HAMOUKAR LIVES UP TO ITS PROMISE

McGUIRE GIBSON, Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology

Objects were pouring out of the ground, and even with a much larger staff than before, we had difficulty recording the finds. The third season of research at Hamoukar, in the northeast corner of Syria, was proving that this is indeed a remarkable site. And the staff was operating beautifully despite the fact that almost the entire season was conducted in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks. By September 11, we had been digging for just over a week. We had come in from work, had eaten lunch, and most of the staff was sitting on the southern veranda. I was in my room listening to the BBC, when the first news bulletin came on. Some of the staff went to visit friends in the village, who have satellite television. That day, and for the entire season, we were in no danger whatsoever. So the dig went on.

During the first season (1999), the Syrian-American Expedition to Hamoukar had found evidence of what we thought might be a city wall and the cooking facilities of a major institution, along with dozens of stamp seals and seal impressions that were signs of administration. All of these features indicated that the site had reached a level of complexity that we normally associate with civilization and the formation of the state. And, this development had happened between 3700 and 3500 BC, before the area had come into contact with the Uruk civilization of southern Mesopotamia.

During the past seventy years, scholars have built up a picture in which civilization first developed in the Late Uruk period, around 3500 BC. The site of Uruk, in southern Iraq.

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furnishes the best evidence for this important development. In general terms, “civilization” has been characterized by cities that might have city walls; stratified society with government (the state, in early societies usually assumed to be headed by a king) that was organized on principles that were not dependent on kin-related structures; craft specialization; monumental art and architecture; and writing for record keeping. In our usual model of events, after civilization had developed in southern Mesopotamia, the concepts and sometimes the artifacts of that development spread to neighboring regions some time between 3500 and 3000 bc.

A series of excavations in the 1970s along the Euphrates River in Syria and Turkey made it clear that not only had the ideas involved in civilization been adopted in those areas, but also that southerners had established colonies there, most notably in Syria, where entire towns, including one with an elaborate city wall (Habuba Kabira South), have been exposed. Other sites in Turkey and Iran showed evidence of a house or two in which southern artifacts were predominant, implying that southerners lived within a local settlement marked by local artifacts. Other sites seemed to be entirely local, having only a few southern objects that were used, presumably, by local people.

Trade has been seen as the mechanism by which these artifacts, and even the walled city, were planted hundreds of miles from their point of origin. I prefer to see those settlements as the results of a mixture of conquest and trade.

Recently, some excavators have been suggesting that this picture of a development of civilization in one area, and its subsequent spread outwards after 3500 bc, is too simple a concept. Most important are Joan and David Oates, whose digging at Tell Brak in Syria has led them to suggest that there were locally-developed complex societies already in existence in the equivalent of the Middle Uruk period (3700–3500 bc), before the Late Uruk people came to colonize. Our findings in 1999 supported and expanded their ideas.

This early evidence of locally-based complex society might be interpreted as meaning that civilization developed first in Syria, not in southern Mesopotamia. But that also is too simple a conclusion, despite the desire we might have to be excavating “the world’s earliest city.” It has to be remembered that although the site of Uruk has been dug for years, the Middle Uruk and Early Uruk levels (4000–3500 bc) at that site have been reached only in a small pit, and thus we can say little about the level of development in the south during those times. Most scholars would be very greatly surprised if the south were not as developed or more developed than the Syrian sites in these early phases. But, we don’t have the evidence from Uruk in hand, so for a while Hamoukar appears to be a “first.” But even after the excavators at Uruk show that southern Mesopotamia did, in fact, develop as early as or probably even earlier than our area of Syria, our thinking about the early development of civilization has been changed dramatically because we can show that there
was a parallel development toward civilization/complexity/the state in both regions over a long period of time.

Tell Brak is a very high mound, with much material of later periods, so the exposures of fourth millennium levels there must be relatively limited and can be obtained only after a great deal of digging. Hamoukar, by contrast, was occupied in only a few periods, and the Uruk-related strata are relatively easy to expose, in some places right on the surface of the mound. Thus, the site can furnish a great deal of evidence for complexity in the fourth millennium. And, as you will see below, our excavations during the past season (September–October 2001) did just that.

We had limited our excavations in the second season (September–October 2000) to Area C, where a village of Neo-Assyrian times (seventh century BC) lies above a major public building of about 2400 BC, leaving the “Uruk questions” aside for that campaign. We limited the digging so that we could focus on building the expedition house, which is a tangible indication of a long-term commitment to the site by the Oriental Institute. Taking up residence in the house in September 2001, we found that it serves our purposes well, giving ample room for work, but also places to get away alone for a bit.

