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UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

# News & Notes

Issued confidentially to members and friends

No. 124 May- June, 1990

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## LETTER FROM CHINA

March 15, 1990

Dear Friends:

In 1986, with Oriental Institute Ph.D. in hand, I returned with my husband to an exciting enterprise in China: the building up at IHAC (the Institute for the History of Ancient Civilizations) of new fields in ancient history in my own ancient homeland. We were optimistic and thrilled with the idea. Four years later we still carry this enthusiasm.

In past newsletters I have written in glowing terms of our progress at IHAC. Since 1984, with humble beginnings in a bitterly cold, one-room office/library/classroom in the Math building, to our current facilities of five rooms in the new Foreign Languages building, we have made genuine progress. Originally tied to the History department, we attained our current status as an independent research center in 1987. That move put us squarely on our own. Friends have seen to our welfare as we have begun to mature: private donations through the Oriental Institute China Fund have made possible additions not only to our library, but also to assist us in mundane items such as postage. Duplicate copies of books and offprints continue to come in daily, priceless items in a country bereft of hard foreign currency or foreign books. And even in the field of museology, we have received a small donation of study artifacts on the ancient Near East.

In these few years we have graduated students of a kind unique in China. They have become our apostles, spreading word in China of nearly unheard of disciplines—those that are the backbone of Western civilization. Some have gone abroad for study, “gone West” as they say here: to UCLA, Yale, the University of Tulsa, the University of Toronto, King’s College (London), the Sorbonne, the University of Amsterdam, the University of Munich, and the University of Mainz. These students, like in the old West in the U.S., are pioneers, carving out specialties which one day will develop into China’s own monuments to progress.

The glow of my past reports must dim somewhat in light of recent events in China. However, I still continue to talk in glowing terms about our work. For we are still thriving, we still hold our high standards, and we aspire to what we aspired to in the past: eventual parity with our colleagues in the rest of the world. It is as daunting a task as before. Last summer we graduated another set of B.A. students. As with students everywhere, some are now teaching in their field while others are not. Some are teaching English, and others are selling shoes or

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## MUSEUM VIEWS



*James Henry Breasted examining the inscriptions on the Sheshonk I (Shishak) stela fragment while Megiddo expedition member Edward L. DeLoach observes. DeLoach is accompanied by the expedition's pet turkey, "Shishak."*

In the previous issue of *News & Notes*, the Institute's Director, William M. Sumner, wrote to you about our plans for the celebration of the University of Chicago's Centennial. He touched on the role of the Oriental Institute Archives in providing source material for an exhibit on the history of the Institute. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about the Archives.

The Oriental Institute Archives preserves the inactive records of the Oriental Institute's field expeditions, projects, offices, and personnel. To paraphrase a statement by Robert H. Dyson, Jr., Director of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, one might say that the Archives serves as our

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"memory." It is an indispensable source of factual information, which provides us with opportunities for insights into the history and continuity of this unique endeavor which is the Oriental Institute.

The Oriental Institute Archives has two subdivisions, based on medium. The Photographic Archives consists of our visual-image records. Since the early years of the Haskell Oriental Museum in the 1890s, photographers have been recording the objects in our collections for publication and for study purposes. Photography has also been one of the primary recording methods employed by University of Chicago field expeditions since the first decade of this century. From 1903 to 1905, the Oriental Exploration Fund of the University of Chicago sponsored excavations at the site of Bismaya (ancient Adab) in what is now Iraq and, from 1905 to 1907, the Breasted expedition to Egypt and the Sudan. There are now approximately 100,000 photographic images in our collections, representing almost every photographic medium that has been in use during the past century. In terms of use, the Photographic Archives has always been the most active part of the Archives.

The paper records in the Oriental Institute Archives are less well-known to the general public. Primarily, these records serve the research needs of scholars who work in areas that are somehow related to the activities of the Oriental Institute. This part of the Archives includes the archaeological field records from our past expeditions, the inactive Director's Office correspondence files, the Museum Archives, and the collected papers of Oriental Institute faculty and staff. As part of our overall climate-control plan for the collections, we are addressing the long-term storage needs for both the photographic and paper materials in the Archives.



*Photograph and detailed drawing of the "Shishak Stela Fragment."*

We are twice-blessed to have in our Archives the office records of James Henry Breasted, our founding Director, as well as his personal papers and those of his immediate family. These two "archival record groups" — so-called by archivists — complement each other beautifully. The following brief note is offered as just one illustration of how the Archives can be utilized as source material for research.

