

Clemens Reichel

The year 2004/2005 once more turned out to be a very busy one for **Clemens Reichel**. He undertook no less than three separate and lengthy trips to Syria (September–October, November, April–May) to negotiate the re-issue of the excavation permit for Hamoukar and to organize the restoration of the Hamoukar dig house. (He also learned to appreciate fully the change of seasons in the Middle East.) Reichel is pleased to announce that the repair of the house is nearing completion. More excitingly, a new excavation permit for Hamoukar was issued in June by the Department of Antiquities. A fall season at Hamoukar is in its final preparation as this report is going to press (see separate report).

On the home front Reichel is pleased to see the Diyala Project, now with four volunteers and recently hired student assistant Alexandra Witsell, moving forward and expanding thanks to a \$100,000 grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities given in its “Recovering Iraq’s Past” Initiative (see separate report). In November 2004 he and George Sundell, the project’s database designer, attended the workshop Archaeology and Computers in Vienna, at which they both presented reports on their work on the Diyala material.

During the year Reichel continued his work on Lost Treasures from Iraq, the Oriental Institute’s Iraq Museum Database, which has been growing steadily and will continue to be maintained and updated in light of thousands of objects that are still missing from the Iraq Museum (see separate report). In November 2004 he presented an overview of this work, titled “Beyond Cataloguing Losses: The Oriental Institute’s Iraq Museum Database Project” at the Annual Meeting of the American School of Oriental Studies in San Antonio, Texas. An article with the same title, submitted in 2004, has appeared in the spring issue of the journal *Visual Resources*.

As with every year, Reichel would like to thank his volunteers for doing the really hard work. They may rest assured that no day goes by without him realizing that without their enthusiastic help and support, it would be impossible for him to maintain any semblance of order or report any progress in his three projects.