During the two month season we carried out an extensive campaign of digging and ecological investigations. We began new excavations at Areas E, G, and H, which are on opposite ends of the low mound. We knew from Jason Ur’s surface collection, that the fourth millennium settlement was restricted to the highest part of the site, while both the high mound and the extensive lower parts of the site had been occupied in the third millennium. At that time, around 2400 BC, Hamoukar reached its greatest size, measuring 105 hectares, or about 260 acres. We are assuming that at that time the most important public buildings would have been on the high mound, and that most of the lower parts of the mound would have been occupied by private houses, and industrial and commercial buildings, with a few neighborhood temples and perhaps a palace or two. We thought that we could expose fairly large areas of houses without having to dig very deeply. This expectation proved to be true, and we were able to examine five or six houses in areas E and H. Area G was begun but abandoned when Area H proved to be much more productive almost immediately. Area E, near the expedition house on the west edge of the site, did not show walls and artifacts until we had dug down about 40 centimeters. This situation contrasted sharply with Area H, where we found walls and
dozens of whole and reconstructible pottery vessels immediately below the surface. The reason that Area H had walls that close to the surface was that this part of the mound has been cultivated for several decades. Although archaeological sites are not supposed to be farmed, often the lower parts of mounds are under cultivation. We got permission from the farmer to dig in his field, promising that we would fill in the hole before he needed to plow it for seeding in November.

Throughout the season, the fields around the site were being prepared by first burning off the wheat stubble, then by plowing that went on all night and day. As we came close to the end of the digging, the burning got closer, and finally there was only the plot in which we were digging. We held off the burning until the last object had been mapped in and removed, but the back filling, by hand and by front-end loader, began the same day.

The years of cultivation at Area H has broken up the top soil again and again, allowing the wind and rain to carry it away. Jason Ur, Tariq Ahmed, Carlo Colantoni, and Salam Qun- tar found that they could define the edges of mudbrick walls by looking for alignments of broken pots, which were left in place against them. Then they would scrape down the top surface of the walls until the bricks would start to be revealed. Usually the walls were preserved only one or two courses high. Met- iculously, they measured in all the pottery and other artifacts, allowing for a better assessment of the original function of rooms. Of great importance was the finding of two adult skel- etons strewn about on the floors of houses. It appears that these individuals were not buried, but were left lying in the houses, and dogs or other animals destroyed the bodies. The dozens of pots left in place in each of the houses and the skeletons left un- buried give Area H the air of a place that was abandoned in a hurry. There is no sign of burned buildings, which one would think of if the abandonment had been a result of accidental fire or warfare. It is possible that famine and/or disease brought an end to these houses and to the entire site because there is no evi- dence of occupation at Hamoukar between the time when Areas C, E, and H were abandoned and the Neo-Assyrian period (sev- enth century BC). The pottery from these three areas is still being analyzed in detail, but it seems to allow a dating of the abandonment of the city to sometime after the end of the Akkadian period, in other words, sometime after 2200 BC.
Area C, supervised by Carrie Hritz, Saqr Muhammad, Stephanie Reed, and Martin Mackinson, was greatly expanded during the past season. In the first season, we had sunk a pit here to determine the history of settlement at this point on the northeastern end of the site. As it happens, we came right down into a small room that had a buttress in the corner. The buttress, which was decorated by niches and coated in white plaster, was right next to a door, and we assumed that there would have been a matching buttress on the other side of the door and that we were in a courtyard. Buttresses normally indicate public buildings, temples, or palaces, and we thought initially that the building was a temple. During the second season (2000), this was the main focus of excavation, and we expanded the excavation by about three times the size and found that there was no matching buttress and that we were not in a courtyard, but in a small room. Then we began to think that we might have a palace, with the single buttress in the corner being not an architectural feature but instead an altar in the corner. Such altars in southern Mesopotamia are found in palaces and houses as a feature of family shrines. This last season, we expanded even more and found that the building with the buttress is flanked on the south by a street, but it extends for at least fifteen meters to the west and goes some undetermined distance to the north. Across the street, we exposed part of a house with one room containing a conical bread oven. Here, we recovered numerous whole and fragmentary pieces of flat unbaked clay with rounded ends. On one side of these clay artifacts a cylinder seal had been rolled. So far, we know that at least four different seals were used for this purpose, but we have no satisfactory explanation of the objects themselves. The pottery of Area C, which we were also finding in massive amounts, including many whole vessels, dates from the Akkadian to the early post-Akkadian period (ca. 2350–some time after 2200 BC), ending probably about the same time as Areas E and H.

All these exciting finds of the third millennium were overshadowed by our expansion of operations in the fourth millennium areas. First, we set out to prove or disprove the existence of the possible city wall that we had seen in the Step Trench, Area A. This year, Salam Quntar and George Muammar ibn Yakub excavated a trench perpendicular to the step trench to trace the monumental wall. This very important operation, called Area F, was not as exciting day-to-day because there were not many objects here. But Salam and George kept at it with determination, and after tracing the wall for more than 20 meters (more than 60 feet) they had given us enough evidence to say that we did have a city wall. I then sent them over to Area H, which was much more enjoyable. As it happened, in a few days of digging in Area H, Salam found one of the most unusual objects of the season: a pottery tripod with three ram’s heads projecting up from each of the feet. I have no idea what this artifact was used for, but it was found in a house, not a temple.

This year, we expanded Area B to see if this operation, where we had found large institutional ovens, would yield more information on the process of early civilization. In 1999, in the southwest corner of the dig, Judith Franke had found just the corner of a large building, which lay unexcavated to the south and west. We laid out a set of trenches to the south and west to try to expose that building. Lamya Khalidi, Bassam Muhammad, Jonathan Tenney, and Toby Hartnell began to dig. As in the earlier season, initially they encountered large irregular pits, filled with ash and potsherds. These pits were probably dug to get dirt to make mudbricks and the holes were then filled in gradually. The pottery in the pits includes many examples of southern Late Uruk types, along with local pottery. Below the pits, as in the previous season, they encountered mudbrick walls. In the northernmost square, where Jonathan was working, the walls were not very regular, and we concluded that this was a working area since it had more of the big ovoid ovens that we had found previously. Jonathan turned up one of the great finds of the season — a bone stamp seal in the form of a lion attacking a horned animal (see page 7). The horned animal lies on its back and the lion grasps it with its claws, while biting into its neck. The turning of the lion’s head, so that the viewer sees it full face, is a remarkably lively touch and helps make this seal a masterpiece. On the reverse side, the stamping surface shows lions stalking a horned animal.