### ***Egypt in Israel: The Discovery of the "Shishak Stela Fragment" at Megiddo***

No "field diaries" or "daybooks" are preserved for the early years of the Oriental Institute's Megiddo Expedition, under the direction of Clarence S. Fisher. According to the Megiddo field register of objects, the first day of operation for the Megiddo Expedition was October 8, 1925, when Megiddo object No. 1 was recorded. On October 31, the field registrar assigned No. 185 to a large fragment of a limestone stela bearing a few Egyptian hieroglyphs, including the cartouches of the Pharaoh Sheshonk I (Shishak of *The Bible*). The piece had been brought down from the summit of the mound for use as a building block during the construction of the expedition house. It had come from a pile of stones that had been dumped by the excavators of Megiddo during the 1903-1905 German expedition under the direction of Gottlieb Schumacher. The following excerpts from sources now in the Oriental Institute Archives tell the "inside story" of the discovery and its significance.

On Tuesday, March 23, 1926, James Henry Breasted wrote to his wife Frances:

"Well, here we are in our new house on the mound of Armageddon! We came over the Nazareth road which you will remember; then dropped down to the plain at Afûleh, where four of our natives met us, with Higgins, and pulled us through the "Brook Kishon." At 2:30 P.M. we sat down to lunch in the new house. It has been so thick with mist ever since our arrival that we could see nothing; but this afternoon the Galilean hills about Nazareth have all come out of the mist; and with them Mt. Tabor, Gilboa, and Little Hermon.

"It has been a great relief to find the men, all four, quite recovered from malaria. An interesting discovery has already been made. During the building of the house, the villagers brought down some ancient blocks from Schumacher's dump. Schumacher made a small beginning on this mound over 20 years ago. One of our Egyptian boys noticed that one of these blocks was inscribed. I went out to see it this morning, and although it is excessively weathered, I could make out, after some trouble, that it is the name of Sheshonk, mentioned in the Old Testament as "Shishak" (see I Kings 14, 25-26). This is the first time a monument of his has been found in Asia, and its occurrence here is an interesting confirmation of the Old Testament story.

"I am trying to write the foreword of *The Conquest of Civilization*, while I am here. It is a very appropriate place."



That same evening, he recorded in his personal diary:

"Slept my first night in our new expedition house built on N. slope of great mound. This morning Fisher showed me block of limestone with Egyptian royal name. Among other ancient stones, it had been brought down from the German dump as building material for the house. One of F.'s Egyptian workmen noticed hieroglyphs on one side and told Fisher; otherwise it would have been built into the masonry of the house. The cartouches had not yet been read, for they were fragmentary, very much weathered, and difficult to decipher. A 1/4 hour brought out the name of Sheshonk, the Shishak of I Kings 14, 25-26. The block is part of a great stela about 150 cm. wide, possibly 250 cm. high, and 50 cm. thick; it was about 70 cm. from the base of the cartouches to the top of the curved summit. There was doubtless a relief scene at the top, and below a record of S.'s campaign in horizontal lines. The remainder of the stela may be found in future digging."

Back in Cairo on March 29, Breasted wrote to his mentor in Egyptology, Professor Adolf Erman of Berlin:

"You would be interested to see our work at Megiddo where we have built an extensive house, and the excavation is just about to begin. In Schumacher's old dump we found the upper corner of a large stela of SHESHONK I, which suggests that the remainder of the monument or its fragments may still be found in the future excavations. This discovery has given me great hopes of our finding important Egyptian records at Megiddo."

From the *S. S. Esperia*, Breasted wrote to his friend, the American astronomer George Ellery Hale, on April 10, 1926:

"At Megiddo (Armageddon) we had a hard time at first—all the men being down with malaria! Now however, the new expedition house is up, the rains are just stopping, and on my arrival there I found that our men had picked out of the German dump an inscribed block bearing the name of Shishak (Sheshonk I) of Biblical story (see I Kings 14, 25-26). I am, of course, greatly hoping that we may find the rest of Shishak's great monument still buried in our mound, and perhaps bearing an inscription with an account of his capture of Jerusalem, as narrated in the Old Testament."

Regrettably, Breasted's hope for the discovery of additional fragments of the great stela were not realized. One can only trust that they were not unwittingly built into the foundations of the Megiddo expedition house! The "Shishak Stela Fragment" is now in the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem.

