



**THE PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION TABLETS**  
*What They Are, and Why They're At Risk*

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY



The richest resource of the Oriental Institute is the community of people who are actively engaged in the scholarly research and public outreach that are the two key parts of our mission. I am sorry to report that this fall we must say farewell to one of our most talented colleagues — our Membership Coordinator Maria Krasinski. Maria is leaving the Institute in order to pursue graduate studies in cultural policy studies and international affairs. Everyone who knows Maria is certain that she will be as creative and successful in this new endeavor as she has been in her work at the Institute.

After graduating from the University of Chicago, Maria went to work for Carole Krucoff in our Education Section from 2001 to June 2004. In summer 2004, Maria moved down the hall to start as the Institute's Membership Coordinator. Over the course of the past two-and-a-half years, Maria has made major improvements in our membership department. She updated and reorganized our records, designed a new membership brochure, and embarked on an extremely successful recruitment campaign that increased our numbers from 1,800 to 2,300 members. She revitalized our lecture program, our travel program, and our events for the Breasted Society. Maria made it her priority to insure the success and appeal of members' events and has always made the extra effort to help out when needed.

Perhaps the most easily visible improvements that Maria implemented can be seen in our *Annual Reports* and in the copy of *News & Notes* that you are holding at this moment. Maria has worked tirelessly to upgrade the quality, readability, and overall look of our newsletter so that it has slowly evolved into a colorful, beautifully formatted magazine. The difference is striking, as you can see from the comparison below of an older issue and a more recent number produced under Maria's editorship.

I know that I speak for all of us in the Oriental Institute community of members, faculty, and staff when I wish her the best of luck and every success in her new academic career. We'll miss you!

*Gil J. Stein*  
Director, Oriental Institute

# NEWS & NOTES

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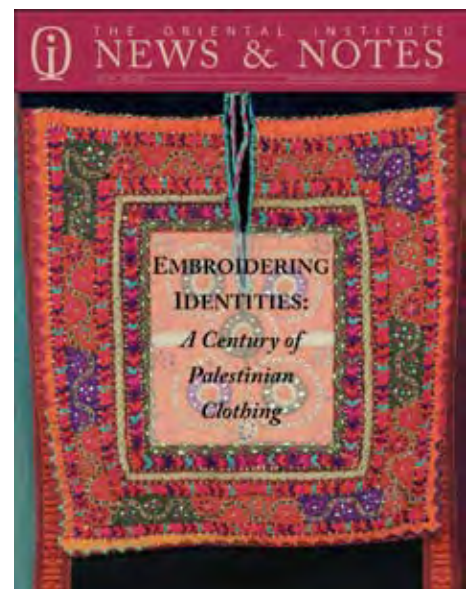
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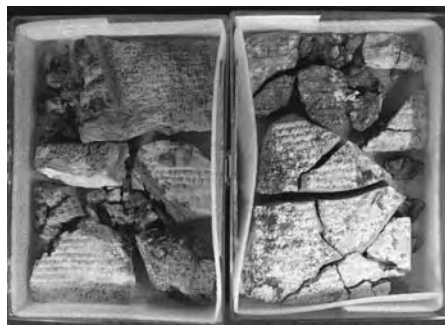
# A HERITAGE THREATENED: THE PERSEPOLIS TABLETS LAWSUIT AND THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

*Gil J. Stein, Director, Oriental Institute*

**T**HE PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION TEXTS have seen two firestorms. The first was the burning of the Persian capital by Alexander the Great in 329/330 B.C. After surviving this destruction, the tablets now face a second conflagration — a legal battle that could well lead to the dismemberment of this unique archive if it is seized, auctioned off piecemeal, and disappears into the holdings of private art collectors around the world.

This latter threat is quite real and could lead to the loss of the single most important surviving source of information about the organization of the 2,500 year old Persian Empire of Cyrus, Darius, and Xerxes. If this actually happens, it would be a loss to science of unprecedented scale, and it would rob the Iranian people of one of the most important symbols of their cultural heritage and identity. But the tablets speak to concerns far beyond those of the Iranian people — in fact, this legacy of the Persian Empire forms a key part of the golden thread that links the ancient Near East, the Judeo-Christian traditions of the Bible, and the emergence of Greek and Western civilization. As such, the fate of these tablets should be of greatest concern to every thinking individual. The Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago are absolutely determined to protect the integrity of this remarkable archive as both a unique scholarly resource and as a touchstone of world cultural heritage.

How did this dusty trove of unbaked clay cuneiform-impressed tablets become embroiled in controversy and threatened in this way?



**FROM TAKHT-I-JAMSHID TO CHICAGO:  
THE ODYSSEY OF THE PERSEPOLIS  
TABLETS**

As described so well by Professor Matthew Stolper in the accompanying article in this issue of *News & Notes*, one of the greatest accomplishments of the Oriental Institute is surely its excavations during the 1930s at Takht-i-Jamshid — ancient Persepolis, the 2,500 year old monumental capital of the Achaemenid Persian Empire. During the 1933 season of excavations, Ernst Herzfeld and his team from the Oriental Institute discovered a deposit containing tens of thousands of unbaked clay tablets and badly broken tablet fragments impressed with writing in a cuneiform script; the trove was found in one of the rooms of the northern Fortification wall surrounding the palaces, treasuries, and temples of Persepolis.

The Persepolis tablets are tremendously important for two reasons. First, they are a unique resource for scholarship. Until their discovery, our main written sources for the Persian Empire were those written by foreigners — notably the Hebrew Bible and Greek sources such as Herodotus and historians

of Alexander's campaigns. These accounts, quite naturally, gave a partial and biased picture of the Persian Empire. A handful of monumental carved stone inscriptions by Darius and Xerxes at Bisitun and on the palace walls of Persepolis itself were the only real records written by the Persians. With the discovery of the Persepolis Fortification tablets, researchers were finally able to get an understanding of the everyday life and internal workings of the Achaemenid imperial organization, as described by the Persians themselves. The tablets also bear thousands of seal impressions. Since the archive is securely dated within a very narrow time range (from 509 to 494 B.C. in the reign of Darius I), this allows art historians to precisely date the use of specific art styles, while interpreting them as a related body of art aimed at presenting the official and unofficial ideologies and belief systems of the Achaemenid imperial elite.

But the Persepolis tablets also have a very deep modern significance as irreplaceable items of cultural heritage for the people of Iran. Persepolis and the Persian Empire are the central symbols of Iranian cultural identity. The greatness of the Achaemenid Empire is deeply engrained in Iranians' very definition of who they are as a people and their important role in the history of civilization. To this day, names such as "Cyrus" or "Darius" are common in Iran, and every Iranian is aware of the significance of the site of Takht-i-Jamshid, as Persepolis is known in the Farsi language. The Persepolis texts, as the actual records of the government of the Persian king Darius,

resonate for Iranians at a very profound level. In other words, these are items of cultural heritage as important as the crown jewels of England, or the original document of the Magna Carta, or the Western Wall in Jerusalem, or the Parthenon in Athens.

