



News & Notes

*Issued confidentially to members and friends
Not for publication*

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EL-QITAR SUMMER 1987

Thomas L. McClellan

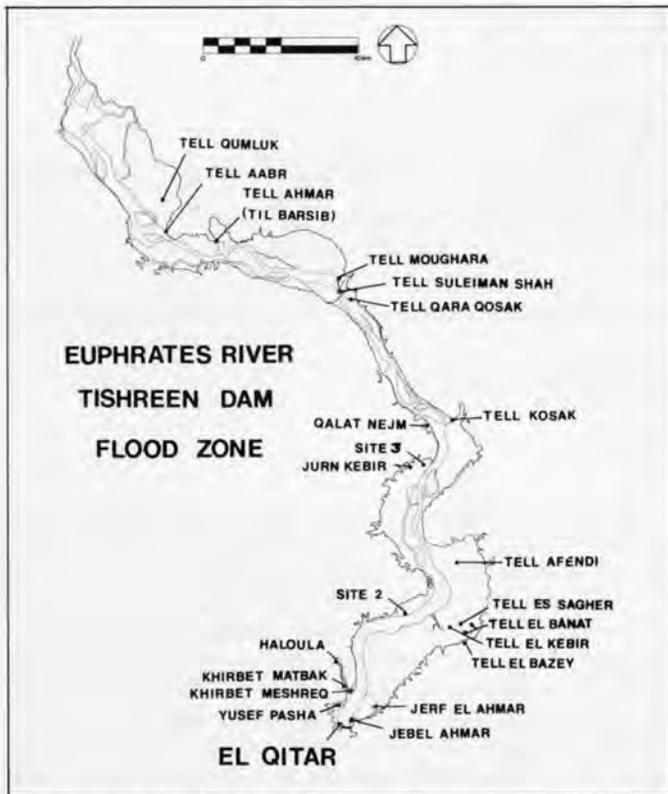
We set up our camp in Abu Qal Qal this year. Fortunately our landlord for the previous four seasons, the Mukhtar of Yusef Pasha, was away in Saudi Arabia when we changed villages, otherwise his sense of hospitality would have demanded we stay with him. But Abu Qal Qal boasted electricity and running water. Our dining room and kitchen were the best yet, under the excellent supervision of Katie Barfield. Dorothea Ditchfield and Mandy Mottram organized the camp work rooms, sherd sorting and registration, and Mandy continued her study of early ceramics and lithics from her surface collection at Haloula. We also shared camp with Graeme Clarke of the Humanities Research Centre in Canberra and Peter Connor of Melbourne University who have their own project at Jebel Khalid and who were assisted by Gillian Shepherd and Bryce Raworth.

Abu Qal Qal became a real option this year because of the new macadam road to the site of Tishreen Dam (i.e. el-Qitar). It took only 11 to 14 minutes by vehicle from camp to site—at least until the last week when the road near the base of el-Qitar was bulldozed away, and water pipelines and electrical cables were laid across the road in another spot. Work seemed to intensify all around us as our season came to an end. Drilling rigs taking geological cores dotted the horizon around el-Qitar, including the other side of the river and even mid-stream, as if pickets of a seige army. Our second breakfast at 9:30 (4:30 am was first breakfast) was constantly disrupted by the racket of a large diesel generator about 10 m from our guard house and for about six weeks dam surveyors arrived every day to set up their plane table beside our trenches at the River Gate.

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Fallen basalt lion from the lower city at Tell Ahmar (Til Barsib).



Area of future lake behind Tishreen Dam in northern Syria. Qalat Nejm and Tell Bazey will not be directly affected; other sites will be totally or partially submerged.

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In our work on the Upper Settlement at el-Qitar Joanna McClellan continued exploring the Orthostat Building where she found further evidence for an intermediate phase sandwiched between it and later Building 15. New trenches were also opened farther north near the highest point of el-Qitar. We thought the extensive robber pits there might have been from looting Late Bronze Age buildings, but it turned out that it was Classical period graves that had been robbed. The graves themselves had cut into and damaged the poorly preserved Bronze Age structures. Working there was difficult because very strong winds hit us from the west, almost knocking us over and blowing into our faces all the soil we excavated and dumped. Dan Snell and Radi Ukhdi worked valiantly there under terrible conditions. As director, I often found it necessary to cut short visits there due to pressing business elsewhere. But Dan's toil was rewarded by his discovery of a lovely gold earring studded with two garnets.

