

Gil J. Stein

In 2006/2007 **Gil J. Stein** presented three papers. He was invited to present the paper “Political Economy and Social Change in Models of Ancient Culture Contact” as the keynote address at the conference “Interaction and Transformations: Studying Long Distance Exchange and Interaction During the Bronze Age,” held on December 2, 2006, at the Carsten Niebuhr Institute of the University of Copenhagen. This conference, organized by Mogens Larsen, focused on the Old Assyrian colony period in Anatolia during the early second millennium B.C. (the Middle Bronze Age), and aimed at integrating archaeological and textual data to develop a more holistic understanding of this important period. In February 2007, he presented a paper titled “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner? Social Identity, Mixed Marriages, and Foodways in an Ancient Mesopotamian Colony”

at the Joukowsky Institute of Archaeology, Brown University. In May 2007, he presented the paper “The Global and the Local: Comparing the Dynamics of Interaction in Ubaid and Uruk Mesopotamia” to the Interdisciplinary Borderlands Study Group at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

He submitted two papers for publication as well: “A Theoretical Model for Political Economy and Social Identity in the Old Assyrian Trading Colonies of Anatolia” to the Turkish Academy of Sciences Journal of Archaeology *TÜBA-AR*; and “Local Identities and Interaction Spheres: Modeling Regional Variation in the ‘Ubaid Horizon,’” to be published in *The Ubaid and Beyond: Exploring the Transmission of Culture in the Developed Prehistoric Societies of the Middle East*, edited by R. A. Carter and G. Philip, Proceedings of the International Conference on the Ubaid, Durham, 20–22 April 2006 (Leiden: E. J. Brill).

Finally, Stein has been continuing with the ongoing analysis of the stratigraphy and artifacts from his 1992–1997 excavations at the fourth-millennium B.C. town of Hacinebi in the Euphrates valley of southeast Turkey. Hacinebi was a local Anatolian town where merchants from the Uruk culture of southern Mesopotamia established a trading colony in about 3700 B.C.. This commercial expansion of Uruk Mesopotamia at Hacinebi and other sites in Turkey, Syria, and Iran formed the world’s earliest known colonial network. His excavations at Hacinebi revealed the remains of both the trading colony and its Anatolian host community, thereby allowing one to investigate relations between the two groups, and the actual workings of this colonial system.

Oriental Institute Volunteer Irene Glasner made major progress by scanning the inked drawings of the Late Chalcolithic small finds from Hacinebi. Thanks in a large part to Irene, about 700 drawings have been scanned and are very close to completion. Working with research assistant Dr. Belinda Monahan, Stein has been refining the ceramic typology from Hacinebi so that the ceramic data can be integrated with the analysis of site stratigraphy. Belinda has been tracking down published comparanda of the main Uruk Mesopotamian and Local Anatolian ceramic forms. With roughly 500 different recorded forms of rims, handles, bases of jars and bowls, and assorted miscellaneous ceramic objects, this has been a large-scale and complex task. Roughly 250,000 Late Chalcolithic sherds have been recorded from the site. Stein expects to complete the ceramic typology and conduct a full diachronic analysis of this material over the course of the coming year. He plans to start writing the ceramic analysis and stratigraphy volumes of the Hacinebi final report in 2007/2008.