In the southwest trench, Toby Hartnell was just getting into architecture when he had to leave to return to classes in Chicago. West of his square, Lamya Khalidi was hitting the jackpot. She found an important building that had been burned, leaving all the artifacts as they had been on the day of the fire. The building, although it is not completely exposed yet, can be recognized as a well-known type of “tripartite” house, meaning that a larger central space is flanked by a set of small rooms. People usually assume that...
the central space is a large roofed room, but we have evidence that it was probably a courtyard. In the rooms on either side, we have dozens of pots and other objects resting on the floor. On these objects are remains of burned ceiling beams and the clay that made up the floor above them. Above the ceiling remains, we have another layer of objects that had fallen from the second floor, and lying on these objects were remnants of more roof beams and roofing clay. We are not certain, as yet, that there was a second floor above all the rooms.

Besides large storage jars and other pottery, we discovered on the floor of Locus 134 a very unusual table made of baked clay and four unbaked clay hemispheres of different sizes. Each of the hemispheres had holes piercing them, and we have as yet no explanation of their function. Also in the debris was a remarkable bone object, more than 20 cm long, in the shape of a dagger in a sheath. I take the grooving on the sheath to stand for cords. Daggers still being made in Yemen and Saudi Arabia have sheaths composed of two pieces of shaped wood, which are held together by binding them with tightly wound cords.

Another remarkable object, found in Locus 138 across the courtyard, was a black stone stamp seal in the shape of two bears sitting on their haunches and leaning over to kiss. Honest, we did not know that Hallmark corporation was going to feature kissing teddy bears this last Christmas, and I don’t think they knew about our bears. Before you begin to think that the bears are just cuddly teddies, I should mention that the stamping surface at the bottom shows a vulture standing among human and animal body parts.

The most common objects found in the burned building were clay lumps on which seals had been impressed. We have recovered about 200 of these clay objects, which we call sealings because they were originally used to seal up jars, baskets, boxes, and bags of cloth or leather. In the case of the jar sealings, we could say that the jar had already been opened and the sealing thrown aside. But with baskets, bags, and baskets, we face the possibility that the containers had been burned in the fire, leaving behind the clay that was sometimes also burned. In a few cases, the reverses of the sealings allow an interpretation of the sealing as a kind of door lock. In antiquity, doors were secured with cords that were tied over a peg fixed in the doorjamb. When people wanted to “lock” the door, they put a large lump of clay over the peg and string and then pressed their seals
into the clay. If, later, they found that the sealing had been broken, they would know that someone had been in the storeroom.

Clemens Reichel, who acted not only as the Assistant Director but also as the architect for the expedition this season, plotted in the exact location of all objects in this building, taking special care with the seal impressions. In Chicago, he has been able to analyze the kinds of sealings in relation to their original findspots, and he can say that the sealings that were on baskets were all in the debris from the second story, while sealings from jars and door sealings had been on the ground floor.

The seals that had been used to make the impressions have not been found, probably because most of them had been used by people outside the burned building. We are assuming that most of the seals that had made the impressions were of bone since we found more than eighty bone seals in 1999, and we had a few more this last year. We also had ten or twelve stone seals, like the kissing bears mentioned above. A few of the seals must have been used in the house because some are impressed on door locks.

Of particular importance among all kinds of impressions is a large rectangular stamp showing a lion biting the front leg of a goat. We had numerous impressions made with this seal, which, like most of those we have found as impressions or as seals, is in a local, north Syrian style. This particular seal is an example of the most common motif on the sealings — a scene of lions stalking horned animals. Besides the stamp seal impressions, we also have in the burned building evidence of another kind of seal — the cylinder seal, which is not locally made. Cylinder seals, developed in southern Mesopotamia beginning in the Uruk period, often have representational scenes that are similar to the local Syrian stamp seals but are different in execution. It is extremely important that at least one of the door sealings had not only a local stamp seal impressed on it, but also the mark of a cylinder seal. This find indicates that someone was using a southern-style cylinder seal in this northern site at a time before southern pottery had been introduced here. As mentioned previously, directly above this building we have pits full of southern pottery, but down in the buildings thus far we have no southern types of
Hamoukar Lives

Stamp seal impression (upper left) and cylinder seal impression (upper right). 3 HM 108. Hamoukar

The building, and its contents, must be dated to a time just before the Late Uruk. Does the architecture of the building, well known in southern-related sites in Syria, and the presence of cylinder seals on door locks, implying authority over the building, indicate that southerners were already here? Or does it mean that a local ruler had taken on some of the material items that were used as markers of authority in the south? Was the burning of the building just a localized fire, or did it coincide with the conquest of the city by people from the south? We may be able to answer those questions in the future. The burned building is not yet fully exposed, and we have much more of the mound with buildings of this date right under the surface. We also have not yet reached the building that Judith Franke touched in 1999 because it is below the burned building. That earlier building, which we assumed was the administrative structure for the ovens we found in the earlier season, may give us a whole set of different ideas about the development of the city of Hamoukar.