In the Lower Settlement Augusta McMahon, Anne Porter, Lorraine Brochu, all from the Oriental Institute, and Anna Curnow from Melbourne University excavated at and around the River Gate. They found it to possess a pair of orthostats that served as piers for arches across the gate's passageway. Inside the gate there were three major strata of streets and buildings. We found two painted beaker fragments there of "Younger" Habur Ware. Elsewhere Andrew Anastasios and for a short time Dora Constantinides, both of Melbourne University, excavated two buildings constructed against the city wall. One building had a layer of thick black ash and broken pots. In an unroofed room there were numerous ovens and beneath them, in a slightly earlier phase, over one hundred post holes whose patterns and functions we are still puzzling over.

The dam will have a water level at least 30 m high creating a lake extending northward approximately 60 km to just below Carchemish. To determine what ancient sites will be flooded Radi Ukhdi from the Department of Antiquities and Museums and I initiated an *ad hoc* survey upstream on both sides of the river. Near the mouth of the Sajur River we noted many threatened sites; most have already been examined by Moore and others (Sanlaville 1985). One threatened site is the famous Tell Ahmar, ancient Til Barsib. It attracted attention earlier in the century with the discovery of Iron Age stone sculpture, some with hieroglyphic inscriptions; subsequently it was excavated by the French (Thureau-Dangin and Dunand 1936) who on the upper mound uncovered a Neo-Assyrian palace including some rare wall paintings recently on display in the Ebla to Damascus exhibit which has been touring the United States (Weiss 1985: Catalog Nos. 168-69). An earlier Aramaean palace was directly below the Assyrian, and lower yet there was the Hypogeum tomb, a rich burial with over a thousand pots and an important collection of bronzes, dating to about 2000 BC. It is in the lower city that most of the stone sculpture and inscriptions were found. This summer we visited once again the lion gate in the lower city where a toppled basalt lion and Akkadian cuneiform fragments lie in a wheat field and we wondered what would become of them. The upper mound will be an island or possibly a peninsula, while the lower city will be flooded.

Only 9.5 km north of el-Qitar, on the other side of the river and in a rather inaccessible bend, we found a cluster of sites centered at the village of Tell Banat. Around the village we first saw three sites: Tell Banat, a small but steep conical mound of distinctive yellowish white color, and two other mounds, Tell Kebir and Tell Saghri. The village, which has a paved road that cuts right through it, has a population of about 1000.

On our first visit Radi and I stopped in the village and asked directions; soon about twenty men gathered and described in great detail all the ancient sites from there up to Tell Ahmar. Coming into the village Radi noted a mountain overlooking it and said it was a tell. But I said no, of course not, it was a mountain. We were both right; the villagers confirmed that ancient ruins cover the mountain, called Tell Bazey. Armed with our knowledge of every possible site in the district we pressed on to a quick visit to Tell Saghri which is badly chewed up, but contains what seem to be Iron Age sherds. A farmer watching us examine the site strolled over and spoke with us.



Gold earring with garnets, from grave on summit of el-Qitar. After cleaning by conservator Barbara Reeve.



Looking north from Tell Bazey. Background: small conical mound of Tell Banat; foreground: village of Tell Banat and ancient rampart on its east (right) side.

We asked if he knew of any other ancient sites. He said yes, and pointed back to the village from which we had just driven, and told of old ovens there. I wasn't very interested late in the day in seeing ovens probably abandoned by the villagers twenty years ago, but we dutifully drove back into the village, crossing a rather steep rise and the paved road behind it. We stopped about 30 meters from the crowd of men whom we had left minutes earlier. We couldn't immediately find the elusive ovens until an old woman came out of her house (we were in her 'front yard') and pointed toward our tire tracks. We had driven over the outline of an oval oven, much larger than I had expected. Nearby was a second but we couldn't find any sherds to date them. We drove on through the village to the foot of the mountain, Tell Bazey, for a quick look at it and found along its slopes large stone walls that are remains of terraces and defenses—and alas, lots of recent robber pits with pottery strewn everywhere. This fortified mountain, its protruding walls, and some of its sherds are all strikingly similar to our fortress at el-Qitar.

