

Karen L. Wilson

During the past year, **Karen L. Wilson** continued to work on the final publication of the Oriental Institute excavations at the sites of Nippur and Abu Salabikh in Iraq during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The Nippur Publication Project is sponsored by a grant awarded to McGuire Gibson by the National Endowment for the Humanities and is a joint endeavor undertaken with Robert Biggs, Jean Evans, McGuire Gibson (all University of Chicago), and Richard Zettler (University of Pennsylvania). The project has included the preparation of a digital catalog of finds linked with images of the objects plus the scanning of all negatives and drawings as well as the field records generated by work on the two sites. Karen recently completed preparation of the plates illustrating the pottery for the final publication and has been working with architect Michael K. Hannan of Hannan Architecture and Planning, Ltd., to complete digital plans and elevations for levels 1–21 of the Inanna Temple Sounding. A draft of a final publication covering the results of the excavation of the Inanna Temple at Nippur is planned to be completed by the end of 2012.

In January, Karen gave a presentation on the Inanna Temple pottery sequence in Philadelphia to a graduate seminar on the Early Dynastic period jointly offered by the University of Pennsylvania and Bryn Mawr College.

Karen also continued to serve as research associate and Kish Project coordinator at the Field Museum of Natural History, preparing the final publication of the results of the Joint Field Museum and Oxford University Expedition to Kish in 1923–1933. That publication will include papers presented at a symposium in November 2008 focusing on current research and excavations at the site. Contributions will include studies of the human remains, textual evidence, lithics, animal figurines, and stucco as well as a catalog of the Field Museum holdings from the site.

Karen's book, *Bismaya: Recovering the Lost City of Adab*, which chronicles and presents the results of the University of Chicago's first expedition to Iraq in 1903–1905, is currently in press at the Oriental Institute Publications Office. Her manuscript, *Ancient Mesopotamia, Illustrated with Objects from the Oriental Institute Museum Collections* is also in press and, when published, will serve as the gallery guide to the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.
