



News & Notes

Issued confidentially to members and friends

No. 123 March - April, 1990

Not for publication

WATER AND GOLD: THE 1989 SEASON AT AQABA

Donald Whitcomb



View of area H looking south with the Hijaz gate (on the left) and the Abbasid street.

This season at Aqaba, Jordan, began with the installation of a permanent museum, reported in *News & Notes* 122 by James Richerson. As he explained in that article, these were well-traveled objects, having been brought to Chicago, then taken back to Amman, shown in Irbid, and now returned to Aqaba. In conjunction with the Aqaba museum, Jim designed a series of signs, which are now distributed around the site and form a self-guided tour of this Islamic city in both English and Arabic. Both the museum and the signs are a gratifying result of these excavations, since the preservation and value of this site depends on education of visitors. If one mentions antiquities in the *suq* of Aqaba, one is sure to be told about the "city of Ayla."

The Aqaba Region Authority, the local planning commission, is doing its part. In December they finished the beautification of a public beach with a broad paved esplanade parallel to the beach running from the hotels to the Sea Wall of the site. Set back from the esplanade is a large parking lot and places for restaurants and shops (in the future). All this was done without destroying the beautiful palm groves. Every evening between one and two hundred people — Jordanians and foreign tourists — walk beneath the waving palms, drawn to the gently lapping water of the Red Sea.

Continued on page two

MUSEUM VIEWS

With this issue of *News & Notes* we inaugurate a regular column dealing with the Oriental Institute Museum, its staff, and activities. We hope that Oriental Institute members who are not closely acquainted with the Museum and its operations will enjoy learning something about what we do and that those of you who know us more intimately will still find some interest in reading our first-hand accounts of our activities.

In each subsequent issue of *News & Notes* a different member of the Museum staff will write "Museum Views" on a subject of his/her choosing — and given the diversity of the staff, the possibilities for topics are virtually endless. I imagine that some writers will describe their jobs — or one particularly interesting aspect of their work — in some detail, while others may speak about a project in which they are involved or write about their favorite object in the collection. I urge any of you who would like to have us discuss a topic of particular interest to you to drop me a line or call me at 702-9520 and I will see if I can find someone to respond to your request in a future column.

To begin the series, I am going to appropriate what may be the most popular Museum subject — the mummies — and tell you why some of them have been taken off display and what's been happening to them while they are in the basement.



Museum staff members Laura D'Alessandro, Ray Tindel, and Phil Petrie maneuvering the styrofoam blocks supporting Meresamon to make room for the x-ray plate that will be placed beneath her.

Continued on page three

Continued from page one

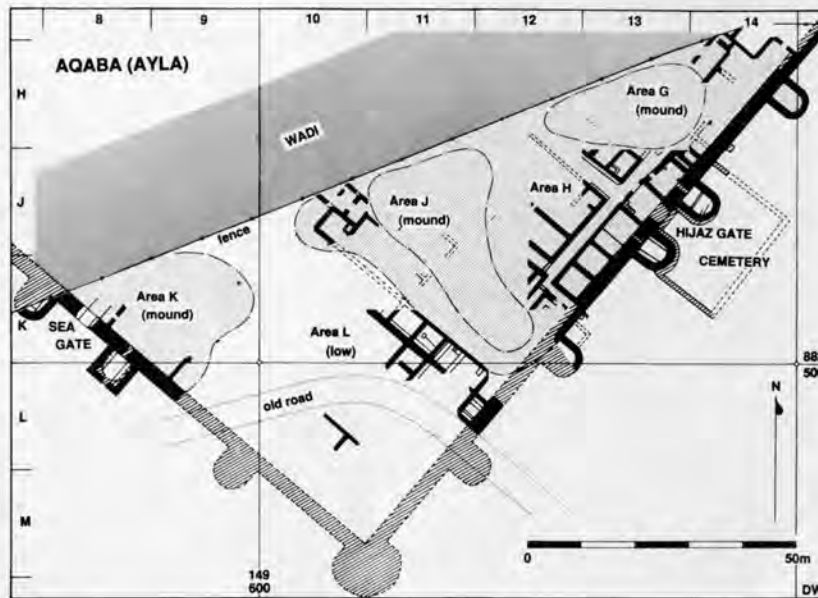
Jim entitled his article "Excavating for the Future." Indeed, it seems that the future is already with us in Aqaba. The Crown Prince of Jordan visited the site and, soon afterwards, the Director of Tourism told us that money has been allocated for a Site Orientation Center (preliminary designs were done by Richerson). The excitement of the archaeological remains has drawn the attention of other developers. For the past two years the archaeological excavations have been working