We climbed up the mountain, absorbed in stone walls and sherds. At the top and out of breath we turned around to admire the panoramic view. Looking down on the village I was thunderstruck. Along the east side was the long line of a large earthen rampart, and I could make out bits and pieces of it around the entire perimeter of the village. The paved road cut right through it near the point we had stopped to speak with the villagers who were still lounging there. This large defensive wall is surely constructed of heaped up soil, a method that immediately dates the site to the Middle Bronze Age and places it in the category of

Munbaqa, Hadidi and Carchemish along the Euphrates and Tell Mardikh, Tell Toqan and Qatna in central Syria and Hazor and Tell Dan in Palestine. Most of these sites have upper and lower mounds. Here the mountain site Tell Bazey may have served as the upper city and the village of Tell Banat, the lower. In subsequent visits our sherding of these areas produced Middle Bronze (and possible Late Bronze?) sherds on the mountain Tell Bazey and in the village Middle Bronze sherds except for two high spots on its southwest side where there were quantities of Early Bronze IV sherds. Though not of the size of some of the famous Middle Bronze mounds listed above it is nevertheless rather large to have escaped the notice of archaeologists for so long. At least I think it has. Shortly after returning to Chicago I ran across an old map by Lieutenant Colonel Chesney (1850) who, with a commission from Queen Victoria, explored the possibility of steamboat navigation down the Euphrates from 1835-37. An enterprising man, he dismantled his steamboat and transported it overland from the Mediterranean Sea at Iskanderun to the Euphrates. On one of his maps there is something called the "Low white Tell," which I believe must be the small conical mound of Tell Banat about half a kilometer from the village of Tell Banat. Also, there was an intrepid English lady in the area. After crossing a channel of the Euphrates in swift and I am sure very cold water up to her horses' shoulder, and camping out on top of Tell Ahmar, in mid-February of 1908, Gertrude Bell travelled down the east side of the Euphrates and remarked

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only that "we left the small mound (Tell el Banat) a mile to the east" along the way. (Bell 1911: 41)—but no mention of a large site with ramparts, though a day or so later she made a sketch map of those at Munbaqa whose current excavator, Dr. Dittmar Machule, I should thank for drawing my attention to her book.

We located other sites that will be flooded, but our survey was very preliminary so we hope to spend a bit more time in the area next year.

Bell, Gertrude L.

1911 *Amurath to Amurath*. New York : Dutton.

Chesney, F.R.

1850 *The Expedition for the Survey of the Rivers Euphrates and Tigris*. London: Longmans.

Sanlaville, Paul, ed.

1985 *Holocene Settlement in North Syria*. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports.

Thureau-Dangin, F. and Maurice Dunand

1936 *Til-Barsib*. Paris: Geuthner.

Weiss, Harvey, ed.

1985 *Ebla to Damascus*. Washington: Smithsonian.



Joint staffs from Oriental Institute and Australia (Australian National University and University of Melbourne), before reinforcements arrived from Chicago.

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, January 25, 1988
is the date of the opening of a
new exhibit in the Museum:

*Aqaba –
"Port of Palestine
on the China Sea."*



The opening will take place from
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
and will be followed at 8:00 p.m.
by a lecture in Breasted Hall on

Aqaba

presented by Donald Whitcomb.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE 1988 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR TO EGYPT March 9-27 1988

Our tour to Egypt will be led by Robert K. Ritner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Egyptology at the Oriental Institute. A popular lecturer on Egyptian themes, Ritner has accompanied several Institute tours to Egypt. The trip will provide a fascinating look at the art, history, and culture which originated in the Nile Valley over 5,000 years ago. The trip will feature a five-day Nile cruise on a Sheraton ship. A complete itinerary is available from the Membership Office. The cost of the trip from Chicago is:

Land arrangements	\$2390
Round trip air fare from Chicago (APEX)	\$922
Single supplement, hotels only	\$350
Single supplement, hotels and ship	\$650

plus a \$350 tax-deductible contribution to the Oriental Institute. This includes deluxe accommodations. A \$400 deposit is required at the time of booking.

