Peter Der Manuelian

They said I was crazy. "Bring your computer to Egypt? To a sandy, dusty, desert country like that? Do you have some sort of fetish for high tech sadism? Well, I had simply become too spoiled by the advantages of computers, and six months out of every year in Luxor seemed a long enough period to justify the expense and inconvenience of lugging one over. So the 1985/86 season became the year of the "great experiment."

Just what could a computer do for us in Egypt? The answer is simple: to help us preserve Egypt's ancient heritage. The Apple Macintosh, a computer now used by many scholars in the O.I., is particularly well-suited to the needs of Egyptology. Both its flexibility and the pictoral nature of much of ancient Egyptian culture seem to go hand in hand. The machine offers the Egyptologist an opportunity to conveniently combine text and graphics commensurate with his elaborate and expensive demands upon the printer's craft. The acquisition of a few permanent comput-

Continued on page 2
ers for Chicago House would greatly facilitate our work here in Luxor. Some of the uses we could put them to include:

- word processing our academic manuscripts and annual reports for publication
- keeping track of the 14,000 negatives in our photographic archive, the 14,000 volumes in our library, new book orders and journal subscriptions
- managing the voluminous paperwork connected with running the house: budgets, payrolls, accounts, correspondence
- classifying our vast hieroglyphic dictionary and palaeography files

Any of these systems could be programmed to sort specific information for us, such as every variant spelling of the word for “king” in the Temple of Medinet Habu, or every published photograph of a particular wall scene before 1945. The graphic capabilities of the computer cannot match the quality of our artist's lines. Nevertheless, pictures such as hieroglyphic signs, or decaying plates from our irreplaceable 19th Century publications could be "scanned" and "stored" in the computer's memory for preservation and handy use. The senior artist at Chicago House, Ray Johnson, has even taken to using a scanning program to help him reassemble inscribed loose fragments from Luxor Temple on the computer screen.

I had decided to bring my own Macintosh out to Luxor on an experimental basis for both Chicago House work and my own research. Chicago House is on such a tight budget that it has no computer of its own, and cannot at this time afford to experiment with different machines. But the Franco-Egyptian Center down the street at Karnak Temple has been using Apple computers for many of the uses outlined above with tremendous results for several years.

My first step was to try to imagine every last piece of equipment necessary for the machine, for the local bazaars of Luxor were not likely to stock spare disk drives, extra printer ribbons or even computer paper for that matter. So like Noah and his ark, I found myself bringing along at least two of everything! But the major question was how to get such a delicate machine to run properly in an Upper Egyptian town with intermittent brown-outs and black-outs. The solution seemed to be to purchase a gasoline-powered portable generator. A second major problem was dust, fine layers of which eventually seem to cover everything in Egypt, and I had no desire to hear the same crunching sounds emanating from my disk drives which come from opening my dust-filled Swiss army knife.

Shortly before departure from the States, however, I started to wonder if I should have heeded the dire warnings of my friends. The insurance policy on the machine was suddenly "upgraded": more expensive and no more overseas coverage. Additional surprises awaited me on the flight, when, for example, the computer case, specially advertised to fit under the airline seat, in fact didn't. At one point the Macintosh hid in an empty galley cupboard on a TWA 747!

Lest my computer feel lonely out here in Upper Egypt, our one West German staff member, Christian Loeben, decided to join in the fun and bring his own Macintosh along this season. Thus we tried to coordinate our efforts from our respective sides of the Atlantic. After overcoming his own set of Berlin-Cairo adventures with Interflug, the East German airline, he arrived shortly before I did at Cairo Airport, where the most difficult experience of all lay in store for us. There the customs officials were confiscating video cameras and other high-tech equipment right and left, and charging duty fees equal to the full price of the products.

We tried to escape through the "nothing to declare" aisle together, but all the components of our two systems were scrupulously examined. What do you do when a zealous but perhaps uninformed customs official demands to physically see your computer's memory? The letters I had requested from the Egyptian Antiquities Organization allowing exemption from customs duty were waiting for me in Cairo, but meanwhile my Macintosh and generator were carted off to a frantic little customs office. Egyptians were hurrying about over a floor strewn with tiny styrofoam packing chips, like so many tears of the frustrated Westerners whose confiscated equipment waited patiently on racks in the back rooms. Only after extricating ourselves from a week-long bureaucratic process were we allowed to reclaim our computers; on the final day of negotiations, we counted sixteen.

