

Gil J. Stein

In the summer of 2013, Gil started a new field project, co-directed with Oriental Institute Research Associate Abbas Alizadeh, aimed at exploring the origins of towns and social complexity in northeast Mesopotamia during the Chalcolithic period (fifth–fourth millennia BC). We are excavating at the site of Surezha on the Plain of Erbil (the ancient Assyrian city of Arbela) in the Kurdistan region of northeastern Iraq. This projected five-year project marks the first Oriental Institute archaeological excavation in Iraq since the Gulf War of 1991 (see the report on the Surezha excavations in this volume).

As Principal Investigator of the Oriental Institute’s Partnership with the National Museum of Afghanistan (see report in this volume) Gil and Oriental Institute Executive Director Steve Camp made three trips to Afghanistan in 2013–14 to assess project progress, coordinate with the National Museum Director Dr. Omara Khan Masoudi, and to deliver supplies to Field Director Mike Fisher and the Kabul team of registrars, conservators, and consultants. Mike and his team have been making tremendous progress on the inventory as we reached the half-way point in the three year grant from the US Embassy. We also worked on the planning of an international conference on preserving the cultural heritage of Afghanistan. The conference will be held in mid-November 2014 at the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University (ACKU).

Gil continued with the work toward publication of his 1992–97 excavations at the fourth millennium BC Uruk Mesopotamian colony site of Hacinebi. Working with Dr. Belinda Monahan, the work on the publication of the Late Chalcolithic ceramics from the site has progressed greatly. We are revising drafts of six chapters and have two more chapters left to write. We hope that the manuscript is ready to be submitted for review by the Oriental Institute Publications Department by the end of December 2014.

Gil has given a number of lectures and presentations during the 2013–14 academic year. In October 2013, Gil was invited to speak at the Chicago Humanities Festival on the topic “Different Foods = Different Dudes: A Primer in Zooarchaeology.” Also in October 2013, he was invited to Iran to present the keynote lecture “Economic Dominance, Conquest, or Interaction among Equals? Theoretical Models for Understanding Culture Contact in Early Near Eastern Complex Societies” at the University of Tehran’s Fourth International Conference of Young Archaeologists. In January 2014, Gil presented an invited paper on “Food, Cooking, and Social Identity: Inter-cultural Households in the Colonial Network of Uruk Mesopotamia, ca. 3700 BC” in the Presidential Panel “Food and Drink” at the Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting (Chicago, January 4, 2014). In March 2014, Gil was invited to give a lecture at Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies on the University of Toronto campus on “Persians on the Euphrates? Material Culture and Elite Identity in the Achaemenid Tombs from Hacinebi, Turkey.” In May 2014, Gil presented a workshop at the University of Sydney

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Archaeology Seminar (New South Wales, Australia) titled “Who You Callin’ Peripheral?: The Development of Indigenous Social Complexity in Late Chalcolithic Upper Mesopotamia 5300–3300 BC.” In June 2014, Gil was invited to present a paper in Berlin on “Producing Income and Re-Producing Identity: The Long-Term Trajectory of a Mesopotamian Trade Diaspora in the Fourth Millennium BC,” at the TOPOI Workshop “Economic and Political Interaction at the Edges of Ancient Empires,” held at Alexander Humboldt University.

Gil had three publications in the past academic year: (Gil J. Stein) “Persians on the Euphrates?: Two Achaemenid Burials from Hacinebi, Southeast Turkey,” in *Extraction and Control: Studies in Honor of Matthew W. Stolper*, edited by Michael Kozuh, Wouter Henkelman, Charles Jones, and Christopher Woods, pp. 265–86, *Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization* 68 (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2014); (Gil J. Stein) “Economic Dominance, Conquest, or Interaction among Equals? Theoretical Models for Understanding Culture Contact in Early Near Eastern Complex Societies,” in *Proceedings of the 4th Iranian Archaeologists Conference*, edited by Hossein Azizi, Morteza Khanipour, and Reza Naseri, pp. 55–67 (Tehran: Tehran University, 2014); and (E. Anastasiou, K. O. Lorentz, G. J. Stein, and P. D. Mitchell) “Prehistoric Schistosomiasis Parasite Found in the Middle East,” *Lancet Infectious Diseases* 14 (2014): 553–54.
