



## BIR UMM FAWAKHIR: 1993 SURVEY PROJECT

By Carol Meyer, Research Associate, The Oriental Institute

Technology: Byzantine, early Byzantine at that. I was plotting the day's houses by the light of a wick floating on oil and water in a tea glass. Lisa was drawing sherds illuminated by four candles (technology: Medieval?). We also had a rather good four-battery flashlight (twentieth century) and a kerosene lantern, the kind with a reflector behind the chimney (nineteenth century), or at least until it started stinking too much. The guys were burning garbage outside (fire: lower Paleolithic).

Our desert camp had its drawbacks. Yes, we were supposed to have electricity, and yes, the houses were

wired for it. The vast mining offices and sheds were stocked with tools and equipment to keep the generator and other installations in repair, but the fact of the matter was that we were out in the heart of the central Eastern Desert of Egypt. To be fair, we did have electricity six and a half nights, three of which were working nights, but after the camp engineer sent off for repairs for the second time in one week we started practicing fatalistic Arabic phrases, cursing, and lighting candles.

The desert camp also had its advantages. First and foremost, it was only a couple of kilometers from the site at Bir Umm Fawakhir, which saved us a

good three and a half hours commuting from Luxor daily. We were a small team, seven altogether, and so could stay in a couple of the six small houses or villas built to accommodate the engineers at the old British gold mining camp. The villas are solidly constructed (if short on window glass), each with a common room or dining room, a kitchen of sorts, a cement-slab type of bathroom, and two or more bedrooms. House number two had the only functioning kitchen, plus a broad hallway that served as auxiliary lab space. Water piped in from the wells at Bir Umm Fawakhir was probably pretty good, the *continued on page 2*



Fragment of wall painting from Theban tomb no. 54, Huy, Thebes (OIM 11047)

## NEW GALLERY DISPLAY OPENS

A new exhibit focusing on ancient Egyptian artisans, their tools, and artistic techniques opened at the Oriental Institute in May. The exhibit, which features many graphics and artifacts that have never before been on display, will be on permanent view in the Egyptian gallery.

*See page 7 for more details.*

aquifer being granite, but nonetheless we spent a considerable amount of time acquiring, boiling, or purifying drinking water. It may have helped—no one got sick.

Another advantage to the camp was the desert itself. Commuting we had seen it only in the blazing middle of the day, and dawn and dusk are when the birds come out. We counted little sand-colored jobs with legs like black wire, buff ones with a black "V" on the chest, large crows, and our favorites, the sassy little white-capped blackbirds. They have white bodies, black wings, tails, necks, and heads, and a jaunty white cap. For a hyper-arid desert, critters are surprisingly abundant. We spotted lizards but no snakes, though their tracks were plentiful. The first night out, Terry thought he heard a turkey outside his window, and we joked about cooking that turkey for the rest of the season. The last night, however, I heard a strange yelping, a cat trying to bark like a dog or a dog trying to sound like a cat. Next morning the sand outside was dented by large paw prints, five-toed and not dog tracks. I guessed one of the ghostly, brushy-tailed desert foxes, Terry wanted a wolf because they are reported from the Sinai, and Lisa held out for a hyena.

The night skies were all anyone could wish for, Orion, Taurus, the Pleiades, Canis Major and Minor, Auriga, Cassiopeia, the Milky Way, and Gemini blazing overhead. One spectacular evening the sky was a deep purple and the jagged mountains to the south a dense flat black. A thin and shining sliver of moon was riding towards the mountains like a little silver boat, carrying the rest of the delicately outlined moon disk. Brilliant Venus stood a little above, and satellites were sailing just below. I may never see the like again.

The 1993 season was another short one, twelve working days between January 16 and 28. Mercifully all our datum points, black enamel rectangles on granite boulders, survived so we could set up and start work right where we left off in 1992. Last year we plotted fifty-five buildings, and this season



we mapped buildings 56 through 105. Again, we were fortunate in borrowing the Oriental Institute's Lietz Set 3 Total Instrument Station, inadequately described as a laser theodolite, affectionately known as Lucy. The TIS bounces an infrared beam off a prism held over a point and calculates the north and east coordinates, distance, slope distance, angle, and a lot of other data we never needed. All this information was stored directly on the data collector, dumped and copied later on a Chicago House Macintosh in order to prepare a computer aided version of the map in the States.

