites show evidence of significant quantities of Khabur wares. Both sites — Tell Sekar Fouqani (TBS 39) and Tell Hanou — therefore appear to have been major sites of this period, and it is tempting to see them as strongholds overlooking from the north an otherwise deserted or thinly populated area to the south.

There followed around 1000 BC or slightly later, a massive upsurge in settlement (fig. 6). This is evident in the form of a rash of mainly small, dispersed settlements and more extensive lower towns. There was also much less settlement on the summits of tells after the third millennium BC. There were more settlements than at any

other period during the Iron Age, and it appears that this was also the period of greatest population in the area. This conclusion, which is a result of the recognition of smaller sites, is counter to many earlier reports, which suggested that the Jazira was often sparsely populated in the Iron Age. Not only were there more sites of the first millennium BC, but also settlements were present in most environments, that is along the main wadis, on the rolling steppe beyond, and apparently for the first time, on the basalt plateau.

In addition to the widely dispersed small settlements, three lower towns formed sprawling areas of low mounds (1.0–3.5 m high) situated below large Early Bronze Age tells. The largest, Tell Beydar 2 (TBS 1B), covers an estimated 30–40 ha; the next, TBS 43A–B, covers about 19 ha, whereas TBS 55 H–K was only some 6–7 ha in area. None show any signs of either gates or fortification walls.

During the Hellenistic, Parthian, Sasanian, and Islamic periods there appears to have been a steady decrease in the number of sites through time (fig. 6). Given that there was no commensurate increase in the size of settlements, it can be inferred that this decline represents a real decrease in the sedentary population of the area. Consequently, by the second millennium AD, the region was quite thinly populated. Especially during the Hellenistic and Parthian periods (ca. third century BC to third century AD) settlement appears to have been mainly concentrated to the north of Tell Beydar (fig. 8). If this distribution is real, and not simply a result of the small area surveyed, it may be taken as indicating that the limit of viable rain-fed cultivation only spread as far south as Tell Beydar at this time.

Discussion

The long-term pattern of settlement is clear in general but obscure in detail. During the prehistoric periods, namely the ceramic Neolithic to Late Chalcolithic, settlement was dispersed into a mixed pattern of small sites, and presumably small but growing centers. By the Early Bronze Age, when settlement was nucleated and concentrated upon tells, the region was dominated by Tell Beydar. In contrast with the wetter part of the Jazira in Iraq, where Bronze Age sites formed a network across the terrain, the Beydar pattern is remarkably linear, with tells being evenly spaced about every 3 km. This distribution, which follows the valleys and/or the main routes, is rather dense and preliminary calculations suggest that although most sites would have had sufficient cultivable land within 1.5 km (i.e., halfway to their nearest neighbor), Tells Hassek (TBS 43), Hanou, Farfara (TBS 52), and Beydar (TBS 1A) might have required significantly more land to be self-sufficient. Because all of these sites are located in the wetter northern part of the area it is likely that additional food would have been produced on the undulating steppe beyond the sites, or it was imported from neighbors.

Middle Bronze Age occupation was especially limited; a similar pattern of sparse occupation was noted by Lyonnet (1996) who shows that “trace” Khabur ware occupations occurred along the Khabur River, and that the area of Beydar was essentially deserted. The finer sampling strategy of the Beydar survey shows this in more detail. Hence although the entire area was occupied in the early to mid-third millennium BC by the Khabur period only Sekar Fouqani and Hanou in the north of the area were significantly occupied. However, from Lyonnet’s work, it is evident

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that to the north of these two sites Khabur ware was also common. The deserted area to the south of Tell Sekar Fouqani (TBS 39) and Tell Hanou may therefore form part of the domain of the Hanaeans, well known from the Mari records.

Because the Iron Age pottery has not yet been subdivided into phases, the rash of settlement in this period cannot be related to any political entity. Settlement probably dates to both the period when the region was within the Neo-Assyrian Empire, and that which preceded it. Thus, although it is tempting to see such a rash of dispersed settlement as being a result of a deliberate Neo-Assyrian settlement policy, spontaneous settlement of nomadic pastoralists and/or Arameans seems equally likely. However, whether spontaneous or deliberate, it is clear that both environmental and political conditions were propitious for settlement at this time.

The significant decline in settlement that commenced during the Hellenistic and Parthian periods apparently continued through the Sasanian and Islamic periods, so that by the mid to late Islamic period the area appears to have been thinly occupied.

BIR UMM FAWAKHIR

Carol Meyer

The fourth season at Bir Umm Fawakhir in the central Eastern Desert of Egypt, from 16 November to 11 December 1997, was the longest one to date, and in many ways the most productive. The project completed a detailed map of the main fifth–sixth century Byzantine/Coptic gold-mining town, mapped in detail most of Outlier 2, found six more outlying clusters of ruins of the same date (Outliers 9 through 14), and documented Outliers 6, 7, 12, and 13. Late New Kingdom remains were identified in the Wadi el-Sid in 1996, and in 1997, some of the pharaonic mines as well. Finally, a specialist study of the ancient mines, mining, and ore reduction techniques was carried out.

The staff consisted of the author as field director;

Lisa Heidorn as assistant director; Henry Cowherd, photographer; Bryan Earl, mining engineer; Alexandra O'Brien, epigrapher; Mohamed Badr el-Din Omar, geologist; Clemens Reichel, archaeologist; Leslie Boose, camp manager and draftsman; Sayyid Remany, driver; and Mohammed Rayyan and Mohammed Hamid, inspectors. As usual, thanks are due to many people and organizations, here listed roughly in chronological order: William Sumner and Gene Gragg, former and present directors of the Oriental Institute; Peter Dorman and W. Raymond Johnson, former and present directors of Chicago House; the American Research Center in Egypt and

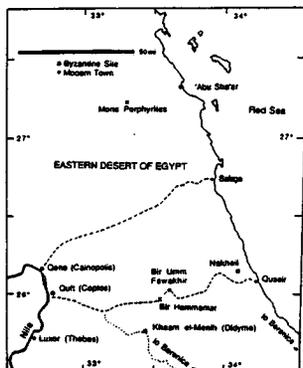


Figure 1. Map showing location of Bir Umm Fawakhir

especially Amira Khattab; Dr. Ali Hassan and Dr. Gaballa Ali Gaballa, former and present chairmen of the Supreme Council of Antiquities; WCSS/IBM; Tina di Cerbo, Ahmed Harfoush, Yarko Kobylecky and all the rest of the Chicago House staff for their support and hospitality; Dr. Gaber Naim, Chairman, and the Egyptian Geological Survey and Mining Authority; patrons Ida De Pencier, Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Meyer, Catherine Novotny-Brehm, Pennzoil, Dr. and Mrs. John Ryan, and Dr. Robert K. Smither.

Main Settlement

The Main Settlement at Bir Umm Fawakhir, so named to distinguish it from the outliers, was the focus of most of the work in 1992, 1993, and 1996 (fig. 3). The town lies in a long, narrow wadi, its steep sides define construction limits and its sandy bottom serves as the main street. Starting at the southeast end where the houses are less flood-damaged, the survey worked its way northwest season by season. In 1997 Buildings 153 through 237 and some of the surrounding topography were mapped, up to the end of the site at the northwest gate, a natural narrowing of the wadi (fig. 2). Here some granite boulders with wedge slots probably mark a small ancient quarry.

As in previously mapped parts of the site, all buildings appear to be domestic, either independent two- or three-room units, or several such units built together in larger agglomerated houses of as many as twenty-two rooms, or else one-room outbuildings. The site is sufficiently well preserved so that even at the northwest end not only walls, doors, and trash heaps could be plotted, but also features such as wall niches for storage and benches. No churches, storehouses, administrative or public buildings, or defensive structures have yet been located, though they might have existed closer to the wells and modern settlement where damage from wadi wash is heaviest. The 1997 buildings use the same construction techniques – granite cobble dry stone masonry – and lay-

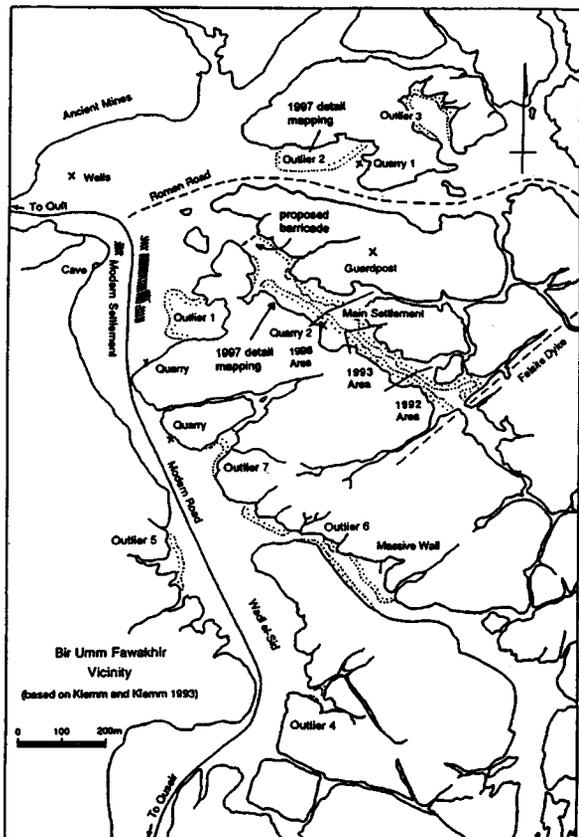
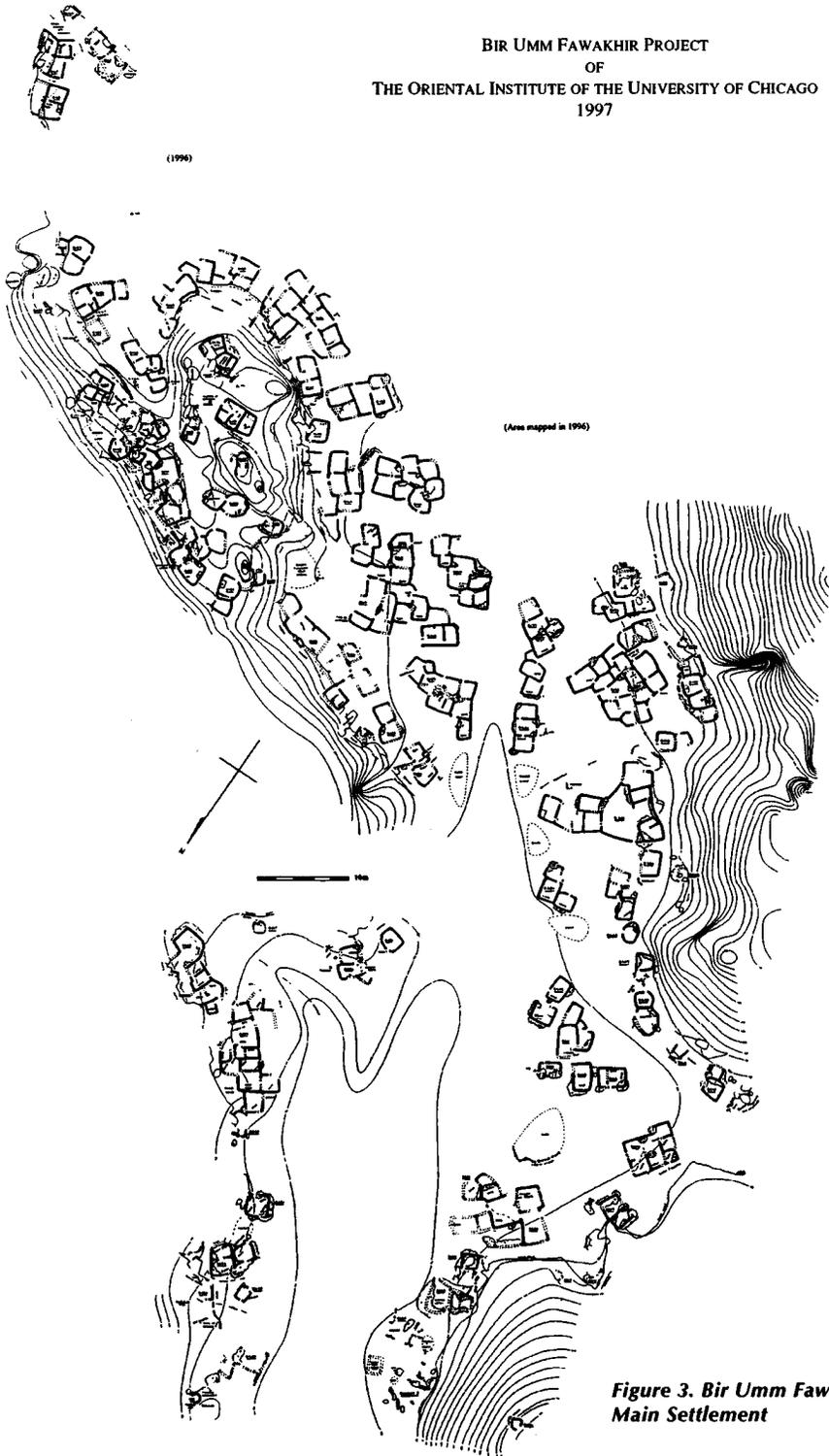


Figure 2. Bir Umm Fawakhir vicinity

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BIR UMM FAWAKHIR PROJECT
OF
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
1997



*Figure 3. Bir Umm Fawakhir
Main Settlement*



Figure 4. View of Hillock (center) with Buildings 176 and 177, looking towards main street. Photograph by Henry Cowherd

out as the buildings mapped earlier, but apart from the ones on the Hillock they are not so well preserved, and in a few cases are reduced to mere house mounds.

The Hillock is a granite outcrop with two sizable buildings on top, Buildings 176 and 177, plus a few smaller structures (fig. 4). Between the Hillock and the cliffs to the northeast lies a gully with several well-preserved houses, especially Buildings 170, 172–174, and 175. Finds from the Hillock include a large number of grinding stones of all sorts, many dipinti (labels painted in red on wine jars), fragments of decorated glass beakers or lamps, and an unusual number of fine plates stamped with Coptic crosses and other Christian symbols. Further analysis of the pottery sample from Building 176 and other parts of the Hillock may point to functional or status-related differences from the rest of the community.

The detailed map and photographic record of the Main Settlement are now complete, and as such provide a rare opportunity to study an entire ancient community house by house, room by room, even without excavation. The only other completely plotted ancient Egyptian towns are New Kingdom Deir al-Medina; the fortified Roman town at the Mons Claudianus quarries; Karanis, which was abandoned about the time Bir Umm Fawakhir was founded; and Coptic Jême, which was excavated away to reveal Ramesses III's mortuary temple at Medinet Habu.

Outliers

A second survey team headed by Clemens Reichel began surveying Outlier 2 on 30 November and completed a detailed map of 57 out of 66 buildings. Outlier 2 was selected for intensive work because of its excellent preservation and its location (figs. 2 and 6). It lies in the broad wadi north of the Main Settlement, on the Roman road, between the wells and Quarry 1, thought to be Roman. Although insignificant

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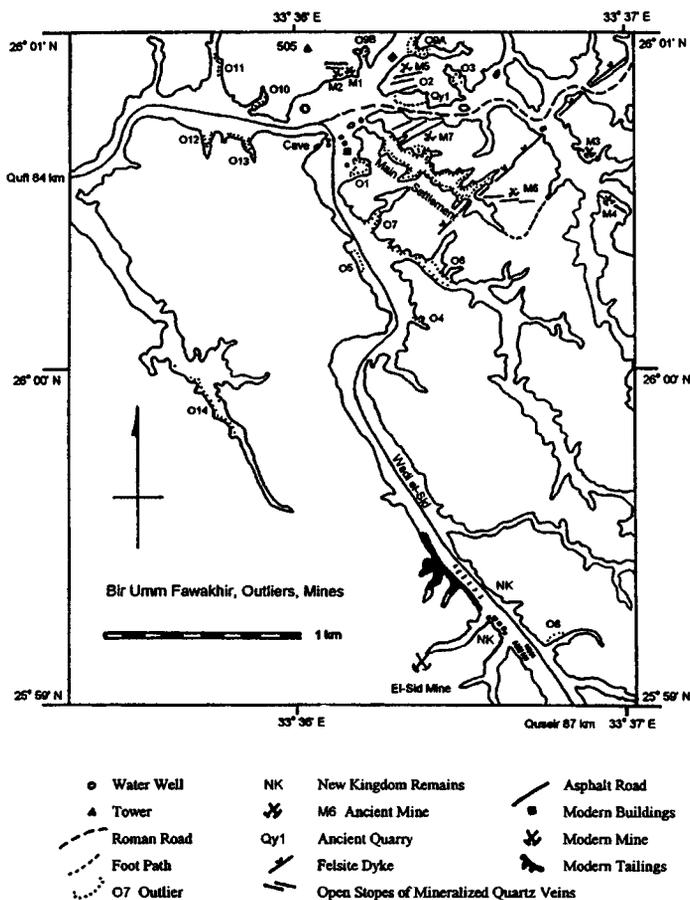


Figure 5. Bir Umm Fawakhir and Wadi el-Sid area, mines and outliers. Map by Mohamed Badr el-Din

compared to major quarries such as that at Mons Claudianus, Quarry 1 is the largest of the granite workings in the Bir Umm Fawakhir vicinity. Some of the houses in Outlier 2 appear to stand to their original height of roughly two meters, and some display features not evident in the Main Settlement, such as steps down into rooms, adjacent grain silos, complicated wall construction, and what looks like a large two-step bench (Building 54). The pottery is the same as that in the Main Settlement and is sufficiently abundant to indicate that Outlier 2 was residential and not a temporary work

site, though it may not have been inhabited as long. Like the Main Settlement, one-room outbuildings are more common farthest from the wells, at the southeast end of Outlier 2, whereas multi-room agglomerated houses tend to occur closer in.

Lisa Heidorn and Henry Cowherd described, sketched, and photographed Outliers 6 and 7 in the wadi immediately south of the Main Settlement, though the ruins were not plotted with surveying equipment. One hundred and six buildings were recorded, though five are modern and a few others badly preserved. The houses in Outliers 6 and 7 are similar to the ones in the Main Settlement, though almost all are the simpler two- or three-room individual houses and potsherds are much sparser. The most peculiar feature is a complex, Building 26, set in a side bay (fig. 7). Very steep cliffs enclose the area on the north and east, and massive (75 cm) walls on the south and west almost close off the area. The building within the enclosure has two very thick (65 cm) walls running out from the nearly perpendicular north cliff, but no trace of a wall on the south. The interior space is divided by a thinner wall and a third room was attached on the west. This is the one structure at the site that does not appear to be domestic, but we have as yet no explanation of its function.

BIR UMM FAWAKHIR

The Roman road runs east past the wells, across a wide, sandy open area, and past Outlier 2 and Quarry 1. Opening to the northeast just past the wells is another wide, dead-end wadi that was not investigated earlier because of modern construction. A walking survey, however, located Outliers 9A just east of the chief engineer's house and 9B in a deep bay west of the house. The bay had a number of looted graves on the slopes, one of which yielded an "incense burner" of extremely soft stone (fig. 8). The item has carved lines but no trace of burning.

Outliers 10 and 11, just past a natural gate leading to the Bir Umm Fawakhir area, have few huts and some pottery, but they lie, abruptly, in another geological zone, dark Precambrian ultramafics versus the Fawakhir granite of the Main Settlement area. Outliers 12 and 13, on the other side of a modern road and selected for further work because of their geological location, were described and sketched by Alexandra O'Brien. In all, sixty-five structures were noted, but most are simple one- or two-room huts badly tumbled. Pottery is not abundant but is similar to that from the Main Settlement. Evidence of mining and tunneling was noticed on hillsides between Outlier 12 and 13. Finally, Mohamed Badr el-Din found Outlier 14 in a remote wadi south of the Wadi Hammamat road. A good three kilometers from the wells by wadi bottom, it is, however, only a sixth of that distance by path up, over the mountain ridges, and down to the Wadi el-Sid near the modern mines (fig. 5).

At Bir Umm Fawakhir, then, we can investigate not only an entire ancient town but also many peripheral features such as ancient roads, paths, wells, cemeteries, guardposts, quarries, mines, and outlying work or residential areas. The earlier estimate of a little over a thousand inhabitants in the Main Settlement now seems conservative. It was based on the assumption that every one of the outliers represented

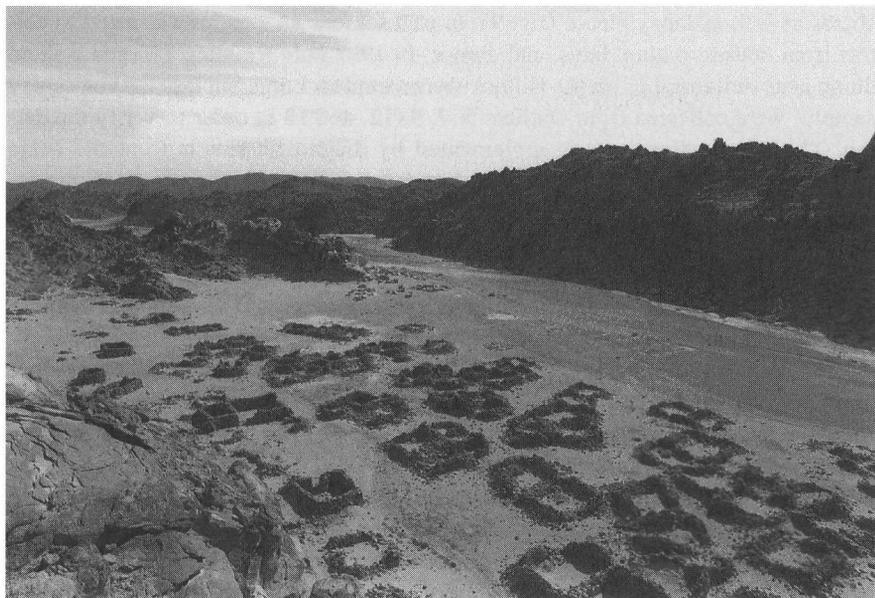


Figure 6. Outlier 2, view to southeast with Quarry 1 and Roman road to right. Photograph by Henry Cowherd

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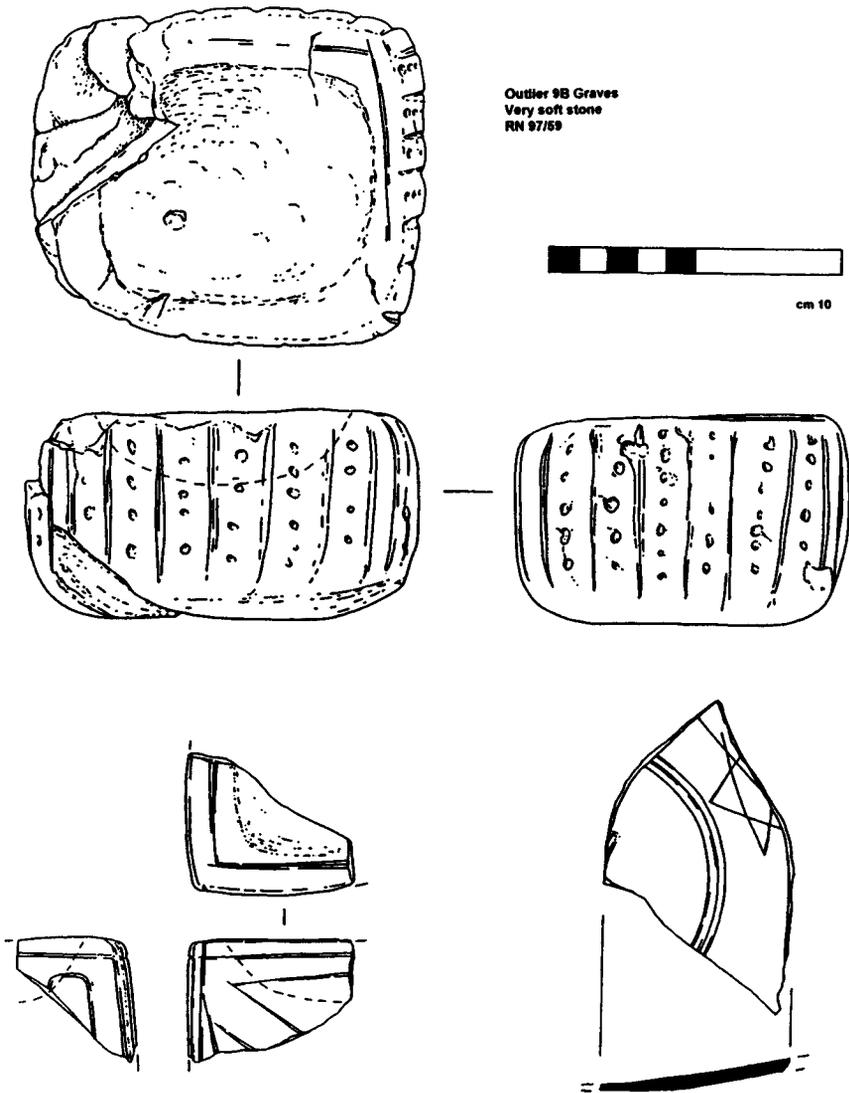
Figure 7. Outlier 6, Building 26 in deep bay, houses in foreground. Photograph by Henry Cowherd

temporary shelters or work areas, even Outlier 2 with its carefully constructed houses and silos.

Artifacts

As before, the project collected controlled sherd samples from selected areas in order to obtain a more representative sample of all pottery types at the site, body sherds as well as fancy pieces (fig. 9). In past seasons an attempt was made to collect from houses, outbuildings, and dumps. In 1997 only Building 176 and a sherd dump near Building 177 on the Hillock were sampled. Large but less rigorous sherd samples were collected from Outliers 6, 7, 9, 12, and 13 in order to verify the dating. These collections were supplemented by diagnostic sherds from the Main Settlement, outliers, and the New Kingdom mine area. Given the dearth of inscriptions or texts from or about ancient Bir Umm Fawakhir, the pottery is our main dating evidence. This large corpus, together with those from previous seasons, will be prepared for publication by Lisa Heidorn, the project's ceramist. As Bir Umm Fawakhir is essentially a one-period site, the corpus should be valuable to those working with material from longer-lived and more confused sites.

The corpus of dipinti, labels on wine jars, increased by thirty-six, but as before most are fragmentary, cursive, and faded and as yet provide little information. Typically one large, sprawling label was written on the shoulder of a large wine jar and a second, smaller one upside down under or near one of the handles. New this season was a number of potmarks scratched on vessels after firing (fig. 8). In addition to the unburnt "incense burner" from Outlier 9B, the farthest end of 9A yielded a slotted milling stone of a type well known from Roman and later contexts. It is carved with the Greek letters "AP" and made of a non-local basalt (fig. 10). Another unburnt "incense burner" was retrieved from the Main Settlement, as well as a small



Outlier 9B Graves
Very soft stone
RN 97/59

cm 10

B197, upslope Sandstone RN 97/60

B177 Dish with stamped cross, incised star RN 97/68

Figure 8. Incense burners and pot marks

steatite bowl and large pieces of what might have been a decorated stand of very porous pottery.

New Kingdom Mines

During the 1996 season, the project found late New Kingdom remains on top of a hill across the road from the modern mining camp in the Wadi el-Sid. Mining activity in the 1940s and 1950s was believed to have destroyed all evidence of mining there apart from scattered bits such as potsherds in the mine tailings, so it was grati-

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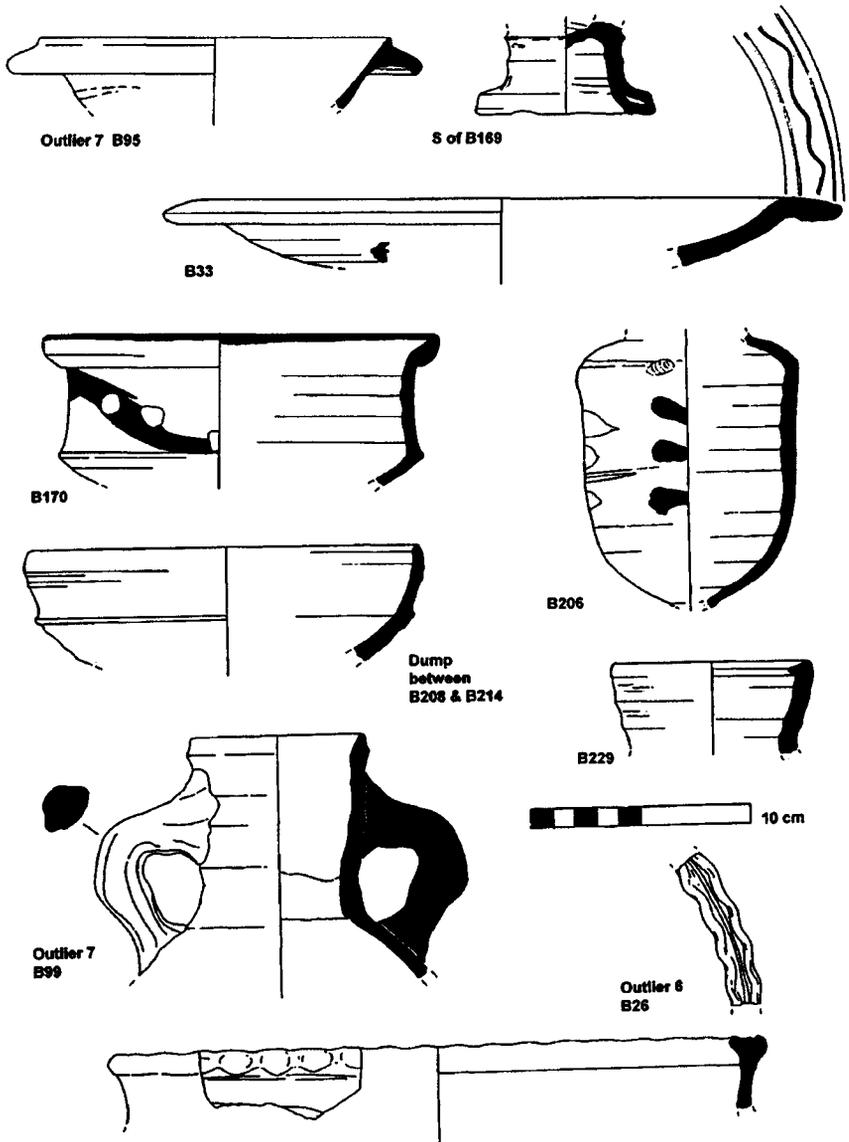


Figure 9. Sample of Bir Umm Fawakhir pottery

fyng to discover a late New Kingdom sherd dump, graves, and what appear to be guardposts. The Wadi el-Sid mines have been called the richest gold mines in all Egypt, so it is probable that the ancient miners started there and only moved to the low-yield ores at Bir Umm Fawakhir when the older mines were played out by ancient techniques.

It came as a further surprise, then, to find on the top of the mountain, immediately above the modern crushing mill, pharaonic sherds, huts, and mines. The most readily identifiable sherds are burnished jars; the huts are simple, roughly square

rims of stones, but again some are associated with sherds, and the mines are open cast trenches, now silted in and no more than a meter deep at most. This is typical of many ancient mines and quarries. They were never particularly large or elaborate in the first place and have since experienced centuries of erosion and fill. The trenches at Wadi el-Sid are marked as ancient, however, by the dimpled crushing stones beside them, by the amount of silt washed in, and by the simple technology. What is interesting is that this represents hard rock mining, and hacking quartz ore out of granite is far more difficult than panning alluvial gold. The Fawakhir granite is fractured, jointed, and in places rotten, but the quartz veins are tough. Hard rock mining requires a large labor force, in contradistinction to the lone miner and mule hoping to strike it rich. The thousand-odd inhabitants of Bir Umm Fawakhir would have been none too many. Such a labor force requires recruitment, organization, and supply, and as a result it is the organizers who will be enriched, not the miners. They may make a living, but the gold itself will go to Thebes, Constantinople, Johannesburg, or wherever.

Mining Study

Mr. Bryan Earl, a retired mining engineer who has worked with a number of archaeological projects, and Mohamed Badr el-Din Omar, a geologist from the Egyptian Geological Survey, carried out an investigation of the ancient mines and ore reduction techniques. Five mines were inspected and ore samples from Mine 3 were crushed and concentrated. Analyses of the samples are still under way.

As indicated, the oldest mines in the Wadi el-Sid are simple open cast trenches. In the Coptic/Byzantine period the miners still followed the quartz veins down from the surface of the mountain, only they went far deeper, in places cutting underground. Some of the shafts are revetted with stonework or have dry stone masonry platforms at the rim. The horizontal drives opening at the level of the wadi bottom are modern efforts aimed at reaching the lower levels of the same quartz veins the ancients attacked from above. The modern efforts were not always successful; many broke through to shafts where ancient workmen had already removed the ore.

Five horizontal mines shafts (fig. 5) and several new quartz veins with open cast mines were investigated and mapped. Ore samples were collected from Mine 3, which is typical of this kind of mine and also far enough away from the modern road and settlement to be relatively undisturbed. The quartz ore samples were further selected for the most heavily mineralized pieces, usually pyrite and chalcopyrite. The chunks were crushed to about the size of rock salt with an iron pounder from the modern crushing mill and then ground to the consistency of face powder on a magnesium steel bucking plate. In past seasons the project identified two or three main types of ore crushing stones at Bir Umm Fawakhir, dimpled crushing stones, rotary querns, and oblong, slightly dished stones somewhat like metates. During the 1997 season we found even more types of grinding stones, primarily around the wells and along the road to the Wadi

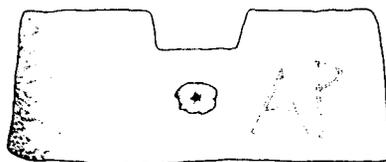


Figure 10. Slotted mill stone with lead plug and inscription (12.5 cm high, 32.0 cm wide at base). Drawing by Alexandria O'Brien

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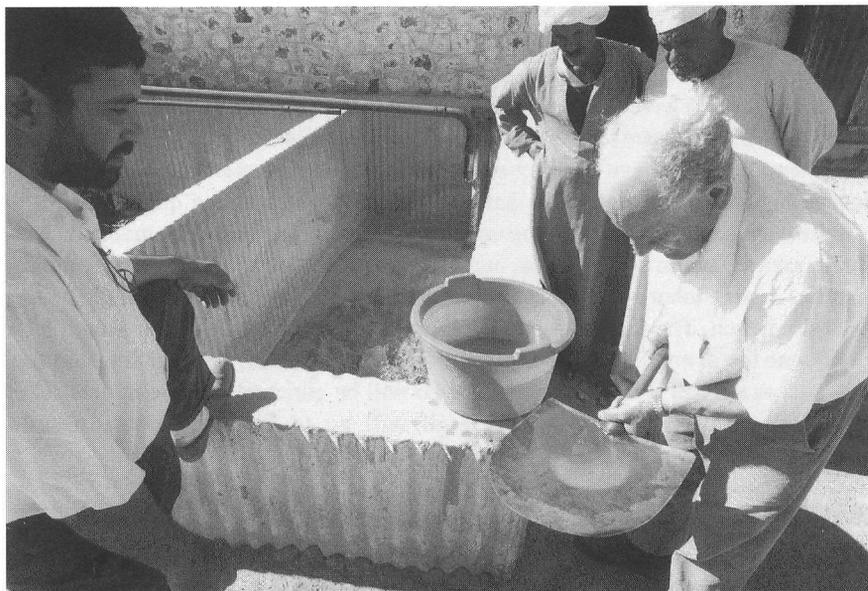


Figure 11. Bryan Earl washing ground ore on vanning shovel. Photograph by Henry Cowherd

el-Sid camp, including deep, ski-slope grinding stones, two-handled millstones(?) of porphyritic granite, slightly convex stones, and very large, slightly dished stones. Whatever the grinding implements workers used at which period, it is clear that they had to reduce the ore to powder to obtain any gold at all.

The finely ground Mine 3 sample was washed on a broad, shallow Cornish vanning shovel, and swirled to deposit the heavy material near the rim (fig. 11). The lighter silica fraction can be poured off a corner of the shovel. The residue of dark concentrate is then scanned, in this case with a loupe, for visible gold flecks. At best they are not obvious. A washed concentrate might have been as far as the ancient workmen got at Bir Umm Fawakhir. It would have been safer to transport sacks of black concentrate to the Nile Valley than gold dust, there is so far no evidence at all for smelting at Bir Umm Fawakhir where fuel would have been at a premium, and extracting gold from this kind of ore is actually quite complicated and perhaps better undertaken by skilled craftsmen in the Nile Valley.

The minerals present in the gold quartz of Bir Umm Fawakhir include pyrite (FeS_2), limonite ($2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$), chalcopyrite (CuFeS_2), galena (PbS), sphalerite (ZnS), perhaps stibnite (SbS_3), hematite (Fe_2O_3), arsenopyrite (FeAsS), and pyrrhotite (Fe_{1-x}S). The notable thing is that most of these are sulfides, much more difficult to smelt than oxide ores. Two methods of extracting gold were known in antiquity, mercury and lead processing, though mercury is not suitable for this kind of ore nor is it generally associated with Egyptian metalworking. Lead processing, or cupellation, is a two or three step process. First, the smelters have to heat the concentrated ore, which will separate into two layers, one containing copper and iron on top and one with lead on the bottom. Adding lead can facilitate the process, and the above-mentioned galena and stibnite already have lead in them. The lead contains

the gold and silver. The lead material is then placed on a bed of calcined bone, brick dust, or something porous. The whole is heated in the presence of air until the lead melts to liquid litharge that soaks into the porous bed and the gold-silver beads are left on top. If necessary, the gold and silver can be separated by the very ancient technique of pickling with salt or acid.

That the Coptic miners were using such a sophisticated technique to win gold from a difficult, low-yield ore is in itself interesting, but how much older is the lead processing technique? One of the oldest references is in Diodorus Siculus of the first century BC, based in large part on Agatharchides of the previous century. Diodorus describes only a one-step lead process, but nonetheless a lead process. There are some possible earlier textual references, depending on how one interprets them, but we do not know when cupellation was invented or when it came into use in Egypt. The question is this, if the pharaonic workers were not mining quartz ores with a lot of sulfides, what were they mining? It is important to remember that the easily worked ores are long gone and all that is now left is what no one wanted. If the ancients were extracting such ore, grinding it to powder, and washing and concentrating it, how did they finally extract the gold? Could simple, extensive, and repeated washing have sufficed, or did they use a lead process? If so, was this a brand-new technique and one that for the first time permitted the Egyptians to exploit the quartz ores in the Eastern Desert instead of depending on alluvial gold from farther south? We do not know the answers at this time, but these are questions we hope to pursue in the future.

DHAMAR PROJECT

Tony J. Wilkinson and McGuire Gibson

The fourth field season in 1998 commenced in early February and continued until the end of March 1998, with a break for the Fourth International Conference on the Civilization of Ancient Yemen in San'a, 10–13 March. Soundings were made in the sites of Ribat 'Amran and Karraib; architectural studies of Bronze Age and Himyarite/Iron Ages sites were undertaken by Glynn Barratt (University of Birmingham) and Eleanor Barbanes (University of California at Berkeley); inscriptions were read by Norbert Nebes (University of Jena); the geomorphology of ancient lakes was investigated by Caroline Davies (Arizona State University); Charles French (University of Cambridge) examined the history and development of terraced soils. Our three representatives, Ali Sanabani, Khalid al-Ansi, and Khalid al-Hajj, are all to be thanked for contributing enormously to the success of fieldwork. Considerable gratitude must especially go to officials of the General Organization of Antiquities and Museums, especially Drs. Yusuf Abdullah and Ahmed Shujar, and to Ahmed Shemsan, for help and advice throughout the season. Funding for the sea-

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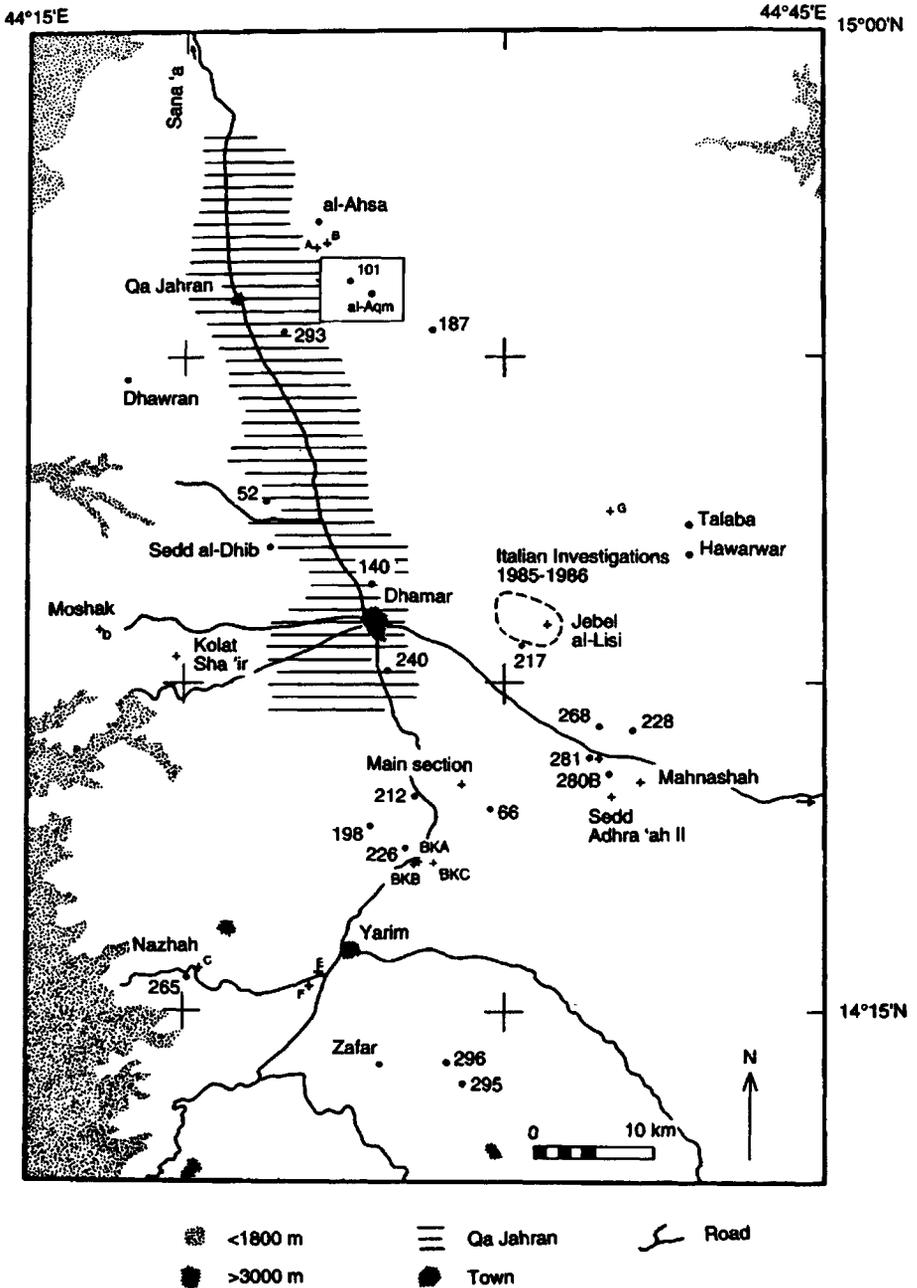


Figure 1. Area of Dhamar Survey showing sites mentioned in text

son came from the National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, and several private donors. We wish to thank all who contributed funds to what proved to be a very successful field season.

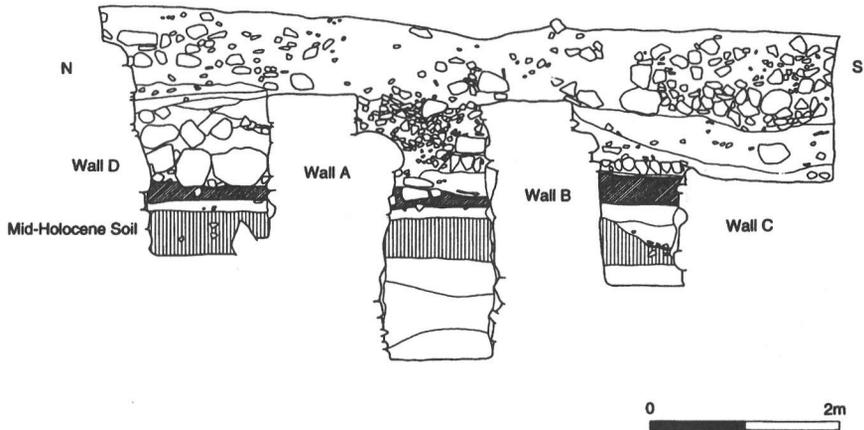


Figure 2. Section of Ribat 'Amran (DS 226) showing massive Himyarite walls cutting through pre-existing Neolithic soil

In order to provide well-dated pottery types for use in dating the sites found during survey, soundings were made in three sites in the 1998 field season. These small excavations were conducted by McGuire Gibson, with the help of Krista Lewis and Jason Ur, and were in the sites of Ribat 'Amran and Karraib. At Ribat 'Amran (DS 226) the east section of a large bulldozer pit was cleaned and partly excavated to expose the foundations of massive Himyarite period buildings (figs. 2–3). The foundations cut through horizontal layers that included an ancient soil of the Neolithic period on top of which was a Neolithic hearth with associated obsidian chipped stone tools. There then followed between about 1500 and 0 BC, the accumulation of cultural deposits on the edge of the settlement, which were then followed by the construction of massive stone foundations of walls dating to the Himyarite period



Figure 3. Excavations at Ribat 'Amran (DS 226)

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DS 228 Karraib

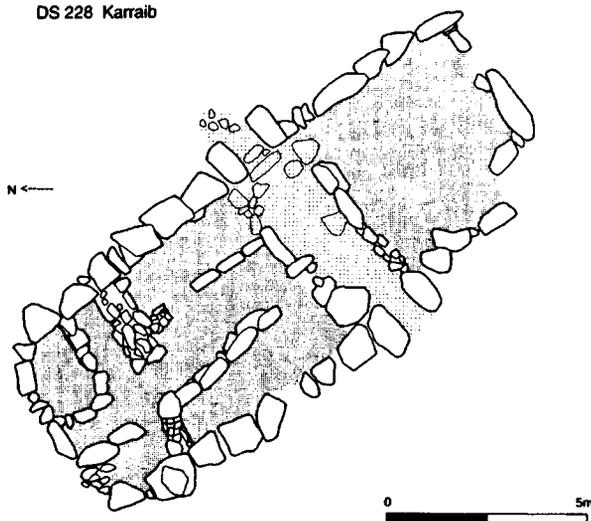


Figure 4. Bronze Age house at Karraib (DS 228)

second half of the second millennium BC. According to radiocarbon estimates on charcoal recovered from the room fill (ca. 1200 BC), this occupation represents the final stage of the Bronze Age prior to its transition into the distinctive assemblage of Iron Age types of the first millennium BC. In addition to the excavations, a plan covering about 1 ha of the site was drawn by architectural surveyors Barratt and Barbanes. This area, in turn, was placed in a larger context by the general mapping of the 3–4 ha site as well as the adjacent settlement areas of Bronze Age and Iron Age date. In contrast to the sites of Hammat al-Qa (see the *1996/97 Annual Report*), the pattern of buildings within Karraib was rather dispersed, with individual rectangular stone-built structures being separated by broad areas of rubble and open spaces that in part have been recently used as fields. At present it is not clear whether these open areas are ancient features, or have resulted from subsequent clearing of stones for fields. In addition to the house at DS 228, a sounding was briefly conducted in the nearby site of Karraib al-Sufla (DS 227), but this site remains undated.