It was therefore an extraordinary act of trust and international scholarly cooperation in 1936, when the Iranian government allowed the tablets to be brought to the Oriental Institute on a long-term loan for purposes of translation and analysis. The texts were recovered from the ground in an extremely fragile and often fragmentary state. The massive quantity, fragile physical condition, and the challenges of reading the texts have made their analysis and publication a difficult, long-term project that has extended for seventy years and is still far from completion. The vast majority of the tablets are written in a late dialect of Elamite, the oldest written language of Iran. This extremely difficult language can be read by only a tiny number of highly-trained researchers, perhaps no more than twenty or so throughout the world. It took decades before Oriental Institute scholar Richard Hallock was able to decipher the script effectively and publish the first set of about 2,000 tablets. The texts are the abbreviated records of the issuance of food rations to various functionaries in order to supply them as they traveled or worked on behalf of the Achaemenid imperial administration. This makes it extremely difficult to understand the contents of the texts, even if one can actually read the written words — one might compare it to the challenge of a person from another country trying to make sense of thousands of cash-register receipts from a supermarket. Would they know that the phrase “ $\frac{1}{2}$  gal 2 pct” refers to “one-half gallon of low-fat (2%) milk”? Professor Hallock famously summarized the difficulty of working with the Persepolis texts when he remarked “if you’re not confused, then you clearly don’t understand the problem.”

Despite these challenges, by dint of sheer brilliance and persistence, Hallock and other scholars slowly started to crack the code of the Persepolis tablets, and as they did so, they revolutionized Achaemenid studies to give the world its first understanding of the Persian Empire in the actual words of the long-dead Persians

themselves. Professor Matthew Stolper of the Oriental Institute now bears the primary responsibility for the analysis and translation of the tablets.

### RETURN OF THE TEXTS

From the time of the tablets’ first arrival in Chicago, researchers at the Oriental Institute were keenly aware of the texts’ importance as the cultural heritage of the Iranian people, and of their scholarly responsibility not only to translate and analyze the tablets but also to ensure their return as loan objects back to Iran once their analysis and recording were complete. Professor George Cameron returned the first set of 179 tablets in 1948. A second shipment of more than 37,000 tablet fragments followed in 1951. In May 2004, a team consisting of myself, Laura D’Alessandro, Head of Conservation, and William Harms from the University of Chicago News Office returned an additional 300 complete tablets to the National Museum in Tehran. At this point, by our best estimates, more than two thirds of the Persepolis Fortification texts have been returned to Iran. There now remain approximately 8,000 tablets and 11,000 poorly preserved fragments of the unbaked clay tablets awaiting analysis at the Oriental Institute.

The most recent



Top to bottom: Gil J. Stein and Mohammad Beheshti, Director of the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization, signing receipt for the tablets. Gil J. Stein and Mohammad Beheshti after signing the document. Sharokh Razmjou and Madame Zahra Jaffar-Mohammadi of the Iranian National Museum and the Oriental Institute’s Laura D’Alessandro inspecting the tablets after their return. Madame Zahra Jaffar-Mohammadi, William Harms, Director of the Iranian National Museum, Reza Kargar, and Laura D’Alessandro. Photo credits: top three William Harms, bottom Gil Stein

return of loaned tablets in 2004 received extensive and highly favorable coverage in the international media. It therefore came as a complete shock when several months later the Oriental Institute was served with legal documents demanding that it surrender the Persepolis tablets to satisfy the legal claims for damages in a lawsuit by victims of a Hamas bombing attack in Israel.

### THE LAWSUIT

The Oriental Institute found itself caught in the middle of a complex legal drama that began in Jerusalem in 1997 and is now playing out in a Federal courthouse in Chicago. In 1997, a group of Americans fell victim to a bombing attack in Jerusalem. Five people lost their lives, and many others were badly injured. The Palestinian organization Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing. The surviving victims and the families of those who died argued that the Islamic republic of Iran had funded Hamas and should therefore be held accountable to pay compensation. When the case was heard in federal court, representatives of the state of Iran did not appear to contest the case. As a result, a default judgment was entered against Iran for over \$200 million in damages. Because the tablets are on loan from Iran to the Oriental Institute, the plaintiffs are attempting to seize and sell them to satisfy the claim for damages. The case is currently in litigation.

At the Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago, we feel the deepest sympathy for the victims of the terrorist attack. However, we do not believe that the law allows for the seizure of cultural heritage as compensation. The tablets are not commercial assets like oil wells, tankers, or houses. Instead, these types of culturally unique and important materials fall within a special protected category and are not subject to seizure.

It is important to note that the U.S. State Department has twice made submissions to the court in which our government concurs with the University of Chicago's reading of the law. Representatives of the Iranian government have also appeared in court to assert the special protected status of the Persepolis tablets that exempts them from this type of legal action. At this point, with the court case ongoing, the tablets do not appear to be in any immediate threat of confiscation and sale. However the longer-term danger remains very serious and real.

### WHERE WE STAND

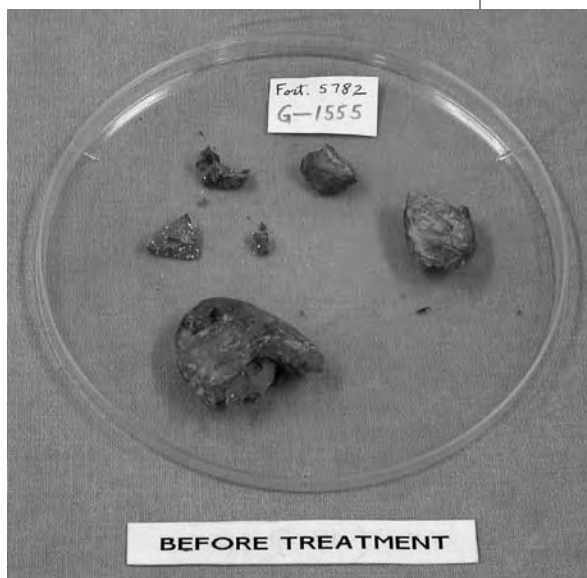
The Oriental Institute will do everything in its power to protect cultural patrimony and the character of the tablets as an irreplaceable scholarly data set. The Persepolis Fortification tablets were legally excavated in the 1930s and exported with the permission of the Iranian government. This trove of tablets has never been a commercial item to be bought or sold. They have never been a source of

commercial activity or profit to either Iran or the Oriental Institute. They are items of cultural heritage every bit as unique and important as the original document of the Constitution of the United States.

The stakes are enormous. If the lawsuit prevails, this would do irrevocable harm to scholarly cooperation and cultural exchanges throughout the world. We have a responsibility of stewardship for items of cultural heritage such as the Persepolis tablets. These fragile records have miraculously survived the burning of Persepolis by Alexander the Great. It is extraordinary that they were found and scientifically excavated. They are the only archive of their kind in the world. It is our responsibility as both scientists and as responsible citizens to protect them for future generations. This is the shared heritage of all people.

The protection of cultural heritage and of scholarly research are fundamental matters of principle for the Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago, as they should be for every civilized person and nation. This is certainly the widely held view of the scholarly community and of international institutions such as UNESCO. We firmly believe that cultural heritage and scholarship must transcend politics.

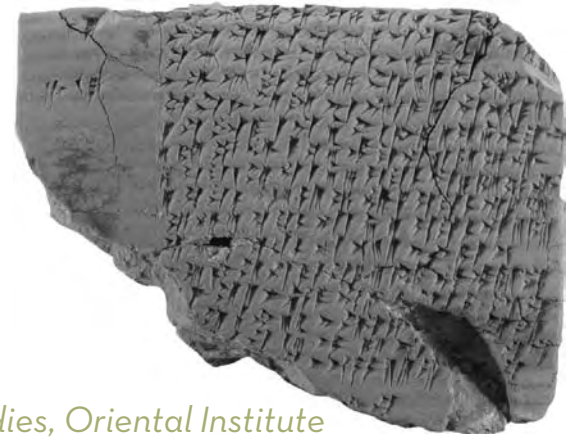
I am confident that common sense and our reading of the law will ultimately prevail in this matter, and that the Persepolis tablets will remain intact as both a unique source for scholarship, and as a jewel of cultural heritage.



