



BEFORE THE PYRAMIDS

THE ORIGINS OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION



Also inside:

**TRAVEL TO TURKEY AND SYRIA WITH THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
THE 2011 ORIENTAL INSTITUTE GALA**

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NEWS & NOTES

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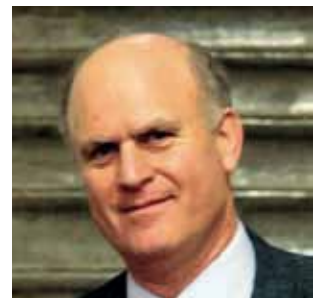
<http://oi.uchicago.edu>

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

We are all familiar with the sphinx, the pyramids, and the golden sarcophagus of Tutankhamun as iconic images of ancient Egypt. At the same time, book titles such as *Eternal Egypt* unintentionally reinforce our tendency to think of the pharaohs and their culture as somehow timeless and unchanging. However, Egyptian civilization did not spring into being out of nowhere. For Egyptologists and archaeologists, much of the fascinating complexity of Egypt derives from precisely the fact that it was not "eternal" — instead it was a rich, vibrant, living culture that was constantly evolving, while at the same time grounding itself in a set of deeply rooted core elements and symbols that make it unique among the civilizations of the ancient world. How did the Egyptian state begin?

The main article in this issue of *News & Notes* highlights the opening of our special exhibit *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization*. As Special Exhibits Coordinator and Exhibit Curator Emily Teeter notes, Egypt existed as a centralized complex society for more than 1,500 years before the construction of the pyramids in the Old Kingdom. The 140 objects in our exhibit eloquently tell the story of the emergence of Egyptian civilization from its earliest beginnings ca. 4000 BC down to 2600 BC. Most derive from the pioneering excavations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century at Hierakonpolis, Abydos, and Naqada — the three most important sites for understanding the late Predynastic period.

The exhibit highlights the many threads that combined to form the tapestry of an ancient state society or civilization — kingship or centralized political power, social stratification, elite groups, economic specialization, warfare, and trade, to name just a few. The beautifully crafted vessels of stone and ceramic show the extraordinary skill and aesthetics of the master craft specialists in the late Predynastic and Early Dynastic period. The presence of imported objects show us the far-flung trading connections of the earliest Egyptian state. We are especially fortunate to have as centerpieces of our exhibit two priceless loan objects from the Ashmolean Museum of Oxford University — the Battlefield Palette and a unique limestone statue of King Khasekhem, whose base is inscribed with a notation that he defeated 47,209 rebellious northerners. These extraordinary objects have never before been on display in the United States. *Before the Pyramids* does a wonderful job in showing us how earliest Egypt differed from the later, better-known magnificence of the Old Kingdom. At the same time we can see the unmistakable continuities in the symbolism of kingship and in the core values that flourished for millennia at the heart of Egyptian civilization. By showing us the origins of the Egyptian state, this gem of an exhibit only enhances our sense of wonder at the later achievements of this civilization when it reached its zenith.



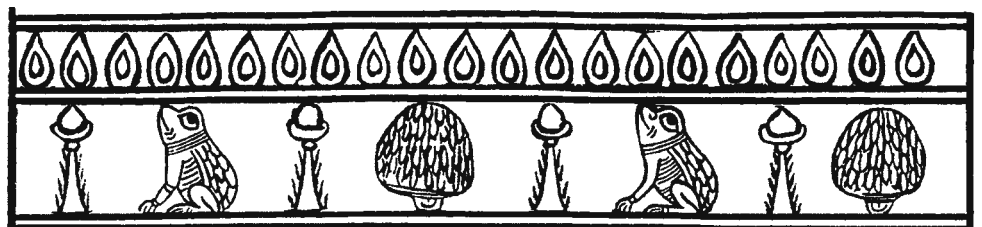
Maeve Reed

Cover illustration:

Group of Decorated vessels (D-ware).

OIM E26240, E10782, E10762, E10759, E10581.

Photo by Anna Ressman



BEFORE THE PYRAMIDS: THE ORIGINS OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION

Emily Teeter, Exhibit Curator and Coordinator of Special Exhibits

Oriental Institute Members will have their first look at our new exhibit, *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization*, in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Gallery for Special Exhibits during the Members' Preview on Monday, March 28. The show, which includes approximately 140 objects from our permanent collection of Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt (ca. 4000 to 2685 BC), will be on view through December 31, 2011.

