



EXCAVATIONS AT CHOGHA BONUT: THE EARLIEST VILLAGE IN SUSIANA, IRAN

By Abbas Alizadeh, Research Associate

The political upheavals in Iran in 1978/79 interrupted the process of momentous discoveries of the beginning of village life in lowland Susiana. The Oriental Institute excavations at Chogha Mish (recently published by the Oriental Institute Publications Office) not only provided a long uninterrupted sequence of prehistoric Susiana, but also yielded evidence of cultures much earlier than what had been previously known, pushing back the date of human occupation on the plain for at least one millennium. The work of Helene Kantor and Pinhas Delougaz at Chogha Mish, the largest early fifth-millennium site, added the Archaic period to the already well-established Susiana prehistoric sequence. The sophistication of the artifacts and architecture of even the earliest phase of the Archaic period showed that there must have been a stage of cultural development antecedent to the successful adaptation of village life in southwestern Iran, but surveys and excavations had failed to reveal such a phase in that region.

As is common in the field of archaeology, it was not until 1976 that evidence for an earlier, formative stage of the Archaic Susiana period was accidentally discovered. In that year, news of the destruction of a small mound, some six kilometers west of Chogha Mish, reached Kantor, who at that time was working at Chogha Mish. Always a passionate guardian of archaeological sites and monuments, Professor Kantor rushed to the site to see a bulldozer razing it to the ground. Overcoming the resistance of

the bulldozer operator and the local police, she valiantly stopped the destruction of the mound, two meters of which had already been removed in an attempt to level the plain for a multimillion dollar agribusiness project. Knowing that the destruction would resume as soon as she left the site, Kantor immediately contacted some government officials in Tehran and received a permit to conduct a salvage operation at the site. That site was Chogha Bonut, which was destined to make major contributions to the prehistoric sequence of Susiana, thereby increasing our knowledge of the formative stages of village life in southwestern Iran.

Kantor actually worked at Chogha Bonut for two seasons. She was preparing to return in 1979, when the political upheavals made it clear that she had visited the country for the last time. Events even affected the little village of Qale Khalil, where Kantor's dig house was located. The house was ransacked and all of the expedition's belongings were either robbed or destroyed. The archaeological materials from the salvage dig at Chogha Bonut were, along with the field notes, perhaps the greatest loss.

In 1993 I was assigned the task of finishing Kantor's monumental volume (coauthored by Pinhas Delougaz) on the excavations at Chogha Mish. In the course of preparing the materials for publication and writing and editing the chapters on the prehistoric period, I became even more intrigued by the earliest stage of cultural development in southwestern Iran. From Kantor's report,

continued on page 2

MAYOR CHAIRS GALA AT DRAKE HOTEL

Monday Evening 19 May 1997

You are cordially invited to join us at the Drake Hotel in **Romancing the Past 1997**. Marking the cornerstone-setting for its new wing, the Oriental Institute will host a gala dinner dance in honor of the first recipient of the James Henry Breasted Medallion. The Breasted Medallion recognizes extraordinary service by a volunteer: support for Institute initiatives, service in leadership roles, active engagement with the Museum, and participation in research and field projects.

Breasted Medallion Recipient	<i>Jill Carlotta Maher</i> , Legacy Campaign Co-Chair Assistant to the Director of the Epigraphic Survey Former Docent Coordinator
Keynote Speaker	<i>Barbara Mertz</i> , Egyptologist Author, as Elizabeth Peters, of award-winning mysteries (<i>The Last Camel Died at Noon</i> and others)
Honorary Chairs	<i>Mayor and Mrs. Richard M. Daley</i>
Dinner Chairs	<i>Anthony and Lawrie Dean</i> <i>Thomas and Linda Heagy</i> <i>David and Crennan Ray</i>

Display and Silent Auction of Archival Photographs and Near Eastern Rugs throughout the evening. All proceeds benefit the Oriental Institute Legacy Campaign for facilities improvements. Formal invitations will be mailed in April 1997.



Map of southwestern Iran

I knew that Chogha Bonut displayed what she called the "Formative" stage of the lowland Susiana phase, and that the site might contain an even earlier aceramic phase of the initial colonization of Susiana in the eighth millennium BC. That possibility was too important to ignore, and the only way to find out was to excavate the site again.

Several years after the Iranian revolution, some sporadic archaeological activities took place, performed exclusively by government employees. Even Tehran University's Department and Institute of Archaeology was not able to obtain permits to resume its annual field classes. Under these conditions, there seemed to be no hope for academic staff of an American university to be allowed to work in Iran. When in 1994 I was told by the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization that I would be allowed to conduct an archaeological survey in the summer pasture of the nomadic Qashqaii in northwestern Fars, I became hopeful that I could convince the authorities of the importance of Chogha Bonut and persuade them to allow me to examine the site. Full of hope, I prepared a research design and submitted it to the organization.

Oral approval came in February 1996. Knowing that there was a long way from oral approval to official, written authorization, and aware that I would have to process all archaeological materials in Iran, I left Chicago in March 1996 hoping to be back sometime around the end of summer. I had

anticipated spending April and May in the field and the summer months on the materials and data processing. As time passed, my initial optimism turned to dogged determination, and I accepted enough tea from various officials to exceed my tea quota for a decade! In September, I secured the permit and headed for Khuzestan. We were offered two places to stay: the former French headquarters at the magnificent castle at Susa and the Haft Tappeh Guest House some twenty miles southeast of Susa. We chose, of course, the former, as the castle is much better equipped and is very romantic. After the initial preparations were completed, we began work on 26 September.

Save for a few occasions, we did not hire local workers, as the operation was delicate and I was accompanied by enough individuals to take care of various responsibilities. I had with me Mr. Gabriel Nokandeh, Mr. Abbas Moqadam, Mr. Hamidreza Tabrizian, and Mr. Farhad Jafary, four brilliant and eager students of Tehran University. Mr. Hasan Rezvani, Mr. Kargar, Mr. Omrani, and Mr. Farukh-Ahamdi were the four representatives of Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization (see fig. 1). They were instrumental in the smooth operation of the dig. I thank all of them, particularly Mr. Rezvani.