We plan to return to the site in September 2002, and we hope to have much of the same staff that we had this season. The Syrian half of the team was made up largely of very serious, eager archaeology students from the University of Damascus. But we also had our other Assistant Director, Salam Quntar, and our invaluable driver and solver of all problems, Mahmoud Kattab, from the Directorate General of Antiquities. Also from the directorate was Ghassan Abdul Aziz, a superb conservator who took on the flood of reconstructible pots and other artifacts. I look forward to the continued cooperation with my co-director, Dr. Amr Al-Azm, who is conducting an important set of paleoethnobotanical investigations on both excavated seeds and live plants. Tony Wilkinson, whom I have not mentioned thus far, will also be back to continue geomorphological and landscape studies. I expect once more to overwork Colleen Coyle, who has been the registrar of objects and keeper of records. And I am hoping we can hire, once again, Ivan Mahar, the cook from last season, who learned to make apple pie from Peggy Sanders, who came out for the last month of the season to draw the objects. I must mention the debt of gratitude we owe to Dr. Abdul Razzaq Moazz, the Director General of Antiquities, as well as to Michel Maqdissi and Abdul Messieh Bagdo, who facilitated our work.

I conclude by saying that the expedition house is comfortable and welcoming. If you find your way to northeastern Syria when we are digging, we’ll find a space for you to sleep on the roof, some apple pie to eat, and a cozy seat by the fireplace that Mahmoud Kattab built. But then, it is not cold enough to light the fire until after our season ends. Maybe we should switch to a March-April-May season just to enjoy the chill.

McGuire Gibson is Professor of Archaeology at the Oriental Institute. He currently directs the Institute’s Nippur expedition and excavations in Hamoukar.
JUNE 2002

15 Saturday  Akhenaten and the Amarna Age in Ancient Egypt
Frank Yurco
Continues through 10 August
10:00 AM–12:00 NOON, Oriental Institute
See page 14 for more information

16 Sunday  As it Was in the Beginning
1:30 PM, Breasted Hall
See page 11 for more information

19 Wednesday  Ancient Conquerors: The Rise and Fall of the Assyrian Empire
Mark Altaweel
Continues through 31 July
7:00–9:00 PM, Gleacher Center
See page 14 for more information

22 Saturday  The Ancient Egyptian Coffin Texts
Harold Hays
Continues through 3 August
1:00–4:00 PM, Oriental Institute
See page 15 for more information

22 Saturday  Akhenaten and the Amarna Age (cont.)
See 15 June

23 Sunday  Chronicles and Kings
1:30 PM, Breasted Hall
See page 11 for more information

26 Wednesday  Ancient Conquerors (cont.)
See 19 June

29 Saturday  Akhenaten and the Amarna Age (cont.)
See 15 June

29 Saturday  Ancient Egyptian Coffin Texts (cont.)
See 22 June

30 Sunday  Exploring the Medieval Middle East: The Cairo Geniza
Norman Golb
1:00–3:30 PM, Spertus Museum
See page 15 for more information

30 Sunday  Mightier than the Sword
1:30 PM, Breasted Hall
See page 11 for more information

JULY 2002

7 Sunday  The Great Adventure
1:30 PM, Breasted Hall
See page 11 for more information

8 Monday  Land of the Pharaohs:
Teaching Ancient Egypt Across the Curriculum
Continues weekdays through 19 July
1:30–4:30 PM, Oriental Institute
See page 16 for more information

10 Wednesday  Ancient Conquerors (cont.)
See 19 June

10 Wednesday  Gallery Tour: Unearthing the Past: Archaeology and the Ancient Near East
12:00 NOON, Oriental Institute
See page 16 for more information

13 Saturday  Akhenaten and the Amarna Age (cont.)
See 15 June

13 Saturday  Ancient Egyptian Coffin Texts (cont.)
See 22 June

14 Sunday  Wonderful Things
1:30 PM, Breasted Hall
See page 11 for more information

17 Wednesday  Lunchtime in Another Time
Gallery Tour: Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs
12:00 NOON, Oriental Institute
See page 16 for more information

17 Wednesday  Ancient Conquerors (cont.)
See 19 June

20 Saturday  Akhenaten and the Amarna Age (cont.)
See 15 June

20 Saturday  Ancient Egyptian Coffin Texts (cont.)
See 22 June

21 Sunday  The Pharaoh Awakes
1:30 PM, Breasted Hall
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<td>Lunchtime in Another Time Gallery Tour: Mummies and Magic in Ancient Egypt</td>
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<td>27 Saturday</td>
<td>Akhenaten and the Amarna Age (cont.)</td>
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### AUGUST 2002

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<td>Iraq: Cradle of Civilization</td>
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<td>5 Monday</td>
<td>Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist</td>
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<td>7 Wednesday</td>
<td>Lunchtime in Another Time Gallery Tour: Glories and Grandeur: The Ancient Persian Empire</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
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<td>10 Saturday</td>
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### SEPTEMBER 2002

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All programs subject to change.

