European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750
Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos

Plus:
- Erich F. Schmidt
- Chicago Hittite Dictionary
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S STUDY

The mission of the Oriental Institute has always been one of discovery — the exploration of the ancient Near East through archaeology and the study of the textual record. It is fascinating to understand how this quest for discovery began, and the ways in which the early stages of this process continue to exert a powerful influence on even the most current research. Although we usually think of this work as investigating the temporal dimension of “time,” we cannot explore time unless we understand the spatial dimension as well.

The articles in this issue of News & Notes highlight explorations in space and in time, as presented in two special exhibits at the Oriental Institute — Daily Life Ornamented: The Medieval Persian City of Rayy (spring and summer 2007), and European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos (opening in fall 2007).

John Larson’s fascinating profile of Erich Schmidt — the excavator of Rayy — gives us a glimpse of one of the most talented archaeologists of the early twentieth century. Born in Germany, Schmidt studied anthropology at Columbia in New York and gained valuable archaeological experience in the American southwest. This training gave him superb preparation for his role as one of the leading archaeologists working on behalf of the Oriental Institute. Along with H. H. von der Osten, Erich Schmidt was the pioneer in the Institute’s archaeological research in the newly founded Turkish republic, through his excavations at Alishar and at Kerkenes Dağ (our excavations at Kerkenes Dağ continue under the co-direction of Oriental Institute CAMEL lab director Dr. Scott Branting). Schmidt is best known for directing the excavations at the Medieval Persian city of Rayy, at Tepe Hissar in northeastern Iran (for the University of Pennsylvania), and most notably for his extraordinary excavations at Persepolis. Along the way, Schmidt also was the first to conduct systematic aerial photography of archaeological sites in Iran. Many of the photographs from Schmidt’s work at Persepolis and his aerial photography can be viewed on the Institute’s Web site, or purchased online from the Institute’s Photo archives. Schmidt’s work at Rayy, Hissar, and Persepolis — collectively spanning an archaeological sequence of 4,500 years — was instrumental in opening up the dimension of time in Iranian archaeology. His research defined most of the archaeological sequence that still serves as the backbone for our understanding of ancient Iran.

Ian Manners’ cover article on European cartography and the Ottoman world introduces us to the history of the discovery of space — specifically the spatial context of Anatolia and the eastern Mediterranean. The history of cartography in this region shows the complex interplay between advances in science, and the emerging engagement of two very distinct cultures. In a very real sense, once westerners could picture the Near East and fit it into a spatial framework, they could explore it and finally begin to understand the many ways in which the ancient civilizations of this region played such a key role in shaping western cultures. This is the link between antique maps and the scholarly study of antiquity that we pursue today.
Maps are windows onto the societies that produce them as much as they are representations of the real world. Collectively, the materials in the Oriental Institute special exhibit, European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos, demonstrate the power of maps to shape geographical knowledge of that part of the world we know today as the Middle East.

Many of the maps and atlases in the exhibit are from the personal collection of Oriental Institute Visiting Committee Chair and long-time Institute volunteer and supporter O. J. (Jim) Sopranos. Jim’s love for maps grew out of an early interest in geography and travel. Selections from his collection are augmented by maps and atlases on loan from the Newberry Library and Special Collections Research Center of the University of Chicago. The exhibit is presented in conjunction with the citywide Festival of Maps and is on view in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery through March 2, 2008.

The maps, sea charts, and atlases in this exhibit explore how mapmakers came to know and map the vast Ottoman world between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries. The exhibit opens with the intellectual and geographical discoveries of the fifteenth century that undermined the European medieval view of the cosmos. These discoveries began a process whereby cartographers sought to produce and map a new global geography, one that reconciled classical ideas about the world with contemporary information brought back by travelers and voyagers.

As part of this story, the exhibit points to the remarkably close relationship that existed between centers of intellectual and artistic inquiry in Renaissance Europe and the Ottoman world in the early modern period. At this time, the Ottoman Empire was seen by its contemporaries as very much part of Europe. On occasion, the struggle for political supremacy and commercial advantage produced alliances that cut across cultural differences, as during the sixteenth-century French-Ottoman alliance against the powerful Habsburg dynasty. Moreover, alongside political and military confrontations, there were points of convergence, notably through trade and travel and through artistic and intellectual exchanges. Mapmaking was transformed by these exchanges, but it also contributed to them. As the exhibit shows, interest in the new language and content of maps was as great in Istanbul as it was in Venice and Madrid.

**THE “REDISCOVERY” OF PTOLEMY**

The exhibit starts with Renaissance cartographers and their “rediscovery” of the Geographia of Ptolemy, who lived in Alexandria in the second century AD. It is difficult for us, living in a world saturated with visual images, to appreciate just how astonishing Ptolemy’s maps (fig. 1)
must have appeared to those who saw them for the first time in the fifteenth century. Brought from Constantinople to Florence and translated into Latin, Ptolemy’s *Geographia* provided Renaissance scholars with a way of visualizing and representing the habitable world that was radically different from earlier religious *mappae mundi* (world maps).

The *Geographia* offered a system of geographical coordinates — in effect longitude and latitude — that mapmakers could use to organize geographical information and determine spatial relationships on the earth’s surface, plus a remarkable gazetteer (list of sites) recording the location of nearly eight-thousand places determined through direct astronomical observations. The *Geographia* was used as the basis for many maps. The artistic differences between them are sometimes striking. However, they were all inspired by the same text and their geographies were compiled from the same gazetteer, so it should not be surprising that their content is similar. Yet, Ptolemy’s *Geographia* was essentially a world view from the late Roman period, and Renaissance mapmakers struggled to reconcile the knowledge available from classical sources with contemporary observations of the same region. Such was the esteem in which the *Geographia* was held that, for much of the fifteenth century, mapmakers were unwilling to challenge its authority, even when gaps in classical knowledge were clear and alternative sources of information available.

By the sixteenth century, the shortcomings of Ptolemy’s *Geographia* had become painfully evident, and mapmakers turned to the growing body of first-hand observations from travelers and voyagers. In synthesizing this new information and producing more accurate maps, cartographers began to offer a global prospect —
Probably the most influential cartographer of the sixteenth century was Giacomo Gastaldi (ca. 1500–1566), “cosmographer to the Republic of Venice.” Venice’s far-reaching diplomatic and trading connections made it a virtual clearing-house for reports of recent geographical discoveries. Mapmaking was part of the city’s culture, and there existed an informal “cosmographic academy” of intellectuals, merchants, and public officials who met to discuss the latest geographical ideas. Global knowledge was seen as key to the city’s commercial prosperity, and Gastaldi’s maps, synthesizing the most recent geographical information reaching the city, were critical to this undertaking. Such was Gastaldi’s reputation that his maps circulated widely and were copied and reproduced (often without acknowledgment) well into the seventeenth century. Two of Gastaldi’s maps are included in the exhibit.