Though we did not hire local workers, farmers and older villagers from the village of Upper Bonut (only six hundred meters from the site) visited us daily, usually bringing bread, yogurt, melons, cucumbers, or whatever else they were growing. Almost all the older villagers had either worked with Helene Kantor or had known her. Due to some rumors (news travels exceedingly quickly in rural areas), the villagers at first thought that the son of *Daloo* ("old woman" in the local vernacular) had returned to resume her work—my appearance, long hair, fishing vest, and so on strengthening the rumor—and the fact that I spoke Persian was not convincing in the beginning either. Anyway, after they were convinced that I was not who they thought I was, they were happy to learn that I had indeed been her pupil. On their daily visits to the site, the villagers told us good tales about her, remembering her very sympathetically. That personal touch and the



Figure 1. Expedition staff members: (standing from left to right) Hamidreza Tabrizian, Farhad Jafary, Abbas Alizadeh, Hasan Rezvani, Gabriel Nokandeh; (sitting) Abbas Moqadam, Qoli (village boy), Behrooz Omrani (Messrs. Farukh-Ahamdi and Kargar are absent)



Figure 2. Chogha Bonut, looking west. Square M10 in the right foreground

way Helene's work in the region has linked two generations by some fond memories was very special indeed.

Chogha Bonut is probably the oldest lowland village in southwestern Iran (see map). It is a small mound; in its truncated and artificially rounded state, it has a diameter of about fifty meters and is five meters high (fig. 2). From Helene Kantor's excavations, we knew that the site was perhaps first occupied sometime in the eighth millennium BC, before the invention of pottery. The site continued to be occupied for much of the seventh millennium BC, until the beginning of the Archaic 1 period (the earliest period at Chogha Mish, some five kilometers to the east), when it was deserted for at least one millennium. Then, sometime in the fifth millennium (Late Middle Susiana), it was reoccupied and remained inhabited into the early fourth millennium (Late Susiana 2), when it was deserted once again. Except for Ali Kosh located in the Deh Luran plain north of Susiana, all very early aceramic Neolithic sites in Iran are located in the Zagros mountains. These early aceramic sites are informative about the beginning of village life in southwestern Iran, but almost all of these villages were occupied after the domestication of some species of cereals and animals had already been well under way.

Some scholars believe that southwestern Iran, particularly the highland, was cold, dry, and mostly uninhabited between 11000 and 9000 BC, and that the domestication of animals and particularly cereals took place not in the mid-altitude of the Zagros mountains but in the oases of the Levant, Jordan, and Syria. When this sudden spell of cold and dry weather gradually came to an end by 8000 BC, the uninhabited regions of the Near East were colonized by groups of people who were already practicing a mixed economy of food producing and food gathering. If this were the case, then one would expect to find such sites in warmer areas of lower latitudes more suitable for practicing agriculture than higher altitudes.

Our special interest in Chogha Bonut was its aceramic deposit that would make it unique among the early sites in large alluvial plains in Iran. Since the Archaic and later periods were known from Chogha Mish and Tuleii, northwest of Chogha Mish, we were eager to reach the basal levels during our excavations.

This proved to be a difficult task, as Chogha Bonut has been bulldozed and churned up twice. In addition, two seasons of excavations by Kantor had produced a large amount of debris that had been dumped over the slopes of the mound, but the exact location was unknown to us. Finally, eighteen years of rain and trampling by farmers, pastoralists, and their animals made it difficult to distinguish, without excavation, the disturbed and undisturbed areas of the mound.

At the base of the mound, we tested three areas and, though all showed signs of heavy disturbance, we decided that the eastern sector of the mound with its numerous ashy lenses visible right above the surrounding plain would be the best spot to reach the lowest levels. In our 5 × 5 m trench area we reached undisturbed layers after removing about one meter of bulldozed debris (fig. 3). From the beginning we encountered aceramic layers accumulated in an area that seemed to have been an open court. Here we found successive surfaces with layers of alternating ash and clay. These surfaces were primarily furnished with round- and oval-shaped hearths, and most contained fire-cracked rocks (fig. 4) very typical of fire pits of the early Neolithic period. We found no solid architecture, but the presence of fragments of straw-tempered mudbrick indicated to us that mudbrick architecture existed elsewhere in the mound. We excavated this area to virgin soil that was only 80 cm below modern surface, a surprisingly small accumulation of sediment in at least 9,000 years, especially compared to the Iranian central plateau.

Since we opened our trench at the lowest possible slope of the mound, it could not give us a profile of the stratigraphy of Chogha Bonut from the aceramic phase to the beginning of the Archaic 1 phase. To develop this profile, we opened a stratigraphic trench one meter south of our main trench, and excavated it to virgin soil. It was here that we found several classes of pottery not previously known in Susiana.



Figure 3. Chogha Bonut. Excavation at Square M10, looking east

The most numerous artifacts at Bonut, as was expected, were flint tools and stone objects. The lithic industry at Bonut is advanced and the presence of various high-quality flint cores, not found locally, indicate some sort of regional exchange. Although we did not find complete stone vessels and bracelets, the frag-



Figure 4. A round hearth in Square M10

ments we found illustrate the skill and sophistication of the early inhabitants of the Susiana plain.

The bones and carbonized seeds that we collected from every layer and feature comprise the most precious and potentially more informative material. The bones were never in good condi-

tion and they were often covered with a thick layer of salt crystals. We retrieved the seeds by dry sieving at the site and flotation in the camp. Much of what we need to know about the economy and the way of life of the early colonizers of the Susiana plain would be found in these materials once they have been processed and analyzed. Since anything archaeological, even though bones and seeds are not considered artifacts, can only leave the country by the special permission of the Council of Ministers, I am now in the process of securing permits to send them to the specialists. Once the materials are here and the results are in, we may be able to open a new chapter in the cultural evolution of southwestern Iran and shed more light on the processes of domestication of plants and animals.

