A BALIKH PROSPECT

By Tony J. Wilkinson, Research Associate (Associate Professor), The Oriental Institute

To Sir Max Mallowan the Balikh Valley in northern Syria (near present day Raqqa) was something of a backwater, so one may wonder why I spend most of my summers baking in the relentless heat in a bare bleak valley devoid of trees and most wildlife. For example, during the summer of 1994 I was only able to allocate less than one week of my time to the idyllic grandeur of the Taurus Mountains north of Adana, Turkey where Professor Ashihan Yener of the Oriental Institute is conducting research on tin extraction and processing; I spent the remaining six to seven weeks in the Balikh Valley. Despite their obvious differences, however, similarities can be found and here I will attempt to illustrate one theme that links the two areas: that of agricultural technology, and the ability of human communities to harness it to their own advantage.

By agricultural technology, I mean the introduction of some innovation that enables the inhabitants of an area to produce more food from a given piece of land, or to take in new land that could otherwise not be cultivated. Such innovations might include the construction of terraced fields to increase the area of cultivation, digging canals to introduce water to otherwise dry and unproductive land, or the introduction of manuring to improve crop yields and to stem the decline of soil fertility.

The area of the Kestel Mine and the related Early Bronze Age site of Göltepe is nothing less than majestic (fig. 1), however even majesty has its penalties, and in the case of the Kestel/Göltepe area this takes the form of a rather restricted cultivable area. Therefore when the area experienced a minor boom as a result of the mining of tin and its processing in the third millennium B.C., it arguably was incapable of supplying sufficient food from its immediate vicinity to provide the needs of the expanding mining community. Fuel that was necessary for smelting the ore, on the other hand, could have been supplied by woodland that once grew in this moist and relatively cool upland. However, because such resources are finite, it is likely that the huge demands for smelting, firesetting, and domestic purposes would have resulted in the rapid depletion of any tree cover. The task in 1994 was therefore to start an assessment of the area of Kestel in order to determine where the inhabitants might have grown their food and what evidence there might be for former woodland, or for its depletion.

One basic geographical principle relevant to mountainous areas is that when the population rises (for whatever reason) and if people are to remain in the area, it is necessary to expand the area of fields in order to provide food to supply that population. If that is impossible because of the dearth of fertile lowlands for example, then it is necessary to construct fields in order to increase the cultivable area. Thus in order to ensure survival, a technological innovation had to be introduced into the area. Consequently in the region of Kestel it is no surprise that such fields and terraces are abundant. They take a variety of forms, sometimes simply appearing as a patchwork of field boundaries, at other times forming distinct steppe-like benches (fig. 2). Elsewhere, where the amount of "fieldstone" was excessive, the field interiors also include numerous mounds of stones that must have been created during initial field clearance (fig. 3).

The distribution of ancient fields and terraces mapped in 1994 is indicated on the perspective drawing generated by John and Peggy Sanders of the Oriental Institute Computer Laboratory, which shows terraces and ancient fields as a gray tone and

Figure 1. Representative view of the landscape around Kestel

Map showing locations of Göltepe/Kestel and Balikh River Valley

continued on page 2
sites of various dates in black (fig. 4). The distribution of these fields up to elevations of 2,000 meters (around 6,500 feet) is at least as high, if not higher, than present day mechanically-aided cultivation, a fact which testifies to the high demand for food in the past. Although thus far it is only possible to date these fields by their associated sites, our fieldwork is benefiting from techniques developed by myself and McGuire Gibson in Yemen where similar terraced fields are well developed. For example, in highland Yemen our field work shows that test excavations can reveal buried soils or sediments that have accumulated behind the terrace walls. Such deposits can then be dated either by the contained artifacts, or by radiocarbon dating of contained charcoal or by other radiometric methods.
just overlap on to the higher areas of mountain limestone beyond (see the higher terrain on the perspective illustration fig. 4) and it is possible that at least a portion of this mountainous terrain was once wooded. Indeed some areas to the northeast of Kestel still exhibit a sparse scatter of scrub woodland and in one particular soil section a thin lens of charcoal hints that woodland clearance and associated soil erosion may once have taken place in this area thereby exposing large areas of bare limestone slopes. Although the above observations are incomplete and sketchy, I would argue that the area of Kestel/Göltepe well illustrates how in the past technology was employed to extend the food supply base for the occupants of an important mining area.

Not only is there a total contrast between the scenery of the Balikh Valley and that of Kestel/Göltepe, but also the resources that frame human development are different as well. Therefore in the valley, apart from the world weary and somewhat apathetic sheep, it is difficult to recognize natural resources. There is, it is true, an extensive area of potentially fertile soil, but this is rather limited by available water: rainfall is only sufficient to support crops in the northern part of the valley (located mainly in present day Turkey). On the other hand the meager flow of the Balikh River cannot be stretched infinitely to supply irrigation water.

Our work in the Balikh Valley is being conducted jointly with a team directed by Dr. Peter Akkermans of the Netherlands National Museum at Leiden. We are benefiting enormously from the expertise of Peter, who is director of excavations at Tell Sabi Abyad (located in the Balikh near Tell Hammam et-Turkman) and who undertook the main archaeological survey of the valley in 1983. Fieldwork is also made easier by the work of Dutch soil surveyors who mapped the area’s natural resources a number of years ago, and whose data base provides a wealth of information for archaeological research. In practical terms, in addition to sponsorship from the Oriental Institute, we have received funding from the National Geographic Society who have provided an enduring interest in that academic borderland between geography and archaeology. All these previous studies have supplied us with essential comparative data. Rather than resurvey the area, we are examining aerial photographs and other resources for the ancient infrastructure of the region: traces of early canals, cultivation, roads, quarries, as well as changing water resources that can help in the elucidation of landscape changes over the past ten thousand years or so. Although the area is poorly endowed in terms of mineral resources, the agricultural potential could be progressively extended by the introduction of technology, primarily water engineering, designed to tap the modest flow of the Balikh River.