Abraham Ortelius (1527–1598) carried Gastaldi’s mapping forward into a new way of seeing the world. Ortelius’ singular achievement lay in a more systematic organization of geographical information than had been the case with earlier map collections. He selected the best maps available, re-engraved them to a uniform size and format, and arranged them by continent, country, and region. Individual maps were conceived as part of a larger vision of the world, and Ortelius saw his great atlas, Theatrum Orbis Terrarum (1570) (fig. 2), as holding up a mirror to nature.

Ortelius’ atlas replaced Ptolemy’s Geographia as the new authoritative image of the globe. The great atlases of the seventeenth century inspired by Ortelius were prized as valuable objects in their own right as much as records of geographical knowledge. They shared the conventions of a dramatic visual vocabulary of ornate decorative elements, elaborate cartouches, topographic and settlement markers, and were often surrounded by images of cities, peoples, rulers, and historical events unique to each geographic region. The effect of this vocabulary was more than decorative. It celebrated European expansion and trade, and it would have the profound effect of encouraging a vicarious enjoyment of geographical exploration, a sort of “armchair traveler’s” mastery of the world viewed from afar and at a glance.

**CARTOGRAPHIC INNOVATION IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY**

By the end of the seventeenth century, French cartographers were the dominant force in European cartography.
They brought to their craft the scientific advances and reverence for rational order that characterized the French Enlightenment. Contrasting sharply with earlier maps, those by French cartographers also used strikingly visual markers to represent political territory and boundaries. Hierarchies of political boundaries became standard features of maps, dividing and re-dividing the world into an all-encompassing spatial order. In France, the role of cartography in expanding political authority proceeded in ways that other European nations quickly emulated.

The Ottoman world proved to be a more difficult subject for scientific mapping. The carefully delineated borders and territories and precise hierarchies shown on European maps of the Ottoman Empire in the seventeenth century sometimes bore a dubious relationship to the situation on the ground (fig. 3). Only after the Treaty of Karlowitz (1699) were the boundaries between the Ottomans and their European neighbors surveyed and demarcated on the ground and the territorial integrity of each signatory state formally accepted. But the larger purpose of French mapmakers at this time was to open up the Ottoman lands in Europe to the “light of cartography” and thereby to the “light of civilization.”

**MAPPING THE CITY**

The transformation of mapmaking following the rediscovery of Ptolemy’s *Geographia* and experiments with perspective also affected the mapping of cities. City views — bird’s-eye views, profile views, and panoramic views — appeared with increasing frequency. In contrast to the stylized images of cities found in earlier texts, the Renaissance artist/mapmaker sought to render the appearance of places and landscapes more faithfully. By the mid-sixteenth century, engravings and woodcuts of cities were invariably being described as true and lifelike. Such views appealed to patrons’ interest in distant places in an age of exploration and trade, but were also intended as celebrations of the fame of individual cities.

European Cartographers and the Ottoman World includes several views...
of Ottoman cities from one of the great geographical works of the sixteenth century, Braun and Hogenberg’s *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* (1572) (fig. 4). By the standards of its day, the *Civitates* was hugely successful and its increasingly familiar images were widely copied. Part of its appeal was the use of the bird’s-eye viewpoint. This required quite an imaginative feat on the part of the artist/mapmaker, but it provided a powerful visual image of the city and its surrounding landscape. Readers could look into the heart of the city and see the great civic and religious buildings and the historical monuments, all rendered in perspective and accurately located in relation to one another, such that “the reader seems to be seeing the actual town or place before his eyes.”

While perspective and panoramic views of the city remained popular throughout the seventeenth century, Fr. Kauffer’s *Plan de la ville de Constantinople* … (1776) marks something of a watershed in the mapping of Ottoman cities by European cartographers (fig. 5). The mathematical basis for the ground plan and the surveying instruments that made its construction possible had been perfected well before the end of the sixteenth century, but Kauffer’s plan of Istanbul is one of the first attempts to apply these methods to a city in the Ottoman world. The perspective view of the city may have satisfied the armchair traveler, but from the mid-eighteenth century onwards a need for exactitude takes precedence over pictorial representation, and the more abstract city plan, which preserves the correct spatial relationship between streets and buildings, increasingly became the only acceptable scientific measure of the city.

The exhibit concludes with a selection of travelers’ accounts of the fifteenth through eighteenth centuries. The challenge of representing a world by maps raised the value of direct first-hand observation, and mapmakers relied on travelers’ reports to update their maps and allow patrons “to contemplate at home and right before our eyes things that are furthest away.” In a very direct way, Europeans gleaned what they knew of the Ottoman Empire through the written accounts of travelers and the maps drawn from them.
The Oriental Institute special exhibit Daily Life Ornamented: The Medieval Persian City of Rayy displays many of the most beautiful pieces from the excavation conducted by Erich F. Schmidt, one of the most prolific and influential of the field archaeologists who worked for the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago during its formative years. This brief biographical sketch is intended to reintroduce him to the readers of News & Notes.

Erich Friedrich Schmidt was born to Frida Loeffler Schmidt in Baden-Baden, Germany, on September 13, 1897. His father, Erhard Friedrich Schmidt, was a Lutheran clergyman, scientist, and university professor. Young Erich attended school in the nearby town of Achern and then a Gymnasium in neighboring Sasbach (1907/1908). Erhard Schmidt died when Erich was only ten; in 1909, Erich was sent to the military school (Kadettenkorps) in Karlsruhe. He was later transferred to an old Prussian cadet training school, the Lichterfelde Kaserne (barracks), located in southwest Berlin, from which he graduated in 1914 with the rank of lieutenant in the German Army.

During the first two years of the Great War in Europe, Schmidt’s detachment, the 122nd Fusiliers, was stationed at both the Western Front and the Eastern Front. Wounded in the leg during the fighting in Austrian Galicia in 1916, Schmidt was captured by the Russians and spent the next four years in a prisoner-of-war camp in Siberia. In 1920 he managed to escape overland to Murmansk and eventually found his way home by ship to Germany, where he learned that his mother and three siblings had died during or shortly after World War I.

From 1921 to 1923 Schmidt attended Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität (now Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), where he studied Economics and Political Science. In 1923 he moved to New York City and the next year he received a scholarship to study in the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University. From 1924 to 1927, Schmidt concentrated on the subjects of Culture History and Human Morphology, and he earned his Ph.D. in 1929. (The anthropologist Franz Boas was one of Schmidt’s professors at Columbia.) While still working toward his degree at Columbia, Schmidt participated in archaeological excavations in Arizona under the auspices of the American Museum of Natural History in New York; he served as field director of the Mrs. William Boyce Thompson Expedition during two field seasons, 1924/1925 and 1925/1926.

From 1927 to 1930 Schmidt was a member of the Oriental Institute’s Hittite (later, Anatolian) Expedition, centered on the site of Alishar Hüyük in central Turkey. He served as archaeologist and joint field director of the expedition, together with Hans Henning von der Osten, for three consecutive field seasons: 1927, 1928, and 1929. In 1930 Schmidt left the Anatolian Expedition to undertake post-graduate studies in Oriental History at the University of Chicago. Later that same year he accepted an appointment as field director of the University of Pennsylvania excavations at the site of Fara (ancient Shuruppak) in northern Mesopotamia (Iraq). From 1931 to 1933 he conducted excavations at the site of Tepe Hissar (near Damghan in northeastern Iran), funded by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Museum of Fine Arts.