Tehran, 18 December 1996

Abbas Alizadeh, an Oriental Institute Research Associate since 1991, recently edited Chogha Mish Volume 1: The First Five Seasons. He has been in Iran, working on the excavations at Chogha Bonut, since early 1996 and will soon be returning to Chicago.

A FAREWELL LETTER TO THE FRIENDS OF CHICAGO HOUSE

Reprinted from the *Chicago House Bulletin*, Volume VIII, Number 1, December 15, 1996

Dear Friends:

With this issue of the Oriental Institute's *News & Notes*, I wish to add a note of grateful thanks to the hundreds of readers of this newsletter who have passed through our front gates, and into our lives, as supporters of the Epigraphic Survey. Collectively you are a very mixed bag of private individuals, corporations, foundations, government representatives, professional colleagues, and volunteers—you come from most states in the Union and from many countries around the world. You have all magnanimously put up with periodic letters from me, asking for continued support of the Epigraphic Survey.

Your generosity and your interest in our field work have made a great difference to Chicago House, and it is with a sense of indebtedness to all of you that I will be stepping down as Field Director of the Epigraphic Survey at the end of February, in order to return to the University of Chicago and take up full-time teaching duties at the Oriental Institute. My successor is Ray Johnson, Ph.D., an 18-year veteran of Chicago House who has served as Senior Artist during my entire tenure in Luxor, and more recently as Assistant Director. His thorough knowledge of the Survey, its working methods, its myriad daily rituals, and its friends greatly enhances the outlook for our epigraphic commitments at Medinet Habu and Luxor. Many of you know him, having met him personally at a Chicago House tea or a Friends of Chicago House tour, or through numbers of the *Annual Report* and *News & Notes*, where he has expounded his interests in late Eighteenth-Dynasty sculpture and relief. I am confident that Ray will experience the same enormous interest and generosity that, during the last several years, you have shown the mission of Chicago House.

The last eight years have been momentous for all of us at the Survey. In addition to continuing field work at Luxor Temple, our focus of interest now includes the Eighteenth-Dynasty temple at Medinet Habu, which constantly surprises us with new avenues of research; our mammoth publication of the Festival of Opet will soon be followed by the decoration of the facade, portals, and columns of the great Colonnade Hall; our priceless photographic archives have been conserved and archivally housed; and Chicago House itself has been expanded and thoroughly renovated.

It may seem to outside visitors that life in Luxor flows at a more sedate and relaxed pace than the frenzied schedules we normally keep in the Western world, but the events that do happen at Chicago House are far more unpredictable, delightful, and maddening—often all at the same time—than those back home. A single month with the Epigraphic Survey is frequently packed with more memorable occasions than a year elsewhere, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have enjoyed so many of them with you. They in fact add up to a short lifetime!

I especially wish to thank my extraordinary staff for sharing (for better or worse) both my professional work and my private life at Chicago House. They are dedicated individuals with unique talents, who have made lasting scholarly contributions to the present and future publications of the Survey, as well as to the daily routine we all share in common. Their knowledge has enriched my life and their kindness and humor have sustained me through many seasons. Most of all I thank my wife, Kathy, and my daughters, Margaret and Emily, for their understanding, their profound patience, and for other gifts too numerous to mention.

With my appreciation to all,

Peter F. Dorman, Field Director

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 1997

MEMBERS LECTURES

Wednesday 2 April

"Egyptomania in American Architecture: From the Library of Congress to the Luxor Casino"

Richard A. Fazzini, Ph.D., Brooklyn Museum

8:00 PM, Breasted Hall

Reception Following

Wednesday 16 April

"Women and Death in Roman Egypt"

Professor Dominic Montserrat, University of Warwick (UK)

8:00 PM, Breasted Hall

Cosponsored by the Department of Classics and by the Center for Gender Studies

Reception Following

Wednesday 7 May

"In the Footsteps of Gertrude Bell: Rediscovering Cappadocia"

Professor Robert Ousterhout, University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign

8:00 PM, Breasted Hall

Cosponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America

Reception Following

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

5 April–31 May

Egypt and Nubia in Antiquity

Frank Yurco

SATURDAYS, 10:00 AM–12:00 NOON

Oriental Institute

See page 6 for more information

8 April–27 May

The Making of a Culture: Early Islamic Social History

Ingrid Mattson

TUESDAYS, 7:00–9:00 PM

Oriental Institute

See page 6 for more information

9 April–28 May

Pharaoh's Farmers

Nicole B. Hansen

WEDNESDAYS, 7:00–9:00 PM

Oriental Institute

See page 6 for more information

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 19 April

Egypt in Chicago: An Oriental Institute Field Trip

Emily Teeter and Frank Yurco

9:30 AM–3:00 PM, Field Museum and Art Institute

See page 7 for more information

Saturday 26 April

A Woman's World: Being Female in the Ancient Near East

Martha Roth, Janet Johnson, Robert Ritner

10:00 AM–2:00 PM, Oriental Institute

See page 7 for more information

Saturday 3 May

The Right to Write: An Oriental Institute Field Trip

Ingrid Mattson

2:00–4:00 PM, Chicago Cultural Center

See page 7 for more information

Sunday 27 April

Out of the Fiery Furnace: Archaeology on Film

K. Aslihan Yener

2:00–4:00 PM, Oriental Institute

See page 8 for more information

Saturday 17 May

Earth Day Celebration

Sunday 18 May

Magical Babylon: A Clay Tile Workshop for Families

Anna Rochester

1:00–3:00 PM, Lill Street Studio

See page 9 for more information

SUNDAY FILMS

All films are shown free of charge in Breasted Hall on Sundays at 2:00 PM, and last approximately one hour, except as noted

April 6 This Old Pyramid (86 min.)