Christian Loeben (standing) and Peter Der Manuelian with a Macintosh on the banks of the Nile.
different people who handled our case at one time or
another.

Finally, everything arrived in one piece in Luxor, and
after settling in again at Chicago House for another season,
I set up the computer in my office. The generator took up its
new sentinel position outside the window, a mere fifty
meters away from our front gate and the east bank of the Nile. I
bought Egyptian motor oil, gasoline (for less than 20 cents a
liter), and listened to the engine purr. (So far, no snakes have
sought out a new home in the cosy warmth under the
generator's cover.) Both Macintoshes and the printer all
seem to have survived the journey intact. As I write this
note on the computer screen, the Egyptian sun is shining
outside, the tour buses, horse-drawn carriages, and donkey
carts all compete for space on the corniche road along the
Nile, and the Theban Necropolis across the river, with its
famous Valley of the Kings and mortuary temples, stares
back soberly through the midday haze.

WINTER MEMBERS' COURSES

TO BEGIN JANUARY 18:

Ancient Iran: Cultures and Kingdoms from Prehistory to the Achaemenid Empire
INSTRUCTOR: Abbas Alizadeh

Ancient Egyptian Ethics and Law
INSTRUCTOR: Frank Yurco

See Nov-Dec. News & Notes for descriptions or call Education Office 962-9507.
Courses meet Saturdays 10 a.m.—noon; tuition $60 plus membership.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
Field Museum of Natural History
wants pleasure in inviting
members of The Oriental Institute
to the preview of
"Te Maori: Maori Art from New Zealand Collections"
on Friday, March 7
from 5:00 until 9:00 p.m.

At 6:00 Dr. John Terrell, Curator of Oceanic Archaeology and
Ethnology, will introduce Sidney Moko Mead, Professor of Maori
Studies, Victoria University of Wellington. Dr. Terrell is the exhibit curator for "Te Maori" at Field Museum and author of
Prehistory in the Pacific Islands, (Cambridge University Press,
1986.) There will be a performance of traditional Maori songs and
dance following the introduction.

"Te Maori" is the first international exhibition devoted exclusively
to Maori art. These 173 remarkable heirlooms of traditional art combine major sculptures and carvings in wood, stone, jade,
bone, ivory, and shell, dating from 1000 to 1800. Among the works
from more than 30 Maori tribes are monumental architectural
sculptures, elaborate canoe carvings and equipment, weapons,
tools, musical instruments, mortuary carvings, and objects of
personal adornment.

"Te Maori: Maori Art from New Zealand Collections" was orga
nized by the American Federation of Arts in association with the
New Zealand government, the Maori people, and the New Zealand
leading museums. Made possible by a grant from Mobil. Supported
by the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endow-
ment for the Humanities, an indemnity from the Federal Council
on the Arts and Humanities, Air New Zealand, and the National
Patrons of the American Federation of Arts.

Oriental Institute members are asked to reserve places by
calling 322-8872 and then present their membership cards
the evening of the preview to gain admission to the exhibit.
Light refreshments will be served. Special arrangements for
handicapped persons can be made by calling 922-9410, ext.
453.
find-spot markings and packing two big truck loads of artifacts for transport into the new museum's store-rooms allotted to us in Diyarbakir. Until now, our expedition house has continued to bulge to more and more with each year's yield of antiquities— at last we can move and breathe again but it has taken us much time.

As well as getting our materials themselves into well ordered form in the new museum's stores, we have been asked to aid in the planning of the museum's Cayönü exhibit. We hope to transfer some of the ideas and illustrations from the Oriental Institute's "Quest for Prehistory" exhibit to Diyarbakir. Further, Halet tells us that the Directorate of Antiquities in Ankara has assigned a highly competent lady, trained originally as an interior decorator, for the overall design and execution of the exhibit.

Anticipating all these factors and with the general shortness of the season, we decided only to expand our excavations further toward the western end of the mound in new surface exposures. This would increase our understanding of the overall village plan in its final subphase aspect: moreover immediate sub-surface exposures tend to yield fewer stratigraphic problems than does deeper digging. Had we decided for example to continue in our older areas, such as that of the well publicized "Skull Building" of the last two seasons, we would undoubtedly have had a more exciting yield, but would also have encountered problems we would have been unable to untangle in a short time. Then we would have been faced either with reburying the new exposures, for more work in following seasons, or of taking the chance that the winter's rains and erosion would not be too destructive. Although our western surface clearances do give us more comprehension of the latest house plan types and of the overall village plan, the results are hardly spectacular.