As we approach the Centennial of the University (1992), the Diamond Jubilee of The Oriental Institute (1994), and the Centenary of the Haskell Oriental Museum (1995), we will continue to draw on the Archives as our primary source of useful and interesting information about our formative years.

John A. Larson  
Museum Archivist



*Megiddo expedition photographer Olaf E. Lind prepares to photograph the "Shishak Stela Fragment" while James Henry Breasted looks on.*

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## LETTER FROM CHINA

*Continued from page one*

working in banks. That is natural (from Chicago I know an Oriental Institute Ph.D. graduate who abandoned his field for computers). They all continue to talk about IHAC in fond ways. This year we have twelve new B.A. students and three M.A. students (from an original slate of six: three decided that they didn't like the work load we asked of them and left). Their and our problems, as always, are in the research resources available in China.

Chicago is a beacon to me, to us, here. Every notice we receive that books are coming because so and so thought of us, or that a gift made by another allows us to buy bookshelves, bolsters our spirits. In these dark times, the light from there shines brighter here, a natural consequence of our human psyches.

I wish to close on a more positive note. This year we will pursue research projects ranging from the study of medieval Latin in China, to the translation of the Code of Hammurabi into Chinese, a study (in Chinese) of kingship in ancient Mesopotamia, and writing of an Akkadian grammar in Chinese. We continue to computerize our library and will expand our bookshelf space. This spring we're hosting a mini-symposium for our students in which Prof. B. Branham from Emory University will participate as a special guest (through a grant from the U.S. government!). We have not stopped work—and will not. Last semester some of our students were even composing stories, as a lark, in ancient Egyptian!

Sincerely,

Yang Zhi 楊熾

Yang Zhi  
Vice Director, IHAC

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## NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Guillermo Algaze, who received his Ph.D. in archaeology from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations in 1986, has been awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities in the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania for 1990-91. Mr. Algaze will spend his time at Pennsylvania preparing a final two volume report of the Tigris/Euphrates Reconnaissance Project, conducted since 1988 under his direction with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is always gratifying when members of the Oriental Institute community receive such recognition for scholarly achievement; I speak for all of us when I offer congratulations to Guillermo on this award.



It is generally recognized that publication is the final and most enduring product of research and scholarship, and certainly the international reputation of the Oriental Institute rests in large measure on our publications.

Since the Oriental Institute was founded, more than 250 volumes have been issued under our imprint and we take considerable pride in the acknowledged quality and value of these publications. Four of the original five publication series established by James Henry Breasted are still being published, and several new series have been added in recent times:

1) "Oriental Institute Communications" (OIC) were conceived as non-technical publications of Institute activities for the general reader that also function as preliminary reports for a scholarly audience. The 25th volume, a study of prehistoric figurines, was published this year.

2) "Oriental Institute Publications" (OIP) are large format monographs intended to report the final scientific and scholarly results of field projects and other research conducted at the Institute. OIP 108, the definitive report on excavations in Luristan, Iran, was published in the autumn of 1989. In recent years a comparable series, "Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition" (OINE), has been established to publish results of the Institute's participation in the UNESCO campaign to save monuments and sites in Nubia; OINE 7 was published in 1990.

3) "Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization" (SAOC) is a series devoted to interpretive or analytical studies, usually based on published and archival records of Institute archaeological field projects or other research. SAOC 47, essays in honor of Helene Kantor, was issued in 1989.

4) "Assyriological Studies" (AS), similar to SAOC, is reserved for philological studies based on cuneiform texts. AS 22, *Old Babylonian Letters from Tell Asmar*, was published in 1987. The first volume of a new series, "Materials for the Study of Kassite History" (MSKH), was published in 1976 to provide basic sources for Kassite history.

All editorial work and the production of camera ready copy on Macintosh computers is now centralized in the Oriental

Institute Publications Office under editor Tom Holland, assisted by Tom Urban and Rick Schoen. The office also negotiates printing contracts, manages sales, and maintains the inventory of published works. Tom and his staff are mastering the intricacies of desk-top publishing and we will soon add a fourth person to the staff to accelerate the rate of publication. Our objective is to eliminate the backlog of manuscripts so that future publications will be more timely.