Our 1994 field season concentrated on a number of interrelated issues, but by chance (and I must admit that opportunism does occasionally raise its seductive head in archaeology) we encountered a number of deep trenches that, geomorphologically-speaking, satisfied our wilder cravings. During the season we aimed to excavate several sections across a rather grand canal that might have been an Old Babylonian (early second millennium) feature that had once supplied the inhabitants of Tell Hammam et-Turkman (fig. 5) with water. By so doing this canal would then have deprived the people of Tutul (Tell Bi’a at the confluence of the Balikh with the Euphrates) of irrigation water. Archaeologists often posit dates on the basis of a few scattered and undistinguished sherds, and we are glad to say that our persistence, and the excavation skills of the site supervisor Fokke Gerritsen (a former student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago), resulted in a rather well-dated sequence for this canal. These results complemented the rather less successful achievements of our 1993 drilling program, which although providing evidence for a diverted course of the Balikh, proved to be rather frustrating to conduct in the field (figs. 6, 7, and 8). Thus excavation within the canal (fig. 9) showed that the canal had slowly filled in during the Islamic and Byzantine periods. At the base of the sedimentary sequence, where a shelly gravel deposit eloquently testified to the former rather vigorous flow of the canal, the pottery was Parthian-Hellenistic (referred to by modern wisdom as Hello-Parthian), which instantly killed the romantic assumption of an Old Babylonian canal. The late date, which was confirmed by a fifth-sixth century radiocarbon date for the final flow phases of the canal, although rather a surprise, turned out to be entirely logical in terms of the history of settlement of the region, which included a well-developed phase of Hellenistic settlement. This settlement phase was contem-
poraneous with the construction of the canal, and presumably must have benefited from the introduction of irrigation waters.

The crucial data derived from a section across the Balikh River, exposed some twenty kilometers downstream by engineers who were constructing a new canal from Lake Tabqa, which showed a broad channel cut into the alluvium of the Balikh adjacent to the substantial Bronze Age pile of Tell es-Seman (fig. 10). Here rather than being a true canal, detailed leveling by our surveyors Eleanor Barbanes (of the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California-Berkeley) and Gregg Munson (a student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago) showed that the channel base extended below the river level. This and other un-canal-like features therefore suggested that this channel was in fact an early course of the Balikh rather than an artificial canal.

Of particular interest is that the sediments contained within this channel demonstrated that the river must have

flowed with some vigor in the Bronze Age, was sluggish (but flowing) in the second and early first millennium B.C., and was essentially dry by the Hellenistic period. In other words, just as the new canal (i.e., our excavated canal upstream) came into use the Balikh River became dry. Of course this was not necessarily a sudden event because the gradual decline of flow that occurred during the second and first millennium B.C. can be matched by a gradual increase in the number of sites in the region. Because this increase appears to indicate a gradual increase in population it follows that there must have been a steady increase in the demand for irrigation water through the first millennium B.C. Similarly, earlier fieldwork had shown that around the sixth to eighth centuries A.D. extensive new canal systems were dug to supply the growing rural and urban populations that developed when Raqqa was achieving its prime in the early Islamic period. In other words, it seems that as population increased from a sparse scatter of small towns in the Early Bronze Age through a vigorous phase of Neo-Assyrian rural settlement, the flow of the Balikh was gradually reduced by localized abstraction for irrigation. In Hellenistic times, the major canal was excavated, and this resulted in a new rash of settlements within the irrigated zone and the final drying out of the Balikh River. Then as settlement increased still further, a new and even longer canal net-
work was introduced, thus severing the flow of the Hellenistic canal. We can therefore conclude from the 1994 field results that in this area an apparently natural increase in population necessitated the progressive development of water extraction technology that resulted in canals of increasing scale through time.

Therefore in areas that are so vastly different as the Taurus Mountains and the semiarid steppe of northern Syria, archaeology can provide a similar perspective, in this case that the introduction of agricultural innovations can increase food production often in the face of a reluctant environment. Although the innovations are very different in each area, it is evident that increasing population and demand for food, or growing affluence of the inhabitants, can make such innovations worthwhile.

After training in Canada in high Arctic geomorphology, T. J. Wilkinson became interested in the archaeology of the Near East. He worked as a free-lance archaeological consultant for several years and became Assistant Director of the British Archaelogical Expedition to Iraq, Baghdad. He joined the Oriental Institute as a Research Associate in 1992. He will lead an Oriental Institute tour to Syria in March 1996 (see page 9 for more details).