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Flying the new kites to take aerial photographs.

Photograph taken with the kite-camera setup.
There are, however, two new approaches to getting information on Çayönü that were tried this year and we think the results do verge on the spectacular. First, Werner Schnebel, Schirmer’s long-time assistant and a fine field architect, has perfected his own kite-photography technique and equipment and the resultant air photographs are absolutely fine. Werner’s design for the outfit uses a small leading kite, a large (almost 10 ft. broad) lifting kite and a motor powered camera and radio control within a cushioned container. The radio control (adapted from his son’s model airplane kit) allows him to make as many exposures as he has film in the camera, without bringing the outfit down. In a really good wind, Mike says, it takes two people to manage the heavy kite-string and even then it pulls them across a field with heels dug in like plows. This all means that we can now get air views more often. We could only call on the Turkish Air Force for one helicopter flight yearly, and at their convenience; now, of course, we must wait on Allah’s convenience to send us a good wind. By and large, He has been pretty considerate.

The other new approach to recovering information depends on a system developed by Tom Loy of the Provincial Museum of Victoria, B.C. The procedure begins with the almost unbelievable fact that particles of blood and protein residues may be recovered from the surfaces of flint, obsidian, other stone or bone tools. First, the samples must be isolated and removed with the aid of a low-powered microscope. The next step is the laboratory in which various methods are used for species identification of the blood residue samples. Three of these techniques are hemoglobin crystallization identification, “isoelectric focussing” and “immunological testing.”

We first met Tom in Victoria while lecturing there; we had noted his descriptive article in the journal Science in June, 1983. Last spring, he agreed to take on our assistant, André, for several weeks in his Victoria laboratory, so that she could learn how to secure the blood residue samples on our Çayönü artifacts which may not leave Turkey. Hence André, now here with our own fine binocular microscope (provided to us in the past by two staunch friends of the expedition), is finding an amazing quantity of blood residue on various of the Çayönü artifacts. Once laboratory identification has been made of these samples, we should have new varieties of information: on the uses of various tools, perhaps on different varieties of animals not yet represented in our animal bone samples and maybe even clues to the dietary preferences of the original Çayönü villagers.

So the tenth season at Çayönü is ending on a very upbeat note. It is, as it always has been, wonderful to be back out here and again part of a tightly knit and happily functioning little international community. It is especially good to help the new generation of Turkish students and younger colleagues break into full stride. But as to radio-controlled kite photography and blood residue identification, Bob feels these are all a long way from the archaeology he saw when he first went out as a draftsman for the University of Michigan’s expedition, south of Baghdad, in 1930.

Best of cheer from,

Bob and Linda Braidwood

THE RETURN OF BAAL AND “THE GODS OF ARMAGEDDON”

“Thou shalt have no other gods before Me!”
“Thou shalt not make unto thyself any graven image . . .”
“Thou shalt not bow down to them or serve them . . .”

But they did. The Hebrew invaders found the cosmopolitan culture of the Canaanite city-states quite tantalizing, and were continually led astray by the attractions of the god Baal. Baal manifested himself in thunderstorms and lightning, and his rain guaranteed fertility. The cult of Baal with its priests and shrines was already well-established in the Levantine pantheon, and he is the subject of a major myth cycle preserved on tablets from Ugarit. His popularity among the Hebrews is evident from the Prophets’ repeated denunciations, and his adherents included both kings and commoners. His altars were set up, at times, even in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In the course of excavations at Megiddo, the Biblical Armageddon, Gordon Loud unearthed the remains of an Early Iron Age Canaanite tower temple. Amid the rubble was a small cult figure of Baal in bronze covered with gold leaf.

This object will be returned to public view for the first time in years as the centerpiece of a new special exhibit, “THE GODS OF ARMAGEDDON,” which will open with a Members’ viewing Feb. 19 at 5:00 PM. The gilded Baal is particularly interesting in light of the description of idol-making in Isaiah 40:18 “A craftsman casts a graven image, the goldsmith covers it with gold and casts silver chains for it.” A number of other figurines of Canaanite gods and goddesses will also be on display, along with a horned altar and other cultic paraphernalia.