One of the Persepolis tablets before and after undergoing conservation treatment at the Oriental Institute. PF 5782

# THE PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION TABLETS

Matthew Stolper, John A. Wilson Professor of Oriental Studies, Oriental Institute



## WHAT ARE THE PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION TABLETS?

Darius I (522–486 B.C.) began to build the imperial residence complex at Persepolis (modern Takht-i-Jamshid, near Shiraz in southwestern Iran) and the work flourished under his son Xerxes (486–465 B.C.) and under succeeding Achaemenid kings. The additions, alterations, and rebuilding came to a brutal end when Alexander the Great conquered, looted, and burned the palace complex in 330/329 B.C. Even in ruins, the massive platform, lofty columns, sculptured walls, and staircases were imposing, and for many centuries they attracted the attention of visitors. Some early European travelers brought back souvenirs, and others made records. Carsten Niebuhr's precise drawings of

the trilingual cuneiform inscriptions on the visible ruins at Persepolis, made at the end of the eighteenth century, became the basis for the first steps in deciphering the cuneiform scripts at the beginning of the nineteenth.

But it was not until 1931 that an Oriental Institute expedition began to excavate what lay beneath these standing ruins. One entirely surprising discovery was a large group of clay tablets and fragments, proof that behind the splendid palaces and sculptured façades that were the setting for the court of the Great Kings stood an administrative apparatus that controlled movements of food, animals, and labor in the region around the palaces, the heartland of the Persians, and that apparatus relied on an information system that was as complex and sophisticated as any in the ancient world.

The tablets were unearthed in 1933 near a bastion of the fortification wall that surrounded the great platform and the hillside above it. The findspot gave its name to the Persepolis Fortification tablets. There were as many as 15,000 to 30,000 or more tablets and fragments. Most (thousands of tablets and tens of thousands of fragments) were in the Elamite language in cuneiform script. A few (hundreds of tablets and hundreds of fragments) were in the Aramaic language and script. Most inscribed tablets had impressions of seals, and thousands of other similarly shaped pieces had only seal impressions, with no text at all. There were single tablets in the Akkadian language in cuneiform script, in Greek language and script, and in an Anatolian script perhaps representing the Phrygian language. It took years to determine that the whole group came from the middle of the reign of Darius I, 509–494 B.C.

## WHAT DO THEY TELL US ABOUT?

The Fortification tablets came to Chicago in 1936, on loan for study. A team of scholars began work at once, but the vicissitudes of World War II and post-war professional circumstances shrank the team that had worked on the main body, the Elamite texts, to one man, Richard T. Hallock. Almost every part of Hallock's task needed groundbreaking work, but the ground was new and hard. It was not until 1969 that Hallock published his exact, magisterial edition of 2,087 Elamite texts on Fortification tablets (*Persepolis Fortification Tablets*, OIP 92, usually abbreviated as PFT).



Above: Oblique aerial view of the Persepolis Terrace. OIM AE-560  
Top Right: Elamite Fortification tablet



Top to bottom: Unedited Elamite Fortification tablet. Greek Fortification tablet. Unedited Aramaic tablet fragment. Uninscribed Fortification tablet

Hallock's book included transliterations and translations of the texts, a glossary of all known Achaemenid Elamite words, a sketch of Achaemenid Elamite grammar, a detailed analysis of the transactions and administrative systems that the texts recorded, and a key to the use of seals on the tablets that was the basis for analyzing the administration of the Persepolis region.

As the implications of Hallock's publication started to become clear, they had a profound effect on many ways of understanding the ancient Iranian past. Of course, the Persepolis Fortification archive was a very large corpus for the study of the latest phase of Elamite, a language known since the decipherments of the nineteenth century, but still scarcely understood, but the tablets had many other layers of information as well. The Elamite texts abound in transcriptions of Iranian names and titles, so they were also a new corpus for the study of Old Iranian languages, especially the Iranian of the Achaemenid court (otherwise represented only by a few inscriptions) and the terminology of production and administration (otherwise represented only by loanwords in other ancient languages). The texts were dated and sealed, so the tablets supplied a new corpus for the exact study of Elamite and Achaemenid Persian art in the "minor" form of glyptic, a form that reveals experiment and development in the minds and hands of individual masters in ways that grand buildings and relief carvings cannot. The texts depict a complex regional administration, so the archive was a basis for reinterpreting fragmentary administrative records from other regions of the Achaemenid Empire. The contents of the texts were narrow and even dull — food and drink — but the institution that kept the texts dealt with almost the whole gamut of imperial society that literally fed at the king's door, from lowly workers and less lowly craftsmen, to local officials, bureaucrats, and accountants, to official travelers coming to and from the court from the farthest reaches of the empire, to the king's own family and in-laws. And by showing the Achaemenids no longer as illiterate barbarian rulers of more civilized subjects, but as successors to millennia of statecraft and administrative technique, the large sample of texts that

Hallock published was the impetus for changing direction in modern studies of Achaemenid history. No treatment of the Persian Empire, its history, institutions, languages, or art, can omit the view of the imperial center and its connections afforded by the Elamite Fortification tablets.

#### WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

One reason that this impact was slow to emerge is that the real significance lies not in particular texts — there is no narrative, no description, and little drama to be seen in them — but in the complex web of connections among texts. The 2,087 documents that Hallock published represented just the beginning of the data points to be connected to this web. Before Hallock died in 1979, he transliterated and glossed 2,586 more Fortification texts, but he published only thirty-one of them. Transliterations of the rest were made available to researchers on various projects: they are cited from Hallock's transcriptions in reference works on Elamite lexicon, historical geography, Old Iranian language and lexicon, and in many special studies.

The Elamite texts were only one component of the whole archive. The tablets with texts in Aramaic — a language that was used throughout the Achaemenid Empire, from Egypt to Central Asia, not only for some regional administration, but also for interregional communication — became the responsibility of Raymond A. Bowman. He worked on them off and on for much of his life, and when he died (in the same year as Hallock), he left draft editions of about 500 Aramaic texts on Fortification tablets. This is another extraordinary linguistic and historical treasure-trove. We have other Achaemenid Aramaic ostraca and legal papyri, but when Bowman's editions are revised and updated for modern publication, they will almost double the number of documents in Imperial Aramaic, as this form of the language is usually called. Equally important, when the links between the Aramaic and Elamite Fortification texts begin to become clear, this Imperial Aramaic corpus will be unique for its dense historical context, and it will add an



Detail of the sculptured walls and grand staircase of the Persepolis palace complex. The Fortification tablets recorded the administrative structure of the Persian Empire

entirely new dimension to the information web of the Elamite texts.

Both the Elamite and the Aramaic tablets carry the impressions of seals, usually of one or two seals, sometimes more. These are the visible representation of the people and offices that operated the institution that kept the tablets. For the users of these documents, they brought both identity and authority to the written information. Hallock identified impressions of more than a thousand distinct seals on the tablets in PFT, and since 1979, Margaret Root (University of Michigan) and Mark Garrison (Trinity University) have worked on a three-part publication of these and all the other seal impressions. The Oriental Institute published the first part in 2001 (OIP 117). It reveals still another dimension of the information in the Fortification archive, not only an array of art and craft, but also a compendium

of connections among individuals, offices, operations, and images.

#### WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The work left by Hallock and Bowman remains to be finished, and the Oriental Institute has begun to bring it to completion in forms that were unheard of when the work started, using electronic tools. Since 1989, Charles E. Jones (former Research Archivist, Oriental Institute, now at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens) and I have collaborated in collating Hallock's transcriptions of unpublished Fortification texts (abbreviated as PF-NN) and transcribing them to computer files. Since 1996, we have collaborated with Gene Gragg (Professor and former Director, Oriental Institute), and since 2001 with Sandra Schloen (programmer, Oriental Institute) on a prototype electronic

publication of PF-NN 0001–0300 in the On-line Cultural Heritage Resource Environment (OCHRE), adapting programs and standards developed for electronic publication of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. Since 2003, I have supervised students and volunteers who are making and editing digital pictures of Elamite Fortification tablets to link to electronic editions of the texts.

Since 2006, Annalisa Azzoni (Vanderbilt University) has been revising and updating Bowman's edition of Aramaic texts, and expanding it to include other such texts unknown to Bowman, also compiling the information in OCHRE in a form that will underlie an eventual publication. Elspeth Dusinberre (University of Colorado) has begun to work on the seal impressions on these Aramaic tablets, and in 2006, Garrison began a pilot project for analysis and





Boxes of unedited Fortification tablets, awaiting conservation and translation

publication of the sealed, unscribed tablets — a large, entirely untouched corpus of thousands of documents, perhaps a sixth or more of the whole archive.

In 2006, Lec Maj (Computer Research, Division of the Humanities, University of Chicago) and I received a grant from the University's Advanced Technologies Initiative to investigate high-tech imaging systems that might be applicable to the Fortification material — CT scanning, 3-D scanning, X-ray and other forms of imaging — not only to record the objects in as much detail as possible and as quickly as possible, but also to help with decisions about cleaning, conservation, and curation. Also in 2006, Gil Stein (Director, Oriental Institute), myself, and others of the growing Persepolis team joined Bruce Zuckerman (University of Southern California) — acknowledged as the leading expert on making images of West Semitic documents — in designing a project to record the Aramaic Persepolis tablets and the sealed, unscribed Persepolis tablets, using both very high quality conventional digital imaging and a process called Polynomial Texture Mapping that allows the viewer to manipulate the apparent light source in images of seal impressions and other low-relief items.

As these various linked projects were getting under way, I began to re-examine the remaining contents of the more than 2,300 boxes of Persepolis tablets and fragments that remained after the work of Bowman and Hallock. This is the lowest of low-tech operations: prying clots of dirt loose, blowing clouds of dirt and ground

salt off, and sometimes pausing to read and photograph individual pieces. One result is a sort of triage, in preparation for further study and recording. Many of the fragments are too badly damaged to ever give useful information. Many others can be conserved and cleaned, and even in a fragmentary state, their texts and seals can be connected with what is known from earlier work. And a few — perhaps a thousand or so — are readable as they are.

The Fortification archive is at risk, and in this emergency the Oriental Institute's highest priority is on recording as much of the archive as possible, in as high of a quality as possible, and as quickly as possible to make our results available as widely as possible. As every excavator learns, you can't record something if you can't see it, and you can't see it if you don't clean it. So even though the electronic tool kit grows ever bigger and better, the Oriental Institute is hoping for time and looking for support for the painstaking work of cleaning and conserving the remaining Fortification fragments.

#### AFTER SO MANY YEARS, WHAT MORE CAN BE LEARNED?

As important as the Elamite Fortification texts have been to the understanding of Achaemenid history and languages, the potential importance of the Fortification archive as a whole is still greater. It is like a fossil creature, made up of several organs and systems, each made of many elements or cells, some of them broken and many others lost. The elements make sense when they are

connected as parts of organs and systems, but the whole creature makes sense only when all the organs and systems are reconnected. There may be 15,000 or 20,000 or 30,000 Fortification tablets or fragments, but they are all pieces of one thing, a single information system, the relic of a single administrative institution and a single social system. The meaning and value of the pieces is much less than the meaning and value of the connections among them.

Therefore, there are at least two kinds of things to be learned from the remaining tablets and fragments. One is more of what we already know — more glimpses of familiar people, places, and activities; more connections in the web of information; the opportunity to base interpretations and arguments on many data points instead of one or two; and, simply put, more solid ground, gained inch by inch. The other kind is entirely new information, some of it anticipated — for example, the rich variety of seals and sealing patterns in the unscribed tablets (some of it utterly surprising, entirely unique) or fragments of texts in languages and scripts not previously represented. However startling or even important such unexpected knowledge is, its importance — that is, its capacity to build our knowledge of the past — is multiplied by the mere fact of belonging to this complicated, forbidding, frustrating, broken archive. By the same token, if the pieces of the archive are separated from each other, much of the knowledge that they can convey will disappear forever.

# FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



## A YEAR-END GUIDE TO GIVING

There are many ways to contribute to the Oriental Institute. Below are descriptions of some of the most common means of making a gift.

### OUTRIGHT GIFTS

#### Cash

Your gift of cash will be applied to the project of your choice immediately, where it will be invested and managed by the University's portfolio managers in order to ensure a steady source of support for the Institute's core research programs.

#### Appreciated Stock

Your gift of appreciated stock will be applied to the project of your choice immediately. In addition to the charitable deduction as allowed by federal tax law, a gift of appreciated stock allows you to avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation.

#### Pledges

You may decide to make your gift using either cash or appreciated stock over a period of time up to five years.

### PLANNED GIFTS

Planned gifts allow you to transfer assets to the University while retaining some use of the asset for your lifetime and/or that of your spouse or other designated beneficiary. Upon the death of the surviving beneficiary, the remaining assets will be applied to the Oriental Institute's project of your choice. Several types of planned gifts are available. Please consider your own financial situation when contemplating a planned gift. The University's Office of Gift Planning and the Oriental Institute's Development Director are available to assist you in choosing the planned giving vehicle that can benefit your family as well as the Institute.

#### Charitable Gift Annuity

A charitable gift annuity allows you to transfer an asset (cash, appreciated stock, or other property) to the University and in return receive fixed cash payments for your lifetime and/or that of your spouse or other individual beneficiary. Your payments begin immediately. In addition to an immediate charitable deduction, part of your payments will be tax free. If you fund an annuity with appreciated stock, you will also save on capital gains. A minimum of \$10,000 is needed to establish a charitable gift annuity.

#### Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity

A deferred charitable gift annuity allows you to defer the start of your fixed cash payments for a period of years. Your charitable deduction may be taken at the time the asset is transferred to the University, allowing you to use this deduction while your tax bracket may be higher than it would be upon retirement. You may also earn a higher annuity rate, as your age when the payments begin will help determine your annuity rate. A minimum of \$10,000 is needed to establish a deferred charitable gift annuity.

#### Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust

An annuity trust can be established by transferring cash or securities in trust to the University. If you select the University as trustee, it manages the trust for you and/or other designated income beneficiaries. The trust provides you with an annual fixed income amount that is at least 5 percent of the initial fair market value of the trust assets. These fixed payments continue for your lifetime and the lifetimes of any other beneficiaries. Any income earned by the trust is added to the principal. If trust earnings are insufficient to meet the annuity payment, principal is used to make up the deficit. A minimum of \$50,000 is needed to fund an annuity trust. No additional contributions can be made to an annuity trust.

