



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NEWS & NOTES

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EXCAVATIONS AT TELL ZEIDAN, SYRIA



MISTY AND LEWIS GRUBER
BRING ANCIENT EGYPT
TO THE WORLD:
THE ELECTRONIC
PUBLICATIONS
INITIATIVE

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NEWS & NOTES

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COVER ILLUSTRATIONS:

top left: Amon-Re, the King of the Gods. Medinet Habu VI, *The Temple Proper, Part 2: The Re Chapel, the Royal Mortuary Complex, and Adjacent Rooms, with Miscellaneous Material from the Pylons, the Forecourts, and the First Hypostyle Hall*, by the Epigraphic Survey. Oriental Institute Publications 84 (Chicago, 1963), plate 363

right: Abbas Alizadeh (right) excavating the Operation 1 step trench at Tell Zeidan, Syria. Photo by Gil Stein

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

The upcoming special exhibit, *Pioneers to the Past*, to be held in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery, is scheduled to open January 12, 2010. It is true that much of the ongoing work of the researchers at the Oriental Institute derives from the early reconnaissance of James Henry Breasted and his colleagues in the Near East. Where Breasted led, many followed. New surveys and excavations continue today. In this issue of *News & Notes* I offer a report on the Oriental Institute's 2008 first season of fieldwork at Tell Zeidan, Syria, by a joint Syrian-American team. The site of Zeidan provides a complete stratigraphic sequence spanning the Halaf to Late Chalcolithic 2 periods (6000–4000 BC), which offers great potential for research focused on Ubaid society and economy.

If we broaden the meaning of pioneer, others are noted in this issue of *News & Notes*. Mary J. Grishaw's contributions to the Oriental Institute are many, and her call to pioneer lies in her family's gift toward the naming of the re-installed Joseph and Mary J. Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. This gift would encourage others to follow, and today all the galleries have been named. We sadly announce Mary's passing. Mary was a longtime member, volunteer, and Visiting Committee member, and she will be deeply missed.

Most recently, the generous support of Misty and Lewis Gruber has made it possible to scan all 125 of the older Egyptological titles published by the Oriental Institute between the 1920s and the year 2000. The books are being uploaded to the Internet as Adobe Acrobat PDF files and distributed at no cost to everyone with access to the Internet, fulfilling a large part of the Institute's Electronic Publications Initiative. As Tom Urban, Managing Editor of Publications, explains, in October 2004 the faculty instructed that all titles be published as electronic files on the Internet, which is promptly done for new titles but only as time and funding permit for 351 of our older titles. The support of the Grubers for electronic publication has allowed the Institute to accomplish a large and important part of the initiative, to share the research of the Oriental Institute with the world and, we hope, to inspire many more generations of pioneers to the past.



Misty and Lewis Gruber at the foot of the Sphinx

IN MEMORIAM

MARY J. GRIMSHAW
1918–2009
by Emily Teeter

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that we announce the death of Mary J. Grimshaw in June 2009. Mary was a very good friend of the Oriental Institute. She served as a Life Member on our Visiting Committee for twelve years and, in 2000, she made a pioneering gift to name the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery, an act that encouraged the naming of other galleries. She loved Egypt, and she spent several seasons on the staff of the Epigraphic Survey. For twenty years she was a volunteer, for much of that time assisting Registrar Ray Tindel. We will miss her keen intellect, friendship, and her wonderful sense of humor.



Mary and Joseph Grimshaw, early to mid-1980s

EXCAVATIONS AT TELL ZEIDAN, SYRIA

EXPLORING THE ROOTS OF MESOPOTAMIAN CIVILIZATION

Gil J. Stein, Oriental Institute Director

THE UBAID ORIGINS OF MESOPOTAMIAN CIVILIZATION

The world's earliest known urban civilization developed in Mesopotamia during the Uruk period, shortly after 4000 BC. The Uruk period saw the appearance of the first cities, state societies, kingship, and writing. But this great urban florescence did not simply appear *ex nihilo*. Every city of the Uruk culture overlies, and seems to have originated from, underlying “temple-towns” belonging to an earlier, enigmatic culture known as the Ubaid.

The Ubaid period (6th–5th millennia BC) saw the first establishment of towns and villages across the marshlands, natural river levees, and fertile

alluvial plains of southern Sumer in the area where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers now converge (fig. 1). Southern Mesopotamia during the Ubaid period is best known from excavations at the sites of Eridu and Oueili. This was a time of major economic, political, and social change. The Ubaid period provides the first evidence for the emergence of political leadership, economic differences between rich and poor, irrigation-based economies, regional centers or towns that dominated clusters of surrounding villages, and the development of temples in these centers. During the Ubaid period, we see the first community cemeteries. This is an important development because it shows the emergence of a new form of social identity; the practice of

burial in cemeteries rather than inside or alongside the house where the deceased had lived means that people were starting to define themselves in an entirely new way — first and foremost as citizens of a town, rather than just being members of a family or clan.

The easily recognizable Ubaid styles of artifacts include brown-painted ceramics, large, hook-shaped baked clay “nails” (often called “mullers”), sickles made of high-fired clay (since southern Mesopotamia lacks flint for tool making), and very distinctive human figurines with elongated heads and reptilian features. Ubaid architecture consists of tripartite houses and temples. These “long-room” style temples, with their niched and buttressed facades, altars, and offering tables mark the beginning of a style of Mesopotamian religious architecture that lasted for almost four thousand years.

These styles originated in southern Mesopotamia during the earlier phases of the Ubaid. In the later Ubaid phases 3–4 (ca. 5300 BC) Ubaid forms of pottery, architecture, and other artifacts spread into Upper Mesopotamia (northern Iraq, north Syria, and southeast Turkey) and eastern Arabia, forming an Ubaid “horizon” that extended over a 2,000 km arc from the eastern Mediterranean coast as far as the Straits of Hormuz at the mouth of the Persian Gulf.

As Ubaid styles of artifacts and architecture spread into Upper Mesopotamia, they gradually replaced the pre-existing local Halaf culture in this area. Despite its scale and clear importance, we still know frustratingly little about this “Ubaid expansion.” How and why did Ubaid culture spread from south to north? Did the Ubaid expansion reflect the spread of ideas through trade, or are we instead seeing the traces of

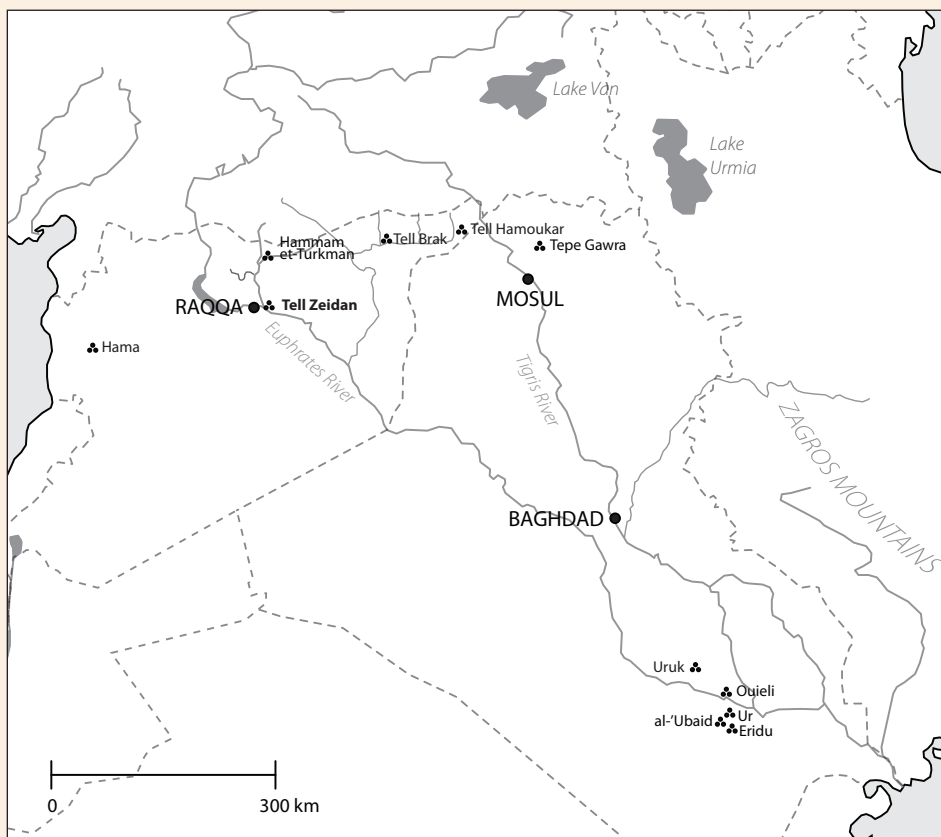


Figure 1. Map of the Near East showing sites and modern cities mentioned in the text

Ubaid colonies, founded by settlers from southern Mesopotamia? What kinds of processes linked these far-flung communities across the 2,000 km expanse of the Ubaid horizon?

TELL ZEIDAN AND THE UBAID PERIOD IN NORTH SYRIA

In an attempt to answer these questions, the Oriental Institute has initiated the Joint Syrian-American archaeological excavations at Tell Zeidan. Our project seeks to study the Ubaid period of north Syria and its relationship with both the earlier Halaf, and later Late Chalcolithic 1–2 periods from the sixth through the fifth millennium BC. The Late Chalcolithic 1–2 periods in the later part of this sequence are also known from the joint Syrian-Oriental Institute excavations at Tell Hamoukar in northeast Syria, under the direction of Clemens Reichel. By documenting the whole sequence from Halaf through Ubaid through Late Chalcolithic 1–2 at Tell Zeidan, and comparing it with parallel developments at Hamoukar, we hope to understand the earliest development of towns and cities in north Syria.

The Ubaid period in north Syria is known from excavations at only a handful of sites. At larger sites, such as Hama, Hammam et-Turkman, and Tell Brak, the enormous volume of later deposits has buried the earlier Ubaid levels so deeply that we can only expose tiny glimpses of them in narrow, deep soundings. Our only broad exposures of Ubaid settlements have been at smaller village-sized sites which lack the thick overlying layers of later occupations. Up until now, researchers have had very few opportunities to investigate the larger Ubaid towns or regional centers where we would expect to find the best evidence for leaders, temples, socioeconomic differences, and trade; all of these are crucial lines of evidence for any understanding of how the Ubaid culture was developing the foundations of what would become Mesopotamian urban civilization.

The site of Tell Zeidan in north central Syria provides an almost unique opportunity to investigate a large Ubaid town and what it can tell us about the broader Ubaid society. Zeidan is a triple mounded settlement on the east bank of the Balikh River, just north of its confluence with the Euphrates (fig. 2). The three mounds and lower town connecting them extend over an area of about 600 × 200 m (12.5 hectares). The southernmost mound is the tallest, with a height of

15 m (about 50 feet). The three mounds enclose a lower town in the central portion of Tell Zeidan.

