1984 AND THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

1984 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the work of the Oriental Institute's Epigraphic Survey, founded in 1924 by James Henry Breasted. A celebration in Luxor, including lectures, receptions and visits by high ranking officials of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization, was planned for March by our Egyptological Consultant, Dr. Labib Habachi. The festivities were to be coordinated with the fifteenth anniversary of the work of the Franco-Egyptian Centre at Karnak and that of the Polish Archaeological Mission to Deir el-Bahri. Tragedy struck on 18 February, however, when Dr. Habachi passed away in hospital in Cairo. All of us at Chicago House were deeply grieved and shall severely feel the loss of our devoted friend and counselor, whom we had grown to know and love so well.

The death of Dr. Habachi marks the end of an era in Egyptology. A whole generation of Egyptologists is indebted to Labib Habachi for his help and expert advice, not only on scholarly matters, but particularly in regard to fieldwork in Egypt itself. Nobody had more intimate knowledge of the physical remains of the pharaonic Egyptians than did Labib, who had served as Inspector for the Egyptian Antiquities Department in every area of the country. He was always ready to encourage others engaged in worthwhile projects, to give them logistical advice, and to provide introductions to local officials. Dr. Habachi’s passing was marked by a church service in Cairo, attended by ambassadors, the heads of the various foreign missions (French, Polish and German) working in Luxor as well as by the Chicago House staff. When the coffin and large ornate floral arrangements were carried off the train, the funeral procession began immediately right through the train station. Once outside, the procession was led by Luxor’s Coptic marching band, forsaking for once the march from Aida to play a funeral dirge. Religious banners and floral arrangements followed. The coffin was placed in a horse-drawn hearse decorated in the baroque style with gilded putti. The mourners followed behind this, crowding the main street of Luxor and stopping traffic. As we passed down Station Street, the shopkeepers drew their shutters closed as a sign of respect. The Franciscan church tolled its bell as the procession approached. Labib was to be buried in the beautiful west home amongst the pharaonic splendors of Luxor, and it was in Luxor that he wished to be buried.

Dr. Habachi’s body was sent to Luxor by train, and was met by a large crowd of Egyptians and members of the various foreign missions (French, Polish and German) working in Luxor as well as by the Chicago House staff. When the coffin and large ornate floral arrangements were carried off the train, the funeral procession began immediately right through the train station. Once outside, the procession was led by Luxor’s Coptic marching band, forsaking for once the march from Aida to play a funeral dirge. Religious banners and floral arrangements followed. The coffin was placed in a horse-drawn hearse decorated in the baroque style with gilded putti. The mourners followed behind this, crowding the main street of Luxor and stopping traffic. As we passed down Station Street, the shopkeepers drew their shutters closed as a sign of respect. The Franciscan church tolled its bell as the procession approached. Labib was to be buried in the beautiful west, just as were his pharaonic ancestors before him. His coffin was ferried across the Nile, and a cortège of 18 vehicles took the funeral procession to the Coptic monastery of Deir el-Moharreb in the desert west of Medinet Habu where Dr. Habachi had prepared his tomb. The funeral was an elaborate display of affection and respect for a man widely known and loved. One imagines that in essence it differed little in tone from the funereal processions depicted in the Theban tombs of three hundred centuries ago.

Some twelve days after the funeral, Dr. Habachi’s widow, Atteiya, and the members of the Permanent Committee of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization came up from Cairo...
to pay their respects at the tomb. The reception planned to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Epigraphic Survey was transformed into a tribute to Dr. Habachi, including a display of his numerous publications through which he has already gained a type of immortality. Helena Jaeschke worked wonders with the flowers from the Chicago House garden to provide beautiful floral decorations. Martha Bell produced an astounding array of cakes, cookies (including chocolate chip), brownies and cupcakes (eaten with spoons or forks by many of the very polite guests). Throughout all this we were greatly assisted by three visiting American scholars, guests at Chicago House, who interrupted their own research to pitch in and help us entertain our Egyptian guests.