A major incentive to develop this exhibit was the desire to bring the highlights of our Predynastic and Early Dynastic holdings back to the galleries. Ordinarily, only a few pieces of the collection of 2,500 objects are on permanent view in the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. The size and comprehensive nature of the collection make it important, but what makes it extraordinary is that most of it is provenanced, coming to the University of Chicago in the late 1800s and early 1900s through its financial

support of the excavations of the Egypt Exploration Fund (now Society) of London and the British School of Archaeology in Egypt, both led by William Flinders Petrie, the "father of Egyptian archaeology." But what is even more astounding is that the collection includes material from the tombs of the first kings, at Abydos, including model tools, ivory tags, seal impressions, stone vessels, game pieces, and pottery, all of which collectively give a tantalizing glimpse of the wealth of the first kings and the skill of the early craftsmen. Other material in the exhibit comes from Predynastic cemeteries in Upper Egypt at Hu, Abadiya, and Naqada.

The exhibit's goal is to reveal the "hidden" history of Egypt — the less well-documented 1,500 years that preceded the building of the pyramids. In 1939, Petrie himself wrote, "Until [the excavations at Abydos in 1895–1896], the history of prehistoric Egypt only began with the Great Pyramid."¹ An enormous amount of data has been

gathered and analyzed since his time, and the study of the earliest periods of Egyptian history is changing rapidly. For example, our understanding of the rise and development of the state has completely changed in the last thirty years, largely due to excavations at Abydos, Hierakonpolis, and sites in the Nile Delta. The older idea that Egypt was united by King Narmer, as suggested by the Narmer Palette, is now superseded by the idea of a gradual cultural and political assimilation of the north by the south.

Developing this exhibit gave us the opportunity to study our collection anew. Much of it has not been exhibited since the days of the late professor Helene Kantor (at the Institute from 1945 to 1989). Many object descriptions are incomplete or inaccurate, making it difficult for researchers to know what is in the collection, but even more so,



Figure 1 (left). Red breccia vessel in the form of a bird. Naqada III, ca. 3200–3100 BC. OIM E10859

Figure 2 (above). Elegant diorite jar that is a tour de force of the stonecarver's craft. Diorite was mined northwest of Abu Simbel. Naqada II–III, ca. 3800–3100 BC. OIM E10610



Figure 3. (top left) Limestone statue of King Khasekhem wearing a ritual robe. The base of the statue is incised with a text claiming that he defeated 47,209 enemies. Dynasty 2, ca. 2685 BC (Courtesy of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford AN1896–1908 E.517)



Figure 4. (top middle) Ivory incised with an image of King Den holding a mace. He stands behind a standard with a jackal, the protector of the necropolis and of Upper Egypt. The king's ritual name written in front of him is a reference to foreign lands in which he may have campaigned. Dynasty 1, ca. 2950 BC. OIM E6146



Figure 5. (above) Ivory figurine of a youth. The pose with finger to mouth was used throughout Egyptian history to denote a child. Dynasties 1–3(?), ca. 3100–2615 BC. OIM E7910



Figure 6. (left) Jar painted with a scene of a boat, a dancing woman, and two men. Naqada IIC–D, ca. 3400 BC. OIM E10581

Figure 7. (below) Selection of Black-Topped ware. Naqada I–IIa, ca. 4000–3600 BC. OIM E9026, E5811, E905



the dates assigned to the objects are very vague and inadequate, often just “Predynastic.” The chronology of the Predynastic period has been refined and modified in the last half century, evolving from the progression of Badarian, Amratian, and Gerzean for the Upper Egyptian sequence, to Werner Kaiser’s 1957 scheme that divided Amratian, Gerzean, and Dynasty 1 into eleven “Stufen” or stages (Naqada Ia–Naqada IIIb). In the last several decades, the classifications have been further refined. With the impending implementation of our integrated database, it is imperative that we update our registration records, and this exhibit provided the impetus to do so.