in conjunction with The Royal Yacht Club. Part of the plans for the new marina is a hotel and the question in everyone's mind is how to coordinate the hotel with the ancient monument.

Fortunately, the chairman of the Royal Yacht Club is Mr. Anis Mouasher, who is also director of the Royal Society for the Preservation of Nature (which includes cultural heritage). He recently was interviewed in *The Jordan Times* and said that it was "a duty ... to conserve our heritage." The article continues: "... Duty and conservation efforts will combine to produce a very special ambiance in a complex Mouasher refers to as the 'heart of Aqaba.' When complete, the hotel and its adjoining plaza, of restaurants, coffee shops, and gift shops, will attract vacationers and business travellers in search of evening entertainment after a day on Aqaba's seashore or in meetings. 'There is a fine doorway,' Mouasher elaborated, referring to the Hijaz Gate in the south eastern city wall, 'that we may work into the design for the



Dr. Khairieh 'Amr and Jim Mason drawing a section in Umayyad levels behind the Hijaz gate.



entranceway or the hotel lobby.' "

Such plans are literally rising like a tide of enthusiasm, limited only by uncertainties about the ruins still below the sands; this was the background for the urgent request by Dr. Ghazi Bisheh, director general of the Department of Antiquities, that we continue our excavations this winter. We set out with a fresh set of hypotheses — postulating the location of the early mosque and palace — and a woefully inadequate

budget. Our departmental representative was Dr. Khairieh 'Amr, who has worked on the site since 1987. Though her specialization is in neutron activation studies of Nabataean ceramics, she is fortunately a fine excavator and ran most of the excavations behind the Hijaz gate. This proved an interesting area of large, apparently residential structures arranged along a narrow street. This street ran parallel to the city wall and had other streets at right angles. Khairieh was able to show that this version of the city plan began in the Abbasid period (from ca. 750 A.D.) and represented a process of urban renewal (perhaps after the earthquake of 748 A.D.).

Khairieh and Rebecca Foote, a beginning archaeologist from Harvard, began probes into the pre-Abbasid levels, though these were too limited to gain an idea of the earlier structures. Rebecca excavated a deep sounding to investigate the problem of the blockage of the Hijaz gate. Much to our surprise, she found plentiful evidence of domestic usage, all during the Umayyad period (ca. 650 to 750 A.D.), contemporary with the blocked gate. Beneath this was almost a meter of clean sand, level with and below the threshold of the gate. The foundation of the threshold continued down beside the sand but our work was halted by the water table. Rebecca claimed the honor of being the first to reach water, but refrained from tasting it (one of her workmen did and pronounced it drinkable if not "sweet").

Our architect this year was Hugh Barnes, a British surveyor with extensive experience in Jordan. He handled a new instrument, an EDM or laser theodolite, rented from ACOR (the American Center). He quickly did a rough plan of the previous years' work and then a detailed plan of the city walls and structures in the marina area. This work went so well that he found time to help with the digging. He tackled the "square tower," located south of the Sea Gate. Hugh's time was mainly spent removing masses of fallen stone, a chore alleviated by deposits of late Abbasid or Fatimid artifacts (ca. 950 to 1100 A.D.), including some of the finest pieces of porcelain found on the site. Hugh is

Continued from page two

also remembered for producing the worst meal, as we were cooking for ourselves (as director I avoided this distinction only by taking everyone out to eat whenever my turn came round).