The program of architectural surveying also produced ground plans of the large first millennia BC and AD sites of Khirbet al-Hussayn (DS 212) and Khirbet al-Kash'a (DS 198), both of which were partly surrounded by major walls with irregular rectangular bastions.

Archaeological Survey

Following four years of fieldwork in which 299 sites have been recorded, it is now possible to make some broad generalizations about the distribution of sites in the Dhamar region through the last 5,000 or so years. We emphasize that the periodization of sites is based upon very coarse chronological divisions — usually some one thousand years duration per period, or even more. Nevertheless, by the excavation of soundings in key sites we are managing to subdivide the cultural sequence into shorter periods than was previously possible. A preliminary chronology has the Neolithic period developing as a result of increased rainfall as the Indian

(ca. first century BC to fifth century AD in this case). As a result of the radiocarbon dating program we can now see that occupation at Ribat 'Amran continued intermittently from the Neolithic period (fourth millennium BC), through the Iron Age, and into late Himyarite times.

Excavations at Karraib (DS 228), near Khirbet Afiq, provided insights into the history, layout, and construction of a single Bronze Age house (figs. 4–6) which was occupied during the sec-



Figure 5. Bronze Age house at Karraib (DS 228)

Ocean monsoon increased in strength between approximately 7000 and 3000 BC. The end of this wet period appears to correspond to both a decline in rainfall, as the monsoon weakened in strength, *and* an increase in settlement. The arrival on top of the dark palaeosol of various deep deposits of silts, and loams that accumulated behind terrace walls, suggests that soil erosion had increased after about 3000 BC. That human activity probably played a significant role in this accumulation is indicated by the dramatic increase in the number of sites at this time and the now large number of radiocarbon dates on occupation levels within our soundings at various sites. Thus from the available data we can now suggest that during the third millennium BC, both the climate became drier *and* population increased rapidly. Consequently soil erosion increased dramatically as a result of both factors which served to reduce vegetation cover and disturb the soil.

Archaeological sections exposed between 1995 and 1998 at the three prehistoric sites of al-Sibal (DS 66), Hammat al-Qa (DS 101), and Karraib (DS 228) suggest that following the end of Bronze Age occupation, that is at some time during the second millennium BC, the abandoned settlements became veneered by a thin accumulation of aeolian dust. There is however nothing to demonstrate that this represents a single event, but rather it represents an increase in the accumulation of atmospheric dust during or after the second millennium BC, which itself may form part of a general increase in deposition of atmospheric dust since the accumulation of the Neolithic palaeosol.

Settlement through Time

Because of the low intensity of the archaeological survey not all sites in any area will have been recorded; nevertheless, the following summary demonstrates that sites occupied during the last 5,000 years or so are extremely common on these

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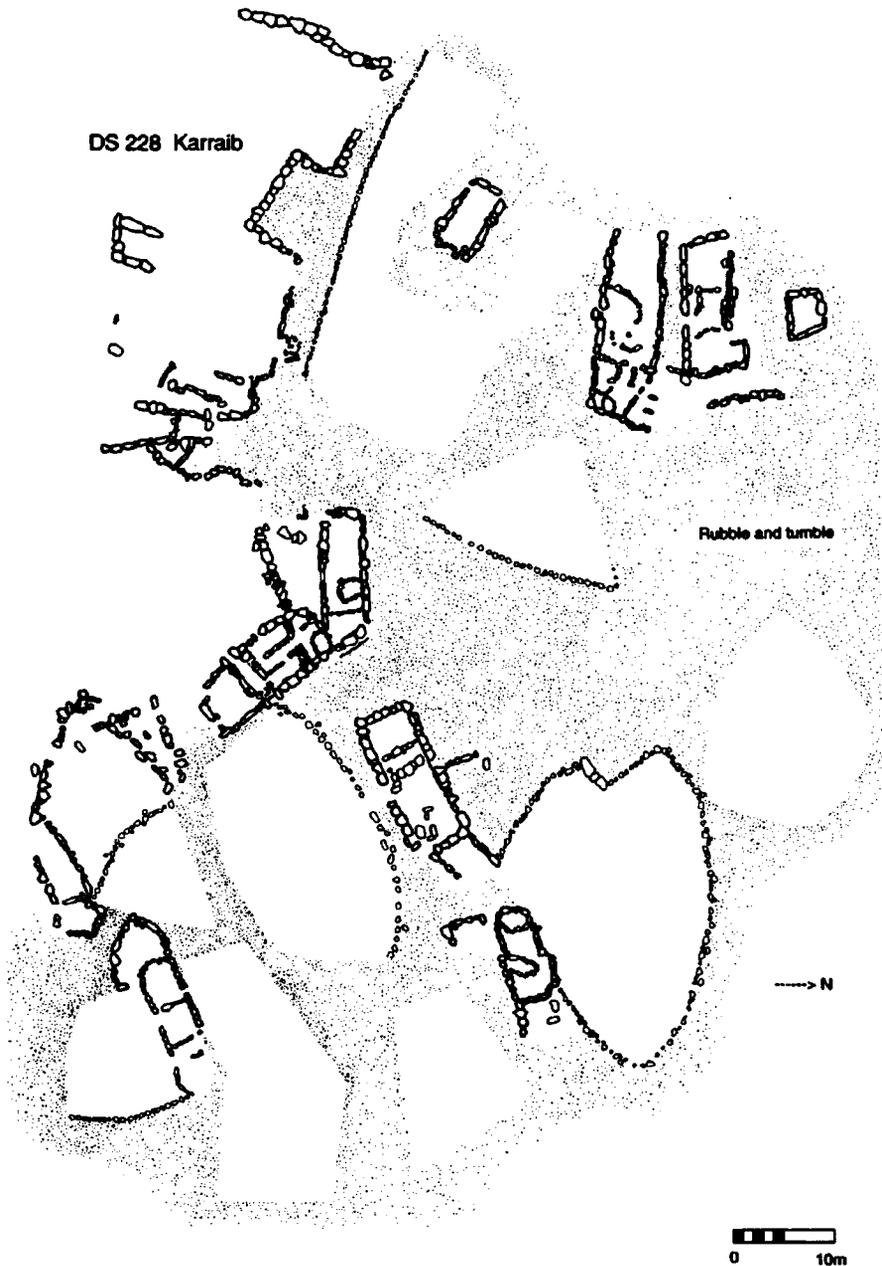


Figure 6. Surface plan of buildings in area of Building 1 at Karraib (DS 228). Blank areas are open spaces recently in use as fields and threshing floors. Drawing by G. Barratt and E. Barbanes

well-watered highlands (elevation ca. 2,000–3,000 m above sea level; rainfall: 200–700 mm per annum). There follows a summary of the salient features of settlement from the four seasons of survey:

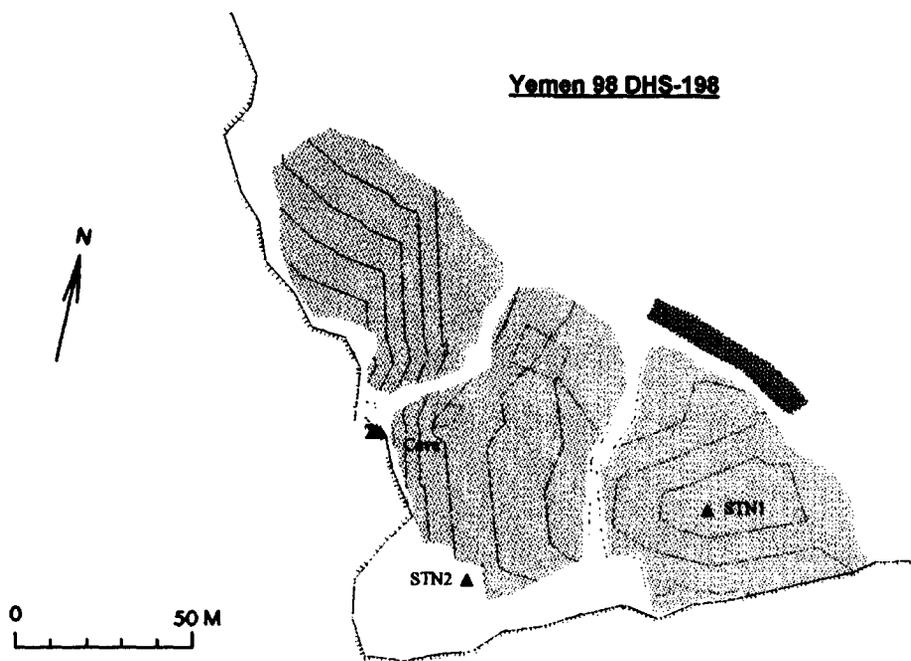


Figure 7. Iron Age / Himyarite site of Khirbet al-Khash'a (DS 198). Drawing by G. Barratt and E. Barbanes

Neolithic: The pattern of pre-Bronze Age settlement is difficult to discern, even though obsidian, the predominant toolmaking material, is a very conspicuous artifact. This under-representation of sites may be due to the fact that many sites have been erased by the intense erosion of the past 5,000 years, or some sites have been obscured by the subsequent accumulation of a layer of soil built up behind terrace walls and on valley floors. In one locality near Sedd Adhra'ah, deep valley floor silts attaining 9–10 m in depth contain a small valley floor terrace wall (at ca. 6 m depth), the associated soil of which provided a radiocarbon date on charcoal of 4970 ± 80 BP (Beta 117431). If this single determination can be accepted, it suggests that valley floor agriculture might have commenced during the Neolithic, and this too might have contributed to the increased erosion noted above.

One of the remarkable discoveries of the 1998 season was a small hunting camp (DS 281) typified by an assemblage of well-made bifacially flaked chert and obsidian arrowheads. This site, perched on high cliffs overlooking the lake basin near Zeble to the east of Dhamar, is likely to be contemporary with the lake below, but this cannot be demonstrated at present. The presence of an extensive and locally dense scatter of indeterminate flakes on the valley floor adjacent to the lake sediments suggests the possibility that an extensive valley floor lithic site also co-existed with the hilltop camp. Unfortunately owing to the construction of fields over the last few centuries or millennia, this probable site is disturbed and without any archaeological context.

Bronze Age: At present it appears that there are many more Bronze Age than Neolithic sites in the Dhamar area. Of the total of 51 Bronze Age sites recorded, the

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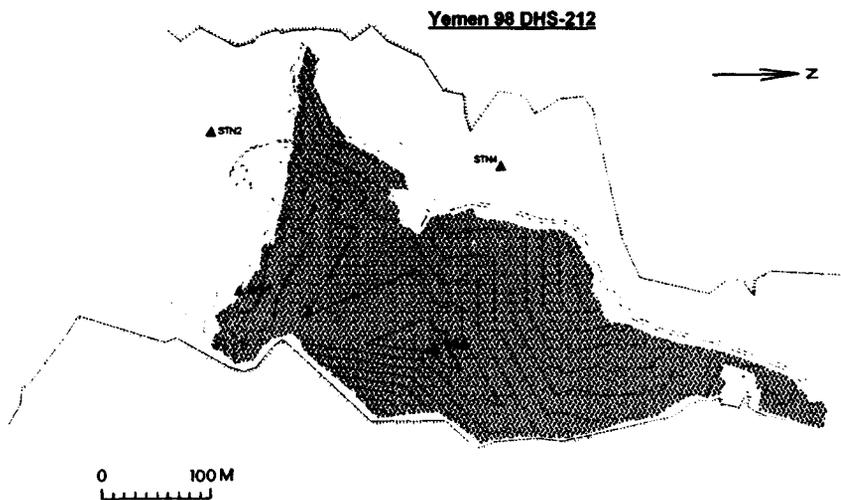


Figure 8. Iron Age Himyarite site of Khirbet al-Hussayn (DS 212). Drawing by G. Barratt and E. Barbanes

majority are situated on plateaus or rocky hilltops. Many sites are large, and in addition to the settlements of al-Sibal and Hammat al-Qa, excavated in earlier seasons, other major Bronze age sites include Medinet al-Balad near Bet Qahtan (DS 187 at ca. 4–5 ha), Karraib, near Khirbet Afiq (DS 228 at ca. 4 ha), Mosayn'a near Khirbet Afiq (DS 268 at ca. 3 ha), and Hawagir in the eastern Qa Jahran (DS 293 ca. 12.5–15.0 ha). Settlements in the Dhamar area — being larger, more nucleated, and often dense agglomerations of roughly rectangular buildings — contrast with those of Khawlan (to the northeast of our survey area), which were more rounded in shape.

Although most Bronze Age sites were situated either on rocky hilltops or plateaus, the largest site of Hawagir is an exception, being located on the loam plains of the eastern Qa Jahran (DS 293). This massive site of Hawagir, which now only remains as a scatter of large stones pulled out of walls, occasional building mounds, and a massive spread of Bronze Age sherds, has been transformed by centuries of agricultural activity as well as some modern bulldozing. The site lacks both an outer wall and a defensive location, and it appears to have developed in a location that was able to take advantage of the large area of potentially cultivable land located on the Qa Jahran, as well as its position on a major north-south route skirting the eastern edge of the plain. Thus it appears that in this area, settlement was relocated from the hills in order to take advantage of the increased agricultural potential of the plain or trade through the area. This was at the expense of a defensive location, which implies that defense was of a lower priority at that time than either trade or agricultural production. By reference to ceramics from Karraib (DS 228), Hawagir is tentatively dated to the later second millennium BC.

Iron Age: Although there are the same number of Iron Age as Bronze Age sites (51 sites, see fig. 10), the pattern of settlement is very different. Iron Age sites are both larger and in some cases are more accessible to low-lying land than those of the Bronze Age. Nevertheless, hilltop locations continue to be very important and some

of the most impressively situated sites are Iron Age hilltop fortifications. For example, the highest site recorded by the survey is the hilltop Iron Age site of al-Qattan (DS 296), which is located at 3,000 m above sea level on a high ridge some 5.5 km east of the Himyarite capital of Zafar. In this case al-Qattan, along with related lower sites of al-Shahid and al-USaybiya (DS 295 and 298), occupies the highest ridge line on the watershed between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean drainage. In comparison, Zafar, the later capital, occupied a lower ridge line to the west. This shift of site must have provided a larger area of low-lying cultivable land within easy reach of the main settlement than was available during the earlier period.

Himyarite: Many Iron Age sites continued to be occupied into the Himyarite period. As for previous periods, hilltop sites were preferred, but in a number of cases there was again a shift to lower ground, to land that could be irrigated by waters diverted from large dams. Although there is no reason to assume that all major dams in the area are of Himyarite date, those with inscriptions, namely Sedd al-Dhib (Qa'ima) and Sedd al-Khanuq (near Aqm) do date to that period. In the area of the latter dam we see a progressive shift of settlement from Bronze Age Hammat al-Qa (DS 101) overlooking the western plain, to the large hilltop location of Hammat al-Fil (DS 119) to the east by the Iron Age (fig. 11). With the construction of Himyarite dams in the upstream basin, there was a further shift of settlement to the location of the Himyarite town at Nunah (DS 294), situated on low rocky land on the north side of the valley (fig. 11). Because this site is within a modern village, the only evidence of Himyarite occupation consisted of re-used stones within modern buildings, scat-

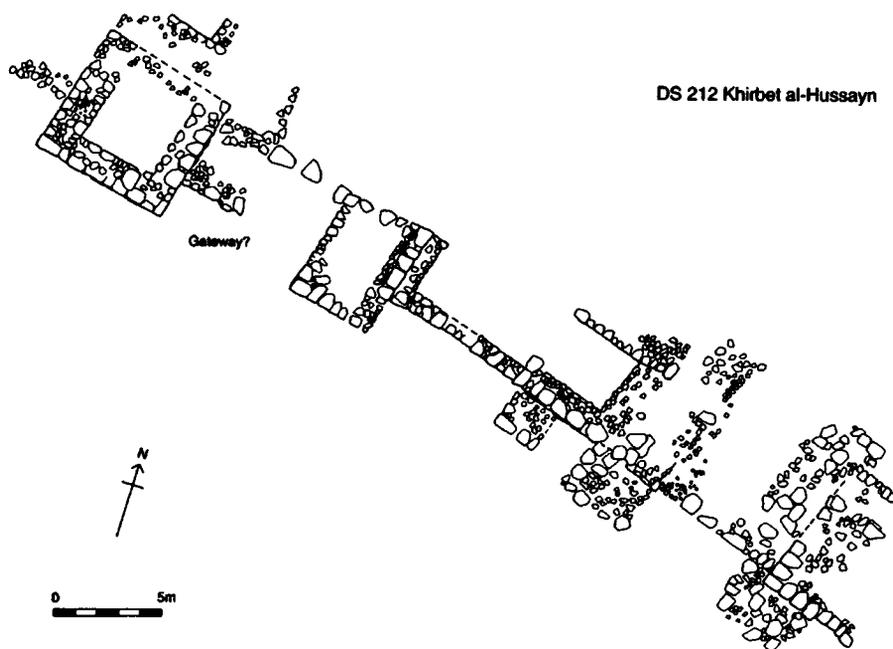


Figure 9. Detail of wall construction at Khirbet al-Hussayn (DS 212) by possible main gate. Drawing by G. Barratt and E. Barbanes

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ters of sherds within the lower village of Nunah, and the remains of Himyarite buildings dug into by the local inhabitants as they excavated foundations for new buildings and outbuildings. These remains include one modern house built on pre-existing Himyarite foundations, and a nearby bath or cistern complex that was exposed by local inhabitants.

Although many inscriptions had been noted and recorded in a preliminary fashion during earlier field seasons, no detailed studies had been made until 1998. The following inscriptions were recorded by Norbert Nebes, and together they provide a valuable picture of the administration and construction of water supply systems. The following list includes, as is customary in epigraphic Old South Arabian, a prefix indicating the discoverer, in this case the Oriental Institute!

OI Hisn Afiq 1: Tentatively dated by paleography to pre-Himyarite period.

OI Hakim 1: Himyarite inscription on rock describing campaign or raid to the Hadhramaut.

OI al-Qa'ima 1: Himyarite inscription on sluice of a dam, describing administrative relationship of dam to capital at Dhu-Raydan.

OI al-Aqm 1: Late Himyarite inscription above doorway of house in village of al-Aqm.

OI Nunah 1: Inscription on rock face overlooking site of Sedd al-Khanuq. Dated to 389 of Himyarite era, inscription describes dam's construction and tribal affiliation (Muha'anif) of person who constructed dam.

OI Harwarwah 1: Himyarite inscription above doorway of private house in village of Harwarwah.

OI Harwarwah 2: Himyarite or late pre-Himyarite inscription relating to building of cistern.

OI Harwarwah 3: Himyarite or late pre-Himyarite inscription relating to building of cistern and tribal affiliation of its builder.

Dhamar Survey: 1994-1998

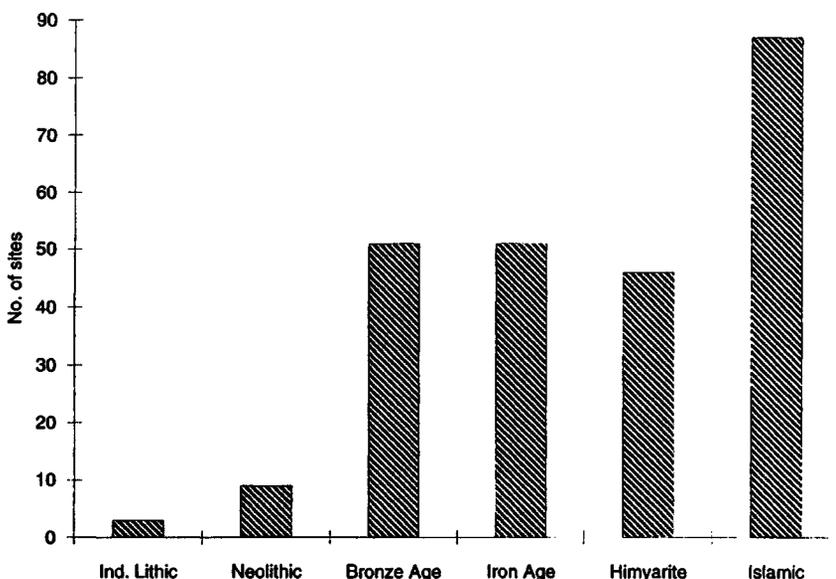


Figure 10. Number of sites dated to six broad periods of occupation in Dhamar area

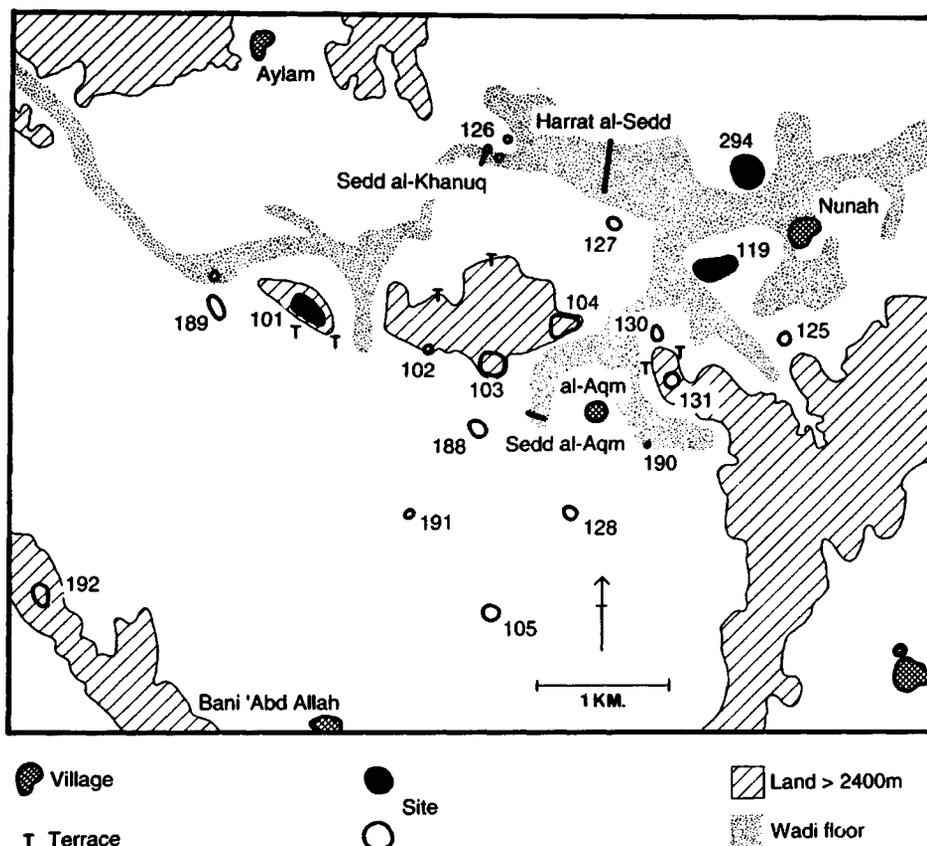


Figure 11. Area of Hammat al-Qa and dams associated with Himyarite settlement around Nunah

These eight inscriptions provide a valuable impression of aspects of the administration and construction of water supply systems. In addition it seems that some inscriptions can be dated by their style of writing to earlier than the Himyarite period, and in fact several appear to have been cut during the last few centuries BC.

Islamic: By 1998, 87 Islamic sites had been recorded, making this the most densely settled period of all. Furthermore, because many existing villages have probably been occupied for several centuries, we must assume that the existing pattern of villages must merge with occupations of the later and middle Islamic periods. Unfortunately, although we are able to recognize the broad types of Islamic pottery, finer subdivisions still elude us.

With the exception of the major late Islamic capital of Dhawran located in the western part of the region, most Islamic sites are unexceptional both in scale and in terms of monumental architecture. Dhawran has the remains of a massive mosque, ablution, and funerary complex. Being the capital of Yemen in the time of al-Mutawakkil (AD 1644–1676), Dhawran is a site of considerable importance and is currently being recorded by a joint American, French, and Yemeni architectural project sponsored by the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. In general, the Is-

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lamic period is characterized by a dense scatter of villages located in virtually all topographic locations. Although some dams continued in use into the Islamic period, many such as Sedd al-Ajma and Sedd Adhra'ah were probably breached and heavily damaged by mid-Islamic times and therefore ceased to function in terms of irrigation.

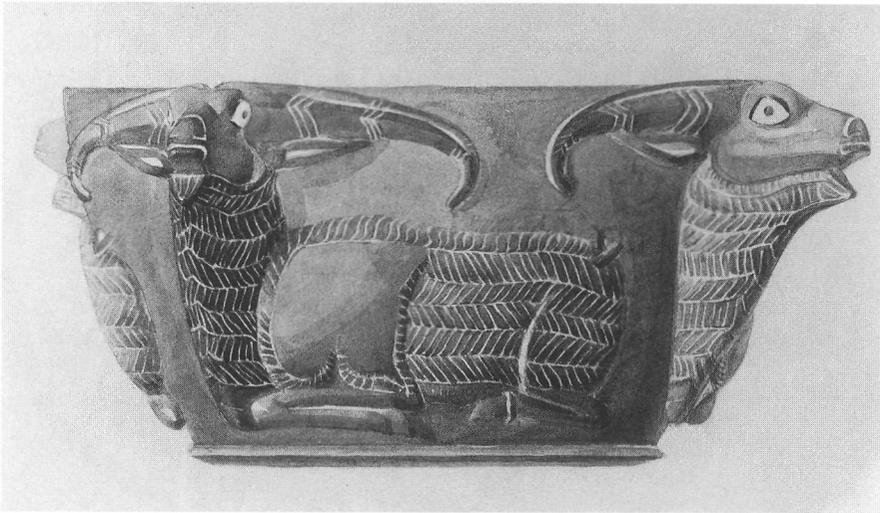
To conclude, we can now see that by the late third millennium BC population in the Dhamar region was already rather dense, and small walled towns of up to 4–5 ha had started to appear on the plateau. Similar towns became increasingly common in the Iron Age, when large agglomerated settlements were up to 15–20 ha in area. Although the Himyarite period may represent the height of formal “civilization,” with more monumental architecture, dams, and other landscape features, survey evidence suggests that population continued to increase after this. Consequently, it may only have been during the Islamic period that population pressure might have led to the extremely densely settled and terraced landscape that is now evident in much of the area.

DIYALA OBJECTS PROJECT

Claudia E. Suter and McGuire Gibson

The Oriental Institute's Iraq Expedition of the 1930s produced an extremely important set of data for the cultural history of ancient Mesopotamia from 3200 to 1800 BC. The international team of scholars, which excavated four sites in the Diyala River basin east of Baghdad, was headed by Henri Frankfort and included, among others, Thorkild Jacobsen, Pierre Delougaz, and Seton Lloyd. With the generous financial support of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., the expedition worked six months a year for eight seasons. At a time when Near Eastern archaeology was still in its formative stage, the expedition envisioned and realized the first stratigraphic excavations in that part of the world. Improved techniques of digging and recording allowed the team to establish a chronological framework that became the standard for dating Mesopotamian artifacts. The publication record of the expedition was also extraordinary, with nine of the eleven planned monographs being produced.

The goal of the present Diyala Objects Project is the production of one of the unpublished volumes, the small finds miscellaneous objects. Despite the name, these finds are of great importance for the reconstruction of the function of rooms and buildings in which they were found, as well as for the exploration of the daily life of the people who left them. Included among the miscellaneous objects are clay figurines and plaques with a varied and interesting repertory of images; all the jewelry of metal and stone, including animal-shaped pendants and amulets; stamp seals; lumps of clay with the impressions of cylinder seals; weapons, tools, and other implements of metal; stone and metal vessels; several hundred stone weights of var-



Drawing of stone bowl decorated with three goats. Ishchali, ca. 1800 BC

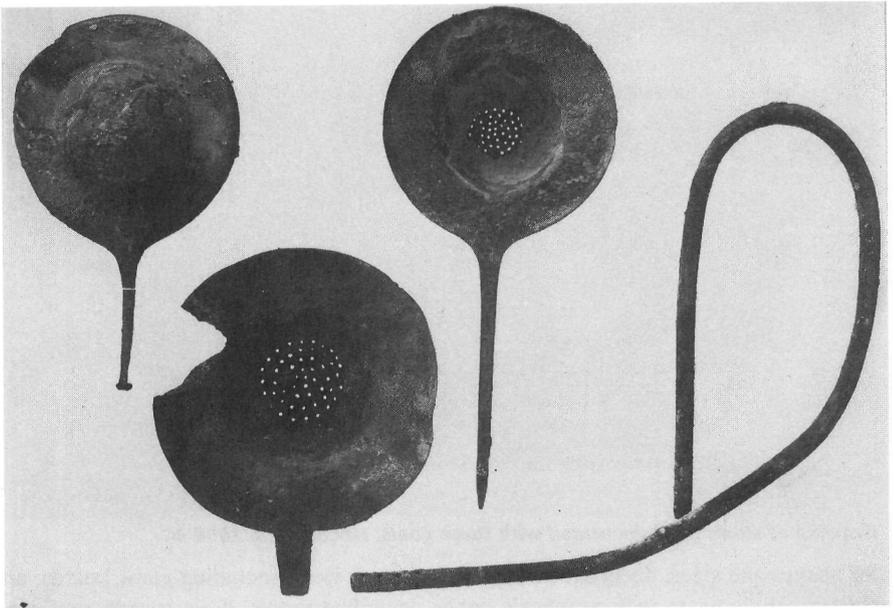
ied shapes and sizes; decorative inlays from luxury items including game boards; architectural elements such as mosaic cones, inscribed bricks, drain spouts, roof gutters, window grills, etc.; and finally, some truly miscellaneous objects such as ostrich eggs that were used as vessels, raw materials, and botanical remains.

In an effort to do justice to this outstanding corpus of material, the project uses cutting-edge computer technology. As reported previously, analyses of the various categories of small finds will be published in traditional book form, while the catalogue of all finds from the Diyala basin will be provided as a set of databases on compact disc or another medium. Use of electronic publishing will not only reduce the cost of production and distribution but will have the great and novel advantage that it allows users to view the material and work with it in entirely new ways. The reader will be able to conduct queries on the entire corpus or any defined portion of the data, and to print both the catalogue and accompanying images. If we can complete this project on schedule in the year 2000, this will be the first publication of its kind in Near Eastern archaeology.

As we near the end of the three-year period that has been supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we can report that we have nearly completed the basic cataloguing of the finds and assemblage of illustrations. We have entered the data and images in the computer and organized and systematized our databases to the point where they can be used for further study of the miscellaneous objects. Although not very exciting to describe, this painstaking work is obligatory and indispensable for the project. Anyone working with large databases will understand and appreciate what it takes to organize the information on 15,000 finds from archaeological digs, using a set of extremely varied and often incomplete data to form a database that must be checked and double checked, corrected, and streamlined.

Our primary source of information consists of the field registers, which contain sketches of the finds, short descriptions including measurements, provenience, and photograph numbers. Without these records, the detailed cataloguing we are pursu-

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Bronze utensils, probably all related to the making of beer. Tell Asmar, ca. 2300 BC

ing would be severely hampered, if not impossible. The field registers were unusually well done for the 1930s. Yet, they reflect work in progress, rather than a finished project, and the records were not conceived for a computer age. Working through the field registers by year, one can observe that the identification of finds improves with experience. But that improvement meant that the records may identify a kind of object under two or more headings, causing problems for someone trying to compile a database. Equally problematic is the fact that the findspots might be recorded differently as the excavations progressed. Thus, for instance, there is one building that is listed in the registers as “the Bilalama Palace,” “the Burned Building,” and “the southern dig.” This inconsistency means that we have to decide what term is more correct and use it, rather than the others, in our database. Furthermore, designations and descriptions in a written catalogue can be spelled and abbreviated in different ways imparting the same basic information, while a computer requires an almost inhuman consistency and rigidity in terminology. Ideally, for the computer, each field of information in our main catalogue should have an entry. Yet, the field register does not provide such complete information for every object. Some finds, however, may require multiple entries for certain types of information, such as objects made of several materials.

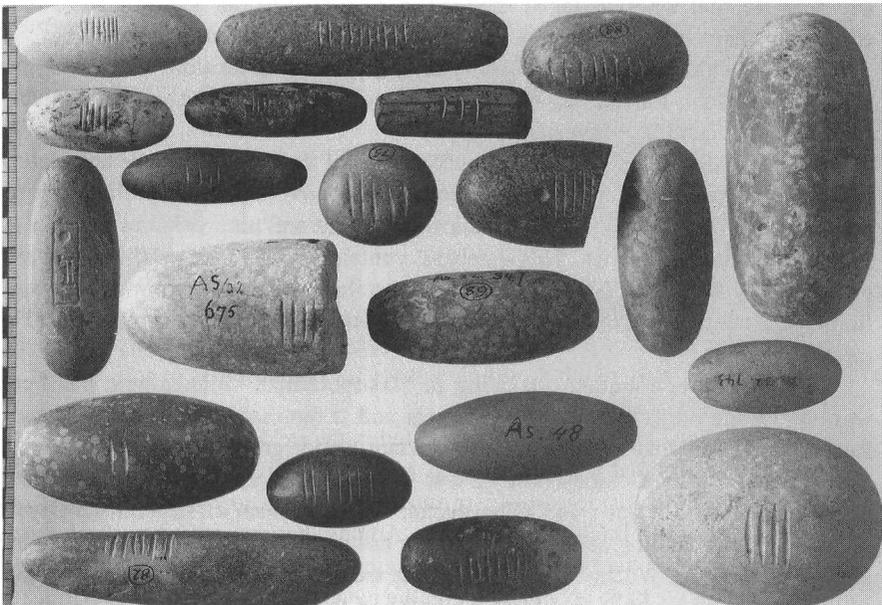
We now have a record for all finds listed in the field register as well as for some classes of objects that were not entered when they were excavated. Although these objects were not considered to be of museum quality, they were saved and put in study collections in Baghdad or Chicago. Among these unregistered objects are numerous items of pottery and some of the items found in graves. Another large class of objects that we have now included in the database consists of cuneiform texts. In the 1930s, it was usual for tablets to be treated separately from the other objects. In

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the Diyala, the inscribed material was put in a Tablet Catalogue and given numbers with a T-prefix. Ancient seal impressions with an inscription were often put in the Tablet Catalogue, thus splitting them off from the rest of the seal impressions and from the cylinder seals that were in the Object Register. The unfortunate result of the decision to split the seal impressions was that when Frankfort was publishing his ground-breaking book, *Stratified Seals from the Diyala Region*, he did not have access to all of the sealings. Therefore, our work will make it possible to supplement and improve even that great book.

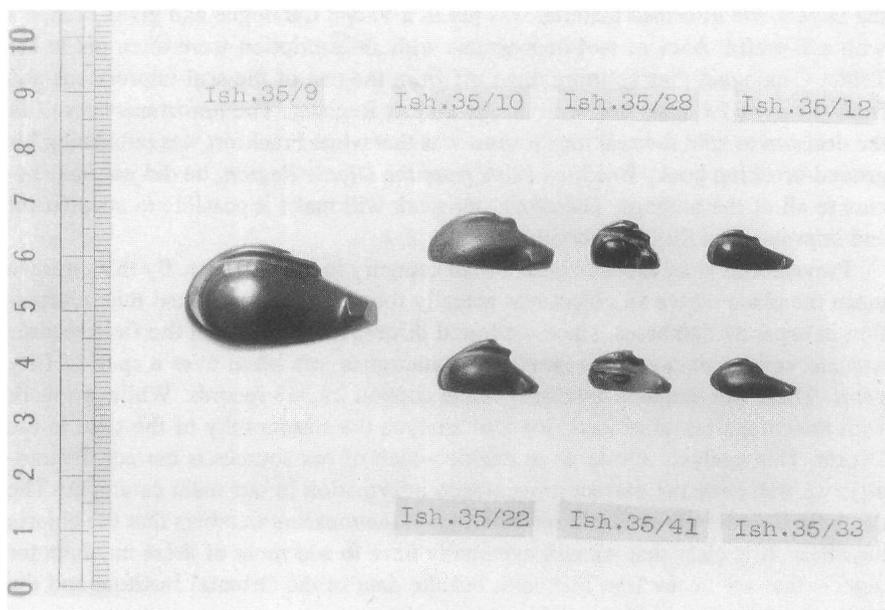
Provenience is an extremely important category in the database. By this term we mean the place where an object was actually found. We have entered this information in separate databases, since we found discrepancies between the field records and the various excavation reports and catalogues published over a span of fifty years. These provenience databases alone contain 29,353 records. While we work with the categories of objects, we also analyze the stratigraphy of the sites in the Diyala. This analysis allows us to decide which of our sources is correct. Eventually, we will have the correct provenience information in our main catalogue. The database includes all available information on the museum numbers that the objects now bear. It is clear that we will eventually have to add more of these numbers for objects that are in the Iraq Museum, but the data in the Oriental Institute and the University Museum in Philadelphia are complete.

A major challenge was provided by the number of photographs, whether taken in the field or at the Oriental Institute. Many of them were unlabeled or were preserved only as cutouts. The identification of the objects on these photographs was a monumental undertaking that was accomplished largely this year. Our invaluable volunteer, Joyce Weil, who worked for years in the University's computing facility, has



Stone weights, some with marks indicating weights. Tell Asmar and Khafajah, 3rd mill. BC

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Stone weights in shape of ducks. Ishchali, ca. 1800 BC

been the key person in scanning all available photographs of the finds, and all available drawings of the profiles of ceramic, metal, and stone vessels. Where photographs were not available, we scanned negatives. The negative scanning was accomplished with the cooperation of the University's Digital Media Laboratory, and the results were high-resolution images. In the scanning operations, it has been Clemens Reichel who has taken the lead in each step of our learning to use the equipment. Thus far, we have approximately 3,000 images in our database.

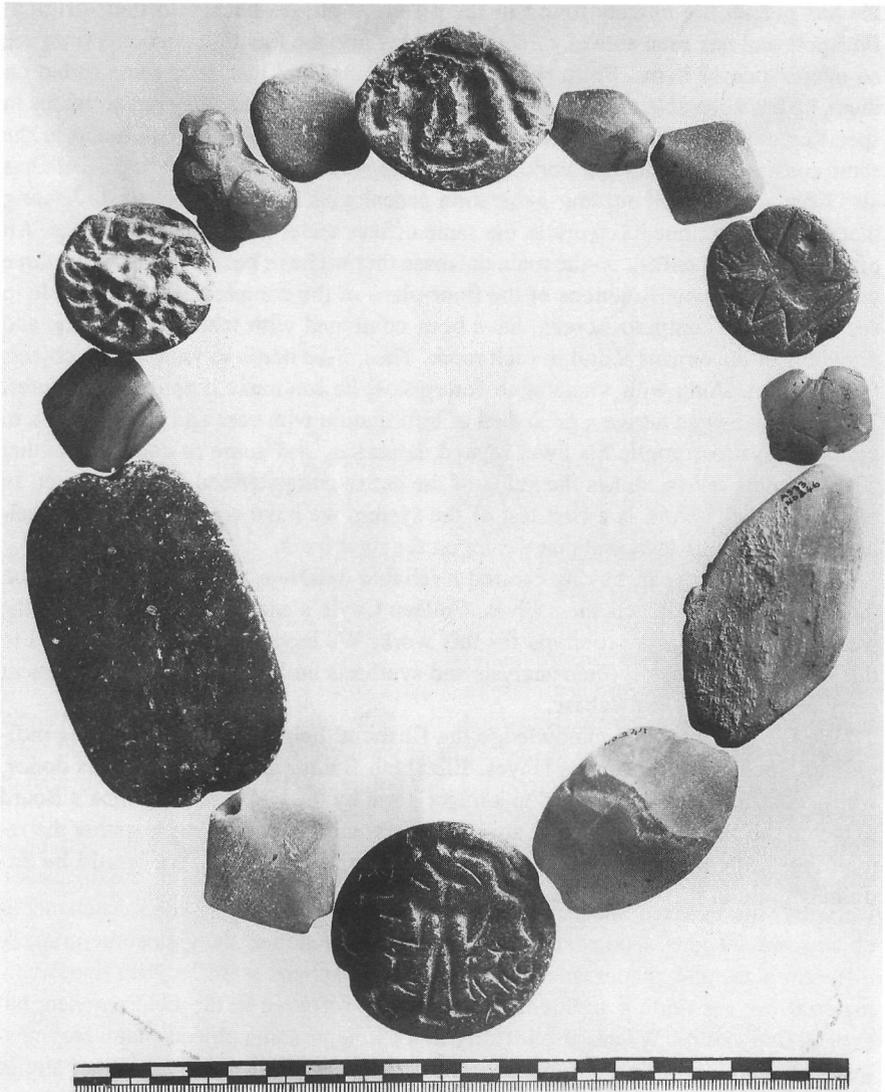
Carole Yoshida, another volunteer, was of great help in locating and sorting the material, and John Larson, the Oriental Institute archivist, has generously collaborated with the handling of the negatives.

In order to document all previous publications of the objects that we are analyzing, we have created another related database that covers the five preliminary reports in the Oriental Institute Communications series and nine volumes of Oriental Institute Publications series. This database, containing 4,857 records, was brought up to date by Brett McClain, a student in Egyptology who worked for us last year. In the painstaking work of proofreading, our volunteer Helaine Staver has proved of inestimable help.

Colleen Coyle, a student majoring in Mesopotamian archaeology, has been working on the project for more than a year and is familiar with all the databases. Recently, she initiated analysis on an important, major group of the miscellaneous objects: the weights. Composed of various imported stones, weights come in many different sizes and shapes, including ducks. As happens so often with the Diyala material, we are finding additional examples not recorded in the field registers but kept as study items. We are also identifying as weights some objects that were registered as "gaming pieces," "rubbing stones," and the like. Hardly any other site in Mesopotamia has produced an equally large number of weights, and with few ex-

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ceptions, these have not been accurately published; ironically, the actual weight, for instance, is often not indicated in site reports. Even in the Diyala, where Frankfort indicated in registration procedures that all weights must be weighed, this information was rarely recorded in the field. We assume that the absence of the information resulted from difficulty in obtaining in the field a balance of adequate refinement. In view of the inadequate state of present knowledge of Mesopotamian weights, the Diyala material will prove of great importance in establishing a clear typology and in relating actual finds to texts. We know, for instance, that king Shulgi of Ur (2094–2047 BC) standardized the weight system in his empire. As Colleen weighs and analyzes the material, it will be interesting to see how the actual objects com-



Stone beads, some of which may have been used as seals. Tell Asmar, ca. 2350 BC and earlier

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pare to the units implied by the texts, and whether there were regional differences in certain periods.

As both a member of the Diyala Objects staff and as a doctoral student, Clemens Reichel has continued his research on the Shu-sin Temple and the Palace of the Rulers at Tell Asmar (ancient Eshnunna), the most important of the Diyala sites. This religious and administrative complex underwent several rebuildings over a two hundred year period. Frankfort and Jacobsen published this complex but did not make a full account of the 1,124 clay tablets and 219 clay sealings found there. Only a selection of the tablets has been published and the sealings are only now being treated by Reichel. His work has, thus far, resulted in some redating of the phases of the architecture, with the earliest building pushed decades earlier than previously thought. He has put all the objects found in the different phases back into their original findspots and has been able to gain new insights into the function of rooms from the co-occurrence of items. From the clay sealings that had inscribed seals rolled on them, he has been able to show that specific officials tended to carry out activities in specific parts of the building. A comparison of information on tablets found in the same contexts elucidates the workings of the administration to a high degree. He has also been able to work out four-generation genealogies for these officials, indicating that families continued to work in the same offices under a succession of kings. All of his work is dependent on the main database that we have been compiling for three years. His new reconstructions of the floor-plans of the complex, made available in seconds on the computer screen, have been combined with text, photographs, and drawings of the objects found in each room. Thus, if he needs to view all the objects from a room, along with a catalogue description, he can make it appear in minutes. The fact that he can derive a great deal of information with ease and manipulate it in various ways to compile his own, related databases, and come to conclusions that help to redate levels, shows the value of the entire computerized Diyala project. In effect, Reichel's work is a first test of the system we have created, and the excellence of his results indicates that we are on the right track.

In the coming year, having created a reliable database, we will concentrate on the analysis of the objects themselves. Colleen Coyle's analysis and write-up of the weights can serve as a prototype for this work. We have been looking forward to this stage of the project, when analysis and synthesis build upon the years of patient entry of items into the database.

We are delighted to acknowledge the financial help of several generous individuals, including Mrs. Alice Hayes, Elizabeth Baum, and an anonymous donor, whose contributions were joined to a major grant by the University Women's Board to match the NEH funding. There are still several months remaining to gather the remaining funds that could still be matched by the NEH grant. We would be extremely grateful for any aid to reach that goal.

EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

W. Raymond Johnson

On 15 April 1998 the Epigraphic Survey successfully completed its seventy-fourth season. Our documentation efforts this year were concentrated at the temple of Amun at Medinet Habu, where the inking and collating of drawings continued in the painted chapels of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III, and conservation was initiated on the rooftop. At Luxor Temple reference photography continued in the Colonnade Hall and Amenhotep III sun court, and conservation was resumed on block fragments in the southeast blockyard. The Survey's latest volume, *Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple Volume 2: The Facade, Portals, Upper Register Scenes, Columns, Marginalia, and Statuary in the Colonnade Hall*, received the final editing back in Chicago this summer and will be available in the fall.