Zeidan is located at the edge of the Balikh River floodplain 5 km east of the modern city of Raqqa. Agriculture in this semi-arid area is quite rich when the land is irrigated. The confluence of the Balikh and the Euphrates rivers has historically been a very important location because it lies at the juncture of two key trade routes — the Balikh River valley

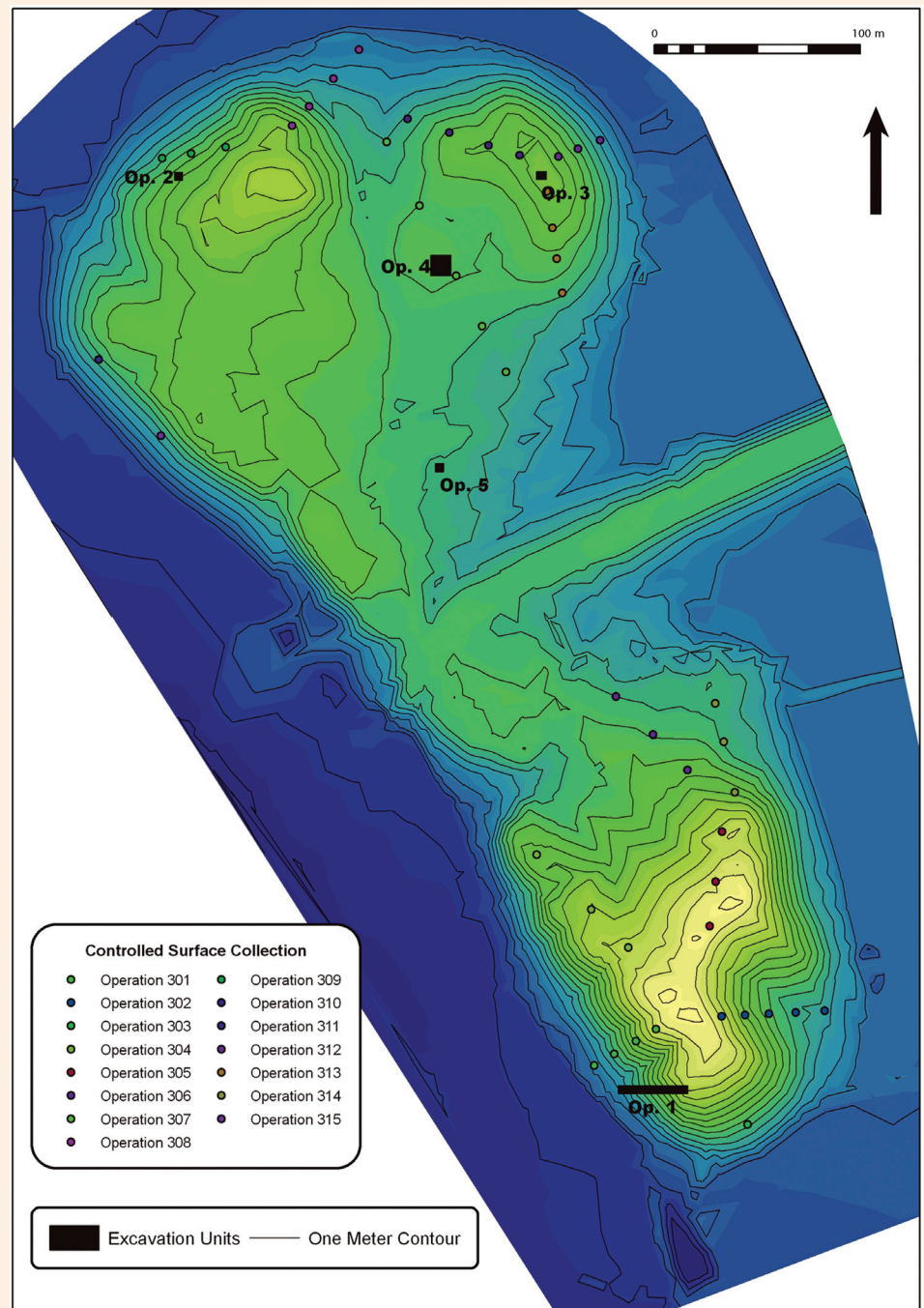


Figure 2. Tell Zeidan topographic site map

leads north to Harran, Urfa, and the resource-rich highland of eastern Anatolia; while the Euphrates is the primary route connecting Mesopotamia in the southeast with northwest Syria and the Mediterranean. As a result, this area has always been the setting for major settlements, starting with Tell Zeidan in the sixth–fifth millennia BC. Zeidan's strategic location would have allowed the town to prosper through irrigation agriculture, herding, and trade.

Zeidan was visited and described in the late 1930s by the archaeologist Max Mallowan (the husband of famed mystery author Agatha Christie) and was investigated more systematically in 1983 by the Dutch Balikh Valley regional archaeological survey conducted by Maurits van Loon. The 1983 Dutch survey recorded Zeidan as a large prehistoric settlement of 10–12 hectare (ha) dating to the Halaf and Ubaid periods.

In spring 2008, the Syrian General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums granted the permit for archaeological excavations at Tell Zeidan by a joint Syrian-American project co-directed by Annas al-Khabour from the Raqqa Museum and Gil Stein from the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago (fig. 3). The first excavation season took place in July and August 2008 with two main goals: (a) documenting the stratigraphic sequence of the site, and (b) establishing the extent and degree of preservation of the Ubaid occupation at Zeidan.

2008 MAPPING, SURFACE SURVEY, AND EXCAVATIONS

As the first step in our fieldwork, we made a detailed topographic map of Tell Zeidan, recording over 2,500 measurement points with a Leica Total Station. As part of the mapping program, we made systematic collections of the potsherds lying on the surface of the three mounds and the lower town. Across the mound we laid out forty-five sampling units, each measuring 100 sq m,



Figure 3. Co-directors of the Joint Syrian-American expedition to Tell Zeidan: Annas al-Khabour and Gil Stein

and collected every potsherd we found inside their boundaries. We then analyzed the ceramics to see the period to which they belonged. Our preliminary dating and counting of the distinctive ceramics of the Ubaid period from these controlled surface collections confirmed that the full 12.5 ha extent of the site was occupied during the Ubaid period. This is important because it shows that Tell Zeidan was a major regional center at this time — as large as the Ubaid temple-towns such as Eridu in southern Mesopotamia.

Once the mapping and surface collections were complete, we opened five excavation areas (Operations 1–5) in order to investigate the stratigraphic sequences of the three mounds and lower town at the site.

THE EXCAVATIONS

One of the best ways to determine the stratigraphic history of a Near Eastern “tell” or mound is to excavate a step trench down its side, cutting into and sampling each of the major layers that lie inside. Under the supervision of Oriental Institute Research Associate Abbas Alizadeh, Operation 1 was a 2 m wide, 22 m long step trench located in the southwest corner of the southern mound — the largest of the

three mounds that make up Tell Zeidan. Excavation of Operation 1 (see cover illustration) was designed to document the prehistoric occupational sequence of the site, especially the Ubaid occupation and the periods immediately above and below it. The eight excavated steps of the trench extended down 12 m, and by the end of the season had reached the top of Halaf deposits about 2 m above the Balikh River floodplain.

We can now say that the site was occupied more or less continuously from about 5800 BC until 3800 BC. This two-millennium long occupation spans four key periods: the Late Chalcolithic 1–2 on top, the Ubaid period in the middle, and the Halaf period at the bottom. Because Zeidan seems to have been occupied without interruption for two millennia, we have a very rare opportunity to study the development of civilizations in north Syria during the crucial time periods leading up to the emergence of the first cities and states.

In particular, the step trench shows that Tell Zeidan has great potential to enrich our understanding of the Ubaid period. Approximately 6 m of well-preserved Ubaid deposits are present in Operation 1. Fifteen of these layers are the remains of house floors with hearths, fragments of small mudbrick house walls, and the ash and trash deposits that are so valuable to archaeologists for the artifactual record they provide about ancient daily life. These deposits were rich with



Figure 4. Ubaid-period painted sherds

the distinctive painted pottery of the Ubaid period (fig. 4).

However, capping off these house remains was evidence for something quite different: monumental public architecture dating to the later phases of the Ubaid occupation at Zeidan. In Steps 6 and 7 of the step trench, we found part of a large mudbrick wall oriented roughly north–south. The wall was about 3.5 m wide and was preserved to a height of 1.5 m. The preserved portion consisted of sixteen courses of dark brown mudbricks. Unfortunately, we could not determine the full extent of the wall because it was eroded away to the north and south, in the areas outside the step trench. By scraping and cleaning outside the step trench we were able to determine that the wall did extend at least 5 m before disappearing at the eroded edge of the mound slope. Was this part of a fortification wall encompassing Tell Zeidan, or was it a massive public building of some sort? At this point we cannot say without further excavation. Fortunately, we can date the wall with certainty to the Ubaid period, both by the ceramics we found in association with it and because we were able to collect two radiocarbon (carbon 14) samples that gave calibrated Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dates of 4940 ± 40 BC and 5055 ± 40 BC.

Beneath the Ubaid deposits in Operation 1 we found a series of floors, walls, and trash deposits that date to the important transitional phase between the Ubaid and the earlier Halaf period. This transitional phase is extremely important because it has the potential to help us understand what happened when the Ubaid culture spread out of its original homeland in southern Mesopotamia and replaced the pre-existing local Halaf culture in north Syria. We can see hints that this was a peaceful transition by the fact that there is no destruction layer between the two phases, and by the fact that there seems to be a gradual replacement of Halaf ceramic styles by Ubaid style. Most interesting of all, even after the Ubaid pottery styles have completely replaced the Halaf, the decorations on

the Ubaid-style vessels still preserve distinctive painted motifs from the earlier Halaf. We were able to radiocarbon date our uppermost Halaf levels to about 5500/5400 BC.

As excavations proceeded deeper beneath the transitional phase toward the underlying ashy deposits of pure Halaf material, we began to get closer to the water table at the level of the Balikh River at the base of the mound. The sediments were extremely wet and took a day or so to dry out, thereby making it increasingly difficult to excavate. By the end of the season, Operation 1 had reached an elevation about 2 m above the river. We had to stop at that point. In our next field season, in 2009, we plan to finish excavating the remaining cultural layers in Operation 1 down to sterile/natural soil or bedrock.

In addition to the Operation 1 step trench on the south mound, we excavated four additional trenches across the other mounds and the lower town of Tell Zeidan. Operations 2, 3, 4, and 5 were important because they allowed us to see more of the actual workings of the ancient community, while confirming that the Ubaid settlement at Zeidan extended over the entire 12.5 ha mound.