In addition to the above series, the Institute also publishes the *Chicago Assyrian Dictionary*, the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary*, and the forthcoming *Chicago Demotic Dictionary*. Editorial duties and production of these works are in the hands of the dictionary project Directors but the Publications Office handles sales. Various books also are published in cooperation with other scholarly institutions that are not issued in our main series.

The income from publication sales and our small publication endowment is insufficient to cover printing costs and in recent years we have gratefully relied on gifts to make up the difference. Although the cost of printing is increasing, we are making every effort to keep the price of publications, particularly the OIC and SAOC series, within the reach of individual scholars. We continue to welcome gifts that can be used to cover publication costs and in the near future I intend to establish an additional endowment fund dedicated to the publication program. We will continue the policy of offering members a 20% discount on all publications and we will occasionally offer higher discounts on selected publications. The advice and support of members and friends of the Oriental Institute is essential to the continued success of the publication program, just as it is for every other research and museum activity of the Institute.

William M. Sumner  
Director

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## FREE SUNDAY MOVIES AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

All films will be shown at 2 p.m. in Breasted Hall

MAY	6	Iran: Landmarks in the Desert
	13	Egypt's Pyramids: Houses of Eternity
	20	The Big Dig: Excavations at Gezer
	27	Preserving Egypt's Past
JUNE	3	Of Time, Tombs, and Treasure
	10	Champollion: Egyptian Hieroglyphs Deciphered
	17	Iraq: Stairway to the Gods
	24	Myth of the Pharaohs/Ancient Mesopotamia

# ORIENTAL INSTITUTE 1990-91 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS

## TO EGYPT October 12-31, 1990

This twenty day trip will provide a fascinating look at the art, history, and culture which originated in the Nile Valley over 5,000 years ago. John Larson, Oriental Institute Museum Archivist and a specialist on Egyptian art, will lead this tour. Special features are time spent in Alexandria in the little-visited Delta area, and the ever popular five-day Nile cruise on a Sheraton ship. A complete trip itinerary is available from the Membership Office. The cost of the trip from Chicago is:

Land arrangements	\$3090
Round trip air fare from Chicago (APEX)	\$1232
Single supplement, hotels only	\$436
Single supplement, hotels and ship	\$836

plus a \$350 tax-deductible contribution to the Oriental Institute. A \$400 deposit is required at the time of booking.

Arrangements may be made beforehand with the travel agent (Archaeological Tours, Inc) to travel in Europe or the Near East before or after the tour. Archaeological Tours will be glad to help you with these arrangements, but you will be responsible for any additional travel costs or surcharges.

Information on all tours is available from the Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, (312) 702-9513.

## TO YEMEN January, 1991

A tour to Yemen is being planned for mid-January 1991. By the time you receive this issue of *News & Notes*, the itinerary, dates, and price will be set. Please call or write us for details. Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, (312) 702-9513.



*Hajjara, Yemen*

**Please enroll me/us in the Institute's 1990 tour to Egypt:  
October 12-31, 1990**

- Share room (with?) \_\_\_\_\_
- Single room, hotels
- Single room, hotels and cruise
- Send detailed itinerary

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Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$400 per person) as a deposit to hold my/our place(s), payable to:  
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**Mail to:** Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, (312) 702-9513.

## ANNUAL MEMBERS' DINNER

The Annual Oriental Institute Members' Dinner, hosted by the Institute's Visiting Committee, will take place in the Museum on Monday, May 21, 1990. This year the dinner benefits archaeologist Douglas Esse's excavation at Tell Yaqush. For more details, please call or write the Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, (312) 702-9513.

## SUMMER MEMBERS' COURSES

The summer Members' courses will begin in late June. Information on the courses will be published in the *Summer Flyer* which will be mailed at the end of May. Information on these courses may also be obtained by calling or writing the Education Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, (312) 702-9507.





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These bookmarks/gift tags come in six different designs, taken from original mummy cases in the British Museum. Approximately 5 3/4" tall.

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Handmade in Israel of a dark turquoise blue glass, characteristic of Hebron's ancient glassmaking tradition. Approximately 3 1/4" tall.

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***The Ancient Eastern Mediterranean***

A catalogue from the recent A.I.A. symposium held at the Oriental Institute featuring articles by:

Lanny Bell, George R. Hughes, Robert J. and Linda S. Braidwood, Karen L. Wilson, Edward F. Campbell, Dennis E. Groh, Elizabeth R. Gebhard, Hector Williams, Eric Pratt Hamp, and Eleanor Guralnick.

**\$12.00** Postage \$2.50

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