Deir el-Bahri

Most of our readers are aware of the tragic events at Hatshepsut's mortuary temple on 17 November 1997, when fifty-eight tourists and four Egyptians were trapped and slain by six terrorists in a senseless act of violence that shocked Egypt and the world. Although our Medinet Habu temple crew was within sight and sound of the final gun battle, at no time were we ever threatened, nor were any of the other foreign and Egyptian archaeological missions working in the area. Encouraged by the local authorities and the American Embassy in Cairo, we agreed that it was of the

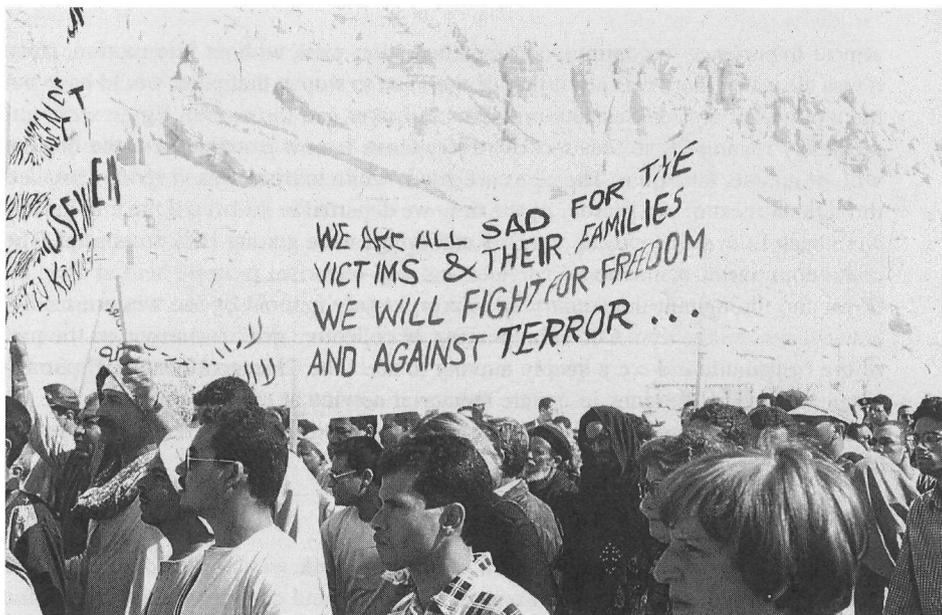


Figure 1. Anti-terrorist demonstration at Deir el-Bahri, November 1997. Photograph by W. Raymond Johnson

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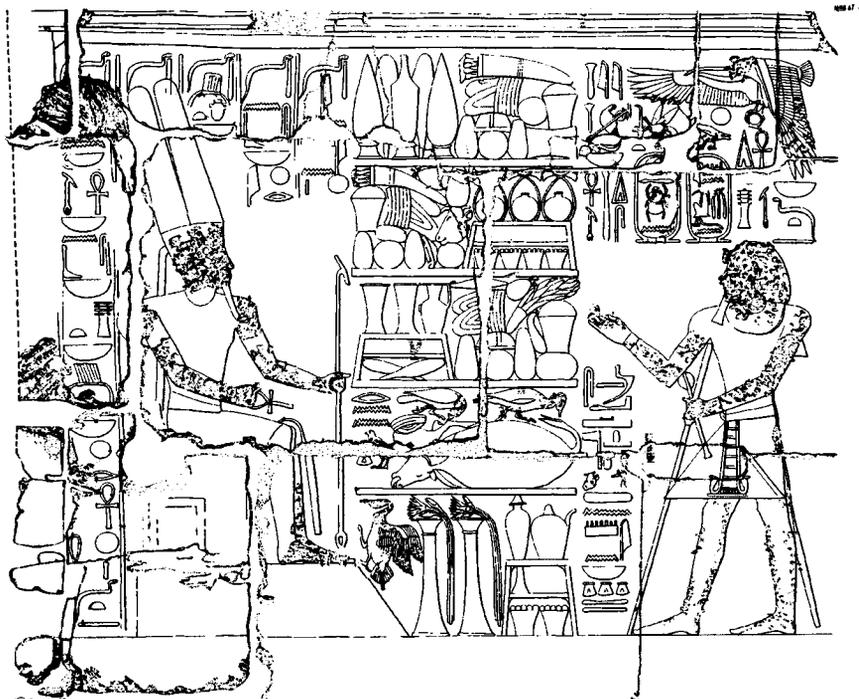


Figure 2. King offering to Amun-Re; bark sanctuary Room III, small temple of Amun at Medinet Habu, time of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III. Facsimile drawing by Susan Osgood

utmost importance to continue our documentation work without interruption, since it was clear that there was no further danger, and to stop at that point would have put the work itself at risk. Security measures in Luxor and throughout Egypt were immediately revamped, so that security everywhere is now excellent, but the healing will, of course, take time. The signs are good; while tourism was severely curtailed throughout most of our season, by the time we departed in mid-April the tour groups were back in ever-increasing numbers and things were getting back to normal. The continuous series of memorial services and anti-terrorism protests held at Deir el-Bahri and throughout the country all winter, largely ignored by the western media, bore witness to the tremendous outpouring of collective grief and anger on the part of the Egyptians, and were deeply moving to see. The Chicago House staff participated with our colleagues in a state memorial service at the site on December 10, attended by President and Mrs. Mubarak and numerous Egyptian and foreign representatives.

Temple of Amun at Medinet Habu

The major focus of this past season's epigraphic work was at Medinet Habu. The artists and epigraphers continued penciling, inking, and correcting drawings of the reliefs located in the six painted chapels of the temple of Amun, on the pillars that surround the bark sanctuary, as well as on the bark sanctuary itself, inside and out.

Fifty-two drawings were checked at the wall by epigraphers John Darnell, Debbie Darnell, and Ted Castle, most of which were corrected by the artists; eight drawings were penciled at the wall by artists Sue Osgood, Tina Di Cerbo, and Margaret De Jong, mostly in preparation for work over the summer; and nine drawings received approval for publication (seven more await the final director's check). The majority of the drawings of the painted chapels and their eastern facade, the earliest portion of the Thutmoside temple, have now been successfully completed and collated, and work is progressing well on a comparative examination of all recorded scenes within the chapels. The drawings of the chapels will be published in the first volume projected for the Temple of Amun at Medinet Habu after a final cleaning of the wall surfaces during the next two seasons. The second volume in the series, currently well underway, will be devoted to the Thutmoside bark sanctuary area and miscellaneous graffiti. The third volume will document the Kushite (Twenty-fifth Dynasty) additions to the small temple. This season Staff Photographer Yarko Kobylecky assisted by Ellie Smith finished the photography of the Kushite pylons in preparation for the production of drawing enlargements for that volume. Next season Yarko will finish the photography of the Ptolemaic and Roman additions for volume four.

The 1997/98 season saw the second year of a five-year grant approved by the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Egyptian Antiquities Project (EAP) of the American Research Center (ARCE) for conservation of the Thutmoside temple at Medinet Habu and its later additions. The first phase of the project last year focused on the foundations of the Ptolemaic addition to the east, made up of over four hundred reused Kushite-period blocks (as well as some early Ptolemaic blocks), half of which preserve identifiable decoration, and many of which are suffering from salt efflorescence. The 1997/98 season's conservation work focused on the rooftop of the Thutmoside temple, over the painted chapels and bark sanctuary. Torrential rain-

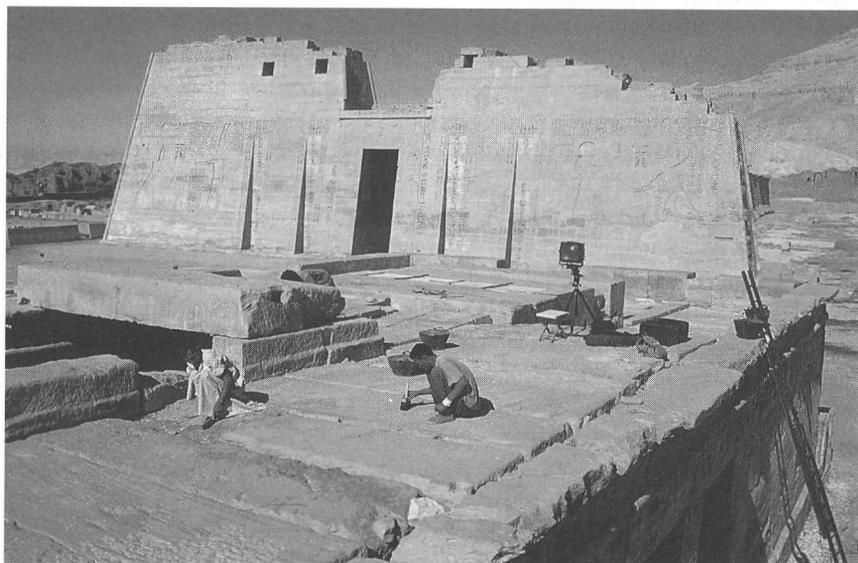


Figure 3. Cleaning and photography on Amun Temple roof, Medinet Habu, March 1998. Photograph by W. Raymond Johnson

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storms in recent years have penetrated the sanctuary in two main areas, causing staining of the painted reliefs and the migration of salts trapped in the sandstone. The rains have also caused mud from the roof to wash over the south wall of the bark sanctuary, obscuring carved details in several areas.

Examination of the roof revealed that leaking was a problem even in the Ptolemaic period. Settling of the structure because of improper foundations had caused the roof blocks to shift almost 20 centimeters, resulting in gaps between the blocks that had to be repaired even in ancient times. Ptolemy VIII undertook the task of restoration, raised the roof of the bark sanctuary, and added an upper two courses of stone, on the lower of which he carved a marginal inscription which names him. At the same time he repaired the roof blocks and sealed the repairs with a veneer of thin stone slabs over the entire roof that directed rainwater to water spouts in the roof; the veneer keys into Ptolemy VIII's new stone courses and is contemporary with them. In most areas this stone veneer is now missing, but marks on the original roof blocks often indicate where the blocks were laid. On the north side of the sanctuary, the site of one of the major leaks, some of the veneer blocks were removed at some time in order to restore the large Thutmose roof block below and were not replaced. This veneer is shown intact in photographs taken by the Epigraphic Survey in the thirties, before the restoration, and our plan is to replace them, based on the photographs, with new stone.

The technique for sealing was decided after lengthy on-site discussions with EAP Director Dr. Robert (Chip) Vincent, Assistant Director Dr. Jaroslaw Dobrolowski, and the Director of the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak, Dr. François Larché, last spring and this fall. Stonecutter Dany Roy supervised the careful cleaning of all of the cracks between the stone roof blocks with a compressor and vacuum cleaner, and sealed the roof over the entire sanctuary area with a mortar compound tempered with crushed brick for lightness and strength, of the same type which has been utilized in restoration work at Karnak and approved by the Supreme Council of Antiquities and EAP. On the south side, a screened rain spout was inserted into a gap between two large roof blocks to direct the flow of rainwater off the roof. Where the water hits the ground, a trench was dug and filled with gravel to prevent splashing of mud onto the temple wall. Before the application of the mortar, Tina Di Cerbo meticulously planned all of the roof blocks and plotted all of the details on a 1:20 scale master plan of the entire roof. She took special care to plot the marks indicating where the stone veneer blocks had been laid but are now missing, and also documented the position of the roughly forty graffiti carved on the roof. Photographer Yarko Kobylecky photographed the roof areas, including the graffiti, before, during, and after cleaning and infilling. The sealing over the sanctuary was finished by April, but new stone ordered to replace the missing veneer blocks on the north side had not arrived by season's end, so they will be cut and placed next season, at which time Dany also will complete the sealing of the entire bark sanctuary roof. In the meantime Dany filled the depression over the north side of the chapels with a thick sponge sealed with polythene against any water seepage. It was timely that he did so; on Easter Sunday, three days before the end of the 1997/98 season and one day after he had completed his operations on the Amun Temple roof, Luxor was hit by a tremendous sandstorm accompanied by thunder, lightning, and torren-

tial rains. Inspection showed that the newly sealed roof and rain spout worked perfectly; we could not have planned it better.

Luxor Temple

This season marked the third year of a five-year EAP grant for the treatment and consolidation of deteriorating decorated stone fragments at Luxor Temple. Conservator Dr. John Stewart returned for a week to consult with stone conservator Hiroko Kariya, who oversees the project for three months each winter. This season all one thousand, five hundred and forty fragments in the Epigraphic Survey blockyard were surveyed and recorded on a special conservation database. Ninety-two sandstone blocks were physically strengthened with the Wacker OH consolidant in the expanded outdoor laboratory, and provision was made for more permanent conservation facilities and protected storage space that will be set up next season. Thirty-eight additional fragments scheduled for future treatment were

placed on a special, covered platform that will protect them from rainfall and wind erosion. Forty smaller deteriorating fragments were placed on covered tables and shelves. With the kind permission of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, samples from the undecorated backs of twelve fragments were taken for analysis for the purpose of characterizing stone geology, decay agents (i.e., salt), and effectiveness of the treatment. The first group of seven samples was sent to the Engineering Center for Archaeology and Environment at Cairo University, and more will follow.

Unusually high levels of salt-laden groundwater at Luxor Temple over last summer and during this season resulted in increased salt efflorescence on the lower walls of the Colonnade Hall and alarming deterioration of the column bases. Photographer Yarko Kobylecky took reference photographs of the columns and walls to compare with earlier photographs of the same areas to help us gauge the rate of decay and to help determine what might be done to rectify this problem. He also took reference photographs of the two easternmost rows of columns in the Amenhotep III sun court, restored and re-erected last spring by the Supreme Council of Antiquities. Greatly facilitating these tasks, and the Medinet Habu photography as well, was the generous gift of a Toyo large-format 8 × 10 field camera by friends Daniel and Lucia Woods Lindley in January, for which we are very grateful. This lightweight, portable camera has made the whole photographic process smoother and faster and allowed us greater productivity at a critical time. The simple truth is that the Epigraphic Survey must expand its photographic operations considerably in order to keep up with the rapidly accelerating deterioration of the pharaonic monuments in



Figure 4. Stonecutter Dany Roy applying mortar to seal Amun Temple roof against rainwater, Medinet Habu, March 1998. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky

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the Luxor area. This gift effectively launches our expansion efforts, and we extend our sincerest thanks to Dan and Lucia for lighting the way.

Photographer and Photographic Archivist Susan Lezon made a welcome return to Chicago House in January after an absence of four years. She surveyed two thousand nitrate-based negatives in the Photographic Archives to assess the degree of their deterioration, a project initiated several years ago with funding from the Getty Conservation Institute, and she duplicated sixty of the worst, a task that she will continue next season. She also worked with Yarko, Ellie Smith, and Debbie Darnell on the new Photographic Archives database, kindly developed for the Epigraphic Survey by John Sanders and Jason Ur last summer, and she had the golden opportunity to work on refinements to the program with Jason personally when he visited Chicago House with Egyptian Archaeology graduate student Justine Way in January. The photographers and I took full advantage of Jason's presence, and with him visited the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak for a demonstration of their techniques for scanning the negatives in their Photographic Archive to CD-ROM. In the near future we will inaugurate a similar program at Chicago House that Sue will coordinate. Before she left, Sue supervised the repackaging of large glass plates from our special collection into archival housing and made sure that they were properly stored in the Photographic Archives.

Photograph Archives assistant Ellie Smith continued to bring order to our lives, registering 268 large-format negatives and 85 35 mm negatives this season, as well as finding and filing negatives and prints as needed and helping to refine our new database. She provided invaluable assistance to Yarko in the field where she numbered and kept track of photographic negatives as Yarko produced them on site, and she coordinated the production and packaging of duplicate negatives that are brought back to the Oriental Institute each spring. She and Sue Lezon flew to Chicago this July for a meeting with John, Jason, and me to discuss the final refinements to the database program. She, Sue, and I visited Yarko at his North Side studio, where he is computer scanning 35 mm black and white negatives taken by former Chicago House photographer Tom Van Eynde in 1986. These negatives document the severely deteriorating carved reliefs in two Ramesses III wells at Medinet Habu, which were used for water rituals in his mortuary temple. Eventually we will join the scanned negatives (using the Photoshop software program) to produce montages of whole wall areas for drawing and publication.

Epigrapher and Chicago House Librarian Debbie Darnell continued to spend half of her time during the season coordinating the administration of the Chicago House library, the finest library of Egyptology in Upper Egypt. Although it is fundamentally a field library whose primary function is to facilitate our documentation work, Chicago House has an open door policy to all expeditions working in the area, members of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities, and visiting scholars, and this year record numbers of our colleagues used our facility. Debbie supervised the procurement and shelving of books and photographs for our scholarly visitors, and also registered two hundred and fifteen new books, which now brings our total holdings to 17,596 volumes. She was capably assisted in February by archival assistant Nan Ray, who this year brought her husband David back to us after a long absence, and throughout the season by resident Egyptologist Dr. Henri Riad, former Director



Figure 5. Conservators Hiroko Kariya and John Stewart confer with Ray Johnson and EAP Assistant Director Jarek Dobrolowski and Director Chip Vincent in the Epigraphic Survey blockyard, Luxor Temple, January 1998. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky

of the Cairo Museum and Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria, who worked through hundreds of photographs in the Labib Habachi archives, identifying many dozens of objects that Labib had recorded. Henri very kindly watched the library when Debbie was at the temple and was always on hand to offer help to anyone who needed it. Drs. Helen and Jean Jacquet, who resided with us this year, were also a wonderful resource for all. Helen, a former Epigraphic Survey epigrapher, is currently finishing her long-awaited study of the rooftop graffiti at Khonsu Temple, Karnak, which will appear in our Khonsu Temple series. Jean, who continues to be our primary resource for matters architectural, spent long hours inducting Tina into the mysteries of the architect's theodolite. Our warmest thanks are extended to all of these much-appreciated helpers. It should also be mentioned that this year Chicago House was pleased to donate several dozen duplicate books and pamphlets, many devoted to Nubian culture and history, to the library of the new Nubian Museum in Aswan, which opened in November to great acclaim.

In February stone conservator Ellen Pearlstein returned to continue the cleaning of the indurated-limestone colossal statues in the Colonnade Hall, concentrating this season on the seated king on the east side. It was decided that two fragments of the statue — an arm section and part of the lower face — would not be restored at this time for lack of supporting stone. Ellen refined the infill around the face of the large-dyad goddess Mut on the west, which the Epigraphic Survey, in cooperation with the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, re-joined to its body in January of 1997. Ellen started cleaning the lower section of the small Amun and Mut dyad on the east side, exposing a Coptic cross, which had been covered with resin and cement, engraved on the goddess's knees, and will finish that

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cleaning next season. None of this work would have been possible without the generous support of our friend Dr. Marjorie M. Fisher, to whom we extend warmest thanks.

All three statues, the columns, and much, much more are published in the Epigraphic Survey's latest volume, *Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple, Volume 2: The Facade, Portals, Upper Register Scenes, Columns, Marginalia, and Statuary in the Colonnade Hall* (OIP 116; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 1998). It promises to be one of the most interesting volumes in the history of the Epigraphic Survey, with an array of material noteworthy for its rich diversity, and will be a valuable companion to the first volume in the series, *Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple, Volume 1: The Festival Procession of Opet in the Colonnade Hall* (OIP 112; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 1994). Reconstructed upper-register fragment groups from the dismantled walls, painstakingly pieced together from hundreds of pieces, and an architectural study of the hall, will appear in the third volume of the series at a later date.

Administrator Ahmed Harfoush and I had our hands full this season with the re-vamping and implementation of the new Chicago House financial management system, a process that took six full months. With the assistance of our accountant friends at Coopers and Lybrand Cairo (particularly Moataz Abu Shady, who worked closely with us all season and to whom we owe special thanks), the financial management team at USAID Cairo headed by Shirley Hunter, and a lot of hard work on Ahmed's part, we are now in full compliance with USAID guidelines. This allows us to receive an endowment from USAID for part of our operating expenses in Egypt. This endowment provides a vital base for all future Chicago House funding, while our new accounting system guarantees that any and all future funding will be managed properly in perpetuity — major milestones in our development program. Our sincere thanks to all those friends who made this happen.

Jill Carlotta Maher, Assistant to the Director for Development, spent November and March in Luxor and made excellent use of her time as always. She once again took up the mantle of library tour hostess and in her extraordinarily enthusiastic way explained the work of the Survey to various groups and interested parties who passed through our doors. In Cairo she and I met with the heads of several Cairo-based corporations in our ongoing efforts to cultivate interest in (and support of) our documentation projects. We also met with the head of USAID Egypt, John Westley, a friend and veteran of several past "Friends of Chicago House" weekends, to thank him for his efforts on our behalf. He and his wife Joan have already left Cairo for a new posting in Rome; we will miss them very much and wish them well. Back home in Chicago, Egyptology graduate student Hratch Papazian kept his annual vigil over our office and kept track of contributions and donors. I am pleased to announce that Hratch will be joining us next season as student epigrapher.

In light of the Deir el-Bahri tragedy, Chicago House sadly had to cancel its 1997 "Friends of Chicago House" tour traditionally held over the Thanksgiving weekend, and in general, we saw fewer of our friends pass through this year. But it was a busy season, nonetheless. Former Secretary of State George Shultz passed by in early November while I was away in Cairo; John Darnell gave him a library tour and an update of our work, since he had visited Chicago House a few years before. The



Figure 6. Chicago House reception for the Graggs on December 19, 1997. From left to right: Mr. Francis, Ray Johnson, Chief Inspector of the Valley of the Kings Ibrahim Suleiman, Gene Gragg, Michèle Gragg, and General Director of Antiquities for Upper Egypt Mohamed Nasr. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky

Oriental Institute's Emily Teeter brought a group through at the beginning of the month, and a little later David Schloen stayed with us for a few days during which Chicago House hosted a reception for the Oriental Institute tour to Egypt led by Ed Wente; it was quite a reunion. On Thanksgiving Day we were joined by Carlotta's husband David and friends Katherine and David De Bruyn, Raymond Stock, Prince Abbas and Madiha Helmi, Barbara Adams and her Hierakonpolis crew, and Ibrahim Sadek for a quieter but still festive Thanksgiving dinner.

In December, Director Gene Gragg and wife Michèle, on an official Oriental Institute tour of inspection, joined us for a week just before Christmas. Their visit was a good opportunity to have a welcoming reception with the local Supreme Council of Antiquities officials and all of the foreign expeditions, an occasion the like of which had not been seen at Chicago House in many years. The gathering was enthusiastically attended by well over seventy of our associates. After seeing the work of the Epigraphic Survey in all of its various manifestations on site and in house, and participating in the traditional Christmas tree and cookie decorating events, the Graggs and I flew to Cairo, where ARCE Cairo Director Mark Easton very kindly hosted another reception for them. At the Cairo ARCE headquarters, beautifully festooned with Christmas decorations and candles, they met additional representatives of the foreign archaeological institutes in Cairo and Supreme Council of Antiquities officials, including the Secretary-General, Dr. Gaballa Ali Gaballa, who was very cordial in his welcome. At Memphis I made sure to point out the sad remains of the old Oriental Institute Saqqara Expedition headquarters, for a number of years a "Chicago House North," housing the team of epigraphers and artists who copied the exquisite reliefs in the Saqqara tomb of Mereruka, which we also visited. The house was

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forced to close due to lack of funds and is now part ruin, part magazine, and part local Supreme Council of Antiquities offices and may be torn down soon to make way for a new museum. The loss of that facility was a blow to epigraphy and the Oriental Institute, and an example of what must never be permitted to happen again.

In December I attended a farewell Embassy reception for outgoing American Ambassador to Egypt, Edward Walker and his wife Wendy, FOCH-tour veterans who have been very good friends to Chicago House. Ambassador Walker has since taken up his new post as American Ambassador to Israel, and we wish him all the best. In mid-February it was our pleasure to host a breakfast at Chicago House for the new American Ambassador to Egypt Daniel Charles Kurtzer and his wife Sheila. Although their time in Luxor was short, we managed to get in a library talk and demonstration of our work and, appetites whetted, they have promised to return for more. I accompanied them to the Valley of the Kings, and to Hatshepsut's mortuary temple where Mrs. Kurtzer laid a wreath in memory of the slain, and Ambassador Kurtzer said a few words, expressing his belief in the goodness of the Egyptian people and his hope for the future, sentiments shared by us all. In December and part of January Ted Castle's wife Bernice Williams stayed with us, and, I am very pleased to report, will be returning next season for six months as staff epigraphic artist. Bernice has a degree in Studio Art from the University of Pittsburgh and is also a very accomplished photographer.

In February, we were pleased to meet University of Chicago Life Trustee Kingman Douglass and his wife Leslie, and Diana King, President of the University of Chicago's Women's Board and her husband Neil, who paid us visits and saw the work in progress; we look forward to hosting a special Women's Board tour next year. In March McGuire Gibson spent several days with us between stints at Giza with Mark Lehner. Later that month Carlotta's husband David Maher joined us again, followed by our dear friend Donald Oster, who happily has made his Luxor visit an annual event. And this was a *quiet* season!

While tourists might have been few, our colleagues were out in force this year. One of the great pleasures of having a facility like Chicago House is the opportunity it affords to facilitate archaeological work in Egypt outside of the Epigraphic Survey's own programs. Allowing access to the Chicago House field library is one excellent way to assist others. Sharing equipment, when possible, and expertise as well as reference material from our archives is another. Prof. Manfred Bietak of the Austrian Archaeological Institute Mission at Tell el-Dab'a visited Chicago House in October to peruse the Labib Habachi archives for photographs from Labib's early excavations at Qantir in the delta; some of these photographs will be used in the posthumous publication of Labib's work there. Labib long desired to see a publication of this material, and it is gratifying to be able to help bring it about.

This year the Epigraphic Survey assisted numerous archaeological expeditions working in the area and elsewhere, the normal state of affairs from season to season. But it is a special pleasure when the house can assist in the projects of current or past Chicago House staff members. This year Chicago House helped support John and Debbie Darnell's Theban Desert Road Survey, Helen Jacquet's Khonsu Temple Rooftop Graffiti Project, and former staff member Carol Meyer's Bir Umm Fawakhir Project (her staff members included Oriental Institute friends Lisa

Heidorn, Alex O'Brien, Clemens Reichel, and Carol's sister Leslie Boose). Among the many friends and colleagues who used the Chicago House facility or who simply stopped by were the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Dr. Gaballa Ali Gaballa; Daniel Polz and the UCLA Theban Tomb Project team; Kent and Susan Weeks and the KV 5 crew; Carter Lupton of the Milwaukee Museum; General Director of the Cairo Museum Mohammed Saleh; François Larché and Luc Gabolde from the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak; Lisa Giddy (Egypt Exploration Society) and Christian Décobert; Manfred Bietak and Nano Marinatos; Geoffrey Martin and Eugene Strouhal of the joint Egypt Exploration Society — Leiden Expedition to Saqqara and Nick Reeves; Bill Peck from the Detroit Institute of Art; Mohamed el-Saghir, General Director of Antiquities for the Nile Valley; Barbara Adams of the

University College London Petrie Museum/ Hierakonpolis Expedition; Tom Scalise, Christine Lilyquist, and John MacDonald from the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Betsy M. Bryan from Johns Hopkins; Hermann Te Velde and his family from the Netherlands; Susanne Bickel and Pierre Zignani, French Institute; Nigel and Helen Strudwick of the Cambridge University Theban Tomb Project; Ted and Lyla Brock; Niveen Tolba; Cairo ARCE Director Mark Easton; Jiro Kondo of the Waseda University Amenhotep III Tomb Project; René Cappers, Leiden; Vivian Davies, Keeper of the British Museum Egyptian Department and Renée Friedman of the Hierakonpolis Expedition; Vincent Rondo; Jack Josephson and Magda Saleh; Cairo Museum Assistant to the Director May Trad; Madeline Bessada, Director of the Luxor Museum of Art; EAP Director Robert "Chip" Vincent and Fran and Susanna Vincent; Dimitri Laboury and Jean Winand, Belgium; Louise Schofeld from the British Museum Greek and Roman Department; and Marianne Eaton-Krauss.

The 1997/98 season saw significant accomplishments and many changes. It was my first full season as Chicago House Field Director, after nineteen years of work-

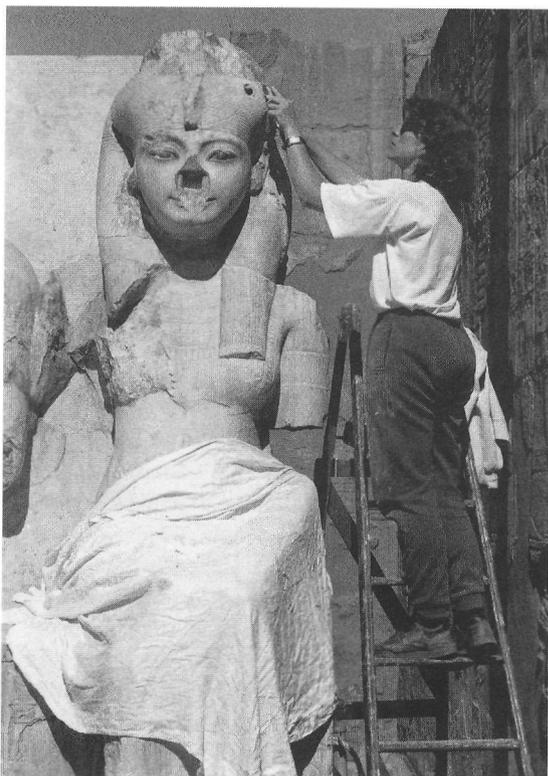


Figure 7. Conservator Ellen Pearlstein adjusts infill of face of goddess Mut, which she cleaned and restored last season. Indurated-limestone, part of colossal dyad of Amun and Mut, Colonnade Hall, Luxor Temple, February 1998. Photograph by W. Raymond Johnson

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ing for the Epigraphic Survey. This season Chicago House launched a program of expansion to keep up with the accelerating deterioration of the monuments in Luxor. We finished the documentation of the standing wall remains of the Colonnade Hall at Luxor Temple and finally saw that precious and fragile material to print. We have largely finished the recording of the wall reliefs of the painted sanctuary area of the Amun Temple at Medinet Habu, and we made major inroads in the conservation of that monument. We scanned our first negatives and are exploring new techniques for analyzing and presenting that computerized material. We completed the first step toward a secure financial future. It is a time of great challenges, but also of great excitement and hope. There is much to do as we head into our 75th year.

Some of the changes have been harder than others. After ten years working with the Epigraphic Survey, John Darnell has accepted a teaching position at Yale University and will begin his new duties late this summer. John is a remarkable epigrapher and scholar and will be sorely missed; Chicago House has been fortunate to keep him for so long. But, I am pleased to write that we are not losing him totally. John has agreed to continue to lend his expertise on the Ptolemaic inscriptions at the Medinet Habu Amun Temple, which will be published in the second and fourth volumes of that series and are a special focus of his research. Also, Debbie will be staying on as Chicago House Librarian and epigrapher, and John will be joining her over the Christmas holidays in Luxor for work on their Theban Desert Road Project. We offer John sincere congratulations on his new position and wish him all success and look forward very much to seeing him back in Luxor when his schedule allows. I am also pleased to announce at this time that Ted Castle will succeed John as Senior Epigrapher; I have every confidence that both he and John will experience great success in their new endeavors.

The professional staff this past season, besides the author as field director, consisted of Dr. John Darnell, Deborah Darnell, and Ted Castle, epigraphers; Tina Di Cerbo, Margaret De Jong, and Susan Osgood, artists; Yarko Kobylecky and Susan Lezon, photographers; Ahmed Harfoush, administrator/accountant; Jill Carlotta Maher, assistant to the director; Elinor Smith and Nan Ray, assistants for the photograph archives and library; Saleh Shehat Suleiman, chief engineer; Dr. John Stewart, Hiroko Kariya, and Dr. Ellen Pearlstein, stone conservators; Dany Roy, stonemason; and Ibrahim Sadek, our dear friend and Cairo liaison. I wish to express special thanks for the supportive presence of Dr. Henri Riad, Egyptologist-in-residence for the season and beloved surrogate father to us all.

As in the past, numerous members of the Supreme Council of Antiquities kindly assisted us during our work this season, and to them we owe a special debt of thanks: Prof. Dr. Gaballa Ali Gaballa, Secretary General; Dr. Mohamed el-Saghir, General Director of Antiquities for the Nile Valley; Dr. Mohamed Nasr, General Director of Antiquities for Upper Egypt; Dr. Sabry Abdel Aziz, General Director for the West Bank of Luxor; Mme. Nawal, Chief Inspector of Luxor Temple; Dr. Mohamed Saleh, General Director of the Egyptian Museum, Cairo; and Dr. Madeline Bessada, Director of the Luxor Museum of Art.

At this time I would also like to express my thanks to the many friends and supporters of Chicago House, particularly the former American Ambassador to Egypt, Edward Walker, and Wendy Walker; the present American Ambassador to Egypt,

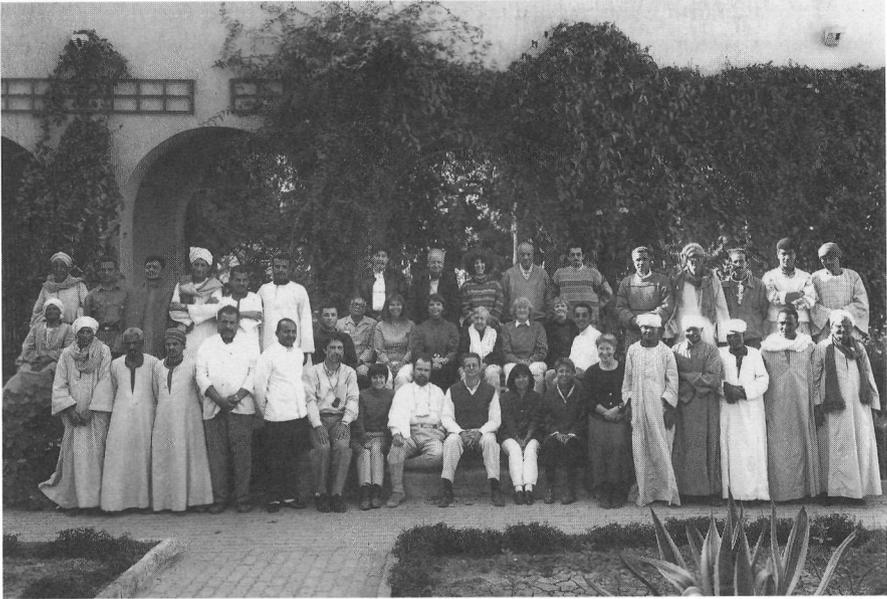


Figure 8. Chicago House staff 1997/98. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky

Daniel Charles Kurtzer, and Sheila Kurtzer; Vincent Battle, Deputy Chief of Mission of the American Embassy in Cairo; William Cavness and Janet Wilgus of the American Embassy; John Westley, Justin Doyle, Shirley Hunter, and Jean Durette of the United States Agency for International Development; David Maher; David Ray; Mark Rudkin; Barbara Mertz, Ph.D.; Daniel Lindley and Lucia Woods Lindley; Dr. Marjorie M. Fisher; Gerald Vincent; Tom and Linda Heagy; Donald Oster; William Kelly Simpson; Kelly and Di Grodzins; Dr. Ben Harer; Anita and Solon Stone; Roxie Walker; Louis Byron, Jr.; Terry Walz, Mark Easton, Ray Salamanca, Sawsan Abdel Naby, Mary Sadek, and Amira Khattab of the American Research Center in Egypt; Dr. Robert Vincent, Dr. Jarek Dobrolowski, and Cynthia Schartzler of the Egyptian Antiquities Project; Michael Jones of the Antiquities Development Project; and all of our friends back at the Oriental Institute, in particular Peter Dorman, Cynthia Echols, Tim Cashion, Michelle Wong, and Joan Curry (who gets special thanks for ensuring that the Oriental Institute and Luxor fax machines could actually communicate with each other). I must also express our gratitude to the Amoco Foundation, the Getty Grant Program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, Coca-Cola, and Bechtel for their continued and much appreciated support. Sincerest thanks and best wishes to all.

I would also like to make the point that we could not do our work without the support of a remarkable group of people in Luxor, our local staff. They cook our food, guard the gates, tend the gardens, drive the cars, wash our clothes, maintain the equipment and grounds, hold our ladders, and do all those little day-to-day things that then allow us, the professional staff, to devote the majority of our time to the epigraphic and conservation work at hand. They are loyal and talented friends, and we are grateful for their help.

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As you all know, members of the Oriental Institute and other friends of Chicago House are welcome to stop by to see us, but we encourage you to write or call in advance to schedule a meeting that is convenient to all. Chicago House is open from October 15 until April 15, and closed Saturday afternoons and Sundays. Our address in Egypt: Chicago House, Corniche el-Nil, Luxor, Egypt. The telephone number is (from the USA) 011-20-95-37-2525; fax 011-20-95-38-1620. The Epigraphic Survey home page is at:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/EPI/Epigraphic.html>

JOINT PREHISTORIC PROJECT

Robert J. Braidwood and Linda S. Braidwood

The unhappy tension in southeastern Turkey, where Robert and Linda Braidwood's old site Çayönü lies, still prevails. This means that excavation on the site is still impossible. We are fortunate that it was possible to bring the great bulk of excavated material up to Istanbul for study and publication.

Work does go slowly but steadily forward towards publication. Although the animal bones and chipped stone are in the charge of foreigners (Hitomi Hongo and Richard Meadow for the bone; Isabella Caneva and her Italian colleagues for the stone), we are pleased that Turkish graduate students are working with them and learning. Gülçin and Banu, who worked with Berrin until her sudden death and are now working on animal bones with Hitomi, are at the same time specializing, Gülçin on the Çayönü red deer, Banu on the cattle. Çiler and Güner, who have been working with Isabella and her colleagues on the flint and obsidian artifacts, will give a paper at a chipped stone symposium being held in Venice in November.

On Monday 22 June 1998, a large gathering took place in Istanbul in honor of our colleague Halet Çambel. With it appeared an overwhelmingly large but very impressive and attractive volume, *Light on Top of the Black Hill/Karatepe deki Isik*, with eighty-three contributions by an impressive variety of professionals, including of course archaeologists and Çayönü staff members from over the years. The volume is a highly significant sign of Prof. Çambel's high place in archaeology generally. We are greatly indebted to Prof. Güven Arsebük, who initially proposed the Festschrift. He is happy that it turned out so well, but, of course would have thought twice about starting it had he known how much work would be involved.

We are grateful to old friends who insisted for some years that we should have a fax machine, and that they devilled us until they managed to have a fax machine installed. We haven't been in Turkey for four years, but between the telephone and the fax, we stay in fairly close touch with our Turkish colleagues. Our warm thanks to you for your continued interest in the Joint Prehistoric Project.

NIPPUR

McGuire Gibson

Once again, I have to report that Nippur remains a far-off, unworkable site that is, as far as I know, not damaged by illicit digging. While other sites, especially those out in the desert and far from government control, are being looted, sometimes with earthmoving machines, Nippur remains intact. There was a report of Nippur-type Kassite period tablets (ca. thirteenth century BC) on the international antiquities market, but inspection by an Iraqi who keeps an eye on the site showed that there were no new holes on the site. Perhaps some small Kassite mound in the vicinity of Nippur has been looted, but there is no way of finding out for sure.

Meanwhile, here in Chicago we continue to move ahead on preparing manuscripts for publication. And, as usual, I can not point to any books coming out right away, but there is real progress. During the past year, Augusta McMahon has been revising her dissertation on the Early Dynastic-Akkadian transition (ca. 2300 BC). Since she has a sabbatical from Cambridge this coming fall, she expects to finish and to submit it for publication in January 1999. She and I published a report based on her work in *Iraq* (1995), calling for a new understanding of the criteria on which we create archaeological periods. In the following year, a British scholar, Donald Matthews, published in the same journal an article challenging our conclusions and we were given the opportunity to answer him and make clarifications. This past year, in conjunction with James A. Armstrong and McMahon, I completed a long report on the findings of our seventeenth season (1987), a campaign in which we excavated a small Islamic site east of the ziggurat and also worked out the sequence of constructions of the defensive walls on the east and west sides of Nippur. That article was a drastic revision of one submitted in 1988 to *Sumer*, which is the journal of the Directorate General of Antiquities in Baghdad. Since its activities have been brought almost to a standstill by the current embargo, the Directorate has not been able to publish in a normal fashion. Thus the decision to revise the article for *Iraq*.

Jim Armstrong and Judith Franke are still working on their volumes, but both have museum positions and cannot devote as much time as they would wish to Nippur. Armstrong, along with another ex-Nippur staff member Steve Cole, were two of the four co-authors of a volume called *Dating the Fall of Babylon*, which is a co-production of the University of Ghent and the Oriental Institute. This book grew out of a joint pottery project of the Nippur Expedition and the Belgian Expedition. It uses pottery, stratigraphy, historical texts, and astronomical data to reach a conclusion that Mesopotamian chronology has been misunderstood and must be shortened in the second millennium by about a hundred years. Armstrong and Hermann Gasche are continuing to finalize the pottery corpus, which will include all the well-dug sites in Iraq (and one in Iran) that have pottery from the second millennium. The book, which depends on Nippur pottery for about a third of its examples, should go to press in a few months. It will stand as a definitive statement on second millennium ceramics for some time to come.

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Jason Ur, a graduate student, has been working with me on the excavations at Umm al-Hafriyat, which were carried out by the Nippur Expedition in 1977. Ur is entering the data into a computer and promises that when he is finished, I will have a very easy time writing the final report on that site. As reported previously, this site is an extraordinary one in that it has more than 400 pottery kilns on and around it. We were planning to do a second season on the site in 1991, but the Gulf War intervened. Given the fact that prior to our excavations many illicit holes had been cut into the site, there is every reason to suppose that it is being looted at present. In addition to that potential damage, there is an even more drastic threat. Recent satellite images of the area show new irrigated fields very close to the site, and since it is relatively low, parts of it may soon be bulldozed to create new fields. Even if the main mounds remain intact, the majority of the kilns, which are not on the mounds but in the surrounding plain, will be destroyed. But we cannot begrudge the Iraqi people food that these new fields represent.

The same images that allow us to see new irrigation in a desert that has not been cultivated since the fourteenth century may also give us a way to map the complex of water courses on which the kilns of Umm al-Hafriyat sat in antiquity. In 1989, we were able to observe there an entire network of ancient canals running off a major branch of the Euphrates. All these features, visible as dark lines of water-retaining clay running through lighter-colored, dryer ground, might also appear on a satellite image. We have the cooperation of remote sensing specialists at the University of Minnesota at St. Cloud for this work, and we have already seen some promising images.

Related to our remote sensing work around Umm al-Hafriyat is a new project that has just been funded by a Collaborative Grant from the University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratories. This project, to be carried out by Tony Wilkinson and me from the Oriental Institute and John Christensen from Argonne, will attempt to recreate the ancient environment and landscape of ancient Mesopotamia, working in factors such as population shifts, deforestation, possible weather changes, and salinization that may be the result of natural or human action.

As we continue to work on such analyses and publications, we maintain the hope that we may be allowed to work in Iraq once again. The Directorate of Antiquities keeps sending signals that our presence would be welcome at any time.

Once again, I would like to end this report with an expression of gratitude to those Friends of Nippur who still support our work. I look forward to rewarding their contributions with reports on happier news in future.

TELL ES-SWEYHAT

Thomas A. Holland

Although the Sweyhat project was again unable to have a field season during 1998 to recover the remainder of the important mid-third millennium wall paintings from the monumental building in Operation 5 on the southern slope of the main tell, more time was available for research at the Oriental Institute on the final excavation report as well as a closer examination of the 103 wall painting fragments thus far recovered (see *1991/92 Annual Report*, pp. 76–80, for a preliminary assessment of the fragments and in particular the large fragment depicting a bovine suckling her calf; also see *1993/94 Annual Report*, pp. 53–61, for illustrations and descriptions of ten of the seventeen fragments presented in this report). Further details regarding parallels and dating evidence for the bovine with suckling calf fragment were presented by the writer in the comprehensive article on the Sweyhat excavations from 1989 to 1992 (see “Tall as-Swehat 1989–1992,” in “Archäologische Forschungen in Syrien (5),” *AfO XL/XLI*, 1993/1994: 280–81).

The close similarity of some of the Sweyhat wall painting fragments with elements depicted on the two, nearly complete, published wall paintings discovered at Tell Halawa B and Tell Munbaqa, south of Sweyhat on the left bank of the Euphrates River, was noted in both the *1993/94 Annual Report* and the *AfO* articles listed above, notably those Sweyhat fragments that included geometric borders, tree branches, and stylized human figures with Medusa-like hair styles. While both the Halawa and Munbaqa paintings were found in situ and largely complete, the Sweyhat paintings had fallen from their positions on the plastered walls around the middle of the third millennium BC and were subsequently buried by later Bronze Age and Roman occupation building levels, thus preserving the fragments. As only the northeastern side of the large building, with one meter wide walls, has been excavated at present, we have not been able to recover all of the fragments now known to belong to at least two separate paintings, as shown below. There are possibly even more paintings fallen from the unexcavated north, west, and southern walls of the building complex.

New research conducted this year on the Sweyhat wall painting fragments now allows for a partial and very preliminary reconstruction of parts of the two separate scenes from the northeastern Wall 21/2 of the Operation 5 building. Line drawings of the two paintings are illustrated below in figures 1 and 2. Before discussing the artistic elements of the scenes, it is important to note that the vertical placement of all of the fragments illustrated here is based upon the small drip lines of the paint, which occurred when the artist(s) were applying the maroon- and black-colored paints to the plaster wall face.