Operation 3 on the northwest mound was a 3×4 m trench that recovered a sequence of well-preserved houses, each built on top of the ruins of the earlier homes, while Operation 2, a 3×3 m trench, exposed the outdoor surfaces where people cooked and worked. Together these gave us a 500-year-long record of what everyday life was like for the common people at Tell Zeidan during the Late Chalcolithic 1 and 2 periods, roughly from 4500 to 4000 BC.

The potsherds, tools, animal bones, and other artifacts from these houses gave us a fascinating picture of a large community whose wealth derived from the abundance of irrigation agriculture and the benefits of craft production and trade. We found flint sickle blades everywhere, easily recognizable from the glossy sheen where they had been polished by the silica in the stems of the wheat they were used to harvest. The sickle blades



Figure 5. Obsidian blades. The obsidian was imported to Tell Zeidan from the Lake Van area in eastern Turkey

were hafted in bitumen, a natural petroleum-based tar like that found in the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles. The people of Zeidan obtained the bitumen for their sickles from a source over 70 km to the south — either by trade or by long expeditions to collect the bitumen for themselves. The trade connections of Tell Zeidan ranged farther afield as well. About 5 percent of the chipped stone at Zeidan is obsidian, the natural volcanic glass that was highly prized and widely traded in the ancient world (fig. 5). The obsidian at Tell Zeidan has the characteristic greenish black color and chemical composition that mark it as having been mined at either the Bingöl or Nemrut Dag sources along the shores of Lake Van in eastern Turkey, and traded over a distance of more than 400 km to end up at our site.

Some of the most interesting evidence for craft production comes in the form of a ceramic *tuyere* or blowpipe used to smelt copper (fig. 6). During the Chalcolithic period people in the

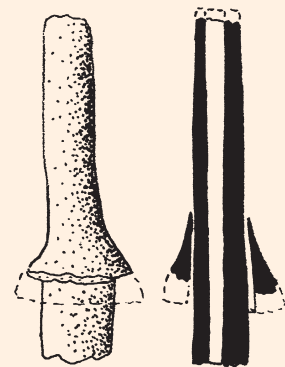


Figure 6. *Tuyere* or blowpipe used to smelt copper

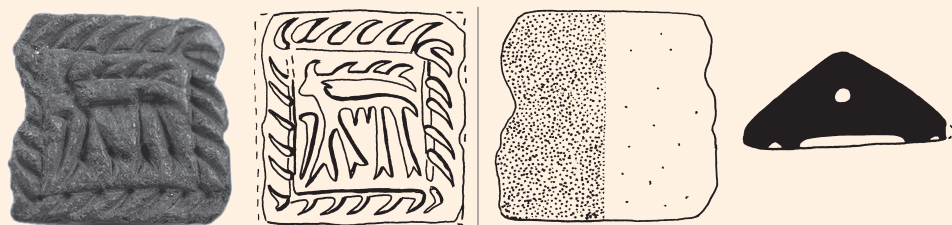


Figure 7. Stamp seal ZD585, photo and drawings. Scale 1:2

Near East took the first major steps in using pyrotechnology to separate copper from its parent ores (smelting), followed by casting the refined copper into molds to make tools and ornaments. The discovery of a *tuyere* at Zeidan indicates that the people of this town were trading over distances of 300 to 400 km to obtain copper, and then were manufacturing their own metal tools using the most advanced technology of the fifth millennium BC.

Finally, we have recovered evidence for administrative activity by people with a high social rank — perhaps the emerging class of elites who ruled over Tell Zeidan and its surrounding region in the Late Chalcolithic 2 period, ca. 4100 BC. Our most remarkable find of the 2008 field season was a stone stamp seal (ZD585) depicting a deer (fig. 7). The seal is unusually large — 5.4×5.8 cm — and is carved from a red stone not native to the Raqqa region. The carving on seal ZD585 has a very close parallel in the iconography of a published seal impression found 300 km to the east at the site of Tepe Gawra, near Mosul in northern Iraq. The existence of very elaborate seals with near identical motifs at two widely separated sites suggests that in this period, high ranking elites were assuming leadership positions at places like Zeidan and Gawra, and that those widely dispersed elites shared a common set of symbols and perhaps even a common ideology of superior social status.

CONCLUSIONS AND PLANS FOR FUTURE WORK

The first season of fieldwork at Tell Zeidan in 2008 confirmed the great potential of this site for research focused

on Ubaid society and economy. The site was apparently a large town or regional center located on a fertile floodplain at the juncture of two major riverine trade routes. We found a complete stratigraphic sequence spanning the Halaf, Ubaid, Late Chalcolithic 1 and 2 periods, radiocarbon dated from ca. 6000 to 4000 BC, when the site was abandoned. Our preliminary work confirmed that the entire 12.5 ha area of Tell Zeidan was occupied in the later Ubaid periods 3–4. The step trench showed that over 6 m of intact, well-stratified Ubaid deposits are present on the south mound. The other four soundings and the controlled surface collections confirmed that the Ubaid occupation extended over the entire area of the site. Traces of large-scale mudbrick architecture with walls 3.5 m wide were found in the later Ubaid strata in the step trench. Obsidian, basalt, and bitumen artifacts provide good evidence for local and long-distance trade networks during this period. The Ubaid occupation shows great cultural continuity and a smooth transition into the immediately succeeding Late Chalcolithic 1 and 2 phases. Late Chalcolithic 2 deposits at Zeidan produced evidence for long-distance trade in copper and on-site smelting, while a large, elaborately carved stone stamp seal with good parallels at Gawra in northern Iraq is evidence for the presence of emergent elites with strong ideological ties across a broad area of northern Mesopotamia.

The continuous stratigraphic sequence at Tell Zeidan allows us to study both the earliest spread of the Ubaid into this area and the ways that the Ubaid culture evolved over the course of the fifth millennium BC into the earliest urbanized societies of northern Mesopotamia

during the Late Chalcolithic 2 period. We hope to conduct a long-term program of excavations and regional survey at Zeidan in order to develop a balanced picture of the different neighborhoods and areas of public buildings in this ancient town on the threshold of urban civilization.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

On behalf of the Oriental Institute, I wish to thank the Syrian Department of Antiquities and Museums, most notably Dr. Michel al-Maqdissi, Director of Excavations, and Dr. Bassam Jamous, General Director, and the staff of the General Directorate for their support and assistance in granting us permission to initiate this joint project. I also gratefully acknowledge Mr. Annas al-Khabour, director of the Raqqa Museum and co-director of the Syrian-American excavations at Tell Zeidan, for his administrative co-operation, logistical assistance, and willingness to work with the Oriental Institute in this joint project. The entire team owes its deepest thanks to Mahmoud al-Qaitab (“Abu Turki”), of the Raqqa Museum, for his warm hospitality, friendship, and invaluable assistance in the day-to-day logistics of operating a field excavation. In Chicago, Steven Camp, Carla Hosein, and Mariana Perlinac provided invaluable administrative support, while Michael Fisher developed the FileMaker Pro database that lay at the heart of our field recording system. Finally, and most importantly, I want to express my gratitude to the Zeidan project field staff who made the 2008 field season so successful: Field Director Abbas Alizadeh, Nabil abu-l Heyr, Ibrahim Alalayyah, Kathryn Grossman, Khaled Jayyab, Daniel Mahoney, Tate Paulette, Elizabeth Reistroffer, and Iman Saca.



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE IN THE NEWS

A selection of recent coverage of the Oriental Institute in Chicago and national media sources

GENERAL COVERAGE

University of Chicago Chronicle

May 28, 2009

"Oriental Institute Offers Free Access to Volumes of History," by William Harms — <http://chronicle.uchicago.edu/090528/oi.shtml>

Chicago Tonight, WTTW-11

June 10, 2009

Coverage of the decoration of the entrance of the Oriental Institute — www.WTTW.com/ChicagoTonight. Select "Past Shows" from the header menu; follow the link "Week of Monday, June 08, 2009"; scroll down to "Wednesday, June 10, 2009"; the Oriental Institute tympanum is covered in "Geoffrey Baer's Hidden Chicago."

MERESAMUN EXHIBIT

Stltoday.com

June 10, 2009

"Mummy Gets a New Look Thanks to Police Forensics" — <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/sciencemedicine/story/571E3CF9EDEC741E862575F000150D67?OpenDocument>

MSNBC

June 24, 2009

"Face of Long-dead Mummy Brought Back to Life" — http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/31526816/ns/technology_and_science-science/

DotMed News

June 24, 2009

"Mummy's Face 'Unwrapped' with CT Would Help Homicide Detective," by Lynn Shapiro — <http://www.dotmed.com/news/story/9466/>

Fox News, Live Science

June 25, 2009

"Ancient Mummy's Face Recreated with CT Scans," by Clara Moskowitz — <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,529062,00.html>

PERSEPOLIS

University of Chicago Chronicle

April 30, 2009

"Oriental Institute Takes Persian Empire into the Digital Age," by William Harms (with embedded video interview with Matt Stolper) — <http://chronicle.uchicago.edu/090430/persian.shtml>

GALLERY TOUR

THE LIFE OF MERESAMUN: A TEMPLE SINGER IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Emily Teeter

Thursday, November 19

12:00 NOON

FREE

Don't miss this last chance to tour the Oriental Institute special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt* with its curator, Egyptologist Emily Teeter, before it closes on December 6. Learn the story of how the Oriental Institute produced this three-dimensional biography of an ancient Egyptian priestess and see how forensic scientists have used the latest CT techniques to reconstruct Meresamun's physical appearance as she looked nearly 3,000 years ago.

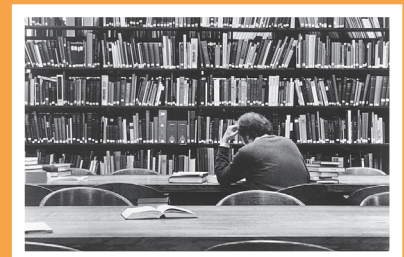


The Research Archives Adopt-a-Journal Campaign

THE RESEARCH ARCHIVES needs your help to maintain its position as the premier library for ancient Near Eastern studies in the Western Hemisphere. The Adopt-a-Journal Campaign is an opportunity to provide the library with its most valuable asset and demonstrate your commitment to the preservation of knowledge and learning for future generations of Oriental Institute members, scholars, students, and visitors.

DONORS TO THE PROGRAM can choose to adopt a journal annually, create a fund to ensure long-term support,

or donate a personal copy of a specific journal needed in the collection. Every dollar donated goes toward purchasing new volumes, above and beyond our current subscriptions. We are pleased to recognize our donors with a permanent, personalized bookplate in the books and journals that they sponsor, as well as a mention in the pages of the *Oriental Institute Annual Report*. Please contact Foy Scalf at (773) 702-9537 or scalffd@uchicago.edu if you would like more information about how to sponsor a specific book or journal. We are very grateful for your sponsorship.