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**KEY TO SYMBOLS**

- ✡ ADULT EDUCATION COURSES
- ➔ CORRESPONDENCE / INTERNET COURSES
- ☹ DINNERS/LUNCHEONS
- ✿ FAMILY/CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS
- ● MEMBERS LECTURES
- ✺ SPECIAL EVENTS
- ✈ TRAVEL PROGRAMS

**ASSYRIAN EMPIRE COURSE: SEE PAGE 14**
Join us in air-conditioned Breasted Hall for the best in documentary films on ancient Near Eastern history, art, and archaeology. Film showings begin at 1:30 PM, last approximately 30–50 minutes, except where noted, and are followed by guided tours of the Oriental Institute galleries. Admission for films and tours are free.


23 June Chronicles and Kings — How accurate is the Bible as a geography, archaeology, and history text? This second episode in the Testament series compares archaeological evidence with Biblical history.

30 June Mightier Than the Sword — The third episode from the Testament series examines the written word in Judaism, as host John Romer visits Qumran and Masada in search of the origins of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

During July, the Oriental Institute will feature screenings from the acclaimed four-part BBC documentary series King Tut: The Face of Tutankhamun. COURTESY A&E NETWORK

7 July The Great Adventure — This introductory episode retraces archaeologist Howard Carter’s momentous journey from rural England to the doorway of Tutankhamun’s tomb.

14 July Wonderful Things — In the second episode Howard Carter unveils the tomb, revealing a vast treasure beyond imagination.

21 July The Pharaoh Awakes — In the third episode “Tutmania” sweeps the world, influencing fashion, art, and the movies.

28 July Heads in the Sand — In the final episode, scientific studies confirm the pharaoh’s age and royal heritage, while his treasures are imperiled by modern civilization.

4 August Iraq: Cradle of Civilization — From the PBS Legacy: Origins of Civilization series hosted by Michael Wood, who seeks reminders of the ancient past in the present. Archaeology magazine called this series “entertaining and highly educational.”

11 August Egypt: Habit of Civilization — Also from the Legacy: Origins of Civilization series.

18 August Nubia and the Mysteries of Kush — Produced by Emmy-award-winning writer and director Judith McCrae, this film explores the splendors of an ancient Nubian kingdom in what is today’s Sudan. The production, which visits several archaeological sites, also highlights the natural beauty of the region, accompanied by an original musical score composed by renowned Nubian artist Hamza El Din.

25 August Mysteries of the Holy Land — From the award-winning Archaeology series produced by the Archaeological Institute of America, this film hosted by John Rhys-Davies investigates some of the best-kept secrets of Old Testament times.

1 September Ancient Treasures of the Deep — From the PBS Nova series, this documentary on the underwater excavation of a fourteenth-century BC shipwreck shows how the ancient world from Africa to the Baltic was united by trade.

8 September Deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls — This film explores the discovery and then the heated disputes surrounding the authorship and interpretation of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest and most complete biblical manuscripts ever found. Commentary by scholars from around the world, including Norman Golb, Ludwig Rosenberger Professor in Jewish History and Civilization, University of Chicago.

15 September Forgotten Mummies — This film highlights ways that scientists study aspects of Egyptian daily life, work, diet, and disease using an exceptional source of evidence — ancient mummies. From the award-winning Archaeology series produced by the Archaeological Institute of America.

22 September Pyramids and Great Cities of the Pharaohs — The land of the pharaohs rises from the sand in this extraordinary film by Egyptologists, historians, and artists who worked together to produce video images of temples, tombs, and pyramids in all their original splendor. (70 minutes)

29 September Cleopatra: Destiny’s Queen — This film from the Arts and Entertainment Biography series mixes rare footage with new research and exclusive interviews to present a biographical portrait of Cleopatra that strives to separate myth from fact. COURTESY A&E NETWORK
Join the Oriental Institute for a weekend trip to Atlanta, Georgia, to visit the Fernbank Museum of Natural History’s temporary exhibit *Ancient Empires, Syria: Land of Civilizations*. This exhibit, on view in Atlanta through 2 September, was organized by the Musée de la Civilisation du Québec, Canada, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Also included is a visit to the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University where Peter Lacovara, Curator of Ancient Art, will give the group a tour of the Near Eastern galleries.

Accompanying the tour will be Clemens Reichel, Oriental Institute Research Associate and Lecturer.

**Friday 16 August:** Morning arrival in Atlanta. Afternoon tour of the Michael C. Carlos Museum. Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Saturday 17 August:** Morning tour of the Syria Exhibit at the Fernbank Museum. Free time after the tour to visit the other exhibits at the Fernbank Museum or to sightsee in town. Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Sunday 18 August:** Return to Chicago.

Air travel arrangements cannot be made by the Oriental Institute. Please call (773) 702-9513 for travel suggestions and more information.
The Oriental Institute’s Egypt, accompanied by Robert K. Ritner, Associate Professor of Egyptology, departed Chicago on 7 March for the splendors of Egypt. Shown below are a few photographs from the successful seventeen day trip.