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**NEWS FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE**

**NEW TITLES PUBLISHED BY THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE**

*Portrait Mummies from Roman Egypt (I–IV Centuries A.D.) with a Catalog of Portrait Mummies in Egyptian Museums*  
By Lorelei H. Corcoran  
Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, No. 56  
Pp. xxxii + 256; including 42 figures, 2 maps, 6 tables, 32 plates. 1995. $55.00

In Egypt of the first century A.D. an alternative was introduced to the traditional use of painted masks of papier-maché on wrapped and decorated mummies. A new technique, borrowed from the Hellenistic tradition of painting in encaustic (colored wax) or water color on wooden panels or linen sheets, involved the production of realistic images of the faces of men, women, and children. These idealized paintings were placed over the face of a wrapped mummy. The combination of an impressionistically rendered face and a wrapped mumiform body has been interpreted as a synthesis of two contrasting contemporary cultures—Hellenistic and native Egyptian. However, Corcoran’s analysis of the iconography of these mummies reveals that their decoration reflects the continuity of a cultural alignment that was fundamentally Egyptian. The author documents a vital and articulate pagan tradition that survived in Egypt until the triumph of Christianity in the fourteenth century A.D.

Written from the perspective of an egyptologist, this analysis of an important corpus of objects includes an illustrated catalog of twenty-three mummy coverings with “portrait” faces in the collection of museums in the Arab Republic of Egypt. The volume will be of interest to egyptologists, classicists, art historians, and historians of religion.

*The Hittite Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Volume P, Fascicle 2 (para to pattar)*  
Edited by Hans G. Güterbock and Harry A. Hoffner  
Pp. 128. 1995. $30.00

This is the second fascicle of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary to be typeset and formatted—in-house—in a collaborative effort between the Hittite Dictionary Project and the Oriental Institute’s Publications Office.

*The Mechanics of Ancient Egyptian Magical Practice.*  
By Robert K. Ritner  
Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, No. 54  
Pp. xviii + 322; including 22 figures, 2 tables. 1993 (Second Printing). $55.00

To place an order for these volumes, or to inquire about other titles published by the Oriental Institute, please contact The Oriental Institute Publications Sales Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Telephone 312/702-9508, Facsimile 312/702-9853, Electronic mail oi-publications@uchicago.edu. Members receive a 20% discount.
NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PERSIA?

Most of you are undoubtedly aware that the Persian Gallery has been closed since January 1995. What you may not know is why, and what is going on behind the barrier.

We closed the gallery in order to have a place to put the quantities of objects that were being packed in the basement (the area of the former "Sands" exhibit already had been filled up). So Persia was closed, and all the objects except the monumental stone sculptures were taken off exhibit and packed.

The next step in preparing the gallery for renovation is to protect those monumental sculptures, which cannot be moved to a safer location with the rest of the collection.

To this end, Conservators Laura D'Alessandro and Barbara Hamann have begun the process illustrated in these two photographs. After washing the human-headed bull, Barbara and Laura applied squares of Japanese paper, impregnated with a water-soluble adhesive, to the entire surface of the piece, tamping the squares down with brushes. The paper dries quite hard and will serve to hold small pieces in place in the very unlikely event that vibrations cause any cracking of the surface. After the sculptures have been covered with paper, plywood boxes will be built around them to protect from physical damage. Once the renovation is completed, the paper squares can be easily removed with water, and the sculptures will be ready for display again. — Karen L. Wilson, Curator, Oriental Institute Museum

LEGACY CAMPAIGN

REACHES HALFWAY MARK

We are pleased to announce that the Legacy Campaign to fund climate control, renovation, and expansion has reached the halfway mark. In particular we wish to thank Joan and Homer Rosenberg (pictured below), whose generous pledge of $250,000 moved the Campaign forward to the halfway mark at the close of June 1995. If you would like information on establishing a pledge or planning a gift, contact Cynthia Echols in the Development Office at 312/702-9513.

All photographs by Jean Grant

In April Robert Braidwood, Professor Emeritus of Old World Prehistory, and Linda Braidwood, Oriental Institute Associate (pictured above), presented "Alarms and Excursions: Our 123 Years with the Ancient Near East," an illustrated talk for James Henry Breasted Society members and guests at the University Club.
FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

MILESTONES AND CELEBRATIONS

Members of the Oriental Institute gathered together at a number of festive occasions this spring...

The Annual Dinner in May brought together over two hundred Institute members and patrons to celebrate the close of the Oriental Institute’s seventy-fifth anniversary year. Laura D’Alessandro (above left), Oriental Institute Museum Conservator, demonstrating the conservation technique to be used on the monumental sculptures in the museum at a display set up for the Annual Dinner. Guests seated in the Assyrian Gallery during the Annual Dinner (above).

In early June, Kent Weeks (above), Professor of Archaeology at American University in Cairo, presented a noon slide talk in Breasted Hall detailing the work at Tomb KV5 (thought to be the burial site for as many as 50 sons of Ramses II).

McGuire Gibson (below left), Professor of Archaeology at the Oriental Institute, and Tony Wilkinson (right), Research Associate at the Oriental Institute, entertained Breasted Society members and guests (below) with "The Other Side of Sheba: New Discoveries in Highest Yemen" in late June at the University Club.
NEW AT THE SUQ

HUMAN-HEADED WINGED BULL PIN

Reproduced from our own bull which is one of many human-headed winged bulls that guarded the entrances to the throne room of the Assyrian King Sargon II in his capital city of Dur-Sharrukin ("Fort Sargon"), known today as Khorsabad. Oriental Institute archaeologists discovered this sculpture in 1929 while excavating the ruins of the palace. The more than a dozen pieces into which the bull had broken in antiquity were generously given to the Oriental Institute by the Department of Antiquities of Iraq and were, with great difficulty, transported to Chicago, where they were reassembled and restored in our museum.