Terry Wilfong was the most dedicated instrument man, shooting hundreds of points and handling the data collector, but we released him from time to time to hold the prism. Generally speaking, Lisa Heidorn or Mohamed Omar or I would sketch a building or small group of buildings in our notebooks, then hold the prism over selected points such as corners or doorways and number the points on the sketch. For variety someone could slither up and down cliffs for points to map in the contours of the enclosing wadi. Unlike the classic tell sites that

rise hill-like over their surroundings, Bir Umm Fawakhir is situated down on the bottom of a long, narrow wadi whose cliffs served as a sort of town wall and whose sandy bed became the main street. The houses and outbuildings are laid out on either side, and those at the southeast end where we were working are especially well preserved. Some of the walls still stand over a meter high, and in many cases built-in features such as niches or benches can be seen. Like the buildings mapped last season, those plotted in 1993 seem to be domestic, either two- or three-room houses, or several houses agglomerated into a larger unit, or one-room outbuildings.

Every evening all the day's points were transferred to the graph paper map and all the day's buildings were plotted by connecting the dots according to the notebook sketches. If all the points were entered on the data collector, why the hand plotting? Several reasons. If we made mistakes—and none of us are civil engineers—we could correct them the next day. If there were gaps in the contours we could fill them in before leaving the field, and finally, we needed a map to give to the Egyptian Antiquities Organization with the end of season report.

Once work started, discoveries came in rapidly. The first morning Steve found the first two ostraca, or more accurately, labels painted in red ink in Greek on wine jars. We expected a few ostraca, but in the end recovered nearly forty. Extremely cursive and mostly fragmentary, only one word has tentatively been read so far, "sweet," presumably referring to the quality of the wine.

Returning to the taxi at the end of the first day we found a piece of the long-sought Ptolemy III temple, a segment of a basalt column with cartouches. The temple, described by early travelers, was destroyed by modern mining activity, but we hoped to find a few surviving blocks or some clue as to the temple's former location.

Steven Cole, who had charge of photography and the ridge top survey, came across the first of the cemetery

To Modern Road



The Bir Umm Fawakhir Survey Project  
of the  
Oriental Institute  
of the  
University of Chicago  
1993

25 m



**Building 70 in foreground, looking to the east**

areas a few days later, and they are actually quite easy to miss. High on the ridges overlooking the main site, the graves are usually no more than natural clefts in the granite with rough stone cairns piled over. All burials spotted so far have been looted, though there were significant sherd scatters in the vicinity.

Mohamed Omar, a geologist from the Egyptian Geological Survey, walked out the segment of the Roman road that lies within the concession. He found a large but hitherto unreported cluster of ruins in a sheltered bay, a number of old gold mines and granite quarries, and stone huts at the foot of one of the Roman watch towers. Most of the mountain sides are pitted with ancient gold mines, usually shallow shafts or trenches following a gold quartz vein. One of the most poignant finds, near one of the open trench mines, was a simple ore crushing block, a chunk of porphyritic granite with a pecked depression on top. Fist-sized pieces of quartz lay scattered around, abandoned when some workman walked away from his thankless chore over a thousand years ago and never returned. More prosaically, the block tells us that this kind of stone was used in this sort of locus; most

of the crushing or grinding stones at Bir Umm Fawakhir are reused and out of their original context.

On our lone Friday weekend several of us took the opportunity to investigate some of the outlying areas, and did we ever find ruins. Between our camp and the main site we found four clusters, two of which had over forty huts and another that was connected by a path over a saddle to the main site. We already knew of three outlying clusters of ruins, one behind the modern mosque, one on the Roman road near the largest of the granite quarries, and the one Mohamed found. The pottery from the outliers is less abundant than at the main site, but it is the same date, Byzantine, late fifth through sixth century A.D. Thus we now distinguish the "main site" or "main settlement" where the detailed mapping was done from the seven known outlying clusters. We suspect that there are even more small groups of ruins, but it would take a month of Fridays to explore all the nearby wadis in this rugged mountain region.

The next to last working day Steve found a guard post. If, as we believe, the major product of ancient Bir Umm Fawakhir was gold, we



**Building 93, back wall with niche, built against a cliff**



**Guard post overlooking main site, showing sheltered areas and graffiti**

would expect some protection for the gold and its transport to the Nile, if not for the workmen, their families, animals, and homes. Although the steep walls of the wadi might constitute some protection, no formal defensive structures have yet been found. The guard post high on a granite knob is little more than a couple of sheltered nooks plus a few very sketchy Greek graffiti, but it does command a fine view of most of the main settlement, some of the outlying clusters of ruins, and all three roads approaching the wells.