13 Mysteries of the Holy Land

20 Tut: The Boy King

27 Out of the Fiery Furnace

May 4 The Royal Archives of Ebla

11 Mother's Day—No Film

18 The Mystery of Nefertiti

25 Memorial Day Weekend—No Film

See page 8 for more information

ROMANCING THE PAST

19 May 1997

Black-Tie Gala

The Drake Hotel

See pages 1 and 10–11 for more information

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

EGYPT AND NUBIA IN ANTIQUITY

5 April–31 May 1997

For three thousand years the kingdoms and cultures of ancient Nubia were powerful African rivals to ancient Egypt. Located just south of Egypt, Nubia was rich in gold and other resources and its military might was always a potential threat to the Egyptian pharaohs. In the eighth century BC, Nubian kings invaded Egypt, conquering the country and ruling as what is now called the Egyptian Twenty-fifth Dynasty. This course will trace the relationship of ancient Egypt and Nubia as they moved through cycles of trade, diplomacy, exploitation, and conquest, leaving an enduring impression on the civilizations of both lands.

INSTRUCTOR Frank Yurco is an Egyptologist who has taught numerous courses on topics of ancient Near Eastern history, culture, and language, both at the Oriental Institute and the Field Museum.

This course will meet at the Oriental Institute on Saturday mornings from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON beginning 5 April and continuing through 31 May 1997. There will be no class on 24 May. Fee: \$115 for members; \$135 for non-members.

Required texts

Ancient Egyptian Literature. Vols. I, III. Miriam Lichtheim. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1976, 1980

The Kingdom of Kush: The Napatan and Meroitic Empires. Derek A. Welsby. London: British Museum Press, 1996

THE MAKING OF A CULTURE: EARLY ISLAMIC SOCIAL HISTORY

8 April–27 May 1997

Focusing on the era from the 7th century AD to the early medieval period, this course will explore the ways in which a distinctly Islamic culture emerged out of the many Near Eastern traditions that preceded it. Each week will center on a particular aspect of social life—such as community, family, or law—or a particular cultural expression, such as poetry, literature, or mysticism. The instructor will rely on original sources in translation, as well as audio and visual materials, so that students can experience for themselves the richness of this dynamic period in Near Eastern history.

INSTRUCTOR Ingrid Mattson is a Ph.D. candidate in Islamic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.

This course will meet at the Oriental Institute on Tuesdays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM beginning 8 April and continuing through 27 May 1997. The instructor will provide readings for each class session. Fee: \$115 for members; \$135 for non-members.

PHARAOH'S FARMERS

9 April–28 May 1997

This course will examine the favorable seasonal cycles and fertile geographic setting that inspired Herodotus to call Egypt the “Gift of the Nile.” We will discuss ancient farming methods; how livestock were raised; and the production of food, clothing, and other by-products of the land’s agricultural bounty. We will meet the farmer struggling with taxes and corruption, and consider the deities, festivals, and rituals that ensured fertility in the land he tilled. The course will also touch upon the legacy of ancient Egyptian agriculture in the country’s later history.

INSTRUCTOR Nicole B. Hansen is a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. in Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.

This course will meet at the Oriental Institute on Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM beginning 9 April and continuing through 28 May 1997. Fee: \$115 for members; \$135 for non-members.

Recommended texts

Ancient Egypt: A Cultural Topography. Herman Kees. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978

Pharaoh's People: Scenes From Life in Imperial Egypt. T. G. James. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986

AND SPECIAL EVENTS

ONE-DAY MINI-COURSE

A Woman's World: Being Female in the Ancient Near East

Saturday 26 April 1997

10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Women played an important role in the ancient Near East and there are a tremendous variety of documents that reflect their lives and concerns. Join Egyptologists Janet Johnson and Robert Ritner and Assyriologist Martha Roth as they explore topics that illuminate the lives of women in Egypt and Mesopotamia, including magic and medicine, romantic love and attraction, marriage, and legal rights.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Gender Studies, this mini-course is presented in conjunction with a members' lecture on "Women and Death in Roman Egypt" by Dominic Monserrat, Lecturer in Classics at the University of Warwick in Coventry, England. The members' lecture will take place on Wednesday 16 April.

Fee, which includes packet of materials and a continental breakfast, is: \$19 for members of the Oriental Institute and the Center for Gender Studies; \$24 for non-members. Box lunches (\$6.75 each) will be ordered on request.

For more information on the mini-course, call the Museum Education Office at (773) 702-9507.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE FIELD TRIPS

"Egypt in Chicago"

Saturday 19 April 1997

9:30 AM—3:00 PM

A repeat of last fall's sold-out program, "Egypt in Chicago" is a special one-day field trip that offers you insiders' views on Chicago's three major collections of ancient Egyptian art and artifacts. The trip will be led by **Emily Teeter**, Oriental Institute Associate Curator and consultant for the Art Institute's reinstallation of ancient Egyptian art, and by **Frank Yurco**, consulting Egyptologist for the Field Museum.

Begin the day at the Field Museum with a continental breakfast and slide talk by Teeter. She will offer some lively commentary on Egyptology in Chicago—past and present—as well as a preview of the Oriental Institute's new Egyptian Hall, due to reopen in 1998 with many exhibits of art and artifacts never before on view. Then join Yurco for a visit to the Field Museum's "Inside Ancient Egypt" exhibit to learn about the new displays installed this past year. The program continues with a bus trip to the Art Institute and lunch on your own in the Art Institute's Restaurant on the Park or the Cafeteria, followed by a tour and discussion with Teeter and the curators who planned and installed the Art Institute's exhibit of ancient Egyptian art, as well as the new *Cleopatra* interactive computer program.