Arrangements may be made beforehand with the travel agent (Archaeological Tours) to travel in Europe or the Near East before or after the tour. Archaeological Tours will be glad to help you with these arrangements but you will be responsible for any additional travel costs or surcharges.

Information on all tours is available from the Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60637, (312) 702-9513.

Please enroll me/us in the Institute's 1988 Archaeological Tour to Egypt: March 9-27, 1988

- Share room (with?)
 Single room
 Send detailed itinerary

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime telephone _____

Home telephone _____

Enclosed is \$_____ (\$400 per person) as a deposit to hold my/our place, payable to

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS, INC.

Mail to: Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th St., Chicago, IL 60637 (312) 702-9513.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

In the months of January and February the Museum Education Office will again be offering the popular Children's Workshops on Saturday mornings January 16, 23, 30 and February 6. Topics will be announced in November. Please call the Education Office, 702-9507, for information. Each workshop includes a gallery tour and related craft activity. A fee and pre-registration are required.

WINTER MEMBER'S COURSE

Queens of Ancient Egypt

*"Now my heart turns to and fro,
 In thinking what will the people say,
 They who shall see my monument in after years,
 And shall speak of what I have done . . ."*

—Hatshepsut

Their names and representations in art capture the imagination, but what is actually known about the queens of dynastic Egypt, and what sorts of lives were led by ancient Egyptian women in general?

This course will examine the position of women in ancient Egypt with regard to determinism and autonomy, social and religious attitudes, and questions like legal rights and literacy, often with surprising results. Against this backdrop we will view the queens about whom the most is known. For instance, Nefertiti's portrait head has become almost a symbol of Egypt, yet soon after her lifetime an attempt was made to wipe out all memory of her because of the part she played in her husband Akhenaten's religious reforms. Ankhesenamun, the wife of Tutankhamen, was involved in mysterious political strategies after her husband's death. Hatshepsut declared herself king; and she was not the only woman to rule as pharaoh.

Source material for the course will be sculpture, painting, translated textual material, and archaeological evidence, presented in slides, lectures, discussions, and occasional Xeroxes. A suggested reading list will be available, but no text is required.

INSTRUCTOR:

Elizabeth Shannon, M.A., is an Egyptologist presently working toward her doctorate in Art History at the University of Chicago. She has worked with the Egypt Exploration Society Excavations at Amarna and published on the topic of artists' styles in ancient Egyptian tombs.

Class will meet on Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, for eight weeks. January 16 through March 5 at the Oriental Institute. FURTHER INFORMATION 702-9507. Tuition is \$60 plus \$25 annual membership in Oriental Institute.

Please register me for the course

- Queens of Ancient Egypt
 I am a member and enclose a check for \$60
 I am not a member but enclose a SEPARATE check for \$25 to cover a one year Oriental Institute membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime telephone _____

Please make checks payable to
 THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE. Please register by
 Wednesday, January 13th • Mail to: EDUCATION
 OFFICE, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street,
 Chicago, IL 60637.

JUST PUBLISHED

SAOC 46

The Organization of Power: Aspects of Bureaucracy in the Ancient Near East edited by McGuire Gibson and Robert D. Biggs. A collection of ten papers presented at a symposium held at the Oriental Institute in 1983, the articles deal mainly with governmental actions and structures of Mesopotamia and Iraq, with contributions on the Byzantine Empire and Old Kingdom and Ptolemaic Egypt included for illustrative and comparative purposes. Pp. xii + 192, including 15 figures and 10 plates. Paperbound. Price \$18.00 + P. & H. (O.I. Members' price with 20% discount is \$14.40 + P. & H.).

FREE SUNDAY MOVIES AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

All films will be shown at 2 p.m. in Breasted Hall

- NOVEMBER 1 The Big Dig
8 Turkey: Crossroads of the Ancient World
15 Champollion: Egyptian Hieroglyphs Deciphered
22 Rivers of Time
29 Myth of the Pharaohs/Ancient Mesopotamia
- DECEMBER 6 Royal Archives of Ebla
13 Of Time, Tombs and Treasure
20 The Egyptologists
27 Iran: Landmarks in the Desert
- JANUARY 3 Iraq: Stairway to the Gods
10 Egypt: Gift of the Nile
17 Megiddo: City of Destruction
24 Preserving Egypt's Past
31 Egypt's Pyramids

NEW MUSEUM BROCHURE

The Museum has an elegant, new full-color brochure. Members who wish to receive a copy of the brochure should send a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to:

Museum Brochure
Museum Office
The Oriental Institute
1155 East 58th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637



LECTURE SCHEDULE

Lectures will be presented at 8 p.m. in Breasted Hall at the Oriental Institute.