NEW FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

MEDINET HABU IX. THE EIGHTEENTH DYNASTY TEMPLE, PART I: THE INNER SANCTUARIES, WITH TRANSLATIONS OF TEXTS, COMMENTARY, AND GLOSSARY

by The Epigraphic Survey

Oriental Institute Publications 136

Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 2009

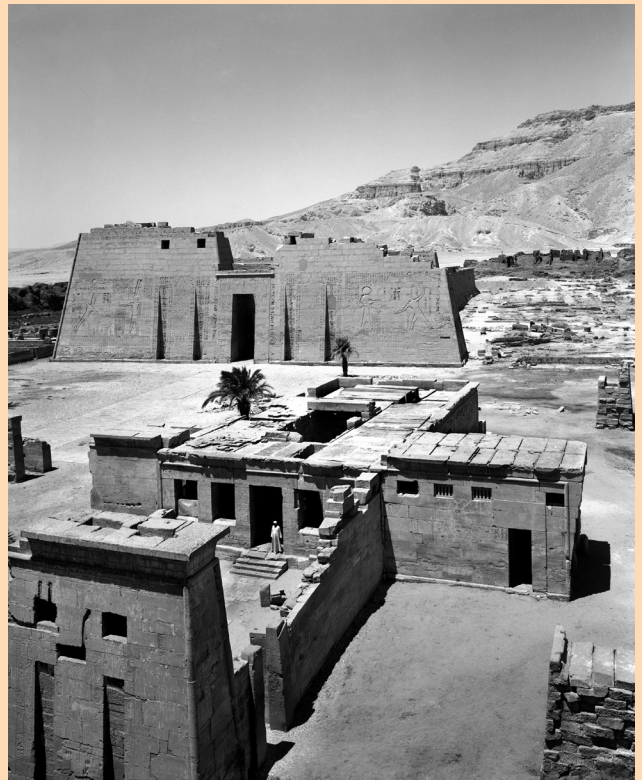
Pp. xl + 92; 4 figures, 2 ground plans, 142 plates (28 four color)

\$450 (Oriental Institute Members receive a 20% discount)

With the present volume the Epigraphic Survey returns to its series of publications dedicated to the reliefs and inscriptions of the Medinet Habu complex, a series inaugurated in 1930 with the publication of the war scenes and earlier historical records from the mortuary temple of Ramesses III (Medinet Habu I. *Earlier Historical Records of Ramses III*, The Epigraphic Survey, Oriental Institute Publications 8, 1930). The Ramesside temple and the High Gate were to occupy the efforts of the Survey for the next four decades, ending in 1970 with the appearance of Medinet Habu VIII. In resuming the Medinet Habu series, the Survey initiates what is envisioned to be a sequence of five volumes documenting the Eighteenth Dynasty temple of Amun and subsequent additions thereto, beginning with this publication of the reliefs in the six innermost rooms of the temple. These chambers were begun during the coregency of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III and completed by the latter king during his sole reign. [from the preface by Peter F. Dorman]



OIP 136, Plate 141: The Erased Name of Maatkare/Hatshepsut



OIP 136, Plate 1: View of the Eighteenth Dynasty Temple



OIP 8, Plate 5b: The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple and the Fortified Gate (at left) and the First Pylon of Ramses III's Temple (at right) from the Northern Temenos Wall

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<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip136.html>

SUNDAY FILMS

Each Sunday afternoon, enjoy the best in documentary films on the ancient Near East. These free showings begin at 2:00 PM and run approximately 30–50 minutes, unless otherwise noted. Following the film, Museum docents will be available in the galleries to answer your questions.

In October we feature screenings from the Great Pharaohs of Egypt (1997), the critically acclaimed A&E series that draws on archaeological evidence, on-location footage, expert interviews, and computer recreations to tell the story of ancient Egypt's greatest rulers.

October 4 *Great Pharaohs of Egypt, Episode I*

Episode I shows how the warrior Narmer united Egypt, then introduces the kings who built the pyramids at Giza.

October 11 *Great Pharaohs of Egypt, Episode II*

This film focuses on the military-minded rulers of the New Kingdom and explores the legacy of Hatshepsut, one of the most well-known women pharaohs.

October 18 *Great Pharaohs of Egypt, Episode III*

Episode III begins with Akhenaten's ascension to the throne and examines the many controversies surrounding his reign.

October 25 *Great Pharaohs of Egypt, Episode IV*

This final installment provides an in-depth look at the reign of Ramesses II, whose foreign conquests and massive building projects earned him the title Ramesses the Great. The film concludes with the life and tragic death of Cleopatra.

November 1 *Islam: Empire of Faith, Part I (2000) 100 mins.*

November 8 *Islam: Empire of Faith, Part II (2000) 60 mins.*

This highly regarded two-part PBS series tells the story of Islam's first thousand years, showing how it sustained the intellectual legacies of Greece, Egypt, and China and how it brought immeasurable advances in science, medicine, and the arts to Europe in the Middle Ages. These films are being shown in conjunction with Arab Heritage Month in Chicago.

November 15 *Mt. Nemrud: Throne of the Gods (2001)*

Discover the eighth wonder of the ancient world in this film highlighting the massive ruins located on Mount Nemrud in eastern Turkey.

November 22 *Children of the Sun (2001)*

The total solar eclipse that took place in Iran in 1999 inspired Mansoor Saboori, an Iranian filmmaker then living in Chicago, to return home and explore the meaning of the sun in both contemporary and ancient Iranian culture. The documentary she produced contains extraordinary views of modern and ancient sites as well as fascinating commentary by University of Chicago scholars, including several from the Oriental Institute.

November 29 **No film showing during Thanksgiving weekend**

December 6 *Mari, Part I: Sumerian City on the Euphrates (2005)*

Discovered by chance in the early 1930s, the ancient city of Mari provides insights into Mesopotamian culture and humankind's first steps toward urbanization. In this program, archaeologists

Jean-Claude Margueron and Béatrice Muller-Margueron lead a team in the excavation of Mari's urban center as they work to uncover the successive layers of towns. 3-D animations illustrate aspects of how the city looked and functioned in its prime.

December 13 *Mari, Part II: The Palace of Zimri-Lim (2005)*

The palace of Zimri-Lim at Mari was one of the wonders of the Mesopotamian world. This film documents the opening of an excavation site at the palace gate, while an animated walk-through of the palace enables viewers to follow in the footsteps of courtiers and the king himself. Information on life inside the palace — from matters of administration and religion to the pleasures of the harem — illustrates life in this once-great place. Unfortunately, restoration of Mari has become a race against time as erosion threatens to erase this ancient city from the face of the earth.

December 20 **Breasted Hall closed for the holidays**

December 27 **Breasted Hall closed for the holidays**

Sunday film showings resume on January 10, 2010.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' EVENT

WOMEN, CLOTH, AND SOCIETY IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Elizabeth J. Wayland Barber, Professor Emerita of Archaeology and Linguistics at Occidental College in Los Angeles and a research associate at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA

Thursday, November 5

7:00 PM

Until very recently, women spent their lives in occupations that left almost nothing in the archaeological or literary record: cooking food, making cloth, and raising children. So historians have largely ignored women and their work, concentrating instead on more durable monuments of stone and metal. Yet the basic textile arts are considerably older than those of metalwork, pottery, stone architecture, or even agriculture, and have absorbed far more labor hours. Fortunately, careful sleuthing and new scientific methods of retrieving perishable fibers have opened a new window onto this world of women's work.

In tracing the origins and development of cloth production in western Eurasia, this lecture also presents the stories of ancient queens, housewives, businesswomen, and slave-girls, all struggling to make the cloth and clothing required by their cultures while running their households. Join us for this engaging lecture and reception open to all Associate Level Members. For more information about becoming an Associate Level Member, call Kaye Oberhausen, Development Associate, at (773) 702-5044.

FALL 2009 CALENDAR

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

OCTOBER

4 | SUNDAY

Great Pharaohs of Egypt, Episode I

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details

7 | WEDNESDAY

Cultures of Ancient Afghanistan (2500 BC–AD 800)

Adult Education Course
Wednesdays, October 7–December 9
7:00–9:00 PM
See page 15 for details

After the Revolution: Oriental Institute Archaeology in Iran

Members' Lecture
7:00 PM
See page 19 for details

10 | SATURDAY

Digging Deeper: An Introduction to Archaeology

Adult Education Course
Saturdays, October 10–November 14
10:00 AM–12:00 NOON
See page 15 for details

11 | SUNDAY

Great Pharaohs of Egypt, Episode II

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details

18 | SUNDAY

Great Pharaohs of Egypt, Episode III

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details

It Is What It Is: Conversations about Iraq

Field Trip to the Museum of
Contemporary Art
2:00 PM
See page 19 for details

19 | MONDAY

Hieroglyphs by Mail

Adult Education
Correspondence Course
October 19, 2009–February 22, 2010
See page 15 for details

24 | SATURDAY

A Mummy Comes to Life: Science and Art Resurrect an Ancient Egyptian Priestess

Panel Discussion
2:00–3:00 PM
See page 17 for details

Recording Persian Antiquities in Crisis: The Persepolis Fortification Archive Project

Lecture
3:30–4:30 PM
See page 17 for details

25 | SUNDAY

Great Pharaohs of Egypt, Episode IV

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details

28 | WEDNESDAY

Mummies Night: Tales and Treats for Halloween

Family Event
6:00–8:00 PM
See page 13 for details

NOVEMBER

1 | SUNDAY

Islam: Empire of Faith, Part I

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details

2 | MONDAY

Cuisine and Cookery of the Near East

Palestinian Cuisine at Chickpea Café
7:00 PM
See page 17 for details

5 | THURSDAY

Associate Members' Event

Women, Cloth, and Society in the
Ancient Near East
7:00 PM
See page 10 for details

8 | SUNDAY

Islam: Empire of Faith, Part II

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details

11 | WEDNESDAY

The Sea of Galilee Boat

Members' Lecture
7:00 PM
See page 19 for details

14 | SATURDAY

Women in the Middle East, Past and Present

Public Symposium
9:00 AM–4:00 PM
See page 14 for details

FALL 2009 CALENDAR

15 | SUNDAY

Mt. Nemrud: Throne of the Gods

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details

19 | THURSDAY

The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt

Gallery Tour
12:00 NOON
See page 8 for details

22 | SUNDAY

Children of the Sun

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details

29 | SUNDAY

No film showing during Thanksgiving weekend

DECEMBER

2 | WEDNESDAY

Headless Ancestors and Ghouls: Understanding the Plastered Human Skulls of Jericho and the Origins of Agriculture