The pins were made exclusively for us in England by a renowned silversmith, Neil Lasher, using the updated process of electroforming. These pins are approximately 7/8" x 7/8" and may be used either as a lapel pin or a tie tack.

Available in Sterling Silver — Member’s Price $22.45
or Gold plated Sterling Silver — Member’s Price $24.25

VULTURE T-SHIRT

The vulture, with its wings outspread, is a motif that commonly appears on the underside of roofing slabs of ancient Egyptian temples and on the roof of royal tombs. The vulture is the incarnation of the goddess Nekhbet who was associated with southern (Upper) Egypt. She holds feather fans, a sign of divinity, in her talons.

The inscription is patterned after a text from one of the Ramesside kings of the Twentieth Dynasty (twelfth century B.C.). The top and bottom bands each read from the center, outward to the left and right. The texts say: Live the King of Upper and Lower Egypt! Lord of the Two Lands, (followed by the throne name), Son of Re, Ramesses, justified.

Our t-shirt is made of 100% heavyweight preshrunk white cotton. The generously sized t-shirts, available in adult L and XL, feature reinforced collars and shoulder seams. They are four color screen-printed, in hues of rust, tangerine, and teal.

Member’s price is $10.80.

Available from the Suq by phone at 312/702-9509, by mail at The Suq, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, or by electronic mail at d-browning1@uchicago.edu.

MARK DECEMBER 5 — DECEMBER 13 ON YOUR CALENDAR
FOR THE SUQ HOLIDAY SALE
Members will receive 20% off all merchandise
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE TRAVEL PROGRAM

YEMEN/OMAN/BAHRAIN/ABU DHABI

October 22–November 10, 1995

Join Assistant Curator Emily Teeter, Ph.D., for her popular departure exploring the incense routes of Arabia. Highlights of the trip will include Muscat, Manama, Sana’a, Marib, the Wadi Hadramaut, Hili Archaeological Park, and Umm el-Nar.

Cost: $5,950 per person, exclusive of international airfare, plus an additional $350 per person donation to the Oriental Institute.

IRAN

October 24–November 10, 1995

Research Associate Abbas Alizadeh, Ph.D., will lead this historic journey to the land of Darius and Cyrus the Great. Highlights of the trip will include visits to Oriental Institute sites in Iran, such as Persepolis and Bakun, and a day spent with the Qashqaii in their winter pastures.

Cost: $5,195 per person, including round trip airfare Chicago/London/Chicago, and two nights in London, plus an additional $350 per person donation to the Oriental Institute.

PROPHETS AND PILGRIMS

November 13–December 4, 1995

Join us for a Red Sea cruise that will highlight Oriental Institute excavations in Egypt, Israel, and Jordan. This cruise, on the Swan Hellenic luxury liner Orpheus, will take in sites such as Aqaba, Petra, Megiddo, Qumran, Jerusalem, Ashkelon, Cairo, and, of course, Chicago House in Luxor.

Cost: $4,740 per person (N grade cabin; other cabin grades available), including international airfare and two nights accommodation in London, plus an additional $350 per person donation to the Oriental Institute.

SYRIA

March 11–25, 1996

Conjure the image of Damascus, Aleppo, Palmyra, and Latakia. Let your imagination wander as you join T. E. Lawrence and his band traveling the ancient roads of Syria. Tony Wilkinson, Oriental Institute Research Associate, is your expert guide for fifteen days of travel. Visit the jewels of Syrian history: the Krak de Chevalier, Mari, Ebla, and Ugarit. Experience the life of the Damascus bazaar and the beauty of the Islamic architecture in this city, which lays claim to being the oldest inhabited city on earth. Eat breakfast with the bedouin of Palmyra, drink tea in the mountains overlooking Lebanon, and watch the sun set over the Euphrates.

Cost: $4,620 per person, including round trip airfare from Chicago, plus an additional $350 per person donation to the Oriental Institute.

APRIL IN PARIS (AND BERLIN)

April 7–17, 1996

Join Oriental Institute Museum Curator Karen L. Wilson, Ph.D., on a unique study trip to the great museums of Paris and Berlin. Highlights of the program will include the Cour de Khorsabad at the Louvre, where you can see the cast of our famous winged bull in an installation that recreates the original courtyard of the Palace of Sargon II, and the Egyptian Museum in the former East Berlin, from which we have recovered the "lost" notebooks of the Oriental Institute excavations at Medinet Habu.

Cost: $4,980 per person, including round trip airfare from Chicago, plus an additional $350 per person donation to the Oriental Institute.

If you would like more information on the travel program, or itineraries for any of the tours listed above, please call the Oriental Institute Membership Office at 312/702-1677.