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.

- November 12, 1987 James Sanders, Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center for Preservation and Research, Claremont, California. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today*. **THIS IS A THURSDAY LECTURE.**
- November 18, 1987 David O'Connor, University Museum, Philadelphia, *Palace and Cosmos in Ancient Egypt*.
- December 2, 1987 Martha Roth, The Oriental Institute, *Matrimony and Patrimony: Marriage in First Millennium Babylonia*.
- January 6, 1988 Alan Peatfield, The British School of Archaeology, Athens, *Minoan Religion: New Developments and Near Eastern Connections*. A joint lecture with the Chicago Society of A.I.A.
- January 25, 1988 Donald Whitcomb, The Oriental Institute, *Aqaba - "Port of Palestine on the China Sea."* **THIS IS A MONDAY LECTURE** and is presented in conjunction with the opening in the museum, from 5-8 p.m. this evening, of a new exhibition, *Aqaba - "Port of Palestine on the China Sea,"* artifacts and drawings from the excavations at Aqaba.
- February 3, 1988 Thomas Holland, The Oriental Institute, *Swehat: an Ur III Outpost on the Euphrates River in Syria*.
- February 17, 1988 Gene Gragg and Dennis Pardee, The Oriental Institute, *Shem, Ham (and Japheth): Where Do the Languages of the Ancient Near East Come From?*
- March 2, 1988 Thomas Jacobson, Indiana University, *Man and the Sea in Prehistoric Greece and the Aegean Islands*. A joint lecture with the Chicago Society of the A.I.A.
- April 6, 1988 William Dever, The University of Arizona, *Archaeology and "Popular Cult" in Ancient Israel*.
- April 20, 1988 Gus Van Beek, The Smithsonian Institution, *An Overview of the Excavations of Tell Jemmeh, Israel*.
- May 4, 1988 Douglas Esse, The Oriental Institute, *Ashkelon in the Persian Period: A Levantine Emporium*.
- May 16, 1988 Annual Oriental Institute Dinner in the Museum.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Cookbook

Feasts for Pharaohs and Kings: The Oriental Institute Volunteers' cookbook will make an unusual gift for the holiday. Send us your cards or lists of names and we will post your gifts for you on the dates you specify. Order from the Volunteer Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Send \$10 for each cookbook, + \$.80 tax for each delivered within Illinois + \$2.50 each for postage and handling (\$1.00 postage and handling for additional copies to the same address). Please make all checks payable to THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE.

History Course on Tapes

Give a gift of learning with the 10-lecture cassette tape course "The Life of the Common Man in Ancient Egypt." Included is a study guide with an outline for each lecture and a short reading list for those who want to do more than just listen.

Lecturer Peter Piccione describes the course:

"In studying ancient Egypt we usually focus upon royalty, political history, religion and the pyramids, while neglecting the lives of the common people. This course will consider the various aspects of society which affected the lives of the common people, focusing on such topics as the structure of Egyptian society; the Egyptian educational system and the opportunities it presented to the lower classes for advancement; Egyptian occupations and industry; medicine in Egypt; the position of women in society including social equality and women's rights; love and marriage; legal aspects of marriage; organization of labor; building techniques; mathematics and astronomy; and the Egyptian legal system with regard to crime and punishment."

The cost for this course is \$95 for members.

ORDER FORM

Please send me *The Life of the Common Man in Ancient Egypt* lecture series on cassette tapes.

- I enclose a check for \$95 for the series
 I am a member
 I am not a member but enclose a **SEPARATE** check for \$25 to cover a one year membership.
 Please include gift card when course is sent.
 Gift card enclosed; please send with course.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime telephone _____

Send course to (if gift): _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make all checks payable to **THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE** and **MAIL TO: EDUCATION OFFICE**. The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th St., Chicago, IL 60637 (312) 702-9507.