The hitherto unpublished three fragments (A, B, and G) and the other eight published fragments shown in figure 1 are more closely related to one of the Tell Halawa B paintings from Room 313 (F. Luth, “Tell Halawa B,” in *Halawa 1980–1986*, ed. W. Orthmann, pp. 85–100; *Saarbrucker Beiträge zur Altertumskunde*, Band 52, Abb. 66) than to the Munbaqa wall painting (D. Machule et al.,

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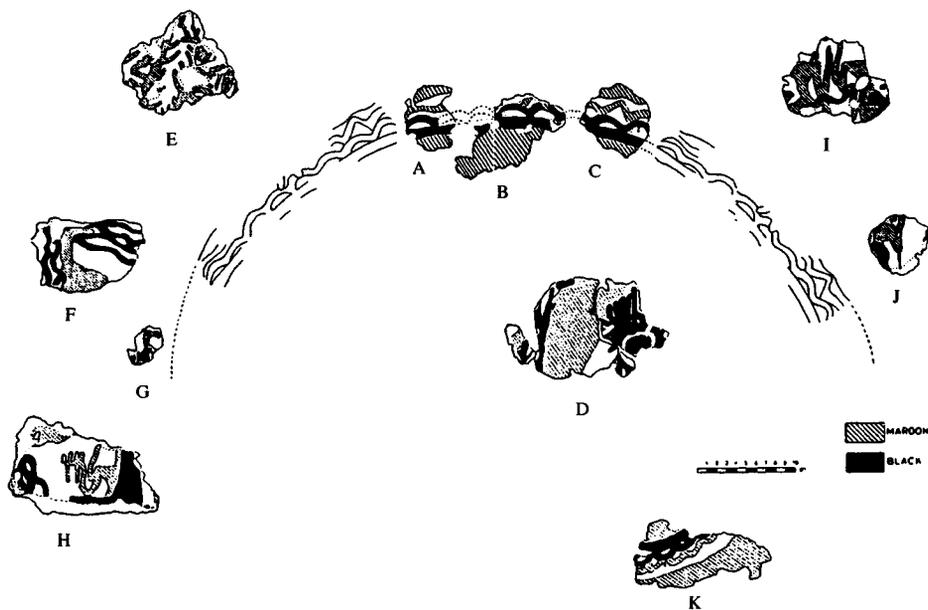


Figure 1. Provisional reconstruction of first wall painting from Op. 5

“Ausgrabungen in Tall Munbaqa 1986,” *MDOG* 120 [1988]: 11–50, Abb. 10). The Halawa and Munbaqa paintings referred to here have been discussed at great length by Sally Dunham in her article entitled “A Wall Painting from Tell al-Raqa’i, North-east Syria” (*Levant* 25 [1993]: 127–43) to whom I am indebted for much of the insights on these paintings described here. The Halawa painting measures 95 cm wide and 60 cm tall, making it a roughly rectangular scene. The partially reconstructed Sweyhat scene (fig. 1) measures approximately 96 cm wide and 75 cm tall. The central feature of the Sweyhat painting, represented by fragments A–D and K [note that K, although in its original vertical position in fig. 1, is from the lower right bottom of the face and shown in its present position to save illustration space], appear to depict a human face similar to the face on the Halawa painting, but both the shape of the border surrounding the face and its motif are somewhat different; the reconstructed projections from both sides of Sweyhat fragments A–C indicate that the face is circular rather than oval in shape and the shallow maroon and black double loops of the border stand in contrast to the red, almost triangular-shaped and deeper single loop border surrounding the Halawa head. Fragment D possibly represents part of the nose and an eye of the face, which is also similar to the Halawa face. The external features surrounding the Halawa face include rectangle panels of straight and wavy lines at the top sides and bottom, which adjoin the outer oval of the face; at present there is no evidence from the excavated Sweyhat fragments that this particular design is present. The remaining Halawa elements, external to the face, depict tree branches, stylized human figures, two partly preserved four-legged animals, and possibly a dove sitting on top of one of the human heads. The tree branch motif, fragment E, shown in the upper left-hand corner of the Sweyhat painting is positioned there on the basis of the Halawa painting, but as there are a number of other unpublished Sweyhat fragments with the same motif, they could have origi-

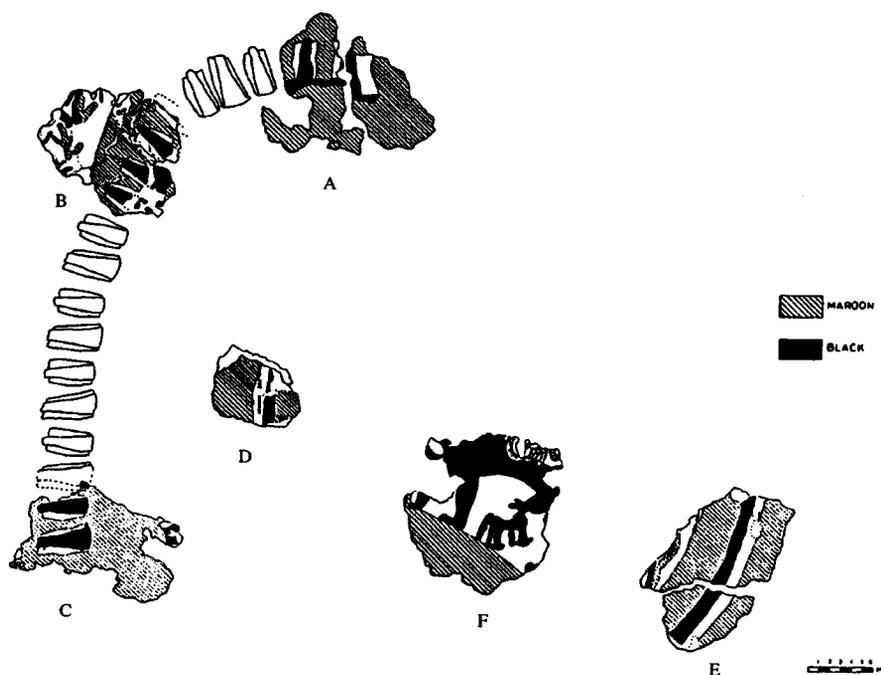


Figure 2. Provisional reconstruction of second wall painting from Op. 5

nally been located anywhere external to the central face. Fragments F–J, positioned here on both sides of the face similar to the Halawa painting, all represent stylized human figures that are all painted maroon. Only fragments F and G show the heads of the figures, which are both bird-like in shape and face inwards to the large central face of the scene. The black-painted wavy lines beside the neck and behind the head of the fragment F human most likely represent hair, again similar to a human figure on the Halawa painting, but which is depicted there on the right-hand side and facing the large central face of the scene. All of the preserved human torsos shown on fragments H–J are depicted with their arms upraised, which is a characteristic also present in the Halawa painting; Dunham states that the Halawa figures “hold either their hands up toward the face as if in worship or they hold up objects of uncertain identity.” None of the Sweyhat fragments thus far recovered indicate that the arms are holding objects with the possible exception of fragment H, which appears to show the right half of a human torso with two upraised right arms, one of which is holding an unidentifiable object that might represent a small animal.

The partial reconstruction of a second wall painting from Sweyhat is shown in figure 2. Certain elements of this scene compare favorably with a portion of one of the three wall paintings found at Munbaqa, level 7, Room 3B, dated to about 2400–2250 BC. The most complete scene published from Munbaqa Room 3B shows the frontal view of two human figures with upraised arms who are surrounded on their sides and tops by an elaborately decorated border, which measures 44.3 cm × 45.8 cm; unidentified black and red shapes on a white-painted background to the left of this scene suggest that the two human figures surrounded by a border was only one

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element of a much larger painting. The left-hand side of the extant reconstructed Sweyhat border is 48 cm long.

The reconstruction of fragments A–C on the second Sweyhat wall painting are again positioned by the direction of the paint drip lines. The black-painted, roughly cone-shaped design inside the elongated white-painted rectangles is similar to the two inner vertical portions of the border pattern of the Munbaqa painting that enclose the sides of the two human figures inside the preserved three-sided border which originally might have been rectangular in shape. While the excavators of the Munbaqa painting suggest that the frame surrounding the two human figures might be a representation of reedwork, Dunham (1993:136) offers the following interpretation: "... one might also perhaps think of a decorated curtain drawn open with tassels hanging across the top." Sweyhat fragments A–C appear to belong to a similar type of border as the inner element on the Munbaqa painting, although fragment B suggests that Sweyhat did not have the outer scalloped red line completing the outermost portion of the Munbaqa border. The outside portion of the Sweyhat border extant on fragment B depicts part of a maroon-painted tree branch similar to fragment E on the first Sweyhat painting and the branches shown on the Halawa painting described above. Fragment B also appears to have the hind legs of a four-legged animal painted in black that may also compare with the Halawa animal located in the top left of the painting facing away from the central portion of the scene. Fragments D and E appear to belong to the same circular or oval design, but their placement within the border design (fragments A–C) is only hypothetical as is the placement of the suckling calf fragment F shown in the center of this painting. The suckling calf fragment is placed on this painting since there is the fragment of another animal on fragment B and there are none so far evident on the first Sweyhat wall painting described above. If the suckling calf fragment does belong inside, rather than outside, the border, this would suggest that it is a key element of the painting; its size, larger than the human figures on the first Sweyhat painting, also indicates that much importance was placed on this element of the painting.

The suckling calf fragment certainly implies that ideas of life and fertility were being represented in this painting and most likely did have some connection with cult practice in what seems likely a building of worship at Sweyhat. Whereas the suggested reedwork or drawn curtain of the Munbaqa painting probably does indicate the presence of the two humans with upraised arms inside a sacred place, the proposed central position of the suckling calf enclosed within either a circle or a rectangular-shaped reedwork border may simply represent a corral-type holding pen for protecting the stock. It should be noted that the Munbaqa painting was also found in a thick-walled building, but was intended for public use and not cultic in nature. However, as Dunham points out, "the occurrence of a wall painting with a clearly cultic (or ritual) subject in such a building at Munbaqa may imply that within an industrial installation there could also be cultic accommodations. Indeed, the close connection of craft and temple in the ancient Near East has often been noted" (1993: 137).

At Halawa, the archaeological evidence suggests that the level 3 Room 313 wall painting was associated with a temple dated to the first half of the third millennium BC. The monumental size of the mid-third millennium building at Sweyhat, which

contained at least the two suggested wall paintings so far partially excavated, may also be a temple complex, but much more excavation is needed to determine the exact character of the building(s) and to recover the remaining wall painting fragments. On the other hand, as stated above, the one published Munbaqa wall painting was found within a public (rather than a cultic) building, which was probably used for storage and commerce. Whichever type of building contained the Sweyhat wall paintings is important to discover if a more complete interpretation of the purpose and final designs of these wall paintings is to be developed.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Tell es-Sweyhat Expedition to Syria, I would like especially to thank Margaret and Jim Foorman not only for their friendship and loyal support of the fieldwork in Syria, but also for their continued financial assistance for our research. In order to complete the wall painting scenes and to assess the nature of the building from which they come, the Tell es-Sweyhat Expedition looks forward to welcoming new supporters for another field season.

THEBAN DESERT ROAD SURVEY

John Coleman Darnell and Deborah Darnell

During the sixth season we continued to work at all of the sites within our concession and are pleased to report the discovery of another major ancient track, unknown until now, with three concentrations of rock inscriptions and rock art (one of these sites stretches for over one kilometer across the gebel). In addition, we discovered four additional inscription sites and several occupation areas at other locations in the northern portion of the Qena Bend. These finds support a number of important historical conclusions we have made on the basis of the inscriptions we discovered in 1995 at Gebel Tjauti. Three weeks of excavations (fig. 1) at caravan stops on the main Farshût Road produced a wealth of data and material, including two hieratic ostraca from the Gebel Roma^c site on the high plateau over the Wadi el-Hôl, one in situ in an Eighteenth Dynasty stratum. The tremendous amount of new and varied evidence encountered this season demonstrates ever more strongly the importance of continuing this exciting research into ancient Egyptian activity in the desert west of the Nile.

Gebel Antef

We continued to examine the area of the Seventeenth Dynasty chapel of Antef V, dedicated to the Abydene Osiris. Thorough surface survey of the area of cairns and dry stone huts on the west end of the Gebel Antef promontory revealed considerable amounts of Nubian Pan-Grave pottery (cf. fig. 16c: Pan-Grave bowl from Darb Rayayna) and Seventeenth Dynasty Egyptian storage jars. As we suspected earlier, these results strongly imply that the area was a provisioning site for Medjay patrols.

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Figure 1. Last day of season, 130° Fahrenheit in shade at Gebel Qarn el-Gir base camp. Back row (left to right): four policemen, Abdu Abdullah Hassan, Deborah Darnell, John Darnell, policeman, and Yarko Kobylecky; middle row: two policemen; front row: three policemen, Aly Mahmoud Ibrahim (holding tea), and Ahmed el-Tayyib Abd el-Basat

The Medjay were operating in the Theban area during the Second Intermediate Period and appear to have had cattle herds in the area of Gebelein during the Thirteenth Dynasty. The Thirteenth Dynasty Papyrus Boulaq 18 tells us that the Theban court was granting Egyptian provisions to visiting Medjay and we appear now to have sherds from these shipments.

Wadi el-Ḥôl Inscriptions

We continued to document and study the rock inscriptions and rock art in the Wadi el-Ḥôl and have now made facsimile copies of over 275 separate scenes and inscriptions in the four major sectors of this site. During the fifth season we were able to carry out complete photographic documentation with the support of grants from the American and Swiss branches of the Michela Schiff Giorgini Foundation. We also discovered another area of rock inscriptions near the Wadi el-Ḥôl and identified one of the earliest pharaonic inscriptions in the Wadi el-Ḥôl, nothing less than the signature of Monthuhotep III as a prince (fig. 2):

Beloved of the good god, Nebhepetreꜥ:
the son of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt, Monthuhotep;
the retainer Monthuhotep

The orthography of *hp.t* shows that this inscription was executed before or around the time of the final unification of Egypt. The title “son of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt” for the usual “king’s son” is unusual, although “daughter of the

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king of Upper and Lower Egypt” is well attested; in his depiction from the mortuary temple of his father at Deir el-Bahari, only the word “son” of prince Monthuhotep’s title survives. The prince may here be insisting on his father’s claim to rule over the entire

land. The similar title “mother of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt” was employed in reference to kings who ascended the throne after a period of disunity. By calling himself “son of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt” the prince Monthuhotep elevates his own position and reinforces his status by emphasizing his father’s rule over the Two Lands.

On the basis of our discovery of a stela of the high-priest king Menkheperre at Gebel Antef in 1992, we know that the main Farshût Road was known as “the road of horses.” This was augmented by our third season discovery in the Wadi el-Hôl of the pharaonic graffito of a man riding a horse. During the sixth season we recorded the signature of a stable master (fig. 3):

Chief of the Stable “Its-Fetchings-Are-Frequent,”
Pa-n-Any

Taken together these bits of information strongly support the conclusion that the main Farshût Road was, in antiquity, a major postal “pony express” route.

Another inscription discovered this season depicts and labels an unfortunately unnamed “chief superintendent of the scales of Amun.” During our second season we recorded the name of a Thutmocide grain accounting scribe of Amun in the Wadi el-Hôl; the presence of the

chief of the scales at the same location suggests that these men may not have been passing through the Wadi el-Hôl on their way to work, but that they may perhaps have been exercising their offices in or near the Wadi el-Hôl itself.

Caravan Debris Deposit

In front of a rock inscription at section A we made an emergency excavation into a large mound of organic materials and pottery. The deposit was heavily vandalized by some sort of earthmover during summer 1997. Though thinner than those at Gebel Roma^c and Gebel Qarn el-Gir, this deposit is similar to the larger deposits in composition (pottery, dung, organic remains), and date range: debris appears to have begun to accumulate significantly during the Seventeenth/early Eighteenth Dynasty, continuing into the late Ramesside period/Twentieth Dynasty, over more sparse Middle Kingdom remains.

Figure 2. Signature of Prince Monthuhotep and follower; Wadi el-Hôl

Figure 3. Inscription of Chief of the Stable at Wadi el-Hôl

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Burial and Storage Caves

At the entrance to the primary pharaonic branch of the Wadi el-Hôl, overlooking the ancient caravan tracks, we examined several caves used at various times during antiquity. Although they had been repeatedly robbed (a fragment of newspaper in robbers' debris dated one of these desecrations to 1976), we recovered much interesting information.

The caves appear to have been used initially for predynastic burials. From debris remaining in the caves, and from material recovered from our sifting of an old robbers' spoil heap, we can say that at least one adult and a juvenile were buried in the caves. There were also dog bones, having a patina and state of preservation identical to those of the human remains. They were interred with a number of leather garments of varying thicknesses, several of the fragments preserving the threads with which various pieces were stitched together, some pieces preserving a folded rim of leather. We found fragments of a quartz palette, retaining the green stain of the malachite for eye makeup once ground there; a portion of a large shell probably originally contained a quantity of malachite for the deceased (compare Junker's discoveries at Kubaniya south). A number of white feathers also appear to have belonged to the initial burials, along with many fragments of black, handmade pottery, one fragment of a bottle neck preserving white filled, incised triangles as decoration. These features suggest a predynastic or Nubian origin for the burials, and the shape of the black pottery most closely resembles that known as Tasian. The Tasian culture, unlike the contemporary predynastic Egyptian culture, made use of stones other than slate for palettes. As a preliminary conclusion we can suggest that we have here a Tasian burial, at a point on a Western Desert Road suggesting that the Tasian culture entered the Nile Valley from elsewhere. The use of quartz for our Tasian palette suggests a Nubian connection to the Tasians, or at least to the Tasians buried in the caves on the Farshût Road. The probable presence of a dog buried with the people would also be consistent with Nubian desert dwellers (compare the canine burials associated with the Nubian Pan Graves of Hou). The location of the burials and the use of quartz for the palette lends support to Renée Friedman's hypothesis that the "Tasians" were not a chronologically distinct culture, but rather a nomadic people with whom Badarian and Amratan cultures interacted, just as later Egyptians did with desert-dwelling Nubians.

At a later date the southernmost cave was used for pottery storage. That cave has a second, narrower opening towards the southeast, and even when the noonday heat in the wadi surpassed 130° Fahrenheit, a cool breeze could be felt blowing through this cave. This appears to have suggested the use of this branch of the caves as a cooling area, and here we found fragments of Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom pots, and many well-preserved mud jar sealings.

There were also a few later sherds in the caves. In the robbers' spoils that we excavated outside and below the southern cave, the various strata through which the despoilers had dug were preserved, there in an inverted order. On the basis of the excavation and sifting of this debris we can suggest that the burials, though perhaps robbed, were basically intact at least into the Roman period, as the Roman sherds underlay the burial remains in the robbers' heap. The horrible crushing of the bodies and grave goods, and their dispersal throughout the caves, is most likely a result of modern desecrations of the site.

Gebel Roma^c

During the fifth season we discovered an enormous, stratified deposit of pottery and organic material on the main Thebes to Hou route, on the high desert over the Wadi el-Ḥôl. We named the site Gebel Roma^c, on the basis of a neatly cut hieroglyphic inscription we found on a large boulder built into one of the dry stone huts at the site: "Made by the second prophet of Amun, Roma^c."

At some time in the recent past the site was heavily dug through in several places. This season we made a preliminary plan of the occupation area and opened a trench in the northeast portion of the main stratified deposit. Our initial excavation at Gebel Roma^c revealed sixteen distinct strata, most of New Kingdom through Twenty-first Dynasty date. Levels ten to fifteen date to the early Eighteenth Dynasty; in level sixteen, true Second Intermediate forms appear, and at least one more layer of organic material and potsherds exists between this level and the gebel surface. Based on what we can see from the numerous thieves' cuttings, the main deposit probably began during the Seventeenth/early Eighteenth Dynasty, overlaying a thin Middle Kingdom level. This coincides with our finds at section A in the Wadi el-Ḥôl and at Gebel Qarn el-Gir. As at those sites, the deposit consists of organic matter and sherds, usually in mixed layers differentiated by rain and sand lenses, with occasional layers of densely packed, finely crushed sherds. In addition, the Gebel Roma^c deposit enjoys the distinction of several gypsum plaster floors, at least two of Eighteenth Dynasty date, and one from the Ramesside period.

The plaster floors are composed of greater and lesser amounts of plaster, with small stones and pieces of ground pottery, forming a sort of *opus mixtum*. The largest plaster layer on the east ends on the north without any trace of a wall or plaster structure. This implies that the main purpose of the floor was to provide a level and sealed surface. As the floor itself, and not an associated structure, appears to have been the goal of the construction, the gypsum layers may be seen to complement other strata. Several layers are composed almost wholly of finely ground and densely packed sherds, apparently a floor level. The gypsum layers and dense sherd strata are perhaps two different means of attaining the same goal — a hard and relatively dry floor.

The excavation produced two ostraca: one a sherd of a marl vessel (no earlier than late Seventeenth/early Eighteenth Dynasty in date) from a spoil heap, the other a piece of limestone in situ in an Eighteenth Dynasty stratum. The longer, ceramic ostrakon appears to be a grain account; the shorter limestone ostrakon, though badly faded, appears to give the name of a royal functionary. Further work on these ostraca may, we hope, yield additional evidence regarding the activities at Gebel Roma^c. We know that letters were almost certainly sent along the road of horses (see above), but notations on pottery and stone suggest notes sent no great distance, if not in fact personal memoranda. In both cases the conclusion one draws is that the area of Gebel Roma^c and the Wadi el-Ḥôl was home to a staff of officials tracking at least particular shipments of grain along the road.

At the site we also found a small portion of a sandstone monument, with fragments of two vertical columns of hieroglyphs, mentioning "for your *ka*" and "Amun-Re." This suggests the presence of votive monuments at the Gebel Roma^c terminus of the high desert portion of the road, comparable to those we discovered at Gebel Antef, the other, Theban terminus of the high desert stretch of the route.

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Figure 4. John Darnell recording rock inscriptions at Gebel Qarn el-Gir outpost

Gebel Qarn el-Gir

Near the northern tip of Gebel Qarn el-Gir is another large deposit of pottery and organic remains, similar to those on Gebel Roma^c and in front of section A in the Wadi el-Hôl. When we discovered the site in 1994 the central area had been gouged out by an earthmover; since then additional thieves' diggings have appeared. Two seasons ago small palm stumps were planted next to the site and signs were erected nearby, claiming the area as part of a farm. After completing photography and basic initial copies of the inscriptions in the Wadi el-Hôl, now badly damaged and many completely destroyed as a result of continued vandalism, we were able to devote more attention to the Qarn el-Gir deposit this season. We took an emergency column down through the mound in November to preserve a representative sample of each strata. The deposit consists of seventeen easily identifiable strata, each level composed of organic material and pottery, the ratios of each often varying markedly between one level and the next. An initial analysis of the material by archaeobotanist René Cappers has revealed plant remains including (but not restricted to):

Emmer wheat (*Triticum dicocum*); barley (hulled) (*Hordeum vulgare*); lentil (*lens culinaris*); cucumber (*Cucumis sp.*); watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*); date (*Phoenix dactylifera*); fig (*Ficus sp.*); Acacia (*Acacia sp. Gramineae*); Colocynth (*Citrullus colocynthus*).

Many of the levels preserved large quantities of wheat and barley, which were by far the most prevalent of the plant remains.

During the extended period of work in May, we made a plan of the site and opened a larger test excavation. We were able to study and clear this section down through the upper thirteen strata, reaching early Eighteenth Dynasty levels. As at Gebel Roma^c and the site in front of Wadi el-Hôl section A, the late Ramesside period/Twenty-first Dynasty was well represented in strata alternately composed of

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debris discarded in an apparently natural fashion, with sherds of various types and sizes, and layers of huge quantities of (primarily silt) potsherds crushed to a small, relatively uniform size. These thick pottery layers might have been laid down intentionally to seal off fills of organic trash. Alternatively, they may represent the shoveled “bedding” upon which animals stood (some sherds in these levels show evidence of having received a coating of dung still in its moist state). The contour lines we recorded suggest that the mound grew naturally through deposition of debris, and there is no evidence of leveling and formal plaster floors as at Gebel Roma^ϕ.

In light of the inscriptions from the Wadi el-Ḥôl and Gebel Roma^ϕ, one may suggest an interpretation of the remains at Gebel Roma^ϕ and Gebel Qarn el-Gir. The grain accounting scribe in the Wadi el-Ḥôl and the presence of Roma^ϕ at Gebel Roma^ϕ suggest the shipment of grain from the fields of Amun at Hou for the divine offerings of Amun at Karnak. The presence of the chief of the scales of Amun in the Wadi el-Ḥôl also suggests that some weighing of grain might have taken place at some point(s) along the road. The ostracon from Gebel Roma^ϕ further supports the image of a permanent or semi-permanent staff tracking grain shipments at Gebel Roma^ϕ, and perhaps in the Wadi el-Ḥôl. We continue to amass a huge collection of oasis pottery from the main Hou-Luxor road, suggesting that this was the preferred, perhaps even officially sanctioned, Theban route for long distance travel and commerce to the west. These facts suggest that some form of customs center and weighing station(s) might have existed at Qarn el-Gir, the junction of the Theban route and the oasis roads, and at Gebel Roma^ϕ/the Wadi el-Ḥôl, the back door of Thebes, the last point of easy control of traffic on the road before reaching Gebel Antef, overlooking Western Thebes (fig. 4).

North of the caravan stop we discovered yet another concentration of rock inscriptions, both predynastic and pharaonic. The latter were of early Middle Kingdom date and included several names and titles (fig. 5) as well as two longer compositions in vertical columns of text. The longest and perhaps most important inscription is an offering formula for a scribe Mereritef, in the two vertical columns of which a number of deities are invoked. Mereritef also employs an otherwise unattested toponym to refer to the desert filling the Qena Bend. In a short wadi near the graffiti shelf we located a pharaonic campsite, yielding a wide range of pottery, including Sixth Dynasty forms.

ϕAlamat Tal Road and Gebel Tjauti

The ϕAlamat Tal Road continues to be a fruitful route to study in terms of archaeological evidence of ancient use (fig. 6). Highlights of this season’s surveys include more clusters of dry stone huts, constructed at strategic points along the road where the topography allows passage to be controlled. The most dramatic group of instal-



Figure 5. Inscriptions of “w^ϕb-priest Renseneb” and his “fa[ther] Antef” at Gebel Qarn el-Gir

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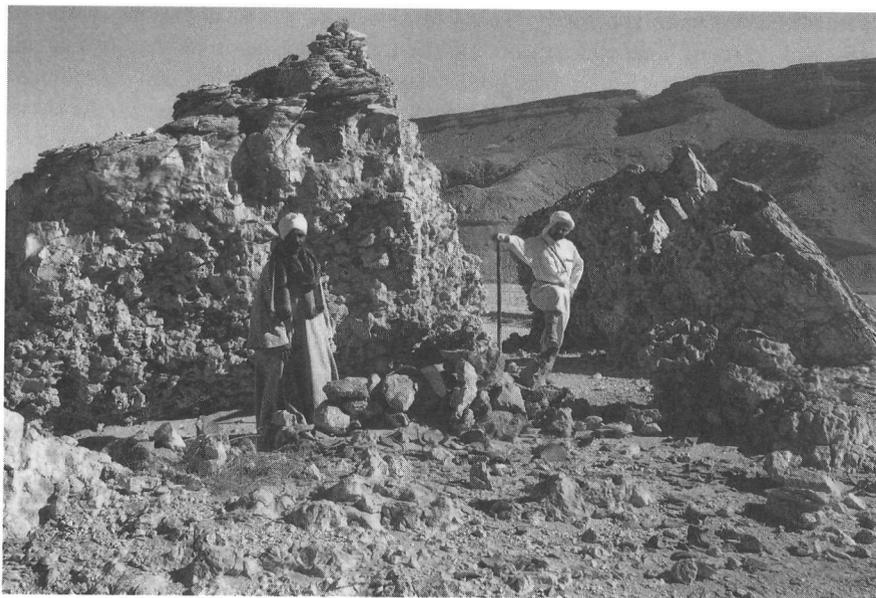


Figure 6. Huts at ancient campsite near middle of route connecting Gebel Tjauti and Dominion Behind Thebes

lations occurs just south and east of Gebel Tjauti, where the narrowing wadi is flanked by moderately high bluffs, atop one of which a low but impressive dry stone bastioned fortification was built (fig. 7). On either side of the wadi, “hut” semicircles (with highest portion built against the northwest wind) occur in low wadi arms, but on high points are “shooting” semicircles (with highest portion built towards the southeast, facing the mouth of the wadi), from behind which a seated archer could observe passing caravans — or shoot at advancing soldiers — with safety.

Often, the huts we encounter are completely deflated, with surface remains of varying dates. In the hope of exposing living floors contemporaneous with the hut walls, a series of sanded-up huts in the middle desert portion of the road were cleared. The results confirmed the perception that many of these huts were constructed in the Middle Kingdom: a number of ceramic vessels of that date were found in situ, in some cases along with their mud-stoppers. In one hut, many fragments of ostrich egg shell were found — perhaps belonging to a Nubian ostrich-egg “canteen.”

This season we discovered a number of pot drops on what must have been one of the earliest paths of the ‘Alamat Tal Road. These late predynastic vessels (cf. fig. 16a) are the earliest ceramic evidence we have yet found in the immediate vicinity of ancient Thebes. They are paralleled only by finds at el-Tarif, together with which they comprise the first archaeological record of the post-Neolithic inhabitants of Thebes.

Excavations during the sixth season at fortification towers near the beginning of the road revealed important details regarding the construction of the towers (figs. 8–9). The structures were roughly circular, with diameters of ca. 11 m, built of mudbrick, the lower courses surrounded by stones. Such construction recalls certain

features of the Second Cataract fortresses in Nubia. The interiors of the existing mounds, much disturbed by water erosion and modern vandalism, reveal bricks occasionally intermingled with large, rough stones, a form of construction suggestive of the rubble-filled brick chambers in the buildings at Deir el-Ballas, and the much later and larger, though similar, Palace of Apries at Memphis.

The inner masses of the two towers were laid in at times slightly overlapping courses of headers. The inner bulk of the internal headers rests on the bare gebel surface, but towards the outside the bricks lie atop a level of mud plaster. The brickwork appears to have been laid with some care around the perimeters of the structures, with the interior of these girdle walls at times filled with apparently already-damaged bricks and larger stones and small boulders from the desert surface. The sides of the square cores received an added brickwork in the form of a conical slice, to give the brickwork its final form of a round base with sides sloping in to the top. The exterior of the brick structures then received a coating of mud plaster, mixed in an area to the east of the north tower, with large admixtures of limestone, sand, and gebel surface pebbles and flints. Over this coating of the glacis, two layers of large desert boulders were piled. A close parallel for the construction of the 'Alamat Tal towers — solidly built walls of brick with a buttressing dry stone glacis — is the east tower of the north gate of the fortress of Semna.

The bricks of the two towers frequently contain a considerable amount of pottery. We have examined several bricks and found many to contain fragments of late Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period/early New Kingdom pottery; there is every reason to believe that the pottery in the bricks should date essentially from about the time of the making of the bricks. The ancient gebel surface beneath the outer bricks of the southern tower yielded sherds of many periods, the latest being pieces of large Seventeenth Dynasty storage jars. These findings are supported by the presence on the surface of the gebel around the bases of the towers of large quantities of sherds belonging to Seventeenth Dynasty storage jars.

The mud plaster coating covering the brick structures and underlying the stone glacis is extremely hard, stronger, and more difficult to cut through than the mudbricks themselves. This coating contained a large proportion of limestone and

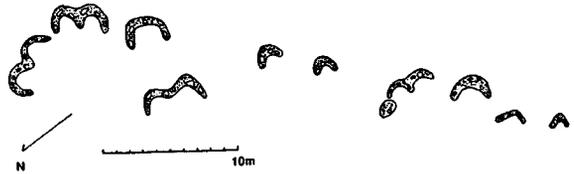


Figure 7. Hill fortress at narrowing of wadi before Gebel Tjauti

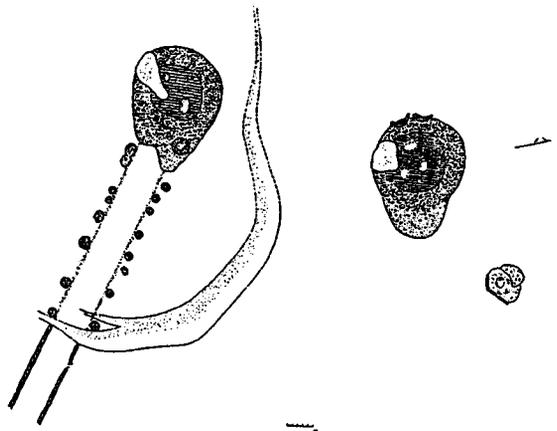


Figure 8. Plan of two towers and military road; Seventeenth Dynasty

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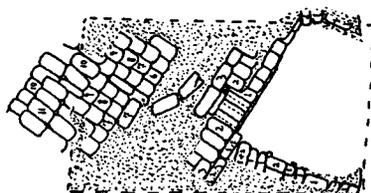


Figure 9. Overhead view of cutting through outer portion of north tower, showing overlap of levels and some basics of construction techniques (numbers on bricks indicate courses with 1 being lowest)

flint, some of the latter of considerable size. These admixtures suggest a local source for the mud plaster coating. This source appears in fact to be the area of mud and broken mudbricks to the northeast of the north tower. In this area the ancient builders appear to have reduced broken bricks to silt, and to have mixed this with eroded limestone from the gebel surface, with the inevitable stone inclusions. The L-shaped line of stones to the east and south of this area was apparently intended to prevent the silt from blowing away in the prevailing north wind. The in-

clusion of limestone powder with the alluvial mud made a strong mortar suitable for the outer layer of bricks. A similar mud mixing area, there a brick pit, was discovered along the boat hauling road near the fortress of Mirgissa.

If these towers were constructed in a manner similar to the two models cited above, and the Beni Hasan forts, one might suggest that they were entered by ladders which gave access to second floors. The interiors below the upper door might have been basements for storage, if not solid mudbrick. The tops probably had overhanging battlements of wood, perhaps with protective crenellations at the tops, and murder holes through the overhang. A rough stone glacis provided a modicum of protection from sappers. Most of the superstructures has disappeared, and the erosion of wind and water, much in evidence on the surviving bricks, would account for much of this loss. The mining away of the bricks for reuse could easily account for the loss of the rest, possibly even at an early date. As it is, the ground to the east and north of the northernmost structure appears to be covered by the melted remains of mudbricks.

Roughly contemporary representations of the descendants of these towers survive in the tomb of Mahu at Amarna, where they are shown filled with the supplies and arms of the desert city's patrols. The closest parallel for the surviving remains of these two towers appears to be a site at Abkenissa, near Amara West in Nubia, a fortified post with associated Middle Nubian and New Kingdom Egyptian remains atop a natural hill, approximating the glacis of the 'Alamat Tal towers.

Towers were common in later, Ptolemaic Egypt, a standard feature in farm house complexes. These towers were of both square and round shapes, with high interiors, and often elevated entrances. These features suggest that the *πύργοι* of the Hellenistic and Roman periods are the direct descendants of the earlier fortification towers. At the time of the Napoleonic expedition into Egypt, such towers were yet in use. In the *Description de l'Égypte: État moderne*, vol. 1 (2nd ed.; Paris, 1822), fig. 74, no. 6, there are shown two "tourelles contre les arabes." The towers are round, the height approximately one and one-half times the diameter of the base. Like the Old Kingdom towers they have external ladders, entering the towers near the top, and like the Old Kingdom towers have a projecting battlement at top. In addition, the round towers in the *Description de l'Égypte* appear as a pair. When one tower came under attack, the other tower could repulse the assailants. A pair of towers would thus suffice to discourage small robber bands and would require an attacking force

to be large enough to attack both towers simultaneously. The towers in the Napoleonic publication are meant to provide protection for settled Egyptian farmers against marauding Bedouin out of the desert. The ‘Alamat Tal towers, considering the date of their construction, might have been intended both as supply depots for Theban desert patrols and as sanctuaries for those escaping the roving Hyksos thugs.

In the small wadi separating the two towers we discovered the sadly smashed fragments of a limestone monument, epigraphically datable to the Seventeenth Dynasty, referring to a seal bearer and a king’s son, one of whom (the latter?) was named Ahmose. The monument stood for some time, as indicated by the presence of a late Eighteenth Dynasty/early Ramesside graffito of the ram headed aegis of Amun, a fan rising behind the deity’s head.

At Gebel Tjauti, we made final location checks for the first volume of inscriptions (now in press), collated and checked existing entries for the second volume, and copied several new inscriptions.

“Dominion Behind Thebes”

A major discovery of the sixth season was the identification of an ancient track connecting the main Western Theban routes with the ‘Alamat Tal Road. At the southern ascent of this ancient track we discovered an enormous concentration of rock art and rock inscriptions, stretching for over a kilometer across the face of the gebel. In two heraldic graffiti the site has preserved that rarity, an ancient desert toponym (figs. 10–11): Dominion Behind Thebes. The *w3s*-scepter writing the name of Thebes has been grafted on to the *h3*-plant (meaning “behind”), the right prong of the *w3s* taking the place of the leftmost shoot of the plant, the left prong of the *w3s* omitted, forming an abutted composite sign, the scepter grow-



Figure 10. Deborah Darnell preparing to copy representations of hunters (Naqada II period) at Dominion Behind Thebes



Figure 11. Two occurrences of toponym *W3s h3 W3s.t* “Dominion Behind Thebes”

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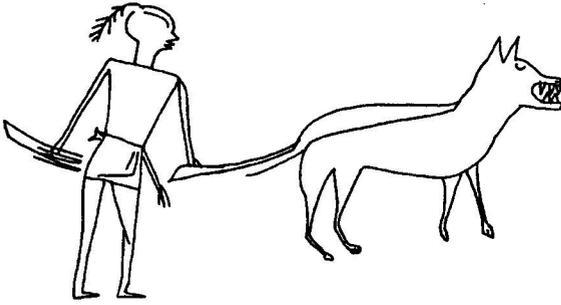


Figure 12. Nubian patrolman and his dog; First Intermediate Period/Eleventh Dynasty

the name of a police outpost near the connecting route's ascent to the high desert behind Thebes. Such a position would control access to the final narrowing of the plateau before the high desert fans out with spurs towards Tarif and the Qurn. Gebel Roma^c and the Wadi el-Hôl probably made up the Thebaïd's *rꜥ-ꜥꜣ wr* "Great Desert Pass," but there were surely several smaller strong points, of which the Dominion Behind Thebes track's ascent is one. According to Wahankh Antef I, Abydos and its strongholds are behind him — thus behind Thebes — and they are at the northern Nile Valley terminus of roads from the Thebaïd linked together by the Dominion Behind Thebes track.

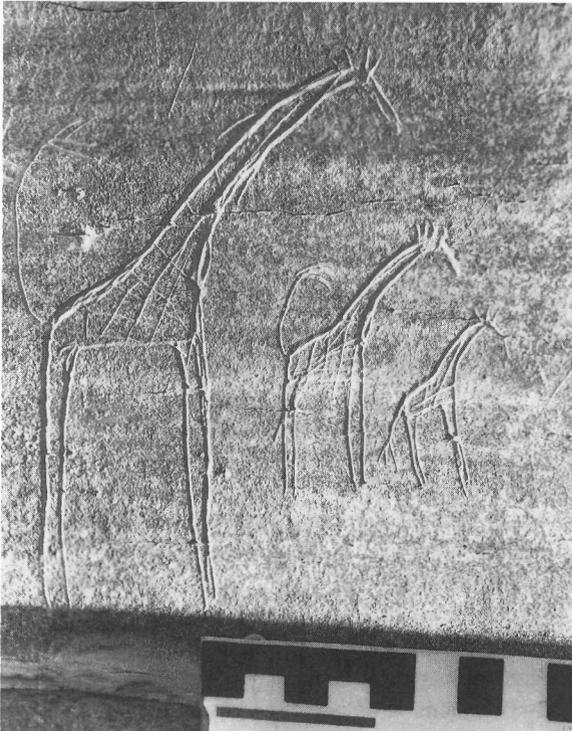


Figure 13. Carving of group of giraffes (predynastic) at Dominion Behind Thebes

ing out of the plant and being both the first element in the inscription and an allusion to the human head often appearing in writings of *hꜥ* "around, behind." The term *hꜥ* may also be a geographic designation of the "periphery" of an area, in which case it would curiously foreshadow the much later $\Pi\epsilon\rho\acute{\iota}$ $\Theta\eta\beta\alpha\varsigma$.

This might have been the

At Dominion Behind Thebes we found the rock cut stela of an early Middle Kingdom Theban *imy-r iꜥꜣ.w* "overseer of Nubian auxiliaries." We even have an elaborate depiction of an Eleventh Dynasty/early Middle Kingdom Nubian and his growling patrol dog (fig. 12). The man appears to be somewhat prognathous and wears the uniform of the Nubian soldiers of the First Intermediate Period: a feather in the hair and a short kilt with ribbon sporan/penis sheath in front, the tie for this element appearing at the back. The kilt is carved out in a rough sort of sunk relief, with the fold of the outer edge indicated both by sketchy lines and an actual level change, again approximating raised relief detail within an area of sunk relief.

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These details show the kilt to have been wrapped right over left, as one would expect for a non-royal personage. The man appears to carry a bundle of arrows in the left hand; with the right hand he holds a bow and the leash of his dog. The snarling dog has a curled tail and upright ears, essentially the shape of an Old Kingdom *ism*, a breed of dog surviving throughout pharaonic history.

At a later date, the head of the dog was turned into that of a

hippopotamus goddess by the addition of a goddess body, and a larger hippopotamus goddess was partly carved over the figure of the Nubian as well.

This graffito also has significance for understanding the usual attire of the Nubian mercenaries of the First Intermediate Period. The carving of the kilt suggests that the sash is actually a penis sheath, over which the kilt is wrapped, the sheath sticking out over the kilt in front, the tie dropping over the top of the kilt in the back.

Dominion Behind Thebes is home to an incredible array of predynastic and protodynastic graffiti, including many depictions of boats and giraffes (fig. 13). There is also an apparently Naqada II tableau of strange hunters, the most elaborately executed graffiti thus far discovered of a type called by Winkler the “Eastern Invaders.” The closest later parallels for these helmeted, tail-wearing figures are the hunters on the lion-hunt palette, whom Helck identifies as later representatives of Naqada II-period *h:ty.w-ꜥ* of *Tjhnw* “ancestors of Tjehenu,” desert hunters sharing a common ancestry with the Nile dwelling Naqada II folk. With the Eastern Desert rock carvings and the lion-hunt palette’s hunters, we appear to have a pre-/protodynastic hunting attire. Other helmet-wearing figures appear on the Brooklyn palette fragment, on the Narmer palette, and the Scorpion mace-head. The caps are decorated with feathers, usually pointing up, but on at least one figure downturned. Leather caps are not infrequent in A-Group graves; in the A-Group grave no. 601 near Abka, just south of Wadi Halfa, Oric Bates found an actual cloth cap — extending “down to the nape of the neck and over the cheeks to the jawbones” — to which feathers, tips down, had been attached through the agency of a resinous substance.

Two of the men wear a pair of facing hippopotami on their chests, presumably some sort of painting, embroidery, or appliqué on their clothing. A hippopotamus appears on the chest of a female figure in the British Museum (BM 58064), but this, along with the other patterns on the image, is perhaps intended to represent tattooing, if it is not simply part of the overall “annotation” to the figure.

Of Archaic date is the representation of an Upper Egyptian shrine (fig. 14), its forecourt occupied by a sacrificial animal hanging on end from a forked pole, to the left of which is the representation of a flint knife above the sign for *nm.t* “slaughtering place.” The ceremonial complex at Hierakonpolis location Hk29A appears to have consisted of a gateway, a mud paved slaughtering place of roughly oval shape

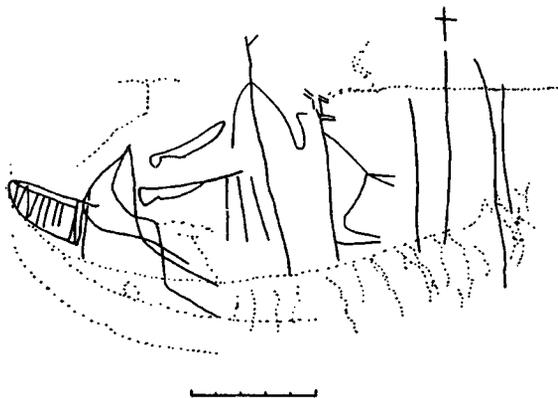


Figure 14. Representation of shrine and court of offerings (Archaic period) at Dominion Behind Thebes

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surrounded by a sinusoidal wall, a tall pole of some sort at the southern apex of the paved floor, and a *pr-wr*-shrine. All of these elements appear to be present in our depiction, and the parallels are too striking to be coincidental.

In addition to the large rock inscription site at Dominion Behind Thebes, we also discovered two smaller concentrations of rock inscriptions and rock art near the midpoint of this same north-south connecting road. At the larger of these two additional graffiti sites we have the signature of an Old Kingdom metalworker (fig. 15):



Figure 15. Signature of metalworker Kem

Metalworker Kem

This small inscription gains a greater significance when one remembers that we have discovered the signature of a Thirteenth Dynasty metalworker (“the police official Aam’s son the overseer of metalworkers Renseneb”) at Gebel Tjauti on the ‘Alamat Tal

Road. There was no metal mining in the area, and one may suggest that these men were here to maintain the weapons of the police patrols and armies we know to have used these routes.

Darb Rayayna, Darb Ba‘irat, and Subsidiary Tracks

Continued study of the ceramic remains on the southern roads supports our earlier conclusions regarding the great importance of these tracks during the protodynastic period and the Old Kingdom. In November we discovered, mapped, and collected a deposit of protodynastic pottery to the east of the solar altar and its immediately associated ceramic remains. We have begun the reconstruction of these vessels; they prove to be of Naqada IIc–IIIb date, a period when regional variations in ceramic types disappear and are well paralleled by settlement ceramics from Hierakonpolis. On the Darb Rayayna we also have further evidence for the presence of Pan-Grave Nubians on the desert roads west of the Thebaïd (fig. 16c).

Conclusion and Summary

The members of the Theban Desert Road Survey during the sixth season were: Dr. John Coleman Darnell, director; Deborah Darnell, Egyptologist; Yarko Kobylecky, photographer; and Hiroko Kariya, conservator. We were joined again by Mr. Ramadan Ahmed Aly as representative of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. Our discoveries of the sixth season have far surpassed our expectations and have provided important new evidence for a wealth of topics, as wide-ranging as the origins of the Tasian culture and the sign forms of Ramesside lapidary hieratic.

We have described some of our recent discoveries in a lecture at the American Research Center in Egypt, Cairo (in early October 1997). Two articles appeared during the sixth season, publishing several important inscriptions from the Wadi el-Hôl and Gebel Tjauti: J. C. Darnell and D. Darnell, “New Inscriptions of the Late First Intermediate Period from the Theban Western Desert, and the Beginnings of the Northern Expansion of the Eleventh Dynasty,” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (1997): 241–58; J. C. Darnell, “A New Middle Egyptian Literary Text from the Wadi el-Hôl,” *Journal of American Research Center in Egypt* 34 (1997): 85–100. In addition, a related study, derived from and supporting conclusions derived from

study of the Gebel Tjauti inscriptions, appeared as: J. C. Darnell, "The Message of King Wahankh Antef II to Khety, Ruler of Heracleopolis," *Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde* 124 (1997): 101–08. In June, 1997 we submitted the manuscript of our first monograph on the Gebel Tjauti inscriptions and depictions, for publication by the Oriental Institute, and this monograph is now in press as: J. C. Darnell and

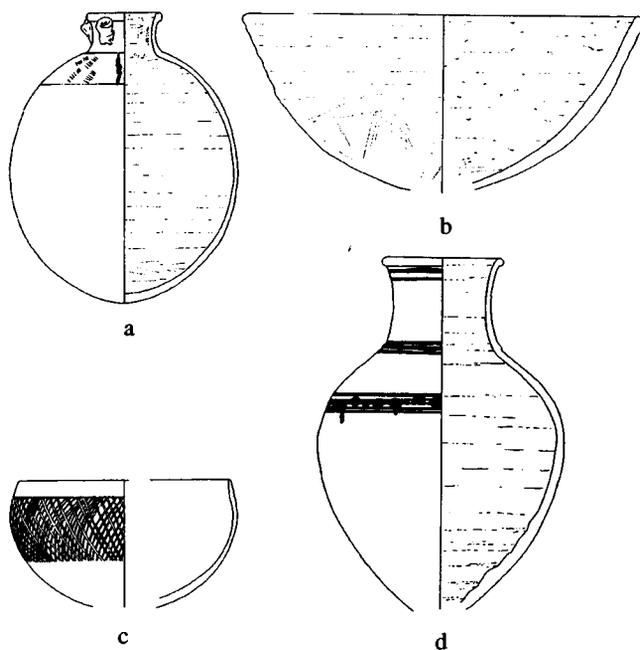


Figure 16. Samples of pottery from sixth season: (a) jar; marl A3; incised and applied decoration; descent from inscription area at Gebel Tjauti; Middle Kingdom (Eleventh/Twelth Dynasty); (b) large open bowl; silt; near line of boulders along caravan tracks south of main inscription area at W3s ḥ3 W3s.t; First Intermediate Period/early Middle Kingdom; (c) bowl; silt; incised decoration, blackened rim and interior; stone hut on ascent of Darb Rayayna; Nubian Pan-Grave; Second Intermediate Period; (d) jar; marl A2/A4; dark brown and red painted decoration; approach to Gebel Tjauti; New Kingdom (early Eighteenth Dynasty). Scales (a–c) ca. 1:4; (d) ca. 1:8

(Chicago, forthcoming). The first monograph on the Wadi el-Ḥôl inscriptions is undergoing final editing, the photographic prints are in hand, and this should be submitted by the end of 1998, as: J. C. Darnell, *Theban Desert Road Survey, Vol. 1: The Rock Inscriptions of the Wadi el-Ḥôl, Part 1*. We shall both be speaking on various aspects of our work at the colloquium "Egypt and Nubia: Gifts of the Desert" at the British Museum in late July 1998.

