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ETYMOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS: THE AFROASIATIC INDEX

By Gene Gragg, Professor of Near Eastern Languages, The Oriental Institute

The word "etymology" comes wrapped in musty, bookish connotations. It brings up memories of the initial section of lexical entries, often in smaller print, encountered while browsing around in older, more compendious dictionaries. In these somewhat detached sections one can pick up unexpected, and sometimes delightful, but somehow not very practical bits of anecdotal information—for example that the (native) English word "dough" and (the ultimately Latin loan-word) "fiction" are historically related through regular developments, which took place independently in Germanic and Italic, from the same ancestral Indo-European root reconstructed as **dheigh-* "knead, fashion".

Approaching etymology from this angle, it is easy to lose sight of, or never even be aware of, a) the fact that the establishment of a historical (linguists often use the biology-influenced term "genetic") relationship among a group of languages, that is, the fact that they are descendants of the language of an earlier single parent speech community, and b) the reconstruction of this parent ("proto-") language as well as c) the working out of the historical ("evolutionary") steps whereby the parent language became differentiated into the various daughter languages—all of this depends crucially and centrally on the ability of the historical linguist to establish sets of etymologically related words ("cognate sets") within the language family, and to work out regular phonological and morphological correspondences within and between these sets. It is this, and only this, process that entitles a linguist to assert that the languages in question are indeed genetically related, and that the resemblances are not simply the result of contact or convergence between independent speech

communities. Thus the first step towards being able to draw that historically and socio-culturally important conclusion is the establishment of a sufficiently large set of related lexical items, in other words an etymological dictionary or database.

To continue the illustration with "dough," the fact that we can: (1) establish large numbers of equations such as English *dough* = German *Teig*, English *deed* = German *Tat*, English *deep* = German *tief*, *heap* = *Haufe*, *hip* = *Hüfte* (adding of course cognate items in Dutch, Scandinavian, Gothic, and older periods of English and German); and (2) observe regular phoneme correspondences such as English *d* = German *t* (in the first three items), and English *p* = German *f* (in the last three)—all this, in conjunction with *many* other observations both linguistic and historical-archaeological, enables historical linguists to state with a certain amount of confidence:

- that there was a (more or less) unitary proto-German speech community somewhere in north-central Europe, probably sometime late in the first millennium BC
- that all attested Germanic languages are developments of this proto-speech community
- that a fair amount of information can be recovered about what this language was like (for example that the five partial cognate sets cited above are reflexes of proto-Germanic lexical items which, according to one reconstruction, may have been something like: **daigo-z* "dough," **daedi-z* "deed," **deupo-z* "deep," **haupo-z* "heap," **hupi-z* "hip").

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LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

AQABA WORK DEFIES MOTHER NATURE

A Letter from Donald Whitcomb, Research Associate (Associate Professor), The Oriental Institute

Dear Friends and Members:

As I gaze out over the city of Aqaba, the curving bay with Elat and the Sinai Mountains in the distance under a perfect clear blue sky, I am tempted to write: "the weather's fine, wish you were here!" It is indeed perfect weather for digging and we have made the most of it for almost four weeks. This year we have tackled the early Islamic city from a new direction. For almost ten years we have patiently uncovered the city walls, gates and towers, and major structures within the town (including the Congregational mosque last season); most of the information on the

structure of the town dates from the later phases of occupation, from the Abbasid and Fatimid periods (9th–11th centuries).

This year we have bypassed these later levels by excavating within the wadi that now cuts across the ancient town. After a series of probes, a large and horribly noisy bulldozer cleared modern debris from the banks and sediment from the bottom of the wadi channel. We now have a flat field averaging 30 meters wide that is revealing walls of a complex of structures associated with consistently very early Islamic materials. Readers of *News & Notes* will remember that we attempted to excavate the wadi in 1993 and that our probes were obliterated by a flash flood, which filled the entire wadi. Needless to say, we watch

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The reconstruction of proto-Germanic, and the relating of Germanic along with Celtic, Italic, Greek, Albanian, Armenian, Slavic, Iranian, and Indic to a superfamily called Indo-European, was one of the great intellectual achievements of the nineteenth century, and one that attracted some of its greatest minds. Building on this magnificent foundation, work in this area still goes on, with newly discovered languages being added (for example, Hittite), and new discoveries being made concerning the process of differentiation and diffusion of Indo-European, and the date and location of the ancestral speech community.

Around the same time that they were discovering Indo-European, scholars were becoming aware of the existence of other major families like Semitic (uniting, among others, Akkadian, Aramaic, Hebrew, Ugaritic, Arabic, South Arabian, and Ethiopic). Progress here however has been much less dramatic. In part because new languages are continually being discovered and added to the list (e.g., Eblaite), and because fundamental research tools in the individual branches (e.g., the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary) are still being compiled, a real etymological dictionary of Semitic still does not exist. To make matters worse, evidence has been accumulating that Semitic is not an isolated family, but is itself part of a superfamily, probably older than Indo-European, which stretched over large parts of Northern and Eastern Africa and Western Asia. This family, sometimes still called "Hamito-Semitic," but now more often "Afroasiatic" or "Afrasian" includes—besides Semitic—Egyptian, Berber, Cushitic (a heterogeneous group of dozens of languages, including Somali, centered around the Horn of Africa), Omotic (a large group of languages in Southwest Ethiopia), and Chadic (more than a hundred languages, including Hausa, spoken over a large sub-Saharan area centered around Lake Chad). Relationships are still being established within the last four groups, many individual languages are very poorly known, and new information is coming in on an almost daily basis. Clearly we are on the verge (or over the edge) of information overload. There are more pieces of information around and more heterogeneous and even contradictory hypotheses about their relationships than anyone can easily keep track

of. Thus it is becoming harder and harder to draw together the material for potential cognate sets and sound correspondences, as well as relevant textual, historical, and archaeological detail, which will make possible, first, the firm establishment of Afroasiatic as a language family, and then the drawing of some reasonable hypotheses about its nature, its place and time of origin, and its differentiation and diffusion.

To help in the process of systematization of what is becoming an increasingly amorphous heap of unassimilated information, the Oriental Institute is sponsoring a project that will draw on the two closely related and developing, not to say exploding, technologies which are being harnessed in many different contexts to stay on top of a rising flood of information—electronic data processing and, courtesy of the Internet and the World-Wide Web, data communication. We are currently setting up the Afroasiatic Index, a major source of historical linguistic

information. It should permit access to the most reliable current information (including alternate and mutually incompatible hypotheses) about family-level and super-family-level cognate sets, correspondence sets, sound changes, morphological correspondences, and relevant bibliography. Of its major subparts, the Semitic Index, the Egyptian Index, the Cushitic Index, and the Omotic Index can be handled within the Oriental Institute or through contacts whom we already work. With the Berber Index and the Chadic Index, we are currently working on contacting extramural collaborators or outsourcing the work.