Visiting the pyramids at Giza, Cairo

The Colossi of Memnon, West Bank, Luxor. Photograph by Carole Krucoff

The facade of Nefertari’s temple at Abu Simbel. Photograph by Carole Krucoff
ANCIENT CONQUERORS: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

Mark Altaweel

Wednesdays

19 June–31 July

7:00–9:00 PM

Gleacher Center

450 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive

The warrior kings of ancient Assyria — today’s northern Iraq — once imposed their will over lands that stretched from ancient Egypt to Iran. At its height, ca. 900–630 BC, this Assyrian empire boasted a level of administration that rivals modern states, and its conquests caused rivers of tribute to flow into royal coffers.

For many centuries the Assyrian empire was only remembered from Biblical sources; physical evidence seemed to have vanished without a trace. Learn how this changed dramatically when archaeologists began unearthing massive monuments and troves of treasure from the sites of such Assyrian cities as Nineveh, Ashur, and Nimrud. This course uses the archaeological record — as well as the latest information from satellite imagery and survey work currently underway in Iraq — to trace the rise of the Assyrian state and its far-flung empire; the art, politics, and culture of Assyria at its height; and the empire’s destruction by a great coalition of its enemies.

The first five sessions of the course are held at the Gleacher Center. The last session takes place behind-the-scenes at the Oriental Institute, where participants will visit galleries under construction to preview the museum's spectacular installation of colossal sculptures from the palace of Assyrian king Sargon II.

This course meets at the Gleacher Center on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM beginning 19 June and continuing through 24 July. The final session on Wednesday 31 July meets at the Oriental Institute. There is no class on 3 July. Pre-registration required.

Instructor Mark Altaweel is a Ph.D. candidate in Mesopotamian Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. His field experience includes projects in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Yemen. His current research focuses on a survey of the area surrounding the ancient Assyrian city of Ashur.

CPDUs: 12

Required Text

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN COFFIN TEXTS

Harold Hays

Saturdays

22 June–3 August

1:00–4:00 PM

Oriental Institute

Masterpieces of ancient Egyptian religious literature, the Coffin Texts were inscribed on the wooden coffins used for burial during the Middle Kingdom (2040–1786 BC). This course presents the Coffin Texts in historical context, exploring their role in ancient Egyptian life and culture. Learn how the texts served as guides on the journey to the afterlife. Read texts in translation to encounter their secrets of regeneration, rejuvenation, and resurrection. Discover how the Coffin Texts relate to the inscriptions found in Old Kingdom pyramid tombs and how they led to the spells, hymns, and prayers now known as the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead.

This course meets at the Oriental Institute on Saturday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 PM beginning 22 June and continuing through 3 August. There is no class on 6 July. Pre-registration required.

Instructor Harold Hays is a Ph.D. candidate in Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.

CPDUs: 18

Required Text


FIELD TRIP

Exploring the Medieval Middle East:
The Cairo Geniza

Norman Golb

Sunday 30 June

1:00–3:30 PM

Spertus Museum

618 S. Michigan Avenue

Round trip bus transportation from the Oriental Institute is available

Join Professor Norman Golb and Spertus Museum staff for a journey to the medieval Middle East during a special program in conjunction with “A Gateway to Medieval Mediterranean Life,” a Spertus Museum exhibition on the historic Ben Ezra Synagogue in Old Cairo, Egypt. Dating back over a thousand years, the Ben Ezra Synagogue stands at the crossroads of the three major monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

During the nineteenth century, the synagogue was discovered to house a geniza, or storeroom, which contained a trove of discarded documents revealing vivid details of life in and around Old Cairo and the medieval Mediterranean world. Fragments excavated from the Cairo Geniza include religious, educational, and business documents, as well as personal correspondence from such luminaries as Moses Maimonides and Judah Halevi.

In a richly illustrated slide lecture, Professor Golb uses documents and fragments from the geniza to explore what life was like in medieval Cairo and the Middle East. After the lecture, Spertus Museum staff will present a guided tour of the exhibition, followed by a reception with Professor Golb and Oriental Institute and Spertus staff.

Lecturer Norman Golb is Ludwig Rosenberger Professor in Jewish History and Civilization, University of Chicago.

Fee: $15 for Oriental Institute members; $17 for non-members, which includes the lecture, tour, handouts, and reception. Round trip bus transportation from the Oriental Institute is available on request for an additional $10 fee per person.

DEAD SEA SCROLLS FILM SHOWING: SEE PAGE 11
SUMMER SEMINAR FOR EDUCATORS

Land of the Pharaohs: Teaching Ancient Egypt Across the Curriculum

Weekdays, 8–19 July
1:30–4:30 PM
Oriental Institute
Co-sponsored by the Teachers Academy for Professional Development of the Chicago Public Schools

Bring the power, the mystery, and the magic of ancient Egypt into your classroom! This great civilization that flourished in ancient Africa is explored in lectures and gallery talks by museum educators and Oriental Institute scholars. Hands-on workshops and discussion sessions focus on ways to incorporate language arts, science, and the arts into the ancient civilizations curriculum. As a special highlight, a study session at the Spertus Museum takes you on a journey to the streets of Old Cairo in conjunction with a major new exhibition on Egypt in medieval times.