After about a week, Hugh was relieved (in his tower) by Kevin Rielly, a faunal specialist who worked with us in 1988, and returned to planning the new architectural discoveries. Both Kevin and Hugh represent the best in British archaeological tradition in which the specialist has a solid grounding in excavation techniques. Kevin continued down inside the tower to a plaster floor (some 2.5 m below the surface), in which were thin mud-brick partition walls. Beneath the plaster floor was the curve of the original round tower, the same as each of the other towers encompassing the town. Inside this lower tower were numerous complete vessels, all of the earliest period of occupation (ca. 650 A.D.), and two walls perpendicular to the city wall. These internal buttresses (for lack of a better term) went down to foundation courses, which again disappeared into the water table (a pool of water which would rise and fall with the tide).

This success with the square tower encouraged us to investigate the tower south of the Hijaz gate. Rebecca found only a thin layer of occupation materials (burnt debris) resting upon internal buttresses identical to those found by Kevin. Between these walls was nothing but clean sand down to (yet again) the water table. One may note that, while the weather was generally mild enough for only a light jacket, no one was tempted to wade in these chilly waters.

During the second half of the season, John Meloy, our only other representative from Chicago, joined us and excavated a series of rooms in area L. We had great hopes for this area, where destruction of the city mound had left only the earliest structural remains. Unfortunately, what remains of these buildings appears to be literally foundations (or perhaps basements), with several reconstructions, and leaves many questions about the design of the original structures. John did renew his acquaintance with a number of workmen who had helped him remove the sand from this area last spring (see *News & Notes* 120). He was present to help us during the busy last week, the week of Christmas. We even worked Christmas day, though somewhat more slowly than usual, having been the guests the evening before at an extravagant party held by the British ex-patriots working in Aqaba. (We celebrated our last work day — a delayed “boxing day” — with another party held by these generous friends.)

The amount of digging accomplished this season has been impressive and is due to the dedication of this very small team of archaeologists. Besides directing, I pitched in here and there and did some excavation myself and was even responsible for some excitement. Our first moment of excitement was the unearthing of a *ghundfudh* (hedgehog), the only living thing we have ever found on the site. Our second moment was a sudden furor as a workman ran up and handed me a coin — a gold solidus in mint condition. The coin belonged to the Byzantine emperor Heraclius i.e., early 7th century, just after the Muslim conquest. As I pointed out to the workmen, after four seasons of extensive excavations, this was the first large gold coin and it was found on the surface. Nevertheless, there was talk about a treasury and work on the

trench began with some enthusiasm.

After a week of hard digging we found a beer bottle in the bottom of the trench, proving the rumor I had heard years ago of a former road in this area when it was a British base. A final deep probe beneath this road reached water.

Beyond the extensive historical information gained during this season, one is tempted to reflect on certain ultimate verities pointed out by the site of Ayla. The first is the illusory value of things golden and the pre-eminence of water. It is, after all, the abundance of fresh water which allowed people to settle in this place in every period and build a city in the early Islamic period. It is the clear, gentle water of the Red Sea which attracts people today to this coast. We left Aqaba pleased with the fourth season of archaeological research and, one and a half hours after we left, there was a tremendous rainstorm. I hope it was followed by a golden sunset.



MUSEUM VIEWS

Continued from page one

As most of you already know, last May 19th three of the four mummies that had been on display in the Egyptian Gallery for many years were taken off exhibit, amidst cries of protest from our docents and after being paid a farewell visit by a group of disappointed University of Chicago students. Our reason for this unpopular move was simple — to spare these particularly fragile and irreplaceable objects the damage that would result from high summertime heat and relative humidity levels in the galleries. By moving the mummies into the climate-controlled Organics Storage Room in the Museum basement, we placed them in a stable environment while our conservator, Laura D’Alessandro, investigated ways of modifying their display cases so that they might maintain a fairly steady internal level of relative humidity.