Finally, the last hour of the last day, when we were waiting for the driver to return to collect us and the last of the dig supplies, I did something I should have done much earlier (when?). I walked over the mine tailings near our houses and from the heaps pulled out a handful of sherds, mostly first-second century Roman plus some probable Ptolemaic and pharaonic ones, but none of the ribbed Byzantine sherds we had been getting by the basketful from the main site. So that is where that group of ancient mines may have been, not at Bir Umm Fawakhir itself but a few kilometers further southeast.

In the end, what do we have? A very large site for one thing: 105 build-

ings have been mapped in detail and at least 116 more counted in the main settlement. We can no longer call ancient Bir Umm Fawakhir a gold mining camp; it is a town, and one of the largest in the Eastern Desert at that. The plan of the town house by house and room by room will permit us to make unusually accurate estimates of the ancient population, something that is not too easy on an excavation that uncovers only a limited segment of a given occupation level. The other features we investigated—the cemeteries, guard post, roads, wells, mines, and outlying clusters—add an element of completeness to the picture of the town, fringe parts that are often difficult to detect archaeologically. Lisa now has a rather large corpus of Byzantine pottery to analyze for the Bir Umm Fawakhir 1993 report. (Her fault; she cannot resist a datable sherd.) We can already say, however, that the dates cluster around the late fifth through sixth centuries, a significantly narrower time range than the broad fifth to seventh century date we were working with initially. By and large gold mining towns do not last three hundred years; even half that span is respectable. In a sense, Bir Umm Fawakhir ought not exist at

all. The setting is so harsh that, apart from water, the inhabitants must have been supplied with all necessities from the Nile Valley, just as we were. Also, older historical accounts of Byzantine Egypt state that the Eastern Desert was virtually abandoned to nomadic tribes. The growing number of archaeologically investigated Byzantine period sites in the desert suggests that this simply was not so. Soon we may have to rethink the late antique exploitation of the Eastern Desert, and Bir Umm Fawakhir is not the least of the evidence.

Such are some of the results, to be published in due order, but what else will I remember of the season? The hardworking team that produced so much in so short a time, all the people from Cairo to Qena and Luxor and back who helped us along the way, and the patrons who made the project possible. I will recall the mornings hauling the equipment down the sandy main wadi, past the tumbled stone houses, to the day's instrument station. The intensity of sketching, plotting, writing notes, and moving steadily from house to house down the wadi. The first cool beer when we got back to camp at 1:30. The intensity of the afternoons out on the porch as everyone tried to take advantage of the remaining daylight: Steve to photograph artifacts, Terry to tease out faint lines on faded ostraca, Lisa to draw the most difficult of the day's sherds. I can visualize the bare, rugged granite mountains, Precambrian bones of a continent, rising to an unblemished blue sky. And the stars.

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*Carol Meyer received her doctorate in Near Eastern archaeology from the University of Chicago in 1981. She has worked with archaeological projects in Arizona, Mexico, England, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.*

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For more on Bir Umm Fawakhir, see Terry G. Wilfong, "Two Weeks in the Egyptian Desert," *News & Notes*, No. 136, Winter 1992.

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# OUTREACH PROGRAM MOVES AHEAD

By Kaylin Goldstein, Education and Public Programs Assistant

Propelled by two grants received this year, the Education and Public Programs Office is moving full speed ahead on two major projects: an outreach program to the Chicago Public Schools and an evaluation of current family programming at the Oriental Institute.

The Chicago Public Schools outreach program is supported by a generous three and one-half year grant from the Polk Bros. Foundation. This grant enables Carole Krucoff, Head of Education and Public Programs, and Terri Barbee, Outreach Coordinator, to collaborate with elementary school teachers, administrators, and parents in a partnership project to enhance and enrich the Chicago Public Schools' world history curriculum. The Center for School Improvement in the University of Chicago's Department of Education is also assisting in this collaborative effort.

Each year more than 18,000 schoolchildren visit the Oriental Institute Museum (about one third of the Museum's total annual attendance). Many come from private schools, suburban public schools, and the tri-state area. Chicago public elementary schoolchildren constitute less than fifteen percent of the students who visit the Museum annually. The new outreach effort reflects the Institute's desire to make its world-renowned resources on ancient Near Eastern civilizations available to a wider cross-section of Chicago Public School students.

"We tried to select a truly diverse group of schools from around the city, with a variety of backgrounds. In most cases, they have never heard of the Oriental Institute," said Terri Barbee. "We want to let them know that we are here and work with the teachers themselves to figure out how to fit our materials to the needs of the students."

The Oriental Institute's new outreach collaboration builds on a 1991

pilot program with ten Chicago Public Elementary School teachers. During the pilot, the Museum Education Office provided these teachers with study materials for their classes and arranged for the teachers' classes to tour the Museum's galleries. The pilot program also included a visit to each class by an advanced graduate student from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. The teachers' enthusiastic response to the 1991 pilot inspired the development of a more comprehensive, collaborative outreach program.