Offered in collaboration with the Teachers Academy for Professional Development, Chicago Public Schools, this seminar provides 2 semester hours of Lane Promotional Credit and 6 Teacher Recertification CEUs from the Illinois State Board of Education. The seminar is suggested for educators who have taught or will be teaching about ancient civilizations. Each participant will receive:

• Full-color maps
• Lesson plans
• Activity sheets for students
• Life in Ancient Egypt teachers guide
• Opportunity for class visit to the Oriental Institute

Course Fee: $95
Materials Fee: $25
Lane Credit Fee: $20

To register, call Museum Education at (773) 702-9507. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

GALLERY TOURS

Lunchtime in Another Time
Tired of the typical lunch routine? Spend your lunchtime in the ancient world during our series of free gallery talks at 12:00 NOON on selected Wednesdays in July and August. After these half-hour explorations of the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery or Persian Gallery, gather for coffee and conversation with your museum guide. Lunch is not provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Pre-registration required. Call Museum Education at (773) 702-9507.

10 July
Unearthing the Past: Archaeology and the Ancient Near East
Archaeologists from the Oriental Institute have been excavating Near Eastern sites since the Institute was founded in 1919. This tour introduces sites in Egypt and Iran and features finds that range from jewelry and pottery to the massive stone head of a guardian bull that once protected the entryway to an ancient palace.

17 July
Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs
Discover the origins and mysteries of this beautiful ancient script. See how the ancient Egyptians made hieroglyphs an integral part of their art and architecture, and learn how to decipher some inscriptions on view in the Egyptian Gallery.

24 July
Mummies and Magic in Ancient Egypt
Don’t miss this introduction to our fascinating exhibit on ancient Egyptian mummies, and the amulets, spells, and writings that ancient Egyptians believed would ensure a safe journey to the afterlife.

31 July
Ancient Egyptian Art
Imagine the artistic impulses that governed a culture for over 3,000 years. Discover ways ancient Egyptian artists used the play of light and shadow, the glory of color, the canons of proportion — and consider why. View enduring sculptures and exquisite paintings that delight our modern eyes as they teach us the beliefs and values of ancient Egyptian society.

7 August
Glories and Grandeur: The Ancient Persian Empire
Explore the glories and grandeur of the ancient Persian capital of Persepolis, administrative center of an empire that stretched from Greece to Egypt to India until it was conquered in the fourth century BC by Alexander the Great.

SAOC 55, fig. 15.1 (OIM 10729)
ILLINOIS ARCHAEOLOGY AWARENESS MONTH

September is Illinois Archaeology Awareness Month. In conjunction with this statewide event, join us for this special lecture for Oriental Institute members and friends which is co-sponsored by the Development and Museum Education Offices.

Camels To Khartoum: The 1905-1907 University Of Chicago Expedition To Egypt and the Sudan

Emily Teeter
Wednesday 25 September
8:00–9:00 PM
Reception following

Between 1905 and 1907, the University of Chicago packed up the cumbersome photographic equipment of the day and undertook a remarkable project to record the monuments of the Nile Valley. The expedition, led by James Henry Breasted, who later founded the Oriental Institute, began at Cairo and ultimately traveled south by boat and camel caravan to Khartoum in the Sudan. Often working under harrowing conditions, the small team, which initially included Breasted’s wife and young son, produced more than 1,000 photographic images on glass plate negatives. Today, the photographs from these negatives are still the best documentation of many ancient Nubian temples.

In this slide-illustrated lecture featuring photographs made from the rare glass plates, Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute Research Associate, discusses the expedition, its colorful personnel, and how the project helped establish the process of precise documentation that is still employed by the Oriental Institute’s Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, Egypt.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PROGRAM

Museum Madness!

June through August

The Oriental Institute is joining cultural institutions throughout the city for Museum Madness!, a program presented by the ChicagoKids.com website, which is encouraging children and their families to visit museums over the summer months. Kids who visit and correctly answer questions at a minimum of three participating museums can enter to win a fantastic prize.

Visit www.ChicagoKids.com for specific details, then come to the Oriental Institute to answer our questions, and also to take part in all of our new self-guided family activities — treasure hunts, interactive computer kiosks, and an up-close and personal visit with King Tut! Family activities supported by the Polk Bros. Foundation.

SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS

Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist

An Oriental Institute/Lill Street Art Center Summer Camp for Kids

Monday through Friday, 5–9 August

9:00 AM–1:00 PM

Lill Street Art Center

1021 West Lill Street

Spend a week exploring the spectacular arts of ancient Egypt at this Oriental Institute/Lill Street Art Center Summer Camp for Kids. Participants work with a variety of materials to create pottery, jewelry, and paintings like those found in the palaces — and tombs — of the pharaohs. Enjoy clay activities, metalworking, paper-making, and more! This camp includes a one-day visit to the Oriental Institute’s Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. For children ages 8–12. Pre-registration required.