This emphasizes the point that the Chicago House family is not limited to the ten or so permanent staff members or even to the larger group associated with the Epigraphic Survey through the Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago. It is true that some Egyptologists, specializing in philology for instance, pursue their scholarship exclusively in the library and at their desks. But for many others, their work brings them to Egypt and to Luxor, which has the largest concentration of pharaonic monuments from the New Kingdom of any place in Egypt. For most American scholars and many of other nationalities, this almost automatically means turning to Chicago House for advice, aid and often food and lodging as well. Heads of missions have almost routinely been able to count on Chicago House to act as a communications center, to receive mail, cables, telephone calls and to pass on messages. Practical support in the terms of repair or lending out of equipment and storage facilities has also been provided to numerous other expeditions, as have such administrative services as the safekeeping of funds. All of this has to be carried out in the...
course of our normal work day at Chicago House, and it is not unusual for the director to have to run out just at supper time to deliver a telephone message to a colleague.

You do not have to be a world renowned Egyptologist to be well received at Chicago House. Oriental Institute members who have written ahead are welcomed at tea, and any serious student of Egyptology working on a specific project in Egypt is able to make use of Chicago House's facilities. I remember my first visit to Chicago House. I was a second year graduate student at the University of Toronto and had come out to Luxor to work on an excavation at East Karnak. We worked at the dig from 5:30 AM until 12:30 PM and then had our dinner at 1 PM. Since it was during the school term (Nov.-Dec.), I had to keep up with my regular course work while I was away. I typically was able to get to Chicago House by 2 PM, and was able to work in the library on my translations, usually in the alcove that was Labib Habachi's favorite nook at Chicago House. Not only did I find a book particularly germane to my topic of study which was not available in Toronto at that time (and which speeded my work considerably), but Martha Bell was kind enough to find me a spot to store my papers in her office; and Bill Murnane stopped by my desk to recite Coptic verse to me. I was made welcome at tea at 5 PM, which provided a welcome respite from my labors and fortified me for the walk back through the Karnak temple in the dark, dodging the spotlights of the Sound & Light production, if I couldn't get a ride back to East Karnak.

Once when I wanted to make a special birthday celebration for two members of the excavation, I was not only able to get flowers from the Chicago House garden (there are no florists in Luxor); but Martha Bell arranged to fly a special birthday cake down from Cairo and Lanny donated some wine for the festive occasion. Another time there was an emergency at the site while our director was away attending the wake of a close relative of our cook. A staff member was stung by a scorpion. After much deliberation we had finally gotten her to the Luxor Hospital when one staff member thought to turn to Chicago House for aid. She ran down the street and found Lanny Bell, who immediately dropped what he was doing to accompany her back to the hospital with a pre-packaged syringe and measured dose of anti-scorpion vaccine. It turned out that the hospital was able to provide the proper medication, but that doesn't detract from the point that Chicago House was ready and able to respond in an emergency. This past season after a tragic accident on the corniche between a truck loaded with sand and a horse-drawn carriage, one Chicago House staff member was able to help get two injured French tourists to the Luxor Hospital, another Chicago House staff member was able to provide French/Arabic translation services, while yet a third Chicago House staffer organized a search for a visiting Canadian MD (a member of another archaeological mission who had stayed some days at Chicago House), who was able to consult with the doctors in treating and bandaging the injured parties.

Perhaps the most unusual request for aid Chicago House has ever dealt with came last Fall, when one night after supper, one of our first guests of the season was startled to find one of the 'sea shells' which she had just collected from the Red Sea coast had crawled out of her handbag and was scuttling along the floor. The good lady was quite alarmed at the "stowaway" and asked us if we would take care of the little hermit crab. The result was that for several weeks Chicago House had a pet hermit crab. We named it "Eric" and after it escaped from the bowl we had placed it in, we arranged a jaunt out to Quseir to repatriate the little crab to its native habitat.