Members' Lecture
7:00 PM
See page 19 for details

6 | SUNDAY

Mari, Part I: Sumerian City on the Euphrates

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details

9 | WEDNESDAY

The World's First Cities: Babylon and Beyond

Special Lecture in conjunction with the Burnham Plan Centennial
7:00 PM
See page 18 for details

13 | SUNDAY

Mari, Part II: The Palace of Zimri-Lim

Film
2:00 PM
See page 10 for details

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE WELCOMES A NEW MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR MAEVE REED



I am pleased to be joining the Oriental Institute staff as the new Membership Coordinator. I am an ardent student of history and art and am excited to be working for an institution that mirrors so many of my academic interests with that of my career. This spring, I received my M.A. in art history from the University of Toronto with a specialization in medieval art. Prior to this academic venture, I've had an assortment of member- and client-oriented positions in corporate advertising, museum and non-profit management, and pedagogical consultancy. Most recently, I was employed at DDB Chicago, a worldwide advertising agency, where I managed global and national accounts for the McDonald's Corporation and the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company. Although advertising is an interesting business, I am happy to have found a place of employment where the typically esoteric jargon of a medievalist and history enthusiast will cultivate, instead of terminate, conversations. While my M.A. thesis focused on the growth of blood-related imagery and relics during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries at a pilgrimage site in northern Wales, my research interests are active and varied, and have included projects on Roman antiquity, early to medieval Byzantium, and Apocalyptic manuscripts. As I do not have an extensive background in Near or Middle Eastern history and art, I look forward to learning as much as possible from the wealth of information and opportunity that is the Oriental Institute's faculty, staff, and Members.

As summer transitions into fall, I look forward to meeting you at one of our many Members' events. We have an engaging lineup of Members' Lectures, special Members-only events and openings, and outstanding travel programs that I hope you will take full advantage of over the next year. As the Membership Coordinator, my job is to make your membership as enjoyable and beneficial as possible, and I welcome any thoughts, suggestions, or concerns you may have regarding your Oriental Institute membership or our programs. I can be reached at (773) 834-9777, by e-mail at oi-membership@uchicago.edu, or by post at the Oriental Institute mailing address.

FAMILY EVENT

MUMMIES NIGHT: TALES & TREATS FOR HALLOWEEN

Wednesday, October 28

6:00–8:00 PM

Oriental Institute

FREE

We can't keep this event under wraps! Join us at our annual pre-Halloween celebration for a "tomb-full" of family fun! Get up close and personal with a mummy, discover painted coffins and a Book of the Dead, and view *Mummies Made in Egypt*, an award-winning children's film from the Reading Rainbow series. Browse the latest children's books on ancient Egypt, try on an outfit from King Tut's closet, and enter our "Guess the Mummy Lollipops" contest. Then go on

a treasure hunt in the special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt* to see if you can find out what a mummified ancient Egyptian priestess actually looked like when she was alive 3,000 years ago!

Recommended for children ages 5 and up accompanied by an adult. Free; pre-registration not required.

This program is presented in conjunction with Chicago Book Month, the City's annual celebration of books and reading in the month of October.

MUSEUM EDUCATION

Please enroll me in the following museum education program(s):

Don't miss out — register early!

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultures of Ancient Afghanistan	_____ \$240	_____ \$290	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Digging Deeper: An Introduction to Archaeology	_____ \$175	_____ \$225	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs by Mail	_____ \$255	_____ \$295	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Palestinian Cuisine at Chickpea Café	_____ \$44	_____ \$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> It Is What It Is: Conversations About Iraq	_____ \$7	_____ \$10	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Women in the Middle East, Past and Present <i>Free, but pre-registration is required</i>			
• <i>Optional registration for "Food for Thought: The Conversation Continues." \$5 for Oriental Institute Members and affiliates of the co-sponsoring centers. \$7 all others. Pre-registration is required and returns are not available for this reception.</i>	_____ \$5	_____ \$7	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> A Mummy Comes to Life: Science and Art Resurrect an Ancient Egyptian Priestess	<i>Enrollment for these lectures is free, but pre-registration is required.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recording Persian Antiquities in Crisis: the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project	<i>Register online at humanities.uchicago.edu/humanitiesday</i>		

GRAND TOTAL _____

I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is \$50 for an Annual Membership; \$40 for seniors, UC/UCH Faculty & Staff, and National Associates (persons living more than 100 miles from Chicago within the USA). **Please send a separate check for membership.**

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: _____ E-mail: _____

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

REGISTRATION AND REFUND POLICY

For multi-session on-campus courses, a full refund will be granted to anyone who notifies us about his/her cancellation before the first class meeting. Those who cancel after the first class meeting, but before the second class meeting, will receive a full refund minus a \$50 cancellation fee. After the second class meeting, no refunds will be granted unless the course is canceled by the Education Office. Failure to attend a class does not entitle a registrant to a refund. Some courses require a small materials fee to be paid at the first class meeting.

For single-session programs, where tickets are sold by the Oriental Institute, no refunds will be granted, but if the Museum Education Office is notified of cancellation at least 48 hours before the program begins, a credit voucher will be issued for the full amount. With less than 48 hours notice, a voucher for the full amount, less a \$5 cancellation fee, will be issued. Credit vouchers can be used for any Oriental Institute single-session program for one full calendar year from the date on the voucher. Tickets sold by other organizations for programs held at the Oriental Institute are subject to the cancellation policies of the organization selling the tickets. Only those registered for classes may attend them. The Museum Education Office reserves the right to refuse to retain any student in any class at any time.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE FREE PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2009 • 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM
BREASTED HALL • THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST PAST & PRESENT

Join us as an eminent group of University of Chicago's scholars come together to discuss "Women in the Middle East, Past and Present" at this free public symposium presented in conjunction with the Oriental Institute's highly acclaimed special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*. The exhibit examines the significant social and legal rights enjoyed by women in ancient Egypt, and it is the inspiration for this symposium that confronts the stereotypes and explores the realities of women's lives not just in ancient Egypt but throughout the Middle East in both ancient and contemporary times. Hear scholars from various disciplines compare and contrast the roles of women in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the lands of Bible from ancient to classical times. Then join the speakers in considering Middle Eastern women's rights, issues, and concerns in all their diversity, from medieval times to the present day.

— SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS INCLUDE —

JANET H. JOHNSON

Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology, Oriental Institute

JEFFERY STACKERT

Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, University of Chicago Divinity School

JONATHAN HALL

Phyllis F. Horton Professor in the Humanities; Chairman, Department of Classics; Professor, Department of History

ORIT BASHKIN

Assistant Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS MAY INCLUDE

TAHERA QUTBUDDIN

Assistant Professor of Arabic Language and Literature, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

HOLLY SHISSLER

Associate Professor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish History, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

GEOFF EMBERLING, Oriental Institute Museum Director,
will moderate a panel discussion with the presenters

This symposium is co-sponsored by the University of Chicago's Center for International Studies Norman Wait Harris Fund. The Centers for Gender Studies and Middle Eastern Studies are also co-sponsors of this event.

ADMISSION TO THE SYMPOSIUM IS FREE, BUT PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

CPDUs: 7

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

Enjoy a glass of wine, a bite to eat, and conversation with the symposium presenters at this optional event following the closing panel. A light reception will be served as you meet and mingle with the speakers and Oriental Institute staff and friends. Fee: \$5 for Oriental Institute Members and affiliates of the Centers for International Studies, Gender Studies, and Middle Eastern Studies; \$7 for non-members. Pre-registration is required

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

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

ON-CAMPUS COURSES

CULTURES OF ANCIENT AFGHANISTAN (2500 BC–AD 800)

Ilya Yakubovich

Wednesdays, October 7 to December 9

7:00–9:00 PM

Oriental Institute

Afghanistan usually appears in today's news in connection with war, political violence, or acts of cultural vandalism. Yet there was a time when Afghanistan was a venue for interaction between civilizations of the Mediterranean, Near East, India, and China, as well as a setting for peaceful coexistence between religious groups. This course dwells on the little-known facets of Afghanistan's history, including the sermon of non-violence promulgated by Indian emperor Ashoka, who ruled this region in the third century BC, and the preservation of Hellenistic Greek cultural heritage in northern Afghanistan for a thousand years after its conquest by Alexander the Great.

INSTRUCTOR: Ilya Yakubovich received his PhD in ancient Near Eastern studies and linguistics from the University of Chicago in 2008. He specializes in languages and cultures of ancient Anatolia and Central Asia.

CPDUs: 16

REQUIRED TEXT: Omrani, Bijan, and Matthew Leeming. *Afghanistan: A Companion and Guide*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2007.

The class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Wednesday evenings beginning October 7 and continuing through December 9. Pre-registration is required. There will be no class on Wednesday, October 14 or Wednesday, November 25.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

HIEROGLYPHS BY MAIL

Andrew Baumann & Mary Szabady

October 19, 2009, to February 22, 2010

Registration deadline: October 9

Taught by correspondence, this course introduces students to an in-depth study of Middle Egyptian, the "classical" language of ancient Egypt. Learn the fundamental structure and grammar of the language by completing the first eight lessons and exercises of *Middle Egyptian Grammar* by James Hoch. Mail or fax completed lessons to the instructors, who will correct them, answer any questions, and return the lessons by mail or fax. Those who complete all course assignments receive a certificate of course completion from the Oriental Institute.

DIGGING DEEPER: AN INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Kate Grossman

Saturdays, October 10 to November 14

10:00 AM–12:00 NOON

Oriental Institute

Have you ever wondered how Indiana Jones knew where to dig? Or how ancient artifacts go "from ground to gallery?" If you are curious about ways archaeologists investigate the past, this is the course for you! Explore what archaeologists do in the field and how they interpret objects they find through a series of illustrated lectures and a hands-on practice session in the Oriental Institute's new Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center, a simulated excavation site. Discuss opportunities awaiting you as a volunteer on actual excavations or just enjoy the course as an "armchair archaeologist." Bullwhip and fedora not required!

INSTRUCTOR: Kate Grossman is an archaeologist and a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. She has excavated in Cyprus, Syria, and Egypt.

CPDUs: 12

REQUIRED TEXT: Bahn, Paul, and Colin Renfrew. *Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Method, and Practice*. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2007.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon on Saturday mornings beginning October 10 and continuing through November 14. Pre-registration is required.

INSTRUCTORS: Andrew Baumann holds a PhD in Egyptology from the University of Chicago. He has been an epigrapher and artist for the Oriental Institute's Epigraphic Survey based at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt. Currently he is publications manager for the University of Chicago Press. Baumann will be assisted by Mary Szabady, who is a graduate student in Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Hoch, James. *Middle Egyptian Grammar* and *Middle Egyptian Sign List*. Mississauga, Canada: Benben Publications, 1997.