Watch for announcements and itineraries on these 1996 tours:

EGYPT in February 1996
TURKEY in late September or early October 1996
CALENDAR

MEMBERS LECTURES

October 18, 1995
David Schloen
Oriental Institute, University of Chicago
“Canaanites and Israelites at Ancient Megiddo”
7:30 p.m.
Breasted Hall
Reception following

November
To Be Announced

December 6, 1995
Jane Waldbaum
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
“Greeks in the East or Greeks and the East? Problems in the Definition and Recognition of Presence”
7:30 p.m.
Breasted Hall
Reception following
Co-sponsored with the Archaeological Institute of America

January 17, 1996
Denny Groh
Garrett Theological Seminary
“Excavations in a Romano/Jewish City in the Galilee: Sepphoris”
7:30 p.m.
Breasted Hall
Reception following
Co-sponsored with the Archaeological Institute of America

TRAVEL PROGRAM

October 22–November 10, 1995
Yemen/Oman/Bahrain/Abu Dhabi
Lecturer: Emily Teeter, Ph.D., Assistant Curator, Oriental Institute Museum

October 24–November 10, 1995
Iran
Lecturer: Abbas Alizadeh, Ph.D., Research Associate, Oriental Institute

March 11–25, 1996
Syria
Lecturer: Tony Wilkinson, Research Associate, Oriental Institute

April 7–17, 1996
April in Paris (and Berlin)
Lecturer: Karen L. Wilson, Ph.D., Curator, Oriental Institute Museum

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

October 7–December 2
Instructor: Frank Yurco, Egyptologist
See page 12 for more information

October 10–November 28
The Israelite Exodus from Egypt in History and Tradition
Instructor: Anthony J. Tomasino, Ph.D.
See page 12 for more information

October 11–December 6
Great Kings of Ancient Mesopotamia
Instructor: Jason Ur, Graduate Student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
See page 12 for more information

Correspondence Course
Hieroglyphs by Mail
Instructor: Emily Teeter, Ph.D., Assistant Curator, Oriental Institute Museum
See page 13 for more information

*NEW*—Adult Education on the North Shore
October 7–November 11
An Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls
Instructor: Anthony J. Tomasino, Ph.D.
See page 14 for more information

SUNDAY FILMS

Films related to the ancient Near East are shown at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. Except where noted, each film lasts approximately 30 minutes, is offered free of charge, and is followed by a tour of the galleries.

OCTOBER
1 Champollion: Hieroglyphs Deciphered
8 Ancient Treasures from the Deep—a special 60 minute video presentation (see separate listing Archaeology on Film)
15 Nubia 64: Saving the Temples of Ancient Egypt
22 The Big Dig
29 Of Time, Tombs, and Treasure

NOVEMBER
5 Turkey: Crossroads of the Ancient World
12 Iraq: Stairway to the Gods
19 Iran: Landmarks in the Desert
26 The Ancient Archives of Ebla (58 minutes)
 EVENTS

DECEMBER
3 Megiddo: City of Destruction
10 Preserving Egypt’s Past
17 Rivers of Time
24 Myth of the Pharaohs/Ancient Mesopotamia
31 Egypt: Gift of the Nile

ARCHAEOLOGY ON FILM

October 7
The Glassmakers of Herat
October 8
Ancient Treasures from the Deep
See page 18 for more information.

“BACK TO THE PAST”
Sunday Family Programs

Every Sunday at the Oriental Institute, the whole family can take a trip to the ancient past. Museum gallery adventures are followed by hands-on activities for the entire family. Suggested for children ages 6–12 accompanied by an adult, each program is offered continuously from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. All programs are free of charge and reservations are not required.

OCTOBER
8 Let the Past Rub off on You: Make a Rubbing from an Egyptian Carving
15 African Adornment: Try Your Hand at Nubian-Style Leather Work
22 Tombs and Treasure: Make Your Own Mummy Mask
29 Fun and Games from Ancient Egypt: Make a Snake-Shaped Board Game out of Clay

NOVEMBER
5 Spinning and Weaving with Jacquie Vaughn of the Textile Arts Center
12 Pottery with Hardy Schlick of the Hyde Park Art Center
19 Metalwork with Yumi Roth of Lill Street Studios
26 Thanksgiving weekend—no programming

DECEMBER
3 Dressing Up in Ancient Egypt: Make a Broad Collar Necklace
10 Tiles of Blue and Gold: Create a Babylonian-Style Mosaic
17 Assyrian Royalty: Make Your Own Version of an Ancient Wall Carving
24 Christmas—no programming
31 New Year’s Eve—no programming

Family programs at the Oriental Institute are supported by the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust.
See page 18 for more information.

FALL 1995

WEDNESDAY EVENING GALLERY TALKS

October 11
Superstitions of the Ancient Near East
December 13
Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh
See page 19 for more information.

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ARTIST: A “SKETCHING IN THE GALLERIES” EXHIBIT

Begins October 15
See page 19 for more information.

GET ALL WRAPPED UP IN ANCIENT EGYPT! THE FOURTH ANNUAL MUMMY’S NIGHT

Wednesday, October 25, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
See page 19 for more information.

THE ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HUMANITIES OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 28, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
See page 19 for more information.

ANCIENT ARTS/CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS

November 5
A Field Trip to the Studio of Metalsmith William Frederick
See page 16 for more information

SHEDD AQUARIUM/ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM PARENT-CHILD WORKSHOP

November 4
Pharaoh Goes Fishing
See page 15 for more information

CHILDREN’S WORKSHOP

December 2
Tut’s Tunes: Music from the Past
See page 17 for more information
All programs subject to change
ADULT EDUCATION

HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT: THE NEW KINGDOM, PART 1 (1570-1321 B.C.)

October 7-December 2, 1995

The fourth installment in an eight-part series on the history of ancient Egypt, this course will focus on the rise of the New Kingdom, when the pharaohs conquered a vast empire that extended from Nubia to Syria-Palestine. During this truly international era, Egypt asserted its cultural influence abroad as it established diplomatic ties with the Minoans, the Myceneans, the Kassites of Babylonia, and the Hittite Empire. Prosperity from trade and a wealth of new ideas enriched the New Kingdom until its status as a great power waned during the militarily disastrous reign of the pharaoh Akhenaten.