Vandalism continues in the Wadi el-Ḥôl, at Gebel Roma^c, and at Gebel Qarn el-Gir. As we reported two years ago, farming in the 'Alamat Tal wadi has destroyed the first portion of the ancient road leading to the twin fortress towers. During this past season gravel quarrying has begun at the beginning of the caravan tracks proper, and there were rumors of a "Safari Park" to be built over the towers on the 'Alamat Tal Road. These sites are unique, and require study. Thieves, quarrying operations, and land developers continue to move ever more quickly to destroy the ancient sites.

Acknowledgments

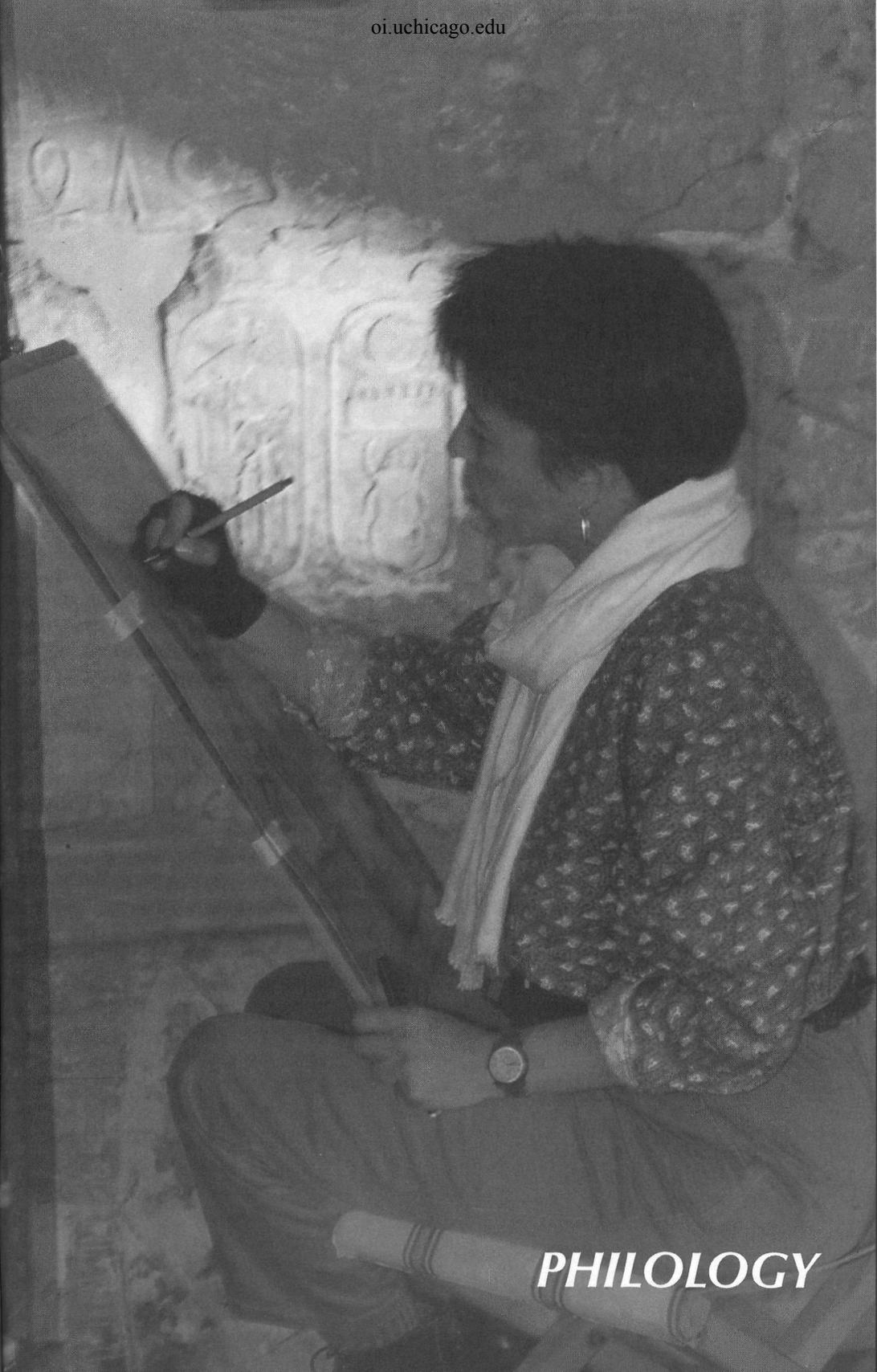
We thank Dr. Gaballa Ali Gaballa, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, for his enthusiastic interest in our work. We are very grateful to Dr.

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Mohammed es-Saghir, Supervisor of Pharaonic Antiquities, for his steadfast support, advice, and assistance. Many thanks go to Dr. Mohammed Nasr, Supervisor of Antiquities for Upper Egypt and former Director of Antiquities for Qurna, and Mr. Sabri Abd el-Aziz, Director of Antiquities for Qurna, for their encouragement and help. We thank Chief Inspector of Qurna Mohammed el-Bialy for his unflagging interest, and Chief Inspector Ibrahim Suleiman for his continued assistance. Inspector Ramadan Ahmed Aly was once again an indispensable member of our team. We offer many thanks to the police officials of Luxor: General Abd el-Salam Agag, General Samwil, General Mohammed Ainein, Colonel Abu el-Qasem, Captain Emad Haroun, and Captain Esam Daraz; and Qurna: General Qadry and Colonel Mahmoud, who did an excellent job handling security arrangements during the course of the whole season, allowing our work to continue uninterrupted. Very special thanks are due to the police officials of Nag^c Hammadi, Mamur Gamal Abd el-Galil and Col. Mohammed Naguib, who kindly offered every assistance during the three-week desert campaign. We are grateful as well to all of the many policemen and ghaffirs of Qurna, Qena, and Nag^c Hammadi for their patience and help when they have accompanied us on our more far-flung expeditions. As always, thanks go to Dr. Henri Riad, resident Egyptologist at Chicago House, and Sitt Madelein el-Mallah, Director of the Luxor Museum. We are particularly indebted to Mr. Ibrahim Sadek, Deputy Director of the American Research Center, for his special help this season. We are extremely grateful to H. E. General Safwat Shaker, Governor of Qena, who graciously invited us to present information concerning the desert sites within his governorate. This season, the processes of excavation and clearance were assisted enormously by the careful work of Aly Mahmoud Ibrahim and Ahmed el-Tayyib Abd el-Basat. Our work depends on vehicles, not all of which are truly dependable, and we would not be mobile without the constant presence and diligent assistance of Abdu Abdullah Hassan.

We thank Professor Gene Gragg, Director of the Oriental Institute, for his sincere encouragement. The extraordinary success of our work this season would not have been possible without the support of Raymond Johnson, Field Director of the Epigraphic Survey, to whom we offer warm thanks. The unrestricted availability of a Chicago House vehicle, as well as the opportunity to remain in the field for an additional month after the close of the Epigraphic Survey's season, allowed us to achieve more than in any previous year — we will be ever grateful. Thanks go to the scholarly colleagues who provided expert advice: René Cappers, Renée Friedman, Stan Hendrickx, Colin Hope, Dirk Huyge, Helen Jacquet, Jean Jacquet, and Willeke Wendrich. For their camaraderie and valuable help with the production of facsimile copies, often under extreme conditions, we thank Mark Chickering, Tina Di Cerbo, Susan Osgood, Dany Roy, and Elinor Smith.

The abundance of exciting discoveries we made this season were in part a result of working intensively in ever more remote areas, and our project expenditures were correspondingly much higher than ever before. Those soaring expenses were eased to a great extent by continued private donations. For this financial support, we thank Marion Cowan and the John Nuveen Company, Di Grodzins, Carlotta Maher, Nan and David Ray, John and Joan Westley, and Alexandra Varga.



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ACHAEMENID ROYAL INSCRIPTIONS

Gene Gragg and Matthew W. Stolper

An article in *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 157 (Spring 1998) describes the first version of a searchable electronic study edition of Achaemenid royal inscriptions from Persepolis, available on the Internet at <http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/ARI/ARI.html> (the URL is case-sensitive; the site can also be reached by following links under "Electronic Resources" or under "ABZU" on Oriental Institute's home page). By the time the article was printed and distributed, the edition had undergone some changes in design and operation and some changes in detail and contents.

The site presents twenty-eight royal inscriptions on buildings, tombs, and movable objects from Persepolis. Many of them are bilingual or trilingual, so that there is a total of sixty-three Old Persian, Elamite, and Akkadian versions, ranging from a single line to several hundred words in length. By following links from the front page or from the banner that accompanies each of the main pages, a reader can view the complete transliterated text of a single inscription in one of the languages, with or without accompanying English translation. He can view variants and epigraphic comments on demand in separate windows. He can view section-by-section displays of the transliterated text of one, two, or three versions, with or without accompanying English translations. He can view glossaries of the words attested in each of the three languages or can follow links from the lists of occurrences of each form to the transliterations of the sections of text in which the form occurs. He can search the lexicon and the transliterations for occurrences of words, parts of words, or regular expressions in any of the three languages. He can submit comments, corrections, questions, and criticisms by e-mail.

Two components have been improved since the description was published in *News & Notes*. The catalogue offers more information on the provenience and primary publications of the exemplars of each version of each inscription, with more reliable links to the editions and the running bibliography. In addition, the site now includes plans of the buildings on the Persepolis terrace to show the locations of inscriptions, with links both to larger-scale versions of the plans and to the catalogue entries (from which the viewer can follow links to the editions, etc.).

Current work on the project includes scanning excavation photographs of inscriptions, inscribed buildings, and inscribed objects that were previously published in the microfiche set *Persepolis and Ancient Iran* (1976), to be linked to the catalogue or the plans; adding to the glossary entries in each language links to the transliterations or equivalents of each word in the other languages; continuing correction of

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typographical and design flaws; and approximately monthly re-indexing and updating of the project's component files.

Related work includes scanning the rest of the photographs from *Persepolis and Ancient Iran* (listed and described at <http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/PA/IRAN/PAAI/PAAI.html>); entering and marking up the collated texts of the first six hundred of Richard T. Hallock's transliterations of unpublished Elamite administrative texts from the Persepolis Fortification archive in a form consistent with the Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions, and adapting the component programs of the Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions project for on-line publication of searchable editions and glossaries of these and other Elamite and Aramaic administrative texts from Persepolis.

CHICAGO ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY

Martha T. Roth

During the 1997/98 academic year, the staff of the CAD continued to devote most of our energy to the P and R volumes.

During summer 1997, we again enjoyed the collaboration of Hermann Hunger, University of Vienna, who spent his time reading through the P volume, making invaluable suggestions for improving, correcting, and updating the articles. The checking of the P manuscript was completed by resident research associates and assistants Gertrud Farber, David Testen, and Michael Kozuh, and by editorial board members Robert Biggs, Erica Reiner, Martha Roth, and Matthew Stolper. Checking is that crucial stage in dictionary preparation in which every reference, citation, page or plate number, line number, cuneiform sign, transcription, context, and translation is checked by Assyriologists against the original cuneiform tablet, copy, photograph, and/or scholarly edition.

Roth then began the task of reading through the entire manuscript, from **pa'adu*, an adjective that means "offered," which is attested only in texts from Emar (SILA₄.MEŠ *pa-a-da-ti ana ili uza'azu* "they divide the offered lambs among the gods"), to *puzzuru*, another adjective, meaning "completely hidden," which occurs only as a personal name in the Old Babylonian and Middle Babylonian periods ("Mr. Enigmatic") and in a bilingual Sumerian and Akkadian lexical text where it appears among qualifications of court decisions (*dīnu pu-zu-ru, dīn nullāti* "unfathomable decision, improper decision"). During this intensive critical reading, the editor's focus is on the volume as a whole, rather than on the individual lemmata, and she evaluates the corrections and suggestions made during the checking process. By the end of June, Roth was about halfway through her reading of the eleven binders of the checked P manuscript, and she kept the research associates busy with all the new questions and problems that inevitably arise. When a binder is "cleared"

CHICAGO ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY

by Roth, our manuscript editor Linda McLarnan reviews it and turns it over to our typist Edythe Seltzer, who inputs the accumulated corrections. This entire process will continue well into the next year.

This year, the R volume, which is being printed by Eisenbrauns, moved much closer to publication. Linda McLarnan coordinated the proofreading and correcting of the volume. David Testen and Michael Kozuh assisted in proofreading the second galleys and page proofs. By the end of June we had returned all 847 second galleys to Eisenbrauns, and second galleys 1–769 had been set as page proofs and returned to us.

About half of the T volume, which is being printed by J. J. Augustin, is now in second galleys, and those second galleys have been returned to the printer to be set as pages.

We again benefited from the good cheer and able assistance of University of Chicago students participating in the College Research Opportunities Program, who perform various lexicographic and clerical tasks for the dictionary. Jason Kemper and Jordan Finkin both returned to us for a second year, and they brought along Andrew Simpson, a Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations major, to assist them with the work on the computer catalogue of the Oppenheim offprint collection. Jordan received his Master of Arts degree in Jewish Studies this June and has left us for a real job with Encyclopedia Britannica. Jason graduated from the College in June but will return for the graduate program in Jewish Studies and plans on finishing the catalogue in fall 1998; he also intends to cap the project with an essay about the Oppenheim offprint collection. Andrew also will return to us after his summer-long intensive Arabic course in Jordan.

CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY

Harry A. Hoffner, Jr.

The past year has seen the appearance of two new volumes of Hittite texts. Since the bulk of the Hittite tablets from Boghazköy were returned to Turkey, there has remained a small but significant number of unpublished Hittite tablets in the Berlin Museum that were not a part of the official lot loaned to the Staatliches Museum by the Turkish authorities. The lot consists of fragments of rituals and festival texts. Several rather important pieces have been excerpted and cited as unpublished by German Hittitologists. Their official publication in good hand copies by Frau Dr. Jakob-Rost was most welcome. The second volume is the fortieth in the long-standing *Keilschrifttexte aus Boğazköy* series, edited by Heinrich Otten. New volumes of Hittite texts appear regularly, usually about one or two a year. The appearance is both welcome and daunting: welcome because they provide new information about

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words we are treating in the dictionary and daunting because it means much work for the staff.

The first line of work falls on the shoulders of Research Associate Hripsime Haroutunian, who generates the official transliterated text on project computers, and Executive Director Harry Hoffner, who puts a similar electronic version in bound transcription on computer for special uses to which the transliterated version is not suited. Haroutunian and Hoffner consult CHD files in the attempt to identify fragments that the volume editors were unable to do. Usually this results in a published review of the volume by Hoffner.

The second line of work falls to Research Associate Richard Beal and Hoffner, who must see that new occurrences of words whose articles have already been written in first draft are added to those manuscripts and all necessary corrections to the article are made. There may also be new words in the newly published texts, words that fall alphabetically in the range we are working on.

Research Associate Oğuz Soysal has now become a part-time member of the epigraphic staff of the Turkish excavations at Şapinuwa-Ortaköy, where over three thousand Hittite and Hurrian tablets have been found and await publication. We hope that through the courtesy of Prof. Aygül Süel, the chief epigrapher, we will be given access to information from that corpus about words on whose articles we are now working.

During the past year new books and articles discussing the already known texts have also been published. Staff members have to take the time to read and digest these new ideas in order to incorporate or at least refer to them in articles being composed and edited. One such newly published article by an Italian colleague deals with the use of aromatics in Hittite rituals. Since several of the crucial terms begin with *ša...*, we have been busily applying our colleague's ideas to the revision of these articles.

In the *1996/97 Annual Report* we mentioned the addition of several outside consultants to our staff: Gary Beckman for strictly Hittite matters, Craig Melchert for Luwian consultations, and Gernot Wilhelm for Hurrian consultations. During this year we have increased the frequency and intensity of these consultations. We have seen just how productive the collaboration is, and we are very gratified with our decision to broaden the scope of the outside staff. In particular, Dr. Wilhelm has given us much helpful advice regarding the use of Hurrian material from Hittite texts.

Over the past several years we have been exploring ways to put the dictionary on line, at least in part. We have a short-term and a long-term goal. In the near future, we would like to make available on the Institute's website some of the most interesting and valuable of the published articles in the Portable Document Format (PDF). These can be viewed and searched in a limited fashion. In the long run we propose to code dictionary articles in SGML and XML, so that very sophisticated searching can be performed on line. It is very likely that by this coming fall, if you visit the CHD portion of the Institute's website, you will be able to see some parts of the dictionary.

In the meantime, the traditional print version of the dictionary continues to grow and find wide use. Because such a dictionary will always cater to a very limited group of highly specialized scholars, sales are predictably small compared to gen-

eral book sales. The true measure of the dictionary's success is the evidence of its use by the world-wide community of Hittitologists and Indo-Europeanists. This evidence is prominent in virtually every book or article about the Hittites and their language. Citations abound, as — of course — do corrections and supplementation. Once we are able to have an on-line version of the already published volumes, it will be possible to update and correct earlier parts.

DEMOTIC DICTIONARY PROJECT

Stephen Vinson

This year the Demotic Dictionary Project under the direction of Janet H. Johnson continued to make progress and we are all hopeful that the end is in sight! Research Associate Steve Vinson continued working through our entry on the letter S, by far the largest chapter of the dictionary, which, at more than 150 manuscript pages, is almost twice as long as the next longest chapter, Š. Research Assistant Tom Dousa worked for us part time, continuing the revision of H. François Gaudard cheerfully and ably continued the onerous task of double checking all of our bibliographical information. He is working through a Demotic version of the conflict between the Egyptian gods Horus and Seth for his dissertation, work which promises to enrich the dictionary as well. Brett McClain has continued to make good progress on producing the hundreds of scans of photographs and hand copies required for our entries; his efforts were supplemented last summer by Egyptology students Harold Hayes and Nicole Hansen. These scans will be one of the important and innovative features of the dictionary. For the first time in the history of the lexicography of the ancient Egyptian language, dictionary users will be able to see exactly what the Egyptian scribe actually wrote. In addition, for those who use the dictionary in electronic format, the scans can be copied and opened in any graphics processing program, and thus enlarged or manipulated by anyone who may wish either to check the dictionary staff's readings or to copy the writing into another document.

A number of new developments have speeded our efforts this year and promise to make the next year and a half more productive than ever. The Dictionary invested in two new Power Macintosh G3 computers, whose extra memory and increased speed make manipulating our large graphics and text files far quicker. The computers' added memory has also enabled us to create two new backup copies of all computer files, an important safety feature and, as work gets closer and closer to completion, a very significant psychological security blanket!

The Dictionary was also pleased to play host to two distinguished European Demotists, John Tait of University College, London, and H.-J. Thissen of Cologne University. Tait and Thissen came to Chicago to participate in the Chicago-Stanford colloquium on Hellenistic Egypt co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute. The collo-

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quium, which was held on 4 April, was devoted to the relationship between Greek and Egyptian literature during the Hellenistic period (i.e., the period from the conquests of Alexander the Great into the early Roman Empire), and Tait and Thissen both impressed and delighted symposium participants and audience members with erudite discussions of the “Homeric Influence on the Inaros-Petubastis Cycle” (Thissen) and “Tradition and Innovation in Egyptian and Demotic Narrative” (Tait). More importantly for the dictionary, however, Tait and Thissen lent their expertise to our efforts for a few days, gamely attacking a number of problem words and phrases in our depressingly long list of words about which we are unsure of the reading, the definition, or, in all too many cases, both! Among the areas in which the most progress was made was a team-reading of P. Philadelphia 30, one of the many tantalizing and frustrating texts known to Demotists, and that in a field with no lack of tantalization and frustration. P. Philadelphia 30 is an account of expenses for the construction of a tomb, which makes it a rarity among Demotic documentary texts. While hardly the kind of text that many would find inherently fascinating, its unique subject matter and the fact that it is substantially intact and written in a very clear, legible, and accomplished hand has inspired most Demotists to try their hand at it at one time or another. Unfortunately, it is so full of unknown words that it has defied decipherment and to date no full transliteration and translation has been published.

Tait and Thissen provided us with numerous suggestions for reading or defining some of our “mystery phrases”; the many good results which arose from those days of work have inspired us to compile a list of problematic words that we hope in the near future to post on the World-Wide Web, seeking assistance from colleagues everywhere. Over the years, most major Demotists have made contributions to the dictionary, but this promises to take our international collaboration to an entirely new level!

The most important development of the year, however, was the approval of Janet Johnson’s request to take a year’s leave from teaching to concentrate on the dictionary. Thus over the next year, the dictionary will have two full-time staff members, Johnson and Vinson, supplemented by the halftime efforts of Tom Dousa. The dictionary will also profit in the next year from the efforts of Alejandro Botta, a doctoral student in Aramaic at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, currently living in Chicago and completing his dissertation on the relationship of Aramaic and early Demotic legal formulae. Botta will revise the dictionary’s entries on legal terminology, as well as check our citations of Hebrew and Aramaic cognates or correspondences; he will also take on the production of digital scans when Brett McClain leaves the dictionary for a stint as an epigrapher at Chicago House.

As the work on the actual Dictionary manuscript is reaching a conclusion, our revision of entries continues to yield new discoveries and stimulate novel insights. For example, this year, while looking through copies of Demotic ostraca made by the great German Demotist Wilhelm Spiegelberg, most of whose academic papers are housed in the Dictionary office, members of the Dictionary staff came across an example of an entirely new sub-genre of Egyptian texts: a rare contract for the hiring of a boat (O. Strasbourg 189). While contracts for shipping services on the Graeco-Roman Nile are common in Greek, until now no other example had ever

DEMOTIC DICTIONARY PROJECT

been found in Demotic. In this little text, a ferryboat operator acknowledges that he has received payment to transport a mummy across the river from the main town of Thebes to one of the cemeteries on the west bank of the Nile. Because the ferryman also acknowledges that he is still obligated to transport two persons across the river at some unspecified time in the future, it seems fair to label the document a "contract." Modest as it is, our ostrakon does show that an agreement between Egyptians for the commercial use of a water craft might be reduced to writing. The text reads:

- 1 PN, the ferryman of
- 2 Thebes for year 28, is the one who says to
- 3 Teos son of Imouthis: You have paid me for
- 4 the fare of Imouthis your father.
- 5 And I am to transport his embalmer
- 6 (and) his choachyte. Written by ꜥPhratres son of Peteseꜥ
- 7 at his dictation in regnal year 28, Mekhir 4

This text was dated by Spiegelberg on paleographic grounds to the Roman period. Among the few Roman emperors with a year 28 is Augustus, so it seems likely that the ostrakon belongs to his reign. If so, then the text dates to 29 January 2 BC. The word "choachyte" in line 6 of our translation is the term the Greeks used to refer to a particular type of funerary priest, Egyptian *wꜥḥ-mw* or "water-pourer." They were responsible for providing mortuary rituals, including offerings, at the tombs of the deceased. In Egypt this was a lucrative business and a large number of preserved Demotic texts reflect the activities of choachytes, especially the purchase, sale, and inheritance (by both men and women) of common or family tombs and the rights to perform associated rites. The word translated here "embalmer," *swnw*, is best known to Egyptologists as the Egyptian word for "physician," but in Demotic, it could also be used to refer to professional embalmers, thus reflecting a conceptual connection between medical treatment and embalming in the minds of the Egyptians. Finally, the phrase "ferryman for year 28" shows that the right to operate a ferryboat was a concession that individual boatmen had to bid for and be awarded. Texts from the Fayyum (an oasis in northern Egypt to the west of modern Cairo) show that would-be ferrymen might pay substantial sums of money for the right to ply their trade, sums which might include the rental of a ferryboat that was owned by the entity empowered to grant the concession.

In our lexicographical work, we are concerned not only with the main meaning of the Demotic words but with their extended or figurative meanings and use in idioms. This aspect of our work is both extremely interesting and very challenging: interesting because it gives us intimate insight into the way that the Egyptians used verbal images drawn from their everyday experience and cultural presuppositions to express themselves in a nuanced and often colorful manner; but challenging because it necessitates establishing the most plausible meaning for expressions that, at first meaning, can potentially be interpreted in several different ways. This is no easy matter, and the researcher must use all the clues at his or her disposal. Often, the context in which an idiom occurs helps us to tease out its figurative meaning. Sometimes, however, the context itself is as obscure as the phrase we are trying to elucidate, and then study of the idiom's history (i.e., its use in earlier or later stages of

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the Egyptian language) may help establish a meaning for our Demotic examples. A good case in point is a “jocular” phrase encountered while working through the S-words file.

In our own experience, it is not always easy to tell whether someone is laughing “with” us or laughing “at” us — and in Egyptian the ambiguity is not merely psychological but also linguistic. Two proverbs from a Demotic wisdom text called the Instructions of ‘Onchsheshonqy present us with just this problem. In both cases, the Demotic verb *sbi* “to laugh, joke” is construed with the preposition *irm*, which is usually the equivalent of English “with.” One of the proverbs begins, “Do not *sbi irm* your son in the presence of his mother,” while the other says, “Do not *sbi irm* a cat.” As it is hard to imagine how one could “laugh WITH” a cat, this latter proverb has generally been taken to mean “do not mock a cat,” a meaning which seems quite reasonable given the well-known Egyptian propensity for deifying felines; the construction in the other proverb has, on analogy, been taken to mean “do not mock your son.” But last year, Joachim Quack, an eminent German Demotist, proposed that the phrase *sbi irm* ought to be taken as “laugh with, joke with” (see *Enchoria* 23 [1996]: 244). He referred to the Coptic descendant of *sbi irm*, **ϢⲔⲖⲈ MN**, which is rather unhelpfully translated in Walter Crum’s standard *Coptic Dictionary* “to sport with.” To explain how one could “sport with” a cat, Quack proposed that the word is used here metaphorically for an “attractive but potentially dangerous lady.”

The examples cited in Crum’s *Coptic Dictionary*, however, show that the Coptic expression had a wide range of connotations, from neutral joking with, to sexual dalliance, to unambiguous mocking. And the combination *sbi irm* certainly seems to mean “to mock” in an Egyptian letter of the late Twentieth Dynasty, which contains one of the few known jokes from ancient Egypt. The letter was brought to our attention by Edward Wente, whose translation is adapted here:

“I’ve heard that you are angry and that you have caused me to be maligned(?) through slander on account of that joke which I told the chief taxing master in that letter, although it was Henuttowy who had urged me to tell some jokes to the chief taxing master in my letter. You are the case of the wife blind in one eye who had been living in the house of a man for twenty years; and when he found another woman, he said to her, ‘I shall divorce you because you are blind in one eye,’ so it is said. And she answered him, ‘Is this what you have just discovered during these twenty years that I’ve spent in your house?’ That’s me, and that is the joke (*sbi*) which I made about (*irm*) you.

The Egyptian expression translated here as “the joke which I made” is clearly a past-tense construction and almost certainly refers to “that joke which I told the chief taxing master” — thus, *irm* here almost has to be translated as *about* (you). If that’s so, then it seems likely that in Demotic, *sbi irm* could well be taken as “to joke about, laugh at, mock” just as it could in late Egyptian and Coptic; and it seems equally likely that the “cat” of the ‘Onchsheshonqy proverb is, to paraphrase Freud, probably just a cat.



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Richard H. Beal

Richard H. Beal spent much of his time proofreading, copyediting, and in other ways preparing the third fascicle of the Hittite Dictionary's P volume for publication. This fascicle, which has now appeared, is considerably larger than previous fascicles. It begins with the word *pattar* and runs through the end of the letter P. Among words covered in this fascicle were the long and complicated preverb *peran* "in front," not to mention the equally long noun *per/parn-* "house, palace, temple." In addition to this, Beal has been reading entries from the next volume, Š, to Professor Güterbock, for his invaluable comments, gleaned from some 70 years of experience reading Hittite. His comments are then noted. Minor items are entered directly into the computer manuscript, while Beal takes substantial matters to Professor Harry Hoffner to be hammered out. Meanwhile, he has also been doing a certain amount of copyediting on the texts that he reads to Güterbock; this will make the job quicker when these dictionary articles return to his desk. Although some long and difficult Š-words remain to be written and so have not been discussed, most of the words for this volume have now been written and approved by Professor Güterbock. In and around doing this Beal has been writing a first draft of the long and interesting word *šiu-* "god/goddess."

Beal's translation of a series of oracle questions concerning military campaign strategy has been submitted for a memorial volume for the French scholar L. Christmann-Franke. This text requests divine help in planning which places north of the Hittite border should be attacked and in which order, which should be bypassed, whether expeditions under particular commanders will succeed, etc. His review of J. Puhvel's *Hittite Etymological Dictionary*, vol. H, has finally appeared in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 118/1 (1998). He spent his vacation reading Assyrian and Babylonian tablets in the British Museum to assist his wife, JoAnn Scurlock, with her works on "Magico-Medical Means of Dealing with Ghosts in Ancient Mesopotamia" and on the "Lost Medicine of Ancient Mesopotamia." He and his wife have also given specially tailored slide presentations on various aspects of the Islamic world to a number of college classes and high schools in the Chicago area.

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Robert D. Biggs

Robert D. Biggs continued his study and publication in the area of Babylonian medicine. Having been appointed a member of a Ph.D. dissertation committee at the University of Copenhagen for a dissertation dealing with several specific chapters of the Babylonian scholarly compendium of omens from the internal organs of sheep (generally known as extispicy), he is once again immersing himself in this rather specialized branch of Assyriological research. His membership on this committee is yet another example of cooperation between Oriental Institute faculty and staff and their colleagues at the University of Copenhagen. He once again participated in the Oriental Institute Oriental Rug Symposium, this time with an illustrated lecture entitled "The Qashqa'i and Shiraz Weavings of Iran."

John A. Brinkman

John A. Brinkman wrote several short articles dealing with aspects of the history of Babylonia in the late second millennium BC, including the entry Nebuchadnezzar I (1125–1104 BC) for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* and notes on the bilingual Kassite-Babylonian vocabulary BM 93005 for *NABU*. He also wrote thirty-one biographical entries for the first volume of the prosopography series of the State Archives of Assyria Project, Helsinki; and Daniel Nevez and Shelley Luppert-Barnard, graduate students in the Mesopotamian historiography seminar, wrote an additional sixteen entries. The prosopography volume was published on 1 July 1998.

Miguel Civil

In September, **Miguel Civil** appeared on the A&E TV channel trying once more to convince a certain public that the Sumerians were neither aliens from outer space nor had anything to do with "the twelfth planet." In October, he was invited to examine some outstanding cuneiform texts in a private collection in Norway, among them an almost complete copy of the law code of Ur-Namma on an Ur III cylinder; he is preparing some of these texts for publication. At his return, he was asked to comment on the history of beer before a dinner for the members of the Oriental Institute at the River West Brewery in Chicago. He believes that it was not his talk, but rather the great dinner and the sampling of twelve beers that moved the participants to conclude unanimously that the event should be repeated. An edition of a fragment of an Ur-Namma royal hymn, on a tablet of Ur III date, and a study of a new significant source from Spain of the "Wisdom of King Ur-Ninurta" (1923–1896 BC) have appeared in *Aula Orientalis*. At the Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, he read a paper on several passages of the Sumerian Gilgamesh, proposing a topographic explanation for the enigmatic wells of Uruk in *Gilgamesh and Agga*, and correcting a misreading in the current edition of *Gilgamesh and*

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Huwawa. According to the new interpretation, Enlil tells Gilgamesh and Enkidu not only to provide food and drink for Huwawa's severed head but also to put it "as a decoration in the temples of the great gods." Interestingly enough, a stone head of Huwawa on an orthostat, part of a temple gate, was found at Tell Rimah. His conclusion was that more attention to landscape features and material culture can enhance our understanding of the ancient tales. Civil's book *Mesopotamian Lexicography*, part of Brill's *Handbuch der Orientalistik*, will appear before the end of 1998. The compilation of a complete electronic corpus of Sumerian texts, with new HLP and HTML versions, is progressing.

Fred M. Donner

Fred M. Donner began to wind down his study of early Islamic historiography. His book *Narratives of Islamic Origins: The Beginnings of Islamic Historical Writing* (Princeton: Darwin Press) appeared in June. In November, he read a paper entitled "The Development of an Historical Mentality in the Early Islamic Community" at a conference convened by the Islamic University of Lebanon in Beirut, Lebanon — his first visit to Lebanon in over fourteen years. Later in the month, he attended the Middle East Studies Association annual meetings in San Francisco and presented a paper, entitled "Sayf ibn 'Umar's Sources for the Conquest of Syria," dealing with the narratives of an early (eighth century) Iraqi historian whose accounts contain many problematic features, such as chronological uncertainties and (sometimes) patently chauvinistic descriptions of the role of his own Arab tribe.

Meanwhile, Donner has begun to work in earnest on the role of eschatological concepts in Muhammad's movement and early Islamic history. He presented a paper entitled "Was Early Islam an Apocalyptic Movement?" at the Medieval Institute at Notre Dame University in February and at the History Department and Medieval Studies Program of Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) in April. He is currently drafting a short article on the problem of messianism in the earliest Islamic period. Along somewhat different lines, he attended the American Oriental Society meetings in New Orleans in early April and made a presentation on "Concepts of Communal Identity" in a panel on "What Was the First Islamic Century Really Like?"

Donner continued to serve as editor of *Al-'Usur al-Wusta* ("The Middle Ages" in Arabic), the semiannual Bulletin of Middle East Medievalists, for the seventh year. His usual load of teaching duties, advising students, and administrative responsibilities as Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations amply filled his remaining time.

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Peter F. Dorman

In the course of the last year, **Peter F. Dorman** completed a chapter for a book on the reign of Tuthmosis III, to be published under the editorship of Benedict Davies of Liverpool's School of Archaeology and Oriental Studies. Entitled "An Unorthodox Mantle of Coregency," Dorman's contribution focuses on the early reign of Tuthmosis III and its central puzzle: the assumption by the queen regent, Hatshepsut, not only of the throne of Egypt but of an elaborate and fictional iconography as male ruler. A good deal of his research time was further spent in the proofing of plates and editing of the manuscript for the Epigraphic Survey's second volume on Luxor Temple, *The Facade, Portals, Upper Registers, Columns, Marginalia, and Statuary of the Colonnade Hall*, which is in press at time of writing and is expected to appear in the fall. He also composed three entries for the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt, including a lengthy submission on the history and methodology of epigraphy and its application in pharaonic monuments.

Dorman also continued the writing of a monograph entitled *Faces in Clay*, a typological analysis of ceramic canopic jar lids that includes a lexical study of a wonderfully versatile verb, *qd* "to build, to turn pots, to create." The volume also examines the imagery of the potter's wheel, associated very early on with the potter god, Khnum, as the instrument by which he creates individuals, and later employed as a potent symbol of regeneration by the solar deity in the eastern horizon of heaven. These images become unified in the Late period as Khnum becomes a creator god in his own right, and the lowly potter's wheel achieves the status of a sacred symbol of ritual.

Speaking on the topic of "The End of Dynasty: The Enigmatic Life and Death of Tutankhamun," Dorman participated in the Oriental Institute's December symposium commemorating the 75th anniversary of Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings. In April 1998 he delivered a paper at the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Los Angeles, on a relief block in the Oriental Institute Museum. This fragment can be recognized as part of the facade of the Giza mastaba of Ptahshepses, now in the British Museum, and its inscription assists in shedding additional light on the biography of the tomb owner and on the chronology of the Fifth Dynasty.

Walter Farber

Following two deaths in his family, **Walter Farber's** academic year 1997/98 was often disrupted and altogether not one of his most productive periods of scholarship. Even so, his work on the new edition of the Lamaštu corpus made some progress (he knows you have heard that before). Besides that, he finished a feature article on Babylonian medicine requested for an archaeological encyclopedia, only to find out that the whole project had been canceled by the publishers. The manuscript is now waiting in the drawer, either for inclusion in a similar project currently planned by

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the same editor for a different publisher, or for some rewriting and eventual publication in a different format.

Walter, as usual, loved the challenges of some of the courses he taught this year, hated most of his administrative duties, and barely found the time for several overdue book reviews. In an age of festschrift inflation, he was invited to contribute to four such volumes this year, accepted two of the invitations, and has started work on both of these articles.

McGuire Gibson

McGuire Gibson in the past year has intensified a personal research interest in the role of kinship as the key paradigm in ancient Mesopotamia and neighboring areas. He is planning a small symposium on the subject in the near future. As an adjunct to his fieldwork in the Dhamar Plain of Yemen, he participated in the Fourth International Congress on ancient Yemen. This meeting was the first large-scale international archaeological congress in Yemen. The fact that more than forty scholars from Yemen and other countries presented papers attests to the tremendous growth in the field of Yemeni archaeology over the past ten years. At the conference, he was pleasantly surprised to be given a certificate and a sash of honor for service to the archaeology of Yemen. He is still involved with the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, serving as the Chicago representative on its board. He is also still a member of the board of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (Washington), and he remains as president of the American Association for Research in Baghdad, a research entity that hopes to establish a center in Iraq when the embargo ends. In June 1998, he was a member of a small delegation that visited Oman to investigate the possibilities for more sustained research by Americans in that country.

A highlight of Gibson's year was a ten-day trip to Egypt following his field season in Yemen. Previously he had been in the country only for a three-day layover in Cairo in 1978. His seven days digging with Mark Lehner near the Sphinx at Giza, interspersed with trips to the suq and to other parts of Cairo, were most enjoyable. He also flew to Luxor for a first visit to Chicago House and the major monuments in the area. His host, Ray Johnson, arranged a visit and a guided tour by Kent Weeks of the tomb of the sons of Ramesses II in the Valley of the Kings.

During the year, Gibson gave a number of academic and public lectures on ancient and modern Iraq and Yemen. He was videotaped in an interview about ancient Near Eastern and Greek drainage and plumbing for a cable television program on the history of plumbing. He was also consulted on ancient money for another show that will air on the Discovery Channel.

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Hans G. Güterbock

Hans G. Güterbock continued to work on the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary* by means of oral discussion with Richard Beal of the latest drafts of words beginning with *ši-* and *šu-*. In his contribution to *Mír Curad: Studies in Honor of Calvert Watkins*, entitled “Notes on Some Luwian Hieroglyphs,” he adduced evidence for the theory that in the empire period some syllabic signs of the so-called Hittite hieroglyphs can be read both with the vowels *a* and *i*. His examples are *nila*, *tila*, *hale*, and perhaps even the reading of a logogram as *Ḫattušali*. In June 1998, he received the published papers of the XXXIV International Assyriology Congress held in Istanbul, 1987, which contains his article “To Drink a God,” in which he argues for the literal understanding of the phrase.

Hripsime Haroutunian

On December 15, 1997, **Hripsime Haroutunian** resumed her work on the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary*, after a year’s break. During this time period she spent much of her time transliterating newly published cuneiform texts from volume KBo 39 (about 130 fragments) and KBo 38 (about 50 fragments), identifying them, matching them to similar fragments from the project files, finding duplicates, parallel fragments or joining pieces, and simultaneously keying them into the project’s server-computer. In addition she compiled a list of all attested Hittite words beginning with letters A to K for future CHD articles.

Besides her involvement with the Hittite Dictionary project, Haroutunian was further engaged in compiling bibliography on the most recently published articles and books in the field, being the sole editor and publisher of the *Newsletter for Anatolian Studies (NAS)*. During 1997/98 she produced Vol. 13/1–2 (1997) of *NAS* and almost finished collecting data for a forthcoming issue, Vol. 14/1 (1998), which will be released end of July. She was also busy preparing an article entitled, “Bearded or Beardless? Some Speculations on the Function of Beard among the Hittites,” which is an expanded version of her presentation at the 207th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society in Miami (March 1997). It will appear in H. G. Güterbock et al., eds., *Recent Developments in Hittite Archaeology and History* (Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 1998).

Aside from this, in spring 1998 Haroutunian successfully taught an Oriental Institute Adult Education Course entitled “The People of a Thousand Gods: Religion and Art of the Hittites.”

Thomas A. Holland

The articles concerning the more recent excavations at Tell es-Sweyhat in Syria, which were submitted by **Thomas A. Holland** during the last academic year of ac-

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tivities for "Aleppo and the Silk Road," a special issue of *Les Annales Archéologiques Arabes Syriennes*, and for the *Analytical Repertory of Pre-Classical Upper Mesopotamia Sites* are still in press and in the editorial stage of publication.

During this year, research continued on the large body of material that will be incorporated into the forthcoming text volume of the *Tell es-Sweyhat Excavation Report*. The line drawings of plans, sections, and photographs of excavations, small finds, and the pottery for the 340 plates of the companion volume also were completed. The main focus of the research centered upon the Bronze Age external parallels, within and beyond the borders of Syria, for the numerous objects (e.g., figurines, metals, etc.) and the extensive corpus of nearly 5,000 diagnostic pottery forms. But apart from the Bronze Age, the site has yielded fairly extensive material remains belonging to the Hellenistic and Roman periods, which has demanded a great deal of further research due to the paucity of published finds of these periods from northern Syria. At present, we can date the Hellenistic finds from the rubbish pits in Area IIA, on top of the central mound of the site, to the earlier part of the Hellenistic period in Syria, ca. 300–280 BC. The extensive late Roman occupation of the site, primarily on the south slope of the Bronze Age central mound, had some sporadic occupation during the first century AD into the early second century AD with its floruit for about twenty-five years from AD 350 to 375.

Research is still in progress on the Late Roman period at Sweyhat, both for the excavation report and in preparation for a forthcoming lecture entitled "The Greco-Roman Finds at Tell Sweyhat," which will be given in Hama, Syria at the international colloquium entitled "La Syrie Moyenne de la Mer à la Steppe" sponsored by the Syrian Ministry of Culture, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums, and l'Université de Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines et le Fonds National Belge de la Recherche Scientifique.

Janet H. Johnson

Janet H. Johnson participated in several symposia during the year. She was invited to a conference in Berlin in September commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the commission to produce the *Wörterbuch der ägyptischen Sprache*. She gave a presentation on "The Chicago Demotic Dictionary Project," explaining the integration of computer technology with Demotic studies. In March she participated in the Oriental Institute Membership/Museum Education Open House "From Clay Tablets to CD-ROMs: Behind the Scenes at the OI Dictionary Projects," discussing the background and purpose of the Demotic Dictionary and demonstrating the use of scanning and other computer technology. (For a report on the Dictionary, see the separate entry.) She helped organize and served as discussant for two symposia in The Chicago-Stanford Seminar on Hellenistic Egypt, one in November entitled "Priests, Magicians and Incantations in Hellenistic Egypt" and one in April entitled "Narrative Strategies in Greek and Egyptian Prose of the Hellenistic Period." In October, she gave a presentation to the docents on "The Legal Status of Women in Ancient Egypt." Her proposal for the development of an annotated

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electronic reading book for Middle Egyptian, included in a multi-project, multi-university proposal for the incorporation of computer technology in the teaching of less-commonly taught languages, was approved by the Mellon Foundation in January; she looks forward to working with colleagues here and at Michigan (including Terry Wilfong, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1994) on this project. She continued to serve on the Board of Governors of the American Research Center in Egypt and as Chairman of the Committee for the *Annual Egyptological Bibliography*.

W. Raymond Johnson

W. Raymond Johnson supervised a third short season of documentation work in November for the Egypt Exploration Society at the Ramesses II small Ptah temple in ancient Memphis, focusing on reused blocks of Nebmaatre Amenhotep III. He and artist Will Schenck began collating the drawings of the sixty-two blocks identified so far and will return next November to finish the collation. The material, quarried by Ramesses II for reuse in his Ptah shrine and presently in an active state of decay, will be published in the Egypt Exploration Society's *Survey of Memphis* series.

This winter Ray's Epigraphic Survey duties left him little time for writing, but he still managed to churn out a chapter entitled "The Setting for Amarna: History, Religion, and Art" for the Boston Museum of Fine Arts "Pharaohs of the Sun: Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and Tutankhamun" exhibition catalogue, slated for the turn of the millennium. In July the long-awaited volume of collected essays, *Amenhotep III: Perspectives on his Reign*, edited by David O'Connor and Eric Cline (University of Michigan Press) finally appeared (after ten years), featuring a chapter by Ray entitled "Monuments and Monumental Art of Amenhotep III: Evolution and Meaning." In this essay Ray discusses Amenhotep III's monument building activities within the theological framework of the king's jubilees and subsequent deification.

This summer Ray was invited to document the back support inscriptions on the Oriental Institute Museum's 17-foot, quartzite Tutankhamun/Ay colossus. This enormous centerpiece of the Egyptian collection, excavated by the Epigraphic Survey in the thirties, might have been quarried for Tutankhamun who died before it could be inscribed for him. It was inscribed first by his successor Ay, who set it up in his mortuary temple in west Thebes, and then by Ay's successor Horemheb, who appropriated Ay's mortuary temple and everything in it. Horemheb erased Ay's titulary on the back of the statue and carved his own in its place, but many traces of Ay's original carving can still be seen (and none of Tutankhamun). With the kind assistance of the conservation and preparators' staff who provided materials and scaffolding, Ray was able to trace the entire inscription before a supporting brace was installed that now obscures part of it from view. He and Peter Dorman will publish a joint study of the inscription in the future.

In July Ray oversaw the printing of the Epigraphic Survey's latest publication *Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple Volume 2: The Facade, Portals, Upper*

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Register Scenes, Columns, Marginalia, and Statuary in the Colonnade Hall at the Chicago Press. This season marked Ray's nineteenth season of work in Luxor for Chicago House, and his first full season as Field Director.

Carol Meyer

In addition to directing the fourth season of survey work at Bir Umm Fawakhir in November and December of 1997 (see separate report), **Carol Meyer** submitted the final revisions for *A Byzantine Gold Mining Town: Bir Umm Fawakhir 1993* to the Oriental Institute Publications Office in October. In February she completed a proposal to the National Geographic Society and revised the one to the Egyptian Antiquities Project, both for support for the 1999 season. In March she delivered a talk to the South Chicago Archaeological Society on glass from Quseir al-Qadim and trade connections throughout the Indian Ocean region in antiquity. April saw a presentation on "Gold Mining at Bir Umm Fawakhir" at the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt in Los Angeles. Last but not least, work has begun on the final report on the Bir Umm Fawakhir 1996 and 1997 seasons.

Alexandra O'Brien

Alexandra O'Brien spent her third year working for the Oriental Institute Research Archives cataloguing analytics and retrospectively cataloguing the journals *Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale*, *Egitto e Vicino Oriente*, *Mizraim*, *Orientalia Suecana*, *Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache*, and *Recueil de Travaux* (in progress). She added over 30 new links to "Egypt and the Ancient Near East, Web Resources for Young People and Teachers" and continued to maintain other web resources (listed under "Research Archives" below) in addition to the "Directory of Institutions and Scholars Involved in Demotic Studies."

From November to December 1997 O'Brien was in Egypt working as Epigrapher to the Oriental Institute Bir Umm Fawakhir project (directed by Carol Meyer). Shortly after her return, O'Brien gave a talk at the annual meeting of the American Society of Papyrologists (a panel at the annual joint meeting of the American Institute of Archaeology and American Philological Society held in Chicago). The talk was a progress report on her dissertation research, the topic being "Egyptian Women in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt: The Economic and Legal Activities of Women in Demotic Texts," a study of women's lives as represented in Egyptian language documents from the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. After that, she reviewed *A Companion to Demotic Studies* (Papyrologica Bruxellensia, 28), by Mark Depauw, for the *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* (forthcoming).

