

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - APRIL 1998

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UNITS

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COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders

The last month was spent putting the finishing touches on two new components to the OI website:

- 1. The Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions Project
- 2. The Ancient Near East Map Series

Both should be made public by the 10th of April.

I will be circulating copies of the first draft of the Map Series during the week of April 6-10, asking for comments, additions, and subtractions from the faculty and staff.

The lab has acquired new software for viewing satellite images, and will soon have additional coverage for select areas of the Near East at very high resolution. I'll announce in a future edition of this Newsletter when the Lab is ready to show off the new data and software.

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MEMBERSHIP and DEVELOPMENT

MEMBERSHIP / Tim Cashion

I will be out of town on an Iran tour with Abbas Alizadeh for most of April. Sixteen people signed up for the tour, and we have had very good early results in terms of visas, itineraries, etc. I am hoping this good fortune will continue on the tour itself.

On March 11, 1998, Ben Foster of Yale University delivered a well-received lecture on early American study of the Near East. While we continued to have some bad luck with the weather, those that did attend enjoyed the presentation.

On April 22, Gil Stein of Northwestern University will lecture on Haccinebi Turkey, at 8:00 PM in Breasted Hall (co-sponsored by the AIA). There has been some confusion about the date of this lecture, but it is indeed April 22.

The last lecture of the 97/98 calendar year will be zooarchaeologist Brian Hesse of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His lecture, entitled "Dog Love and Pig Hate in the Ancient Levant" will be held on May 6 at 8:00 PM in Breasted Hall.

There were 1366 Paying Membership Households in March 1998.

DEVELOPMENT / Cynthia Echols

The Legacy Campaign, our fundraising drive to support climate control, renovation, and expansion, continues to "count down": \$9,368,530 [93% of goal] raised; \$746,470 to go.

Development calls and site visits in March:

Amoco Foundation [with Visiting Committee member Carlotta Maher]

Chicago Community Trust

Visiting Committee member & University Trustee Tony Dean.

There will be a Visiting Committee meeting on 23rd April.

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PUBLICATIONS / Tom Urban

Markus Hilgert's Drehem Administrative Documents (OIP 115) is on schedule for delivery on April 13th; the only remaining proof is of the stamped hard cover. Three volumes of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary are in press for reprinting (A/1, B, and Z) and should be available for sale by early June. Work on the Epigraphic Survey's Luxor Temple, Volume 2 (OIP 116) is nearly complete and if all goes well we could send it to press in April. We set up our new computer and scanner and tested scanning some of the seal drawings for Garrison and Root's manuscript (Persepolis Fortification Tablet Seals) (OIP 117). The scans were acceptable for publication and we've begun placing them into the text -- if this really works we will save about \$1,000 in photographic costs. With Windows 95 operating on our Macintosh G3 we will test a cross-platform font now offered by Ecological Linguistics. Plans to start work on the Wente Festschrift (SAOC 58) in April may not be attainable (sorry Emily). The book published jointly with the University of Ghent, Dating the Fall of Babylon, was printed and has been shipped from the European printer. Chris Kahrl reports that our new Publications catalog has generated quite a few sales and that it's nearly time to print more; we split the first print run with the Membership Office (1700/500). John and Debbie Darnell's Theban Desert Road Survey was accepted for publication and delivered to the Publications Office. Following is a list of manuscripts accepted for publication and the approximate order in which they will be published:

- (1) Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple, Volume 2: The Facade, Portals, Upper Register Scenes, Columns, Marginalia, and Statuary in the Colonnade Hall (Epigraphic Survey).
- (2) Seal Impressions on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets (Garrison and Root).
- (3) Gold of Praise: Studies in Ancient Egypt in Honor of Edward F. Wente (Teeter and Larson, eds.).
- (4) Scarabs, Scaraboids, Seals, and Seal Impressions from Medinet Habu (Teeter).
- (5) Demotic Egyptian Texts in the Brooklyn Museum of Art (Hughes).
- (6) Theban Desert Road Survey, Part 1: Rock Inscriptions of Gebel Tjauti (Darnells).
- (7) Byzantine Gold-Mining Town: Bir Umm Fawakhir Survey Project, 1993 (Meyer et al.).

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RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

We've completed Phase I of the moving of the Research Archives. All the books formerly kept in the built-in shelving and the free-standing shelving in the Reading Room are now in the new wing. Our calculations of how much space they would take in the new wing came out almost precisely as planned (a rare treat, I know).

Two of the stored tables have been restored to the reading room. These two tables had been "on loan" to the Museum, and had been used as shop tables in the prep. shop since the tall stacks were added to the reading room when the Research Archives opened in the early 70's. Betty Tieken restored countless pots on them, and apparently they were also used as carpentry benches. Aside from a couple of dozen drill holes, the surfaces are in reasonably good condition, though I think we will have to refinish them before long. We have discovered chairs for both of these tables already -- I can account for ten of the sixteen additional chairs we will eventually require for the reading room: five are here, two in the director's study, one (the Docent Birthday Throne) apparently in storage in Indiana, and two known to be in third floor faculty offices. This means that there are six still (I hope) hiding around the building. The two remaining tables are in storage in the Stony Island Ave. warehouse. We'll bring them in when we've disposed of the low shelving.