A precursor of the Cushitic Index, and something of a pilot for the whole project, has been the Cushlex project, initiated in 1987 with the help of a National Science Foundation Grant. The ob-

ject of that project was to explore the possibility of using standard relational database file formats and off-the-shelf database managing software to create and maintain an etymological database (cognate sets, correspondence sets, sound changes, bibliography) for Cushitic and Omotic. Inevitably cognates were noted between these languages and the other major branches of Afroasiatic, so that the project early on acquired a certain Afroasiatic dimension. Indeed, as has been noted by other inves-

Dictionaries:			
<u>language</u>	<u>word</u>	<u>gloss</u>	
...			
Iraqw	tserere	blood	
...	dori	sky	
...			
Burungi	cede	blood	
...	raw	sky	
...			
Alagwa	tserere	blood	
...	rawa	sky	
Cognate Sets:			
<u>proto-form</u>	<u>members</u>		<u>bibliog</u>
*ts'ed- "red"	Iraqw: tserere, Burungi: cede, Alagwa: tserere		Ehret80:199
*raa- "above"	Iraqw: dori, Burungi: raw, Alagwa: rawa		Ehret80:219
...			
Correspondence Sets:			
<u>label</u>	<u>members</u>	<u>environment</u>	<u>attested in</u>
"D"	Irq: r = Bur d = Alg r	V _ V	*ts'ed- "red"
"R"	Irq: d = Bur r = Alg r	# _ V	*raa- "above"
...			
Rules:			
<u>proto-language:phoneme</u>	<u>language:Phoneme</u>	<u>environment</u>	<u>attested</u>
SouthCushitic: *r >	Iraqw: d	/# _	"R"
SouthCushitic: *d >	Iraqw: r	/V _	"D"
...			
Bibliography:			
<u>abbrev</u>	<u>author</u>	<u>title</u>	<u>publication</u>
Ehret80	Christopher Ehret	Historical Reconstruction of Southern Cushitic	Berlin, 1980

Figure 1. Information modules in database

tigators, Cushitic, with its major subfamilies of Bedja, Agaw, East Cushitic, and South Cushitic, is such a heterogeneous group that the question seriously arises whether it is really a separate "family" at all, or just a collection of Afroasiatic language families which through geographic proximity on and around the Horn of Africa stayed linguistically closer to one another than more widely distributed sister families (perhaps thereby making this area a good candidate for the "home" of Afro-

asiatic?). The database, implemented in one of the commercial DBMS (database managing software) packages, has been available from the Oriental Institute in a preliminary form since 1994. It is designed to run on a single PC, and data and programs have been distributed to interested users in diskette format (sent by U.S. mail or by electronic ftp [file transfer protocol] on the Internet).

The database makes available a complex network of information involving rudimentary dictionaries of the languages covered, the organization of these lexical items into cognate sets, the analysis of the cognate sets into sets of corresponding phonemes, and the formulation of regular sound changes on the basis of these correspondence phoneme sets. Figure 1 gives a sample of the kind of information contained in the database, using data reported by Christopher Ehret from three Southern Cushitic languages (Iraqw, Alagwa, and Burungi, all spoken at the extreme southern limit of Cushitic expansion, in Northern Tanzania near the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro). The hierarchy of relations among the information modules is shown in figure 2. Figure 3 shows how a set of display windows in the Cushlex application has been set up on a screen to display these complex interrelationships. The "Sourcelist" window displays a list of cognate sets chosen on some basis or other; the "Cognate Sets" window shows all the members of the currently highlighted cognate set. Clicking on the "Cognate Sets" window shows what if any

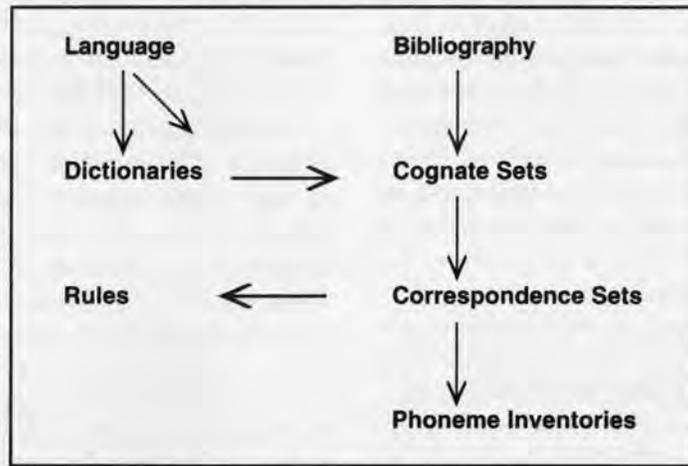


Figure 2. Links between principal modules

correspondence sets have been related to that cognate set. Through the "Corrsets" window, one can display directly any correspondence set in the system. Clicking on an individual correspondence set shows through "CorrCog" what cognate sets support that set, and in "RuleCorr" what rules are implied by it. Clicking on rules shows in "RuleCorr" what correspondence sets are related to it.

Useful as it is, major problems have become apparent with the Cushlex approach. These

have included difficulties involved in keeping the distributed data up to date, and adapting the interface to a wide variety of incompatible platforms (not just Macintosh versus PC, but even problematic adaptations of the interface to different specifications of monitors within the PC domain). None of these problems are insuperable, but they definitely do demand much more low-level computer involvement than is feasible for a project that intends to be more an information provider than a software provider. The Cushlex approach also involves too much investment in installation time and valuable hard disk space to be practical for all but a few dedicated users. At the very instant that these problems began to endanger the success of the project, though, a remarkable new tool came into the picture: the World-Wide Web. The World-Wide Web transports, almost instantaneously, our information to the nether reaches of the globe, and relieves us of the burden of creating our own visual interface. It is true that the current limitations of even the most advanced web browsers impose some limits on format, and force some compromise in character representation. We cannot yet reproduce, for example, the exact screen of interrelated windows indicated in figure 3. But all substantive information and links between modules of information *can* be represented, and as the web itself evolves, it will be possible to upgrade formats and character-set inventories.