Producing the catalog for the show presented its own challenges. I envisioned that the catalog be a review of the most up-to-date research on Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt, ideally in a highly illustrated format that would bring the exciting new discoveries and conclusions to a wider audience. However, the Oriental Institute has not traditionally been a center for Predynastic studies, and although Research Associate Bruce Williams is an authority on decorated pottery of the period, and graduate student Elise

MacArthur has made the Predynastic her area of study, I wanted to present a wider perspective. I was gratified that fifteen of the leaders in the field from the United States and Europe agreed to contribute essays on their own research. These contributions include theories of state formation; summaries of the Predynastic in Lower Egypt; the newest work at Hierakonpolis, Abydos, and Tell el-Farkha; and relations between Egypt and the Levant and Egypt and Nubia. The range of topics could not easily be written by one scholar, especially with the tight deadlines that are characteristic of exhibit catalogs. The contributors were given access to images of our collection through our ftp server, and as a result, some of them were able to incorporate our material into their essays, furthering our own knowledge of our holdings. This was the result of long-range planning and coordination. In early 2009, Museum intern Noëlle Timbart and Assistant Registrar Susan Allison implemented a project originated by then-chief curator Geoff Emberling to take record photos of the entire Predynastic–Early Dynastic collection in preparation for this exhibit and for the integrated database project. Once the object selection



Figure 8. Furniture support in the form of a bull leg. Tomb of King Djet at Abydos. Dynasty 1, ca. 2890 BC. OIM E6901

was finalized, the artifacts for the exhibit were photographed for the catalog in Anna Ressman’s studio. It is rare for such artifacts to get the full art-object treatment, and the results are stunning.

The conservation of objects was another residual benefit of doing this show. A grant from the Antiquities Endowment Fund of the American Research Center in Egypt supported the purchase of conservation supplies and analytical testing of objects using the Department of Geophysics scanning electron microscope (SEM) on campus. Of special interest was the analysis of colored residues on two cosmetic palettes, the results of which indicate the presence of iron- and copper-based pigments.

An overarching theme of the exhibit is to show that many of the fundamental aspects of Egyptian culture were established in the Predynastic and Early Dynastic periods. The belief in life after death, the institution of a semi-divine pharaoh, funerary and non-funerary offering cults, the invention of writing — all were achievements of these eras. Further, the apparent appeal and potency of these iconographic motifs ensured that many of them were employed for the next 3,000 years.



Figure 8. Palette in the form of an elephant. Palettes were originally used to grind cosmetics, but they evolved into decorative objects. Many, like this example, were pierced for suspension, suggesting a further ritual nature. Naqada II, ca. 3800–3300 BC. OIM E12170

The exhibit is organized around a number of themes. The first is the Nile Valley, addressing the unique environment in which the early civilization rose, and the early Egyptians' trade and contact with their neighbors. Another topic is the discovery of the Predynastic period with a discussion of sequence dating and how pottery can be dated through its stylistic development. A large section of the show is devoted to Predynastic culture with spectacular examples of thin-walled Black-Topped pottery and painted vessels covered with images of animals, people, and ceremonial boats. A selection of stone vessels and tools and decorative cosmetic palettes gives an idea of the accomplishments of craftsmen. A discussion of religion includes objects from offering cults and artifacts that reflect a conscious differentiation of the semi-divine king from his subjects. The material from the royal tombs and the subsidiary burials — ivory game pieces, a fragment of a crystal vessel, fragments of inlaid furniture with elaborately carved legs — gives a sense of the wealth and splendor of life in the palace. Stelae, stone vessels, and an

ivory game piece in the form of a lioness recovered from the subsidiary burials that surround the kings of Dynasty 1 may reflect gifts from the king to his retainers. The nature of these subsidiary burials continues to be subject of debate. On the basis of the shared walls and roofing of the tombs, many scholars have suggested that hundreds of people were sacrificed and buried alongside the king, while others propose that the tombs were granted to courtiers and that the bodies were deposited over a longer period of time.

We are very fortunate to have received two very important loans from the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, Oxford University: a fragment of the Battlefield Palette and a statue of King Khasekhem, the last king of Dynasty 2. Neither has ever been exhibited in the United States. The Battlefield Palette, which dates to the late Predynastic period, shows the development of royal iconography, with the subjugation of foreigners by animals that are associated with the king. The further development of these motifs is shown on the cast of the Narmer Palette, where the king



Figure 10. Ivory game piece in the form of a lioness, from a subsidiary burial at Abydos. Lion markers were probably used with the circular *mehen* (snake) game. Dynasty 1, ca. 2950 BC. OIM E7895

himself, wearing the crown of Upper Egypt and the crown of Lower Egypt, smites his enemies. The statue of King Khasekhem is one of the earliest larger-scale statues of an Egyptian king. The manner in which he is shown was the standard representation of the king for millennia afterwards. He is portrayed seated on a throne, wrapped in a garment that may be associated with the *heb-sed*, a festival of the king's renewal. The base of the statue is carved with a text claiming that he defeated 47,209 enemies. This sort of claim, like those of victory on the Narmer Palette, has to be treated with caution, for one of the king's obligations was to protect Egypt and her people and also to more symbolically ward off the forces of chaos that threatened the cosmic order. Such written reference to victories ensured the king's success, whether he actually went into battle or not.

