

## Gil J. Stein

Due to the unsettled political situation in Syria, **Gil J. Stein** suspended fieldwork at Tell Zeidan in summer 2011. We hope to resume our research at this site when conditions permit us to return.

Gil continued with the work toward publication of his 1992–1997 excavations at Hacinebi, a fourth-millennium BC Uruk Mesopotamian colony in the Euphrates valley of southeast Turkey. Working with Dr. Belinda Monahan, Gil has been preparing the publication of the Hacinebi ceramics. Hacinebi has one of the largest stratigraphically excavated ceramic data sets currently available for this time period in the Near East and can make a significant contribution to our understanding of Uruk Mesopotamia and the world's earliest known colonial network.

In November 2011, Gil, Abbas Alizadeh, and Yorke Rowan co-organized a Wenner-Gren-funded conference at the Oriental Institute on the subject *Pathways to Power: Comparative Perspectives on the Emergence of Political Authority and Hierarchy in the Ancient Near East*. Gil presented two papers at the conference: the conference introduction, “Comparison and Contingency in the Developmental Trajectories to Complexity Across the Sixth–Fifth Millennia BC Near East” and “Slippery Characters: Looking for Leaders in Ubaid Greater Mesopotamia.” The papers from this conference are being revised for publication as an edited volume in the Oriental Institute series *Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization* (SAOC).

Gil is the principal investigator on a project of cultural heritage preservation funded by the U.S. Department of State for a U.S.-National Museum of Afghanistan partnership. This three-year grant of 2.8 million dollars is the largest single grant awarded to the Oriental Institute. Our goal is to work with the National Museum of Afghanistan (NMA) in Kabul to develop a database for the museum, conduct a complete inventory of the museum's collections, carry out an initial assessment of the conservation status of the museum's collections, rehouse the objects as needed in chemically stable environments, and train the staff of the

NMA in database management practices. In late May and early June, Gil traveled to Kabul to inaugurate the project along with Oriental Institute Executive Director Steve Camp, Chief Curator Jack Green, Head of Conservation Laura D'Alessandro, Preparator Erik Lindahl, and the project's Information Technology Specialist Michael Fisher.

Gil has given a series of lectures and presentations over the past year. In December 2011, he presented the invited paper "Late Chalcolithic Societies in Upper Mesopotamia and the Development of Indigenous Complexity: Horizon Styles and Local Polities in the Fifth–Fourth Millennia BC" at the University of Rome-La Sapienza's conference Fifty Years of Excavations and Researches at Arslantepe-Malatya (Turkey). This paper is being revised for publication in the Italian archaeological journal *Origini*. In July 2012, he gave a Brown Bag presentation at the Oriental Institute entitled "Kabul Stones: Update on the Oriental Institute Partnership with the National Museum of Afghanistan."

In 2011, Gil published a report on the 2010 field season at Tell Zeidan: "Tell Zeidan (2010)," in *Oriental Institute Annual Report 2010–2011*, pp. 121–38 (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2011). He also published one book chapter, titled "Food Preparation, Social Context, and Ethnicity in a Prehistoric Mesopotamian Colony," in *The Menial Art of Cooking: Archaeological Studies of Cooking and Food Preparation*, edited by Sarah R. Graff and Enrique Rodriguez-Alegria, pp. 47–63 (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2012).

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