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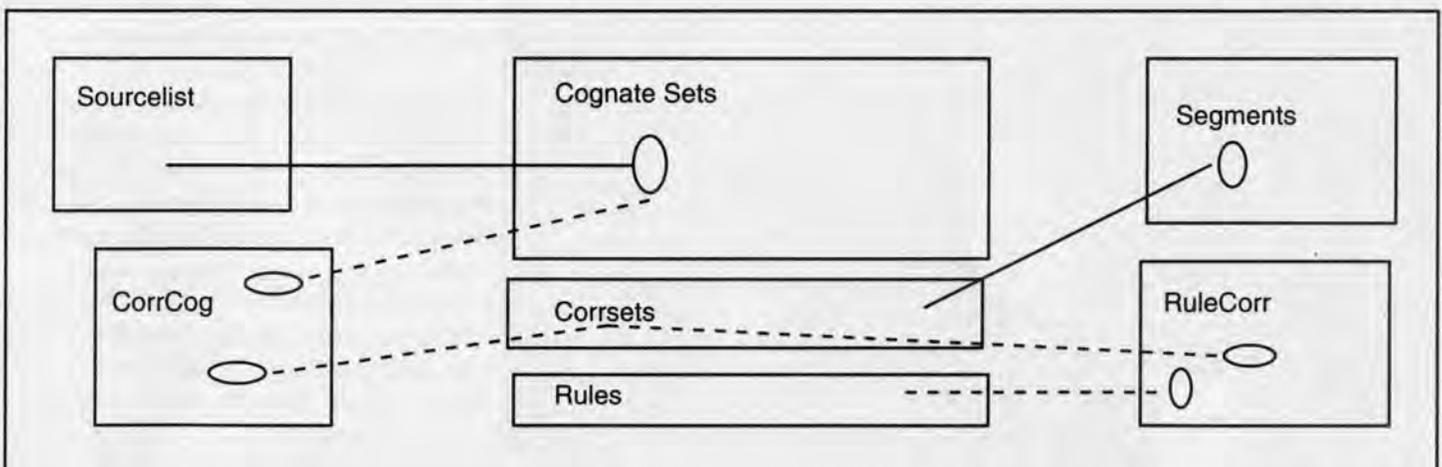


Figure 3. Screen display of file relations

At present the Afroasiatic Index web page is under construction, but open, and accessible from the Oriental Institute Home Page (<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/default.html>). A prototype of the current interface with a complete set of data can be seen in "Semitic Index" section, which now also integrates a module on morphological information. The Cushlex material will be transferred to Web format in the course of the Spring Quarter, even as work progresses on other fronts.

Pardon our dust, but please do drop in on us and look around—we would appreciate reactions, comments, and suggestions.

In addition to research and teaching in the peripheral languages of the Ancient Near East, Gene Gragg has long been occupied with the Semitic and Cushitic languages of Ethiopia. He did lexical research in Ethiopia and has published a dictionary of the Cushitic language Oromo. Computational (and Northwest Semitic) expertise for the Afroasiatic Index is being provided by Richard Goerwitz, Research Associate and Lecturer in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and recent Ph.D. in that department.

Letters from the Field (cont.)

Aqaba Work Defies Mother Nature (cont.)

A Letter from Donald Whitcomb

the sky nervously and, unkind as it may be to farmers, pray for the rain to wait until we have finished.

This tenuous state of being also means that the results of this season will not contribute to the touristic value of our site. We are fortunate to have a program of restoration established in Aqaba. Under the direction of Sawsan al-Fakhry, Inspector of the Office of Antiquities in Aqaba, and her experienced team, we have opened the Egyptian gate and reconstructed its arch. Soon tourists will be able to enter the early Islamic city and walk along its main street, closed and indeed completely hidden for a thousand years.

And what have we found aside from the walls and sherds? I watched Ra'ed al-Shara', an advanced Jordanian student recently returned for a second season at Aqaba, excavating a wall. He picked up a cobble, one of many stones, and said: "Look, a head," and gave us an alas-poor-Yorick pose. The more we looked at the cobble, the more it did look like a head. As we cleaned the

mud, a marble head of a young boy was revealed. The face was sadly worn (the nose rather like that of most Egyptian statues), but the stylish hair and elaborate ears should give classical archaeologists all the information they need for an approximate identification.

Our discoveries take place in the wadi with tourists watching from the bridge above us. Others, both Jordanians and foreigners, pass through the wadi on their way to the beach, just past the palm trees only 100 meters away. Recently we were pleased to have Dr. Peter Piccione, Mrs. Louise Bradbury, and a small group from the Oriental Institute Travel Program's tour *Prophets and Pilgrims* stop in the wadi; we added a full tour of the site and the Aqaba museum before they continued on to the beaches and swimming. By a remarkable coincidence, one of our first visitors was Thomas McClellan, a former professor at the Oriental Institute well familiar to many members. He toured the site and gave us an exciting gift in return: a first-hand account of his excavations in northern Syria. His very remarkable discoveries of the second millennium BC are easily the most exciting news from Syria in recent years; they gave us a sense of perspective as we begin our own investigations.

P.S. On November 22nd, we experienced an earthquake in Aqaba, apparently 6.4 on the Richter scale. Happily no one of the team or in Aqaba was hurt. Our residence was undamaged, though many of the hotels and houses in the town have cracks. As we attempt to get used to the aftershocks, the team turns to making cracks of their own—like looking for an earth-shaking discovery.

Donald Whitcomb is a Research Associate specializing in Islamic archaeology. He has directed the Aqaba project for almost ten years, patiently uncovering this early Islamic city, which he discovered in 1986.

Don returned safely from the field in January 1996. He was accompanied by his wife, Professor Janet Johnson, and their children who also continued to excavate in Aqaba.



Looking to the southwest down the wadi at Aqaba, Jordan. Photograph by Donald Whitcomb

EXCITEMENT ON THE LUXOR-FARSHÛT DESERT ROAD SURVEY

*A Letter from John Coleman Darnell and Deborah Darnell,
Chicago House, Luxor*

Greetings from Upper Egypt:

By mid-November and into December, the weather is perfect for desert work: the breeze is soft, cool, and refreshing, the sun hot but not scorchingly so. Sunlight strikes the earth at a bit more of an angle, so that in mid-to-late afternoon all the features of the desert landscape stand out magnificently, in the same way as do the hieroglyphs carved on the temple walls, when light is raked across them at a sharp angle. Having begun the season's work at other desert sites, it was at last possible for us to return to the Wadi el-Hôl, which had been attacked by antiquities' thieves in the 1994/95 season. Ever since our encounter with the thieves that season, we have been obliged to make elaborate security arrangements well in advance of any visit to the site, and it had taken some time to set up this trip. We could see immediately upon our return that the remainder of a large stela which had been badly damaged last season had been removed from the rock face, but we were later told that it had been taken to an official