Suq Holiday Shopping Spree

This year's Holiday Shopping Spree will take place on December 2nd in conjunction with the December members' lecture by Martha Roth. The *Suq* will be open and light refreshments will be served from 5 to 8 p.m. and additional shopping may be done after the lecture while the lecture reception is in progress. On this evening only, members will receive a 15% discount on all of their purchases in the *Suq*.

Gifts to the Institute

Give a gift to yourself or a friend or a contribution to your (their) favorite Oriental Institute project. Gifts may be made to one of the many field, dictionary or research projects; the Museum; or the Volunteer or Museum Education programs. We will be happy to send a gift card to the recipient (or enclose your own card for us to forward on). Send checks, payable to the Oriental Institute, to the Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637 along with a notation of which project you wish to support.

Gift Memberships

A holiday gift of an Oriental Institute membership will bring the recipient a year of *News & Notes*, an *Annual Report*, discounts in the *Suq*, and access to the many lecture, tour and educational programs which the Institute offers. We will send a packet of materials about the Institute, a membership card(s) and a card announcing your gift on the day you specify (or enclose your own gift card for us to forward on).

Annual memberships in the Chicago area (zip codes 60000 through 60699) are \$25. Memberships for seniors (over 65), students and those outside Chicago are \$20. All foreign memberships are \$25 (payable in U.S. dollars only). Membership Office, the Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, (312) 702-9513.

New *SUQ* Volunteers Needed

Holiday shopping in our *Suq* begins early, so volunteers are needed to handle the rush of gift buyers and school groups. It's fun to work in the gift shop and volunteers get first chance to see the new merchandise with which our shop is so elegantly stocked. *Suq* volunteers work one half day a week in the gift shop and training can be done on the spot. Anyone interested in volunteering in the *Suq* should call Janet Helman at 702-9507.

EVENING HOURS FOR THE MUSEUM

Starting November 18, 1987 and continuing through December 30, 1987 the Museum will be open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. The Museum shop, the *Suq*, will also remain open during these extended hours.

السوق SUQ

New Oriental Institute Reproductions

Old Akkadian Period Tablet Paperweight

This tablet from the Oriental Institute's own collection is inscribed in cuneiform on both sides and dates to ca. 2200 B.C. It records the receipt of wool (translation included). Made of gold plated pewter, it makes a handsome paperweight.

Measuring Approx. 1¼" × 1½"

Price: **\$19.00**

Member's Price **\$17.10**

Mesopotamian Cylinder Seal Necklace

This Old Babylonian Period cylinder seal is adapted from one in the Oriental Institute's own collection. It depicts a seated deity with a sun disk in a crescent above him. Facing him are a bareheaded worshiper and his attendant with hands raised in adulation, followed by two lines of text. Made of gold plated pewter, it is strung on a black silk cord with metal tips.

Measuring 1⅞" × 1½"

Price: **\$19.50**

Member's Price **\$17.55**



Holiday Gift Ideas

– also see page 7



New Book Titles from the Suq

Brodrick, Concise Dictionary of Egyptian Archaeology	\$10.00 members \$ 9.00
Budge, The Mummy	\$17.95 members \$16.15
Cott, The Search for Omm Sety	\$17.95 members \$16.15
David, The Ancient Egyptians	\$19.95 members \$17.95
Haag, A Guide to Cairo	\$ 9.95 members \$ 8.95
Houlihan, The Birds of Ancient Egypt	\$49.95 members \$44.95
Lesko, A Dictionary of Late Egyptian, Vol. III	\$20.00 members \$18.00
Macqueen, The Hittites	\$22.00 members \$19.80
Malek, In the Shadows of the Pyramids	\$22.50 members \$20.25
Manniche, City of the Dead	\$24.95 members \$22.45
Manniche, Sexual Life in Ancient Egypt	\$29.95 members \$26.95
Redford, Pharaoh King List	\$32.00 members \$28.80
Rose, The Sons of Re, Cartouches of the Kings of Egypt	\$14.00 members \$12.60
Samson, Nefertiti and Cleopatra	\$19.95 members \$17.95
Spector, A Popular Guide to Egyptology	\$12.00 members \$10.80
Walker, Reading the Past	\$ 6.95 members \$ 6.25

• Postage: \$2.00 first item, \$.75 ea. additional item, Illinois residents please include 8% sales tax



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