The Baal figure is Featured Object number four in the Oriental Institute Museum, and will continue as such through June 1986. A descriptive brochure, with photographs and a text written by Raymond D. Tindel, is available for visitors to read and take home. Members from out of town who would like a copy of the brochure may obtain one by sending their request to the Museum Education Office.

Please include a long, self-addressed stamped envelope.
CHILDREN’S WORKSHOPS

Children's workshops will be offered in January and February, on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. until noon. Each workshop includes a tour, snack and craft activity. Workshops are recommended for children ages 6-12. There is a fee of $7 for each workshop, and advanced registration is required. Call 962-9507 for information or to make reservations.

Jan. 11  Crowns of Ancient Egypt
Tour will look at the many kinds of headdresses worn by kings and queens, gods and goddesses in ancient Egypt of the pharaohs.
Craft: Participants will make a three-dimensional crown like the one worn by Nefertiti or King Tut.

Jan. 18  Sports and Games of Ancient Times
Tour will look at representations of play in the ancient world and at some ancient gaming boards used in Egypt, Mesopotamia and the land of Canaan.
Craft: Each participant will make a game board and playing pieces based on the ivory game board found in Megiddo.

Jan. 25  Temples and Ziggurats in Mesopotamia
Tour will look at temples in Mesopotamia—how they were built, how they were decorated, what gods and goddesses they were built for, and what kings built them.
Craft: Participants will make their own foundation deposits—the ancient “cornerstone” boxes that held likenesses of the king and writing tablets recording the name of the king and the god or goddess for whom the temple was built.

Feb. 15 & 22  Be A Scribe (Two sessions—$7 fee for each session)
Part I  Feb. 15: Tour will feature some real ancient Egyptian stories and look at some Egyptian personages—kings, children, gods—to be used as characters in stories the participants will write.
Craft: Participants will write stories of their own, set in ancient Egypt and illustrate them with drawings of gallery objects.
Part II  Feb. 22: Tour will feature hieroglyphic writing and scenes from the Book of the Dead, the ancient Egyptian collection of magical spells and prayers taken into the tomb to protect the spirit of the person in the next life.
Craft: Children will choose a scene from the Book of the Dead, draw it and copy a hieroglyphic inscription about it to make their own “Book of the Dead” scroll.

MUSEUM EDUCATION OFFICE RECEIVES GRANT

The Museum Education Office, under the direction of Joan Barghusen, has recently been awarded a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, in the amount of $15,865 to support a Summer Institute for Secondary School teachers entitled “Before the Greeks: Origins of Civilization in the Ancient Near East.” The Institute will meet in the summer of 1986 and is similar in scope and content to the 1984 Summer Teacher’s Institute of the same title. It will afford teachers an opportunity for comprehensive and scholarly study of history and culture in the ancient Near East and will heighten their awareness of the cultural debt of Western civilization to the earlier civilizations in the ancient Near East. A combination of lectures by Oriental Institute experts, discussions based on ancient texts, Museum gallery study and use of the Oriental Institute archives should help teachers understand the ancient world and prepare them to teach this important subject area to their students. Illinois high school teachers of social studies, humanities and art history are eligible for this program, which is free of charge. Interested persons should contact the Education Office, 962-9507, for information about applications.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE 1986 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR

Turkey—Spring 1986

We are planning a tour to Turkey in late April - early May. Final details, itinerary, dates and price will be available by the time you read this. The tour will be led by the Oriental Institute’s Ronald Gorney who is just back from a year’s Fulbright fellowship in Ankara. The tour, ANATOLIA—CROSSROADS OF EUROPE AND ASIA, will encompass the entire range of Anatolian history. We will begin the tour in Ankara and then proceed east, first visiting the Hittite center at Bogazkoy, through Cappadocia with its wild rock formations and hidden Byzantine churches, to coastal Turkey, providing unparalleled opportunities for viewing the famed Greek cities of Asia Minor: Didyma, Ephesus, Pergamon, Sardis, and legendary Troy. The tour ends in Istanbul, with its famous mosques, the Topkapi Serai Museum, and the exotic bazaar. The profusion of wild flowers, the gentle climate, and the beaches of the Mediterranean will make this tour a fascinating vacation.