Opening day of the 1995/96 season for the Theban Desert Road Survey, (left to right) Abdu Abdullah Hassan, Deborah Darnell, John Darnell, Officer Bahlul, Mohammed el-Bialy, Ramadan Ahmed Aly. Photograph by Abu Nag'a Elyen

magazine by the Qena inspectorate. Otherwise, the site was less disturbed than we had feared it would be after a long summer away. Vandals are still visiting the Wadi el-Hôl, however; during that first day of work, a minivan full of intruders approached the wadi and fled upon seeing our vehicles. Two men on foot, apparently their accomplices, scrambled madly away from us. We have encountered men in the desert before: we customarily exchange greetings and *salaams*, so the unusual behavior of these individuals suggested that they were up to no good. We would like to believe that illicit activity at the site will decline as word spreads that (a) nothing easy to steal and sell can be found and (b) people who get very angry at intruders and who carry a *shuba* (a large heavy staff covered with gamoosa hide and festooned with brass studs) are working there at unpredictable intervals.

If we cannot physically save the site, we can copy with vigor: we have so far copied over 170 different graffiti, ranging

from individual figures to long hieratic texts. We estimate that approximately the same number remains to be copied and as many as fifty have been stolen or destroyed. It is more difficult than one might imagine to copy graffiti from these rock faces; we sometimes wonder how in the world the original artist executed his work. We have occasionally had to assume interesting contortions in order to position ourselves for proper copying and checking. We are certain at least one or two of the ancient authors were left-handed (in a couple of places, portions of rock jutting out make a right-handed writing posture impossible). In some cases, ancient and modern ground levels are drastically different. The floor of the wadi, scoured and deepened by the roaring torrents of desert flash floods, has dropped considerably from prehistoric times to the present, so the earliest petroglyphs are far out of reach, and Middle Kingdom pharaonic graffiti must be copied from a ladder or while balancing on a slippery, five-inch ledge (small feet, agility, and good muscle tone are prerequisites for this area). Even if we had no dated inscriptions, we would have no trouble determining which areas were favored for resting and carving graffiti at different times of the year. Area B at the Wadi el-Hôl is in shade all day and enjoys a cool breeze that was already positively icy early this season: a summertime spot.



Drawing pottery in situ, Darb Rayayna; drystone solar altar in background. Photograph by Deborah Darnell

Copying here requires constant adjustment of light reflected off large mirrors in the wadi bed; if there is no one to lend a hand, we get plenty of exercise scampering up and down the cliff face to nudge the mirror every few minutes. Area C, on the other hand, must have been a good place to warm oneself: it is virtually always in the sun, a fact we enjoy more in winter than towards the end of the season. The most opportune time to copy and photograph inscriptions also depends on the time of year, due to the angle of the sun.

Though the effort we must expend to record these graffiti is considerable, the work is quite rewarding. Every inscription is unique, the result of an individual desiring to express himself, usually spontaneously it seems. There are many references to Hathoric "holiday" celebrations, even a little sketch of a man playing a lyre, his head thrown back and his mouth wide open in song. There is a Middle Kingdom letter carved in the rock, ad-

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dressing a *wab*-priest. The priest is asked to adore certain deities, some of whose names and epithets are known only from Sinuhe's letter to Sesostris I. One of the most exciting texts is a faintly incised inscription already partially effaced in ancient times, which says it is "the beginning of the book of the scribe of Hu, Ankh." This amazing excerpt is filled with unusual imagery describing the appearance of a man in Thebes, "the foreigners [falling] to him, he slaying in this mountain, the mountain in which is the might ..."; he spends the night hungry and sees the morning sky like a flame; "his joy is instructing the watchmen." What we seem to have is a contemporary account of the very beginning of the rise of the Theban Seventeenth Dynasty, when the grip of the Hyksos on the northern portion of the country had not been loosened. The vivid details of struggle in the gebel suggest that the Wadi el-Hôl, then as now, has been the stage for dramatic conflict! After the golden days of spending the day on holiday, complete with the Hathoric elements



Copying and collating graffiti at Gebel Tjauti, Ahmed Harfoush (left), John Darnell on ladder. Photograph by Deborah Darnell

of music and drink, the high stone walls of the wadi rang with the echoes of the sounds of combat as the Thebans reasserted their mastery over the strategically important routes of the Upper Egyptian deserts.

The impressive range of evidence of ancient activity in such remote settings continues to fascinate us. We are looking forward to the second half of this year's season, when our work will continue at Gebel Tjauti and the Wadi el-Hôl, as well as several other desert road sites.

John Coleman Darnell received his Ph.D. in Egyptology from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, where Deborah Darnell is a Ph.D. candidate. They are both employed with the Epigraphic Survey, John as Senior Epigrapher and Deborah as Epigrapher and Librarian. For the past four seasons, the Darnells have been working on their own project, a study of the ancient road system of the Theban desert.

THE SUQ

The SUQ will remain open throughout the renovation. Please continue to support the Oriental Institute by shopping at the SUQ. We are continually adding to our unique selection of books and gifts to serve you better.

NEW BOOKS

Egypt:

- Murnane **Texts from the Amarna Period in Egypt** \$34.95 pb
- Shaw and Parkinson **The Dictionary of Ancient Egypt** \$45.00 hc
- Spencer **Early Egypt** \$17.95 pb
- Steegmuller, trans. **Flaubert in Egypt** \$8.95 pb
- Taschen **Description de l'Égypte** \$30.00 pb

Mesopotamia/Iran:

- Curtis and Reade **Later Mesopotamia and Iran** \$25.00 hc
- Potts **Mesopotamia and the East** \$50.00 hc
- Saggs **The Babylonians** \$29.95 hc

Other/General:

- Dark **Theoretical Archaeology** \$19.95 pb
- Porada **Man and Images in the Ancient Near East** \$22.95 hc
- Posey **Yemeni Pottery** \$12.00 pb

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Egypt:

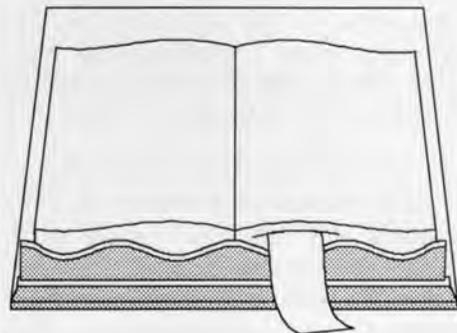
- Filer **Egyptian Bookshelf: Disease** pb

Mesopotamia:

- Foster **From Distant Days: Myths, Tales, and Poetry of Ancient Mesopotamia** \$19.95 pb

Nubia:

- O'Connor **Ancient Nubia** pb



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ORIENTAL INSTITUTE TRAVEL PROGRAM

TURKEY

28 September–13 October, 1996

For the better part of this century, the Oriental Institute has been involved in the recovery of the languages, history, and cultures of ancient Anatolia. The Institute sponsored the Anatolian-Hittite expedition of 1926-30, excavations in the Amuq Valley in 1931-38, and the more recent work of Robert and Linda Braidwood at Çayönü. The last several years has seen the Institute devote more attention to Anatolian archaeology with the work of Assistant Professor K. Aslıhan Yener's work at the Kestel Mine at Göltepe, where a major source of ancient tin was discovered, and now in the Amuq Valley near Antioch. These archaeological projects are complemented by the work of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project, and by individual research projects of our faculty and research associates.