***"This program has the potential to be extraordinarily innovative"***

The Oriental Institute's partnership with the Chicago Public Schools over the next three years will include the development of new instructional materials for classroom and Museum use; creation of workshops and seminars for teachers; presentations in school classrooms by Museum docents and graduate students from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; and a sequence of visits to the Oriental Institute for each class.

"This program has the potential to be extraordinarily innovative," said Carole Krucoff. "Local school reform has encouraged principals, teachers, and parents to begin initiating changes that can make a real difference for students. This new climate gives us the opportunity to create a program that can be a model for collaboration between schools and museums."

Another grant from the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust is helping the Oriental Institute Museum to reach out to families as well as schoolchildren. To nurture current and future generations of museum-goers, the Education Office is engaged in a two-year project to plan, develop, and evaluate a com-

prehensive program of activities for families at the Oriental Institute.

Programs for families began as a pilot project last year. Family programming currently includes films, craft programs and gallery adventures on Sunday afternoons, special interest gallery tours during the summer, and special events such as storytelling in the galleries. "The response to these programs has shown us that there is a basis for expansion," said Carole. "We want to get a sense of what the needs are for family programming by interviewing our Museum visitors, as well as discovering why families in the area who do not visit us are not coming to our Museum."

The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust grant has enabled the Education Office to employ Jerome D'Agostino as a Visitor Studies Consultant. Mr. D'Agostino is a Ph.D. candidate in educational evaluation in the University of Chicago's Department of Education.

At the Oriental Institute, Mr. D'Agostino has observed programs in operation and has spent three months interviewing families visiting the Museum about their experience and impressions. He continues his evaluation this summer with telephone surveys and focus group interviews. In the fall, the Education Office will hire a Family Programs Coordinator who will use Mr. D'Agostino's research to plan new programs and implement them over the next two years.

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*Kaylin Goldstein graduated summa cum laude from Amherst College in 1992 with a B.A. in anthropology. She joined the Oriental Institute as an intern in the Development Office and is currently the Education and Public Programs Assistant.*

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# NEW GALLERY DISPLAY OPENS AT ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM

A new exhibit focusing on ancient Egyptian artisans, their tools, and artistic techniques opened at the Oriental Institute Museum in May. The display of artifacts and graphics will be on permanent view.

The exhibit features a wide selection of objects, many of which have never been on display. It is divided into discussions of how artisans were organized, various artistic techniques, tools, and how many techniques and skills were combined in a single work of art.

The section on drawing and painting includes rarely exhibited figured ostraca along with brushes and palettes of the ancient artists. Included in the display is a magnificent sketch of a Ramesside queen, thought to be a study for a drawing in the tomb of Queen Isis in the Valley of the Queens. This piece also illustrates how drawings were the product of several hands, because the original red sketch can be seen under the final, corrected black outline. Also featured are a fragment of pavement

from Amarna, painted with cornflowers, and a painting from the Eighteenth Dynasty tomb of Huy (see front page).

Several unfinished pieces illustrate the stages in stone carving. Alongside examples of sculptor's models are examples of the tools which were employed, including a mason's mallet, chisels, and stone pounders. It is hoped that these tools will give the museum visitor an appreciation of the great amount of time that was devoted to the production of each artifact.

The discussion of relief work is illustrated with examples of carved and painted stelae and architectural fragments. Among the graphics for this section of the exhibit is a reproduction of a study done by Mr. Leslie Greener of the Epigraphic Survey in 1935, noting the colors which originally were applied to a battle relief of Seti I, a cast of which is mounted on the gallery's west wall.

Architectural ornamentation is represented by brightly glazed tiles and inlays along with molds used to produce them. A color reconstruction of a doorway from the palace of Ramesses III at Medinet Habu is shown alongside some of the plaques which decorated it. The final section of the exhibit, which focuses on sculpture and on the question of determining real from fake, features two statues of Osiris, one of which was copied from the other.

The installation was curated by Emily Teeter, Assistant Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum, with the assistance of Karen L. Wilson, Museum Curator, and the Education and Public Programs Department of the Oriental Institute. The exhibit was designed by Joe Scott, Museum Preparator.



*Figured ostracon bearing a drawing of a Ramesside Queen (OIM 17006)*

# CALENDAR

## SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS FOR ADULTS

On **Fridays at 11:30 a.m.** in July and August, join us for special gallery tours highlighting selected themes or topics. Tours last approximately 45 minutes. Admission is free and no reservations are needed. Meet in the Museum Lobby.