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 Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon beginning October 7 and continuing through December 2, 1995. There will be no class on Saturday, November 25.

Required texts:

THE ISRAELITE EXODUS FROM EGYPT IN HISTORY AND TRADITION

October 10-November 28, 1995

This course will explore the biblical story of the Israelite Exodus from Egypt from an archaeological, historical, and literary perspective. Discussion will begin with the nature of biblical history and how it differs from modern history writing, followed by a survey of some modern debates concerning the basic story of the Exodus. To what extent, if any, is the story historically reliable? When might the Exodus have occurred? How could it have taken place? Historical, cultural, and literary aspects of selected passages from the Exodus story will be discussed, including the birth of Moses, the ten plagues, the Passover, and the Ten Commandments. The class will conclude by considering the lasting impact of the Exodus tradition on the Bible and on the Judaeo-Christian tradition.

INSTRUCTOR Anthony J. Tomasino has a Ph.D. from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. An experienced adult education instructor, he has taught courses on biblical literature, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and early Judaism for the College and the University of Chicago's Center for Continuing Studies.

This course will meet at the Oriental Institute on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning October 10 and continuing through November 28, 1995.

Required text:
The Bible
Other materials will be distributed during class.

GREAT KINGS OF ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

October 11-December 6, 1995

The history of Mesopotamia—today's Iraq—is colored by many powerful and charismatic rulers who governed great city-states managed by complex bureaucracies. This course will profile eight rulers over a span of 2,000 years and the political, social, and economic realities of their times. Among those included will be Hammurabi, famous for his law code; Sennacherib, who ruled from the ancient city of Nineveh; and Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Class sessions will examine archaeological data in the form of contemporary art and architecture; cuneiform text evidence from building inscriptions, economic documents, and letters; and later historical and literary traditions. The course will include several visits to the Oriental Institute Museum's galleries to examine relevant artifacts from the collection.

INSTRUCTOR Jason Ur is a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. in Mesopotamian Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. In addition to archaeology, his interests include Sumerian and Akkadian language and literature.

This course will meet at the Oriental Institute on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning October 11 and continuing through December 6, 1995. There will be no class on Wednesday, November 22.

Required text:

Tuition for Adult Education Courses is $95 for Oriental Institute members; $115 for nonmembers. A minimal materials fee may be charged at the first class session to cover the costs of special handouts.
HIEROGLYPHS BY MAIL: AN ORIENTAL INSTITUTE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

This course, taught by mail, will teach you how to read the most common hieroglyphic inscriptions by concentrating on nonliterary texts that appear as labels, captions, and offering formulas on temple walls and on artifacts. The course begins with fundamentals of the writing system, progressing to reading royal and personal names and titles, formulas which appear on funerary monuments, and the texts which accompany offering scenes. Whenever possible, readings will be derived from objects in the collection of the Oriental Institute or from Oriental Institute publications. A final meeting in the Egyptian Gallery of the Oriental Institute Museum will be scheduled for those in the Chicago area to practice their new skills.

The course consists of ten lessons. Complete each lesson and return it by mail or fax it to the instructor. She will correct the lesson, answer any questions, and return it to you by mail. It is estimated that you will complete the course in fifteen weeks.

INSTRUCTOR Emily Teeter, Ph.D., is Assistant Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum.

Required text:

Supplementary notes and exercises will be provided by the instructor.

Optional texts:


Tuition for Hieroglyphs by Mail is $115 for Oriental Institute members; $135 for nonmembers.

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ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION AND REFUND POLICY

For multi-session courses, a full refund will be granted to anyone who notifies us about his/her cancellation before the first class meeting. A student who notifies us of his/her cancellation after the first class meeting, but before the second class meeting, will receive a full refund minus a $45 cancellation fee. After the second class meeting no refunds will be given unless the course is canceled by the Education Office. Those who are not registered may not attend classes. All schedules are subject to change. Some courses may be subject to a small materials fee which will be announced at the first class meeting.

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

___ History of Ancient Egypt: The New Kingdom, Part 1
___ The Isrealite Exodus from Egypt in History and Tradition
___ Great Kings of Ancient Mesopotamia

___ I am a member of the Oriental Institute and enclose $95 for tuition for each course
___ I am not a member and enclose $115 for tuition for each course

___ Hieroglyphs by Mail: An Oriental Institute Correspondence Course

___ I am a member of the Oriental Institute and enclose $115 for tuition for each course
___ I am not a member and enclose $135 for tuition for each course

___ I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is $35 for an individual membership or $45 for a family 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
ADULT EDUCATION ON THE NORTH SHORE

If you have always wanted to take an Adult Education course through the Oriental Institute but could not attend in Hyde Park, now is your chance to register! The Museum Education Office, in collaboration with Trinity United Methodist Church in Wilmette, is bringing Oriental Institute Adult Education to the North Shore. Expand your horizons as we expand to the north with this special six-week course.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

October 7–November 11, 1995

Since their discovery in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls have been the center of intense interest and heated controversy. This course will offer an overview of the current issues in the study of the Scrolls. The class will begin with an account of the discovery of the Scrolls and their subsequent history, including charges that the Scrolls were deliberately withheld from the public by their editors. Sessions will include discussions on who authored the Scrolls and hid them from view in the caves by the Dead Sea. Finally, the class will consider the implications of these texts for our understanding of early Judaism and Christianity.