It is then particularly appropriate that the Oriental Institute sponsor this extraordinary travel program which will take you to the centers of the many ancient civilizations of Turkey—to the cities of the Hittites at Hattusa and Karatepe, the remains of Constantinople, the painted rock churches of Cappadocia, the Phrygian capital at Gordion, and the extraordinary hilltop tomb of King Antiochus at Nemrut Dagi. A very special feature of the program is a visit to the Amuq where Aslıhan will introduce us to her work.

Your escort/lecturer for this program is Emily Teeter, Assistant Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum. Emily has led many tours to Turkey in the last decade, and she will ensure that this is a memorable experience.

Space on this program is limited to 18 people. Cost: \$4880 per person sharing a double, including return airfare from Chicago, \$3940 land only, \$865 single supplement.

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

ASSOCIATES DINNER WITH GILLIAN EASTWOOD- VOGELSANG

The Membership Office is happy to announce an Associates Dinner on the night of Tuesday, 4 June 1996 at 5:30 PM. The dinner will be held at the University Club, 76 East Monroe, Chicago, and will feature Dr. Gillian Eastwood-Vogelsang of the Textile Research Centre of the National Museum of Ethnology in Leiden, the Netherlands. Dr. Eastwood-Vogelsang has published extensively on the topics of ancient clothing and fabrics, and her work has been featured in the *New York Times*.

Dr. Eastwood-Vogelsang will only be in the Chicago area for a few days, and we are looking forward to a special presentation. She has made several reproductions of ancient clothing, using ancient processes and styles, and will be bringing samples with her. While she speaks, volunteer dinner guests will model the clothing; we hope that you will be able to join us as we deepen our understanding of the ancient world. Look for your invitation in the mail.

MAIL PROBLEMS?

Have you been having difficulty receiving mail consistently from the Oriental Institute? Would you like your name to appear differently on our mailing labels, or perhaps you would like your mail delivered to a different address, whether on a permanent or a seasonal basis?

We would be delighted to accommodate your request. Simply call, write, or e-mail the Oriental Institute Membership Office (see addresses below) and we will change your membership record accordingly. We are particularly interested to learn of any people who have had problems with mail delivery, so that we can talk with the Post Office about possible solutions.

Membership Office
Room 233—Oriental Institute
1155 East 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
(312) 702-1677
t-cashion@uchicago.edu

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 1996

MEMBERS LECTURE

18 April 1996

T. G. H. James, former Keeper of Western Asiatic Antiquities,
British Museum
"William John Bankes: An Early Egyptian Epigrapher"
7:30 PM, Breasted Hall

ASSOCIATES DINNER

4 June 1996

Gillian Eastwood-Vogelsang
"The Clothing of Tutankhamun: Lecture and Fashion Show"
5:30 PM, University Club
76 East Monroe, Chicago

Invitations to the Associates Dinner will arrive by mail

ANNUAL DINNER

13 May 1996

Annual Dinner
6:00 PM, University Club
76 East Monroe, Chicago

TRAVEL PROGRAM

28 September–13 October

Turkey
Lecturer: Emily Teeter, Assistant Curator, Oriental Institute Museum

See page 7 for more information

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

2 April–21 May 1996

Women in the Ancient Near East
Instructors: Team of Graduate Students in the Department of
Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

3 April–22 May 1996

The Hittites and Their Neighbors in Ancient Anatolia
Instructor: Hripsime S. Haroutunian, Research Associate,
Oriental Institute

6 April–25 May 1996

History of Ancient Egypt: Post New Kingdom to Late Period
(ca. 1070–332 BC)
Instructor: Frank Yurco, Egyptologist

See page 10 for more information

ADULT EDUCATION ON THE NORTH SHORE

13 April–11 May 1996

Archaeology and the Land of the Bible
Instructor: Timothy Harrison, Research Associate, Oriental Institute
Location: Trinity United Methodist Church, Wilmette

See page 11 for more information

MINI-COURSE

27 April 1996

Shaping the Past: Making Ancient-Style Pottery
Instructor: Noah Loesberg, Potter and Master Instructor
Co-Sponsored with the Hyde Park Art Center

See page 11 for more information

FAMILY PROGRAM

5 May 1996

Be an Ancient Egyptian Metalsmith
Leader: Yumi Roth, Metalsmith and Museum Educator
Register with Lill Street Studios (312) 477-6185

See page 11 for more information

FIELD TRIP

19 May 1996

The Studio of Painter James Mesplé
Leader: Karen Wilson, Curator, Oriental Institute Museum

See page 12 for more information

SPECIAL EVENT

20 April 1996

The Oriental Institute Celebrates Earth Day
Further information will arrive by mail

SUNDAY FILMS

Films related to the ancient Near East are shown at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoons. Except where noted, each film lasts approximately 30 minutes and is followed by a tour of the museum. Tour and film programs are subject to change based upon gallery closure for climate control and renovation and installation of new projection equipment in Breasted Hall. Please call ahead to (312) 702-9521 before attending a film program.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 7 April | Egypt: Gift of the Nile |
| 14 | The Big Dig |
| 21 | The Egyptologists |
| 28 | Iraq: Stairway to the Gods |
| 5 May | Nubia 64: Saving the Temples of Ancient Egypt |
| 12 | Turkey: Crossroads of the Ancient World |
| 19 | The Royal Archives of Ebla (58 min.) |
| 26 | Egypt's Pyramids: Houses of Eternity |

YENER FEATURED IN BOOK ON WOMEN SCIENTISTS

The Oriental Institute was delighted to learn that Aslihan Yener, Assistant Professor of Archaeology at the Oriental Institute, has been featured in *Twentieth-Century Women Scientists* (Lisa Yount; Facts on File, 1996). Professor Yener was selected to be one of the ten women profiled in this volume, which also includes atomic scientist Lise Meitner and geneticist Barbara McClintock, among others. Yount notes that Professor Yener's work on Anatolian tinsmelting (featured in the Summer 1995 *News & Notes*) literally "rewrites history." The article details her decade-long efforts to find evidence of tin mines in Anatolia, and her ultimate success, noting how "much more complex" the Bronze Age trading picture has become as a result of Professor Yener's work. Professor Yener was happy to cooperate in the work, saying that "inspiring enthusiasm in math and science, which are fields often discouraging for girls during their educational experience, was my main objective. My success in archaeological science will hopefully motivate them to develop an interest in this emerging discipline." The Director, on behalf of the Oriental Institute, would like to congratulate Professor Yener on her inclusion in the volume.