Little did we dream that taking the mummies off exhibit would prove to be the catalyst that brought to fruition plans to have them x-rayed. Volunteer Coordinator Janet Helman had mentioned the idea of x-raying the mummies to the Dean of the University of Chicago Medical School, Dr. Samuel Hellman, and the Radiology Department of the University of Chicago Hospitals had consequently contacted us about what they found to be an exciting idea. However, their attention to living humans always seemed to occupy 110% of their time and 110% of the time that their x-ray machines were available for use, thereby constantly pushing “mummy imaging,” as they call it, into the background.

Laura persisted, however, in her calls to Mrs. Maria Myrian-

Continued from page three

thopoulos, the Administrative Director of the Department of Radiology, and, eventually, circumstances conspired in our favor. In early October the Mitchell Hospital informed us that they were about to receive a new portable x-ray machine from General Electric and that it made sense to have it delivered directly to us first, to be used on the mummies — if we could be ready in time. We were ready immediately! (This also relieved us of the problem of how to legally get the mummies to the hospital to be x-rayed, as it is against the law in Chicago to transport a dead body through the streets without a permit.)



Dr. Heber MacMahon (left) and Joe Bavuso positioning the machine before making an exposure. The x-ray plate is visible below Meresamon, resting on blocks that raise it as near as possible to her cartonnage.

After taking preliminary experimental shots to check the new equipment and the exposure times necessary to achieve readable images, a team of radiologists from the hospital arrived at the Oriental Institute on October 18th and began their investigation. Dr. Heber MacMahon, Associate Professor of Radiology, Joe Bavuso, Technical Manager for Specialty Imaging, and Mike Carlin, senior research technician, worked with the Institute staff to carefully maneuver the mummies to obtain the most useful x-rays with a minimum amount of movement. Three days later, four of the mummies had been x-rayed—Petosiris, Lady Meresamon, the child mummy (returned last winter from its sojourn in Florida), and an unidentified mummy, nicknamed “Charlie,” who was radiographed while still lying in his upper berth coffin in storage. In addition, preliminary x-rays were taken of the metal portions of a copper alloy and gilded wooden ibis statuette.

To our slight disappointment, the x-rays revealed no great surprises (such as quantities of jewelry embedded in the linen wrappings), but they were a necessary and valuable first stage in a program designed to analyze the mummies using more advanced technology such as computerized axial tomography (CAT scans) and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). Despite the sophistication of these more modern techniques, conventional x-rays are still considered the best means of detecting fractures, dislocations, and dental disease in mummies, and also serve to reveal the presence of metal objects within the wrappings. It was a great concern of the radiologists that during MRI such metal

objects might vibrate, causing damage to the mummy, or might even shoot straight out of the wrappings into the chamber, irreparably damaging an extremely costly machine.

After the x-raying had been completed, Lady Meresamon, in her brilliantly painted cartonnage, was placed back on exhibit in her case that had been carefully modified in the hopes that it could maintain a constant level of internal relative humidity (RH). The interior of the wooden base had been polyurethaned and caulked to make it more airtight. The board upon which Lady Meresamon rests had also been polyurethaned and then covered with a foil laminate material that would act as a barrier to harmful vapors. The board was then covered with 14 lbs. of Arten beads, a form of silica gel, that had been conditioned to 50% RH in the Organics Room. This modified case has been able to maintain a consistent 44% RH in the gallery for the past three months, even during periods when RH in the gallery has gone as low as 10%.

While this has been extremely encouraging, the conditions that affect the deterioration of the fragile materials that make up the mummies are numerous, and fluctuation in relative humidity is only one of them. Temperature also has a serious effect on the rate of chemical reactions — the higher the temperature, the faster the reaction. This means that summertime heat in the galleries poses a serious threat. In addition, the pollutants within the Museum, both the contaminants in the air from industry and automobiles and the vapors from volatile materials used in case construction, make the preservation of these artifacts a very complicated issue.