Fee: $185, includes all materials and supplies, as well as round-trip transportation for the field trip from Lill Street Art Center to the Oriental Institute

To register: Call the Lill Street Art Center at (773) 477-6185.
NEW TITLES FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

The Chicago Hittite Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago
Volume Š, Fascicle 1 (ša- to šaptamenzu)
Hans G. Güterbock†, Harry A. Hoffner, and Theo P. J. van den Hout, editors
2002. Pp. viii + 208. $40.00

Theban Desert Road Survey in the Egyptian Western Desert, Volume 1: Gebel Tjauti Rock Inscriptions 1–45 and Wadi el-Hôl Rock Inscriptions 1–45
Oriental Institute Publications 119
John Coleman Darnell, with the assistance of Deborah Darnell and contributions by Deborah Darnell, Renée Friedman, and Stan Hendrickx.
2002. Pp. lvi + 174; 2 figures, 126 plates. $75.00
This volume includes forty-five inscriptions from Gebel Tjauti and forty-five inscriptions from Wadi el-Hôl, two major concentrations of rock inscriptions and rock art on pharaonic caravan routes of the Egyptian Western Desert. The inscriptions range in date from predynastic to Christian. Inscriptions of particular interest in this first volume from Gebel Tjauti are a Naqada IID/IIIA tableau revealing important new information concerning the unification of Upper Egypt and the founding of Dynasty 0; a road construction inscription of the Coptite nomarch Tjauti providing evidence for the beginnings of the northern expansion of the Theban realm during the middle Eleventh Dynasty; the depiction of a Nubian ranger; and Coptic cryptography; and from the Wadi el-Hôl: epigraphic evidence for the use of the Farshút Road for transport of supplies to the temple of Amun during the New Kingdom; a new Middle Egyptian literary inscription; a rock-cut letter that contributes to our understanding of the history of the textual variants of the Story of Sinuhe; and an inscription recounting desert celebrations in honor of the goddess Hathor. The inscriptions are published in photograph and facsimile drawing, with hieroglyphic transcriptions, translations, commentaries, and glossary.
School of American Research (1994/95), and held a Howard fellowship from Brown University in 1997/98.

His main research interests focus on the development of early civilizations in the Near East and the archaeology of ancient colonies. He has also conducted research on the economic organization of state societies, craft specialization, Neolithic subsistence systems, and zooarchaeology. He has written over thirty-five journal articles, book chapters, and reviews, and the book *Rethinking World Systems: Diasporas, Colonies, and Interaction in Uruk Mesopotamia* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1999). He is also the co-editor (with Mitchell Rothman) of the book *Chiefdoms and Early States in the Near East: The Organizational Dynamics of Complexity* (Madison: Prehistory Press, 1994).

From 1992 through 1997 he directed the Northwestern University excavations at the Late Chalcolithic/Uruk (ca. 4000–3100 BC) site of Hacınebi in the Euphrates river valley of southeast Turkey, in a project sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Geographic Society. Results of the Hacınebi excavations can be seen on the World Wide Web at: http://faculty-web.at.northwestern.edu/anthropology/stein/

Professor Stein greeted news of his appointment with the following comments: “I am honored to have been offered this position, and I am excited about having the opportunity to work with and on behalf of my colleagues at the Oriental Institute. No other place in the world has, all in one place, such a concentration of superb textual scholars and archaeologists specializing in the ancient civilizations of Egypt and the Near East. For someone with my research interests in the archaeology of ancient Anatolia, Syria, and Mesopotamia, this is the ideal intellectual ‘home.’ My training as an anthropological archaeologist has always stressed the importance of comparing cultures in order to better understand both their underlying similarities and their fascinating cultural differences. The internationally recognized strengths of the Oriental Institute give an unparalleled chance to do just that.”

Professor Stein also offered News & Notes the following summary of his plans as Director: “In the next five years, I look forward to the challenges of developing the Oriental Institute. I hope to contribute to its dual goals of conducting innovative and fundamental research while conveying to the public the excitement of discovering the intricacies of these ancient civilizations. Working together over the next five years, we can make major progress in three main areas:

1) First and foremost, I hope to encourage and expand research by ensuring that scholars at the Institute have the financial, physical, and organizational resources they need to do their work. I want to increase the level of intellectual integration and dialogue among the textual and archaeological scholars working in the different parts of the Near East and Egypt. I hope to develop new directions in scholarship; one of the most exciting possibilities in this regard is the possibility of rebuilding Iranian studies. There are encouraging signs that Iran is opening up again for foreign researchers. With Iranian specialists such as Dr. Matthew Stolper and Dr. Abbas Alizadeh, the Oriental Institute is uniquely positioned to become the premier center in the United States for research in this area. At the same time, with the hire of Dr. Christopher Woods, we are poised to build on Dr. Miguel Civil’s contributions in Sumerian studies to the Oriental Institute. The imminent appointment of an additional archaeologist specializing in ancient Egypt promises exciting new excavations in this traditional area of the Oriental Institute’s research strength. For my own part, I hope to start a new archaeological project in southeast Turkey.

2) I am committed to a timely reinstallation of the Institute’s galleries, so that we will have a superb resource for public education and outreach.

3) Finally, I hope to strengthen the Oriental Institute and provide for its continuing excellence by expanding membership and the range of programs for members, and by increasing endowments to support its research and educational missions.”
THE SUQ

The Mosque
Edited by Martin Frishman and Hasan-Uddin Khan
Thames & Hudson Ltd., 1994
Paperback, 288 pages, 378 illustrations, 170 in color
Members’ Cost: $26.95 (Regularly $29.95)

In this lavishly illustrated volume, the editors present sixteen essays dealing with three main themes: the form and decoration of the mosque as an “expression of Islam,” the different regional forms of the mosque, including East African, Chinese, and Indian styles, and the “metamorphosis” of the mosque in the present day. The volume includes a bibliography, glossary, and chronological table.

To purchase: Stop by the Suq, e-mail us at oi-suq@uchicago.edu, or call (773) 702-9509.

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