K. Aslihan Yener is Assistant Professor in the Oriental Institute and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.



Professor Aslihan Yener. Photograph by Clemens Reichel

NEWS FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

New Fonts

The Publications Office recently completed work with Lloyd Anderson of Ecological Linguistics, Washington, D.C., on two new fonts, *AssyrianDictionary* and *HittiteDictionary*. These fonts were designed not only for use with their namesake projects at the Oriental Institute, but also for use on all manuscripts in the Publications Office. This issue of *News & Notes* is the first publication to use the *AssyrianDictionary* font for all the serif type contained herein.

In the past, *CuneiformOriental* filled the need for a font that contained the diacritics and special characters necessary for manuscripts that deal with ancient Near Eastern subjects. However, after seven or eight years of use, it became obvious that a font was needed which was both easier to use and more tuned to the needs of the two dictionary projects. *Assyrian-* and *HittiteDictionary* satisfied these needs.

HittiteDictionary was put to use, while still under development, in the second fascicle of the P-volume of the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary*. The decision to use the font was made in answer to the problem posed by one of the special hyphens used by Hittitologists: the *Fraktur Hyphen* (≠), which is used in place of regular hyphens to mark morpheme boundaries, e.g., *nu≠kan*. When *Fraktur Hyphens* are used in a longer word and do not act as hyphens and break at the end of a line, as was the case with the *Fraktur Hyphen* in *CuneiformOriental* (fig. 1), the result was

very erratic spacing. Before *HittiteDictionary*, each line with erratic spacing had to be individually adjusted with either "soft returns" or invisible (white) hyphens. In *HittiteDictionary*, the *Fraktur Hyphens* were designed to function as hyphens and to break at the end of a line (fig. 2); so after replacing the *CuneiformOriental Fraktur Hyphens* with that from *HittiteDictionary*, the hundreds of erratically spaced lines did not require special attention and perhaps two weeks of work were saved.

8. (prev.) (idiomatic or unclear) — a. parā
kanešš-: nu≠mu≠za ammel LÚ.MEŠaruš lē namma
pa-ra-a kaniššuwanzi x[...] /
markiškiwanzi≠ya≠mu≠za mālawanzi RI-za lē
ḥa-ap-x-an-zi KUB 40.1

Figure 1. Sample text from CHD P/2 (p. 126) with the CuneiformOriental Fraktur Hyphen

8. (prev.) (idiomatic or unclear) — a. parā
kanešš-: nu≠mu≠za ammel LÚ.MEŠaruš lē namma
pa-ra-a kaniššuwanzi x[...] / markiškiwanzi≠ya≠
mu≠za mālawanzi RI-za lē ḥa-ap-x-an-zi KUB 40.1

Figure 2. Sample text from CHD P/2 (p. 126) with the HittiteDictionary Fraktur Hyphen

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

WOMEN IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

2 April–21 May 1996

The history of the ancient Near East is usually based upon ancient king lists and the inscriptions left by royalty. Because most of these rulers were men, women are often ignored in Near Eastern studies, despite the fact that they are far from invisible in ancient texts, especially those that relate to literature or economic life. This course will offer an introduction to the role of women in various ancient Near Eastern societies, including Egypt, Mesopotamia, Turkey, Syria-Palestine, Israel, and pre-Islamic Arabia. The class will also explore the contributions of women as archaeologists at ancient Near Eastern sites.

This course will be taught by a team of graduate students from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. The team includes linguists, historians, and archaeologists, whose presentations will focus on the cultures that are their special areas of expertise.

This course will meet at the Oriental Institute on Tuesdays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, beginning 2 April and continuing through 21 May 1996. The instructors will provide a list of recommended readings at the first class session.

THE HITTITES AND THEIR NEIGHBORS IN ANCIENT ANATOLIA

3 April–22 May 1996

Mentioned in the Old Testament as one of the tribes occupying the Promised Land, the Hittites actually were an Indo-European speaking people who established a powerful kingdom in second millennium Anatolia—today's Turkey. This course will use both archaeological and written sources to present an overview of Hittite civilization. Discussions and slide presentations will cover such topics as the origins of the Hittites, the location of the Indo-European "homeland," culture and history of other Anatolian peoples (Trojans, Mycenaean Greeks, Hurrians, Urartians), as well as Hittite society and law code, marriage and family, cults and religious ceremonies, ritual and magic, mythology and art. The Hittite Empire will also be discussed, including the conquest of Babylon and the Hittite challenge to the power of the Egyptian pharaohs.

INSTRUCTOR Hripsime S. Haroutunian holds a Ph.D. in Ancient Near Eastern Studies from the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. She is currently a Research Associate in the Hittite Dictionary Project of the Oriental Institute. This course will meet at the Oriental Institute on Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, beginning 3 April and continuing through 22 May 1996.

Recommended Texts:

The Hittites. O. R. Gurney. Penguin Books: London, 1990

The Hittites and Their Contemporaries in Asia Minor. J. G. Macqueen. Thames and Hudson: London, 1986

HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT: POST NEW KINGDOM TO LATE PERIOD (1070–332 BC)

6 April–25 May 1996

The sixth installment in an eight-part series on the history of ancient Egypt, this class will focus on the Third Intermediate to Late Periods, a time of inroads by foreign powers but also the final flowering of Egyptian culture. The course will cover the Libyan monarchies, the Kushite Dynasty, the Assyrian occupation, invasion by the Persians, as well as a dramatic expansion of Egyptian contact with Greece. Class sessions will end by ushering in the age of Alexander the Great.

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 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON beginning 6 April and continuing through 25 May 1996.