For information and an itinerary, please call or write the Membership Office: 1155 East 58th Street. Chicago, Illinois 60637—(312) 962-9513.
JANUARY LECTURE

Donald Hansen, from New York University, will present an illustrated lecture, *The Architecture of the Early Dynastic Rulers of Lagash*, January 15, 1986 at 8 PM in Breasted Hall.

FEBRUARY LECTURE

Robert and Linda Braidwood, of the Oriental Institute, will present an illustrated lecture, *The Continuing Surprise of Cayonii*, February 5, 1986 at 8 PM in Breasted Hall.

FEBRUARY LECTURE

Lawrence Stager, of the Oriental Institute, will present an illustrated lecture, *In the Footsteps of the Philistines: The First Season of Excavations at Ashkelon, 1985*, February 19, 1986 at 8 PM in Breasted Hall. NOTE: the usual reception will precede this lecture, in conjunction with the opening, from 5 - 8 PM, of the Museum's new exhibit "THE GODS OF ARMAGEDDON".

MARCH LECTURE

Our annual joint lecture in conjunction with the Chicago Society of the A.I.A. will be presented by Kenan T. Erim, from New York University, speaking on *The Scriptural School of Aphrodisias*, March 16, 1986 at 4 PM in Breasted Hall.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

All lectures (except the one on Sunday, March 16th) are at 8 PM in Breasted Hall at the Oriental Institute. Reminders of the upcoming lectures will be printed in each issue of the News & Notes. Institute members may make dinner reservations at the Quadrangle Club, 1155 East 57th Street, 753-3696 before membership lectures. They will bill the Oriental Institute and we, in turn, will bill you. Please print your name and address at the bottom of your dinner check, as well as signing it, so that we know where to send your bill.

MARCH 16, 1986

Kenan T. Erim, New York University, *The Sculptural School of Aphrodisias*, A joint lecture with the Chicago Society of the A.I.A.

NOTE: This Sunday afternoon lecture will take place at 4 PM in Breasted Hall.

APRIL 2, 1986


APRIL 30, 1986

Eric Meyers, Duke University, *Recent Excavations in the Galilee*.

MAY 12, 1986

Annual Oriental Institute Dinner in the Museum.

MAY 21, 1986

Karen Wilson, New York University, *Eight Seasons of Excavation at Mendes: Capital City of the 16th Lower Egyptian Nome*.

DOCENT TRAINING COURSES

There will be a training seminar for week-end docents starting Saturday, Jan. 18 and continuing on alternate Saturdays through mid-May. The training sessions which will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will consist of discussion groups, lectures and gallery workshops. No prior training or knowledge is required.

Week-end docents guide in the Museum one half-day—Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, or Sunday afternoon—every other week.

Docents must be members of the Oriental Institute and can purchase a Docent Kit from the Volunteer Office for $25. The Docent Kit contains summary articles on the history of the ancient Near East, bibliography, gallery and reading assignments, short articles on particular exhibits, as well as a case by case description of the galleries.

If you are interested in taking the seminar or the weekday Docent Course starting this spring, please call Janet Helman in the Volunteer Office at 962-9507 for more information or to make an appointment for an interview.
THE SUQ

New! Direct from the British Museum
Halley’s Comet in History
edited by F. R. Stephenson & C.B.F. Walker

Learn how the ancient cultures of Babylon and China viewed Halley’s Comet, and how that information is used today for a better understanding of the comet. This new exhibition catalogue has detailed observations of Halley’s Comet in Babylonian and Chinese texts. 32 Babylonian tablets are shown in cuneiform with their transliterations and translations. There are several charts, photographs and references for further reading.
Price: $ 8.50

and for those who have been waiting:
Blue and White, Chinese Porcelain and Its Impact on the Western World
by John Carswell
Price: $25.00

Other new items in the SUQ:

Turkish wedding plates, copper engraved with silver.
5 inch plates $ 9.50 7 inch plates $17.50 11 inch plate $47.00

University of Chicago Calendars:
Lovely color photographs of the University
(unfortunately none of the Oriental Institute) $6.95

Remember: Member’s receive a 10% Discount
Illinois residents 8% Tax
Postage: $1.75 for first item.
$.50 ea. add’l item

The Oriental Institute
The University of Chicago
1155 East 58th Street . Chicago, Illinois . 60637

Dated Material