Both books are available for a combined price of \$62 (shipping not included) from the Suq, the Oriental Institute gift shop. Oriental Institute Members receive a 10% discount.

This course begins on Monday, October 19, and continues for sixteen weeks, with a two-week break during the winter holidays. Registration deadline is October 9. Pre-registration is required.

A FEAST OF KNOWLEDGE

Libraries and Archives, Past and Present

❧ a james henry breasted society event ❧

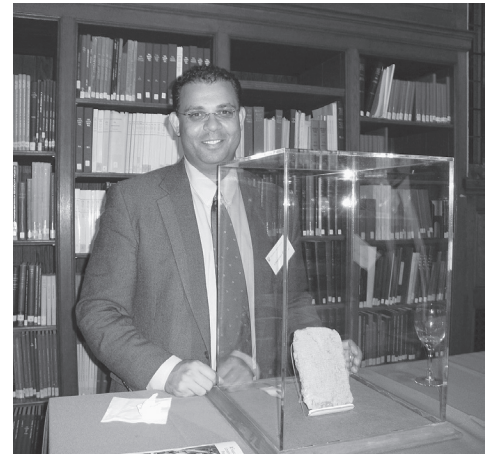
by Foy Scalf, Head of Research Archives

On July 8, 2009, the Research Archives of the Oriental Institute was proud to host the event A Feast of Knowledge: Libraries and Archives, Past and Present in the beautiful Elizabeth Morse Genius Reading Room for forty-five members of the James Henry Breasted Society. Highlighting the world-renowned library collection of the Research Archives, attendants were treated to an exhibition of rarely displayed objects from the Oriental Institute Museum, in addition to a delightful selection of food, drinks, and conversation.

Oriental Institute scholars were on hand to discuss the importance of the displayed pieces, as well as their role in library traditions from the ancient past. Emily Teeter, research associate and curator of special exhibits, detailed the important religious aspects of Spell 125 from Papyrus Ryerson (OIM 9787), a Ptolemaic-period Book of the Dead manuscript written for a man named Estphenis (*Ns-šw-tfn.t*). The ancient Sumerian literary text known as the Fable of the Heron and the Turtle, as preserved in cuneiform on a clay tablet

(OIM A30209), was placed in the context of other ancient literary traditions such as Hesiod by Chris Woods, assistant professor of Sumerian. Fred Donner, professor of Near Eastern history at the University of Chicago, discussed OIM 17618, an early example of a ninth-century paper manuscript which contains a series of different texts, including the earliest copy of what is known as the stories of the Arabian Nights. The largest object on display was OIM A12008, a Syriac manuscript written on 628 pages made from gazelle skin. Abdul Massih Saadi, research associate at the Oriental Institute and a professor at Notre Dame University, explained that this wonderful manuscript is just a single example of an otherwise very large and extremely interesting corpus of early Christian literature.

The Research Archives would like to thank our participating scholars, Director Gil Stein, Registrar Helen McDonald, Head Conservator Laura D'Alessandro, Development Associate Kaye Oberhausen, Membership Assistant Brittany Luberdia, and all our Breasted Society Members for making the event such a success.



Chris Woods stands with cuneiform tablet OIM A30209



Fred Donner, left, discusses manuscript OIM 17618 with Breasted Society Member Stan Allan (this photo and that of Christopher Woods, above, by Demsin Lachin)

Donors of \$1,000 or more to the Oriental Institute are invited to be members of the James Henry Breasted Society and are invited to attend exclusive events like A Feast of Knowledge. If you would like more information on becoming a Breasted Society Member, please call Kaye Oberhausen, Development Associate, at (773) 702-5044, or e-mail oberhausen@uchicago.edu



Demsin Lachin (left) and Abdul Massih Saadi with Syriac manuscript OIM A12008 (photo by Foy Scalf)

CUISINE AND COOKERY OF THE NEAR EAST

PALESTINIAN CUISINE AT CHICKPEA CAFÉ

Monday, November 2

7:00 PM

2018 West Chicago Avenue

Chicago, IL 60622

Expand your culinary knowledge at Chickpea Café by experiencing classic Palestinian cuisine all but unknown in the West. Except for the familiar hummus made from the legumes giving Chickpea its name, most dishes present unique combinations of meats, vegetables, grains, and spices. Enjoy appetizers, salads, and an array of entrees such as Musssakhan, the Palestinian national dish featuring sumac-spiced chicken topped with caramelized onions, allspice, and pine nuts on traditional flatbread. Vegetarian specialties may include baby eggplant stuffed with herbed rice or savory spinach-and-onion pie. Fresh juices, mint-flavored Arabian tea, and dessert included. Alcohol not served or allowed.

HOSTS: Chickpea Café is the latest venture for restaurateur Jerry Suqi, formerly of Chicago nightspots Narcisse and La Pomme Rouge. His decorative flair shows in the Arabic movie and advertising posters that give Chickpea the feel of a Palestinian streetscape. Amin Suqi, Jerry's mother, reigns supreme in the kitchen, where her mastery of Palestinian cookery ensures the menu's authenticity. The Suqis will introduce you to the cuisine of their Palestinian homeland and provide a copy of a favorite recipe to take home.

PROGRAM FEE: \$44 for Oriental Institute Members, \$49 for non-members, which includes tax, gratuity, and recipes. Pre-registration is required.

Meet at Chickpea Café, 2018 West Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60622. Street parking is available.

HUMANITIES DAY

The Oriental Institute is hosting two special events in collaboration with the University of Chicago's Humanities Day. These free programs give you a behind-the-scenes look at the development of a special exhibit and a major Oriental Institute research project.

A MUMMY COMES TO LIFE: SCIENCE AND ART RESURRECT AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN PRIESTESS

Panel Discussion with Emily Teeter,
Michael Vannier, & Joshua Harker

Saturday, October 24

2:00–3:00 PM

Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute

FREE

Nearly 3,000 years ago, an ancient Egyptian musician-priestess named Meresamun was mummified and buried in a beautifully decorated coffin in the belief that this process would allow her spirit to live forever. Discover how an Egyptologist, a radiologist, and a forensic artist have collaborated to reveal the life story of an ancient Egyptian woman in ways never before presented by an American museum. This program is presented in conjunction with the Oriental Institute special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*.

Emily Teeter, an Egyptologist at the Oriental Institute and the curator of the Meresamun special exhibit, discusses Meresamun's life and career. Dr. Michael Vannier, professor of radiology at the University of Chicago Hospitals, explains how he used the very latest CT technology to study Meresamun's health. Finally, Chicago forensic artist Joshua Harker demonstrates the process he used to recreate Meresamun's facial features.

This program is free but pre-registration is required. Register online at humanities.uchicago.edu/humanitiesday

RECORDING PERSIAN ANTIQUITIES IN CRISIS: THE PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION ARCHIVE PROJECT

Matthew W. Stolper

Saturday, October 24

3:30–4:30 PM

Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute

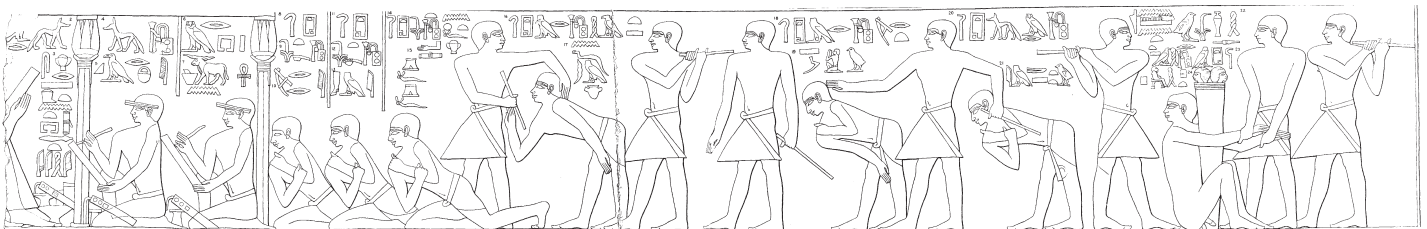
FREE

Since 1936, scholars at the Oriental Institute have been studying tens of thousands of tablets excavated at Persepolis, the ancient complex of palaces that kings Darius and Xerxes built in the heartland of the Achaemenid Persian empire. Their results have transformed modern understanding of the languages, art, society, and institutions of the Persian empire. But since 2004, they have been working under a cloud of litigation that threatens the future of these tablets. This presentation discusses what the Persepolis Fortification Archive is, why it is important, and how the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project is using digital tools and methods to record and publish it.

Matthew W. Stolper is a professor of Assyriology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the John A. Wilson Professor of Oriental Studies at the Oriental Institute.

This program is free but pre-registration is required. Register online at humanities.uchicago.edu/humanitiesday

Village Headmen Being Brought before Local Tax Officials and Flogged at a Whipping Post for Non-payment of Taxes. *The Mastaba of Mereruka, Part 1: Chambers A 1–10*, by the Sakkarah Expedition. Oriental Institute Publications 31 (Chicago, 1938), from plate 37



SPECIAL LECTURE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BURNHAM PLAN CENTENNIAL

THE WORLD'S FIRST CITIES: BABYLON AND BEYOND

Geoff Emberling

Wednesday, December 9

7:00 PM

Oriental Institute

FREE

The world's first cities were built in the ancient Middle East more than 5,000 years ago, and many faced issues that confront our cities of today. Join Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director, to explore cities from the plains of Mesopotamia to the fertile Nile Valley in ancient Egypt. In this richly illustrated lecture, Emberling discusses several ancient cities including Amarna, the Egyptian capital that was home to King Akhenaten and his queen, Nefertiti; Khorsabad, a royal citadel of ancient Assyria in northern Iraq; and Babylon, where the towering ziggurat may have inspired the biblical narrative of the Tower of Babel. Learn about the rise of the city as a form of settlement, how urbanization developed around cultural conceptions of space in the absence of formal urban planning, and see what we know about some planned ancient cities.

After the lecture, join Geoff in the Museum's galleries to view artifacts from ancient Babylon and the colossal sculptures that once stood outside the throne room of the royal palace in ancient Khorsabad. Then browse for bargains in the Suq on the last day of the annual Holiday Sale!

FREE: pre-registration not required.

This lecture is presented in conjunction with the Burnham Plan Centennial Celebration commemorating Daniel Burnham's 1909 Plan of Chicago.

The Great Sphinx at Giza. *Lost Egypt 1*, by the Epigraphic Survey (Chicago, 1992), folio 2

IN THE MARSHALL & DORIS HOLLEB FAMILY SPECIAL EXHIBITS GALLERY

NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 6

The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt

Don't miss this highly acclaimed exhibit that tells the story of life and work in ancient Egypt through the eyes of Meresamun.