Fee: \$24 for Oriental Institute members; \$29 for non-members. Fee covers continental breakfast, admission, and presentation at both museums, and round trip bus transportation between the Field Museum and the Art Institute. Reservations for lunch at the Art Institute's Restaurant on the Park will be made upon request

The Right to Write

Saturday 3 May 1997

2:00—4:00 PM

In collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs at the Chicago Cultural Center, the Oriental Institute is offering a special program featuring the traveling exhibition *The Right to Write: Calligraphic Works from the Collection of the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts*, which has been organized by Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA) and The Royal Society of Fine Arts. On view at the Cultural Center from 5 April through 18 May 1997, the exhibition features 55 calligraphic works by some 45 artists from 17 Arab and Islamic nations, presenting a great variety of artistic expressions of visual and linguistic traditions.

The program will include a *Right to Write* exhibition tour led by Cultural Center staff, and a discussion session placing the works on view into historic perspective. The discussion will be led by Ingrid Mattson, a Ph.D. candidate in Islamic Studies in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. The program will end with light refreshments.

Admission to this program is free, but space is limited and preregistration is required.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

ARCHAEOLOGY ON FILM

Out of the Fiery Furnace

Sunday 27 April 1997

2:00–4:00 PM

The Oriental Institute continues its series of Sunday afternoon conversations with scholars who will examine the ways archaeology is presented in documentary films and video, especially those films that are produced for television.

This spring, *Archaeology on Film* features Associate Professor K. Aslihan Yener of the Oriental Institute, whose work at ancient mining sites in Turkey helped solve an age-old archaeological mystery. She discovered a source for tin, the metal that ancient metallurgists combined with copper to create bronze—the first high-tech metal of ancient times. On Sunday 27 April, Professor Yener will discuss *Out of the Fiery Furnace: The Story of Metal and Man*, a PBS series that offers archaeological perspectives on the discovery and use of metal resources and their impact on human history.

Admission is free for the film showing, which will take place at 2:00 PM in Breasted Hall. Preregistration is required for the discussion session with Professor Yener following the film. Fee for the discussion, which includes handouts and refreshments, is \$5 for members; \$7 for non-members.

SPECIAL EVENT

The Oriental Institute Celebrates the City of Chicago's Earth Day

Saturday 17 May 1997

The Oriental Institute is joining the city's major museums and cultural institutions for Chicago's own celebration of Earth Day on 17 May 1997. Watch for a special mailing with more information.

SUNDAY FILMS

The Oriental Institute invites you to enjoy the best in documentary films on ancient Near Eastern history, art, and archaeology. All films begin at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoon and last approximately one hour, except where noted. Admission is free.

- 6 April** *This Old Pyramid*—Egyptologist Mark Lehner and professional stonemason Roger Hopkins suggest how the pyramids were built by actually building one in the shadow of the great pyramids at Giza. From the PBS Nova series. 86 min. (1992)
- 13 April** *Mysteries of the Holy Land*—from the award-winning Archaeology series produced by the Archaeological Institute of America. (1995)
- 20 April** *Tut: The Boy King*—an in-depth examination of the discovery, excavation, and treasures of Tutankhamun's tomb. Narrated by Orson Welles. Reviews have termed this film a "grand-scale piece of high quality." (1977)
- 27 April** *Out of the Fiery Furnace*—part of the *Archaeology on Film* program. (1986). See above for more information.
- 4 May** *The Royal Archives of Ebla*—the excavation and significance of cuneiform tablets dating to 2300 BC is documented in this important film made in Syria, the site of the tablets' discovery. (1980)
- 11 May** Mother's Day—no film showing
- 18 May** *The Mystery of Nefertiti*—a BBC production, this film follows a team of archaeologists in their six-year effort to reconstruct the 3,500 year old temple dedicated to Nefertiti at the ancient Egyptian site of Karnak. (1975)
- 25 May** Memorial Day weekend—no film showing

Thanks to a generous grant from the University of Chicago Women's Board, the Oriental Institute offers the latest in big-screen video and computer projection in Breasted Hall.

AND EVENTS

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE/LILL STREET STUDIO FAMILY PROGRAM

Magical Babylon: A Clay Tile Workshop for Families

Sunday 18 May 1997

1:00–3:00 pm

Learn about the ancient city of Babylon as you create clay tiles using magical designs from the city that once ruled much of the ancient world. See glazed brick dragons, lions, and flowers made by artists in Babylon 2,000 years ago. Then, create your own glazed tiles using your own versions of ancient designs. Choose glazes in your favorite colors or use the brilliant reds, blues, and yellows that the artists chose in ancient Babylon. This special joint program will be led by Anna Rochester, artist and arts educator at the Oriental Institute Museum.

Recommended for children ages 7 and up, accompanied by an adult, this workshop will take place at Lill Street Studio, 1021 W. Lill Street in Chicago. Fee: \$20 for adults, \$11 for children. All materials included. Preregistration is required and space is limited. To register, call Lill Street Studios at (312) 477-6185.

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE FOLLOWING ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM(S)

Egypt and Nubia in Antiquity (\$115 for members, \$135 for non-members)

The Making of a Culture: Early Islamic Social History (\$115 for members, \$135 for non-members)

Pharaoh's Farmers (\$115 for members, \$135 for non-members)

A Woman's World: A One-day Mini-course (\$19 for Oriental Institute/Center for Gender Studies members, \$24 for non-members)

Please order me box lunch(es) at \$6.75 each. My choice(s):

Vegetarian Tuna Turkey Roast Beef

Egypt in Chicago: An Oriental Institute Field Trip (\$24 for members, \$29 for non-members)

Please make reservations for me at the Art Institute's Art on the Park Restaurant (optional)

The Right to Write: An Oriental Institute Field Trip (free, but preregistration is required)

Archaeology on Film: Out of the Fiery Furnace (\$5 for members, \$7 for non-members)

I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is \$35 for an individual membership or \$45 for a family membership. **Please send a separate check for tax-deductible membership dues.**

Total enclosed \$_____. Make check(s) payable to the Oriental Institute.