O'Brien continues to work towards timely completion of her dissertation. She has written one chapter and is currently working on another. At the same time, she

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is working on completion of two articles "Women as Theban Choachytes" and "Physical Descriptions in Demotic Contracts."

Dennis Pardee

Since last reporting in these pages, **Dennis Pardee** has been awaiting the publication of his edition of the Ugaritic ritual texts: the manuscript has been accepted for publication by the editorial committee of *Éditions Recherche sur les Civilisations* in Paris and he is awaiting the copyeditor's corrections in order to do the final printout of camera-ready copy.

Pardee's English translation of the major Ugaritic mythological texts, along with a selection of ritual and divinatory texts in the same language and, for good measure, the Punic-language sacrificial tariff discovered in 1844 in Marseilles, France, appeared in late 1997 in *The Context of Scripture*, Vol. 1, *Canonical Compositions from the Biblical World*, edited by W. W. Hallo and K. L. Younger, Jr. (Leiden: E. J. Brill).

The edition of the Ugaritic letters on which Pardee reported in the *1995/96 Annual Report* has progressed, but more slowly than he would have liked. With additions from the 1994 and 1996 excavations, the total number is now at 113. All but four of these texts have now been copied and twenty-two of these copies have been inked and are ready for publication. But the commentary has been completed for fewer than a third of the texts, and it is this explanation of the meaning of the text that is the time-consuming part of the job.

Part of Pardee's museum time in Damascus and Paris this year was spent doing the basic work of copying and collating for the next edition of texts on his agenda, that of the Ugaritic administrative texts. The number of these texts is now in the neighborhood of a thousand, so this will be an even longer project than that dealing with the ritual and epistolary texts. He was able this year to copy a total of twenty-two texts, and the collation has produced some new readings on which he intends to report in advance of the full-scale publication. These texts deal with the nitty-gritty of everyday life in ancient Ugarit because they report on all kinds of administrative, economic, and legal activities. In a sense, they are the most boring of texts because they can consist of only lists of names or commodities; but, coupled with the artifactual evidence, they are also our closest contact with the realities of everyday existence in this Late Bronze Age city and thus are, in their own right, of great importance for socio-economic history. Because of their jejune nature, they have too often in the past been given inadequate attention, both in their initial publication and in subsequent treatments. The hope is at the very least to provide a more reliable textual basis than that with which specialists have had to deal in the past.

The exciting discovery of a new archive at Ras Shamra by the *Mission Archéologique Française de Ras Shamra – Ougarit*, for which Pardee serves as one of the epigraphers, also reported in the *1995/96 Annual Report*, has gained in importance in the last two years. In the 1996 excavations, another lot of tablets was discovered, smaller than that of 1994, but belonging to the same archive, from what is

known as the House of Urtenu. Not only was the excavation in the very same architectural unit, but one of the six Ugaritic texts discovered in 1996 is a fragment that joins with fragments from 1994. There can now be little doubt that Urtenu was connected with the queen's household because several letters to and from the queen have been discovered in this house, including one in which the queen writes to Urtenu reporting on upcoming stages of a trip that she is taking: she writes from a ship ("today we are on the sea") on its way to Cilicia ("tomorrow [I'll be] in Adanya"). Unfortunately, the letter does not state precisely why she is traveling. The only letter among the 1996 discoveries is also from the queen but addressed this time to a certain Yarimhaddu. It deals with a servant who passed from Yarmihaddu's service to that of the queen and whom she claims to have gone back to Yarimhaddu without her permission — she wants the servant back and will take the matter up with the king if necessary. In addition to the six Ugaritic texts, which have all been copied and on which preliminary study is well advanced, there are some two-score Akkadian texts about which less is presently known.

Because Marguerite Yon, director of the *Mission de Ras Shamra* since 1978, retired on 1 January 1998 from the directorship, excavations, which are normally semi-annual, were not undertaken this year. The new director, Yves Calvet, plans to continue the excavation program in 1999 and, of course, on into the twenty-first century. The 1999 campaign may uncover the limits of the House of Urtenu — the circumstances that led to this excavation dictated that it start in the middle of the house — as well as the last remnants of the archive located in the house. If such is the case, it will be possible to foresee the reasonably rapid publication of these texts that are of capital importance for the history of the final decades of the Late Bronze Age.

Pardee's activity in 1997/98 that attracted the most media attention was the joint-authored publication of two previously unknown Hebrew ostraca which probably date to the late seventh century BC. He became one of the authors of the publication almost by accident. His colleague Pierre Bordreuil from Paris happened to be in Chicago in February 1997 and he gave a lecture at the Oriental Institute on the two ostraca, of which he was preparing the publication with an Italian colleague, Felice Israel of the University of Genoa. In the process of translating Bordreuil's lecture from French to English, Pardee made some suggestions for the interpretation of the texts. After consultation, Bordreuil and Israel were generous enough to add Pardee's name as third author for the *editio princeps* that appeared later in the year, in French, in the journal *Semitica*. His participation in the project subsequently facilitated the production of an English version, which appeared in early 1998 in the journal *Near Eastern Archaeology*. What captured media attention was the phrase *byt yhw* "the house of Yahweh" in the first text. Though the texts were not discovered in regular excavations (they are from the collection of Shlomo Moussaieff), the script shows that they belong to the pre-exilic period, while repeated physical tests have shown that the hypothesis of modern forgeries is not a plausible one. All this being the case, *byt yhw* in all likelihood refers to the First Temple, commonly known as Solomon's temple. It is the first such reference in a well-preserved extra-biblical text and it for a brief time captured the imagination of the media (*New York Times*, Associated Press, etc.). The unfortunate side of this attention was that the

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second text, longer and no less interesting than the first, was hardly mentioned. It contains the plea of a widow to a local official, addressed only as *ʾdny hsr* “my lord the official,” for a special ruling in her favor regarding use of her deceased husband’s property. According to biblical law, the husband’s blood relations inherit his property, not his wife; here, if the text has been correctly understood, the widow is asking that she be allowed to continue benefiting from a part of her husband’s property. She states explicitly that her husband had no sons, that his brother has already received a certain field, and, again if the text has been correctly interpreted, that her husband had, before his death, proposed to the official that she be allowed to live from his property. It is intriguing, from a biblical perspective, that no mention is made of the possibility of the so-called levirate marriage, whereby the dead husband’s brother would take the widow as wife and have children in the deceased man’s name (see Deuteronomy 25:5–10). Any number of explanations for this omission are possible, from literary (e.g., the law of Deuteronomy might have been of late origin) to socio-legal (e.g., the law might have been geographically restricted) to purely practical (e.g., the widow might have been beyond childbearing age). On the other hand, the general notion of a law of inheritance not being applied in the strictest manner finds a biblical precedent in the famous case of the daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 27:1–11). Finally, the texts are in standard Classical Hebrew of the pre-exilic period and as such cast doubt on the theory, which may be said to have been receiving too much attention in recent years, that Biblical Hebrew was not the general language of expression in the pre-exilic period, but a post-exilic construct devised for the purpose of writing religious texts such as the Hebrew Bible.

Erica Reiner

Erica Reiner continued editing the Babylonian omens concerning the planet Jupiter and made some additional collations thereto during a brief visit to the British Museum in spring. During the academic year, she read final proofs of *Babylonian Planetary Omens*, Part 3, which appeared this summer from Styx Publications, and also read proofs of a lengthy article for an anniversary volume scheduled to appear in fall 1998. Her book *Astral Magic in Babylonia* was reprinted this spring.

Robert K. Ritner

Robert K. Ritner taught a variety of language courses concerning Middle Egyptian, Hieratic, and Demotic texts, in addition to offering a seminar on documents of the Third Intermediate Period, a survey of religious texts, and a series of lectures on New Kingdom Egyptian history. For this second year of construction, the examination of original Demotic materials in museum storage again required instructor and students to sport hard hats — surely a new sartorial trend in Demotic studies. The

assistance, patience, and fashion advice of the museum staff, particularly Registrar and Associate Curator Raymond Tindel, are gratefully acknowledged.

On 15 October a film crew from Toronto-based Paragon Productions filmed an extended interview with Ritner for an upcoming documentary entitled “Grand Illusions: The Story of Magic,” now in post-production. In addition to course and committee work for the Institute and Department, he participated in a series of symposia and conferences. On 25 October he lectured at the Detroit Institute of Arts on “Weapons against Fate: Magic in the Religion of Ancient Egypt,” in conjunction with the touring Heidelberg exhibit “Splendors of Ancient Egypt,” which features a stela first published by Ritner in 1993. On 8 November he spoke at the Third Chicago-Stanford Seminar on Hellenistic Egypt regarding “The Philinna Papyrus Incantation and the Scorpion Wives of Horus,” establishing the Egyptian character of a complex Hellenistic spell. At the end of November, he attended the annual conference of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Francisco in his capacity as an editor of the series *Writings from the Ancient World*. During the blizzard of 9 March he held a “fireside chat” on aspects of Egyptian religion for a troupe of undaunted and indefatigable docents. From 23–26 April, he was in Los Angeles for the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, next to be held in Chicago, where Ritner will oversee Egyptological presentations. During the Oriental Institute Annual Dinner on 18 May, he regaled the diners with “Some Practical Egyptian Magical Spells,” designed to bless a celebratory meal, avert food poisoning, dislodge a fishbone from the throat, prevent hangover, cure a migraine headache, protect books from theft, and bestow health and satisfaction in advanced age. This presentation for “Romancing the Past Comes Home” marked the unveiling of the future Egyptian Hall and formed a ritual counterpart to the ground-breaking and cornerstone reenactments of 1996 and 1997. Ritner’s translations of these spells were made available on the Oriental Institute web page (http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IS/RITNER/Annual_Dinner_1998.html) through the courtesy of John Sanders. On 29 May, Ritner surveyed “Egyptian Medical Theory and Practice” for the Oregon, Washington and British Columbia Academies of Otolaryngology, again in conjunction with the exhibit “Splendors of Ancient Egypt” at the Portland Art Museum.

Between courses and lectures, Ritner completed a study of “Egypt under Roman Rule,” for *The Cambridge History of Egypt*, edited by Carl Petry (in press); a series of articles for *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt* (forthcoming), edited by D. Redford; translations for *The Context of Scripture*, vols. 2–3, edited by W. Hallo and L. Younger; catalogue entries for *Searching for Ancient Egypt* (1977), edited by D. Silverman; and a refutation of “Fictive Adoptions or Celibate Priestesses?,” published in *Göttinger Miszellen* (1998).

Whenever possible, he has continued his primary research on documents of the Libyan period in Egypt (ca. 946–610 BC), (re)editing published and unpublished sources as *A Chrestomathy of Third Intermediate Period Texts*. Comprising transliterations, translations, brief textual commentaries, and full references, the volume will provide the first accessible source book for Egyptian inscriptions during the pivotal era of the house of Sheshonk, the Israelite kingdoms, Nubian domination, Assyrian conquest, and the Saite reassertion of independence.

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David Schloen

In July 1997 David Schloen participated in the annual field season of the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon, of which he is the associate director. He returned to Israel from September to December 1997 to continue his study of the large corpus of seventh century pottery excavated at Ashkelon over the past several seasons. This material, which includes many foreign imports from Greece, Cyprus, Phoenicia, and Egypt, provides important new information about the situation in Philistia on the eve of the Babylonian conquest of Ashkelon in 604 BC. Schloen's work in fall 1997 was supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship administered through the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. While he was in Israel, he lectured at the Albright Institute on the subject of "Demography and Domestic Space in Ancient Israel"; at the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem on the subject of "Computer Database Design and the Electronic Publication of Archaeological Information"; and at Tel Aviv University on the subject of "Houses and Households in Late Bronze Age Ugarit." The first two of these papers will be published as journal articles and the third forms part of Schloen's book on *The Patrimonial Household in Ugarit and the Bronze Age Near East*, which is currently in preparation. During winter 1998 Schloen continued his work on these manuscripts and on the archaeological excavation reports for Ashkelon and for Yaqush (the Early Bronze Age village site in the northern Jordan Valley of Israel where the Oriental Institute has conducted three seasons of excavation since 1990). In March 1998 he attended the twenty-sixth annual conference on Computer and Quantitative Applications in Archaeology in Barcelona, Spain, where he read a paper about archaeological data management and data dissemination, which will be published in the conference proceedings. Schloen has continued to develop the same theme of archaeological database design in his contribution to the Oriental Institute's proposal to the National Science Foundation for the establishment of a major Center for the Study of Ancient Technology and Environment, for which advanced data management techniques tailored to archaeological needs will be essential. In June 1998 Schloen returned to Ashkelon for the fourteenth annual field season of the Leon Levy Expedition, in the course of which important new discoveries were made during continued excavation of a nineteenth–fourteenth century BC Canaanite tomb complex dug into the bedrock in one area of the site and of early Philistine occupation levels found elsewhere that date to the twelfth and eleventh centuries BC.

Oğuz Soysal

During 1997/98 Oğuz Soysal continued his work with the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project. He has spent most of his time writing articles on words beginning with š (mostly šu-, and a few ša- words). During the May–July 1997 and January–February 1998 periods he temporarily ceased work on these first drafts in order to prepare electronic transliterations of the texts that appeared in *Keilschrifttexte aus*

Boghazköy, vol. 37, most of which are in the ancient Hittian language with sections in Hittite.

Aside from this, his research activities continue to focus on Hittite history and culture. A German article dealing with an Old Hittite historical text has been published in *Altorientalische Forschungen* 25 (1998): 5–33. He currently has other works in press in the journals *Archivum Anatolicum* 3 (1998), *Hethitica* 14 (1998/99), *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 50 (1998), and *Kratylos* 43 (1998).

In August/September 1997 he visited the Turkish excavation at Ortaköy (Turkey) and later joined the German excavation team at Kuşaklı (Turkey) as an epigrapher. As a member of the latter team he was able to make two Middle Hittite letters available to the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project with kind permission of the excavation leaders. In January 1998 he received an official invitation from the leaders of the Ortaköy excavation to work jointly with them on the epigraphic finds. Therefore, he went in June 1998 to Ankara to work with a scientific team at the Ankara University. Hopefully, this Ankara-Chicago cooperation will continue in the foreseeable future.

In addition to these activities he has also been preparing since January 1996 a “Hittian word list” based on texts in the Hittian language from Boğazköy (Hittian-Hittite bilinguals, Hittian recitations, Hittite rituals and festivals with Hittian elements, etc.). The list in question currently consists of ten thousand computer-stored entries (words and word complexes; all of the published material) on three hundred and fifty pages and is still in progress.

Claudia E. Suter

In fall 1997, **Claudia E. Suter** taught an adult education course on the art and literature of ancient Mesopotamia from the Uruk to the Ur III period at the Institute in conjunction with the exhibition of Sumerian art at the Smart Museum. Nearly thirty enthusiastic participants made this course a wonderful experience and great success. In November she participated in a conference on images as mass media held at Fribourg, Switzerland, in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Swiss Oriental Society, and in January attended a symposium on the Tishrin Dam excavations organized by the University of Barcelona, Spain. Her article proposing a new interpretation of a particular passage in Gudea’s Cylinder Inscriptions, the alleged blessings of the temple, has appeared in *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und vorderasiatische Archäologie*. A review of Elena Rova’s study of Uruk period cylinder seals for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* is in press, and a review article of the new edition of the Lagash II inscriptions by Dietz Otto Edzard has been accepted by the *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*. Most of her free time, aside from coordinating the Diyala Project, was spent on the revision of her dissertation entitled *The Temple Building of Gudea of Lagash in Text and Image* which will be published in the series *Cuneiform Monographs*. This study is concerned with the comparison of verbal and visual messages and provides analyses of the contents, narrative structure, and communicative

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function of Gudea's Cylinder Inscriptions and fragmentary limestone stelae. The manuscript is in the hands of the editor.

Emily Teeter

In addition to preparing for the reinstallation of the Egyptian Gallery, **Emily Teeter** continues to work on the publication of the Oriental Institute's excavation of Medinet Habu. With the first volume *Scarabs, Scaraboids, Seals, and Seal Impressions* (with a contribution by Terry Wilfong) accepted for publication, she is now working on the next volume dedicated to the baked clay and faience figurines and molds from the site. Wilfong again will collaborate on the Late Antique materials. Her book *The Presentation of Maat: Ritual and Legitimacy in Ancient Egypt* appeared in the series *Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization*, vol. 57. She contributed a section on "The Life of Ritual" to the book *Ancient Egypt* edited by David Silverman. She was part of a team that studied a mummy in the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago. The report (co-authored by G. Foster, J. E. Connolly, J.-Z. Wang, and P. Mengoni) was published as "Evaluation of an Ancient Egyptian Mummy using Spiral CT and 3-D Reconstructions," in the medical journal *Radiology*. The publication is also available on line at <http://www.rad.rpslmc.edu/rsnamumie/rsnamumie.html>. Emily also published reviews in *Bibliotheca Orientalis* and the *Journal of New Eastern Studies* and exhibit reviews in *African Arts* and *KMT*.

Emily presented many lectures during the year speaking at, among other places, the Detroit Institute of Arts, The Rosicrucian Museum in San Jose, The Dallas Museum of Art, Indiana University, The Elvehjem Museum (University of Wisconsin), North Eastern Illinois University, the School of American Research in Santa Fe, and the Oriental Institute itself. She presented a paper on fertility figurines from Medinet Habu at the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt held in Los Angeles at UCLA. She also was a participant in a symposium at the Oriental Institute commemorating the 75th anniversary of the discovery of the tomb of King Tutankhamun. She taught an adult education course on ancient Egyptian Art, sponsored by the Oriental Institute and the Graham School of Continuing Education. Further afield, she spoke on the history of Urfa and Antioch in a day long symposium on ancient Turkey sponsored by the Middle East Center of the University of Chicago. She supervised a Master's thesis at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago dealing with the history of the Ashmolean Museum and how its development relates to the early years of the Oriental Institute Museum. Emily appeared on several television programs dealing with Egypt, and she worked with media to supply hieroglyphic translations of several corporate slogans.

In addition to leading an enthusiastic group of Oriental Institute members to Detroit for the *Splendors of Ancient Egypt* show, she led a tour to Egypt and traveled independently in Turkey reveling in Byzantine and Ottoman architecture.

David Testen

David Testen has spent the 1997/98 academic year contributing to the compiling of the manuscript for the P volume of the *Chicago Assyrian Dictionary* and to the processing of the proofs for the R volume. In addition, he presented papers at three conferences: "On 'inna, 'anna, et alia" at the Twelfth Arabic Linguistics Symposium at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, "Some Problematical Semitic Correspondences and Their Apparent Counterparts Elsewhere in Afro-Asiatic" at the Twenty-Sixth North American Conference on Afro-Asiatic Linguistics in New Orleans, and "Pišiyāhuvādā in the Bisitun Inscription" at the 208th meeting of the American Oriental Society again in New Orleans; the ALS paper is to appear in the proceedings volume *Perspectives on Arabic Linguistics XII* (John Benjamins).

Publications which have appeared over the course of the current year are "Old Persian <x-š-p-v^a-a r-u-c-p-t^(a-i)-i-y-v^a-a> 'by night or by day'" (*Iranica Antiqua*), "The Suppletive Imperative of Arabic 'come'" in *Perspectives on Arabic Linguistics X* (eds. Mushira Eid and Robert Ratcliffe, John Benjamins), and "Old Persian and Avestan Phonology" and "Ossetic Phonology" in *Phonologies of Asia and Africa* (ed. Alan S. Kaye, Eisenbrauns); in addition, proofs have been returned for forthcoming publications in *Archiv für Orientforschung*, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, *Ugarit-Forschungen*, *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*, and *Perspectives on Arabic Linguistics XI*. Testen's book *Parallels in Semitic Linguistics: The Development of Arabic la- and Related Semitic Particles* is due to appear in summer 1998 as volume 26 of the E. J. Brill series *Studies in Semitic Languages and Linguistics*.

Edward F. Wente

During 1997/98 **Edward F. Wente** completed four major articles for *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt* on the topics of Late Egyptian, Correspondences, Monotheism, and Hieratic, as well as several shorter contributions on the Tale of the Doomed Prince, the Book of Kemit, and the myth of the Destruction of Mankind. Plans have been made for a new edition of the volume *The Literature of Ancient Egypt*, edited by William Kelly Simpson, and Wente has been revising his old translations of the Late Egyptian stories and preparing translations of several additional texts to be included in the new edition. In connection with the Society of Biblical Literature series *Writings from the Ancient World* he is currently involved in editing a volume of texts of the Third Intermediate Period for which Robert K. Ritner is providing the translations.

Since retirement at the end of 1995, Wente has continued supervising doctoral dissertations. In June 1998, his student Andrew Bauman successfully defended his dissertation, "The Suffix Conjugation of Early Egyptian as Evidenced in the Underworld Books," and Edward Castle is now putting the finishing touches on his Ph.D. dissertation dealing with weights and international trade in the ancient Near East. In

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November 1997 Wente accompanied an Oriental Institute sponsored tour group on a two-week visit to Egypt.

Donald Whitcomb

Donald Whitcomb devoted summer 1997 to research on early Islamic history and culture, formulating a theory on early Islamic urbanism. In the fall, the first presentation of these hypotheses was at the MESA meetings in San Francisco. This paper on "Patterns of Urban Organisation: Beginnings of the Islamic City" was expanded for the AIA meetings here in Chicago. This was a special session on settlements in honor of Robert Braidwood; the "dipchart" on early Islamic urbanism was prepared for this occasion (see *Aqaba*, fig. 2, above).

One spin-off of this study was a new appreciation of early Islamic Jerusalem; these ideas were presented at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in the spring. Shortly thereafter, Don presented a paper to the Byzantine workshop on campus on al-Muqaddasi's description of Constantinople in the tenth century. Later in the spring, he attended a colloquium on the Fatimids in Paris and then went to Copenhagen, where he gave a keynote lecture on the early Islamic period for the Seventh Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan.

This year Don also began an intensive study of the settlement patterns in late Antiquity and early Islamic times in the Negev. In addition, as the number of students interested in Byzantine and Islamic archaeology grew, Don offered an increasing number of courses, including Late Levant, a new course on Islamic archaeology of North Africa, and Islamic ceramics.

Tony J. Wilkinson

Tony J. Wilkinson spent the months of September and early October 1997 establishing the first stages of a new Syrian project followed by another Amuq field season (see Tell Beydar Survey and Amuq reports above). In October 1997 the meeting of the East Coast Chowder and Marching Society was hosted by the Oriental Institute. This provided the opportunity to present some results of the Beydar and Amuq projects in an informal atmosphere. Much time was spent during the year working on two collaborative projects initiated to foster stronger ties between the University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory. The first grant entailed work with Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Ph.D. student Elizabeth Friedman and Principal Investigators Ercan Alp (Argonne National Laboratory) and Aslihan Yener, on sedimentary cores taken through the lake basins of the Amuq plain. This work resulted in the presentation of a talk at the 1998 meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America entitled "The Investigation of Ancient Metal Pollution By Means of Trace Element Analysis of Lake Cores." This work will re-

sult in a joint paper, assembled by Liz Friedman, on environmental change in the Amuq. In 1998 a new collaborative venture with Argonne was initiated with McGuire Gibson and John Christiansen of Argonne National Laboratory. With the slightly sinister title of "Can Archaeological Data Be Used to Generate the Next Step in Social Modeling?," this project is intended to show just how we can use the latest results from archaeological survey and textual interpretation to construct a complete cyber community of ancient Mesopotamia. Building on the modeling expertise of ANL, this work is expected to mimic a Bronze Age agricultural community. By varying the inputs of rainfall, population structure, cropping patterns, and other variables we can see whether the inhabitants were able to live a sustainable life-style, or would succumb to the vagaries of the Middle Eastern climate.

In addition to the usual round of teaching and seminars, the following talks were presented in 1997/98: "Environment and the Development of Terraced Agriculture in Highland Yemen" was presented at the International Conference on the Archaeological Heritage of Yemen in San'a, on 9–12 March 1998. On 9 May 1998, Wilkinson was one of a group from the Oriental Institute who presented for the University of Chicago Alumni Association at Winnetka, Illinois at Archaeology for the New Millennium. This talk was entitled "Archaeology and the Landscape: New Approaches to Field Archaeology." On 19 June he attended a meeting of specialists and policy makers devoted to the subject of "Combating Desertification: America's Role in Ensuring the Future," sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution International Center. Building upon recent Oriental Institute archaeological surveys from Yemen and northern Syria, a paper was presented on the subject of "Human Settlement and Desertification in the Middle East: A Long-Term Perspective from Archaeology." At the plenary session of the Rencontre Assyriologique at Harvard on 5 July, a paper was presented on the subject of "Linking Texts and Archaeological Survey." Many of us pay lip service to the subject of matching archaeological and textual information, but the interface between the two fields remains fraught with problems. This paper attempted to show that archaeological survey can be effective in the interpretation of toponyms, in the recognition of specific features of local geography alluded to in the Nuzi texts, and at a more general level by providing valuable contextual information relating to the Mari texts. Finally a paper on settlement and the development of Yemeni terraced agriculture was delivered at the Seminar for Arabian Studies (15–18 July 1998), in London. Thinking that perhaps Wilkinson needed something to fill in his spare time, in 1997 *PaléOrient* nominated him to its Scientific Committee, a task that involves reviewing a range of manuscripts to be published in the journal *PaléOrient*.

The following papers appeared in 1997/98: "A Preliminary Late Quaternary Chronology for the High Plateau of Yemen," in *Geoarchaeology* 12 (1998); "The History of the Lake of Antioch: A Preliminary Note" in *Crossing Boundaries and Linking Horizons: Studies in Honor of Michael C. Astour on His 80th Birthday*, edited by G. Young, M. Chavalas, R. Averbeck; "Human-environment Interactions in the Highlands of Yemen" in *Festschrift for Beatrice de Cardi*, edited by S. Seawright, C. Phillips, and D. Potts; and "Southwest Arabia during the Holocene: Recent Archaeological Developments. (with C. Edens) in *Journal of World Prehistory*.

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K. Aslihan Yener

In 1997 **K. Aslihan Yener** was promoted to Associate Professor of Archaeology in the Oriental Institute, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. The third season of work at the Amuq Valley Regional Project in the Hatay, Turkey directed by Yener took place in fall 1997 together with Tony Wilkinson, who led the geoarchaeological investigations. The survey and work in the Amuq became the background for a seminar on the Amuq in the second millennium BC taught in the Winter Quarter 1998. The work in the Amuq was funded by the National Geographic Society, the Institute of Aegean Prehistory, and the Oriental Institute. The Samuel H. Kress Foundation gave a conservation grant for establishing advanced archaeological conservation at the sites of Tells Kurdu and Domuztepe in Turkey. Yener was awarded a Fulbright scholar award to render operational the Amuq Regional Project, which will entail staying in Ankara and Antakya for a quarter. Tasks to be undertaken include the construction of a dighouse and conservation facilities and participation in the reorganization of the prehistory galleries in the Antakya Archaeological Museum. Yener delivered three papers on the third Amuq Valley season: "The 1997 Oriental Institute Amuq Valley Projects" at the 1998 meetings of the International Symposium of Excavations, Surveys, and Archaeometry, 25–30 May, Tarsus, Turkey; "Excavations and Survey in the Plain of Antioch: The Oriental Institute Amuq Regional Project 1995–1997" at the First Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, Rome, 18–23 May 1998; and at the Chowder and Marching Society October meeting in Chicago at the Oriental Institute. As part of the Archaeological Institute of America lecture series, Yener delivered papers on the "Excavations on the Plain of Antioch (Amuq) Revisited" at Lynchburg, Randolph-Macon College, Greensboro and Chapel Hill in the spring.

In addition to overseeing current operations in the field and planning future excavation strategy, Yener continued her work in the Amuq on the description and analysis of the materials of past excavations that date to the fifth and fourth millennia BC — especially the metals housed in the Oriental Institute Museum. Having established a successful joint collaborative project with Argonne National Laboratory last year, she was delighted to learn that the grant was renewed for a second year. With the construction of the University of Chicago beamlines at the Advanced Photon Source (APS) and Argonne beamlines, synchrotron radiation became available to the Oriental Institute. The knowledge of how to benefit from modern x-ray techniques is now being transferred to a new group, the archeological community. By organizing pilot experiments, and training graduate students in these modern techniques, interaction between x-ray experimenters and archeologists has been established. Our graduate students and colleagues are now utilizing the APS facilities and other instrumental techniques such as the scanning electron microscope (SEM) available at the University of Chicago. They constitute the vanguards of a departmental field specialization now being developed in scientific techniques and archaeology. To that end Yener taught a seminar in Metal Technology and Social Organization: The Anthropology of Technology and will be developing jointly taught courses with the Geophysics Department. The potentials to archaeology of instrumental analysis was presented to a workshop held in Oakbrook for the University of

Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory teams who won the collaborative project grants.

A new and very exciting initiative for Yener is work towards establishing a Science and Technology Center (STC) based on archaeology. A workshop on the use of modern scientific analytical methods in archaeology at Argonne National Laboratory was a huge success and paved the way for a successful preproposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF). Out of hundreds of applicants, we were part of the short list of forty-four of which ten will be funded. Called the Center for the Study of Ancient Technology and the Environment (CSATE), if funded it will be housed at the Oriental Institute and has as its mandate high-tech analysis of archaeological materials including metals, minerals, and organic materials. It includes physical scientists and archeologists associated with the University of Chicago, Argonne National Laboratory, the Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Missouri University Research Reactor center, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and a number of other institutions. Yener spoke at the August 1997 workshop entitled "Shedding Light on the Past: Synchrotron X-Rays and Archaeology" at the Argonne National Laboratory. In the spring, Yener spoke at the University of Chicago Alumni Association program, delivering "Beam Me Up Scotty: Science-Based Archaeology." The work at the APS and the techniques being developed were featured in a front page article "Argonne Taps Relic's Ancient Secrets," by William Mullen in the *Chicago Tribune* (13 April 1998).

In addition to regular teaching and committee work during the academic year, Yener devoted as much time as possible to the further research and writing necessary to continue working on the analysis of archaeological materials from Göltepe and Kestel. These include: K. A. Yener, H. Özbal, L. Barnes, R. H. Brill, and E. C. Joel, "Anatolian Metal Trade and Lead Isotope Analysis," *XXXIV^{eme} Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Istanbul, July 6-10, 1987*, pp. 547-564 (Ankara: Turk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları, 1988); A. Adriaens, K. A. Yener, and F. Adams, "An Analytical Study Using Electron and Ion Microscopy of Thin-Walled Crucibles from Göltepe, Turkey," *Proceedings of the International Archaeometry Conference, Urbana, Journal of Archaeological Science* (in press); and A. Adriaens, K. A. Yener, F. Adams, and R. Levi-Setti, "SIMS Analyses of Ancient Ceramic Crucibles and Slags from Turkey," in A. Benninghoven, B. Hagenhoff, and H. W. Werner, eds., *Tenth International Conference on Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry SIMS X*, 877-80 (Chichester and New York: Wiley & Sons, 1997). Several articles are in press or in preparation: A. Adriaens, K. A. Yener, and F. Adams "Tin Bronze Metallurgy in Transformation: Analytical Investigation of Crucible Fragments from Tell al-Judaidah, Amuq, Turkey dated to circa 3000-2900 BC," *Journal of Archaeological Science* (in preparation); and A. Adriaens, P. Veny, F. Adams, R. Sporcken, P. Louette, B. Earl, and K. A. Yener, "Analytical Investigation of Archaeological Powders from Göltepe, Turkey," *Archaeometry* (in preparation).

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COMPUTER LABORATORY**John C. Sanders and Peggy M. Sanders**

The Computer Laboratory participated in the development of two grant proposals this past year, both of which were successful and will lead to very interesting and important results.

Less Commonly Taught Languages — Mellon Grant

A group of distinguished language teachers and scholars of foreign languages at four universities — the University of Michigan, the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and the University of Wisconsin — has been awarded a four-year grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to adapt the most recent developments in computer technology to new modes of instruction for the teaching of three less commonly taught languages.

As one part of this project, Oriental Institute Professor Janet H. Johnson, working in collaboration with Terry G. Wilfong and Janet E. Richards of the University of Michigan, will develop an entirely new type of reader in Middle Egyptian that will be offered to students at the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan, and later to students at all four participating institutions. Colleagues at Northwestern University (Richard Lepine) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Magdalena Hauner) will produce a two-year Swahili language and culture course, and colleagues at the University of Michigan (Peter Hook, Tahsin Siddiqi) and the University of Chicago (Mithilesh Mishra) will develop a three-year sequence of lessons in Hindi language and culture. These three languages were chosen because of their diversity, representing as they do different language groups from different parts of the world and presenting very different problems to the scholar, teacher, and student.

As the Oriental Institute's leader in this project, Jan Johnson, working in conjunction with the Computer Laboratory, will create an interactive, platform-independent web-based unified grammar and reader built on a database of approximately 30 representative Middle Egyptian texts (literary, religious, autobiographical, legal) involving thousands of lines of hieroglyphs. Each text will be identified by date, type of text, place of origin of the text, current provenience of the original text, and basic bibliography about the text; cultural and background material (textual and visual) will be provided wherever possible. There will also be linkages to archaeological and historical information. This reader could form the basis for an introductory sequence in Middle Egyptian or could be used as a supplement at all levels of instruction. The authors will also develop a cross-grammatical concordance based on the reader. Both of these innovative projects will provide invaluable tools for the study of this important ancient language to faculty, students, and amateur Egyptologists alike.

The long range goal of this project is to enable us to employ technology in innovative ways to rethink the relationship between student and teacher, the difference between classroom learning and distance learning, and the differences between self-

paced instruction and instruction that follows the academic calendar. The goal is to create a new paradigm for language instruction, one that can be adapted to a variety of languages in the future.

Argonne Collaborative Grant

The University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) recently awarded Oriental Institute Professor McGuire Gibson and Research Associate (Associate Professor) Tony Wilkinson, and ANL scientist John H. Christiansen a two-year collaborative grant to examine interactions between human communities in the ancient Near East, the environment, and social processes by means of a computer modeling framework developed by the Decision and Information Sciences Division of ANL.

Archaeology provides a wide range of millennia-long data relevant to the growth of complex society, but archaeologists have no techniques for successfully manipulating these multiple data sets to see how such societies developed. ANL has developed an innovative computer modeling framework that can support simulation of dynamically coupled cultural and environmental systems but lacks long-run data to test such models. This two-year collaborative grant seeks to devise means to combine our respective capabilities in order to open up a new arena for future developments in social modeling and Near Eastern civilization studies.

Examples of complex, coupled social/natural system scenarios capable of solution in the long-term by using the innovative computer modeling framework developed at ANL include:

1. Models of agricultural production and urbanization in marginal agricultural areas.
2. Upstream-downstream models in which upstream communities disrupt water supply or initiate unacceptable environmental disturbances that negatively effect downstream communities.
3. Large-scale impacts of settlement, climate, and agriculture on the environment and biological resources of marginal areas, i.e., desertification.

Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions Project

The Computer Laboratory is cooperating with Professors Gene Gragg and Matthew Stolper in the development of the Oriental Institute's first searchable database accessible via our website to scholars, students, and the public world-wide. The aim of the Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions project is to create an electronic study edition of the inscriptions of the Achaemenid Persian kings in all of their versions — Old Persian, Elamite, Akkadian, and, where appropriate, Aramaic and Egyptian.

Each edition of a text is presented in transliteration, accompanied by translations, glossaries, grammatical indexes, basic bibliographic apparatus, basic text critical apparatus, and some graphic apparatus (e.g., plans indicating provenience of the inscriptions, images of exemplars). Each text is available for downloading and printing.

This first stage of the project, which went on line in spring 1998, presents the inscriptions from Persepolis and nearby Naqsh-e Rostam, where the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago carried out excavations between 1931 and 1939.

RESEARCH

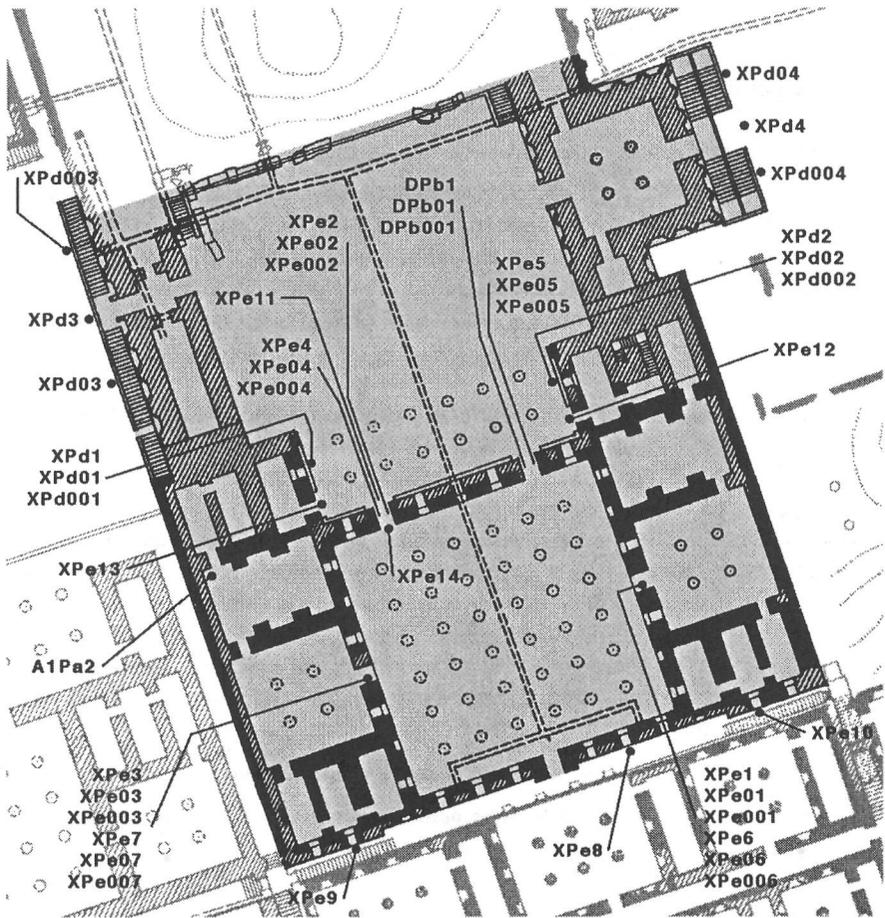


Figure 1. Plan of Palace of Xerxes at Persepolis. Inscription names and positions are located on building plan

Giza Plateau Mapping Project

Construction of the Giza Plateau computer model continues under the direction of Mark Lehner, a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Oriental Institute. Peggy Sanders, an independent computer graphics specialist with Archaeological Graphics Services, continues to build the three-dimensional model of the Giza Plateau and its architecture.

This past year work focused on the architectural components of the Giza pyramids. One by one, each of the architectural models is being created with accurate, three-dimensional details from published maps, survey, and excavation reports. Models have now been completed for the following monuments: Khafre Mortuary Temple, Khafre Valley Temple, the Sphinx Temple; Menkaure Mortuary Temple, Menkaure Valley Temple; the interior chambers of the Khafre and Menkaure pyramids, and the interior chambers and temples of the Queens' pyramids for both the Khafre and Menkaure pyramids.

When all of the architectural components are complete, we will begin texture mapping of appropriate materials to various surfaces in the model and superimpose scanned images of wall reliefs and inscriptions onto the appropriate surfaces of the Giza monuments. Modeling and rendering software will be used to create "walk-through" sequences. We hope the analytical and educational potential of this database will eventually result in a superior product.

For those who like technical details of computer hardware and software, the computer model has been constructed, since February 1997, on a Dell OptiPlex GXpro, 200MHz with 128 MB RAM, using AutoCAD Release 14. The entire database is approximately 35 MB and growing.

Map Series

The Map Series is a new electronic publication of the Computer Laboratory on the Institute's website. The first installment of the Map Series went on line in spring 1998 and displays seven site maps covering the ancient Near East (Egypt, Sudan, Levant, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran), locating primary archaeological sites, modern cities, and river courses set against a plain background. All site maps are simple conic projections at the same scale and orientation. Future versions of the map series will include terrain relief as a background for each of the seven site maps, one version colored for elevation and a second version colored for vegetation, as well as latitude and longitude (graticule) lines.

The Map Series was produced from map projection, terrain relief, and cartographic data in the Mountain High Maps product, by Digital Wisdom, Inc., of Tappahannock, Virginia.

Epigraphic Survey Photographic Negative Database Program

In its first season of use the Epigraphic Survey's new photographic negatives database management program performed very well, to the delight of the staff based on their telephone and fax communications from Chicago House during their 1997/98 season.

One of the last instructions I gave the Epigraphic Survey staff as they packed up and headed back to Chicago House in September 1997 was to really test the database management program in its first year of use, to try to "break" the program so that we could find its faults and fine tune it to their needs. A few minor glitches that appeared at the very beginning of its use were able to be fixed in the field because Jason Ur, a Mesopotamian archaeology student in the department who wrote the actual FoxPro source code for the database program, was in Egypt in January 1998 to excavate at Giza with Dr. Mark Lehner. He made a short visit to Chicago House and fixed most of the early problems with the program.

To make a long story short, the staff continued to use the program throughout the season and discovered a few more problems, returning to Chicago in April 1998 with many requests to have this feature added and this feature changed in some small way. They did exactly what we asked them to do, and in one case they even exceeded our expectations. Much to the surprise of both myself and Jason they found a way to duplicate records, something we both thought to be impossible. In the world of computer software writing, however, these events are all for the good,

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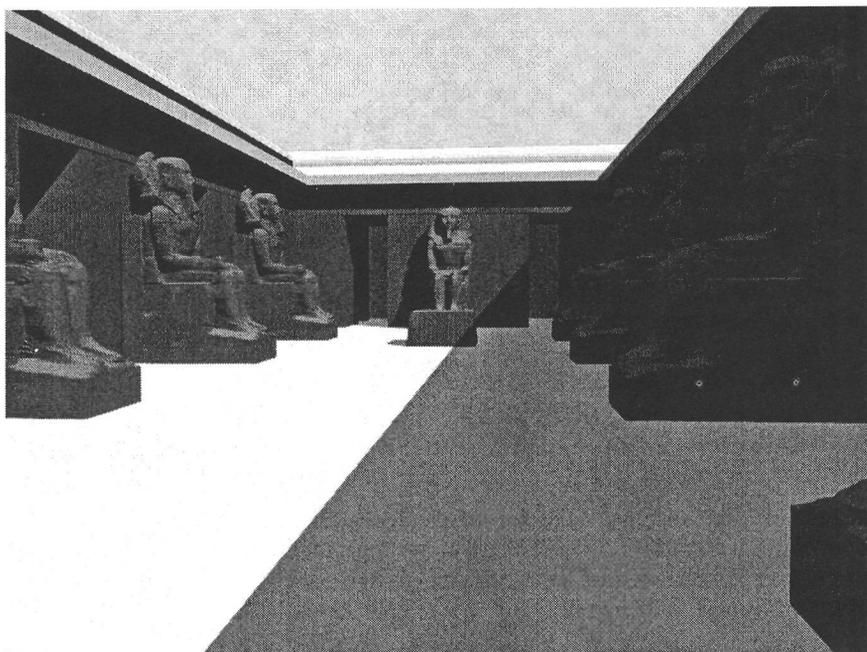


Figure 2. *Computer reconstruction of Sphinx Temple at Giza. View of courtyard with larger-than-life Khafre statues in place*

as they will help Jason to fix certain “bugs,” or mistakes, in the program, and in general to clean up the way the program presents itself to the Epigraphic Survey staff.

These corrections are being made as this publication goes to press, so once again check back in next year’s *Annual Report* to see how the new, improved version of the database management program functioned in its second year of use at Chicago House.

Conservation Laboratory Photographic Database Program

Laura D’Alessandro, Head of the Conservation Laboratory, asked the Computer Laboratory in winter 1998 to write a database management program to organize and provide an efficient query capability for the thousands of photographs (both prints and slides, color and black/white) that have been taken by the Conservation Laboratory’s staff or Institute photographer, Jean Grant, during the ongoing building renovation project. As with the Epigraphic Survey database program described above, the overall program structure and file formats were developed by John Sanders, and Jason Ur, a Mesopotamian archaeology student in the Department with experience developing FoxPro applications, was hired to write the actual source code. The database will start to be used by Laura, Barbara, and Susan in late summer 1998, so check back in next year’s *Annual Report* to see how the new database management program is functioning for the Conservation Laboratory.

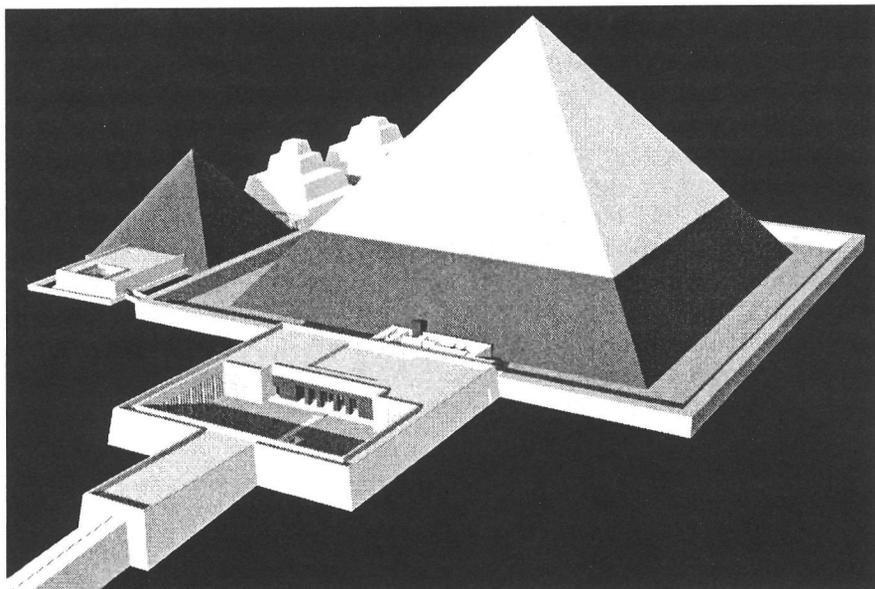


Figure 3. Computer reconstruction of Menkaure Mortuary Temple, Menkaure Pyramid, and Queen's Pyramids complex at Giza. Aerial view from northeast

Isthmia Project

The multi-phased three-dimensional computer model of the ancient site of Isthmia (Greece) is nearly complete, and Peggy Sanders continues to produce a variety of images in slide or print form for lectures and reports by Prof. Elizabeth Gebhard (University of Chicago Department of Classics). Before Prof. Gebhard left to spend the summer in Edinburgh and Greece, we began to develop a plan to link the long-standing Isthmia computer database of artifacts and features with our AutoCAD plans of the excavation trenches. Also continuing, albeit at a slower pace in recent months, is the development of the Isthmia website. The agenda for the website is to report on excavation of the nearby Rachi settlement.

Getty Museum

Peggy Sanders made another trip to the Getty Museum in Malibu, California in October 1997. She spent one week drawing pottery for the Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum (CVA) series. For the most part, the drawings included Etruscan vessels for a second volume being written by Dr. Richard de Puma from the University of Iowa.

Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Website

In an effort to offer accurate course listings on the University of Chicago's Humanities website, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) asked Peggy Sanders to update its web pages, which now include a complete course schedule and course descriptions for the forthcoming 1998/99 Fall, Winter, and Spring Quarters.

RESEARCH**Laboratory Equipment and Institute Resources**

In late summer 1997, the Computer Laboratory purchased a new high performance IBM-compatible computer system. A 200MHz Dell 6200 OptiPlex GXPro, with 128 MB RAM and 6 GB disc storage, this PentiumPro-based graphics workstation will be used for archaeological database development and as a second image processing workstation for the Laboratory. This computer system is also the host for the Laboratory's new Nikon LS-1000 35 mm slide scanner, acquired as part of a 1996 Technology Enhancement grant from the University's Office of the Provost. As expected, the slide scanner has been in demand by several projects in the Institute. Everyone who has used the scanner has been impressed with the quality of digital images it produces from 35 mm slides, and how easy and fast the scanning procedures are with this piece of equipment. As predicted in the *1996/97 Annual Report*, a sign-up sheet is required and the line forms in the hallway, please.

World-Wide Website

For further information concerning several of the above mentioned research projects, the Institute's World-Wide Web (WWW) database, and other electronic resources in general, see *Electronic Resources*, below.

The Oriental Institute, in general, and the Computer Laboratory in particular, lost a good friend with the passing of Mr. William Pattison. A warm and caring individual, Bill was always willing to listen and contribute to the comings and goings of the Institute with a positive outlook and energy to burn. His efforts on behalf of public education and his overall love on life will be greatly missed.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Charles E. Jones and John C. Sanders

Introduction

During spring 1998, the Oriental Institute's website achieved the venerable age of four years. About a year after the site went public, we proudly announced that we were getting about thirteen thousand hits each week; a year later, just after the second anniversary, usage had increased to about thirty thousand hits per week; at this time last year we were reporting that we had passed the seventy-five thousand hits per week mark, and now we can claim that our average weekly total is well above one hundred thousand hits.

Following are some thoughts about these statistics. We experienced a noticeable drop in usage following the end of the academic year. This drop appears to be con-

nected with usage from schools and colleges. While is not clear whether such usage is as a part of curriculum, or simply because access is easier from well-networked institutions, or a combination of the two, a significant proportion of our hits come from that sector. While our site has grown steadily, it is the pool of users around the world that has grown more significantly. Through our website we are able to give access to materials at the Oriental Institute to "visitors" who would never have had the opportunity to visit us in person, or who might now choose to visit us when the museum reopens, having had the opportunity to discover us beforehand on the web. Websites everywhere have exploded with complexity and are buried under the weight of advertising. The Oriental Institute's presence remains strictly non-commercial, and while we have some reasonably complex components, such as the Royal Achaemenid Inscriptions Project pages and the Virtual Museum, we have not given in to the temptation to dazzle viewers with a complex and slow loading home page.

As always, the future of electronic resource management looks exciting. Newly breaking developments in programming offer opportunities for access to materials that we barely conceived of only a few years ago. As outlined in other pages in this *Annual Report*, many developing projects at the Institute have electronic components as integral parts of the data collection, analysis, and presentation. With the promise of such things, we fully expect the future growth of the Oriental Institute's Electronic Resources to outstrip the past.

Internet Gateways

Ancient Near East (ANE) Mailing List

The ANE mailing lists continue to be among the primary electronic media uniting scholars and the interested public world-wide in the study of the ancient civilizations. The ANE, ANENEWS, ANE-Digest, and ANENEWS-Digest lists currently have between 1,400 and 1,500 subscribers world-wide, with a daily average of 10 mailings to each subscriber and a peak output of 20–25 messages. A wide range of topics are discussed on the ANE list: new discoveries and publications in the field, public debate on controversial issues of policy and scholarship, job placement information, and other musings by subscribers.

To subscribe to the ANE mailing list, send an electronic mail (email) message to: majordomo@oi.uchicago.edu

In the body of your email message, include one of the following lines:

subscribe ane
 subscribe anenews
 subscribe ane-digest
 subscribe anenews-digest

You will receive a return email immediately confirming your subscription. We welcome either active or passive participation.

The Computer Laboratory and the Research Archives collaborate in the running of the ANE discussion group. John Sanders oversees the Majordomo computer program that automates the routine administration of Internet mailing lists and Charles Jones administrates the ANE list itself.

RESEARCH**Oriental Institute World-Wide Web Database**

In an effort to make finding information on our website easier and more efficient, the Public Programs pages were redesigned in winter 1997. They now allow access to all of our documents by means of a database searchable by keyword, author, or title. Try out our new searchable Table of Contents at (note: all web addresses below are case-sensitive):

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/OI_Public_Programs.html

Projects

Several Oriental Institute projects developed new website presence's or updated existing pages with new information during the past year.

1. Chicago House Bulletin. Epigraphic Survey

Twelve Chicago House Bulletins (January 1994 through August 1997) are now available.

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/EPI/Epigraphic.html>

2. Thebes Photographic Project. Thomas Van Eynde

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/TVE_TPP/TVE_TPP.html

3. The Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions Project. Matthew W. Stolper

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/ARI/ARI.html>

4. The Giza Plateau Mapping Project. Mark Lehner

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/COMP/GIZ/MODEL/Giza_Model2.html

5. Qadmoniot and the 'Yahad' Claim. Norman Golb

Comments on recent article in *Qadmoniot* 30 (114) 1997/98: 134–36.

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/PROJ/SCR/Yahad.html>

Museum

All of the museum's Highlights from the Collections pages were reformatted to improve the presentation of artifacts and for security reasons:

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/HIGH/OI_Museum_Highlights.html

Museum Education now has Electronic Registration via the Institute's website for their events and activities:

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/ED/Mus_Ed_Reg_Elec.html

Research Archives

Recommended Reading on the Ancient Near East: Guide to Introductory Readings on Ancient Near Eastern World:

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/RECREAD/REC_READ.html

Dissertation Proposals

Dissertation Proposals in ancient Near Eastern Studies approved by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago:

1. Socioeconomic Organization of Metalworkers During Late Bronze Period at Ugarit. Jill Ashley Fine

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/DISPROP/Fine_diss.html

2. Technological Style in Early Bronze Age Anatolia. Elizabeth S. Friedman

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/DISPROP/Friedman_diss.html

3. Structural Analysis of Ben Sira 40:11–44:15. Eric Reymond

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/DISPROP/Reymond_diss.html

Computer Laboratory

First installment of Oriental Institute Map Series:

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/MAP/ANE_Maps.html

Membership and Development

In late 1997 the Membership and Development Offices unveiled an electronic membership renewal and subscription option and a page for electronic pledges. Please see the following pages for more information:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/MEM/Membership.html>

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/DEV/Development.html>

Publications Office

Brief synopses of each publication in the Publication's Office Catalog were added:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/CATALOG/Catalog.html>

Annual Report

The entirety of the text and images of the *1996/97 Annual Report*, including some 52 articles and 88 illustrations, is now on line:

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/AR/96-97/96-97_AR_TOC.html

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PUBLICATIONS

Thomas A. Holland

The staff of the Publications Office remained unchanged: Thomas Holland and Thomas Urban in the Editorial Office and Christopher Kahrl in the Sales Office. Two Education Office Volunteers, Irv Diamond and Roy Miller, helped out in various capacities on several projects during the year.

In addition to publishing four new volumes, one of which was a joint publication with Ghent and Harvard University (*Dating the Fall of Babylon*), Ritner's *Ancient Egyptian Magical Practice* (SAOC 54) and three volumes of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary were reprinted. With assistance from the Membership Office, we printed and distributed over 1,500 copies of a new publications catalog that quickly paid for itself by increasing interest in our titles and sales. Chris Kahrl notes that sales approached \$110,000 for the year. Tom Urban continues to work with Lloyd Anderson of Ecological Linguistics on new fonts, this year with an eye to cross-platform compatibility; Tom's computer has a PC-card with Windows 95 that allows him to test fonts instantaneously.

Table of Sales

<i>Series</i>	<i>Number of Volumes Sold</i>
Assyriological Studies (AS)	216
Chicago Assyrian Dictionary (CAD)	420
Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD)	410
Materials and Studies for Kassite History (MSKH)	10
Oriental Institute Communications (OIC)	19
Oriental Institute Museum Publications (OIMP)	8
Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition (OINE)	109
Oriental Institute Publications (OIP)	472
Oriental Institute Special Publications (OISP)	16
Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization (SAOC)	711
Miscellaneous*	103
	TOTAL 2,494

*Volumes published jointly with other institutions:

Uch Tepe I: Tell Razuk, Tell Ahmed al-Mughir, Tell Ajamat. McG. Gibson, ed.

Uch Tepe II: Technical Reports. McG. Gibson, ed.

Dating the Fall of Babylon: A Reappraisal of Second-Millennium Chronology.

H. Gasche et al.

Volumes Printed

1. *The Presentation of Maat: Ritual and Legitimacy in Ancient Egypt*. E. Teeter. SAOC 57 (1997)
2. *The Hittite Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. Volume P, fascicle 3 (pattar to putkiya-)*. H. G. Güterbock and H. A. Hoffner, Jr., eds. (fascicle P/3 in soft cover and fascicles P/1–3 in hard cover; 1997)
3. *Dating the Fall of Babylon: A Reappraisal of Second-Millennium Chronology*. H. Gasche, J. A. Armstrong, S. W. Cole, and V. G. Gurzadyan. (A Joint Ghent-Chicago-Harvard Project; 1998)
4. *Cuneiform Texts from the Ur III Period in the Oriental Institute, Volume 1: Drehem Administrative Documents from the Reign of Šulgi*. M. Hilgert. OIP 115 (1998)

Volumes Reprinted

1. *The Mechanics of Ancient Egyptian Magical Practice*. R. K. Ritner. SAOC 54 (third printing, 1997)
2. *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Volume A, Part 1* (fourth printing, 1998)
3. *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Volume B* (fourth printing, 1998)
4. *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Volume Z* (fourth printing, 1998)

Volumes in Preparation

1. *Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple, Volume 2: The Facade, Portals, Upper Register Scenes, Columns, Marginalia, and Statuary in the Colonnade Hall*. The Epigraphic Survey. OIP 116
2. *Seal Impressions on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets, Part 1: Images of Heroic Encounter*. M. B. Garrison and M. C. Root. OIP 117
3. *Gold of Praise: Studies in Ancient Egypt in Honor of Edward F. Wente*. E. Teeter and J. Larson, eds. SAOC 58

Manuscripts Accepted for Publication

1. *Bir Umm Fawakhir: A Byzantine Gold-Mining Town, Survey Project 1993*. C. Meyer, L. Heidorn, W. Kaegi, and T. Wilfong.
2. *Theban Desert Road Survey, Volume 1: Rock Inscriptions of Gebel Tjauti, Part 1*. J. C. Darnell and D. Darnell.
3. *Scarabs, Scaraboids, Seals, and Seal Impressions from Medinet Habu*. E. Teeter.
4. *Demotic Egyptian Texts in the Brooklyn Museum of Art*. Joint Publication of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. G. R. Hughes.

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5. *Studies in the Archaeology of Israel and Neighboring Lands in Memory of Douglas L. Esse*. S. Wolff, ed.
 6. *Excavations at the Prehistoric Mound of Chogha Bonut, Khuzestan, Iran: Seasons of 1976–1978 and 1996*. A. Alizadeh.
 7. *Cuneiform Texts from the Ur III Period in the Oriental Institute, Volume 2: Drehem Administrative Documents from the Reign of Amar-Suena*. M. Hilgert.
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RESEARCH ARCHIVES

Charles E. Jones

The past year has seen fundamental changes in the physical makeup of the Research Archives. A year ago as I sat writing an annual report, I could see the workmen in the courtyard finishing the outer structure of the new wing. This year, I sit looking at the now familiar blue dormer out the same window, but I sit in the cool silence of the air-conditioned Reading Room. It is astonishing how much more pleasurable the experience is this year.

The completion of the library phase of the renovation and building project has had two areas of profound effect. Environmentally, we now have a constant comfortable temperature and a constant comfortable level of relative humidity. In addition we have much less dust as a consequence of the constant circulation of the air, and much less noise as a consequence of the closed windows. These improvements will help to protect and preserve the collections of the library and the humors of its users. We are already experiencing an increase in the number of visiting scholars who choose the summer to schedule their visits. We expect that the number of such visitors will continue to increase as word gets around that climate control is effective in the Research Archives.

The second area of major change is in the organization of the collections. In early spring we received the space in the new wing, constructed the new book stacks and began to move the monograph collection (formerly kept on the short stacks and built-in stacks of the Reading Room) into the new wing. We then removed the short stacks from the Reading Room floor (preserving many of them for reuse in the new basement Archaeology Laboratories), reclaimed two tables from the Museum Preparation Shop, and moved the series collection from the upper level into the built-in cases of the Reading Room. We managed to complete these phases of the reconfiguration just prior to the Annual Dinner in May, when we hosted a reception in the Reading Room, allowing a preview of the renovations. As it currently stands, the Reading Room has eight of the original ten large oak tables and seating for

sixty-four. The reconfiguration also allows us to double the space between the tables which had become unacceptably cramped and claustrophobic because of the creeping addition of shelving. A fortuitous result of the moving of the tables makes four of them now accessible to electrical outlets — a real help for users of laptop computers.

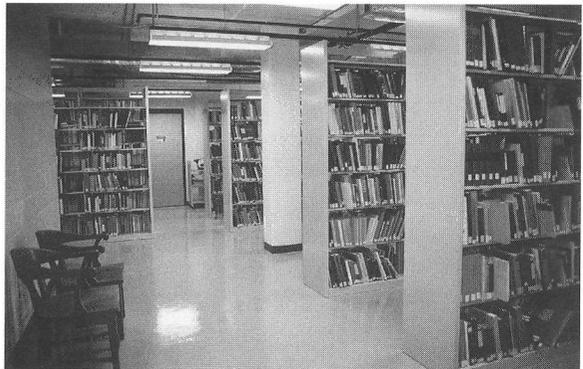


New book stacks room in Research Archives with shelving in boxes. Photograph by Jean Grant

As the summer progresses, we continue to move other components of the collections into their planned configuration. Periodicals will remain where there are (with some slight reorganization and replacement of shelving). The large and important pamphlet file and microfilm collection, currently so cramped as to be almost unusable, will move upstairs into one of the suite of rooms formerly housing the series. The map collection will also move into that space. With the map collection we will gather and assemble the now widely dispersed map, atlas, and geographical resources, making them accessible and usable in a controlled space for the first time ever. In the spaces vacated by the pamphlet collection and the map files on the lower level, we will assemble several other currently dispersed units of the collections, most significant among these being the bibliographical resources.

The reconfiguration made possible by the renovation and building project has already made the Research Archives a much more comfortable, collegial, and productive place to work. The completion of the changes during the summer and fall will have similar effects and will help to make major components of our unique collections fully accessible.

It is, of course, through the generosity of donors to the Legacy Campaign that all of this has come to pass. In honor of the generous support of the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts, the Reading Room of the Research Archives will be named The Elizabeth Morse Genius Reading Room and recognized with a sign and plaque. We continue to work towards completing the challenge grant generously offered by the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts that will allow us to restore the lighting in the Reading Room and provide electrical and network wiring access to each of the tables.



New book stacks room in Research Archives with shelving assembled. Photograph by Jean Grant

RESEARCH

On-line Catalogue And Retrospective Cataloguing Project

At the time of writing, the on-line catalogue of the holdings of the Research Archives includes 81,872 records. It is up to date for main entries for all materials acquired through the end of May 1998. The total represents a net increase of well over five thousand records during the past year. We have spent considerable effort in editing the database, in cleaning data, adding information, removing useless or redundant information, and in making the database work more effectively. It remains an extraordinarily powerful research tool and is increasingly useful as the depth of coverage of the collection increases.

All three of the student assistants spent major components of their working hours engaged in processing data sets for eventual inclusion in the catalogue. Much of this effort was in processing the contents of complete runs of periodicals

Complete, and in the final stages of editing preparatory to loading into the on-line catalogue, are analytical records for each essay, article, and review in the following periodicals:

Acta Orientalia — 265 records

Annales du Musée Guimet — 12 records

Aula Orientalis — 277 records

Bulletin de l'Institut Française d'Archéologie Orientale, Cairo — 1,204 records

Egitto e Vicino Oriente — 181 records

Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society — 238 records

Journal of the Manchester Egyptian and Oriental Society — 173 records

Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society — 417 records

Kemi — 184 records

Mesopotamia — 243 records

Mizraim — 68 records

Orientalia Suecana — 180 records

Revue d'Égyptologie — 955 records

Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache — 2,829 records

In addition we have nearly completed the following:

Chronique d'Égypte — 2,821 records

Recueil de Travaux — 389 records

In addition we have processed 9,429 records of analytical records from material acquired during the past year.

Total number of analytical records prepared for entry in 1996/97 is 19,865 records.

Publications

The Research Archives published six electronic items during the past year.

1. *Abzu: Guide to Resources for the Study of the Ancient Near East Available on the Internet*, by Charles E. Jones. Chicago: The Oriental Institute Research Archives; 1994–1997. Oriental Institute Research Archives Bibliographical and In-

formational Documents: Supplements to Oriental Institute Research Archives Acquisitions List, vol. 3. Available exclusively on line

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/ABZU.HTML>

With over a thousand new entries in the past year, Abzu remains the most complete index to on-line materials relating to the ancient Near East.

2. Socioeconomic Organization of Metalworkers During Late Bronze Period at Ugarit. Jill Ashley Fine.

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/DISPROP/Fine_diss.html

3. Technological Style in Early Bronze Age Anatolia. Elizabeth S. Friedman.

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/DISPROP/Friedman_diss.html

4. Structural Analysis of Ben Sira 40:11–44:15. Eric Reymond.

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/DISPROP/Reymond_diss.html

5. Egypt and Ancient Near East: Web Resources for Young People and Teachers. Alexandra A. O'Brien

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/ABZU/YOUTH_RESOURCES.HTML

6. *Recommended Reading on the Ancient Near East: Guide to Introductory Readings on the Ancient Near Eastern World.* Collaborative publication of Research Archives of the Oriental Institute, Oriental Institute Museum, and Oriental Institute Museum Education Program

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/RECREAD/REC_READ.html

Current Acquisitions

Following are the acquisitions statistics for the past year

	<u>April 1997–March 1998</u>	<u>Total</u>
Monographs and Series	796	22,751
Journals	204	9,466
Total Books	1,000	32,217
Pamphlets	13	

Just as the budget for the Research Archives remains constant, we have managed to maintain the level of acquisitions. That we acquired exactly one thousand volumes in the past year is mere coincidence.

I am happy to report that I continue to have the services of my three able assistants: Alexandra O'Brien, Ph.D. Candidate in Egyptology; Justine Way, graduate student in Egyptian and Near Eastern Archaeology; and Hratch Papazian, graduate student in Egyptology. Each of them plays a fundamental role in the routine functioning of the Research Archives, and each of them individually has assumed responsibility for projects of fundamental importance for the development of the collections, the catalogue, and the electronic resources. In addition, they make it pos-

RESEARCH

sible for the Research Archives to be open year-round on the weekends and for extended weekday hours.

Support of the Research Archives by friends and patrons is a fundamental support for the collections. Robert D. Biggs, editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* is, as always, unparalleled in his support, as is Denise Browning, manager of the Suq. Without the support of these two individuals, the Research Archives could not exist. Many others have given of time, books, or funds. Many of you have done so anonymously. I acknowledge the names here of others who have been, and continue to be, generous with their support: Patricia C. Study, Miriam Reitz Baer, Walter and Gertrud Farber, the organizers of the book display at the annual meeting of the AIA/APA, and Gwendolyn P. and Nirmal Singh Dhesi.



CONSERVATION
PROJECT
of the
UNIVERSITY of CHICAGO
in cooperation with
the SUPREME COUNCIL of
ANTIQUITIES

MUSEUM

Overleaf. Ellen Pearlstein smoothing infill on large dyad of Amun and Mut at Colonnade Hall of Luxor Temple. Photograph by W. Raymond Johnson

MUSEUM

Karen L. Wilson

The past year was the second of actual construction for the renovation and expansion project — and, thankfully, promises to have been the last (give or take a few months). As the year drew to a close, the pace of construction activity tapered off and focused on finishing up final details on items such as the computer program that runs the climate control system. The need for hard hats dwindled, parking spaces were once again available in the back lot, and museum staff were able to begin to get back to their jobs as they were before groundbreaking on 15 August 1996. It has been an interesting, and often exciting, time for all of us, but we are very much looking forward to unpacking the collection, installing the new galleries, and opening our doors once again both to the public and to visiting colleagues from around the world.

Hectic and disruptive as the construction has been, however, it has been well worth the effort. We are delighted with both the new wing and the renovated portions of the 1931 building and with the climate control systems, which are maintaining steady temperatures and relative humidities in all of the spaces. The equipment that air conditions both Breasted Hall and the Reading Room was turned on just in time for the onslaught of summer, and the new LaSalle Banks Education Center and the Archaeology Laboratories in the renovated basement will be ready for use some time in August. None of this could ever have been accomplished without our project manager, Joseph Auclair, and his unwavering attention to every detail of the project and his unstinting drive to always obtain the best results for us. And we owe special gratitude to the other members of the Oriental Institute project team, too numerous to name individually, from the firms of Hammond Beeby & Babka, Inc., Landmark Facilities Group, Inc., and Turner Construction Company.

During the month of April, with workmen still in the galleries, we moved our monumental statue of King Tutankhamun from his old home in the shadow of the Khorsabad bull into his new location at the entrance to the new Egyptian Gallery. It was determined that the safest way to accomplish the move was to keep Tut in a vertical position, as we were unsure what structural strains would be put upon him if he were laid down horizontally. In order to move the statue vertically, it was necessary both to raise the heights of the doorway openings between the galleries and to cut the statue into two shorter pieces (figs. 1–2). The cutting was done through the statue's lower legs (which are completely modern restoration), and the move was successfully completed at the beginning of May (figs. 3–4). Tut now provides a dramatic first encounter with the new Egyptian Gallery and can, for the first time, be viewed from all sides.

MUSEUM



Figure 1. Upper portion of statue of King Tutankhamun in its reinforcing steel cradle, being moved by Belding/Walbridge through doorway into new Egyptian Gallery. Photograph by Jean Grant

Museum staff continue to work with Vinci/Hamp Architects, Inc. on the design of the new Egyptian Gallery, under the curatorship of Associate Curator Emily Tetter. Like all the new galleries, the Egyptian one will combine a chronological and a thematic approach to the materials on display. The gallery will begin with a chronology section that will highlight the most characteristic objects of each time period, showing the visitor how pottery styles, scripts, and many other aspects of ancient Egyptian culture changed over time, and giving an appreciation of the long range of that time. Following the chronology section, specific themes will be investigated, including the gods and personal religion; kingship; mummification; social structure; occupations; writing; and technology. We are extremely pleased with many aspects of the new gallery design, including the limestone and bronze cases that will add an updated touch and yet harmonize with the architec-

ture of the building; and the new system of shades for the windows, which keep out enough light to satisfy conservation's stringent standards, but still allow one to see the sky, buildings, and trees outside.

In spring 1998, as work crews vacated the basement and secure conditions were again established, museum staff began to unpack artifacts for the Egyptian Gallery. Usually, curators have the luxury of being able to see their entire collection while making selections for exhibitions, but such is not the case here, as everything was packed up during construction, and we do not have new cabinets into which to unpack the collections. As a result, Emily is relying on photographs of the old galleries, publications, and her own notes to steer her toward the best objects for exhibition.

As groups of objects are unpacked, they are examined by members of the museum staff, who advise Emily on refinements, if any, to her selection. Pieces then go on to the Conservation Laboratory, where their conservation needs are assessed and they are treated. If an object is judged to need too much work to be ready for our spring 1999 opening, a different object is selected. As this process continues, Emily is writing labels and didactic materials for the gallery, and the preparators have started to design maps and timelines. These materials will be reviewed by other members of the museum staff for both content and presentation prior to final production.

Registrar Ray Tindel and his stalwart volunteers spent the first part of 1997/98 in exile in the old Egyptian Gallery, waiting. They sat in semi-darkness surrounded by the collections — some 4,500 boxes and crates of artifacts so tightly packed that visitors almost inevitably compared the hall to the final scene in *Raiders of the Lost*

Ark — the great anonymous government warehouse in which the Ark of the Covenant was stored. Finally, early in 1998, the word came, “You can move.” There followed a couple of months of frenetic activity, during which the collections were moved into their new homes in the basement and on the first floor of the new wing and in the renovated basement of the 1931 building. Cartload after cartload of boxed artifacts and unit after unit of temporary shelving were relocated, some to the old Palestinian Hall but most to the new storage areas. At the same time, Ray and the conservators had to move everything from the old Organics and Metals storage rooms into their new homes. None of this could have been accomplished without Preparator Joe Scott (who rejoined the museum staff in September after three and a half years as Collections Manager for the Thorne Miniature Rooms, European Decorative Arts and

Sculpture at the Art Institute) and Assistant Preparator Randolph Olive. Thanks to their efforts, plus the assistance of some very able object handlers from ICON Fine Arts Services, the moves came off virtually without a hitch. This fall, Ray will move the tablet collections down from the third floor into new climate-controlled conditions. When that process is complete, every artifact in the care of the

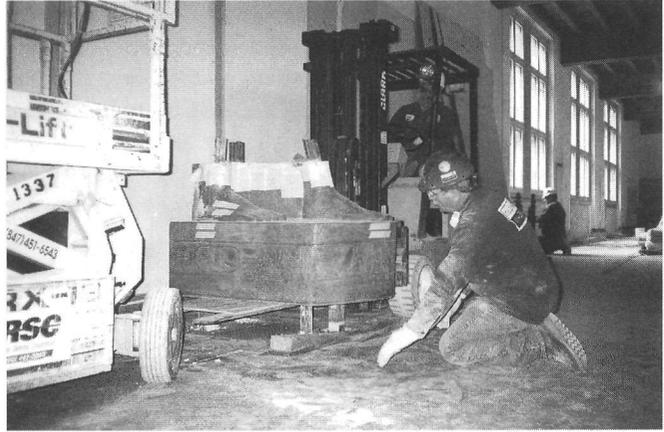


Figure 2. Bill Allison and Doug Mertes of Belding/Walbridge lifting King Tutankhamun's feet and base. Steel beams that tied statue to support in basement have been cut below floor level and are visible as base is lifted above floor. Photograph by Conservation

Oriental Institute (except for the Khorsabad bull and the monumental sculptures in the Persian Gallery) will have been moved at least once during the past three years.

Registration's new quarters are bright, clean, and well lighted, so much so that it is difficult to remember what it used to be like down there. The temperature is 68° in office and work areas and a brisk 62° in object storage areas; the relative humidity is a comfortable 45% — conditions that will be maintained year round. Ray and his crew still have an enormous amount of unpacking and reorganizing to do, but thanks to the new environmental stability, the antiquities entrusted to our care should survive to enlighten future generations for centuries to come. We are most grateful to all of those whose contributions have made this possible.

While all of this was going on, Ray and his volunteers also managed to retrieve forty-three objects from the highly successful exhibit “In the Presence of the Gods: Art from Ancient Sumer in the Collections of the Oriental Institute Museum,” which had been on display at the Smart Museum, and began processing six objects for a major international traveling exhibition organized by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

MUSEUM

In addition, during the past year the museum received two generous donations. The first, a very handsome Isin-Larsa period lapis lazuli cylinder seal from Mr. Ambrose C. Cramer of Charlottesville, Virginia, bears the inscription "Ada'a, son of Dada'a." Along with the seal, Mr. Cramer donated to the museum the original correspondence, dated 17 December 1916, between his father (also Ambrose C. Cramer) and Ludlow S. Bull, here at the University. The second donation is a very fine Coptic textile generously given by Mr. and Mrs. Issac S. Goldman of Chicago in honor of Mrs. Robert (Janet) Helman (fig. 5).

We extend our warmest thanks and most grateful appreciation to the Registry volunteers whose help has made all of this possible: Debbie Aliber, Leila Foster, Peggy Grant, Mary Grimshaw, Janet Helman, Georgie Maynard, Dick Watson, and Peggy Wick.

Conservator Laura D'Alessandro, Associate Conservator Barbara Hamann, and Contract Conservator Susan Holbrook spent most of their time this year working on the backs of the Khorsabad reliefs — cleaning, stabilizing, and cementing them prior to framing. In December, assisted by Joe and Randolph, they were able to move into their glorious new laboratory, which is four times the size of the old one and incomparably cleaner and more fully equipped (fig. 6). In May, Laura, Barbara, and Susan were proud to show off their new digs when they hosted a meeting of the

local Chicago Area Conservation Group.

Beginning in April, Conservation's main task was working with Belding/Walbridge to move King Tutankhamun (figs. 1–3). They have now begun the process of restoring the parts that were removed for the move (fig. 4). In addition, thanks to Laura's grant-writing capabilities, the museum received two grants: an IMLS Conservation Project Support Grant to be used to purchase new storage cabinets for the Mesopotamian collection, as well as 2 HEPA-filter vacuums and archival storage supplies; and a Getty Postgraduate Internship award to support two sequential one-year post-graduate conservation training internships. We are all extremely excited that, as a result of the Getty's generos-



Figure 3. King Tutankhamun in place in new Egyptian Gallery. Photograph by Conservation

ity, the Oriental Institute Museum will once again be providing internship training opportunities for recent graduates of conservation programs. In addition, Laura gave a lecture at the Art Institute about our building project and associated conservation activities in October and went to Argonne Laboratories with Aslihan Yener in April to observe the analytical work being conducted on one of our Amuq figurines. In May, conservators began working on objects for the new Egyptian Gallery.

Archivist John A. Larson began his nineteenth year on the museum staff in June 1998. On August 1, Anne Yanaway replaced Paul Spruhan, who went off to law school in New Mexico, as Museum Office Manager. At that time she took over responsibility for the photographic services provided by the museum. Under John's supervision, Anne prepares the necessary paperwork and handles other details involved in processing the requests that we receive for photographic images and reproduction permissions — a total of 167 transactions during fiscal 1997/98. Our home page on the World-Wide Web continues to be a statistically important source of these image requests as well as a means of public contact for the Oriental Institute while the galleries are closed.

As a result of the building project, the Museum Archives also received a new home — on the first floor of the new wing — and John moved into new office quarters in the basement adjacent to Registration. Since John and his volunteers began moving in February, 3,200 cubic feet of archival records on paper, in addition to the collections of prints, negatives, and transparencies in the Photographic Archives, all have been successfully moved and reorganized.

In July 1997, through the good offices of Nina M. Cummings, Photograph Archivist of the Field Museum in Chicago, we received a gift of fifty-seven early twentieth century lantern slides of Egyptian subjects. These were once the lecture slides of Welsh artist and archaeologist (Ernest) Harold Jones (1877–1911), who worked with several Egyptological excavations from 1903–1911. We would like to thank Mr. David Sprake-Jones, Harold Jones's nephew, for this donation.

In September, the Papers of Edgar James Banks were received as a generous gift from his daughter Daphne Banks (Mrs. James) McLachlan. The Banks Papers are especially welcome, as they add to our holdings of original field records from the first archaeological expedition (1903–1904) sponsored by the University of Chicago in the Middle East — the excavations at the site of Bismaya (ancient Adab) in Iraq, which were conducted by Banks.



Figure 4. Conservator Laura D'Alessandro setting back into place portions of modern restoration that were removed in order to cut statue and move it. Photograph by Jean Grant

MUSEUM

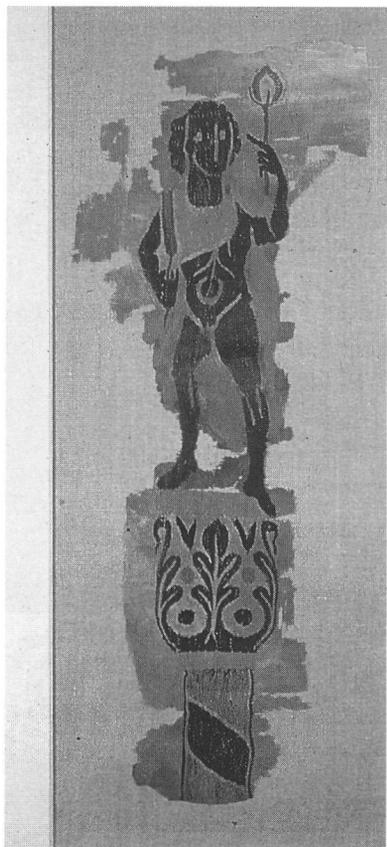


Figure 5. Coptic textile fragment donated by Mr. and Mrs. Isaac S. Goldman in honor of Mrs. Robert (Janet) Helman

In May 1998, Eleanor Betz delivered to the Oriental Institute a collection of prints and negatives made by her brother-in-law, photographer Edgar M. Peterson. Mr. Peterson was one of several photographers employed by the late Professor Helene J. Kantor to photograph objects from Chogha Mish for publication. The Peterson gift consists of a number of duplicate prints and variant negatives, and we are pleased to be able to add these materials to the existing photographic documentation for the objects from Chogha Mish. In June, we received three boxes of records pertaining to a long-term study of the Greek ostraca from Medinet Habu, conducted by the late Prof. Allen P. Wikgren. Prof. Wikgren's son Burt has placed most of his father's papers in the University Archives, but he felt that the Medinet Habu material should be at the Oriental Institute with the other Medinet Habu records.

For 1997/98, the volunteers working with John in the Archives were Hazel Cramer, Patricia Hume, Sandra Jacobsohn, Janet Kessler, Lillian Schwartz, Helaine Staver, and Pamela Wickliffe. Carole Yoshida contributed some of her volunteer time to the Archives, in addition to her work for the Diyala Project. Peggy Grant and Mary Shea worked at home on a project related to the Papers of Helene J. Kantor. We are pleased to record the names of these dedicated volunteers and to thank them for their continuing efforts. Without their enthusiasm and generous support

of the Archives, many important long-term projects would not be possible. Their dedication has been especially appreciated throughout the unusual working conditions of the renovation project. In addition to the regular Archives volunteers, Alison Carter, a student from Oberlin College in Ohio, volunteered in the Archives for two days a week during summer 1998.

During all of this, Margaret Schröder and her staff protected the collections and the building by monitoring the goings-in-and-out of innumerable construction workers, engineers, and consultants, and by keeping them all in touch with one another via walkie-talkies. On February 12, Margaret gave a paper entitled "Building for Eternity: The Oriental Institute Under Construction" at a Smithsonian Museum conference in Washington, D.C. entitled Optimizing Security with Minimum Resources: The National Conference on Cultural Property Protection.

With camera in hand and hard hat on head, photographer Jean Grant continued to capture our activities in many hundreds of images. In February, Jean was forced to move out of her office and dark rooms so that they could be renovated and climate controlled, and therefore had to cease most of her regular operations. How-

ever, she continued to record what we were doing and graciously undertook other duties that included escorting workers in and out of secure storage areas and “baby-sitting” them while they worked. Jean would like to thank all the Photographic Laboratory volunteers for their continued friendship and support.

We continue to be pleased with the amount of coverage that the museum has received during the last year, despite the galleries being closed. Most of the coverage is, as usual, due to the indefatigable efforts of William Harms, Senior

News Writer in the University’s News and Information Office. His tireless efforts and impeccable sense of what is newsworthy ensures that the museum (and the Institute as a whole) remain in the public eye. The relocation of the Tutankhamun statue saw a burst of media interest, with coverage locally and nationally. We are heartened by the advance interest that the media has expressed in the new Egyptian Gallery, with several major magazines reserving prominent coverage for the opening event. Six months before the opening, *Chicago Magazine* proclaimed that the new Egyptian Gallery is one of the “Ten Exciting New Things to Do in Chicago.” To take advantage of the media interest, Bill Harms and Emily have developed a press packet to garner coverage for the opening.

The new Egyptian Gallery will open to the public in spring 1999, preceded by a week of special events for supporters and members — which will be a most exciting time. We would like to thank everyone who has made and is making this tremendous progress possible and look forward to seeing you at the festivities.

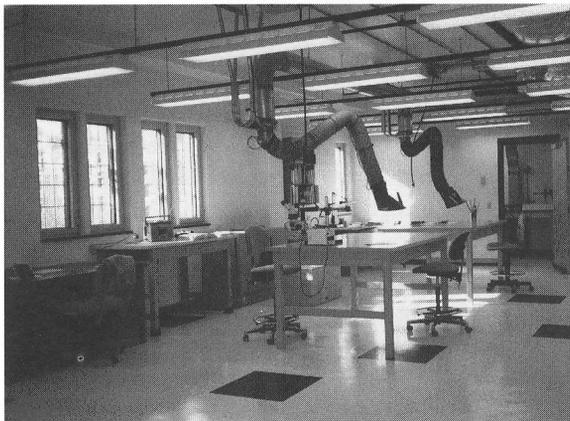


Figure 6. New Conservation Laboratory. Two work tables in center are equipped with moveable exhaust systems; explosion-proof room in background serves for treatments involving larger quantities of potentially dangerous chemicals. Photograph by Conservation

MUSEUM EDUCATION PROGRAM

Carole Krucoff

As the renovation and expansion project went into its second year, closure of the galleries remained an ongoing challenge — and inspiration — for Museum Education. Faculty, staff, students, and volunteers gave us every assistance and encour-

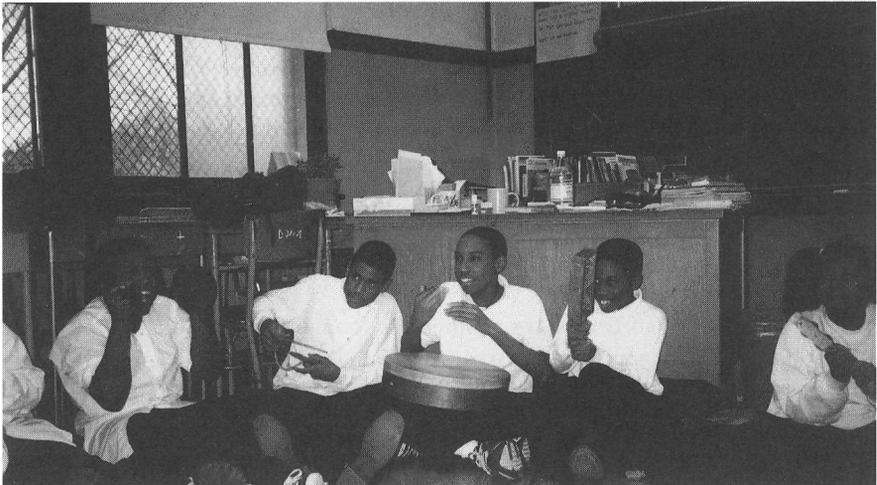
MUSEUM

agement as we continued to offer a broad range of educational services, both on site and throughout the community. Programs for adults and families kept Breasted Hall, the classrooms, and even the upstairs hallways filled with activity. Collaboration with old friends and new partners on campus and in the city and suburbs continued to expand our off-site services for the public. Finally, a special award for museum/school partnerships gave us state-wide recognition for our multi-year collaboration with the Chicago Public Schools.

School and Teacher Services

Two years ago, the Museum Education Office completed a three-year educational enrichment and outreach program designed to make Oriental Institute resources available to a wide ranging cross-section of underserved Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Supported by a major grant from the Polk Bros. Foundation, this program — entitled the Oriental Institute/CPS Collaboration for the World History Curriculum — included teacher training, museum visits for students, collaborative development of curriculum materials by teachers and Museum Education staff, and school outreach visits by graduate students as well as Oriental Institute and community artists.

In August 1996, the Polk Bros. Foundation awarded Museum Education a new, two-year grant to sustain and expand the original collaboration, which now serves twenty-two Chicago Public Schools located throughout the city. The program is continuing to provide classroom visits by graduate students, who describe ways that the Oriental Institute learns about the ancient past, and by artists, who demonstrate and involve students in recreating ancient arts processes. This year's team of graduate student visitors included Tracy Alsberg, Joseph Daniels, Jill Ashley Fine, Nicole Hansen, Alexandra O'Brien, and Justine Way, while artists and epigraphers included Elizabeth Cruger, Debbie and John Darnell, Robert Gadowski, Douglas Irvine, Kate Luchini, Randolph Olive, Hardy Schlick, Jacquie Vaughn, and Jen Zaclin.



6th-grade students from Wirth School make music ancient Near Eastern-style using instruments created for Oriental Institute/Chicago Public Schools collaboration by musician and artist Douglas Irvine

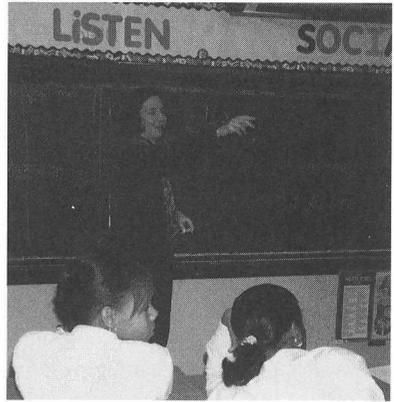
MUSEUM EDUCATION PROGRAM

The classroom visitors are providing invaluable learning experiences that bring the ancient past to life in ways that are meaningful and memorable for students. We know this because the new grant has provided support for professional evaluation of the project's educational impact, a task undertaken over the past year by Jerome D'Agostino, who holds a Ph.D. in evaluation from the University of Chicago's Department of Education. Through interviews with teachers and principals, D'Agostino has learned that the Oriental Institute/CPS Collaboration has enhanced teachers' knowledge, skills, and confidence in their ability to teach about the ancient Near East; that the project's curriculum materials have effectively replaced the traditional classroom textbooks; that students' excitement and interest in learning about ancient civilizations has increased; and that standardized achievement test scores — the all-important measure for reform efforts in the Chicago Public Schools — have improved in partner teachers' classrooms. In his evaluation summary, D'Agostino concluded with certainty that "the program is a tremendous asset to the Chicago Public Schools."

Along with teachers and principals, two educational consultants have helped us to shape this program's educational impact. Sara Spurlark, Associate Director of the University of Chicago's Center for School Improvement, has been guiding us with her wise counsel since the program began, as did William Pattison, Associate Professor Emeritus in the University's Department of Education, until his death late last year. His contributions to the project were immeasurable and he is very much missed.

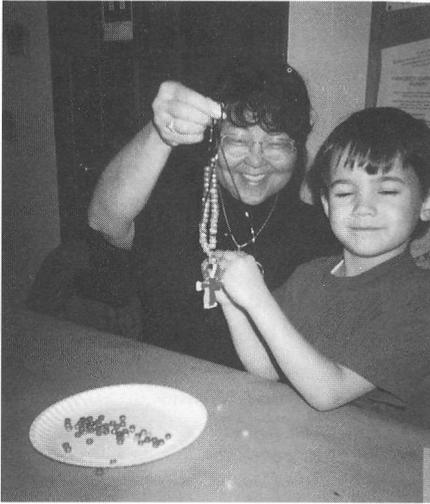
In addition to professional evaluation, the new grant from the Polk Bros. Foundation has allowed us to fill school needs that the original collaboration was not designed to meet. Thanks to Amanda Irwin, who holds a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Chicago, and Richard Diaz, bilingual education teacher at Chicago's Eugene Field Elementary School, all of the student materials created by the Oriental Institute/CPS Collaboration have been translated into Spanish. This is especially important for a school system where more than 30% of the student population is Hispanic.

Ancient Arts Loan Boxes are another new component. An outgrowth of the classroom visitor program, these boxes will retain the hands-on ancient arts portion of the project when artists cannot visit the schools. Available for teachers to borrow and use in the classroom, the boxes highlight ancient Near Eastern metalsmithing and textile production. Both boxes contain videotapes of artists from the classroom visitor program who demonstrate their work as they speak at a level geared to the children viewing the tape. The loan boxes also contain reproduction artifacts the artists have created using the ancient processes shown in the video. Teacher guides



Graduate student Nicole Hansen answers questions during her visit to 6th-grade class at Fuller Elementary School

MUSEUM



Docent Carole Yoshida helps her cousin Max make ancient Egyptian-style amulet at "Mummy Magic," special workshop offered for children and their families in February

with lesson plans and student activities complete the boxes, which will be important supplements to dwindling arts programming in the city's public schools.

Created in collaboration with an advisory panel of CPS teachers, the Ancient Arts Loan Boxes were produced by Carol Redmond, former coordinator of the Oriental Institute/CPS partnership, who now lives in Colorado. Thanks to the miracle of electronic communication, Carol's expertise as arts educator and video artist is still able to benefit the program that owes so much to her creativity and dedication.

The current coordinator of the Oriental Institute/CPS project is Anna Rochester, a talented artist and educator who has taken the collaboration into an entirely new area. Working with a second advisory panel of teachers, Anna is exploring use of the Oriental

Institute's computer resources — its Virtual Museum and World-Wide Website — as a component of outreach education. John Sanders, Head of the Computer Laboratory, is guiding Anna in this pilot project, which has as its goal a web page of teacher and student resources to enhance the study of ancient civilizations not just in Chicago but throughout the nation and around the world.

Anna also supervises the day-to-day operation of the collaboration, which over the past two years has included partner school visits to the Smart Museum of Art, where exhibits from the Oriental Institute Museum collection have been on view. Oriental Institute docents have provided partner schools with guided tours at the Smart Museum, taking additional docent training on ways to relate Oriental Institute artifacts to objects from the Smart Museum collection. Karen L. Wilson, Oriental Institute Museum Director, Kathleen Gibbons, Smart Museum Education Director, and Jennifer Zitron, Smart Museum Education Programs Coordinator, all worked with Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman, Oriental Institute Volunteer Coordinators, to organize and present this year's Oriental Institute/Smart Museum docent training program. Special thanks to Debbie Aliber, Patricia Hume, Jo Lucas, Anne Schumacher, Bernadette Strnad, and Carol Yoshida, who served as docents, and to Rita Picken and Nina Longley, who served as docent co-captains.

This past year, the Oriental Institute Museum/CPS collaboration fulfilled another major goal by developing a structured system for partnership activities to endure into the future. Partner school principals have created the Oriental Institute Museum School Affiliates Program, which provides a modest annual subscription from each school budget to keep activities and services in operation. This unique venture is another indication of the program's success — principals feel it is so worthwhile that they are willing to pay for it.

In fall 1997, the Illinois Association of Museums presented the Oriental Institute Museum/CPS Collaboration with a Superior Achievement Award, the highest honor

MUSEUM EDUCATION PROGRAM

this state-wide organization can give. Such recognition is a tribute to the vision and dedication of all the teachers, principals, museum and Oriental Institute staff members, graduate students, artists, consultants — and Polk Bros. Foundation funders — who have been involved in this ground-breaking educational partnership.

Public Programs

A full schedule of familiar favorites and innovative new educational programs filled the 1997/98 calendar. Participation in adult education services rose to 1,140, an increase of 23% over last year, while programs for children and their families drew more than 2,600 participants to events held at the Oriental Institute and throughout the community.