Erich F. Schmidt may very well have been the busiest Western archaeologist working in Iran during the 1930s. He directed the excavation of the mounds of Rayy (near Tehran in north central Iran) from 1934 to 1936, sponsored by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. In 1934 Schmidt married Mary-Helen Warden, whom he had met when she visited Tepe Hissar with her family in 1931. (Sadly, Mary-Helen died in childbirth in Philadelphia in 1936.) With the financial assistance and support of his wife and her parents, the Schmidts established the Aerial Survey of Iran, which was intended to be a comprehensive survey of the archaeological sites in Iran — a combination of aerial photography...
and observations made on the ground. In 1935 Schmidt replaced Ernst E. Herzfeld as field director of the Persepolis Expedition of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, in which capacity he served through the end of 1939. (The University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, were co-sponsors of the Persepolis Expedition during the later seasons.) In 1935 and 1938 Schmidt was also seconded to direct the Holmes Expeditions to Luristan in western Iran. The records generated by the personnel of all four projects, now housed in the Oriental Institute Archives, exhibit an especially high standard of archaeological field recording for the 1930s and are noteworthy for the extensive use of photography, as well as for the production of numerous sketches and drawings of the objects found.

In 1938 Schmidt became a naturalized citizen of the United States, a process that had been delayed due to his frequent and lengthy absences in the field. In 1943 Schmidt married Lura Florence Strawn of Ottawa, Illinois; they had two children, Richard Roderick and Erika Lura. Erich Schmidt became an Associate Professor at the University of Chicago in 1954 and was promoted to full Professor in 1962. He died of complications from emphysema in Santa Barbara, California, on October 3, 1964, at the age of 67; his ashes were buried in Ottawa, Illinois.

Erich F. Schmidt will always be remembered for the beautifully illustrated Oriental Institute publications of his work in Iran, *Flights over Ancient Cities of Iran* (1940), and the three volumes on Persepolis (1953, 1957, and 1970).

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**FIELD TRIP**

**ORIENTAL INSTITUTE/CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM/NEWBERRY LIBRARY FIELD TRIP**

**FAKES, PHONIES, FRAUDS?**

*Saturday, November 10*

1:00–5:00 PM

Begins and ends at the Chicago History Museum

1601 North Clark Street

Chicago, IL 60614

How do museums determine whether something is “real?” Join Chicago History Museum Curator Peter Alter on a tour of the new exhibit — Is It Real? — to discover how curators, archaeologists, and forensic scientists separate fact from fiction. Examine findings regarding objects that range from a blood-stained cloak supposedly worn by Mary Todd Lincoln the night her husband was shot by John Wilkes Booth, to a cuneiform tablet attributed to a scribe from ancient Babylon. Then visit the Newberry Library to see some famous fakes from their collection. End the day at the Oriental Institute Museum to join Egyptologist Emily Teeter for a special look at a new display of artefacts that might — or might not! — have come from ancient Egypt.

Program Fee: $40 for Oriental Institute, Chicago History Museum, and Newberry Library members; $45 for non-members. Fee includes round trip bus transportation as well as tours at each institution. To register, contact the Chicago History Museum at (312) 642-4600, or visit their Web site at chicagohistory.org.
MAPPING THE WORLD: FROM ANCIENT BABYLON TO THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Saturday, December 8
9:30–4:00 PM; Reception follows
Oriental Institute

Carved on stone or inscribed in clay, the earliest maps appeared thousands of years ago, marking the beginning of humankind’s quest to understand and record our place in the world. This symposium invites you to join renowned scholars on a unique journey through space and time to explore the ways maps from ancient, classical, and Ottoman times chronicle the rise of geographic awareness, the advancement of scientific knowledge, the conquests of kings, and the brilliant artistry and imagination of mapmakers.

Discover the oldest known map of the world, depicted on a clay tablet from ancient Babylon. Learn the history of way-finding tools that range from roadmaps for ancient Roman soldiers to sea charts for merchant explorers to medieval maps for Arab pilgrims winding their way to Mecca. Maps of the Ottoman Empire from 1500 to 1750 will be a special feature, in conjunction with European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos, a major new exhibit on view at the Oriental Institute beginning November 2. See how exploration and interaction with the Ottoman Empire introduced Europeans to lands that were new and exotic to their eyes. Examine how this led to both realistic and highly imaginative maps that shaped Western perceptions of the Middle East in ways that still resonate today.

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

CLIFFORD ANDO, Professor of Classics, University of Chicago

GEOFF EMBERLING, Director, Oriental Institute Museum

M. PINAR EMIRALIOĞLU, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh

IAN MANNERS, Professor of Geography and Middle Eastern History, University of Texas, Austin; Consulting Curator for the special exhibit European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos.

DONALD WHITCOMB, Research Associate, Oriental Institute; Associate Professor of Islamic and Medieval Archaeology, University of Chicago

Fee: $54 for Oriental Institute members; $64 for non-members. Includes packet of materials, morning coffee, closing reception, and viewing of the European Cartographers and the Ottoman World exhibit.

Pre-registration required. Optional box lunches can be ordered by calling Oriental Institute Museum Education at (773) 702-9507.

Up to seventy-five middle school and high school teachers may enroll at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis and receive free curriculum materials. All other middle and high school educators may enroll at the reduced rate of $15.

Presented in partnership with Festival of Maps, Chicago, a city-wide celebration of discoveries and way finding from ancient to modern times. Support for teachers is provided by the Geographic Society of Chicago and the Replogle Foundation.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE/ GRAHAM SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

JNES

Oriental Institute Members receive 20% off subscriptions to the Journal of Near Eastern Studies (JNES). Print and electronic individual subscriptions: $58 $46

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NARM UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that the University of Chicago’s own Smart Museum of Art has enrolled in the North American Reciprocal Museums program (NARM). The Smart Museum houses a permanent collection of over 10,000 objects, spanning five millennia of both Western and Eastern civilizations.

Oriental Institute Associate Level members, supporters who contribute $100 or more annually, can enjoy the benefits of Smart Museum membership during their visit to this innovative art institution only three blocks away from the Oriental Institute.