I prefer to pay by check money order credit card

MasterCard/Visa Account Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Send to: **The Oriental Institute, Education Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60637**

ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION AND REFUND POLICY—For multi-session courses, a full refund will be granted to anyone who notifies us about his/her cancellation before the first class meeting. A student who notifies us of his/her cancellation after the first class meeting, but before the second class meeting, will receive a full refund minus a \$45 cancellation fee. After the second class meeting no refunds will be given unless the course is canceled by the Education Office. Those who are not registered may not attend classes. All schedules are subject to change. Some courses may be subject to a small materials fee that will be announced at the first class meeting.

JAMES HENRY BREASTED MEDALLION 1997

Jill Carlotta Maher

In May the Institute will award the inaugural James Henry Breasted Medallion. This honor, given at the discretion of the Director, recognizes long-term service to the Oriental Institute by a volunteer. Selection criteria include support for Institute projects, service on committees and in leadership roles, and active engagement with Oriental Institute Museum, research, and field projects. Our 1997 recipient exemplifies service and the spirit of the Breasted Medallion: Jill Carlotta Maher.

Carlotta Maher has worked as a volunteer at the Oriental Institute since 1966. In her long and continuous career as a Museum docent, she has brought thousands of new visitors into touch with a shared, ancient heritage. Carlotta has served on the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee since 1984, and for the past three years has worked with O. J. Sopranos and Raymond Tindel chairing the Legacy Campaign Executive Committee to raise funds for climate control, expansion, and renovation. Carlotta and her husband David have supported, with great generosity, many Institute projects including Chicago House, the Legacy Campaign, and field expeditions such as the Prehistoric Project and Nippur.

This volunteer career at the Oriental Institute was quite unplanned. "It was a big surprise to me," says Carlotta. "I majored in chemistry at Radcliffe and was working in the department of

biochemical genetics at Children's Memorial Hospital." Carlotta goes on to tell of first visiting the Oriental Institute Museum in the early sixties. Ida de Pencier, one of the first docents, coaxed Carlotta into touring the galleries. And that walk through the ancient past in Ida's company was the start of what was to become a remarkable volunteer career. The next turning point for Carlotta was meeting the founder of the docent program, Carolyn Z. Livingood. "It was like being struck by lightning," Carlotta recalls. "At that moment I fell in love with the Oriental Institute and never looked back." Over the next few years Carlotta began studying Egyptian hieroglyphs with Institute scholars George Hughes, Edward Wente, Janet Johnson, and Klaus Baer. Carlotta also trained formally as a docent at the Museum. She subsequently chaired the docent program (1974-1978) and recalls with delight the thousands of visitors who packed the Museum galleries during the 1977 Tut exhibits. With up to 300 visitors an hour packing the formerly quiet galleries, "I would stand on the stairway shouting directions 'Women's Club to the right, Evanston sixth grade straight ahead'."

In a chance encounter with McGuire Gibson, Professor of Archaeology and Field Director of the Nippur Expedition (Iraq), Carlotta found herself venturing further afield in her study of the ancient Near East. Gibson invited her to travel to Iraq with his field team as dig conservator. "When I went home that evening, I found David reading his *Wall Street Journal*. I said, 'Mac wants me to go to Baghdad.' And he said (not listening), 'That's nice; how much does it cost?' So I went." That was just the beginning of Carlotta's Oriental Institute travels. She worked with the Institute's Iraq Expedition in 1976, 1977, 1978, and 1979. Later she added Chicago House in Egypt and the Braidwood expedition in Turkey. One year she was out of the United States almost seven months. The Institute is grateful for both Carlotta's dedication and her family's understanding (husband David, son Philip, daughter Julia, and three grandchildren).

In 1985 Carlotta expanded her role as ambassador to the past. She began working on a voluntary basis at Chicago House, the Institute's field expedition in Luxor, and now spends four months each year in Egypt. Initially she worked in the Chicago House photographic archives, but moved quickly to Assistant to the Director when Chicago House faced a financial crunch. She now serves as public liaison, informal guide, hostess, and fund-raiser. She has overseen programs at Chicago House for many corporate executives, ambassadors, and various dignitaries and public personalities. Among that roster are LaSalle National Bank CEO Norman Bobins, Tribune Company CEO John Madigan, artist Cy Twombly, playwright John Guare, Bechtel Corporation's Stephen Bechtel, musician Peter Duchin, and writer Brooke Hayward. Working with Epigraphic Survey Directors Lanny Bell and Peter Dorman, Carlotta helped guide Chicago House from near bankruptcy to a \$1 million endowment in US dollars, as well as a substantial endowment in Egyptian pounds and major grants from the United



Jill Carlotta Maher, Umm al-Hafriyat, Iraq, 1977, collecting pot sherds (in bags)



Jill Carlotta Maher, Valley of the Kings, 1985

States government. Annually Chicago House raises some \$100,000 needed for operating funds and for the past 12 years Carlotta has been a driving force behind this annual appeal.

As one of the chairs for the Oriental Institute Legacy Campaign since 1993 Carlotta has lobbied effectively for badly needed facilities improvements. To date the Campaign has raised

\$7.4 million. Ever on the watch for ways to publicize and promote the Institute's work, Carlotta presents popular slide talks around Chicago about preservation efforts, the Epigraphic Survey, and the Museum. In September 1993 she organized "Lost Egypt," a exhibit at the Richard Gray Gallery of photographic images made at Chicago House, Luxor, from glass-plate negatives dating from the 1880s.

From government officials (former Presidents George Bush and Jimmy Carter and Vice President Al Gore visited Chicago House) to the casual Museum visitor, Carlotta Maher opens for all a remarkable window to the ancient world. Because of her extraordinary service to the Oriental Institute—and her extraordinary (and unofficial) role as Chicago's ambassador to Egypt—Carlotta will receive the Breasted Medallion on May 19 at *Romancing the Past 1997*. Mayor and Mrs. Richard M. Daley are Honorary Chairs for the evening. The Keynote Speaker is Egyptologist Barbara Mertz (*aka* award-winning mystery writer Elizabeth Peters). Dinner chairs are

Thomas and Linda Heagy, Anthony and Lawrie Dean, and David and Crennan Ray. All proceeds from this gala benefit the Legacy Campaign.