- July**
- 9** The Empires of the Ancient Near East
  - 16** World of the Pharaohs
  - 23** Ancient Cities of Iraq
  - 30** Sifting the Sands of Time: Archaeology and the Ancient Near East
- August**
- 6** Ancient Nubia and Egypt
  - 13** They Wrote on Clay
  - 20** World of the Pharaohs  
*(Repeat of July 16 program)*
  - 27** Sifting the Sands of Time: Archaeology and the Ancient Near East  
*(Repeat of July 30 program)*



## ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

### June 12 through August 7

"Ancient Sailors: Navigation, Ship-Building, and Trade in the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean"

**Instructor:** Frank Yurco

### July 7 through August 11

"Ancient Egyptian Life and Society"

**Instructor:** Peter Piccione

See page 10 for more information on Adult Education courses.



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## ORIENTAL INSTITUTE/SMART MUSEUM FAMILY FESTIVAL

**Sunday, June 27, 1993**

**1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Join us and the Smart Museum of Art for a festival of family fun in the galleries and on the lawn at the Oriental Institute. Co-sponsored by both museums, this festival of music, entertainment, refreshments, games, crafts, and hands-on activities will be a delightful afternoon of fun for children of all ages. Admission is free and no reservations are needed. For additional information and a schedule of the day's events, call the Museum Education Office at 312/702-9507.

**This family program is supported in part by the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust.**



## "BACK TO THE PAST"

### Oriental Institute Museum Summer Adventures for Children

Take a trip in a time machine and travel back to the ancient past during the Oriental Institute Museum's new Summer Adventures for Children. Offered on **Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.** throughout July and August, "Back to the Past" programs are recommended for children ages 6 through 12. Each program lasts approximately one hour and includes a gallery visit and hands-on Museum activities. Admission is free and reservations are not required.

- July**
- 1** Focus on Egypt: Mummies and More
  - 8** Focus on Assyria: The Bull with Five Legs
  - 15** Focus on Mesopotamia: Summer in Sumer
  - 22** Focus on Nubia: The Source of Gold
  - 29** B.C. (Before Computers)

## EVENTS

- August**
- 5** Do You Dig It?—What an Archaeologist Does
  - 12** Three Ancient Kings
  - 19** Two Queens and a Princess
  - 26** Food and Fun from Long Ago



### SUNDAY FILMS

All films are shown at **2 p.m. on Sunday afternoons**. Except where noted, each film lasts approximately 30 minutes, is offered free of charge, and is immediately followed by a tour of the galleries.

- June**
- 6** Champollion: Egyptian Hieroglyphs Deciphered
  - 13** Iraq: Stairway to the Gods
  - 20** Megiddo: City of Destruction
  - 27** Superman in "The Mummy Strikes," a classic 1943 color cartoon. This film is being shown as part of the Oriental Institute/Smart Museum of Art Family Festival. See separate listing.
- July**
- 4** The Oriental Institute is closed for Independence Day
  - 11** Egypt: Gift of the Nile
  - 18** Iran: Landmarks in the Desert
  - 25** Nubia 64: Saving the Temples of Ancient Egypt
- August**
- 1** Of Time, Tombs, and Treasure
  - 8** Turkey: Crossroads of the Ancient World
  - 15** Egypt's Pyramids: Houses of Eternity
  - 22** The Royal Archives of Ebla (58 min.)
  - 29** Preserving Egypt's Past

## SUMMER 1993

- September**
- 5** Myth of the Pharaohs/Ancient Mesopotamia
  - 12** The Egyptologists
  - 19** The Big Dig. This film is being shown as part of a special family program in conjunction with the statewide celebration of Illinois Archaeology Awareness Week. See separate listing below.
  - 26** Nubia 64: Saving the Temples of Ancient Egypt



### ILLINOIS ARCHAEOLOGY AWARENESS WEEK

In conjunction with the statewide celebration of Illinois Archaeology Awareness Week, September 19th to September 25th, the Oriental Institute Museum is offering a special family program on Sunday, September 19th. Join us to see "The Big Dig," a film that introduces the techniques of archaeology as it highlights the Via Maris, an ancient roadway used by the Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, and even the armies of Napoleon. After the film, the entire family can explore the museum with the Gallery Adventure Game called "Be An Archaeologist." Admission to this program is free, and no reservations are needed.

Illinois Archaeology Awareness Week is also the time to be sure you don't miss seeing "Sifting the Sands of Time: The Oriental Institute and the Ancient Near East." This special exhibition highlights the history and archaeological excavations of the Oriental Institute.