Our first attempt to repatriate Eric did not get very far. One Sunday morning just about the entire staff was mobilized and, along with a picnic lunch, packed into the Land Rover. The conservators had made a little carrying case for Eric with sand in the bottom and a soft mesh screen over the top. As soon as he was put in, Eric attached himself to the
mesh and hanging upside down, began to meticulously pick away at the screening in the hope of digging himself out. We had gotten only to the road leading out of Luxor to the airport before the Land Rover's engine began to make such groans and hisses that we had to pull over and stick our collective noses under the hood. When it appeared that no simple adjustment was to be made, we gave up all thought of traversing hundreds of kilometers of rarely frequented desert roads and returned home.

The next week, with a completely overhauled Land Rover, we set out again; this time we successfully made it to the Red Sea and the site of Quseir, dug by the Oriental Institute from 1978-82. We piled out of the Land Rover for the ceremonial "releasing of the hermit crab" with cameras poised to record the historic event. Suddenly out from behind a sand dune a uniformed Egyptian officer appeared and told us "NO PHOTOS"! We reluctantly put our cameras away as a jeep drove up with more Egyptian soldiers. Formalities were necessary and ten sets of passports and antiquities passes had to be produced. These were whisked off to a little guardpost set on a headland about a mile away. We were free to release our hermit crab, enjoy our picnic lunch, bathe and poke around in the ruins. An hour or two later we were ready to leave and went off to the guardpost to retrieve our passports. While engaged in this delicate transaction, field director Lanny Bell was asked if he were a "doctor". Wondering if everything was in order with his passport and antiquities pass, Lanny shyly replied "yes", only to be surprised with a request for aspirin! We were able to round up some aspirin in the Land Rover and passports in hand waved goodbye to the ancient monuments of Thebes. As we enter our seventh year, we face new challenges. As we enter our seventh decade at Chicago House, we plan to continue our work apace on the inscriptions and reliefs, yet still expect to be able to find time to offer freely our facilities and assistance to visitors and other scholars with humor, good will and enthusiasm.

Steven Blake Shubert

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**FALL MEMBERS’ COURSES**

**The Arts Of Ancient Mesopotamia**

This eight week course unfolds the rich heritage of Mesopotamian art—art which still leaves its mark on today’s world. The people of ancient Iraq and Iran created powerful sculptures, bronzes and reliefs, but were also skilled in the fine arts: seals, jewelry, furniture, embroidery. The course provides the cultural-historical background of selected objects, the materials of which they are made, and explanations of production techniques. Ancient texts in which the Mesopotamians themselves describe their art works, the procurement of materials, production techniques, and appearance of the finished item will be used to enable us to see these works through the eyes of their contemporaries.


**INSTRUCTOR: JOYCE BARTELS**

**Biblical Backgrounds: the Bible In Its Historical Setting From Abraham To Jesus**

In a series of eight illustrated lectures, this class will explore the world of the Bible. Using the Biblical narrative as a framework, we shall draw on the disciplines of history, archaeology, art history and literature, in order to understand better the larger world in which the peoples of ancient Palestine lived, and the political, geographical and cultural forces which helped to shape their destinies.

**INSTRUCTOR: JAMES A. ARMSTRONG**

Classes will meet every Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to noon, October 13 through December 1 at the Oriental Institute. Tuition is $50 for members. For more information call the Education Office, 962-9507

**Please register me for the course**

☐ The Arts of Ancient Mesopotamia  
☐ Biblical Backgrounds  
☐ I am a member and enclose a check for $50.  
☐ I am not a member but enclose a SEPARATE check for $25 to cover a one year Oriental Institute membership.

Name ___________________________

Address __________________________

City ___________________________ State _______ Zip _______

Daytime telephone ___________________________

Please make all checks payable to THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE. Please register by Wednesday, October 10. Mail to: EDUCATION OFFICE, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637.
INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES FIVE YEAR FUND-RAISING PLAN FOR CHICAGO HOUSE

In this 60th anniversary year of the founding of the Epigraphic Survey in Egypt, the Oriental Institute is announcing a 5 year effort to raise money for the support of the Survey at Chicago House. While all other Oriental Institute projects still need the support they have been getting from friends and members, a change in the money available in Egypt to the Epigraphic Survey (see article below), leaves Chicago House with an urgent need for money and pledges in order to continue its work on the monuments at Luxor.