We salute Breasted Medallion recipient Carlotta Maher!

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE TRAVEL PROGRAM

OTTOMAN TURKEY AND MEDITERRANEAN GEMS: 12-26 OCTOBER 1997

Sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies in cooperation with the Oriental Institute, this departure features **Richard L. Chambers**, Professor Emeritus of Turkish Studies, and focuses on the classical and Ottoman periods. Special attention will be paid to the masterful architecture and elegant ceramic wares of the Ottomans. You visit the three capitals of the Ottoman Empire—Bursa, Edirne, and Istanbul—and two great centers of ceramics production, Iznik and Kutahya. The journey concludes at Antalya, the center of Turkey's Turquoise Riviera, with the nearby classical sites of Perge, Aspendos, Olimpos, and Myra, among others.

Cost (per person, based on double occupancy): \$3100 (Land/Air, Chicago-Istanbul nonstop, plus airport taxes); \$2975 (Land/Air, New York-Istanbul nonstop, plus airport taxes); \$475 (Single Supplement); \$300.00 (Tax-Deductible Contribution to the University of Chicago). Land only rates available on request from the Membership Office at (773) 702-1677.

PERFECT EGYPT: 1-14 NOVEMBER 1997

Join Professor Emeritus of Egyptology **Edward F. Wente** on this captivating tour of the finest treasures of Egypt's past. Your journey begins in Cairo, with half-day visits to the Egyptian Museum, the famed Khan el-Khalili bazaar, Islamic Cairo, Coptic Cairo, and the pharaonic monuments at Giza, Sakkara, and Memphis. A full day in Alexandria, Egypt's great Mediterranean port, is followed by a flight to Aswan for embarkation on a four-night Nile Cruise from Aswan to Luxor. This cruise features the dams at Aswan, Kom Ombo, Esna, Edfu, Karnak Temple, and several stops in and around Luxor, including a reception at Chicago House. Professor Wente worked on the Epigraphic Survey from 1959 to 1968, served as its Field Director in 1972/73, and is an experienced leader of tours to Egypt.

Cost (per person, based on double occupancy): \$4955 (Land/Air from Chicago); \$3755 (Land Only); \$675 (Single Supplement); \$350 (Tax-Deductible Contribution to the Oriental Institute). Call the Membership Office at (773) 702-1677 for more information.

There will be a reception featuring Professor Wente and Bassam el Shammaa of R&H Voyages on Tuesday 6 May 1997 at 7:30 PM in Breasted Hall. This reception will feature a short slide presentation and an informal lecture on the sites to be visited. All are welcome to attend this free event, which will include a selection of Middle Eastern delicacies. There is no obligation for those attending.

NEWS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

KHORSABAD COURT PROJECT WINS GRANT

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has awarded the Oriental Institute \$50,000 to support the removal, conservation, and reinstallation of the monumental Royal Assyrian Reliefs in the Museum's collection. Established in 1950, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation makes grants in journalism, education, and the field of arts and culture. It also supports organizations in 27 communities where the communications company founded by the Knight brothers publishes newspapers but is wholly separate from and independent of those newspapers.

Unparalleled outside of the British Museum, the Louvre, and the Baghdad Museum, the Assyrian re-



Photographs by Jean Grant

liefs will be moved next to the forty-ton Winged Bull. The proposed reinstallation—the Khorsabad Court—will create the truly awesome atmosphere of King Sargon's palace in ancient times and provide a rich, visually imaginative context for programming (for example, storytelling and performance). We believe the reinstalled exhibit will serve as a cultural and civic highlight in Chicago for decades to come. Total costs for the Khorsabad Court Project are estimated at \$500,000. In addition to the generous Knight Foundation award, the Khorsabad Court Project has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust. If you are interested in contributions to the Khorsabad Court Project, please contact Cynthia Echols in the Development Office at (773) 702-9513.

THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS

Year-End Appeal Brings Strong Support

Once again the membership of the Oriental Institute has demonstrated extraordinary dedication and loyalty. And spectacular generosity. The 1996 year-end appeal gifts totaled \$227,126—a 39% increase over 1995 gifts! Friends of Chicago House contributed \$76,873, and Museum programs and Institute projects received many welcome contributions. Many thanks to all our members who supported the year-end appeal.

Remember: You may make a tax-deductible gift or pledge to the Institute at any time. Pledges may be paid over several years. Any gift may be made with the transfer of securities through the University of Chicago Investment Office. Tax code currently permits individuals to donate publicly traded stock at its fully appreciated value to nonprofit institutions, but the ability to front-load a deduction at its appreciated value will expire on 1 June unless Congress extends it (*New York Times*, 4 February 1997). Gift options include deferred vehicles such as Charitable Remainder Trusts and life-income arrangements that at once help the Oriental Institute and Museum, qualify for tax write-offs, and can provide income to you or your spouse now or at some future date. If you would like information about gift options, please call Cynthia Echols at (773) 702-9513.

WORK IN PROGRESS



COUNTDOWN: FULFILL THE LEGACY

GOAL	\$10.1 million
GIFTS TO DATE	\$7.4 million
HELP US RAISE	\$2.7 million

If you've been in Chicago this winter, you know all about our unusually cold weather. This adverse weather interrupted construction. Below is the updated project timetable:

August 1996	Groundbreaking
6 May 1997	Cornerstone Ceremony
19 May 1997	Romancing the Past 1997 Gala celebration of new wing cornerstone placement and Breasted Medallion presentation
October 1997	New Construction Completion
Fall 1998	Formal Gallery Reopening

Don't forget the Cornerstone Society

To honor the donors who are making the Oriental Institute's new wing and renovation possible, we have established the Cornerstone Society. The Cornerstone Society will include all donors to the Legacy Campaign with gifts or pledges of \$10,000 or more. Each Cornerstone Society honoree will be invited to submit a written memento—a personal message—for placement in the cornerstone time capsule. In addition Cornerstone Society members will be invited to special hard hat tours and renovated gallery preview parties.