We thank Tom and Linda Heagy, the Antiquities Endowment Fund of the American Research Center in Egypt, and Exelon for their generous support of this exhibit and the entire Museum staff who have worked together so seamlessly to bring the show to reality.

The special exhibit is open from March 29 through December 31, 2011.

NOTE

¹ Petrie, *The Making of Egypt*. London: Sheldon Press, 1939, p. 160. I thank Elise MacArthur for bringing this quote to my attention.



Figure 9. Group of miniature faience vessels recovered from caches of votive offerings at Abydos. The same forms of vessels were used for 3,000 years. Dynasties 1–2, ca. 3100–2685 BC. OIM E8315, E7900, E6651

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE TRAVEL PROGRAM

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HITTITES: TURKEY & SYRIA

Led by Dr. Theo van den Hout

September 10–27, 2011

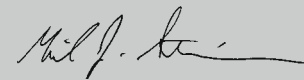
Dear Members of the Oriental Institute:

The Oriental Institute is the world leader in Hittitology and has been at the forefront of the study of Anatolian civilizations for over seventy-five years. In the 1920s and 1930s, we sponsored expeditions that probed the origins of the Hittites in southeast Turkey. The late professor Hans Güterbock, one of the greatest figures in the rise of Hittitology, was a major force in establishing the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara. One of the most lasting contributions that we are making to Hittitology and Anatolian studies is the compilation of the great Chicago Hittite Dictionary, the research tool used by all scholars of the region, now under the editorship of your tour leader, Professor Theo van den Hout.

This program has a different focus than other tours to Turkey or Syria. It will take you to the homelands of the ancient Indo-European peoples of Anatolia, the Hittites, and their successors, the Neo-Hittites. The tour was specially designed

by Professor van den Hout around his expertise and interests. You will have the opportunity to tour Hattusa and Karatepe, the great centers of the Hittites and Neo-Hittites, as well as fascinating excavations in the region, including Göbekli Tepe and Tel Ta'yinat. You will follow in the footsteps of the Hittites, from Turkey to Syria, and observe firsthand how these ancient people made Anatolia one of the greatest cradles of civilization.

This is a very special tour with an exceptional lecturer. Even if you have visited Turkey or Syria before, this program will give you new perspectives. Space is very limited. I urge you to join us for this extraordinary program.



Gil J. Stein
Director, Oriental Institute
Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology

US to Ankara | Saturday, September 10

Depart Chicago on Turkish Airlines.

Ankara | Sunday, September 11

Our Turkish Airlines flight arrives this evening.

Ankara | Monday, September 12

We begin our touring at the Ankara Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. Its outstanding collection of Hittite and Neo-Hittite art provides an excellent introduction to the tour. After a break for lunch, we will stroll through the citadel, where the old wooden Ottoman houses are slowly being restored. We will stop to view the Alaeddin Camil, built during the Selcuk period, before continuing our city tour with some of the city's Roman remains, including the Temple of Augustus. This evening we will gather for our opening dinner at our hotel.

Hilton Hotel (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Boğazköy | Tuesday, September 13

We depart Ankara for the Hittite capital Hattusa at Boğazköy, first excavated in 1906. A complete tour of this incredible site includes the famous Lion Gate, the fortifications, and the temples and palaces of the city. After lunch, touring continues with the cult center of Yazilikaya, its reliefs cut into the living rock.

Hotel Asikoglu (B/L/D)

Cappadocia | Wednesday, September 14

A beautiful drive through the mountains of central Anatolia brings us into Cappadocia, famed for its unusual and beautiful rock formations known as "fairy chimneys," and its rock-hewn Byzantine churches decorated with elaborate frescoes. We will spend the remainder of the day touring in the wondrous Göreme Valley.

Doubletree Hilton Avanos (B/L/D)

Konya | Thursday, September 15

After visiting Kaymakli, one of the many underground towns hewn from the tufa to a depth of eight to ten stories, we drive to Konya, stopping en route at the Selcuk caravanserai Sultan Hani.