#### Charitable Remainder Unitrust

A charitable remainder unitrust is similar to an annuity trust but is more flexible and offers potentially higher income possibilities. Unlike the fixed payments from an annuity trust, the annual income from a unitrust is a fixed percentage of the fair market value of the trust assets as revalued each year. Additional contributions may be made to the trust at any time. Because the income payments are tied to the changing values of the trust assets, your payments will fluctuate. As the value of the trust grows over the years, your payments will increase. However, if the value of the trust assets decline, your payments will decrease. A minimum of \$50,000 is needed to establish a unitrust.

### THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

On August 17, 2006, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 became law. This Act contains an IRA Charitable Rollover provision. This provision allows individuals who are at least seventy-and-a-half-years old to make a tax-free distribution of up to \$100,000 from an IRA to charity, subject to certain qualifications. This provision only applies to transfers made in 2006 and 2007. Gifts made under this provision must be outright and these contributions cannot be used to fund gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts.

For information on any of the types of gifts described above or the Pension Protection Act of 2006, please contact Monica Witczak, Director of Development, at (773) 834-9775 or via email at [mwitczak@uchicago.edu](mailto:mwitczak@uchicago.edu).

# WINTER 2007 CALENDAR

*Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oriental Institute. All programs subject to change.*

## JANUARY

- 7 | SUNDAY** **Breaking Ground: The Story of the Oriental Institute**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details
- 11 | THURSDAY** **Afghanistan's Hidden Past**  
Members' Lecture  
7:00 PM  
See page 14 for details
- 11 | THURSDAY** **Tales of Gods and Men: Myths from Ancient Turkey and Northern Syria**  
Adult Education Course  
Thursdays, January 11–February 15  
7:00–9:00 PM  
See page 15 for details
- 13 | SATURDAY** **With Bible and Trowel: An Exploration of the Historicity of Ancient Israel**  
Adult Education Course  
Saturdays, January 13–March 3  
10:00 AM–12:00 PM  
See page 15 for details
- 14 | SUNDAY** **The Potters of Hebron**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details
- 21 | SUNDAY** **A Legend in the Taurus Mountains**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details
- 22 | MONDAY** **Ancient Egyptian Architecture**  
Distance Learning Course on Audiotape  
January 22–May 14  
See page 16 for details
- 24 | WEDNESDAY** **The Dead Sea Scrolls: The Texts and Their Meaning**  
Wednesdays, January 24–February 28  
7:00–9:00 PM  
See page 15 for details

- 27 | SATURDAY** **Embroidering Identities: A Century of Palestinian Clothing**  
Gallery Tour  
1:30 PM  
See page 16 for details
- 28 | SUNDAY** **Noah's Flood in Context: Legend or History?**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details

## FEBRUARY

- 4 | SUNDAY** **Nubia and the Mysteries of Kush**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details
- 11 | SUNDAY** **Love and Sex in Ancient Egypt**  
Lecture  
2:00 PM  
See page 16 for details
- 18 | SUNDAY** **The Sun Was the Only Witness**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details
- 25 | SUNDAY** **Awesome Ancient African Arts: A Festival for Families**  
Family Event  
1:00–5:00 PM  
See page 17 for details

## MARCH

- 1 | THURSDAY** **A Taste of the Levant**  
Cuisine and Cookery Event  
7:00 PM  
At Maza Restaurant  
See page 16 for details
- 4 | SUNDAY** **Palestinian National Costume**  
Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details

# WINTER 2007 CALENDAR

7 | WEDNESDAY

## Canaanites and Minoans in the Middle Bronze Age Palace at Tel Kabri, Israel

Members' Lecture  
7:00 PM  
See page 14 for details

11 | SUNDAY

## Women Pharaohs

Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details

14 | WEDNESDAY

## Recent Research in the Hittite Capital of Hattusa

Members' Lecture  
7:00 PM  
See page 14 for details

18 | SUNDAY

## Persepolis Revisited

Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details

25 | SUNDAY

## Ancient Treasures of the Deep

Film  
2:00 PM  
See page 13 for details

28 | WEDNESDAY

## Cleopatra as CEO: Bureaucracy and Scandal in the Hostile Takeover of a First Millennium (B.C.) Multinational

Lecture  
7:00 PM  
See page 14 for details

31 | SATURDAY

## Ancient Arts/Contemporary Artists

Oriental Institute/Field Museum Field Trip  
1:00–5:00 PM  
See page 17 for details



## ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION FORM

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Tales of Gods and Men: Myths from Ancient Turkey and Northern Syria	_____ \$169	_____ \$199	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> With Bible and Trowel: An Exploration of the Historicity of Ancient Israel	_____ \$199	_____ \$229	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> The Dead Sea Scrolls: The Texts and Their Meaning	_____ \$169	_____ \$199	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Ancient Egyptian Architecture (audiotape course)	_____ \$295	_____ \$325	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> A Taste of the Levant	_____ \$44	_____ \$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Ancient Arts/Contemporary Artists	_____ \$49	_____ \$59	_____

*Members' rate also applies to Field Museum members*

**GRAND TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is a separate check for \$50 for an individual membership or \$75 for a family; \$40 for individual senior, UC/UCH Faculty and Staff, or National Associate (persons living over 100 miles from Chicago within the USA) or \$65 for a family.

I prefer to pay by  Check (payable to the Oriental Institute)  Money order  MasterCard  Visa

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit security code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out and send form to: The Oriental Institute Education Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637

## SUNDAY FILMS

Each Sunday afternoon, enjoy the best in documentary films on the ancient Near East at the Oriental Institute. Films begin at 2:00 PM and are free. Unless otherwise noted, running times range from thirty to fifty minutes. Following the films, museum docents will be available in the galleries to answer questions about our exhibits.

### Jan 7 *Breaking Ground: The Story of the Oriental Institute* (2004)

Produced by Chicago Public Television, this film includes images and footage from historic excavations as well as Oriental Institute projects currently underway in Turkey and Egypt.

### Jan 14 *The Potters of Hebron* (1976)

Hebron, located just south of Jerusalem, is one of the most ancient cities in the Middle East. This film documents the pottery workshops of Hebron, where craftspeople followed processes developed in antiquity to create water jars that have been in use from ancient times. Since this film was made, the shops have all but disappeared.

### Jan 21 *A Legend in the Taurus Mountains* (2004)

Scholars had given up all hope of solving the mystery of Hittite hieroglyphs until the discovery of an ancient castle in Turkey's Taurus Mountains helped them decipher this pictorial script. See how the site of the castle has now become the first open-air museum of its kind in Turkey.

### Jan 28 *Noah's Flood in Context: Legend or History?* (2002)

This film uses satellite imagery, declassified intelligence photos, dramatic artwork, and archival footage to consider the scientific plausibility of the Old Testament story of Noah.

**In February our film showings focus on ancient Egypt and Nubia in conjunction with African American Heritage Month.**

### Feb 4 *Nubia and the Mysteries of Kush* (2001)

This film highlights the splendors of an ancient kingdom in what is now the country of Sudan. Footage includes visits to several archaeological sites, focusing on the discoveries and preservation efforts underway. The film also explores the natural beauty of the region, accompanied by an original musical score.