INSTRUCTOR Anthony J. Tomasino has a Ph.D. from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He was formerly a Project Associate with the Oriental Institute’s Dead Sea Scrolls and Ancient Manuscript Project.

This course will meet at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1024 Lake Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, on Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon beginning October 7 and continuing through November 11, 1995.

There is no required text. The instructor will provide handouts at each class session.

Recommended texts:

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE FOLLOWING ADULT EDUCATION COURSE

_____ An Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls

_____ I am a member of the Oriental Institute and/or Trinity United Methodist Church and enclose $75 for tuition for this six-week course

_____ I am not a member and enclose $95 for tuition for this six-week course

_____ I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is $35 for an individual membership or $45 for a family 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
Take a trek back in time to meet fish and aquatic animals like those the pharaohs of ancient Egypt saw along the Nile. During this special joint program, participants will see live fish at the Shedd Aquarium and then travel to the Oriental Institute Museum to see how aquatic life was depicted in the art of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Start at the aquarium and meet fish that can walk on land, swim backward, and generate electricity. Go behind the scenes to learn how the fish are maintained and even hold a sea star or urchin! Next, board a bus and travel to the Oriental Institute to see ancient gods, good luck charms, and magical symbols related to fish, frogs, crocodiles, and other water creatures. Then learn how to write about fish in Egyptian hieroglyphs and create your own version of an ancient carving showing a river or ocean scene.

This program is designed for families with children ages 7 and up accompanied by an adult. Preregistration is required and space is limited. Fee: Shedd Aquarium/ Oriental Institute members $12 per person, nonmembers $15 per person. Fee includes round trip bus transportation, guided tours, and all craft supplies. Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverage are provided.

PLEAS ENROLL ME IN PHARAOH GOES FISHING: THE SHEDD AQUARIUM/ORIENTAL INSTITUTE WORKSHOP

_____ Number of children attending
_____ Ages of children attending
_____ Number of adults attending

_____ I am a member of the Oriental Institute and/or Shedd Aquarium and enclose $_______ for tuition at $12 per participant

_____ I am not a member and enclose $_______ for tuition at $15 per participant

_____ I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is $35 for an individual membership or $45 for a family 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
ANCIENT ARTS/CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS

A Field Trip to the Studio of Metalsmith William Frederick

Sunday, November 5, 1995

1:00-5:00 p.m.

Join us for the third in our series of field trips to the studios of Chicago artists whose work is inspired by the techniques and approaches of ancient times. This program features the work of master metalsmith William Frederick, who specializes in the design and creation of one-of-a-kind handmade objects in gold, silver, copper, brass, and bronze. Frederick’s work has been on view in galleries and museums nationwide, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, the American Craft Museum in New York, the Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, and the Smithsonian Institution.

The field trip begins at the Oriental Institute, where Frederick, joined by Yumi Roth, artist, metalsmith, and Oriental Institute Museum Educator, will offer a slide presentation and gallery tour highlighting the tools, techniques, and craftsmanship of ancient Near Eastern metalworkers. Then all participants will board a bus to travel to Frederick’s Lincoln Park studio, where the artist will demonstrate metalworking techniques in a variety of metals, including silver and gold. The afternoon will end with a wine and cheese reception, followed by a return to the Oriental Institute.

Please register me for the Ancient Arts/Contemporary Artists field trip

____ I am a member of the Oriental Institute and enclose $19 for the registration fee
____ I am not a member of the Oriental Institute and enclose $24 for the registration fee
____ I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is $35 for an individual membership or $45 for a family 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
CHILDREN’S WORKSHOP

Tut’s Tunes: Music from the Past

Saturday, December 2, 1995

9:30 a.m.–12:00 noon

Be a music video star, ancient Egyptian style! At this special one-session workshop led by Doug Irvine of the Spertus Museum, you can meet the mummy of an ancient Egyptian singer, see ancient musical instruments, and hear the sound of a trumpet that was buried in the tomb of King Tut. Then learn how to play a Near Eastern-style instrument and become a video star as you perform on the lute, lyre, drum, rattle, or horn. Create and decorate your own version of an ancient musical instrument to take home.

An educator and musician, Doug Irvine has led numerous children’s workshops on archaeology, ancient Near Eastern music, and instrument making.

The workshop will take place at the Oriental Institute from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon on Saturday, December 2, 1995. All craft materials and a mid-morning snack are included. The registration fee is $9 per child for Oriental Institute members; $11 for non-members. Video copies will be available for an additional fee of $2.50 each.

From OIP 102, pl. 34

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN TUT’S TUNES: MUSIC FROM THE PAST

_____ Number of children attending

_____ Ages of children attending

_____ I am a member of the Oriental Institute and enclose $_______ for tuition at $9 per participant

_____ I am not a member and enclose $_______ for tuition at $11 per participant

_____ I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is $35 for an individual membership or $45 for a family membership. Please send a separate check for membership fee.

_____ I would like to reserve ______ video copies at $2.50 each.

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

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SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

ARCHAEOLOGY ON FILM

Special free film showings for the National Open House Weekend being hosted by museums across the country for the October celebration of National Humanities Month.

Saturday, October 7, 1995, 2:00 p.m. The Glassmakers of Herat

Glass first appeared in ancient Mesopotamia, but until recently archaeologists could only speculate on how ancient glass was actually made. This extraordinary film brings ancient technology to life as it shows how contemporary craftsmen in Herat, Afghanistan, produce glass according to the same techniques described on seventh-century B.C. Assyrian cuneiform tablets. (1982; 30 minutes, color)

After the film be sure to see the display of ancient glass on view in the Museum’s Mesopotamian Gallery.

