

Clemens D. Reichel

During 2003/2004, **Clemens D. Reichel** did his best to juggle numerous projects. Much of this time was still devoted to the aftermath of the Iraq War and the museum looting, not only with his work on the Iraq Museum Database (see separate report), but also with lectures on topics concerning Iraq. Last August he faced a packed audience at the Smithsonian Institution's Dillon Ripley Center for a lecture on the looting of the Iraq Museum and the destruction of archaeological sites in Iraq. He revisited this topic during lectures before the Chicago Archaeological Society (February 2004), the American Institute of Archaeology Chapter in Rockford, Illinois (March 2004), at the annual meeting of the Illinois Chapter of the Arab American Medical Association in Oak Brook (April 2004), and at Sigma XI at the University of Chicago (May 2004). Lectures addressing the potentials and challenges for online databases were given at two scholarly venues: "Digitizing the Losses: The Oriental Institute Iraq Museum Database Project" at the Annual Symposium of the Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies (a meeting dedicated to the Iraq Museum) in September 2003. A revised and expanded version of this paper was read at the Annual Meeting of the College Art Association in Seattle in February 2004. An article called "Beyond Cataloguing Losses: The Iraq Museum Database Project at the Oriental Institute (University of Chicago)" has just been submitted to *Visual Resources*, a journal specializing in the use of digital technology in the publication of artwork, for a special issue on the damage to cultural heritage by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In early 2004 McGuire Gibson turned over the directorship over the Hamoukar Project (see separate report) to Reichel; in May–June 2004 Reichel undertook a trip to Syria to investigate the situation at Hamoukar, continue the documentation and analysis of objects found in the first three seasons (with an emphasis on seals and sealings), and to negotiate the resumption of excavations with the Syrian Department of Antiquities in Damascus.

Work on the Diyala Project continued quietly and smoothly; as this report is going to press Reichel has learned that he received a grant of \$100,000 from the National Endowment of Humanity's Iraq Cultural Heritage Initiative for 2004–2006, to complete the online publication of the Diyala material.

Reichel is very grateful and somewhat embarrassed to have been nominated one of seven "Chicagoans of the Year 2003" by *Chicago Magazine* for his work on the Iraq Museum Database; he would like to thank his colleagues and volunteers in the background for doing the really hard work on this project.
