

## Walter E. Kaegi

This year, **Walter E. Kaegi** agreed to chair the Oriental Institute/Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations committee to search for an ancient Near Eastern historian to succeed John A. Brinkman during 2000/2001. That search has already begun and is taking much time. Kaegi has been heavily involved in writing the advertisement and in soliciting advice and names of potential candidates.

As Adviser to the Dean of Humanities on Armenian affairs for the past twenty-five years, Kaegi wrote the report "Recommendation for Armenian Studies," and headed the visiting Armenian Studies faculty search that resulted in the hiring of Christina Maranci (Ph.D., Princeton University) for Art History in spring 2001.

Kaegi served as Director of the Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium in the absence of Rob Nelson. He also represented the Department of History on the American Historical Association Annual Meeting (6–9 January 2000) Local Arrangements Committee.

Kaegi wrote a proposal that resulted in more than doubling the University's annual Armenian funding for visiting faculty in Armenian studies. Kaegi also served as a sub-grantee on the Near Eastern History seminar on Islamic origins with co-instructors Fred M. Donner (principal grantee) and Donald Whitcomb.

Outside the University, Kaegi continued as a member of the Local Arrangements Committee for the American Historical Association's Annual Meeting, held in Chicago 6–8 January. He served as Bibliographer for *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* and editor for *Byzantinische Forschungen*, volume 26, which he completed and sent to the printer for publication. He also served as external referee for two personnel decisions for the Departments of History in the University of Tel Aviv and the American University in Beirut.

This past year, Kaegi gave the following lectures: "Heraclius in Africa" at the Byzantine Studies Conference at the University of Maryland 4–7 November; "The Muslim Conquest of Diyarbekir and Edessa" at the conference on Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces at the University of California, Los Angeles, 13 November; and "Reinterpreting the Early Muslim Invasions of Anatolia" at the Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium on 18 January at the University of Chicago. Kaegi was the commentator on the Session on Late Antiquity at the Association of Ancient Historians meeting 7 January (held jointly with the American Historical Association) and chaired the session on Ethnographic Methods and Models at the conference on Hellenism, History, and Ethnography in the Early Roman Empire at the Franke Institute on 5 February.

Publications printed or forthcoming include "Heraclius" in *Late Antiquity: Guide to the Post-Classical World*, edited by Peter Brown, G. W. Bowersock, and O. Grabar (Cambridge: Harvard, 1999); "Observations on the Historical Context of Bir Umm Fawakhir" in *Bir Umm Fawakhir Survey Project 1993: A Byzantine Gold-Mining Town in Egypt*, with C. Meyer, L. A. Heidorn, and T. Wilfong (Oriental Institute Communications 28; Chicago: Oriental Institute, 2000); "Heraclius," "North Africa," "Yarmuk," "Warfare," and "Byzantine" in the *Encyclope-*

*dia of Greece and the Hellenic Tradition*, edited by Graham Speake; “Yarmuk” in the *Encyclopedia of Islam*; “A Misunderstood Place-name in a Poem of George of Pisidia” and “Gigthis and Olbia in the Pseudo-Methodius Apocalypse and Their Significance” in *Byzantinische Forschungen*, volume 26. Kaegi also wrote a number of reviews, but most importantly, he completed his book manuscript, *Heraclius*, and awaits its submission to a publisher.

---