For additional information on all summer programs, call the Museum Education Office at 312/702-9507.

# ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

## ANCIENT SAILORS: NAVIGATION, SHIP-BUILDING, AND TRADE IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

June 12–August 7, 1993

Situated along major rivers, the ancient Near Eastern civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia were among the first to develop riverine trade and navigation. They also led the way in distinctive techniques of ship building. By about 3000 B.C. both nations had ventured onto neighboring seas and gulfs, contacting each other as well as other cultures in Africa, Arabia, and the Indian Ocean. They also enjoyed a lively trade with the Indus Valley and with Anatolia and Cyprus.

Egypt went on in the New Kingdom to develop Red Sea and Mediterranean navies, influencing the earliest ships of the Minoans and the Mycenaeans. Paintings from both these cultures show ships that follow Egyptian approaches for steering mechanisms, sail design, and rigging.

This course will trace these early developments in maritime history, and then turn to other peoples. Class sessions will discuss the sea-faring Canaanites who came to be called the Phoenicians; the Greek preeminence at sea; the Romans, whose development of an eastern sea route eventually took them to China; the Byzantines, who inherited a simplified Roman navy, and introduced a major innovation—the ship built around a skeleton of ribs; and finally the Arabs, whose inheritance of Indian Ocean trade enabled them to carry Islam as far as the Philippines.

**INSTRUCTOR** Frank Yurco is an Egyptologist who has taught numerous courses on topics of ancient Near Eastern history, culture, and language, both at the Oriental Institute and the Field Museum.

This course will meet at the Oriental Institute on **Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon**, beginning June 12th and continuing through August 7th. There will be no class on Saturday, July 3rd.

## ANCIENT EGYPTIAN LIFE AND SOCIETY

July 7–August 11, 1993

This course will include new material and research to examine various aspects of life and culture in ancient Egypt. Topics will include: the impact of environmental factors on the development of society; Egyptian medical and technological knowledge; the educational system and opportunities for advancement; Egyptian occupations and professions; the role and status of women; Egyptian sexual mores; and aspects of love, marriage, and divorce. The class will also examine the daily life, work, and social organization of Deir el-Medina, the workmen's village that was home to the community of craftsmen who built the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings.

**INSTRUCTOR** Dr. Peter Piccione is an Egyptologist who has both excavated and worked as an epigrapher in Egypt. An experienced Oriental Institute instructor, Dr. Piccione has a special interest in the everyday lives of the men and women of ancient Egypt.

This course will meet at the Oriental Institute on **Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**, beginning on July 7th and continuing through August 11th.

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### PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE FOLLOWING ADULT EDUCATION COURSE(S)

\_\_\_\_\_ *Ancient Sailors: Navigation, Ship-Building, and Trade in the Ancient Near East*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Ancient Egyptian Life and Society*

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a member and enclose \$75 for tuition for each course

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not a member and enclose \$95 for tuition for each course

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is \$30 for an annual membership. (Please send a separate check for membership fee.)

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Make check(s) payable to The Oriental Institute.

I prefer to pay by  check,  money order,  credit card

MasterCard/Visa: \_\_\_\_\_  
Account number

Expiration date                      Signature

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: The Oriental Institute, Education Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637

## “Heroes, Goddesses, and Magic” ... and Camels, Too!

The ancient Near East came to life on Sunday, March 28 for “Heroes, Goddesses, and Magic,” a storytelling presentation for the whole family. Nearly 100 people of all ages gathered in the Egyptian and Assyrian galleries for this special program. Storyteller Mary Hynes-Berry transported listeners back in time with tales from ancient Egypt. Hanna Hajjar and Robert DeKalaita, dressed as an Assyrian king and his scribe, stood in front of the wall reliefs from the Palace of King Sargon II, and recounted the Epic of Gilgamesh. Hajjar and DeKalaita also showed an excerpt from their forthcoming Assyrian educational video for children.

*Top left: Hanna Hajjar and Robert DeKalaita (left) tell the story of Gilgamesh*

*Lower left: Storyteller Mary Hynes-Berry tells tales of Egyptian gods*

*Center and lower right: Children from all over the Chicago area came to the Oriental Institute for a day of magic in the ancient Near East*



## NEW FROM THE SIFTING THE

### A CALENDAR FOR 1994

Illustrated with twenty-four images from the Photographic Archives of the Oriental Institute, showing moments of discovery and exploration during work at Persepolis, Jerwan, Khorsabad, the Diyala, Nubia, and Sakkara. The calendar grid features famous events in the recovery of the history of the Near East.