WHAT IS CHICAGO HOUSE, AND WHY IS IT APPEALING FOR SUPPORT?

Since 1924, the Epigraphic Survey, based at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt, has been one of the major long-term research commitments of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. It was founded by James Henry Breasted to publish facsimiles of the scenes and inscriptions on the walls of Pharaonic monuments in and around Luxor. They had suffered “a distressing amount of damage” since the first records were made by the Napoleonic expedition in 1798–1801 and Breasted felt it was a “supreme obligation—of orientalists to make a comprehensive effort to save for posterity the enormous body of ancient records still surviving in Egypt.”

The standard aimed at is very high. The copies are to be in every respect a substitute for the originals, incorporating what careful study can make out of the originals, what earlier generations were still able to see, whatever displaced fragments can still be located scattered around Luxor or elsewhere. The precision should be adequate not only for today’s research but also for the problems and methods of the future— when the original might not longer exist. The method that the Epigraphic Survey developed combines the skills of photographer, artist, and Egyptologist; the finished drawings record many significant details not visible in a photograph, especially in areas of damage or recutting. Not even the best photograph can record the minute difference in texture between the remains of a damaged line and an accidental scratch or document a feature lost in shadow or light—and it may create illusory detail. When the original carving is at the limit of intelligibility, photography alone may be worse than useless. A reliable record can be made only by those who understand what they see; therefore, Chicago House, a complete Egyptological research institute with a full library, is an essential tool of the Epigraphic Survey.

The published work of the Epigraphic Survey stands as the monument to Breasted’s foresight. Fifteen folio volumes of plates have appeared so far and three more are in preparation; they are universally recognized as the standard of precision and accuracy. In addition, members of the Epigraphic Survey have published more than fifteen volumes of studies based on or related to these records. In Egypt and internationally, a good deal of the reputation of the University of Chicago, and especially the Oriental Institute, rests on Chicago House. But Chicago House also functions as a major international resource—it is the only permanent archaeological institute south of Cairo and its research facilities are used intensively by Egyptian and foreign scholars (just as Americans use Egyptian, French, German, and Swiss libraries in Cairo).

Currently, the monuments are even more threatened than they were in Breasted’s day. In addition to damage caused by natural forces such as wind and sun and by vandals, thieves, and the hordes of enthusiastic tourists, the grave threat comes from the salts within the stone itself. They migrate to the surface, obscure the reliefs, and finally cause the carving to blister and flake off. This process has been accelerated since the completion of the new Aswan Dam by year-round irrigation and the increased use of chemical fertilizers, which have raised the water table and the level of salinity in the soil.

But even as the salvage work of the Epigraphic Survey becomes more important, one of the major sources of funding for it has disappeared. For almost twenty years its in-Egypt operating budget (up to almost $100,000 per year out of a total of $240,000) has come through the Smithsonian Institution Foreign Currency Program, authorized under Public Law 480. This program has come to an end and the last funds appropriated under it will be spent in 1984/85. No more “excess” Egyptian pounds owed the United States will be made available for scholarly purposes.

It is for this reason that we are now involved in our current fund-raising program for Chicago House. We believe that the work of the Epigraphic Survey is important and that it is important to the University of Chicago. A number of our faculty have pledged significant amounts to help assure its long-term future, but the faculty can do only so much. We hope that you will join us in supporting this project.

Janet H. Johnson

I hereby pledge to The Oriental Institute for the support of Chicago House

before December 31, 1984

before December 31, 1985

before December 31, 1986

before December 31, 1987

before December 31, 1988

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE

Mail to: Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, (312) 962-9513. We will send you a reminder at the appropriate time. Please make checks payable to THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE, with a notation on the memo portion that they are for Chicago House.
MEMBERSHIP LECTURE SERIES 1984-1985

MUSEO-ARCHAEOLOGY

There is a new field of Near Eastern archaeology in which the Oriental Institute is beginning to play a major role—museo-archaeology, by which is meant the re-excaovation, analysis, interpretation, and publication of materials originally excavated often decades ago but which have lain unpublished in a museum basement ever since. Since it has become almost prohibitively expensive even to consider the full scale excavation of major sites, such efforts having become a thing of the past, it is in the records and artifacts of these old excavations that the current generation will be able to test, against the extensive material often necessary to confirm or contradict an hypothesis, the ideas they have derived from smaller scale excavations, from “salvage excavations,” or from survey. The excavations involved in museo-archaeology take place right in our own “backyard.” This is not one of the traditional natural environments with which Near Eastern archaeologists have been concerned, but it is the product of the efforts of previous generations who formed the Oriental Institute into the archaeological resource that it now is.