We are challenged daily with the problem of how to deal with our collection in the near future — until it can be placed in the rigorously controlled environment that will be provided by the eventual renovation/expansion of the Oriental Institute building. From a conservation point of view, all the organic materials on exhibit should be placed immediately in the Organics Storage Room and all the metals in the Metals Storage Room. But things are not that simple, for the Museum also has a public face and functions as an educational resource for many residents of the greater Chicago area, as well as for numerous tourists. In order to strike a compromise between the issues of preservation versus exhibition, we are taking measures such as the modification of Lady Meresamon’s case. These measures do not by any means solve the problems that non-climate-controlled environments present to the collection, but they do help to slow the rate of deterioration to one we can live with over the next few years. Meresamon will be taken back to the Organics Room for the summer to protect her from the heat. She will return to exhibit in the fall along with the partially wrapped mummy that has been on display next to her for so many years — both of them now in modified cases that will help to minimize the destructive environmental factors to which they are exposed.

This spring we also plan to have the mummies CAT scanned — something you will undoubtedly be hearing more about in future “Museum Views.”

Karen L. Wilson
Curator

SPRING MEMBERS' COURSES

Ancient Egyptian Law and Ethics: Part II

This course will focus upon legalistic texts and literature of the New Kingdom and the Late Period in ancient Egyptian history. We will look at the operation of the court system on the village level as well as the national level and will examine the evidence for international law in the New Kingdom empire period. Criminal cases will highlight two assassination attempts made upon pharaohs, a notorious criminal career at the workmen's village of Deir el-Medineh and trials of tomb robbers. We will discuss the concept of removing a pharaoh from office, the collapse of society and law at the end of the Twentieth Dynasty and the emergence of deities as the guarantors of legal rights in the Twenty-first Dynasty. We will also discuss ancient Egyptian marriage law and its implications for the status of women, a status of equality with men. Contracts, wills, and documents of inheritance and adoption will be examined.

We will briefly tour the Egyptian gallery in the Museum to view objects and documents related to legal matters, such as a marriage contract and a record of default in repaying a debt.

This course is a continuation of **Ancient Egyptian Law and Ethics, Part I**, an introduction to Egyptian ethics and law in their various aspects, and will begin with a brief overview of this material for the benefit of incoming students who did not take Part I.

Required texts are: Lichtheim, Miriam. *Ancient Egyptian Literature, Volume II* (1976) and *Volume III* (1980) Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Instructor: Frank Yurco, a Ph.D. candidate in Egyptology.

This class will meet from 10 a.m. till noon at the Oriental Institute beginning Saturday, April 7 and continuing through June 2, with no class meeting on May 26.

Emperors and Saints: Life in Byzantine Anatolia

The ancient land of Anatolia has been home to many civilizations. Hittites, Greeks and Romans all called the peninsula home. Few, however, approached the majesty of the Byzantines. Their long-lived empire, spanning Europe, North Africa, Asia Minor and North Mesopotamia, had a tremendous impact on the ages to follow. Not only did the Byzantines inaugurate a period of imperial splendor, but they also mediated the many early theological councils which ultimately determined the path of Christian doctrine. This course will survey the history of the Byzantine empire from the age of Constantine the Great through the fall of Constantinople in 1453. It will provide an overview of Byzantine life, looking at the imperial court, art and culture and the theological struggles which characterized much of Byzantine history. Emphasis will be placed on the development of a distinctive culture within the Anatolian setting, and special attention will be paid to the archaeological monuments of the period, with a view towards orienting those who may be traveling to areas of Byzantine influence.

Readings will be supplied and supplemented with a bibliography through which students may follow up on areas of special interest.

Instructor: Ronald Gorny, a Ph.D. candidate in Anatolian archaeology.

This class will meet from 10 a.m. till noon at the Oriental Institute beginning Saturday, March 31 and continuing through May 19.

PLEASE NOTE THE DIFFERENT STARTING DATES FOR EACH COURSE.

Tuition for either course is \$65. You must be an Oriental Institute member to take these courses. Those who are not already members should enclose a separate \$30 check for annual membership.