### Feb 11 **No Film Showing: Special Lecture**

"Love and Sex in Ancient Egypt." (See page 16)

### Feb 18 *The Sun Was the Only Witness* (2002)

From the series *Akhenaten and Nefertiti: Rulers of Egypt*, this film explores the reign of the revolutionary pharaoh who replaced the Egyptian pantheon with a single deity, the sun god Aten. Filmed on location in Egypt, this movie features expert commentary and lavish reenactments.

### Feb 25 **Special Program**

*Mummies Made in Egypt* (1992) is shown in conjunction with the Family Program Awesome Ancient African Arts: A Festival for Families. (See page 17)

### Mar 4 *Palestinian National Costume* (1987)

This film features a magnificent collection of traditional Palestinian bridal and ceremonial garments, headdresses, and jewelry, all presented to the beat of Arabic music. The film includes garments from all parts of Palestine, showing the distinct styles of each region as well as close-ups of intricate embroidery and appliqué. (70 min)

### Mar 11 *Women Pharaohs* (2001)

This documentary highlights major discoveries that reveal the profound influence and awesome authority of royal women in ancient Egypt. A production of Providence Pictures and the Discovery Channel, *Women Pharaohs* is presented in conjunction with Women's History Month in March.

### Mar 18 *Persepolis Revisited* (2004)

Discover the history and grandeur of Persepolis, capital of the great Persian Empire from 520 B.C. until its destruction by Alexander the Great in 330 B.C. This production features reconstructions of the great palaces at Persepolis and explains their function in connection with the Persian New Year festival.

### Mar 25 *Ancient Treasures of the Deep* (1987)

From the PBS *Nova* series, this documentary on the underwater excavation of a fourteenth-century B.C. shipwreck found off the southern coast of Turkey shows how trade united the ancient world.



Iran: Persepolis. Throne Hall, General View with the Apadana and the Gate of Xerxes. OIP 633

# MEMBERS' LECTURES

The Members' Lecture Series is made possible by the generous support of Oriental Institute members. Lectures are free and open to the public, with light refreshments afterward.

## AFGHANISTAN'S HIDDEN PAST

**Fredrik Hiebert, National Geographic Society**

Thursday, January 11 | 7:00 PM

Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute

**FREDRIK HIEBERT** is an Archaeology Fellow at the National Geographic Society and has studied ancient trade across Asia for more than twenty years. He taught at the University of Pennsylvania, where he held the Robert H. Dyson chair of Near Eastern Archaeology as an assistant professor and assistant curator in the museum. He founded the Black Sea Trade Project, the first archaeological expedition to combine land and deep-water archaeology in a single research project.

## CANAANITES AND MINOANS IN THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE PALACE AT TEL KABRI, ISRAEL

**Eric H. Cline, The George Washington University**

Wednesday, March 7 | 7:00 PM

Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute

During the summer of 2005, a renewed series of archaeological excavations began at Tel Kabri in Israel. Rescue excavations conducted at the site between 1986 and 1993 had previously uncovered the remains of a Middle Bronze Age Canaanite palace dating to the seventeenth century B.C., with Minoan-style fresco paintings decorating a plaster floor and walls that bore much resemblance to the miniature frescoes found on the Greek islands of Santorini and Crete. Such evidence for artistic connections between the Minoans and Canaanites is unique in Israel — this is the earliest western art found in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is also very rare elsewhere, existing outside the Aegean only at Tel el-Dab'a in Egypt and at the sites of Alalakh and Qatna in Syria. In this illustrated lecture, the most significant accomplishments of the preliminary season of excavations are discussed, including the first gold object ever discovered at the site.

*Co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America.*

**ERIC H. CLINE** is Associate Professor of Classics and of Anthropology and Chair of the Department of Classical and Semitic Languages and Literatures at The George Washington University. He is also co-director of excavations at Tel Kabri, Israel.

## RECENT RESEARCH IN THE HITTITE CAPITAL OF HATTUSA

**Andreas Schachner, German Archaeological Institute**

Wednesday, March 14 | 7:00 PM

Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute

**ANDREAS SCHACHNER** is Director of Excavations at Hattusa, Turkey.



Canaanite statuette, Megiddo. Late Bronze Age II, ca. 1350–1200 B.C. OIM A18316



## CLEOPATRA AS CEO: BUREAUCRACY AND SCANDAL IN THE HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF A FIRST MILLENNIUM (B.C.) MULTINATIONAL

**Janet H. Johnson**

Wednesday, March 28

7:00 PM

Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute

Most often portrayed as a seductive temptress, in this lecture Cleopatra is evaluated as an administrator. Janet H. Johnson, Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology at the University of Chicago and Editor of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary Project, examines the evidence from Cleopatra's reign and explores the political and cultural traditions of her era.

*Presented by the Membership and Museum Education Offices, this program is offered in conjunction with Women's History Month.*

Above: Female figure, Egypt. OIM 19517

# ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

The following courses are co-sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies. Each course offers Teacher Recertification CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education. For more information call Museum Education at (773) 702-9507.

## TALES OF GODS AND MEN: MYTHS FROM ANCIENT TURKEY AND NORTHERN SYRIA

Dennis Campbell

Thursdays, January 11–February 15

7:00–9:00 PM

At the Oriental Institute

In myths we read of the fantastic adventures of gods and humankind — gods battling gods, gods using humans to achieve their goals, and humankind even using gods for similar ends. Sometimes myths come to us as narrative, intimately connected to religious rites, while in other cases we find epic stories filled with poetic imagery.

In this course, read a wide variety of myths in translation that come from two major centers of the ancient world — Hattusa, capital of the Hittites in ancient Turkey, and Ugarit in northwestern Syria. Examine the ways this ancient literature preserved on cuneiform tablets reveals the religious beliefs, lifeways, and legacies of two great ancient civilizations.

*Pre-registration is required.*

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dennis Campbell is a Ph.D. candidate in Hittitology in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He specializes in the languages and cultures of ancient Anatolia.

**CPDUs:** 12

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Hoffner, Harry, Jr. *Hittite Myths: Second Edition*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998.

Coogan, Michael D. *Stories from Ancient Canaan*. Westminster: John Knox Press, 1978.



Hittite pottery fragment, Turkey. OIM A10266

## WITH BIBLE AND TROWEL: AN EXPLORATION OF THE HISTORICITY OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

Gabrielle V. Novacek

Saturdays, January 13–March 3

10:00 AM–12:00 PM

At the Oriental Institute

Did Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob really exist? Was there an Exodus out of Egypt? Is there evidence for a great unified Israelite Kingdom under David and Solomon? Since the beginning of archaeological exploration of the Holy Land, scholars have attempted to find the answers to these questions through the systematic excavation and study of critical sites mentioned in the Bible.

This course examines the great questions of biblical archaeology that have frequently turned the field into a hotbed of controversy and debate. By drawing together the physical evidence with textual accounts from the Bible, we will look at how archaeology has been used by scholars to illuminate — as well as discredit — the historicity of biblical events. Several class sessions include visits to the Oriental Institute Museum galleries.

*Pre-registration is required.*

**INSTRUCTOR:** Gabrielle V. Novacek is a Ph.D. candidate in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She was also Guest Curator for the Oriental Institute's Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery.

**CPDUs:** 16

### RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

*Hebrew Bible/Old Testament*. Suggested edition: New Oxford Annotated Bible, New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha.