Dedeman Hotel (B/L/D)

Konya | Friday, September 16

This morning touring begins at Yalbur, a Hittite water monument or reservoir lined on three sides with inscribed stone blocks. The inscription describes the campaign of Tudhaliya IV. We then drive to the village of Hatip to see a rock relief showing a Hittite king with an inscription alongside. We then return to Konya to visit the Selcuk monuments of Alaeddin Park, including the ruins of the Ince Minare Medresesi and the Sirçali Medrese. We will also visit the Mevlina, founder of the Mevlevi order of dervishes, and the Mosaic Museum, housed in a former madrasa.

Dedeman Hotel (B/L/D)



Column base. Iron Age. Tell Ta'yinat. OIM A27859

Adana | Saturday, September 17

We continue east to Adana, stopping in Kizilda and to view the Neo-Hittite reliefs near the village of Ivriz. Here we will see the elaborately dressed king of Tuwana, Warpalawas, worshipping the god Tarhunza. We will reach Adana in time for dinner at our hotel.

Hilton Hotel (B/L/D)

Malatya | Sunday, September 18

Before leaving Adana, we will take a short city tour to see its Roman bridge and the Sabanci Merkez Cami, the largest dome in Turkey. We then continue to Karatepe, the Neo-Hittite capital of Azitawada. Here we will see a number of monumental sculptures and reliefs that have been restored and are in situ. Our day ends in Malatya, a crossroad of major trade routes since Chalcolithic times.

Anemon Hotel (B/L/D)

Gaziantep | Monday, September 19

Excavations at Arslantepe have revealed the first known palace, swords, toothed locks operated with a key, and a princely tomb with what appears to be evidence of human sacrifice. The

palace contains some of the earliest and best-preserved ancient wall paintings. These finds all date to more than 5,000 years ago. Arslantepe is also one of the sites where the Hittite empire tried to continue after its demise around 1200 BC. After examining some of the finds from this impressive site at the Malatya Museum, we will drive to Gaziantep.

Dedeman Hotel (B/L/D)

Antakya | Tuesday, September 20

Our day begins with another amazing site, Göbekli Tepe, dated to 10,000 BC and considered to be the oldest man-made place of worship yet discovered. Here ongoing excavations have revealed seven stone circles precisely carved and erected with great care on top of a hill that is the highest point in the Urfa Plain. Many of the large T-shaped megaliths are covered with carved reliefs of animals. Driving south, we stop at Yesemek, a Neo-Hittite stone-carving workshop, where we will see dozens of partially completed sculptures and reliefs scattered on a hillside now situated in the middle of a tiny village.

Savon Hotel (B/L/D)

Antakya | Wednesday, September 21

Our touring begins with a drive through the Plain of Amuk, dotted with hundreds of tells dating from the Neolithic to the Hellenistic period. At Tell Ta'yinat, the Oriental Institute excavations uncovered the remains of several large Neo-Hittite palaces, a temple, and numerous beautifully carved stone reliefs and sculptures. Its lengthy settlement history spans the Early Bronze and Iron Age periods. Numerous inscriptions that helped to identify the site as ancient Kunulua, capital of the Neo-Hittite/Aramean kingdom of Patina/Unqi, were found here. Excavations continue today under the auspices of the University of Toronto. After visiting nearby Tell Acana (Alalakh), we return to Antakya to visit the Archaeological Museum, which houses an outstanding collection of mosaics from the region.

Savon Hotel (B/L)

Aleppo | Thursday, September 22

Today we cross the border into Syria and visit the extraordinary Neo-Hittite tell of 'Ain Dara en route to Aleppo. Its acropolis is crowned with a fine temple and beautifully preserved basalt reliefs. Although still under excavation, six settlements dating to the ninth century BC and earlier have been identified. We will spend two nights in the old city of Aleppo at a charming hotel, formerly the home of a prosperous merchant.

Beit Salahieh Hotel (B/L/D)

Aleppo | Friday, September 23

Aleppo, established in the second millennium BC, will be the subject of our full day of touring. Touring will include the National Museum (which displays the finds from Mari and Ebla), the Grand Mosque, and the citadel with its remains of a temple from the Neo-Hittite period. We will have a walking tour of the charming old Armenian Quarter and wander through Aleppo's colorful souks.