Please register me for the following course:

- Ancient Egyptian Law and Ethics: Part II**
 Emperors and Saints

- I am a member and enclose a \$65 check for tuition.
 I am not a member, but also enclose a SEPARATE check for \$30 to cover a one year Oriental Institute membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime telephone _____

Please make checks payable to: THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE. Mail to: Education Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. (312) 702-9507.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We have been discussing plans for an exhibit on the history of the Oriental Institute to be mounted as a part of the celebrations for the University of Chicago's Centennial in 1991-92. In addition to objects from the collection we plan to use photographs, drawings, and other material from the archives. While we were discussing this project it occurred to us that members of the Institute might have materials relating to our history that they would be willing to donate to the archives. We are particularly interested in materials that relate directly to Oriental Institute projects, programs, expeditions, and present or former faculty, staff, and volunteers. If you have diaries, correspondence, photographs, negatives, color transparencies, drawings, scrapbooks, or clippings of this sort, we would be very interested in hearing from you. A second area of interest is similar material, especially older items, concerning the geographical and cultural areas that are the focus of Oriental Institute research. We are also collecting back copies of the *Archaeological Newsletter* and *News & Notes* as well as more ephemeral publications from the Institute such as Museum exhibit handouts, invitations, notices, old postcards, or posters. So, if you are going through the attic or those old trunks in the basement and find things like this, don't throw them out! Contact the Museum Archivist, John Larson, at (312) 702-9520, or FAX (312) 702-9853. John is also willing to advise members on the disposition of materials that might not be appropriate for our collection but would be appreciated elsewhere.

William M. Sumner

JUST PUBLISHED

Figurines and Other Clay Objects from Sarab and Çayönü, by Vivian Broman Morales, with preface by Robert J. Braidwood. Oriental Institute Communications 25. A presentation of some of the figurines and other clay objects found by the Oriental Institute's Prehistoric Project at Çayönü in Turkey and Sarab in Iran. A comparative analysis of the figurines from Sarab and Jarmo is included. Pp. xvi + 92, including 2 catalogs and 30 plates. Price **\$15 + P&H** (the price for Members of the Oriental Institute at a 20% discount is \$12 + P&H) and 8% Illinois sales tax if delivered to an Illinois address.

Excavations Between Abu Simbel and the Sudan Frontier, Part 7: Twenty-fifth Dynasty and Napatan Remains at Qustul: Cemeteries W and V, by Bruce Beyer Williams. Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition VII. Publication of some of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty and Napatan remains found in cemeteries W and V at Qustul. Pp. xxvii + 83, including 33 figures and 16 tables, + 15 plates. Price **\$20 + P&H** (the price for Members of the Oriental Institute at a 20% discount is \$16 + P&H) and 8% Illinois sales tax if delivered to an Illinois address.

Prepayment is required. Please write or telephone us and we will send you a prepayment invoice. Publications Sales Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. (312) 702-9508.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE 1990 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR TO EGYPT

October 12-31, 1990

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

Land arrangements	\$3090
Round trip air fare from Chicago (APEX)	\$1193
Single supplement, hotels only	\$436
Single supplement, hotels and ship	\$836

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

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

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

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

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime telephone _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$400 per person) as a deposit to hold my/our place(s), payable to:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS, INC.

Mail to: Membership Office, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, (312) 702-9513.

FREE SUNDAY MOVIES AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

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

MARCH	4	Champollion: Egyptian Hieroglyphs Deciphered
	11	Iraq: Stairway to the Gods
	18	Myth of the Pharaohs/Ancient Mesopotamia
	25	Megiddo: City of Destruction
APRIL	1	Turkey: Crossroads of the Ancient World
	8	Rivers of Time: Civilizations of Mesopotamia
	15	The Egyptologists
	22	The Royal Archives of Ebla
	29	Egypt: Gift of the Nile
MAY	6	Iran: Landmarks in the Desert
	13	Egypt's Pyramids: Houses of Eternity
	20	The Big Dig: Excavations at Gezer
	27	Preserving Egypt's Past

LECTURE AND EVENT SCHEDULE

Lectures are presented at 8 p.m. in Breasted Hall at the Oriental Institute. Institute members may make dinner reservations at the Quadrangle Club, 1155 East 57th Street, 702-2550, before members' lectures. They will bill the Oriental Institute and we, in turn, will bill you. Please **PRINT** your **name and address** at the bottom of your dinner check, as well as signing it, so that we may know where to send your bill.