I have found grateful scavengers (mostly from Museum departments) for some of the low shelving from the reading room. We will retain some of the remaining units for expansion. I'm not yet sure whether it will remain in the reading room, or whether it will go into storage for some time. At present you can see the two banks we will keep, set up in their (eventual) locations next to the folio cases. We still have twenty-one double-faced units available to be taken. Some interest has been expressed for their eventual use in the archaeology labs and the computer lab, but there is not any on-site storage space. Nevertheless we will need to move this stuff out of the reading room one way or another fairly soon. Therefore those of you who have serious interest in using this shelving within the OI should arrange with me to have it moved as soon as possible.

The next phase of the project is cleaning. I do not anticipate that we will move another major component of the library until the summer. Once the low shelving is removed, we will also have the floor waxed, a routine maintenance task that the University has been routinely avoiding since they outsourced janitorial services several years ago.

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NELC / Marlene Tuttle

The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization is pleased to announce the arrival of several visitors during the Spring Quarter. We hope you will join us in welcoming them to the Department, the Oriental Institute, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the University. Below is the list of the visiting Colleagues:

David Fishelov. Visiting Professor in Modern Hebrew Literature in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization. He is teaching two courses: "Contemporary Israeli Poetry" and "Israeli Literature and The Bible." He is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Comparative Literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. During his stay he will occupy Menachem Brinker's office, Pick 215, tel 4-0123. He lives at 5500 S. Shore Dr, 773/684-9471.

Steven Harvey, Visiting Assistant Professor in Egyptian Archaeology at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Oriental Institute. He is teaching Egyptian Art & Archaeology and the courses are "Intro. to Late Egyptian" and "Narrative and Egyptian Art." He is a visiting curator at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, Maryland. His office is in OI 317, tel 4-1003. He lives at 1368 E. 57th St, 955-2050

Klaus Kreiser, Visiting Professor of Ottoman History, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He is teaching two courses: "200 Years of Turkish History/Culture" and "Reading Ottoman." He is a Professor and Chairman of Turkish Studies at the Universität Bamberg, Germany. His office is in the Chicago Humanities Institute. On the request of CHI, visitors should arrange to meet with him elsewhere. His office tel is 5-0761. His home address is 5309 S. Drexel, 752-1935.

Robin Darling Young (Ph.D. 1982, Divinity School, U of C), Visiting Associate Professor, teaching Armenian Studies courses in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization and the Divinity School. She is teaching two courses: "The Development of Early Armenian Christianity" and "History/Theology in Ancient Armenian Literature." She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theology at the Catholic University of American in Washington, DC. Her office is at HM W604, tel. 2-8592. She lives at the International House.

We also have two visiting scholars and one post-doc. They are:

Hiroshi Suita, Visiting Scholar in Egyptology, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Oriental Institute. He will be here from April 4 until the end of September 1998. He is an Associate Professor in Egyptology in the Departments of History and Geography, Faculty of Letters, Kansai University, Suita-City, Osaka, Japan. Prof. Suita will be mainly using the Archives in OI. He will be living at Flamingo Building, 5500 S. Lake Shore Drive. He can always be reached through the NELC office.

Dr. Dimitry Proussakov, a Research Fellow at the Department of History and Culture of the Ancient East, Oriental Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. His area of interest is Egyptology and Climatology. He is expected to arrive sometime in April and is expected to leave September 30. He will be mainly using the Archives in OI.

Stefano Seminara, a Research Doctorate in Akkadian and Literary Sumerian. He is a post-doc working with Walter Farber and will be using the Archives in OI most of the time. His current address is Blackstone Villa, 5514 S. Blackstone, #215. He has no home telephone.

Lastly, we are also planning to introduce our visitors during the first NELC/OI/CMES social hour on Wed 4/8/98. We hope you can all attend.

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PROJECTS

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The Assyrian Dictionary / Martha T. Roth

The assyriological staff (Roth, Gertrud Farber, Michael Kozuh, and David Testen) and the manuscript editor (Linda McLarnan) continue the arduous task of preparing the P volume for publication. The entire volume is now written, edited, and all citations are checked. Final editorial work on this manuscript, which includes format checking, transferring corrections, and generating final copy, will occupy us through the spring and into the summer months. Meanwhile, we continue to receive and return page proofs for the R

volume. Jason Kemper, Jordan Finkin, and Andrew Simpson continue their work to catalogue the offprint collection of the late A. Leo Oppenheim. Out-of-print volumes A/1, B, and Z are scheduled to be reprinted. Roth, Testen, and Kozuh will be attending the American Oriental Society Meetings in New Orleans, where both Testen and Kozuh will be presenting papers.