Finkelstein, Israel and Neil Asher Silberman. *The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and its Sacred Texts*. New York: The Free Press, 2001.

Shanks, Hershel, ed. *Ancient Israel: From Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*. Washington, D.C.: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1999.

## THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS: THE TEXTS AND THEIR MEANING

Israel Sandman

Wednesdays, January 24–February 28

7:00–9:00 PM

At the Oriental Institute

Half a century ago, scrolls more than two thousand years old were discovered in Israel's Judean Desert, many at the site of the Qumran Fortress overlooking the Dead Sea. While the meaning and implications of these scrolls are still passionately debated, there is agreement that they reveal much about the Judaism of the Rabbis to early Christianity. We shall examine these texts for the light they shed on issues that became central to contemporary Western religion, including the relationship between law and spirituality, approaches to interpreting the Bible, the meaning of purity and holy living, and the messianic quest.

*Pre-registration is required.*

**INSTRUCTOR:** Israel Sandman received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He is currently a lecturer in the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies.

**CPDUs:** 12

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Wise, Michael O., Martin G. Abegg, and Edward Cook. *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation*. San Francisco: Harper, 2005.



Fragment of a scroll, Palestine: Qumran, Cave 4. First century A.D. OIM A30303

# DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE

## ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Emily Teeter

January 22–May 14

One of the greatest and most famous legacies of ancient Egyptian civilization is its architecture. Explore this rich legacy in an audiotape course that traces the architectural history of ancient Egypt from the Early Dynastic Period to the Roman era. Listen at home or on the go to discover the materials, tools, and techniques employed by the ancient engineers, the impact of changing technology on architectural forms, and how myth and ritual are reflected in the design of ancient Egyptian temples and tombs.

Offered in eight taped lessons over sixteen weeks, the course also includes special slide presentations on the Oriental Institute Web site to show full-color views of ancient sites, artifacts from the Oriental Institute Museum's galleries, and photographs from the instructor's personal collection. Supplemental readings and optional assignments are also provided. Those who complete all course assignments receive a certificate of course completion from the Oriental Institute.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Emily Teeter, who holds a Ph.D. in Egyptology from the University of Chicago, is a Research Associate at the Oriental Institute. She is the author of numerous publications on ancient Egypt, including *Ancient Egypt: Treasures from the Collection of the Oriental Institute*, *Egypt and the Egyptians* (with Douglas Brewer), and *Scarabs, Scaraboids, and Seals from Medinet Habu*.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Arnold, Dieter. *Building in Egypt: Pharaonic Stone Masonry*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991. (paperback)

Wilkinson, Richard. *The Complete Temples of Ancient Egypt*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 2000.

## GALLERY TOUR

### EMBROIDERING IDENTITIES: A CENTURY OF PALESTINIAN CLOTHING

Iman Saca, Exhibit Curator

Saturday, January 27

1:30 PM

Free

Meet in Museum Lobby

Iman Saca, exhibit curator for *Embroidering Identities: A Century of Palestinian Clothing*, presents a guided tour featuring displays of beautifully detailed garments that illustrate how clothing helped forge regional identity in Palestine.



This program is presented in conjunction with Winter Delights, a special initiative of the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Chicago Office of Tourism.

Bethlehem headdress (*shatwa*). Palestine, ca. 1900. OIM A35640E

## SPECIAL LECTURE

### LOVE AND SEX IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Emily Teeter

Sunday, February 11

2:00 PM

Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute

Free

Get set for Valentine's Day with this special look at love in the land of the pharaohs. Join Egyptologist Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute Research Associate and Curator of the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery, for insider's information on the ancient Egyptians, including their customs of marriage — and divorce — and their attitude toward adultery and homosexuality.

Following the lecture, choose a sentiment to be inscribed in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs to give to your own Valentine.

**SPEAKER:** Emily Teeter is a Research Associate at the Oriental Institute who holds a Ph.D. in Egyptology from the University of Chicago.

## CULINARY EVENT

### A TASTE OF THE LEVANT

Thursday, March 1

7:00 PM

Meet at Maza Restaurant

2748 North Lincoln Avenue

Chicago, IL 60614

The Oriental Institute continues its series of culinary events featuring the cuisine of the Middle East. Expand your cookery and recipe repertoire with "A Taste of the Levant" at Maza Restaurant. During this special evening, owner and master chef Joseph Kuri teaches you the secrets of one of his favorite recipes and invites you to savor the elegant cuisine of his Lebanese homeland. Enjoy a full course meal featuring an array of appetizers, a main course, dessert, and drink, all highlighting the sophisticated blend of European and Mediterranean influences that are a hallmark of Lebanese cuisine.

*Metered and valet parking available.*

**FEE:** \$44 for Oriental Institute members; \$49 for non-members. Includes full meal, Lebanese wine, tax, gratuity, and recipes to take home. Cocktails available but not included. Pre-registration required.



## FAMILY PROGRAM

### AWESOME ANCIENT AFRICAN ARTS: A FESTIVAL FOR FAMILIES

Sunday, February 25

1:00–5:00 PM

Bring the whole family on an adventure to ancient Africa during a day filled with storytelling, hands-on arts, and more! Tour the ancient Egyptian and Nubian Galleries with docents on hand, enjoy self-guided treasure hunts throughout the day, and encounter the mysteries and wonders of ancient Africa with a full afternoon of special programs.

Explore ancient Egypt as you get up close and personal with a mummy, enjoy an award-winning children's film, and create your own ancient Egyptian-style art. Experience ancient Nubia as you meet artists recreating ancient arts processes and make your own versions of ancient Nubian art. The adventure continues with hands-on presentations by storyteller and master teacher Awad Abdelgadir, who shows objects and demonstrates crafts from his Nubian homeland.

Special feature at 2:00 PM: Join Awad for "Life on the Nile," a fascinating journey to today's Nubia. Go on a safari, experience the color and excitement of a village wedding, and meet the people of Nubia in this interactive program that has engaged audiences of all ages at museums across the country.

**FREE.** Pre-registration not required.

## FIELD TRIP

### ANCIENT ARTS/CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS

Saturday, March 31

1:00–5:00 PM

Meet at the Oriental Institute

Bus transportation to the Hyde Park Art Center

Join us for the first in a special series of Oriental Institute/Field Museum field trips focusing on the work of Chicago artists who have been inspired by the techniques and motifs of ancient times. This program features papermaker Mary Tepper, a teaching artist for the Hyde Park Art Center and the Oriental Institute, who has a special interest in ancient art processes and the creation of ancient-style Egyptian papyrus.

The program begins at the Oriental Institute, where Tepper joins the museum docents to present a guided tour on the development of writing and writing materials in the ancient Near East. Then travel by bus to visit the futuristic new headquarters of the Hyde Park Art Center, where Tepper presents a papyrus-making demonstration and involves everyone in handcrafting their own version of this ancient-style paper. Tepper also discusses how the production of papyrus relates to the contemporary papermaking processes she uses to create custom-made paper and books.

The program ends with a wine and cheese reception, followed by a return to the Oriental Institute.

**PRESENTER:** Along with her work for the Hyde Park Art Center and the Oriental Institute, Mary Tepper is a teaching artist for Chicago Arts Partners in Education and Columbia College's Center for Book and Paper Arts. Her work has been exhibited at the Hyde Park Art Center, Columbia College, and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

**FEES:** \$49 for Oriental Institute and Field Museum members; \$59 for non-members. Includes Oriental Institute tour, bus transportation, program and reception at the Hyde Park Art Center, and all materials.