March 7, 1990	T. G. Harry James, The British Museum, <i>Howard Carter: the Early Years.</i>
April 4, 1990	Rémy Boucharlat, Maison de l'Orient Méditerranéen, Lyon, <i>Sasanian Fire Temples.</i>
April 18, 1990	Ann Murray, The University of London, <i>Views from a Turkish Mountain Top: the Græco-Persian Burial Complex on Nemrut Dağı, Turkey.</i> A joint lecture with the Chicago Society of the A.I.A.
May 2, 1990	Rita Freed, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, <i>Excavating Ancient Memphis, Egypt.</i>
May 21, 1990	Annual Oriental Institute Dinner in the Museum

DOCENT COURSE PLANNED FOR SPRING

The Volunteer Office will offer a course during the spring quarter to train volunteers as museum guides. The course, which will run nine Mondays starting the end of March, will include films, lectures, readings, and gallery workshops. After taking the course, volunteers will be asked to serve one-half day a week.

Interviews are now being scheduled for those interested in taking the course. To arrange for an interview, or for further information, call Janet Helman in the Volunteer Office at 702-9507.

PUBLICATION AVAILABLE ON THE HITTITE EMPIRE

The most recent issue of the journal *Biblical Archaeologist* is devoted to "Reflections of a Late Bronze Age Empire: The Hittites." Of the five articles, four are by scholars who have worked on the Oriental Institute's Chicago Hittite Dictionary: History by Gregory McMahon, Archaeology by Ronald Gorny, Religion by Gary Beckman, Art by Jeanny Vorys Canby, and Literature by Ahmet Ünal. The *Suq* has made special arrangements to offer this issue for sale to friends and members of the Oriental Institute. If you wish to order a copy by mail, the cost is \$8.00, which includes tax, postage, and handling. No discount is available on this item. Please make your check payable to the Oriental Institute and mail to The *Suq*, The Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637 (312) 702-9509.

SYMPOSIUM OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

The Ancient Eastern Mediterranean - A Symposium in Celebration of the 100th Year of the Chicago Society of the Archaeological Institute of America will be presented on Saturday, March 31st in Breasted Hall at the Oriental Institute. Eleven lecturers will cover a broad range of ancient Near Eastern studies during this day-long symposium. Many of these speakers are faculty members of the Oriental Institute.

The ties between the Oriental Institute and the Chicago Society of the A.I.A. are both long and close. Many of the past presidents of the Chicago Society have been members of the Institute's faculty, starting as early as James Henry Breasted, and including the current president, Robert Biggs. Much of the work to be discussed during the symposium is based on excavations conducted by the Oriental Institute.

There is a fee for this symposium, and registration will be limited. For more information, or for registration forms, write or telephone Karen Bradley, 5728 South Blackstone Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637 - (312) 643-8613.

THE SUQ سوق



Mummy Tins

Beautifully decorated inside and out, these tins can hold anything from candy to pencils. Reproduced from originals in the collection of the British Museum, the tins even include a description on the back. They measure 8" x 2.5" x 1". Several different designs. **\$8.95**



Spiral Bound Notebooks

Colorfully decorated on the outside with several different Egyptian designs, these notebooks are filled with lined paper. They measure 8" x 5". **\$2.50**

Address Books

The same colorful Egyptian designs decorate this hardcover address book, measuring 6" x 8". **\$18.00**

Members should subtract their 10% discount. Illinois residents please add 8% sales tax. Postage is \$2.50.



The Oriental Institute

The University of Chicago
1155 East 58th Street • Chicago, Illinois • 60637
(312) 702-9514

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Bulkrate
Chicago, Illinois
Permit No. 1504

Dated Material