For a complete listing of institutions across the North American continent participating in the NARM program, visit http://www.greenvillemuseum.org/narm_mem.html, or contact Sarah Sapperstein in the Oriental Institute Membership Office at (773) 834-9777.
CULINARY EVENT

CUISINE AND COOKERY OF THE NEAR EAST

Beyond Milk and Honey: A Taste of Israel
Thursday, November 1
7:00 PM
Taboun Grill
6339 North California Avenue
Chicago, IL 60659

The Oriental Institute continues its series of dining experiences focusing on the cuisine and cookery of the Near East. Join us to expand your culinary repertoire with Beyond Milk and Honey: A Taste of Israel, which features a special visit to Taboun Grill. Named for the clay oven used to bake pita bread, Taboun's cuisine reflects traditions that hark back to biblical times, as well as the unique dishes of peoples who have immigrated to Israel from throughout the world. Savor a complete menu of Taboun's signature appetizers, colorful salads, flavorful grilled meats and vegetables, and delicate desserts, all influenced by culinary traditions that range from the Middle East and North Africa to Central and Eastern Europe. Each dish is prepared according to the ancient dietary laws of kashrut, which stem from the Bible and are integral to Israel's culinary heritage.

Anat Trace, manager of Taboun Grill and your host for this special evening, introduces you to the multifaceted history of Israeli cuisine and provides a copy of one of her favorite recipes for you to take home.

Thursday evening, November 1, 7:00 pm. Meet at Taboun Grill, 6339 North California Avenue, Chicago, IL 60659. Street parking readily available.

Program fee: $44 for Oriental Institute members, $49 for non-members. Fee includes tax, gratuity, and recipes. Wine provided complements of the Oriental Institute. Pre-registration is required.

FAMILY EVENT

MUMMIES NIGHT! TALES AND TREATS FOR HALLOWEEN

Wednesday, October 24
6:00–8:00 PM
FREE; pre-registration not required

We can't keep this event under wraps! Join us at our annual pre-Halloween celebration for a "tombfull" of free family fun. Get up close and personal with a mummy, discover painted coffins and a Book of the Dead, enter our “guess the gummy mummies” contest, and try on an outfit from “King Tut's Closet." Or bring your own costume and join our ancient-style parade led by Kidworks Touring Theater Co., which presents a brand-new version of “The Pharaoh, the Sphinx, and the Curse of the Mummy,” an interactive performance based on tales from ancient Egypt.

Free. Suggested for ages 5 and up, accompanied by an adult.

This program is presented in conjunction with “Chicagoween,” which is sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Special Events, and with Chicago Book Month, the city's annual celebration of books and reading in the month of October.

GALLERY TOURS

EUROPEAN CARTOGRAPHERS AND THE OTTOMAN WORLD

O. J. Sopranos
Saturday, November 3
1:00 PM
Free
Meet in Museum Lobby

Join Jim Sopranos for a guided tour highlighting the extraordinary maps on view in our new special exhibit. Many of the maps featured in the exhibit are from his private collection.

EUROPEAN CARTOGRAPHERS AND THE OTTOMAN WORLD — A LUNCHE Time TOUR

O. J. Sopranos
Wednesday, November 28
12:15 PM
Free
Meet in Museum Lobby

Spend your lunchtime in another era as Jim Sopranos leads a guided tour of the special exhibit that features historic maps of the Ottoman world from his private collection.

Both tours are presented in partnership with Festival of Maps, Chicago, a citywide celebration of discoveries and way finding from ancient to modern times.
Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oriental Institute. All programs subject to change.

**OCTOBER**

7 | SUNDAY  
Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization  
— Premiere  
Film — Membership and Public Event  
2:00 PM  
See page 19 for details

10 | WEDNESDAY  
Empires Revealed: Unlocking the History of the Ancient Near East  
Adult Education Course  
Wednesdays, October 10–December 5  
7:00–9:00 PM  
See page 17 for details

11 | THURSDAY  
Houses of Mystery: Temples of the Ancient Near East  
Adult Education Course  
Thursdays, October 11–December 6  
7:00–9:00 PM  
At the Gleacher Center  
See page 17 for details

14 | SUNDAY  
Persian Miniature: The Gardens of Paradise  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 15 for details

21 | SUNDAY  
Pyramids and Great Cities of the Pharaohs  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 15 for details

22 | MONDAY (cont.)  
Hieroglyphs by Mail  
Adult Education Correspondence Course  
October 22, 2007, to February 25, 2008  
See page 18 for details

24 | WEDNESDAY  
Mummies Night! Tales and Treats for Halloween  
Family Event  
6:00–8:00 PM  
See page 11 for details

28 | SUNDAY  
Mesopotamia: I Have Conquered the River  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 15 for details

30 | TUESDAY  
European Cartographers and the Ottoman World  
Members' Exhibit Preview  
7:00 PM  
See page 15 for details

**NOVEMBER**

1 | Thursday  
Beyond Milk and Honey: A Taste of Israel Cuisine and Cookery of the Near East  
Taboun Grill  
7:00 PM  
See page 11 for details

3 | Saturday  
European Cartographers and the Ottoman World  
Gallery Tour  
1:00 PM  
See page 11 for details

Spying on the Ancients: Archaeology from Above in the Middle East  
Adult Education Class  
Saturdays, November 3 and 10  
10:00 AM–3:00 PM  
University of Chicago Biological Sciences Building  
See page 17 for details
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>The Face of the World: First Steps into the Unknown</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>See page 19 for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Banquets, Baubles, and Bronzes: Material Comforts in Neo-Assyrian Palaces</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>See page 20 for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Fakes, Phonies, Frauds?</td>
<td>Oriental Institute/Chicago History Museum/Newberry Library Field Trip</td>
<td>1:00–5:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>The Face of the World: Discovery of a New World</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>See page 19 for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>The Face of the World: The True Image of the Earth</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>See page 19 for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>European Cartographers and the Ottoman World: A Luncheon Tour</td>
<td>Gallery Tour</td>
<td>12:15 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**DECEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>The Ottoman Empire</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mapping the Past</td>
<td>Members Lecture</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mapping the World: From Ancient Babylon to the Ottoman Empire</td>
<td>Symposium</td>
<td>9:30 AM–4:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Who Were the Israelites?</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Gertrude Bell: The Desert Queen</td>
<td>Associates Members’ Event</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Ancient Treasures of the Deep</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**DO YOU HAVE AN INQUIRING MIND?**

The Oriental Institute invites you to join its Volunteer Program and share your knowledge of the ancient Near East. Oriental Institute Volunteers can:

- Lead tours of the Museum galleries
- Go “on the road” with outreach programs
- Attend exclusive lectures and special field trips
- Assist in the Suq
- Work with professors on research projects

For more information and an application form, please contact the Volunteer Office at (773) 702-1845 or visit online at http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/volunteer/
# MUSEUM EDUCATION REGISTRATION FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<td>Empires Revealed: Unlocking the History of the Ancient Near East</td>
<td>$220</td>
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<td>Iran Past and Present: An Online Course**</td>
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Members’ price applies to members of the Oriental Institute, Chicago History Museum, and the Newberry Library.

** GRAND TOTAL **

* $15 for educators of grades 6-12. To qualify for limited free middle- or high-school-educator admission, call the Museum Education Office at (773) 702-9507.

** To register, contact the Graham School of General Studies at (773) 702-6033 or e-mail vhuston@uchicago.edu

*** To register, contact the Chicago History Museum at (312) 642-4600, or visit their Web site at chicagohistory.org

☐ I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is a separate check for $50 for an individual Annual membership or $75 for an Annual family membership; Senior, UC/UCH Faculty and Staff, and National Associate (persons living over 100 miles from Chicago within the USA) memberships are $40 for individuals or $65 for families.