OPENING JANUARY 12, 2010

Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920

This show follows James Henry Breasted's travels through Egypt and Mesopotamia as he reconnoitered sites for excavation and purchased objects for the new Oriental Institute Museum. The story of his journey is set against what he saw, experienced, and wrote, raising issues concerning the relationship between the past and present, archaeology and politics, and America's role in the Middle East that are as relevant today as they were nearly a century ago.



May 1920, the headquarters of the University of Chicago Expedition at Mayyadin, Mesopotamia.

Left to right: William Edgerton, William Shelton, Breasted, and Ludlow Bull



FIELD TRIP TO THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

IT IS WHAT IT IS: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT IRAQ

Sunday, October 18

2:00 PM

Museum of Contemporary Art

220 East Chicago Avenue

Chicago, IL 60611

We invite you to take part in a special Oriental Institute viewing of *It Is What It Is: Conversations about Iraq*. This new commission by British artist Jeremy Deller is an exhibit and conversation space designed to encourage the public to discuss the present circumstances in Iraq. A revolving cast of participants including journalists, scholars, and Iraqi nationals who have expertise or first-hand experience of Iraq have been invited to staff the *It Is What It Is* museum gallery space with the express purpose of encouraging discussion with visitors. One such expert will be on hand to speak with us during the visit. Objects in the exhibit, which are meant to encourage discussion, include:

- The remnant of a car that was destroyed on a street in Baghdad, a 2007 tragedy that killed over thirty people.
- Handmade banner by artist Ed Hall, who has collaborated with Deller in the past and is known for his work for trade unions and other interest groups.
- Wall graphic juxtaposing two maps, one of Iraq and one of the United States, as a reminder of the disconnect between two countries that are intimately involved politically and economically, though geographically distant.

This special Oriental Institute visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) is part of an exchange program with the MCA, which has arranged for a group of its members and friends to visit the Oriental Institute Museum's Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery to explore Iraq's cultural past.

Also included in our visit to the MCA is a docent-led guided tour of the new Liam Gillick exhibit *Three Perspectives* and a *Short Scenario*. Both Gillick and Jeremy Deller, who were born in England in the 1960s, are concentrating on the economic, cultural, and political conditions of the last two decades in markedly different but related ways that focus on display along with conversation to engage museum visitors.

FEE: \$7 for Oriental Institute Members; \$10 for non-members.

Space is limited and pre-registration with the Oriental Institute is required. Discounted parking for this program will be available in the MCA parking garage adjacent to the museum on Chicago Avenue. To register, call the MCA at (312) 280-2660.

MEMBERS' LECTURES

The 2009–2010 Members' Lecture Series takes place the first Wednesday of every month, October through June, at 7:00 PM in Breasted Hall at the Oriental Institute. These lectures are sponsored by Oriental Institute Membership and are free and open to the public, with receptions to follow.

AFTER THE REVOLUTION: ORIENTAL INSTITUTE ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAN

Abbas Alizadeh, The Oriental Institute

October 7, 2009

The 1979 revolution in Iran caused a long period of cessation of archaeological fieldwork in the country. But, in 1995, after two years of negotiation and grueling interviews, the Oriental Institute was the first foreign institution to succeed in getting permission to return to Iran, in order to resume the activities of its Iranian Prehistoric Project.

Since 1995, the Oriental Institute has conducted six expeditions, trained a large number of Iranian students, established a research center at the National Museum of Iran, and produced many articles and four books as its contribution to the archaeology of Iran. This lecture traces the activities of the Oriental Institute in Iran through the years.

THE SEA OF GALILEE BOAT

Shelley Wachsmann, Texas A & M University

November 11, 2009 (please note this is the second Wednesday)

In 1986, a 2,000-year-old boat was discovered in Israel on the banks of the Sea of Galilee near the ancient site of Migdal. In a daring and hair-raising non-stop adventure, directed by the speaker, the boat was excavated, packaged in its entirety, and moved to a specially prepared conservation pool. This vessel is apparently representative of the large, all-purpose fishing boats common during the last centuries BC and first centuries AD. Research reveals beyond a reasonable doubt that it is this type of boat that the Gospels say the disciples of Jesus used. It is also the type of boat used by the Jews in the brutal nautical Battle of Migdal in AD 67 against a makeshift Roman fleet. The lecture describes the adventure of the boat's discovery and excavation, and delves into what research has revealed about the boat and its milieu.

WATCH FOR THESE FUTURE MEMBERS' LECTURES:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| December 2 | Ian Kuijt, University of Notre Dame
– Headless Ancestors and Ghouls: Understanding the Plastered Human Skulls of Jericho and the Origins of Agriculture |
| January 6 | David Schloen, Oriental Institute –
Searching for Ancient Sam'al: Four Seasons of Excavation at Zincirli in Turkey |

MISTY AND LEWIS GRUBER BRING ANCIENT EGYPT TO THE WORLD — THE ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS INITIATIVE —

Thomas G. Urban, Managing Editor, Oriental Institute Publications Office

Five years into the Electronic Publications Initiative (EPI), the generous support of Misty and Lewis Gruber has allowed the Oriental Institute to scan all its older books on ancient Egypt, which were published from the 1920s to the year 2000, and distribute them freely on the Internet. A short history of the EPI follows.

The Oriental Institute launched its Web site in 1994. Within six years, hundreds of full-length reports had been uploaded and were freely distributed. In 2000, the Publications Office uploaded its first complete book (SAOC 45), the third edition of a Demotic grammar that, unlike the two prior editions, was not issued in print. The success of the free electronic distribution was immediately felt, and Director Gil Stein appointed a committee to explore ways to incorporate the Internet into the future of publishing. The ePublications Committee was established and consisted of Prof. Janet Johnson (chair), John Sanders, Chuck Jones, Steve Camp, Tom Holland, and myself.

One of the first actions that the ePub Committee recommended to the Director was soon to become the EPI, and on October 27, 2004, the faculty of the Oriental Institute voted to establish it:

All publications of the Oriental Institute are to be simultaneously published both in print and electronically on the Internet; the electronic distribution of the books is to be complimentary; and older titles are to be scanned and distributed on the Internet as funding and time permit.

For new titles, small file size Adobe Acrobat PDFs, identical to the printed volumes, are uploaded to the Internet on the day the books are delivered from the printer. Since the Publications Office had been sending books to the printer as electronic files since about 2000, I created Internet-friendly PDFs from the files and uploaded them as well.

However, the Institute has published books since the 1920s, and electronic files for the books printed during the eighty previous years did not exist. After unsatisfactory attempts to scan the older books, I created a template — number of pages, colors, page sizes, and types of scans — and asked the student editorial assistants to inventory all the older titles accordingly, and the results surprised us. The Institute had published:

- 351 older books for which we do not have electronic files
- 50 trim sizes, from 5 × 8 to 19 × 24 inches

- 520 oversize, folded pages, from 8 × 10 to 64 × 16 inches
- 71,506 black-and-white pages
- 746 color pages
- 10,693 pages with photographs

After an exhaustive search, the committee found that Northern Micrographics (NMT), located in LaCrosse, WI, was the only vendor able to scan all 351 books without dis-binding any of them. We conducted a pilot project, and the committee liked how NMT scanned the books and chose it to scan the 351 older books. However, NMT has limitations. The length of a scan is limited to about 30 inches, and some of our folded pages are over 60 inches long. The oversize pages are therefore scanned in two passes with each overlapping the other, and they do not fully match the printed books. Scanning some of the older books is not perfect, but having the electronic files is better than not.

By the end of 2005, the preparations for scanning the older books were complete, and the committee reported to the Director. To start the project, Gil Stein asked that several Mesopotamian archaeological reports be scanned. Soon forty-eight Mesopotamian books and then thirteen Iranian books had been scanned and were freely distributed on the Internet, but there was no budget to continue. To keep the project moving forward, the Director approached the editors of the Chicago Assyrian and Hittite Dictionaries for funding to have their books scanned, and they agreed. At this point eighty-nine older books had been scanned, but 262 books remained.

The committee again turned to the Director, and he asked that the remaining books be grouped by region or field:

- 125 Egyptology
- 44 Mesopotamian
- 29 Anatolian
- 28 Syro-Palestinian
- 20 Miscellaneous
- 9 Arabic Studies
- 7 Iranian

The Director approached Misty and Lewis Gruber, and they very kindly offered to fund the scanning of the Egyptological books. At the time of this writing, seventy books have been scanned and uploaded to the Oriental Institute's Web site: <http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/>

The files for the fifty-five remaining books have been received, and they will be uploaded to the Web as soon as Leslie

Schramer, Editor (since September 2005), and I have an opportunity to check the files and write blurbs. The EPI has already proved to be very successful. The uploaded PDFs are available wherever the Internet reaches, and access to the older titles is especially appreciated in countries that do not have Institute books on their library shelves — and now, thanks to the generous support of the Grubers, all the older Egyptological titles are being made available to the world. The following comment was received from a senior research associate at the Armenian Egyptology Centre:

“I just wanted to drop you a line to say how much I appreciate your and the Oriental Institute’s continued uploads of the digital publications. They are a true gold mine of information and making these freely available for all is one of the most generous and useful feats of any Egyptological institution I’ve ever seen.”

To acknowledge the support of the Grubers, the following statement is added to the title page of every PDF:

Internet publication of this work was made possible with the generous support of Misty and Lewis Gruber

In addition to making Internet access to the research of the Oriental Institute freely available to everyone, the method that we chose to do the scanning has further benefits. The books are not dis-bound, so pristine copies of the older books are preserved. The books are scanned at reasonably high resolution, from 300 to 600 dpi, and saved as TIFF and searchable PDF files. The scans are so well done that we can extract publishable quality photos and drawings directly from the PDFs — as we have done for this issue of *News & Notes*. The final added benefit is that Northern Micrographics can re-print the older books from the scans — a feature we are now exploring.

The many images in this issue of News & Notes are extracted from the PDFs of older Egyptian titles scanned by Northern Micrographics through the generosity of Lewis and Misty Gruber.