Beit Salahieh Hotel (B/L)

Latakia | Saturday, September 24

Our touring begins today at Ebla, the great Bronze Age trading city whose excavations have revealed its palaces, halls, and courts, as well as the base of its monumental gateway. The most important and controversial find has been the royal archives, which are still being examined by the excavation team. We then visit the fascinating city of Apamea, with its extraordinary colonnade running 2 km north-south along the *Cardo Maximus*. We end our day at Ugarit's sister city, Ras Ibn Hani.

Rotana Apamea Hotel (B/L/D)

Damascus | Sunday, September 25

Touring begins at the impressive port of Ugarit, famous in antiquity for its trading contacts across the Mediterranean as well as its contributions to the first alphabet. We then drive into the Orontes Valley to one of the best-preserved Crusader castles in the region, Krak des Chevaliers. This magnificent structure guards passage between inland Syria and its ports. Our last two nights will be spent at a traditional Damascene house.

Talisman Boutique Hotel (B/L)

Damascus | Monday, September 26

Our last day of touring begins at the National Museum. The museum houses an excellent collection of artifacts from Palmyra, Mari, and Ugarit, as well as magnificent frescoes from Dura Europos. We will complete our touring at the city walls, the Tomb of Saladin, and the Umayyad Mosque, which sits amid the Corinthian columns of the third-century Temple of Jupiter. This evening we will gather for our farewell dinner at one of the city's traditional restaurants.

Talisman Boutique Hotel (B/L/D)

Damascus to US | Tuesday, September 27

We will transfer to the airport for our Turkish Airlines flights to Chicago.

Tour price per person: \$6,995 (includes round-trip airfare from Chicago)

Single supplement: \$925

Land-only rate: \$5,890 (without group airfare)

Tour price includes: Transatlantic group flights from Chicago on Turkish Airlines; surface travel by air-conditioned motor coach as detailed in the itinerary; accommodations based on two persons sharing a twin-bedded

room with a private bath as listed or similar; meals as listed in the detailed itinerary; baggage handling for one suitcase per person; all gratuities to tour escorts, guides, drivers, and porters; and a \$400, tax-deductible contribution to the Oriental Institute.

Does not include: Passport and visa fees, excess baggage charges, transfers to and from airports for participants arriving or departing on flights other than the group flights, travel insurance, beverages and items not on the menu, items of a purely personal nature, any items not listed.

Please note: This tour should be considered moderately strenuous. It will require some walking over rough, uneven terrain or climbing steps without handrails and some long driving days. All participants are expected to be physically active and able to walk independently throughout our full touring days. If you have questions about your ability to participate in this tour, please contact the Oriental Institute or Archaeological Tours to discuss your options. This tour is not recommended for participants under the age of eighteen. For additional information, or to register for *In the Footsteps of the Hittites: Turkey & Syria*, please contact the Oriental Institute Membership Office at oi-membership@uchicago.edu or (773) 834-9777.

Theo van den Hout (PhD, University of Amsterdam, 1989) is a professor of Hittite and Anatolian languages at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, and chief editor of the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary* project since 2000. He is the author of several books and numerous articles covering Anatolian civilizations of both the second and first millennia BC. In 2003 Professor van den Hout took part in the Turkish film *"The Hittites"* as well as the BBC documentary *"The Dark Lords of Hattusha"* in 2006. Besides his work on the dictionary, his personal interests focus on ancient record management and early literacy in Hittite society. Professor van den Hout led the 2008 Oriental Institute tour to west and central Turkey.



Neo-Hittite double-sphinx column base excavated in the 1930s at Zincirli, Turkey, now in the Museum of the Ancient Orient in Istanbul. 8th century BC



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE IN THE NEWS



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

AUDIO TOURS

World Journal

November 1, 2010

Coverage of Chinese Audio Tour of the Museum Galleries — <http://worldjournal.com/bookmark/10118208>

The Chicago Tribune

November 13, 2010

"Mandarin Appearing at City's Attractions Aid Increase of Tourism from China," by William Mullen — <http://www.chicago-tribune.com/travel/ct-met-chinese-tourists-1113-20101112,0,1545160.story>

CHICAGO HOUSE

Al Ahram Weekly

November 25, 2010

"Never Better, Never Bettered," by Jill Kamil — <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2010/1024/he11.htm>

EGYPT

Chicago Maroon

November 3, 2010

Coverage of 2010 Members' Lecture by Barry Kemp. "Egyptian Burial Site Shows Evidence of Sun-Worship, Prof. Says," by Hiba Fatima Ahmed — <http://www.chicagomaroon.com/2010/11/5/egyptian-burial-site-shows-evidence-of-sun-worship-prof-says>