If you would like information about the Cornerstone Society, please call Cynthia Echols at (773) 702-9513.



Top: The concrete pad of the first level is poured (late December); photograph by Jean Grant

Middle: Project manager Joe Auclair conducts a tour of construction areas for Institute staff

Right: Supports for the second floor are built (4 January 1997)

Far right: The weather worsens just a bit (7 January 1997)

Photographs by William M. Sumner

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEER OFFICE

JANUARY DOCENT DAY

On 29 January 1997, Elizabeth Sonnenschein, wife of University of Chicago President Hugo Sonnenschein, once again opened her home to the volunteers, faculty, and staff of the Oriental Institute. After a tea featuring the splendid culinary efforts of Docent and James Henry Breasted Society Member Mary Jo Khuri, Oriental Institute Museum Director Karen L. Wilson gave an informative slide talk on the progress of the renovation, particularly the delicate job of de-installing and protecting the Museum's Assyrian Reliefs. As we have come to expect, many of our volunteers braved the fierce weather to hear Karen speak and to chat with other volunteers, staff members, and Mrs. Sonnenschein. The Oriental Institute Volunteer Program would like to thank all those who helped to make the event a success, particularly Mrs. Sonnenschein for her hospitality and Karen L. Wilson for her time, good humor, and expertise.



Top: Maria Ahlstrom, Neta Rattenbourg, Peggy Kovacs, Ida de Pencier, Dorothy Mozinski, Betty Baum, and Christel Betz (l to r) listen to Karen L. Wilson's talk

Middle: Visiting Committee Member Albert (Bud) Haas speaks with Elizabeth Sonnenschein

Lower left: Docent Coordinator Catherine Dueñas, Peggy Kovacs, Neta Rattenbourg, Christel Betz, and Carole Krucoff (l to r) enjoy the delectable food, while volunteer Jane Belcher (seated) pours tea

Lower right: Elizabeth Sonnenschein and Karen L. Wilson, Oriental Institute Museum Director



Photographs by Jean Grant



FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE—NEW TITLE

Perspectives on Hittite Civilization: Selected Writings of Hans Gustav Güterbock

Editor • Harry A. Hoffner, Jr. Assistant Editor • Irving L. Diamond

Assyriological Studies, No. 26

Pp. xi + 274; frontispiece (Professor Güterbock); 49 illustrations, 3 tables

Price: \$35.00

Available to Members at a 20% Discount.
Contact the Oriental Institute, Publications Sales Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637

• Telephone (773) 702-9508

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The thirty-three articles in this collection (originally published between 1948 and 1992) were chosen from the corpus of bibliographical items authored by Hans Gustav Güterbock over a span of more than sixty years. They give a rich and varied picture of ancient Hittite culture by one who literally grew up with the new discipline and experienced firsthand its most dramatic discoveries.

Both the choice of articles and their sequence in this volume were decisions of Professor Güterbock. Articles deal with almost every conceivable aspect of ancient Hittite culture: history, literature, divination, mythology/theology, religious ceremonies, architecture, ethnic diversity, law, diplomacy, social structure, and administration. This diversity demonstrates Güterbock's proficiency in all areas of Hittitological research. The article "Hans Ehelolf and the Boğazköy Archive at Berlin," newly translated by the author from his German original, draws not only on his scholarly expertise in Hittite studies but also on his personal experience as a student of the noted scholar Ehelolf.

With only one exception, all articles appear in the language in which they were originally published. Six out of the thirty-three are in German; the remainder in English.

Some of these articles were produced over fifty years ago, and many over twenty years ago. Their content reflects the status of our understanding of Hittite language, text corpus, and culture at the time of their original publication.

One could not ask for a more competent guide to Hittite studies than Hans Gustav Güterbock. With this volume of collected essays we hope to make the fruits of his long life of research and publication available to a new generation of readers.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Ankara University has awarded Professor Emeritus **Hans G. Güterbock** an honorary degree in recognition of his work for the university in its early years. Güterbock was part of the nucleus of German emigre professors fleeing Nazi Germany who joined the faculty of the new Ankara University in the 1930s and laid the foundations for its development into a great modern university.

IN THE NEWS Tell Madaba, Jordan

The *Jordan Times* of 2 November 1996 featured an article on the recently-begun excavations at Tell Madaba, led by Oriental Institute Research Associate **Timothy P. Harrison**. The project, funded by the National Geographic Society and the American Schools of Oriental Research, grew out of a survey conducted by Harrison in 1993. This past summer's first field season, which was staffed by students from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago with the help of travel grants from the Helen Rich Fellowship Fund, succeeded in delineating the stratigraphic history of the lower tell and exposed portions of an Early Bronze Age town. In addition, portions of the town's western acropolis were mapped in preparation for future large scale excavations. The information gathered was then added to a digitized database created following the 1993 survey using ArcInfo, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software program that will permit integration of all future work in Madaba. A study season is planned for the spring and summer of 1997 to prepare for a multiple-season second phase of excavations scheduled to begin in 1998.



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All inquiries, comments, and suggestions are welcome.

Your next visit is only a "click" away!
Log on to the Oriental Institute's
World-Wide Web site:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/default.html>

SUQ INVENTORY SALE

26 May–4 June

Mark your calendars for the annual **Suq Inventory Sale**, which begins Memorial Day Monday 26 May and runs through Wednesday 4 June. Members will receive **20%** off of all books and **30%** off all other merchandise. We will be open daily 10:00 AM–5:30 PM and until 8:30 PM on Wednesdays.

See you there!

JANET WALLACH'S *DESERT QUEEN*

Copies of this book are available from the *Suq* for \$27.50; members receive a 10% discount. The *Suq* may be reached at (773) 702-9509 or (773) 702-9510.