I prefer to pay by ☐ Check (payable to the Oriental Institute) ☐ Money order ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Account number: ___________________________________________ Exp. date: __________ 3-digit security code: __________

Signature: __________________________________________________________________________

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________ City/State/Zip: _____________

Daytime phone: ___________________________ E-mail: _______________________________________

Tear out and send form to: The Oriental Institute Education Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637

## REGISTRATION AND REFUND POLICY

For multi-session on-campus 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 $50 cancellation fee. After the second class meeting, no refunds will be granted unless the course is canceled by the Education Office. Failure to attend a class does not entitle a registrant to a refund. Some courses require a small materials fee to be paid at the first class meeting.

For single-session programs, no refunds will be granted, but if the Museum Education Office is notified of cancellation at least 48 hours before the program begins, a credit voucher will be issued for the full amount. With less than 48 hours notice, a voucher for the full amount, less a $10 cancellation fee, will be issued. Credit vouchers can be used for any Oriental Institute single-session program for one full calendar year from the date on the voucher.

For correspondence courses, full refunds will be given if cancellation is received at least one week prior to the course’s announced starting date. After that time, no refunds will be granted. For online course cancellation policies, contact the Graham School of General Studies at (773) 702-6033 or e-mail vhuston@uchicago.edu.

Only those registered for classes may attend them. The Museum Education Office reserves the right to refuse to retain any student in any class at any time.
SUNDAY FILMS

Each Sunday afternoon, enjoy the best in documentary films on the ancient Near East in air-conditioned Breasted Hall. Unless otherwise noted, showings begin at 2:00 PM and run approximately 30–50 minutes. All showings are free. Following the films, museum docents will be available in the galleries to answer your questions.

October 7  Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization
U.S. premiere. See p. 19

Shown in conjunction with the special exhibit, Daily Life Ornamented: The Medieval Persian City of Rayy, this documentary shows how Persian miniature painting, which reached its peak from the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries, serves as an entry point into Persian culture and art.

October 21  Pyramids and Great Cities of the Pharaohs (1995)
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

October 28  Mesopotamia: I Have Conquered the River (2000)
Explore the vital role of ancient Mesopotamia’s waterways in the development of one of the world’s earliest and most powerful civilizations. This film features a dramatic computerized recreation of life along the Euphrates River more than 4,000 years ago.

On the first three Sundays in November, we are featuring The Face of the World: A History of Human Exploration (2004), an acclaimed film series on the history of map-making from ancient times to the present day. See p. 19

November 4  First Steps into the Unknown
November 11  Discovery of a New World
November 18  The True Image of the Earth

November 25  Breasted Hall closed for Thanksgiving weekend

December 2  The Ottoman Empire (1996)
Special screening; see p. 19

This film considers ways the latest archaeological discoveries relate to the Bible’s depiction of the Israelites’ conquest of the Promised Land.

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.

December 23  Breasted Hall closed for the holidays.
December 31  Breasted Hall closed for the holidays.
Sunday film showings resume on January 6, 2008

MEMBERS’ EXHIBIT PREVIEW

EUROPEAN CARTOGRAPHERS AND THE OTTOMAN WORLD, 1500–1750: MAPS FROM THE COLLECTION OF O. J. SOPRANOS

Tuesday, October 30
7:00 PM
Breasted Hall
Gallery reception to follow

Join us for a special Members’ Exhibit Preview of European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos. The exhibit features thirty-two sheet maps and a variety of atlases and travel narratives that tell the story of how geographers and cartographers undermined the medieval view of the cosmos and sought to produce and map a new geography of the world — one that reconciled classical ideas and theories with the information collected and brought back by travelers and voyagers. The exhibit demonstrates the power of maps to reflect and shape geographical knowledge of that part of the world we know today as the Middle East. Curator Ian Manners, Ph.D., introduces the exhibit with a lecture detailing how mapmakers came to know and map the Ottoman world between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries. A gallery reception follows the exhibit preview.

European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos is on display in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery from November 2, 2007, to March 2, 2008, in conjunction with the city-wide Festival of Maps.

For inquiries or to RSVP for this event, contact the Membership Office at (773) 834-9777.
IRAN PAST AND PRESENT: AN ONLINE COURSE

Tobin Hartnell
October 22, 2007, to January 11, 2008

Despite its frequent appearance in the news, Iran is still a relatively unknown country in the West. Yet the cultural and spiritual traditions of this enigmatic land have been instrumental to the course of Western history since ancient times. This course, conducted entirely online, uses Web-based materials and online discussion to take students on a journey through the history of Iran from its earliest settlements to the present day. Learn how the land became home to the great empire of the Persians, who battled Greece and Rome for supremacy in the ancient world. Explore Iran’s role as a conduit for luxurious fabrics and wares along the famed Silk Road from China to Europe. Examine the country’s impact on modern religions through its history as the birthplace of Zoroastrianism and Shi’a Islam, and its influence on the spread of Christianity. Other topics include Iran’s tribal and nomadic traditions, the development of its great cities, its architectural wonders, and the role of women. The course ends with a discussion of what it is like to live and work in today’s Iran.

Pre-registration is required. Registration deadline: October 12.

INSTRUCTOR: Tobin Hartnell is an archaeologist and graduate student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. He volunteers for the Persepolis Fortification Tablets archive project in Chicago and is the student director of an archaeological survey project in Iran. He has been working in close cooperation with Iranian students and scholars since 2004.

CPDUs: 16

PARTICIPATION: Each week, students should expect 15-20 pages of reading and be willing to commit to two significant contributions to the moderated discussion board. Readings may alternate with video or sound recordings as they become available.

DURATION: Eight lessons over ten weeks, Monday, October 22, 2007, through Friday, January 11, 2008. There is a two-week break from December 19 to January 2.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: This course takes place entirely online. Participants are expected to have a basic knowledge of and access to a word processor, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines. Access to a Firefox or Internet Explorer browser and Quicktime movie player are required and are available for download at the course site. A DSL or cable connection to the Internet is highly recommended since the site will host video and sound material.

TUITION & REGISTRATION: $449 for Oriental Institute members; $499 for non-members. To register, contact the Graham School of General Studies at (773) 702-6033 or e-mail vhuston@uchicago.edu. Course number: HASS90000-01. For additional information about this course, please contact Oriental Institute Museum Education at (773) 702-9507 or visit http://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/has/courses.cfm?courseid=4201

ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA: THIS HISTORY, OUR HISTORY – AN ONLINE COURSE FOR EDUCATORS

Geoff Emberling and Wendy Ennes
October 22–December 17

Based on the latest University of Chicago research, this special online course for K-12 educators allows participants to learn about ancient Mesopotamia in detail. Discussion boards, reflective analysis, and in-depth assignments are used to increase knowledge about this ancient civilization and the legacy it has left to us. In addition, we explore ways to enhance critical thinking skills with Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), a unique learner-centered method that uses art to develop visual literacy and communication skills.