Sunday, October 8, 1995, 2:00 p.m. Ancient Treasures from the Deep

This exciting and extremely well-made video film from the PBS Nova series documents the underwater excavation of the Uluburun shipwreck located off the southern coast of Turkey. Dating to the mid-fourteenth century B.C. and loaded with artifacts that include copper ingots, pottery, and jewelry, this is the oldest intact shipwreck ever excavated. The film, a tribute to the best in underwater archaeology, accompanies excavators and divers all the way from the sea floor to museums and laboratories as they recover a wealth of evidence on trade and technology in the Late Bronze Age. (1987; 60 minutes, color)

“BACK TO THE PAST”

SUNDAY FAMILY PROGRAMS

Every Sunday at the Oriental Institute, the whole family can take a trip to the ancient past. Museum gallery adventures are followed by hands-on activities for the entire family. Suggested for children ages 6–12 accompanied by an adult, each program is offered continuously from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. All programs are free of charge and reservations are not required.

Visit Ancient Africa in October

OCTOBER

8 Let the Past Rub off on You: Make a Rubbing from an Egyptian Carving
15 African Adornment: Try Your Hand at Nubian-Style Leather Work
22 Tombs and Treasure: Make Your Own Mummy Mask
29 Fun and Games from Ancient Egypt: Make a Snake-Shaped Board Game out of Clay

Meet Three Ancient-Style Artists in November

Find out how some of the artifacts in the Oriental Institute Museum were made by working with artists who use techniques from ancient times.

NOVEMBER

5 Spinning and Weaving with Jacquie Vaughn of the Textile Arts Center
12 Pottery with Hardy Schlick of the Hyde Park Art Center
19 Metalwork with Yumi Roth of Lill Street Studios
26 Thanksgiving Weekend—no programming

Tour the Ancient World in December

DECEMBER

3 Dressing Up in Ancient Egypt: Make a Broad Collar Necklace
10 Tiles of Blue and Gold: Create a Babylonian-Style Mosaic
17 Assyrian Royalty: Make Your Own Version of an Ancient Wall Carving
24 Christmas Eve—no programming
31 New Year’s Eve—no programming

Family programs at the Oriental Institute are supported by the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust.
SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

WEDNESDAY EVENING GALLERY TALKS
Join us for these informal gallery tours based on themes and objects in the Oriental Institute Museum’s collection. Admission is free and reservations are not required. Each tour will last approximately forty-five minutes.

Superstitions of the Ancient Near East
October 11, 1995, 6:00 p.m.
Walter Farber, Professor of Assyriology, offers a pre-Friday the 13th look at spells and omens, rites and rituals, and magic of all sorts as seen through the eyes of the people of ancient Mesopotamia.
Light refreshments, and a toast for good luck, follow the program.

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh
December 13, 1995, 6:00 p.m.
Raymond Tindel, Ph.D., Oriental Institute Museum Registrar, places the precious gifts associated with the Three Wise Men into the context of trade and tribute in the ancient Near East.
Light refreshments follow the program.

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ARTIST: A “SKETCHING IN THE GALLERIES” EXHIBIT
Begins October 15, 1995
Drawings from the informal sketching sessions held during the past year will be on display in the lobby of the Oriental Institute Museum beginning October 15, 1995. The “Sketching in the Galleries” sessions on Wednesday evenings welcomed artists of all backgrounds to take advantage of the museum’s world-renowned collection of art and artifacts. From quick studies to detailed drawings, this exhibit illustrates how the Oriental Institute inspired local artists to incorporate ancient Near Eastern motifs and styles of representation into their own work.

GET ALL “WRAPPED UP” IN ANCIENT EGYPT!
THE FOURTH ANNUAL MUMMY’S NIGHT
Wednesday, October 25, 1995
6:00–8:00 p.m.
Ancient mummies, painted coffins, and a Book of the Dead await you as the Oriental Institute Museum hosts its fourth annual Mummy’s Night. Join us for this special family event that features gallery adventures, a “tomb full” of new hands-on activities, and a screening of Mummies Made in Egypt, the animated film based on the Reading Rainbow children’s book by Aliki. There will be complimentary refreshments, Halloween treats for all, and a drawing to award grand prizes to some lucky people who have completed one of the Oriental Institute Museum’s 75th Anniversary Treasure Hunts. (There is still time to complete a hunt and qualify for the drawing!) For additional information on this free event, call the Museum Education Office at 312/702-9507.

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

THE ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HUMANITIES OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, October 28, 1995
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
At the Humanities Open House, the University of Chicago opens its libraries, museums, studios, and halls to the public. Faculty members and researchers in many fields present programs illustrating their current work. The Oriental Institute Museum will offer docent-led gallery tours on a wide variety of topics from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A video presentation, The Oriental Institute: Its Collection and Its Work, will be shown continuously throughout the day.
Remember ...
The Egyptian, Mesopotamian, and Assyrian Galleries—and the Nubian exhibit—will be open to visitors through all of 1995. See the Calendar of Events for the many programs to be offered.

$5.1 MILLION: LEGACY CAMPAIGN REACHES HALFWAY MARK
We thank all of the donors who helped the Oriental Institute to reach this milestone.

Stop by the lobby of the Oriental Institute Museum to see the ziggurat display (pictured above) showing our fundraising progress for the climate control / renovation project.