Family activities at the Oriental Institute. Photos by Wendy Ennes

# TRAVEL PROGRAM

For complete itineraries, contact the Membership Office at (773) 702-9513 or [oi-membership@uchicago.edu](mailto:oi-membership@uchicago.edu).

## THE WONDERS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

March 11–27, 2007

Escorted by Robert Ritner, Professor of Egyptology

For over a century, the Oriental Institute has been one of the foremost academic institutions working in Egypt, with a continuous and distinguished record of research in the Nile Valley. This comprehensive tour includes visits to the Pyramids of Giza and Sakkara, Abu Simbel, and Chicago House, home to the Oriental Institute's Epigraphic Survey project in Luxor. Whether it's your first trip or your fifth, the Oriental Institute's experience and expertise in Egypt promises a memorable adventure.

**TOUR ESCORT ROBERT RITNER** is Professor of Egyptology at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. He has lectured extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and Egypt, and has led Oriental Institute tours to Egypt regularly for over twenty years.

## ANCIENT ISRAEL REVEALED

June 16–July 3, 2007

Escorted by Gabrielle Novacek, Ph.D. Candidate in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology

Uniquely situated at the crossroads of cultures, Israel is among the most historically rich areas in the world. The Oriental Institute has had an archaeological presence in modern Israel since the early 1900s, when it excavated at the site of Megiddo. Since then, scholars from the Institute have undertaken study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and excavated at the sites of Ashkelon, Yaqush, and Tel Beth Yerah. Visit sites at Jerusalem, Massada, Qumran, Tiberius, Galilee, Tel Dan, Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Megiddo.

**TOUR ESCORT GABRIELLE NOVACEK** will receive her Ph.D. in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology from the University of Chicago in June 2007. Her research focuses on the Early Bronze Age in Israel. She has conducted excavations at Ashkelon and Tel Atchana in Turkey. She was guest curator for the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery at the Oriental Institute Museum.



Members of the "Wonders of Ancient Turkey" travel program, escorted by Professor Theo van den Hout (seated, lower right). Photo by Frank Green

## TRAVEL DIARY By Gabriele da Silva

*Wonders of Ancient Turkey, September 5–21, 2006*

**September 6** — Arrived in Ankara at 4:40 PM local time. Our tour guide for the entire trip was Tansu: intelligent, friendly, informative. Theo van den Hout, Director of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary, lectured on anything Hittite and read/translated Greek and Roman inscriptions along the way. The group was very congenial. **September 7** — Visited the Museum of Anatolian Civilization and the Temple of Augustus. Drive to Gordion, former capital of Phrygia with royal tumuli in the landscape, one supposedly for King Midas. **September 8** — Off to Sungurlu, Hattusa, and Yazilikaya. Hattusa was the capital of the Hittite Empire, an enormous place. We were lucky that Theo knew the German director of excavations, Andreas Schachner, who took us around to places we would not have seen otherwise, for example the rebuilt tower and wall which used the same materials and techniques as the original builders 3,500 years ago. **September 9** — Hittite site of Alaça Huyuk. The orthostats have been removed and are on view at the Ankara Museum. Driving through the countryside, one is struck by the bright paint on houses and factories. Most houses have solar panels on their roofs. **September 10** — Kusadasi. Views on the Aegean from our hotel. Visits to Sardis, capital of Lydia, with temple and restored synagogue. Tree full of figs, less full after we were through with it. **September 11** — Ephesus! In the library, on one of the stones was a scratched menorah. There were many Jews living in Ephesus. **September 12** — On the way to Bodrum (ancient Helicarnassus), we visit Mila, capital of Caria. Saw temples and theaters. The picnic on Labranda Heights was cut very short by bees. The whole area produces honey and there are beehives everywhere. **September 13** — In Bodrum, underwater museum in an old crusader's fort, complete with dungeon. Noticed all the houses in Bodrum are white: it's the law. **September 14** — On to Fethiye, via mountain roads with gorgeous views. See temple tombs at Caunos and Telmessus. A word about Turkish food: It's good. Lots of fruit and veggies, baklava everywhere. Wonderful bread! Lots of eggplant, undecipherable mayonnaises. Olives, cucumbers, and tomatoes plus yogurt for breakfast. **September 15** — On to Kas, visiting two UNESCO World Heritage sites: Letoon and Xanthus, the oldest Lycian town with its pillar tombs. One of the theaters was divided into two areas: one for regular shows, where spectators could sit near the performance space; the other for bloody games, where people sat much higher up behind a wall. Don't want to get splattered or become lion lunch... **September 16** — Daylong cruise. Swim, look at semi-submerged Lycian cities. **September 17** — Drive to Antalya. Stop to see Santa's Church (St. Nicholas of Myra). **September 18** — Spent the day in Pamphylia, visiting Perge, Aspendos, and Side. Last look at the Mediterranean. **September 19 & 20** — Istanbul. Walked a shopping street, crowded with people. Archaeological Museum, Topkapi Serai Museum, Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Suleymanie Mosque, Church of the Kariye Camii (the smallest and most involving of all). We saw the hotel where Agatha Christie wrote some of her books, still being used. Istanbul is a crowded city with phenomenal traffic jams. Tansu and many other Turkish people have a weekend house somewhere outside the city. I can see why. **September 21** — Left Istanbul for Chicago in rain.

# ROMANCING THE PAST

Romancing the Past, the Oriental Institute's biannual gala, took place on Thursday, October 5. Held at the Institute for the first time in about twenty years, over 200 guests attended the event, raising nearly \$100,000 for the Research Endowment Campaign. Thanks to all of our members for making the event such a success!

Photos by Bruce Powell



Gala guests browse the silent auction items in the Yelda Khorsabad Court. With items ranging from vintage prints to James Henry Breasted Jr.'s dressing gown to a trip to Luxor, the silent and live auctions together raised over \$25,000 for the Institute



A British Museum replica of the Rosetta Stone was the most desired item of the night. Bidding was so fierce that the stone was moved to the live auction



Actor R. J. Lindsey presenting a "living history portrayal" of James Henry Breasted in, appropriately enough, Breasted Hall



King Tutankhamun awaits his dinner guests in the Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery



Carlotta Maher and Lois Schwartz revel in the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery



Guests dine under the watchful eye of the Persepolis bull in the Aliber Persian Gallery

# THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

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## THE SUQ CORNER

NEW TITLE NOW ON SALE

### **Embroidering Identities: A Century of Palestinian Clothing**

By Iman Saca in collaboration with Maha Saca

The Oriental Institute, Chicago, 2006

Pp. 48 + 5 black and white and 30 color illus.

Members' Price \$17.05

This companion volume to the exhibit, *Embroidering Identities: A Century of Palestinian Clothing*, held at the Oriental Institute from November 11, 2006 to March 25, 2007, is an overview of the colorful and distinctive clothing of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Palestine. The richly illustrated text discusses the construction of traditional dresses, the materials and dyes employed, and clothing and embroidery in the years following 1948. Garments from many regions are illustrated and described. The volume includes a glossary of Arabic terms and a checklist to the exhibit.

Iman and Maha Saca founded and maintain the Palestine Heritage Center in Bethlehem. The garments and accessories pictured in the volume are from the collections of the Oriental Institute and the Palestine Heritage Center.