It is often the brightest of today's young scholars who are exploiting this resource, asking modern questions of doubly ancient material. The first task of a scholar studying someone else's excavation records involves understanding the historical development of his own discipline—what were the original excavator's assumptions about archaeology, about this particular site; what was he looking for (and what had he never heard of and therefore was not looking for and might easily have missed); what did he expect to find? Only after understanding the theoretical approach of the original excavator, and the original excavator's practical experience and limitations, can the modern archaeologist reliably interpret what was recorded and saved and use the results as a testing ground for his own historical reconstructions. Thus, the study of this material actually involves a dual perspective—through the eyes and ideas of the original excavators and through the application of new ideas to this old material.

This year's Members' Lecture series will highlight the excitement of this two-fold excavation process by concentrating on a series of old Oriental Institute excavations which are now being prepared for publication by current Institute Research Associates. Bruce Williams' work on the materials from Egyptian Nubia excavated by the Oriental Institute during the Nubian salvage campaign has propelled him into the forefront of Nubian studies and his reconstruction of late prehistoric Nubia, and its implications for the development of Pharaonic Egypt, is a major point of discussion among Egyptologists today. Dick Zettler has been a member of the Institute's excavations at the Iraqi site of Nippur under the direction of McGuire Gibson. Thus, he has a headstart on understanding the earlier excavations of the Temple of Inanna at that site. His reconstruction of the economic and social function of that temple has important implications for the much discussed topic of temple economy in ancient Mesopotamia. Administration will also be the focus of Bob Whiting's discussion of the extensive collection of cuneiform tablets which resulted from the Oriental Institute's excavations at Tell Asmar, in the Diyala (Iraq). Doug Esse's knowledge of Syro-Palestinian archaeology, including early Institute excavations in the Amuq, has allowed him to make major contributions to our knowledge of early Palestine through the analysis of the materials from Khirbet Kerak. Don Whitcomb has become an expert in reviving old excavations. He has published the Metropolitan Museum of Art's excavations at Qasr el Abu Nasr (old Shiraz) in Iran and the post classical materials from the Smithsonian Institution's survey of Yemen and the Hadhramaut. His focus for this lecture series will be on the Oriental Institute's excavations at the Sasanian and early Islamic city of Istakhri, so near the Achaemenid capital of Persepolis that blocks from Persepolis were carried to Istakhri for reuse. We hope that this series will give members of the Institute a glimpse into some of the old, and soon to be new, glories of the Oriental Institute while at the same time introducing them to the new, and important, field of museo-archaeology.

Janet H. Johnson

THE SUQ

Just arrived: Wee William, a reproduction done by the British Museum of a Middle Kingdom hippopotamus from the Department of Egyptian Antiquities. Made of blue glazed earthenware and decorated with marsh flowers she is only 1½ inches tall and 2¼ inches long.

Price: $15.00
Postage and handling: $2.00


Price: $14.95
Postage and handling: $2.00

Two new postcards! One of the Egyptian Burial and one of the Achaemenid Roundel.

Price $ .20 each

Members receive a 10% discount on the PRICE of the above items. Illinois residents please add 8% sales tax.
LECTURE SCHEDULE

All lectures (except January 20th) are at 8 PM in Breasted Hall at the Oriental Institute. Reminders of the upcoming lectures will be printed in each issue of the News & Notes. Institute members may make dinner reservations at the Quadrangle Club, 1155 East 57th Street, 753-3696 before membership lectures. They will bill the Oriental Institute and we, in turn, will bill you. Please print your name and address at the bottom of your dinner check, as well as signing it, so that we know where to send your bill.