**Price:** \$13.95

**Size:** 16" x 28"

Sepia-toned photographs on heavy glazed stock

Available September, 1993

*Left: University of Chicago expedition measuring the facade of the Great Temple, Abu Simbel, 1906*

*Below: Excavation of the gateway of the citadel of Sargon II, Khorsabad, Iran, 1933-1934*



PRODUCED BY POMEGRANATE  
THE STAFF OF

AVAILABLE THROUGH THE SUQ AT THE ORIENTAL

# ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

## SANDS OF TIME

### A POST CARD BOOK

Featuring thirty images from the Photographic Archives of the Oriental Institute, including images not in the calendar, from the Breasted expedition to Egypt and Nubia of 1905-07, excavations in the Amuq, Persepolis, Diyala, and Khorsabad.

**Price:** \$8.95

**Size:** 30 postcards, 5" x 7"

Sepia-toned photographs on heavy glazed stock

Available July, 1993

*Right: The Hypostyle Hall of the Temple of Amada, Nubia, 1905-1906*

*Below: Surveying the excavation around the double-lion column base, Tell Ta'yinat, Turkey, 1934-1935*



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INSTITUTE AND YOUR LOCAL BOOKSELLER

## DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES OF JORDAN VISITS THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE



*Dr. Safwan Tell (left) and Donald Whitcomb (right) at the Aqaba exhibit in the Oriental Institute Museum (Photograph by Jean Grant)*

On March 23rd, Dr. Safwan Tell, Director General of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, made a special visit to Chicago to see the Oriental Institute. Dr. William Sumner gave a luncheon in honor of Dr. Tell, who expressed the deep appreciation of Jordan for the Oriental Institute's archaeological research at Aqaba. During this visit, Dr. Tell examined the study collections from Aqaba on loan to the Oriental Institute and discussed plans with Don Whitcomb for future excavations at this important early Islamic site.

### INCENSE ROUTES OF ARABIA

There are still spaces left on the Oriental Institute tour to **Yemen, Oman, and Bahrain** from January 17 to February 6, 1994. This exclusive program will take you to the fabled lands of Dilmun, Magan, and the Queen of Sheba. The trip features the incense fields of Dhofar, Omani forts, the Wadi Hadhrawmut and tours of the fine national museums of Oman, Bahrain, and Yemen. **Emily Teeter**, Assistant Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum, will act as escort/lecturer for the program. Dr. Teeter, who recently led two sold-out Oriental Institute tours to Eastern Turkey, has led many tours to Yemen and, as a guest of the national tourism authorities, has done in-depth exploration of the sites in Oman and Bahrain. The program will feature, when possible, visits with archaeological and scientific groups in the field. Enrollment is limited to 20 participants. **Cost: \$5950 per person, double occupancy, exclusive of international airfare.** Call **Zegrahm Expeditions** at 1-800-628-8747 for more information.

**Another departure has been added—October 31 to November 20, 1994—don't miss your chance to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime trip!**

### UPGRADING YOUR ELECTRONIC OR COMPUTER SYSTEMS?

If you are, and would like to see your old equipment go to a good cause, the Oriental Institute is seeking the donation of the following electronic equipment:

- Two color televisions or monitors**
- Two VCRs**
- Two Kodak CD or Philips CD-I players**
- Two IBM compatible PCs**
- Two Apple Macintosh PCs**

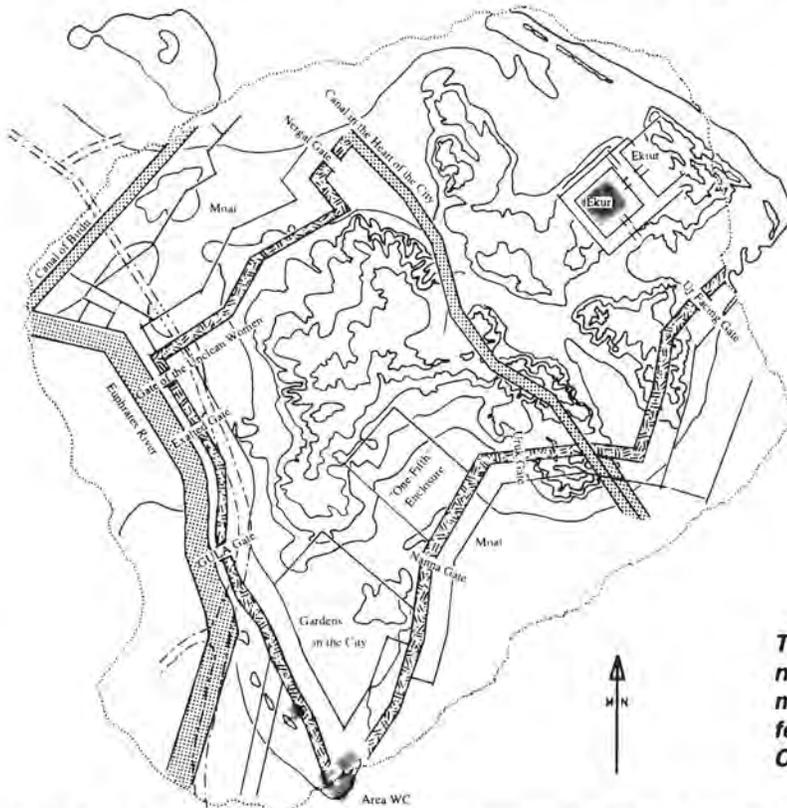
The video equipment will be used to give greater access to our expanding collection of videotape and CD-ROM based image resources. The PCs will function as components of our computer laboratory, allowing us to provide much wider access to on-line resources to faculty, staff, students, and visitors to the Museum.