Pre-registration is required. Registration deadline: October 12.

INSTRUCTORS: Geoff Emberling is the Director of the Oriental Institute Museum. He holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology and Near Eastern Studies from the University of Michigan and serves as academic advisor for the course.

Wendy Ennes is the Teacher Services and e-Learning Coordinator for the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago. She holds a Master Online Teaching Certification from the University of Illinois/Illinois Online Network. Ms. Ennes serves as course facilitator.

CPDUs: 16

PARTICIPATION: Participants are expected to work a minimum of 8-10 hours a week for eight weeks, beginning October 22 and continuing to December 17.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: This course takes place entirely online. Participants should have a basic knowledge of and access to Microsoft Word, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines.

TUITION & REGISTRATION: This course can be taken for five quarter hours (3.3 semester) of non-degree Graduate Student at Large credit from the University of Chicago for $2,215, or audited for $1,515. To register, contact the Graham School of General Studies at (773) 702-6033 or e-mail vhuston@uchicago.edu. Course number: HASS32000-01.

For additional information about the course, please contact Wendy Ennes at (773) 834-7606 or wennes@uchicago.edu
ON-CAMPUS COURSES

EMPIRES REVEALED: UNLOCKING THE HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST
Dennis Campbell
Wednesdays, October 10–December 5
7:00–9:00 PM
Oriental Institute
While the pyramids of Egypt stood tall, the vast empires of Assyria, Babylonia, the Hittites, and many others were lost to the ravages of time and environment. Ancient cities were reduced to mounds and over the millennia only the names of these great civilizations survived. This course explores the manifold ways that modern scholars have been able to recreate the histories of ancient Assyria and Babylonia (in today’s Iraq) and ancient Anatolia (present-day Turkey). We focus on discoveries that range from the adventures of nineteenth-century explorers who located ancient capitals and deciphered cuneiform script, to the new information being gleaned from current excavations and examination of ancient texts. Selected sessions include visits to the Oriental Institute Museum’s Mesopotamian and Anatolian galleries to view art and artifacts unearthed during historic excavations by the Institute’s archaeologists.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Wednesday evenings beginning October 10 and continuing through December 5. There is no class on November 21. Pre-registration is required.

INSTRUCTOR: Dennis Campbell recently graduated from the University of Chicago’s Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations with a Ph.D. in Hittitology. He is an active member of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD) project, primarily working with the online version, the e-CHD. His areas of interest are in the peoples, cultures, and languages of Bronze Age Anatolia and Syria.

CPDUs: 16

REQUIRED TEXTS: The instructor will provide a packet of materials at the first class session.

HOUSES OF MYSTERY: TEMPLES OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST
David Calabro
Thursdays, October 11–December 6
7:00 PM–9:00 PM
At the Gleacher Center
450 Cityfront Plaza Drive
Veiled in mystery today, the temples of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Levant were central in the religious lives of ancient peoples. What activities took place in these monumental structures? What roles did priests and priestesses play? What was the meaning of ancient rituals? Who could enter the sacred precincts? Consider these and many other questions as we read and discuss translations of ancient temple texts and explore temple architecture to discover the settings where ancient rituals were performed. Our survey includes the ziggurats of Mesopotamia, the mortuary temples of ancient Egypt, the Canaanite temples of Phoenicia, and the famed temple of King Solomon in Jerusalem.

This class meets at the Gleacher Center, 450 Cityfront Plaza Drive, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Thursday evenings beginning October 11 and continuing through December 6. There is no class on November 22.

Pre-registration is required.

INSTRUCTOR: David Calabro is a graduate student in the University of Chicago’s Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. His areas of concentration are Hebrew and Egyptian studies.

CPDUs: 16

REQUIRED TEXTS:

SPYING ON THE ANCEINTS: ARCHAEOLOGY FROM ABOVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Joshua Trampier
Saturdays, November 3 and November 10
10:00 AM–3:00 PM
University of Chicago’s Biological Sciences Building
924 East 57th Street, Room 018
Throughout its history, the landscape of the Middle East has both influenced people’s activities and been reshaped by them. In order to understand its people, their societies, and how our world continues to develop, it is important to understand how the Middle Eastern landscape has evolved over time. This two-session seminar shows how modern technologies, as well as declassified images from 1960s spy satellites, have transformed the way we look at the land and the types of questions we ask about it. Discover how Middle East researchers are using the extraordinary potential of these techniques to “spy on” and better understand both the ancient and the modern worlds.

This seminar gives participants an insider’s view and hands-on experience with ways that archaeologists employ resources such as satellite imagery, geographical information, and NASA space shuttle radar mapping to model ancient landscapes. Over the course of two four-hour sessions, students see and use the latest computer technology for relocating and reconstructing ancient cities, roads, and waterways.

This class meets in the computer laboratory of the University of Chicago’s Biological Sciences Building, 924 East 57th Street, Room 018, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on November 3 and November 10. Each day there will be a 1-hour break for lunch on your own.

Pre-registration is required.

INSTRUCTOR: Joshua Trampier is the Associate Director of the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL) at the Oriental Institute. He is a Ph.D. candidate in Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Chicago and has excavated in Egypt and the United States.

CPDUs: 8

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS: Participants should be familiar with Microsoft Word and browsing the internet.

REQUIRED TEXTS: A packet of materials is provided at the first class session.
CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

HIEROGLYPHS BY MAIL

Andrew Baumann and Mary Szabady
October 22, 2007, to February 25, 2008

Taught by correspondence, this course introduces students to an in-depth study of Middle Egyptian, the “classical” language of ancient Egypt. Learn the fundamental structure and grammar of the language by completing the first eight lessons and exercises of Middle Egyptian Grammar by James Hoch. Mail or fax completed lessons to the instructor, who corrects them, answers any questions, and returns the lessons by mail or fax. Those who complete all course assignments will receive a certificate of course completion from the Oriental Institute.

Pre-registration is required. Registration deadline: October 12.

INSTRUCTORS: Andrew Baumann holds a Ph.D. in Egyptology from the University of Chicago. He has worked as epigrapher and artist for the Oriental Institute’s Epigraphic Survey based at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt. Currently, he is Publications Manager for the University of Chicago Press.

Mary Szabady is a graduate student in Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.

DURATION: The course begins on Monday, October 22, and continues for sixteen weeks. There is a two-week break during the winter holidays.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Middle Egyptian Grammar and Middle Egyptian Sign List.
James Hoch.

As a special service to students who register for this course, both books can be obtained by sending a postal money order or personal check for $60 in U.S. dollars, which includes shipping costs, to: Managing Editor Benben Publications/SSEA Publications 1483 Carmen Drive Mississauga, Ontario Canada L5G 3Z2 Payment by check takes two–three days longer to process.
Both books are also available by check, cash, or credit card for a combined price of $62 (shipping not included) from the Suq, the Oriental Institute gift shop. Oriental Institute members receive a 10% discount.