October 3, 1984  OPENING LECTURE
Margaret Root, Kelsey Museum, The University of Michigan, "Persepolis 1984: New Perspectives on the Art of the Persian Empire."


November 7, 1984  Kenneth A. Kitchen, University of Liverpool, High and Low Life in Ramesside Egypt.


January 20, 1985  Robert Bianchi, Brooklyn Museum, Egyptian Clothing in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt. A joint lecture with the Chicago Chapter of the A.I.A., 4 PM, Breasted Hall (Please note that this is a Sunday afternoon lecture.)

February 20, 1985  Douglas L. Esse, The Oriental Institute, Just Off the Farm: City Life at Khirbet Kerak in the Third Millennium B.C.


April 17, 1985  Bruce B. Williams, The Oriental Institute, A New View of Pharaonic Culture in Nubia: The Beginning, the End and the Crossroads.

May 13, 1985  Annual Oriental Institute Dinner in the Museum


THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
Cordially Invites You to the Opening Lecture
Persepolis 1984: New Perspectives on the Art of the Persian Empire
by
Margaret Root
Kelsey Museum, University of Michigan

Wednesday, October 3, 1984 at 8:00 PM
Breasted Hall, The Oriental Institute
and a Reception Following in the Museum

Admission is free.
but seating is limited.
Please write or telephone to make a reservation by Wednesday, September 26.

JUST PUBLISHED

OINE V: ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION (Vol. V of series, EXCAVATIONS BETWEEN ABU SIMBEL AND THE SUDAN FRONTIER, Keith C. Seele, Director); C-Group, Pan Grave, and Kerma Remains At Adindan Cemeteries T, K, U, and J by Bruce Williams. This volume is the final publication of materials from the three major cultures of Nubia contemporary with the Middle Kingdom through early New Kingdom periods of Egypt. The book is lavishly illustrated with drawings and photographs. The price is $50.00.

SAOC 36 (STUDIES IN ANCIENT ORIENTAL CIVILIZATION, R.J. BRAIDWOOD Festschrift), The Hilly Flanks and Beyond, Essays on the Prehistory of Southwestern Asia edited by T. Cuyler Young, Jr., Philip E. L. Smith, and Peder Mortensen. This volume contains a variety of essays by twenty-two contributors on subjects associated with the appearance of a food-producing village-farming community way of life in southwestern Asia some 10,000 years ago. Paperbound. The price is $40.00.

Members of the Oriental Institute receive a 20% discount on Oriental Institute publications. Members, faculty, staff, and students however may order one copy of either or both of the above books at a discount of 50% on the prices listed above if the books are purchased by December 31, 1984. Please send your request to the Publications Sales Office at the Oriental Institute and an invoice detailing the price, discount, and postage and handling fees will be sent to you. Book lists of the current publications are also available from the Publications Sales Office upon request.
FREE SUNDAY FILMS
SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1984

All films are shown at 2 PM in Breasted Hall, The Oriental Institute
September  9 Myth of the Pharaohs/Ancient Mesopotamia
September 16 Megiddo: City of Destruction
September 23 Preserving Egypt's Past
September 30 The Big Dig
October  7 Rivers of Time
October 14 The Egyptologists
October 21 Iran: Landmarks in the Desert
October 28 Turkey: Crossroads of the Ancient World
November 4 Of Time, Tombs and Treasure
November 11 Iraq: Stairway to the Gods
November 18 Egypt: Gift of the Nile
November 25 Myth of the Pharaohs/Ancient Mesopotamia

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE 1985
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR

EGYPT February 19 - March 8, 1985

Our tour will provide a fascinating look at the art, history and culture which originated in the Nile Valley over 5,000 years ago. The trip will feature a five-day Nile cruise on a Sheraton ship. A complete itinerary and prices will be available from the Membership Office on October 1, 1984.


The Oriental Institute
The University of Chicago
1155 East 58th Street . Chicago, Illinois . 60637

Dated Material