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EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY / Ray Johnson

March blew into Luxor like a lion this year with xamseen winds that brought unseasonably cool weather all month, a great boon to the fieldwork. March is a bittersweet month, when a number of ES projects wrap up and staff members begin to return home. Stone conservator Hiroko Kariya finished up the third season of our Egyptian Antiquities Project-funded Luxor Temple Fragment Project; Brooklyn Museum conservator Ellen Pearlstein completed the second season of the Colonnade Hall statue cleaning and restoration project; and archival assistant Nan Ray finished up her work for the season assisting CH Librarian Debbie Darnell in the library. Artist Susan Osgood departed for the season after she and I completed the final Director's Checks of the last of her drawings for volume 1 of the Medinet Habu small Amun temple series. Stonecutter Dany Roy finished the sealing of the small temple sanctuary roof against rainwater and is now awaiting delivery of new stone that will be used to cap the sealed areas. Photographer Yarko Kobylecky, assisted by Ellie Smith, finished the photography of the Kushite additions to the small temple (volume 3). He also finished printing a series of photographs from the Labib Habachi archives that will be used in the publication of Labib's work at Tell-el-Dab'a ('Tell-el-Dab'a volume 1') in the delta, currently being prepared for publication by Manfred Bietak, Institute of Egyptology, University of Vienna.

In the middle of the month Chicago House hosted a day-long review of its EAP-funded conservation projects at Luxor temple and Medinet Habu by officials from EAP and USAID, Cairo. That evening CH hosted a tea reception for the participants, after which I gave them a library talk about the documentation work of the ES. Other visitors this month included several American Research Center in Egypt officials, including Financial Director Ray Salamanca. ARCE Vice-President Richard Fazzini of the Brooklyn Museum Mut temple expedition also reviewed the EAP-funded conservation work at Luxor Temple. On March 11 Carlotta Maher returned to coordinate the CH development work; at the end of the month she and I made the rounds of Cairo corporations and USAID Egypt in our ongoing efforts to drum up increased support for our expanding documentation programs. We were very pleased that Mac Gibson could join us on March 19 for a few days, to see our projects and some of the remarkable archaeological remains in this town.

John Westley, Director of USAID Egypt and his wife Joan joined us for dinner on March 6, the day we finished a major chapter in our ongoing efforts to restructure the CH financial management system. Two USAID FAS (financial analysis support) teams have come to Luxor this month to assist with tying up loose ends; all of this work ultimately will allow CH to receive an endowment through USAID that will go toward our operating expenses here in Egypt.

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INDIVIDUALS
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Fred Donner will be attending the American Oriental Society meetings in New Orleans, April 6-8, and participating in a roundtable discussion on "What was the First Islamic Century really like?", along with Lawrence Conrad (Wellcome Institute and University

College, London), Michael Cook (Princeton), Rebecca Foote (Harvard), and Chase Robinson (Oxford). He will be lecturing on "Was Early Islam an Apocalyptic Movement" (again!) at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, on April 24.

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Harry Hoffner just sent to the editor of the SBL Writings from the Ancient World series corrections and a significant additional chapter for the second edition of his book "Hittite Myths," published by Scholars Press. He also sent off to the Journal of Cuneiform Studies an article entitled "From the Disciplines of a Dictionary Editor," containing discussions of a lexical and grammatical nature about the Hittite language together with two new joins to published Hittite tablets. At the up-coming April 27-29 Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies at the Center for Judaic Studies of the Univ. of Pennsylvania, "Text, Artifact, and Image: Revealing Ancient Israelite Religion," he will speak on April 28th on the subject "The Hittite King in the Cult". During this spring quarter, in addition to his own classroom teaching, he will participate in a reading course on the History of Hittite Phonology, offered by Prof. William Darden in the Chicago Humanities Institute.

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Walter Kaegi is writing two book-length manuscripts: a biography study of the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius (610-641 CE), and an inquiry into the Earliest Muslim Invasions of Byzantine North Africa. He spent the last two summers in Tunisia on an SSRC Fellowship in pursuit of the latter topic. While at the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park NC last year, he prepared a draft of most of his biography of Heraclius. He recently completed an article on the battle of the Yarmuk for the Encyclopedia of Islam and revised his contribution on "Byzantine Egypt on the Eve of the Islamic Conquest" for the Cambridge History of Egypt. He revised his entry on [Byzantine Emperor 717-741 CE] Leo III for the Encyclopedia Britannica

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Donald Whitcomb

Individual research

Early Islamic urbanism became the central topic of the Late Levant course this winter. This subject has led in interesting directions, toward a reevaluation of the Arab city of Jerusalem and toward an interpretation of the structure of Constantinople. Both of these foci will be discussed in lectures later this Spring. Another aspect of the early Islamic city is the regional implications for settlement in the Negev. A critical mass of new Israeli fieldwork and innovative interpretations suggests a new synthesis will be appropriate. A first indication may be found in Whitcomb's review of monographs by Avni and Avni/Rosen to appear in the next issue of BASOR. A major article will appear in the next Revue d'études orientales.

Projects

Aqaba excavations are in a publication stage, specifically of the results of the 1997 season, which focused on that portion of the site adjacent to the Royal Yacht Club of Aqaba. Further shops were found along the outside of the sea wall and Abbasid period streets within this sector of the city. The Umayyad occupation was reached in only small tests, which has frustrated our understanding of the original plan of this portion of the city of Ayla.