Adult education programming this past year offered participants many choices: single-session seminars and symposia, both at the Institute and at other sites; field trips to locations throughout the city; multi-session courses held on campus, in the Loop, and in the suburbs; and a variety of classes offered by correspondence and over the Internet.

This year's symposia were first-time collaborations with other campus organizations. In the fall, Museum Education and the University's Graham School of General Studies joined together to present "Tutankhamun: New Perspectives on His Life and Legacy," a highly successful day-long symposium held in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. Peter F. Dorman, Associate Professor of Egyptology; John Larson, Oriental Institute Museum Archivist; Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute Associate Curator; and William J. Murnane, Prof. of History, University of Memphis, Tennessee, expanded horizons on the greatest archaeological event of the century with presentations on the history and excavation of the tomb, new evaluations of the findings, and ways the discovery still affects our lives today.

In the spring, we partnered with the Graham School and the University of Chicago Alumni Association to sponsor "Archaeology for the New Millennium," a day-long symposium held in Winnetka for University alumni and friends on the north



Anna Rochester, Education Outreach Coordinator, helps visitors of all ages with craft projects at Chicago Park District's "Parks Partners Mini-Festivals." Funding from Park District supported Oriental Institute's participation in these free, hands-on activities in city's parks

MUSEUM



Talented trio of performers from Chicago's Raven Children's Theater offer spirited retelling of Aesop's Fables on stage in Breasted Hall

"From Clay Tablets to CD-ROMs," a behind-the-scenes event hosted by faculty and staff of the Oriental Institute Dictionary Projects, attracted an overflow crowd of members and friends. Co-sponsored by Museum Education and the Membership Office, the program's presenters included Miguel Civil, Professor of Sumerology and Director of the Materials for a Sumerian Lexicon Project; Harry A. Hoffner, Jr., Professor of Hittitology, John A. Wilson Distinguished Service Professor of Oriental Studies, and Director and Editor-in-Charge of the Hittite Dictionary Project;



Palm fronds, papyrus, and lotus flowers become beautiful Egyptian-style bouquets as Docents Masako Matsumoto and Rita Picken assist participants at "Pharaoh's Flowers" workshop held in May

shore. McGuire Gibson, Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology; Stephen Harvey, Visiting Assistant Prof. of Egyptology; John Sanders, Research Associate and Head of the Computer Laboratory; Tony J. Wilkinson, Research Associate (Associate Professor); and K. Aslihan Yener, Associate Professor of Near Eastern Archeology fascinated the audience with ways the latest technologies are shedding light on the world's oldest civilizations.

Janet H. Johnson, Professor of Egyptology and Editor of the Demotic Dictionary Project; Martha T. Roth, Professor of Assyriology and Editor-in-Charge of the Assyrian Dictionary Project; and Thomas G. Urban, Senior Editor, Oriental Institute Publications. A handout of ancient idioms, a raffle of a Hittite Dictionary t-shirt, and signage giving ancient Near Eastern names to various rooms and locations throughout the Oriental Institute helped make this event even more interesting and entertaining. The creative team in charge of these special features included Research Associates Richard Beal, Hripsime Haroutunian, and Stephen Vinson, and graduate students Thomas Dousa, François Gaudard, Fumi Karahashi, and Michael Kozuh.

Field trips throughout the city attracted many registrants. "Egypt in Chicago," a one-day trip that offers

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insider's views on the city's three major collections of Egyptian art, sold out again — for the fifth time. John Larson, Oriental Institute Museum Archivist; Frank Yurco, consulting Egyptologist for the Field Museum of Natural History, and Mary Greuel, Research Associate in the Department of European and Decorative Arts and Sculpture and Classical Art at the Art Institute of Chicago gave their usual masterful presentations.



Miguel Civil, Professor of Sumerology, describes how beer was brewed — and enjoyed — in ancient Sumer during “Brewing Ancient Beer” field trip and dinner held at Chicago’s River West Brewing Company

“Brewing Ancient Beer” took

participants to the River West Brewing Company, where Professor Miguel Civil discussed how Sumerian beer was brewed 5,000 years ago and Brewmaster Udo Hartung compared ancient brewing methods with those of today. Everyone sampled River West’s beers, enjoyed a “Brewmaster’s Dinner,” drank several toasts and sang several verses of song to Ninkaski, the Sumerian goddess of beer. Finally, for “Egyptomania Chicago-Style,” Egyptologist Michael Berger led a day-long bus tour to explore how Egyptian art and design has influenced the look of architectural and historic sites throughout the city.

Even with closed galleries more informal adult education opportunities were not forgotten this year. Docents Carol Yoshida and Bernadette Strnad offered a series of gallery talks highlighting “In the Presence of the Gods: Art from Ancient Sumer,” the Oriental Institute exhibit on view at the Smart Museum of Art. Emily Teeter presented “Mummies Meet High Tech: New Techniques for Investigating Egyptian Mummies,” a Breasted Hall lecture in conjunction with Illinois Archaeology Awareness Week. Breasted Hall was also the place to come for our ongoing series of Sunday afternoon films, as well as “Ancient Egypt Goes Hollywood: The Sequel,” our second series of film showings and seminar sessions, led by Michael Berger, to explore ways ancient Egypt has been depicted in the movies.

With classrooms available, renovation inspired — rather than inhibited — adult education courses as instructors continued to come forward with new ideas, formats, and approaches. “Pharaoh’s Flowers” a single-session class led by Nicole Hansen, graduate student in Egyptology and Masako Matsumoto, floral arranger and Oriental Institute docent, introduced ways flowers and plants decorated ancient Egyptian homes and palaces, and then invited participants to make their own ancient Egyptian-style floral bouquets. In addition, our instructors offered a broad range of multi-session courses, including: “A Beginner’s Guide to Ancient Egypt” taught by Alexandra O’Brien; “Land of Plenty: The Economy of Ancient Egypt,” “Pyramids of Ancient Egypt and Nubia,” and “Ancient Egyptian Law and Ethics Part I and Part II” by Frank Yurco; “History Begins at Sumer” by Claudia Suter; “The People of a Thousand Gods: Religion and Art of the Hittites” by Hripsime S. Haroutunian;

MUSEUM



Docent and professional chef Mary Jo Khuri (right), with Jane Belcher and Nicole Hansen, makes meat sambousik for “Dine Like an Egyptian”

“Dine Like an Egyptian” by Nicole Hansen and Mary Jo Khuri; and “Travel Photography” by Thomas Van Eynde.

Classes taught off site, by correspondence, and over the Internet continue to help us reach new audiences and expand adult education services. Off-site courses this year included “Judaism in the Time of Jesus,” taught by Anthony J. Tomasino, which was our second collaboration with the First Lutheran Church of

DeKalb, Illinois. “Art of Ancient Egypt,” taught by Emily Teeter, was the first Oriental Institute course taught at the Gleacher Center, the University of Chicago’s downtown location. Classes by correspondence and over the Internet continue to grow in popularity, as people from across the nation and around the world discover they can take part in Oriental Institute adult education without ever leaving home. This year, correspondence courses included “Hieroglyphs-by-Mail Part II,” a more advanced version of the highly popular introductory course. Part II was taught by Stephen Vinson, with Hratch Papazian as teaching assistant. “Cuneiform-by-Mail” was taught by Daniel Nevez, and “Pyramids-by-Mail” was taught by Frank Yurco, who offered a new and very well-received feature — audio-taped lectures as well as written material and assignments.

For the second year in a row, Peter Piccione took adult education into cyberspace by presenting a revised and expanded version of “Introduction to Ancient Egypt,” still the only course being taught over the Internet at the University of Chicago. This year’s registrants came from every region of the United States as well as Argentina, Belgium, England, Italy, and South Africa.

Adult education services would come to a grinding halt without the skills, talents, and efficiency of Emily Napolitano, Education Programs Assistant. Emily supervises registration for all reserved programs, handles all financial record-keeping, assists with graphic design, and provides general information services to the public. This past year Emily ably redesigned and repackaged the entire Museum Education collection of slides and reproduction artifacts that go out on loan to schools and community groups. Her experience in working with young children also gave her a major role in the youth and family programs we offered at the Oriental Institute and throughout the city.

Collaboration with cultural institutions all across Chicago has enabled us to continue providing extensive programming for children and their families, a major museum audience that the Education Office was serving long before the galleries closed for renovation. Lill Street Studios on the city’s north side welcomed us for several collaborative programs, including repeats of “Be An Ancient Egyptian Artist,” the popular children’s summer day camp, and “Mummy Dearest,” a clay work-

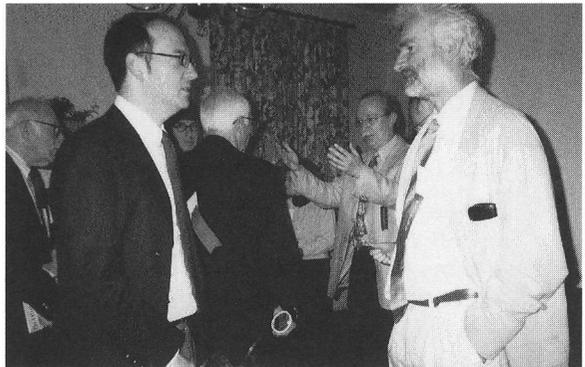
MUSEUM EDUCATION PROGRAM

shop for families. Anna Rochester traveled to Lill Street Studios to present "Ancient Earth," a new pottery and planting workshop for children.

Anna also lent her artistic talents and teaching skills to Parks Partners, our major summer outreach program for children and families. Supported by a grant from the Chicago Park District, this program took us to public parks throughout the city, where we used hands-on activities to introduce hundreds of young people and their families to the fascinating world of the ancient Near East. Anna was ably assisted by Elizabeth Cruger, Lisa Dorneker, and Danielle Sherrod, our summer interns. Danielle also began a research project focusing on ancient Egyptian dance, which she hopes will result in programming for next year.

Once again we joined the Smart Museum of Art and the Hyde Park Art Center for the annual summer "Family Day." We concentrated once more on reading and writing, ancient-Egyptian style, at the 57th Street Children's Book Fair and the annual Book-a-Mania event at the Harold Washington Public Library. But this year we also brought family programming home with three events here at the Oriental Institute. "Tut's Treasures" celebrated the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb by inviting families to create their own version of the king's golden headdress and then have their photographs taken dressed in pharaoh-finery. "Mummy Magic" offered the opportunity to create an ancient Egyptian amulet just like those that were used to protect ancient Egyptian mummies. And "Aesop's Fables" brought professional children's theater to Breasted Hall when Chicago's Raven Theater Company captivated children and adults alike with their spirited updating of the ancient storyteller's tales.

Much of the success of all our programming was due to Kaylin Goldstein, Education Programs Associate, who has been our public relations officer, editor, and graphic design expert for nearly six years. Kaylin developed formats and supervised production for all of our marketing materials, including quarterly calendars of events, adult education brochures, and quarterly press packets. She supervised the Museum Education page on the Oriental Institute's World-Wide Website, where a program descriptions and a registration form attract people to enroll by electronic mail. This year Kaylin initiated our first paid advertising campaign in local newspapers, which attracted adults and families to programs at the Oriental Institute. She also placed advertisements in national publications, such as *Kemet* and *Archaeology Magazine*, which drew regional and national registrants for cor-



Visiting Professor of Egyptology Stephen Harvey and Research Associate Tony Wilkinson discuss their presentations at "Archaeology for the New Millennium" day-long symposium held in Winnetka in collaboration with the Alumni Relations Office and Graham School for General Studies. In background, Computer Laboratory Head John Sanders discusses his work with North Shore alumni and friends who took part in this special event

MUSEUM

respondence and Internet classes. She kept careful watch for city-wide events that would allow us to share information about our programs. This year, Anna Rochester and Jane Thain, museum volunteer, took part in a full day of public presentations on the Oriental Institute at the Visual Arts Information Fair, which was sponsored by the Illinois Arts Council, the Illinois Artisans Program, and the Illinois Art Gallery.

A multi-talented young woman, Kaylin is also a Ph.D. candidate in the University's Department of Anthropology and this spring she left the Oriental Institute to pursue her dissertation studies in Israel. We will miss her intelligence, patience, and good judgment; her design skills and delightful way with words; and her genuine interest in the many ways museums can provide meaningful educational experiences.

In May, Judy Chavin assumed the position of Education Programs Associate, bringing extensive public relations, graphic design, and museum education experience to our office. It is a pleasure to have Judy with us.

Looking Back ... and Ahead

Taking stock of all that has been accomplished during this past year and throughout renovation, I would like to express once more how much I appreciate the encouragement and support we have received from faculty, staff, students, and volunteers. And another group of people deserve special thanks here. You will see in the next section how renovation has inspired Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman, the Oriental Institute's Volunteer Coordinators, and their remarkable team of docents, to create an enormously successful Volunteer Outreach Program that promises to enhance the museum's educational services for many years to come. Finally, I would like to say again how much I admire and gratefully thank the Museum Education staff for their long working hours, selfless service, great good nature, and extraordinary creativity. Nothing would be happening without them. All of us are looking forward to the reopening of the museum's galleries, where we will continue in our efforts to provide the very best in Museum Education programming for our members, the University community, and the general public.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman

This past year was one of great activity and accomplishment for the Volunteer Program. Over the past thirty-one years, the program has continued to adapt and change in order to accommodate a wide range of needs and interests for both student and community groups, religious institutions, and senior citizens. With the museum galleries still closed for renovation and climate control, the Volunteer Program has continued to devote much of its time and energies to serving an ever-expanding au-

dience for outreach programs. The volunteers have continued to keep the museum vibrantly alive and in the public eye.

Outreach

The 1997/98 academic year marks a new record for the number of participants served by the outreach program. This year's numbers represented nearly a ten percent increase over last year's statistics. The impressive growth and popularity of outreach is clearly demonstrated by the continued requests for more outreach visits.

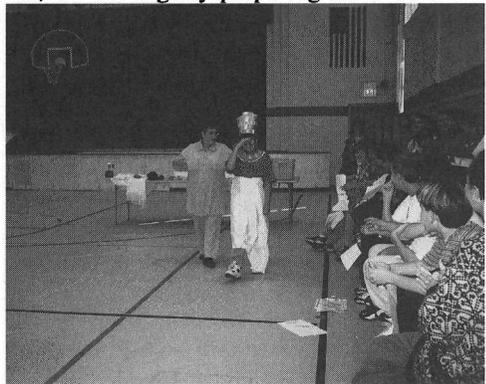
This year nearly 3,300 students and adults learned about the wonders of the ancient Near East by having docents come out to offer outreach programs to their institutions. By visiting schools, libraries, clubs, hospitals, senior centers, and religious institutions, the docents were able to bring



Kings and Queens for a Day. Students at James Hart Junior High School prepare for fashion show as ancient pharaohs and queens during outreach visit. Young models are assisted by Cathy Dueñas and Carole Yoshida. Photograph by Terry Friedman

the outreach programs to a wide variety of age groups. Programming took place throughout Chicagoland, as well as in Indiana and Wisconsin. In-house programs were produced for visitors from Iowa and Michigan. Both in-house and outreach presentations have included such topics as "Ancient Egypt: Its History and Culture," "Ancient Mesopotamia: A Trip Back in Time," and "The Land of the Bible." Each program featured a discussion session and hands-on activities with reproduction artifacts. Our docents prepared innovative programs and creatively revitalized previously-used materials with enthusiasm and flair. With outreach visits already being scheduled for the upcoming academic year, we are eagerly preparing for another record-breaking year.

In July, the Oriental Institute Docents became involved in an entirely new outreach endeavor. We were invited to offer a week-long seminar series for Elderhostel at International House here on the University of Chicago campus. The volunteers were thrilled with the opportunity to develop special presentations for this very engaging adult audience. For five consecutive morning sessions, course participants explored the history and culture of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Israel. Two afternoon classes in-



Volunteer Mary Jo Khuri helps students assume role of kingship during outreach visit to Lincoln Hall Middle School. Photograph by Terry Friedman

MUSEUM

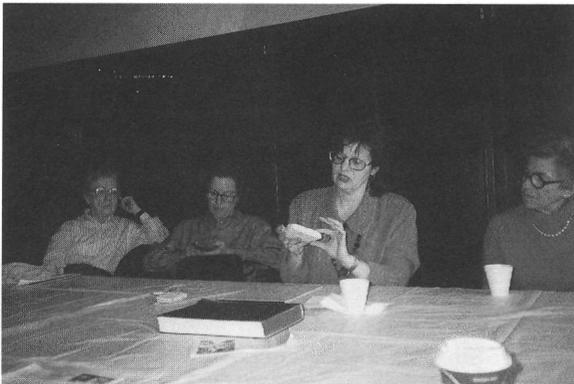


Mary Harter explains several museum replicas to students at Haines School. Photograph by Terry Friedman

cluded a tour of the Smart Museum of Art, which featured a special exhibit from our own museum's collection: "In the Presence of the Gods: Art from Ancient Sumer" and a trip to the Field Museum to tour its Egyptian galleries. We would like to give a special note of recognition to the docents who participated in this week-long Elderhostel Program. Congratulations to: Bud Haas, Janet Helman, George Junker, Nina Longley, Kitty Picken, Rita Picken, Deloris Sanders, Daila Shefner, Jane Thain, and Carole Yoshida for their superb presentations. A special note of gratitude to both docent Kitty Picken and to Egyptologist Frank Yurco for their expert and knowledgeable tours of the Field Museum's mastaba exhibit. Everyone's enthusiasm and support helped to provide a whole new dimension to the Oriental Institute's outreach programming. We are pleased to announce that plans are currently underway to produce another week-long Elderhostel class in spring 1999.

Docent Days

Docent Day programs have continued throughout this past year, despite gallery closure and an unpredictable construction schedule. Each month the volunteers gathered in the South Lounge of the Reynolds Club to hear a variety of topics presented by faculty and staff. Our thanks to Bill Michel, Reynolds Club Student Activities Director, and Shawn Weaver, Reynolds Club Facilities Coordinator, for their valuable support and for providing Oriental Institute volunteers with a beautiful and convenient location for Docent Day programs. Through the hospitality of Docent



April Docent Day featured Professor Martha Roth who is shown explaining ancient cuneiform inscription while volunteers Lillian Schwartz, Deloris Sanders, and Rochelle Rossin listen carefully. Photograph by Terry Friedman

Georgie Maynard, the volunteers were invited to a fascinating June Docent Day in the Board Room of Vista Homes and a picnic lunch in the adjacent garden. This year's guest speaker was W. Ray Johnson, the Director of Chicago House.

All Docent Day sessions have drawn a large, enthusiastic group of volunteers who enjoyed the opportunity to continue their education while fostering interest in new areas of study. Our programs this

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

past year have highlighted academic research, publications, and field projects as well as personal insights and interpretations of recent discoveries in Near Eastern archaeology. We would like to express our appreciation to all of our Docent Day guest speakers: McGuire Gibson, Gene Gragg, Jan Johnson, W. Ray Johnson, Chuck Jones, Robert Ritner, Martha Roth, Emily Teeter, Tony Wilkinson, and Karen L. Wilson. We would like to thank both faculty and staff for making these monthly Docent Day programs a very special learning experience. Their presentations added so much to our continuing education and appreciation of ancient Near Eastern archaeology and history.

Smart Option

This past year, Oriental Institute volunteers were again offered an opportunity to provide docent-led tours at the David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art. This joint venture, which began in fall 1996, gave school children and adults an opportunity to have guided tours of the specially arranged exhibits from the Oriental Institute Museum collection that were on view at the Smart Museum. The first exhibit, "Faces of Ancient Egypt," was a wonderful glimpse into the world of the ancient Egyptians, their self image, and their quest for immortality. The second exhibit, "In the Presence of the Gods: Art From Ancient Sumer," which opened in July 1997, introduced the public to the ancient Sumerians and their many artistic and technological achievements. This exhibit explored the evidence for the temple cult of the ancient Sumerians and high-



lighted forty-three of the most important and visually dynamic objects from the Oriental Institute collection. Docents received a special introductory lecture and tour from Karen L. Wilson, Oriental Institute Museum Director. This tour helped the volunteers to become familiar with the objects in their new surroundings. Two additional training sessions were given by Kathleen Gibbons, Smart Museum Education Director, and Jennifer Zitron, Education Programs Coordinator, to assist the docents with touring techniques as well as to help them make connections to the Smart collection. We were very pleased to participate in this joint venture and extend our congratulations and thanks to those docents whose enthusiastic support helped to ensure the success of this collaborative effort. Kudos go to co-captains Nina Longley and Rita Picken and to Docents Debbie Aliber, Pat Hume, Jo Lucas, Mary Shea, Anne Schumacher, Bernadette Strnad, and Carole Yoshida.

Deloris Sanders explains page from Book of the Dead to group of youngsters at Jackson School. Photograph by Terry Friedman

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Volunteer Recognition and Holiday Luncheon

Each year faculty, staff, and volunteers are treated to a festive celebration for December Docent Day and the annual Docent/Volunteer Recognition ceremonies. This year Bruce Clinton, Chairman of the Clinton Company, permitted us to enjoy the lovely setting of the TOP Room at Regents Park for this program. We thank Mr. Clinton and his staff for their cooperation and hospitality with this special event.



Professor Robert Biggs enjoys chatting with Ida De Pencier at December Docent Day Annual Luncheon. Photograph by Jean Grant

We were honored to have the new Director of the Oriental Institute, Professor Gene Gragg, as our guest speaker. Professor Gragg spoke about his professional background, his career, and future plans for the Oriental Institute. We also would like to express our appreciation to Professor Gragg and to Cynthia Echols, Assistant Director for Development, who helped to make this annual event a very memorable occasion by underwriting the cost of the tantalizing buffet luncheon that was prepared by Sudki Abdullah of Cedars of Lebanon.

Our thanks go out to the many volunteers who shared their culinary skills by bringing delicious appetizers and glorious deserts and to Masako Matsumoto for making magnificent centerpieces for all of the tables.

This year twenty-one people received Volunteer Recognition Awards and were honored for their services to the Oriental Institute Docent/

Volunteer Program In addition, each award recipient received a complimentary Oriental Institute membership or Suq gift certificate from the Membership Office. Congratulations to the following volunteers for their years of loyal service to the Institute and to the museum:

5 Year Honorees

Joan Friedmann, Betsy Kremers, Barbara Rollhaus, and Anne Schumacher

10 Year Honorees

Shirley Freundlich, Barbara Klawans, Masako Matsumoto, Dawn Prena, Larry Scheff, Lillian Schwartz, and Dick Watson

15 Year Honoree

Nina Longley

20 Year Honorees

Lilian Cropsey, Dianne Grodzins, Kitty Picken, Rita Picken, and Mardi Trosman

25 Year Honorees

Elizabeth Spiegel, Peggy Wick, and Janet Russell

35 Year Honoree

Mrs. Theodore D. Ticken

Field Trip — Summer in the City

In July, docents and volunteers gathered at the Museum of Contemporary Art to enjoy a day of intriguing contemporary art in an exciting new setting close to Chicago's Magnificent Mile and lakefront. Curatorial Assistant Jessica Morgan gave a comprehensive "Highlights from the Collection" tour featuring some of the museum's recent acquisitions. Following the morning program, we all enjoyed a delightful luncheon at the "M" Cafe, overlooking the lovely Sculpture Gardens. The weather was glorious, the art unique, the food delicious, and it was a great opportunity to experience the bustling ambiance of Chicago's newest museum on the cultural landscape.

Sonnenschein Tea

In January faculty, staff, and volunteers gathered at the President's House to enjoy a Tea Reception hosted by Elizabeth Sonnenschein. Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute Museum Associate Curator, gave us a comprehensive update on the progress of the Egyptian Gallery. Emily's talk introduced the volunteers to the thematic configuration of the new Egyptian Gallery, pointing out many of its user-friendly features as well as discussing some of the objects that will be on display for the first time in the new gallery.

As in past years, the volunteers shared a bounty of their culinary specialties to help make this year's tea a feast for the palette and the eyes. Masako Matsumoto made a beautiful centerpiece, which added even more elegance to the event.

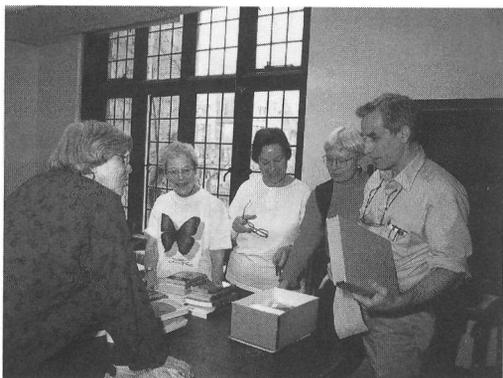


*Associate Curator Emily Teeter presents Elizabeth Sonnenschein with signed copy of Emily's recent publication, **Presentation of Maat: Ritual and Legitimacy in Ancient Egypt**, at January Tea Reception. Photograph by Terry Friedman*

Donations

We want to express appreciation to many of our volunteers and supporters for their generous financial donations and in-kind contributions to the Volunteer Program throughout the past year. Contributors have included: Barbara Storms Baird, Janet Calkins, Charlotte Collier, Erl Dordal, Mary Douville, Bettie Dwinell, Laurie Fish, Margaret Foorman, Leila Foster, Paul Freehling (in honor of Jo and Phil Jackson's 50th wedding anniversary), the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, Peggy Grant, Janet and Bob Helman, Janet Kessler, Peggy Kovacs, Marcia Nachtrieb, Denise Paul, Rochelle Rossin, Deloris Sanders, Lillian Schwartz, Eleanor Swift, Marty Trosman, Eve and Norman Weinberg, and Sally Zimmerman.

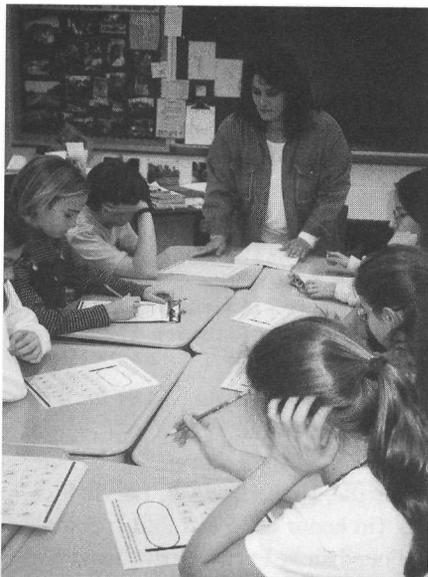
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Debbie Aliber, Docent Librarian, assisted by Deloris Sanders, Sandra Jacobsohn, Daila Shefner, and Ray Tindel, Museum Registrar, organize many books donated to Docent Library while preparing for May Book Sale. Photograph by Jean Grant

ished this past year. Our collection has continued to expand, aided by the many generous donations and contributions from faculty, staff, and volunteers. Barbara Storms Baird and the Estate of Joan and Homer Rosenberg have made special donations to the collection and helped to support its future growth.

Our appreciation and congratulations to Debbie and her faithful assistants Hazel Cramer, Jo Jackson, Sandy Jacobsohn, Deloris Sanders, Daila Shefner, and Helaine Staver who arranged a wonderful May Docent Day Book Sale. Their hard work really paid off, producing over \$500 in sales.



Laura Sanchez helps 6th graders at Washburne Elementary School in Winnetka write their names in hieroglyphs. Photograph by Sue Gundlach

We were fortunate to receive a generous donation to the outreach program from Docent Emeritus Betty Baum. Her gift provided the funds to purchase a new state-of-the-art Kodak carousel slide projector, telescopic lens, and reinforced carrying case. Other valuable educational resources have been contributed to the outreach program this past year by Docents Mary Harter, Denise Paul, and Deloris Sanders.

Docent Library

Under the guidance and supervision of our Docent Librarian, Debbie Aliber, the library grew and flourished this past year. Our collection has continued to expand, aided by the many generous donations and contributions from faculty, staff, and volunteers. Barbara Storms Baird and the Estate of Joan and Homer Rosenberg have made special donations to the collection and helped to support its future growth.

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We were delighted that the Docent Library this past year was able to make an important donation to the Research Archives of the Oriental Institute. Pinhas Delougaz's book, *Pottery from the Diyala Region*, is a very important resource for the teaching of Mesopotamian Archaeology. We are pleased that this rare volume will now be readily available in the Research Archives to help train future generations of archaeologists.

In Memoriam

We were saddened by the loss of several friends and devoted supporters of the Oriental Institute and the Volunteer Program. Linn Buss, Lewis Ginsberg, Pauline

Pantsios, and Myrette Katz all passed away this year. We will miss the talents and skills that they shared with the Oriental Institute. We extend our condolences to their families

Our First Intern

This past year the Volunteer Program was very fortunate to have its first college intern. Caitlin Dillon, a senior at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, came to Museum Education as a part of the internship program sponsored through the Chicago Metropolitan Center. From February until the beginning of May, she worked diligently to learn firsthand about the many facets of the Volunteer Program.

Being an enthusiastic and highly motivated learner, Caitlin's creative and energetic nature enhanced the entire Volunteer Program as well as several other special projects she undertook throughout the Institute. As a result of some of her experiences with docents and faculty, Caitlin has chosen to go on to Cambridge University in England to do graduate work in linguistics. We wish her well.



Taking the Show on the Road. Volunteers Mary Harter, George Junker, and Intern Caitlin Dillon roll in materials for outreach visit to Haines School in Chicago's Chinatown. Photograph by Terry Friedman

In Retrospect

In June, Kaylin Goldstein, the Museum Education Programs Associate, decided to spread her wings and do graduate work and research in Israel. Kaylin has been patient and generous with all of the docents and volunteers over the past six years. She helped us over many a hurdle, and with many a computer problem. It was fitting that the docents and volunteers gathered for a farewell celebration in her honor at the May Docent Day. Faculty, staff, students, and volunteers all joined in to say goodbye and thank you to this lovely young lady, who leaves with all of our best wishes.

We would also like to thank our other colleagues in Museum Education: Carole Krucoff, Head of Education and Public Programs; Judy Chavin, our new Education Programs Associate; Emily Napolitano, the Education Programs Assistant; and Anna Rochester, Education Outreach Coordinator, for their abiding friendship and support throughout this past year. In a beehive of activity producing a wide variety of innovative programs and activities, they are always voices of calm reassurance and sage advice.



Docent Librarian Debbie Aliber suggests several good book buys to Stephen Ritzel during May Docent Day Book Sale. Photograph by Terry Friedman

MUSEUM



Evelyn Ruskin Gordon enjoys sharing her collection of ancient artifacts with students from Jackson School in Elmhurst, Illinois. Photograph by Terry Friedman

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, our most treasured asset, who have given an extraordinary year of service to the Oriental Institute. Whether behind-the-scenes or in the public eye, your enthusiasm, many talents, and unfaltering support, continue to enrich so many vital areas of the Institute and the museum.

This has been a remarkably dynamic year, filled with tremendous vitality and promise. The Volunteer Program continues to meet the challenge of gallery closure with creativity and renewed determination to serve the museum and the public through ways

never thought possible before. Outreach programming is a key element in our mission. The outreach program will remain an integral part of Volunteer Services, as we carefully begin to examine the needs and evaluate the future role of the docents and the volunteers in the twenty-first century.

Advisors to the Volunteer Program

Carlotta Maher Peggy Grant Janet Helman

Honorary Volunteer-At-Large

Elizabeth Sonnenschein

Museum Education Outreach Docents and Volunteers

Debbie Aliber
Joan Barghusen
Bernadine Basile
Jane Belcher
Rebecca Binkley
Dorothy Blindt
Richard Blindt
Wanda Bolton
Janet Calkins
Hazel Cramer
Lilian Cropsey
Caitlin Dillon
Erl Dordal
Bettie Dwinell
Margaret Foorman
Evelyn Ruskin Gordon
Bud Haas
Cissy Haas
Ira Hardman

Mary Harter
Richard Harter
Janet Helman
Teresa Hintzke
Patricia Hume
Alice James
George Junker
Jeanne Junker
Mary Jo Khuri
Betsy Kremers
Nina Longley
Jo Lucas
Kay Matsumoto
Georgie Maynard
Roy Miller
Kathy Mineck
Caryl Mikrut
George Morgan
Pat McLaughlin

Denise Paul
Kitty Picken
Rita Picken
Diane Posner
Dawn Prena
Stephen Ritzel
Adrienne Runge
Laura Sanchez
Deloris Sanders
Larry Scheff
Anne Schumacher
Daila Shefner
Bernie Shelly
Helaine Staver
Bernadette Strnad
Maureen Toner
Carole Yoshida

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Smart Option Docents and Volunteers

Co-Captains: Nina Longley and Rita Picken

Debbie Aliber	George Junker	Bernadette Strnad
Rebecca Binkley	Jo Lucas	Carole Yoshida
Bettie Dwinell	Anne Schumacher	
Pat Hume	Mary Shea	

Museum Education and Family Programs Volunteers

Kathy, Kristen, and Carl Mineck Danielle Sherrod Jane Thain

Suq Docents

Barbara Storms Baird	Ruth Hyman	Rochelle Rossin
Muriel Brauer	Peggy Kovacs	Mary Schulman
Patty Dunkel	Georgie Maynard	Jane Thain
Barbara Frey	Agnethe Rattenborg	Norma van der Meulen

Substitute Suq Docents

Peggy Grant Janet Helman Jo Jackson

Suq Behind-the-Scenes Docent

Georgie Maynard Eleanor Swift

Suq Jewelry Designer

Norma van der Meulen

Membership and Development Volunteers

Kay Matsumoto Rita Picken

Museum Archives Volunteers

Hazel Cramer	Janet Zell Kessler	Pamela Wickliffe
Peggy Grant	Lillian Schwartz	Carole Yoshida
Patricia Hume	Mary Shea	
Sandra Jacobsohn	Helaine Staver	

Registrar's Office Volunteers

Debbie Aliber	Mary Grimshaw	Lillian Schwartz
Leila Foster	Janet Helman	Dick Watson
Peggy Grant	Georgie Maynard	Peggy Wick

Diyala Project Volunteers

Richard Harter Joyce Weil Carole Yoshida

Medinet Habu Project

Hazel Cramer Peggy Grant Mary Harter

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Göltepe/Kestel Project and Amuq Valley Project

Joan Friedmann Bud Haas Betsy Kremers Daila Shefner

Photography Laboratory Volunteers

Maria Ahlström Hugh Christ Dawn Prena
Debbie Aliber Irene Glasner Carole Yoshida

Computer Laboratory Volunteers

Robert Randolph Les Stermer

Conservation Laboratory Volunteer

Vilma Basilissi

Education Office Library

Head Librarian-Debbie Aliber

Assistant Librarians

Lillian Cropsey Jo Jackson Kathy Mineck
Peggy Grant Sandra Jacobsohn Deloris Sanders
Patricia Hume Georgie Maynard Daila Shefner

Ceramic Restoration

Elizabeth Ticken

Assistants to Epigraphic Survey and Chicago House

Carlotta Maher Crennan Ray Elinor Smith

Assistants to Prehistoric Project

Diana Grodzins Andree Wood

Hittite Dictionary Project Volunteers

Irv Diamond Irene Glasner Denise Paul
Caitlin Dillon Kathy Mineck Anne Schumacher

Readers for Hans Güterbock

George Junker Anne Schumacher

Publications Office Volunteers

Ruth Caraher Tom Dousa Denise Paul
Irv Diamond Irene Glassner Kathy Mineck
Caitlin Dillon Roy Miller

Iranian Prehistoric Project Volunteer

Janet Helman

Volunteers Emeritus

Elizabeth Baum
Charlotte Collier
Mary D'Ouille
Ida De Pencier

Laurie Fish
Carol Green
Sally Grunsfeld
Dorothy Mozinski

Eleanor Swift
Vida Wentz
Sally Zimmerman

SUQ**Denise Browning**

Even with the museum still under renovation, this has been a very busy year for the Suq. We started off in October with the second annual Oriental Rug Symposium and sale, with piles of rugs from Afghanistan, Morocco, Turkey, Central Asia, and Egypt. Our speakers included our own Robert Biggs, McGuire Gibson, and John Sanders, as well as Susan Gomersall, Maury Bynum, and Peter Stone. We had a good turn out for the symposium and sold over 300 rugs. With little time to catch our breath we exhibited a booth at the Newberry Library's Very Merry Bazaar for four days the weekend before Thanksgiving, producing record sales and answering many questions about the renovation. As soon as we unpacked from the Newberry we packed up again and moved to Harper Court for the opening of our second store, Museums, Etc. Thanks to the efforts of Bud Haas we were able to acquire a very enviable space in Harper Court during the holiday season. Mark Johnson of the Harper Court Foundation was very gracious and helpful in meeting all of our specialized needs. We invited the DuSable Museum and the Robie House to join us. Kasha Yankovich from the Robie House and Donna Metz from the DuSable Museum were a pleasure to work with and I am sure that we will find many more projects on which to collaborate in the future. At the same time we had our December sale in the Suq. We would never have made it without the extra help from our volunteers Norma van der Meulen, Jane Thain, Bud and Cissy Haas, and our friends Lawrence Klevan and Joan Friedrich who manned the Museums, Etc. Store. Then came the Annual Dinner where we decorated the former Palestinian Gallery walls with a wonderful new shipment of rugs from Afghanistan that were later sold during the year end inventory sale. We never anticipated how busy we would be during the construction, but we are now focusing on the challenges that the opening of the new galleries will bring to the Suq.

A very special thanks to Christine Chen who graduated this spring and will be leaving us soon. Her many talents have greatly enhanced the Suq. She has ordered our books, designed displays, created beautiful jewelry, organized the office, carried tons of rugs, and with the help of Susan Atkin designed the Museums, Etc. Store and created beautiful chalk drawings on the sidewalks of the quads announcing our sales.

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We will also be losing Aysha Haq after four years. She has been responsible for filling all of our mail orders and working at many of our special events.

Many thanks to Florence Ovadia who creates our beautiful displays and to Georgie Maynard who keeps our books restocked.

Loyal Docents

Muriel Brauer
Patty Dunkel
Barbara Frey
Ruth Hyman

Peggy Kovacs
Agnethe Rattenborg
Rochelle Rossin
Mary Schulman

Jane Thain
Norma van der Meulen

Loyal Docent Substitutes

Barbara Storms Baird Peggy Grant Janet Helman Jo Jackson

Newberry Volunteers

Margaret Schröder Norma van der Meulen Natalia Wilson

Museums, Etc. Volunteers

Bud Haas Cissy Haas Jane Thain Norma van der Meulen

Behind the Scenes Docents

Georgie Maynard Eleanor Swift

Jewelry Designer

Norma van der Meulen



DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

Overleaf. Ellen Pearlstein and Carlotta Maher before restored Mut head at Colonnade Hall of Luxor Temple

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Cynthia Echols

Overview

In fiscal year 1998 the Oriental Institute booked \$2,900,238 in nonfederal private gifts and grants. This remarkable gain (70%) over the prior year was due in large measure to an increase in major gifts through deferred vehicles such as charitable annuities and gifts in trust. The Membership program closed fiscal year 1998 with \$128,927 in income, a 14% increase. Close of June 1998 ledgers for Membership and Development showed a balance of \$65,000. I thank all our generous supporters who made this financial success possible. A complete Honor Roll of Members and Donors appears at the end of this section.

The Development Office is committed to balancing support from all sectors and securing sufficient funding for all areas of the Institute. Of the \$2.9 million raised this year, \$2.4 million supported various projects *excluding* the Legacy Campaign for our onetime building project. Individuals provided the largest share of private funding: Bequests, 3%; Annual Fund (membership program), 4%; Corporations and Foundations, 15%; Major Gifts (individuals), 28%; and Life Income Gifts, 50%.

Fundraising Highlights

The traditional year-end appeal raised \$320,284 for many different Institute projects. An 11% increase over previous year-end gifts, this 1997 response included a substantial pledge to the Legacy Campaign for facilities improvements as well as a number of major gifts to fieldwork and projects. We commend the many Institute members who ensured the success of our projects this past year.

We especially thank our generous corporate and foundation supporters, including The Chicago Community Trust, LaSalle National Banks, Ernst & Young, Morgan Stanley, the Institute for Aegean Prehistory, the National Geographic Society, and the University of Chicago Women's Board. Other gift highlights included an anonymous gift to establish the Robert and Linda Braidwood Prehistory Exhibit in the renovated museum and a major gift, also given anonymously, to be used at the discretion of the Museum Director.

Our drive to finance climate control, expansion and renovation at the Institute and museum — the Legacy Campaign — reached \$9.5 million of the \$10.1 million needed. In particular we wish to acknowledge 1997/98 leadership gifts from David and Carlotta Maher, Marshall and Doris Holleb, and Maurice and Lois Schwartz.

DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

The Campaign Executive Committee, co-chaired by Carlotta Maher, Jim Sopranos, and Ray Tindel, deserves hearty thanks for making this progress a reality. The Executive Committee roster follows this section.

Visiting Committee

We are pleased to announce that the University of Chicago Board of Trustees approved three new appointments to the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee. Alan Brodie, of Counsel at Bell, Boyd & Lloyd, holds a law degree from the University of Chicago. A long-standing member of the Institute, Mr. Brodie has traveled widely with Institute study tours. Emily Huggins Fine, who lived in the Hyde Park neighborhood and attended the University Laboratory Schools, resides in California. A generous supporter of Institute projects, in particular the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, Mrs. Fine also serves on the University of Chicago Humanities Visiting Committee and on the International House Board of Governors. Mary Grimshaw, an alumna of the University of Chicago College, has been a docent since 1988. In recent years she has worked closely with Institute Registrar Ray Tindel; her volunteer service greatly aided the creation of the museum's database of registered artifacts. Mrs. Grimshaw also is a member of the University of Chicago Women's Board. She was awarded an Alumni Service Citation by the University of Chicago in June 1998.

During fiscal year 1997/98 the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee met formally on three occasions. Retiring Director of the Oriental Institute William M. Sumner was honored on 11 September at a reception hosted by the Visiting Committee. On 29 January Committee members gathered for lunch at the University Club with a special work-in-progress report from Professor Aslihan Yener. Finally, on 23 April the Committee met at the Oriental Institute for a tour of the new wing and gallery renovations underway followed by dinner at the Quadrangle Club.

Thanks

As in the course of every year the Development Office has benefited greatly from the assistance of many able and dedicated individuals. In particular we thank Bill Harms, University News and Information, for publicity, and Assistant Curator Emily Teeter for event and travel planning.

As always, our review of the year provides a welcome opportunity to reflect on the many friends — our Institute family — who contribute so much on so many occasions. We thank all our members, and especially the docents, for their support and work on behalf of the Institute and museum. The Development Office benefited directly this past year from its own informal volunteer corps that included, among others, Bud Haas, Tom Heagy, Janet Helman, Carlotta Maher, Bob Schloerb, and Jim Sopranos.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

Tim Cashion

Overview

The Membership Office devoted 1996–1997 to continuing efforts to attract new members and to developing new programming. There were 1,245 Basic and Associate Membership gifts totaling \$76,497.95 over the fiscal year; these figures represent 5% and 8% increases, respectively, over the previous year. We thank all of those members who have so loyally supported us during renovation and look forward to greeting them in the new Egyptian Gallery in 1999.

On 18 May 1998 over 280 members and friends joined us for *Romancing the Past Comes Home*, the Oriental Institute 1998 Annual Dinner. Held in the future Egyptian and Persian Galleries, the dinner featured a tribute from University Provost Geoffrey Stone to outgoing Visiting Committee Chairman Robert G. Schloerb and an address by Associate Professor of Egyptology Robert K. Ritner on “Some Practical Incantations of Egyptian Magic.” Oriental Institute Director Gene Gragg proposed a toast to the newly reinstalled monumental statue of Tutankhamun, and many of the guests stopped by the statue for a closer look.

The Membership Office developed new programming in 1997/98, including an Associates Dinner with Gertrude Bell biographer Janet Wallach at the Fortnightly on 24 September 1997, a free members field trip to Argonne National Laboratory on 15 November 1997, and an open house featuring the Oriental Institute Dictionary projects, co-sponsored with the Museum Education Office, on 15 March 1998. In addition to these programs, our Members Lecture series continued with eight lectures:

22 October 1997: Raymond D. Tindel, Registrar and Associate Curator, Oriental Institute Museum, “A Celebration of Robert and Linda Braidwood: In Honor of Robert J. Braidwood’s 90th Birthday.”

12 November 1997: Israel Finkelstein and David Ussishkin, Tel Aviv University, “Back to Megiddo: In the Footsteps of the Oriental Institute Expedition.”

3 December 1997: Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier, University of Heidelberg, “Minoans, Mycenaeans and Hittites in Western Anatolia: New Excavations at Bronze Age Miletus/Millawanda.”

14 January 1998: Emily Teeter, Associate Curator, Oriental Institute Museum, “Medinet Habu: Life and Cult in Ancient Thebes: An Update on Current Research.”

18 February 1998: David Reese, Field Museum of Natural History, “Man and Animal in the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East.”*

11 March 1998: Benjamin Foster, Yale University, “Yankees in Eden: The Near East in Early American Thought.”

22 April 1998: Gil Stein, Northwestern University, “Anatomy of a Mesopotamian Colony: Hacinebi, Turkey, 3700 BC.”*

DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

6 May 1998: Brian Hesse, University of Alabama at Birmingham, “Dog Love and Pig Hate in the Ancient Levant.”

* Co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America

The Oriental Institute Travel Program enjoyed a strong year, with one domestic and three overseas departures. *Egypt in Detroit*, led by Associate Curator Emily Teeter, visited the *Splendors of Ancient Egypt* exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts in September, while Associate Professor Emeritus Richard L. Chambers toured Turkey that same month. Professor Emeritus Edward F. Wente led a group of members and University of Chicago alumni to Egypt in November, and Research Associate Abbas Alizadeh escorted sixteen travelers to Iran in April. We were particularly pleased with the last departure, as it represents a return to an area so important in the history of the Institute.

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DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

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1997/98

We are pleased to recognize the friends of the Oriental Institute who have given so generously during the period from 1 July 1997 through 30 June 1998. We are most grateful for your support.

The Membership Honor Roll is arranged in alphabetical order within each membership level, and reflects active memberships as of 30 June 1998. The Donor Honor Roll, also alphabetical, is divided into total gift levels for fiscal year 1997/98; it includes *non-membership gifts only*. Gifts received after 30 June 1998 will appear in next year's *Annual Report*. We have made every effort to verify correct gift levels and donor names. Please contact the Membership and Development Office if you wish to make changes in your honor roll listing.

MEMBERSHIP HONOR ROLL

James Henry Breasted Society

The James Henry Breasted Society includes Oriental Institute members who annually contribute \$1,000 or more (Patron) and \$2,500 or more (Director's Circle) to provide a direct, renewable source of unrestricted funds for Oriental Institute projects and for matching money to private and federal grants. We thank each of our Breasted Society members for their ongoing generosity.

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INFORMATION

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The museum galleries are presently closed for renovation and expansion. Please continue to visit the Suq and the Research Archives, which remain open for your convenience, and check your mail for details on the opening of our Egyptian Hall.

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Assyrian Dictionary, 702-9543

Computer Laboratory, 702-9538

Conservation Laboratory, 702-9519

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Director's Office, 702-9514

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Fiscal/Personnel Office, 702-1404

Hittite Dictionary, 702-9527

Journal of Near Eastern Studies, 702-9592

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World-Wide Web Address

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