THE CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY MOVES UP

Theo van den Hout, Executive Editor of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary

In late August 2003, Gil Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute; Martha Roth, Editor-in-Charge of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary (CAD); Steve Camp, the Oriental Institute’s Associate Director; and Theo van den Hout, Executive Editor of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD), met to discuss the move of the CHD upstairs into what were then still the premises of the CAD: the famous Room 323 at the eastern end of the building. With just over 1,000 square feet, this space is one of the largest in the Oriental Institute and was probably designed specifically for the CAD, which had started in 1921 in the basement of Haskell Hall.

By 2003, Room 323 had been the home of the Assyrian Dictionary for over seventy years. Photos from the 1930s show the room already full of impressive banks of file cabinets, and scholars and secretaries hard at work under beautiful art deco light fixtures. Over the years the banks of cabinets grew and their history can literally be traced on the floor. In recent years, with the CAD approaching completion, Room 323 gradually became less crowded and plans were developed to move the CHD into that space. The two offices on the second floor that had been the home of the CHD since its founding in 1976 would now be vacated. During the thirty-year lifespan of the CHD, these rooms had become very cramped — so much so that the new file cabinets that were so desperately needed could not be ordered.

Vacating the vast Room 323 was a bittersweet event. The move stood for the completion of the Assyrian Dictionary, but the room itself was fraught with emotions of more than seven decades of scholarly history that were less easy to give up. The transition, however, was made very smooth through the flexibility of all involved. Steve Camp was everywhere at once, shuttling between the several offices and accommodating everybody as much as possible. With the help of her children, students, and Linda McLarnan, the CAD’s long-time manuscript editor, Martha Roth went through all materials of the room, comparing it to “cleaning out your parent’s house while they’re still alive.” The room was cleaned, rewired, painted a bright light blue, and the floor waxed. On April 2 the CHD moved in, and the changeover was celebrated with a party on May 31.

Compared to the eighty-six years of the CAD, the CHD, at just over thirty, is still a youngster. While most of the CAD’s file cabinets have gone and the old light fixtures have long since made place for efficient fluorescent tubes, the staff of the CHD are ready to occupy Room 323 for a long time to come, inspired by the still-shining light of our ancestor dictionary.
MEMBERSHIP FEATURE

THE JAMES HENRY BREASTED SOCIETY

The James Henry Breasted Society is a special category of membership formed to provide an annual, renewable source of funds for the most pressing research projects of the Oriental Institute. Named for the founder of the Oriental Institute, James Henry Breasted, Breasted Society members make up a close-knit community of supporters who, through exclusive events and behind-the-scenes involvement in the Oriental Institute, are able to form close relationships with not only researchers and scholars, but also with the antiquities and artifacts of the Institute. In addition to all the benefits of Annual and Associate Membership, James Henry Breasted Society members receive invitations to meet in small groups with Oriental Institute and visiting scholars, as well as Director’s invitations to dinners, receptions, and other events.

Supporters who contribute $1,000 or more annually are recognized with Breasted Society Membership. Patrons of the James Henry Breasted Society contribute $1,000 to $2,499, while contributors of $2,500 or more are welcomed into the James Henry Breasted Directors’ Circle.

For more information on the Breasted Society, or any of the benefits of Oriental Institute Membership, please contact the Membership Office at (773) 834-9777 or by e-mail at oi-membership@uchicago.edu.

SPECIAL FILM SHOWING

The following films are shown in conjunction with the special exhibit European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750, and in partnership with Festival of Maps Chicago, a city-wide celebration of discoveries and way finding from ancient to modern times.

THE FACE OF THE WORLD: A HISTORY OF HUMAN EXPLORATION

Sundays, November 4–18
2:00 PM
Breasted Hall

This beautifully crafted three-part series tells the story of mapmaking from ancient times to the present day, illustrating the human quest to know and possess the world. Realistic dramatizations and distinguished scholarship demonstrate ways that military conquest, religious fervor, and the needs of imperial administrations have historically been the strongest motives for developments in cartography and navigation (2004).

Sunday, November 4 — First Steps into the Unknown
Sunday, November 11 — Discovery of a New World
Sunday, November 18 — The True Image of the Earth

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Sunday, December 2
2:00 PM
Breasted Hall

From the sacking of Constantinople to the sixteenth century, the Ottoman Empire encompassed Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Algeria, Lebanon, Egypt, Spain, and Turkey. This highly acclaimed film portrays an empire that at its zenith was dedicated to the spread of Islam, but also tolerated a diverse population and many creeds with its bounds (1996).

FILM PREMIERE

IRAN: SEVEN FACES OF A CIVILIZATION

Sunday, October 7
2:00 PM
Breasted Hall

Co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute’s Membership and Education Offices, the University of Chicago Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and the Iran House of Greater Chicago
Free, no registration required

Members and friends are invited to join us for the United States premiere of a major new documentary that uses the latest technology to showcase the celebrated art and architecture of Iran’s 7,000 years of history. Produced by the makers of Persepolis Recreated, this film features spectacular graphic reconstructions superimposed on images of actual architectural remains. This cinematic adventure brilliantly recaptures the ancient treasures of Iran in ways never before possible.

Farzin Rezaeian, the film’s director, will be with us to discuss the production and its companion book, which will be available for purchase at the event.

This film is shown in conjunction with Chicago Science in the City 2007, a city-wide initiative sponsored by the Mayor’s Office of Special Events.
**BANQUETS, BAUBLES, AND BRONZES: MATERIAL COMFORTS IN NEO-ASSYRIAN PALACES**

Allison Thomason, Southern Illinois University

**Wednesday, November 7, 2007**

7:00 PM

Breasted Hall

Reception to follow

The large-scale monumental reliefs from the palaces of the Neo-Assyrian kings at Nimrud, Khorsabad, and Nineveh have received a great deal of attention in archaeological and art historical studies. This lecture explores the small-scale items — the movable property of the palace that would have peppered the daily experiences of the Assyrian court; the glint of a gold arm-cuff, the flow of a woven red robe splaying across a mudbrick floor, the clang of bronze cups as they are clamped down on an ebony table decorated with ivory carvings. Such items are relatively scarce yet nevertheless present in the archaeological record, obsessed over in administrative documents, and trumpeted proudly as tribute and plunder in Assyrian wall reliefs and royal inscriptions.

*Co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America*

**ALLISON THOMASON** is Associate Professor of Ancient History at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.

For inquiries or to RSVP for this event, contact the Membership Office at (773) 834-9777.