Required Texts:

The Third Intermediate Period in Egypt. K. A. Kitchen. Warminster: Aris and Phillips, 1985

Ancient Egyptian Literature, Vols. II–III. Miriam Lichtheim. Berkeley: University of California, 1976–1980

Tuition for Adult Education Courses is \$95 for members, \$115 for non-members. To register, turn to page 12

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

ADULT EDUCATION ON THE NORTH SHORE

If you have always wanted to take an Adult Education course through the Oriental Institute but couldn't attend in Hyde Park, now is your chance to register! The Museum Education Office continues its collaboration with Trinity United Methodist Church in Wilmette, bringing Oriental Institute Adult Education to the North Shore. Join us for this special **five-week** course.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE LAND OF THE BIBLE

13 April–11 May 1996

Discover the world of the Bible as it is revealed through archaeology. This course will explore how archaeological knowledge impacts our understanding of the Bible and of the land where biblical events took place. Class sessions will highlight and discuss major archaeological discoveries from the Bronze Age to the Roman period, the era that corresponds to the time of the Bible.

INSTRUCTOR Timothy P. Harrison holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago. Currently a Research Associate at the Oriental Institute, Dr. Harrison has led archaeological field work in Israel and Jordan and he has been a visiting teacher and guest lecturer for a wide variety of audiences.

This course will meet at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1024 Lake Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, on Saturday mornings from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON beginning 13 April and continuing through 11 May 1996. Fee: \$65 for members of the Oriental Institute or Trinity United Methodist Church; \$85 for non-members.

Recommended Text:

Archaeology of the Land of the Bible. Amihai Mazar. Doubleday: New York, 1990 (paperback); this book can be obtained either in person from the Suq, the Oriental Institute Gift Shop, or by calling (312) 702-9509.

NEW MINI-COURSE

SHAPING THE PAST: MAKING ANCIENT-STYLE POTTERY

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE/HYDE PARK ART CENTER HANDS-ON CLASSES IN ANCIENT ART PROCESSES—A SERIES FOR ADULTS

Saturday, 27 April 1996, 1:00 PM–5:00 PM

The Oriental Institute and the Hyde Park Art Center continue their series of hands-on classes for adults interested in learning how to recreate ancient art processes. This class features pottery-making as it was practiced in ancient Egypt and Nubia. No previous pottery-making experience is necessary.

The session will begin with a slide presentation by Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute Assistant Curator, who will highlight the craftsmanship of ancient Egyptian and Nubian potters and show examples of ancient pottery from the collection of the Oriental Institute Museum. Noah Loesberg, potter and master instructor at the Hyde Park Art Center, will then teach participants how to replicate ancient processes, including the coil method of hand-building pottery, the ways ancient artisans worked with molds, and an introduction to approaches for decorating vessels using Egyptian and Nubian designs and motifs.

This class will take place at the Hyde Park Art Center, 5307 South Hyde Park Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60615. Tuition is \$21 for Oriental Institute and Hyde Park Art Center members, \$27 for non-members. Printed materials and all supplies are included.

NEW FAMILY PROGRAM

BE AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN METALSMITH: A JEWELRY-MAKING WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES CO-SPONSORED BY THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE AND LILL STREET STUDIO

Sunday, 5 May 1996, 12:30 PM–3:00 PM

Learn the art of the ancient metalsmith as you create jewelry fit for a pharaoh—or a queen. Discover the pliability of copper and silver; hammer, stamp, and twist your own ancient-Egyptian-style designs; and make a necklace, armband, or bracelet to take home. This special joint program will be led by Yumi Roth, Metalsmith and Museum Educator, who has taught a variety of metals courses for children and adults at both Lill Street Studios and the Oriental Institute Museum.

This workshop for children ages 9 and up, accompanied by an adult, will take place at Lill Street Studios, 1021 W. Lill Street, Chicago, Illinois 60614. Fee: \$18 for adults, \$12 for children. All materials included. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. To register, call Lill Street Studios at (312) 477-6185

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

ANCIENT ARTS/CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS

AN ORIENTAL INSTITUTE FIELD TRIP TO THE STUDIO OF PAINTER JAMES MESPLÉ

Sunday, 19 May 1996, 1:00 PM–5:00 PM

Join us for the fifth in our series of field trips to the studios of Chicago artists whose work is inspired by the techniques and approaches of ancient times. Led by Oriental Institute Museum Curator Karen L. Wilson, this field trip features a visit to the studio of James Mesplé, an award-winning painter whose works draw inspiration from ancient and classical mythology, including the Mesopotamian Epic of Gilgamesh. He also creates his own pigments using processes that go back to the times of the ancients. Mesplé's paintings have been on view at numerous galleries and museums and he has been a guest instructor in painting and ceramics for the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and the School of the Art Institute.

The program begins at the Oriental Institute, where Wilson will present a slide talk on ancient paintings as they appear on the walls of Mesopotamian palaces. Participants will then travel by bus to Mesplé's Fullerton Avenue studio where he will display his works, discuss his techniques, and show the ways he prepares his pigments. The afternoon will end with a wine and cheese reception, followed by a return to the Oriental Institute. Fee: \$19 for Oriental Institute members; \$24 for non-members.

SPECIAL EVENT

EARTH DAY

Saturday, 20 April 1996

The Oriental Institute is joining Chicago's museums and cultural institutions to plan for a city-wide celebration of Earth Day. Watch for a special mailing with more information on this major event.

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

- Women in the Ancient Near East* (\$95 for members, \$115 for non-members)
- The Hittites and Their Neighbors in Ancient Anatolia* (\$95 for members, \$115 for non-members)
- History of Ancient Egypt: Post-New Kingdom* (\$95 for members, \$115 for non-members)
- Archaeology and the Land of the Bible* (A five-week adult education course on the North Shore; \$65 for members of the Oriental Institute and Trinity United Methodist Church, \$85 for non-members)
- Shaping the Past: Making Ancient Style Pottery—A One-Day Mini-Course* (\$21 for members of the Oriental Institute and/or the Hyde Park Art Center, \$27 for non-members)
- Ancient Arts/Contemporary Artists Field Trip to the Studio of James Mesplé* (\$19 for members, \$24 for non-members)
- 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: _____

Exp. 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 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 that will be announced at the first class meeting.

NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION OFFICE

ANCIENT ARTS/CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS PROGRAM TAKES MEMBERS TO ARTISTS' STUDIOS



Photographs by Maybrit de Miranda

Since last year, the Education Office has been offering a series of field trips to the studios of Chicago artists whose work is inspired by the techniques and approaches of ancient times. Led by Oriental Institute staff and volunteers, these programs have featured visits to the studios of stonecarver Walter Arnold; textile collector and conservator Maury Bynum; metalsmith William Frederick; and ceramic artist Kelly Kessler. The next program, to take place in May, will visit the studio of painter James Mesplé, whose work is inspired by ancient and classical mythology.