The Statue of Mereruka in Its Niche. The Mastaba of Mereruka 2: Chambers A 11–13, Doorjamb and Inscriptions of Chambers A 1–21 Tomb Chamber, Exterior, by the Sakkarah Expedition. Oriental Institute Publications 39 (Chicago, 1938), plate 148



Three Vignettes, Thebes, Tomb of Queen Nefretete. *Ancient Egyptian Paintings 2*, by Nina Davies (Chicago, 1936), plate 93

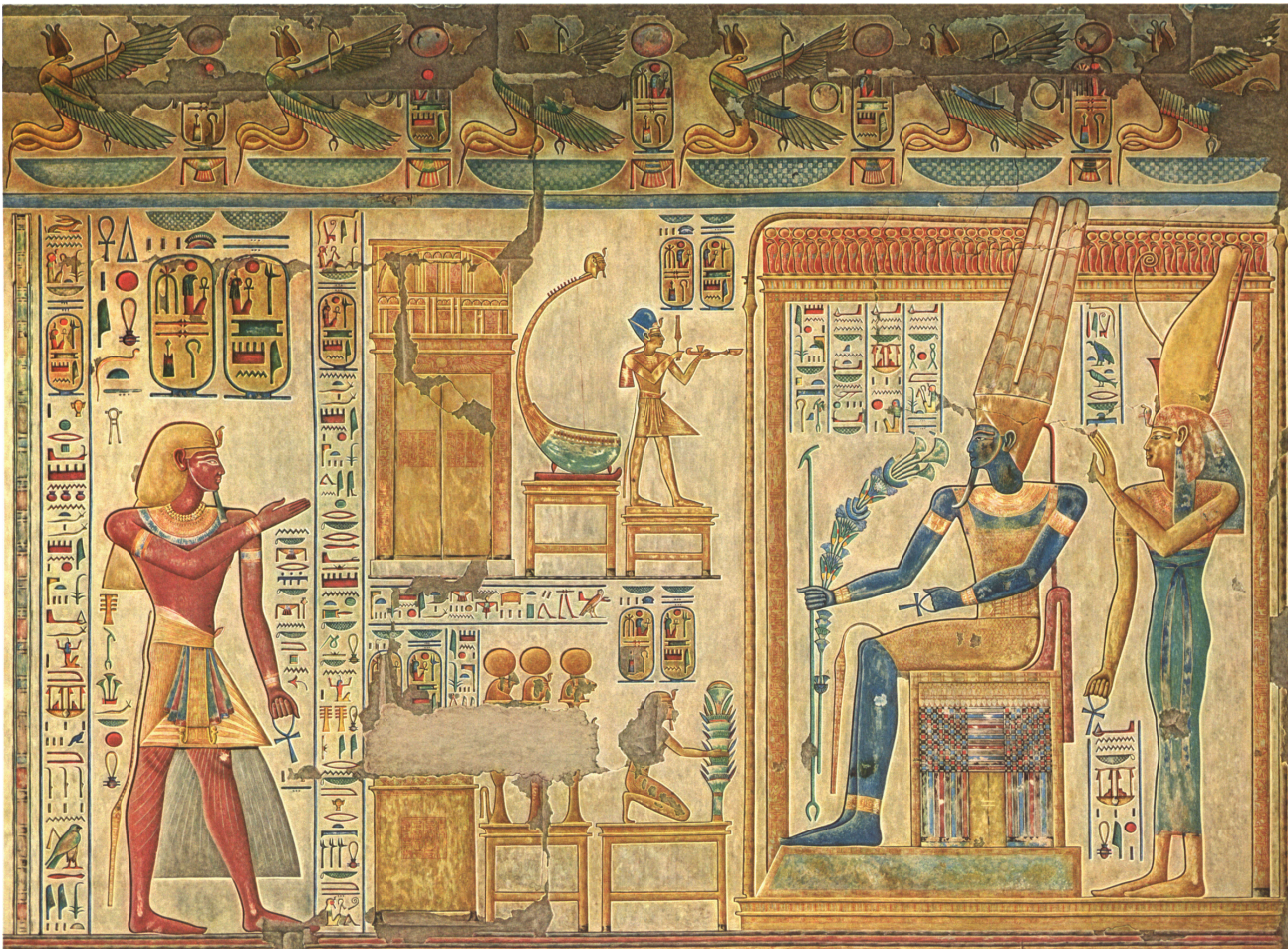


Semite with His Donkey. Beni Hasan, Tomb of Khnemhotpe (no. 3). *Ancient Egyptian Paintings 1*, by Nina Davies (Chicago, 1936), plate 11



Infant Daughters of Akhenaten. *Ancient Egyptian Paintings 2*, by Nina Davies (Chicago, 1936), plate 74

Ramses III Offering Silver, Gold, and Temple Furniture before Amon-Re and Mut. Medinet Habu V, *The Temple Proper, Part 1: The Portico, the Treasury, and Chapels Adjoining the First Hypostyle Hall*, with Marginal Material from the Forecourts, by the Epigraphic Survey. Oriental Institute Publications 83 (Chicago, 1957), plate 322



ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

MAGICAL BRICKS FROM ANCIENT EGYPT

BY FOY SCALF, HEAD OF RESEARCH ARCHIVES

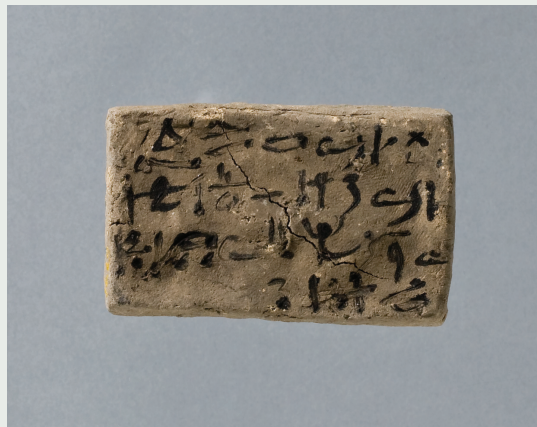
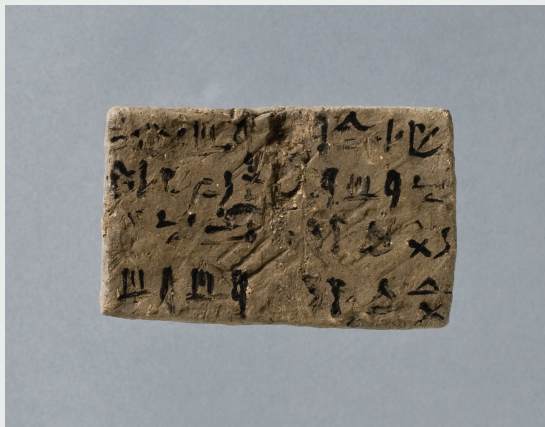
On display in the Oriental Institute Museum are two “magical bricks” from an ancient Egyptian tomb.¹ They are made from a finely sifted Nile clay and left unbaked, rather unlike your typical architectural sun-baked mudbrick. Magical bricks were inscribed with selections from Spell 151 of the Book of the Dead. According to the rubric, which provides the manufacturing and placement instructions, four bricks and four amulets set in the bricks were produced for each tomb. Placed into niches in the wall or on the floor of the burial chamber, magical bricks protected the deceased at the cardinal directions by warding off potentially dangerous entities. The designation “magical brick” derives from their rectangular shape, their designation as *ḥḥt* *db.t* “brick” in ancient Egyptian texts, and their apotropaic function within the tomb. There is nothing particularly “magical” in a Western sense about magical bricks, for the properties which we would consider “magical” were notions that existed within the logical cosmology of ancient Egyptian religious traditions.

OIM 6776 and OIM 6777 are two rather small magical bricks measuring $6.5 \times 4.0 \times 1.5$ cm — quite easy to miss

with all the other beautiful objects displayed in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. Members of the Egyptian Exploration Society excavated them in tomb D13 at Abydos and gave them to the Oriental Institute as part of the distribution of finds to excavation supporters. Buried in Abydos tomb D13 was the Twenty-fifth Dynasty vizier Nespaqashuty C, father of the vizier Nespamedu (Abydos tomb D57) and grandfather of the vizier Nespaqashuty D. Portions of Nespaqashuty D’s tomb (Theban Tomb 312) are also on display in the Egyptian Gallery. If Nespaqashuty C had a complete assemblage of magical bricks, the other two bricks have been lost or destroyed in antiquity. Damage to both bricks occurred at some point since the amuletic figure of OIM 6776 and the amuletic wick of OIM 6777, which left indentations and a hole respectfully, have never been discovered.

NOTE

¹ A short description and published facsimiles appear in D. Randall-Maclver and A. C. Mace, *Abydos and El Amrah, 1899-1901* (London, 1902), page 96, plate 40.



Text of OIM 6776

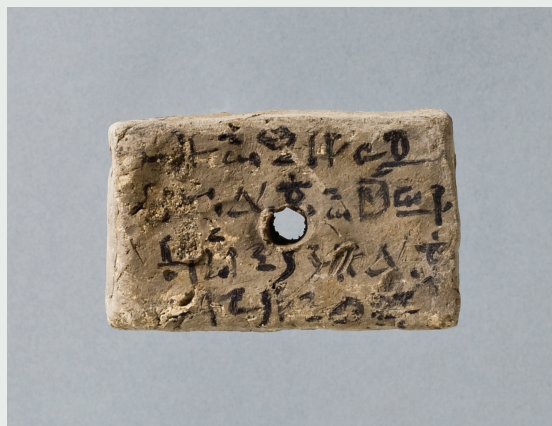
O’ you who comes to entangle, I will not allow you to entangle me. O’ you who comes to assault me, I will not allow you to assault me. May I entangle you. I will dispel you. I am the protection of the Osiris, vizier, Nespaqashuty. On the north, facing to the south.

OIM 6776 front and back

Text of OIM 6777

I am the one who drags things to block the hidden ones and who repels the activities of the one who displaces those who are in torch of the necropolis. I have lit up the desert. I have confused their path. I am the protection of the Osiris, vizier, Nespakashuty. On the south, facing to the north.

OIM 6777 front and back



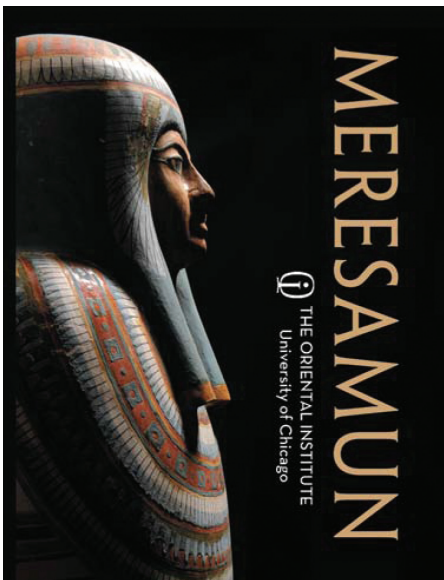
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A Nile Boat with Its Crew. Thebes, tomb of Pere (no. 139). *Ancient Egyptian Paintings 2*, by Nina Davies (Chicago, 1936), plate 56

THE SUQ CORNER



MAGNET

Photo: Dan Dry

Design: Diane Hanau-Strain

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Member's price: \$2.65