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**MAPPING THE PAST**

Scott Branting, Oriental Institute

**Wednesday, December 5, 2007**

7:00 PM

Breasted Hall

Reception to follow

This lecture presents many of the ways in which new and emerging technologies are being used to archaeologically explore the massive Iron Age city at Kerkenes Dağ in central Turkey. The city, dated to around 550 BC, was most likely called Pteria in ancient times. It is a city mentioned by the Greek historian Herodotus as the flash-point of an epic conflict between Croesus, King of the Lydian Empire, and Cyrus the Great, in the very first years of his reign over the newly formed Persian Empire. Our research has focused not only on these historical questions but also on questions of how cities ancient and modern are used and shaped by the people that inhabit them. We have been able to map out and explore Pteria using technologies such as global position systems (GPS), various types of remote sensing devices, satellite images, virtual reality, and sophisticated computer simulations of virtual people walking through the ancient city. We have even developed a GPS car navigation system by which we can drive ourselves along the still-buried streets of the ancient city and decide where best to excavate. Technology is allowing us to push the boundaries of what archaeology can accomplish, and by so doing it is enabling us to reveal a great deal about ancient cities and civilizations.

*Co-sponsored by the Museum of Science and Industry*

**SCOTT BRANTING** is Director of the Oriental Institute Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL), director of Oriental Institute excavations in Kerkenes Dağ, Turkey, and Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.

For inquiries or to RSVP for this event, contact the Membership Office at (773) 834-9777.
E-NEWS FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

As part of its Electronic Publications Initiative, in August 2007 the Oriental Institute Publications Office announced the Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) publication of the thirty-nine titles published before 2000 (listed below by series); titles published after 2000 are distributed as both printed books and PDF files. The Publications Office now distributes ninety-seven titles online, with about 250 titles to come. To access the PDF files, visit the Publications Office’s Catalog of Publications page on the Oriental Institute’s Web site: oi.uchicago.edu

ASSYRIOLOGICAL STUDIES (AS)


CHICAGO ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY (CAD)


MATERIALS FOR THE ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY (MAD)


ORIENTAL INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS (OIC)


ORIENTAL INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS (OIP)

OIP 114. Nippur IV. The Early Neo–Babylonian Governor’s Archive from Nippur. Steven W. Cole. 1996.

STUDIES IN ANCIENT ORIENTAL CIVILIZATION (SAOC)


MISCELLANEOUS TITLES


Total Number of Titles Distributed Online as PDF Files (by Series)

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Dear Travelers,

We are pleased to welcome you On the Path of the Umayyads: From Syria to Spain, to explore the meeting of east and west, ancient and modern. During this trip, led by Dr. Clemens Reichel, you will explore Syria and Spain’s shared heritage from the Roman and the Umayyad periods to the age of the Crusades.

Roman columns in Damascus, Islamic arches in Cordoba … Though geographically distant from each other, Syria and Spain — located at the eastern and western edge of the Mediterranean Sea along the former outskirts of the Roman Empire — have shared a large number of historical and cultural traits. Shortly after the Arab conquest, both areas became home to Umayyad empires with capitals that were major centers of art, craft production, and learning.

Site visits in Syria include the old cities of Damascus, Aleppo, and Hama with their Umayyad mosques, the Roman city of Bosra in the Hauran with its massive amphitheatre, the oasis of Palmyra with the Bel Temple and splendid procession street, the Byzantine city of Resafa (Sergiopolis) with its vast cisterns, and the Umayyad castles in the Syrian desert.

In Spain you will explore the splendor of Islamic architecture in Andalusia. From the Umayyad period, visit Cordoba’s famous Mesquita, and the abandoned city of Madinat az-Zahra. The trip will conclude with a visit to Granada, capital of the Nasreen Emirat, where we witness the final flourish of Islamic Architecture, crowned by a visit to the Alhambra.

We welcome you aboard the seminal thematic travel opportunity at the Oriental Institute, giving passengers an in depth understanding of one aspect of the ancient world through both time and place. Join us as we form relationships with the past to see its ever enduring effect on our present.

Gil J. Stein
Director, The Oriental Institute

Apamea (colonnaded street): Named after Apama, the Bactrian wife of Seleucus Nicator I, the first king of the Seleucids in Syria, Apamea was founded in 300 B.C. on the right bank of the Orontes River about 55 km to the northwest of Hama. During its heydays, this city, one of the four cities of the Syrian tetrapolis, housed a population of half a million. At an eastern crossroads, it received many distinguished visitors, including Cleopatra, Septimus Severus, and Caracalla. In the Christian era, Apamea became a center of philosophy and thought, especially of Monophysitism. Surviving highlights include Cardo Maximus, a 145 meters long colonnade with over 400 columns erected in the second century B.C., and the Qal’a at al-Mudiq, a large fortification built on the acropolis following the Arab conquest.

Aleppo Citadel (entrance): Built on an ancient site that buries the remains of the Amorite and Neo-Hittite forerunners of Aleppo, the mound was later fortified by the Zengid ruler Nur al-Din (A.D. 1147–1174). Around 1230 Saladin’s son al-Zahir al-Ghazi rebuilt the citadel, adding most of the structures that are present today. Damaged by the Mongol invasion in 1259 and destroyed by Tamerlaine in 1400, it was rebuilt in 1415 by prince Sayf al-Din Jakam, the Mamluk governor of Aleppo, who also added a Mamluk palace. The monumental gateway, accessible through an arched gateway, is a sixteenth century addition.
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You will also visit the Temple of Amada, honoring Amun Re, founded by Thutmose III and Amenhotep II, and spend time at the Nubian Museum and sites of Abu Simbel and Qasr Ibrim. The trip also includes an exclusive reception and library tour with Dr. Ray Johnson at Chicago House and a four day cruise on Lake Nasser, touring the monuments of Ancient Nubia.

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Commissioned by Emir Abed al-Rahman I, prince of the Umayyad dynasty of Damascus, in 785 after choosing Cordoba as his kingdom’s capital, the mosque — commonly known as “Mesquita” — was built on a site previously occupied by a Visigothic church. Subsequently it was expanded by Abed al-Rahman II in A.D. 883–948, by Abed al-Rahman III, the founder the Caliphat of Cordoba, by al-Hakam II in A.D. 962–966, and al-Mansor (A.D. 987–988). Following the fall of Cordoba to the Christian kings, it was consecrated as a cathedral in 1236. Its exterior facade, executed in black, white, and reddish stone, provides a striking example of early Islamic stone masonry. Its large prayer hall, supported by double arches on 850 columns, covers an area of 14,700 square meters (158,300 square feet). The mosaic-decorated mihrab (prayer niche), built by al-Hakam II, represents a highlight of Islamic mosaic art.

One of the mosaic panels from the “Treasury” (Bait al-Mal) in the courtyard of the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus. The scene depicts a city with a palm tree before a lake or pond. The strong figurative element of the depiction suggests Late Byzantine influence. Eighth century A.D.

“Treasury” (Bait al-Mal): Carried by eight Corinthian columns, this little octagonal building is located in the northeastern corner of the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus. Its lavish mosaic decoration — including figurative depictions, which are unusual for Islamic art — remind one of Byzantine mosaic work. A.D. 705.
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The University of Chicago
1155 East 58th Street • Chicago, Illinois • 60637
(773) 702-9514

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ON THE PATH OF THE UMAYYADS: SYRIA & SPAIN — SEE PAGE 22