For more information, please call John Sanders, Head of the Oriental Institute Computer Laboratory, at 312/702-0989. All donations to the Oriental Institute are tax deductible.

## NEW TITLE PUBLISHED BY THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE PRESS

### NIPPUR, VOLUME III: KASSITE BUILDINGS IN AREA WC-1

By Richard L. Zettler, with contributions by James A. Armstrong, Joachim Boessneck<sup>1</sup>, J. A. Brinkman, Gerhard Falkner, McGuire Gibson, Mostefa Kokabi, Augusta McMahon, John C. Sanders, and Peggy May Sanders. 1993. Oriental Institute Publications, Vol. 111. Pp. xxxvii + 347; 3 figures, 109 plates, 26 tables. **\$60.00**



*The famous "Kassite" city map of Nippur, originally drawn on a clay tablet, superimposed on a modern topographic map of the site, with many features of the city identified (Drawing by John C. Sanders)*

As the first of the final reports related to the current program of research at Nippur, this volume is crucial for understanding the Kassite assemblage at Nippur, especially for ceramics. This monograph emends and expands the assemblage that appeared in preliminary reports and details the construction and rebuildings of a large Kassite private house near the western city wall (Area WC-1), which furnishes information on Kassite architectural practice as well as unanticipated patterning in intramural burials. Cuneiform texts, though mostly fragmentary and almost all from secondary contexts, allow some suggestions on the occupants of the sequence of houses and their activities. The plates include photographs of all the texts. An introductory chapter reconsiders the evidence for the correct orientation of the famous "Kassite" city map. Faunal reports are given in the appendices.

#### OTHER RECENTLY PUBLISHED TITLES:

**GLASS FROM QUSEIR AL-QADIM AND THE INDIAN OCEAN TRADE.** By Carol Meyer. 1992. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, No. 53. Pp. xxvi + 200; 6 figures, 18 plates. **\$35.00**

**THE MECHANICS OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MAGICAL PRACTICE.** By Robert K. Ritner. 1993. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, No. 54. Pp. xviii + 322; 22 figures, 2 tables. **\$45.00**

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Associate Professor **Martha Roth** has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend to complete her manuscript on the "Mesopotamian Law Collections."

## News & Notes

A Quarterly Publication of The Oriental Institute, printed for members as one of the privileges of membership.

Editor: Melanie Jansen  
Marhefka

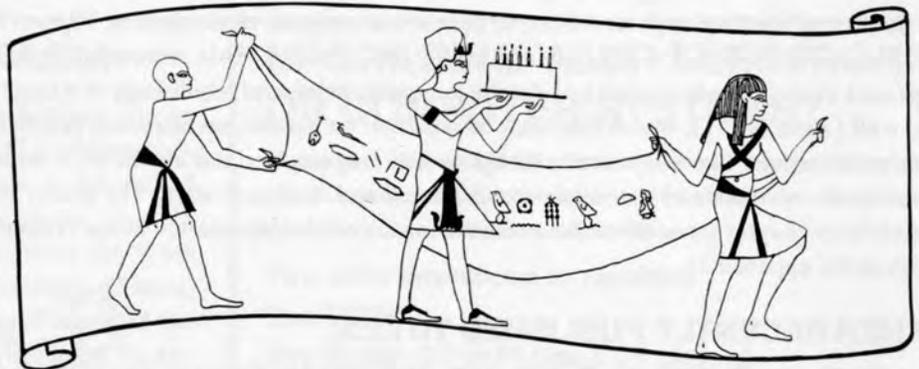
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All inquiries, comments, and suggestions are welcome.



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