Above: Stonecarver Walter Arnold supervises as Richard Treptow tries his hand with mallet and chisel during the Ancient Arts/Contemporary Artists Field Trip to Arnold's studio

Upper left and left: Metalsmith William Frederick demonstrates metalworking tools and techniques during the field trip to his Lincoln Park studio



NEWS FROM THE

JAMES HENRY BREASTED SOCIETY

The James Henry Breasted Society will host a June dinner for Mark Lehner, Visiting Professor at the Oriental Institute. Mr. Lehner's fieldwork includes a survey of the Giza plateau and the Great Sphinx, and he has published a re-evaluation of the tomb of Queen Hetepheres of the Fourth Dynasty. Watch for a postcard announcement of the date, time, and location for Mr. Lehner's lecture and the Breasted Society dinner.

If you would like information on the privileges of membership in the James Henry Breasted Society, please contact Cynthia Echols at (312) 702-9513.

LASALLE NATIONAL BANK HELPS CHICAGO HOUSE

We wish to thank LaSalle National Bank for a very generous gift to Chicago House and the Epigraphic Survey. This grant will enable Peter Dorman, Director of Chicago House, and his field staff to purchase a much-needed vehicle for transporting equipment, supplies, and staff and visitors. Our sincere thanks to LaSalle National Bank.

YEAR-END APPEAL BRINGS STRONG SUPPORT

Our members responded in record numbers—and with bigger than ever gifts—to our 1995 year-end appeal. With gifts from some 180 members, contributions totaled \$169,718. Friends of Chicago House contributed \$71,808 (including a generous \$15,000 corporate gift from Xerox); the Legacy Campaign received \$58,386. Many thanks to all our members who supported the year-end appeal.

Remember: You may make a tax-deductible gift or pledge to the Oriental Institute at any time. Pledges may be paid over several years and any gift may be made with the transfer of securities through the University of Chicago Investment Office.

THE LEGACY CAMPAIGN

Visiting Committee Celebrates Legacy Campaign Halfway Mark

On December 13 members of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee gathered at the University Club to celebrate fundraising progress toward the \$10.1 million needed for renovation, expansion, and climate control of the Institute's building. In welcoming guests to the dinner, William M. Sumner, Director of the Oriental Institute, reflected on the historic nature of this capital campaign. "Sixty-four years ago, nearly to the day, James Henry Breasted dedicated the Oriental Institute building. Tonight we gather to reflect on a milestone in our drive to rededicate and revitalize the Institute. And as we celebrate that halfway mark in our Legacy Campaign, it gives me great pleasure to thank the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee for their dedication and generosity to our mission. Behind the bricks and mortar of our building project stand men and women such as you—individuals with the vision to lay the ground for future scholarship and discovery. I thank each of you. Together we shall indeed fulfill the legacy handed down to us by Breasted." The evening concluded with remarks by Visiting Committee Chairman and University of Chicago Trustee Robert Schloerb.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE

On Monday, 4 December 1995, volunteers, faculty, and staff gathered to enjoy a festive holiday buffet luncheon in the Egyptian Hall.



*Far left: Carole Krucoff (right), Head of Education and Public Programs, enjoys dessert and conversation with Museum Docent Dorothy Blindt
Left: Curator Karen Wilson chatting with Suq Docent Barbara Watson*

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

THE CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

The photograph below depicts James Henry Breasted poised to place the cornerstone of the Oriental Institute and Museum's existing 1931 building. Today we look forward to laying the 1996 cornerstone this coming fall for the Institute's new wing. And we recognize, with great gratitude, the pivotal role of our many friends and patrons who are making that historic occasion an imminent reality. Those friends and patrons are, in fact, the true cornerstones of the Institute. To honor such patrons we are pleased to announce the Cornerstone Society. The Cornerstone Society will include all donors to the Legacy Campaign at significant gift levels through September 1996. At the time of groundbreaking for the new wing (anticipated in fall 1996) each Cornerstone Society honoree will be invited to submit a written memento—a personal message, or family names, or perhaps artwork—for placement in the wing's cornerstone.

If you would like information about the Cornerstone Society, please call Cynthia Echols at (312) 702-9513.



DOCENT HOLIDAY PARTY



Far right: Museum Docent Nina Longley (right) is introduced to Tom Foorman by his mother, Margaret Foorman, Visiting Committee Member

Right: Museum Docent Jo Lucas escorts the "forever young" Ida de Pencier



Photographs by Irene Glasner

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

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\$5.8 MILLION: LEGACY CAMPAIGN ENTERS SECOND HALF

News & Notes

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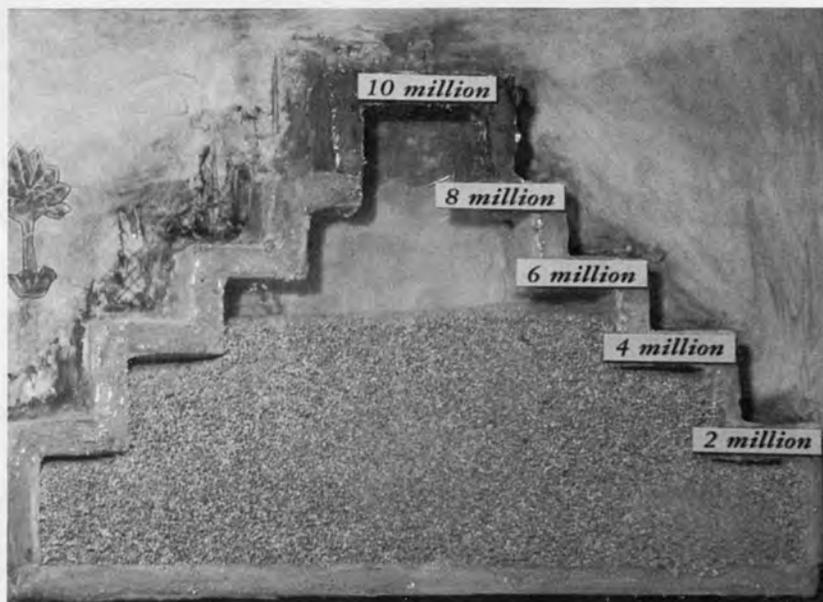
t-cashion@uchicago.edu

All inquiries, comments, and suggestions are welcome.

Your next visit is only a "click" away!

Log on to the Oriental Institute's World-Wide Web site:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/default.html>



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. See pages 14-15 for more information

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS

As our climate control renovation and expansion begins, the galleries will close on a staggered schedule. We will continue to offer a wide range of membership services and outreach programs. Please call ahead if you plan to visit the galleries. The SUQ remains open throughout construction.