Wall Street Journal

November 11, 2010

"Egypt Hunts Ancient Artifacts," by Ashraf Khail — <http://online.wsj.com/article/sb10001424052748704689804575535662169204940.html>

VISIBLE LANGUAGE EXHIBIT

University of Chicago

Alumni Magazine

January–February 2011, pp. 38–41

"Origins of Writing," by Ruth Kott — <http://magazine.uchicago.edu/1102/features/theoriginsofwriting.shtml>

JERICHO MAFJAR PROJECT

Ma'an News Agency

January 15, 2011

Coverage of the Jericho Mafjar Project. "New Excavations at Hisham's Palace in Jericho" — <http://www.maannnews.net/eng/viewdetails.aspx?id=351275>

FROM THE FIELD

Jericho Mafjar Project, West Bank

Excavations at the Oriental Institute's newest archaeological project, the Jericho Mafjar Project, officially began on December 15, 2010. The project is the first joint Palestinian-American archaeological excavation, making it a unique milestone for scholarship. Under the direction of Dr. Donald Whitcomb (Oriental Institute), the project will investigate the theory that the site of Khirbat al-Mafjar was not just an important palace complex, but was instead an incipient Islamic city inhabited until the thirteenth century AD.

For more information on the Jericho Mafjar Project, including how you can support this and other Oriental Institute projects, visit <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/donate/adoptadig/jericho.html>.



Dr. Donald Whitcomb and his team at Khirbat al-Mafjar. From left to right: (back) Bassam Nassasira, Awni Shawamra, Don Whitcomb, Iman Saca, Jihad Yasin, Michael Jennings, (front) Enrico Cirelli, Muhammad Ghayyada, and John Whitcomb.

NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

Tell Hamoukar, Volume 1. Urbanism and Cultural Landscapes in Northeastern Syria: The Tell Hamoukar Survey, 1999–2001

Jason A. Ur

Oriental Institute Publications 137

Chicago: *The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 2010*

Pp. lxi + 384, includes Preface by McGuire Gibson and Arabic summary; 210 figures, 3 pocket maps, 74 tables.

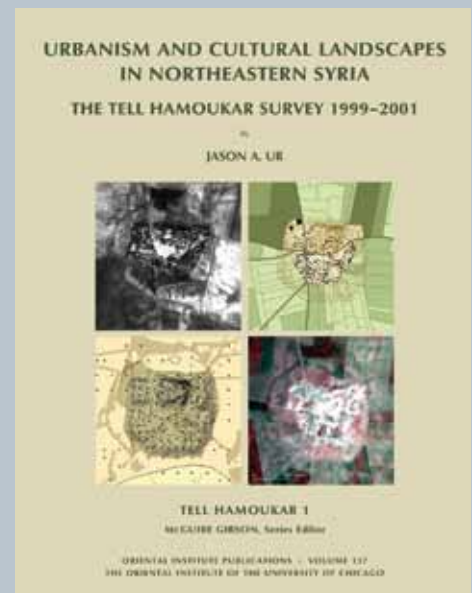
ISBN 978-1-885923-73-8

\$75.00

Tell Hamoukar is one of the largest Bronze Age sites in northern Mesopotamia. The present volume presents the results of three seasons of field survey and remote-sensing analysis at the site and its region. These studies were undertaken to address questions of urban origins, land use, and demographic trends through time. Site descriptions and settlement histories are presented for Hamoukar and fifty-nine other sites in its immediate hinterland over the last 8,000 years. The project paid close attention to the “off-site”

landscape between sites and considered aspects of agricultural practices, land tenure, and patterns of movement. For each phase of occupation, the patterns of settlement and land use are contextualized within larger patterns of Mesopotamian history, with particular attention to the proto-urban fifth millennium BC, the Uruk Expansion of the fourth millennium BC, the height of urbanism in the late third millennium, the impact of the Assyrian empire in the early first millennium BC, and the Abbasid landscape of the late first millennium AD.

The volume also includes a description of the unparalleled landscape of tracks in the Upper Khabur basin of Hassake province, northeastern Syria. Through analysis of CORONA satellite photographs, over 6,000 kilometers of premodern trackways were identified and mapped, mostly dating to the late



third millennium and early Islamic periods. This area of northern Mesopotamia is thus one of the best-preserved ancient landscapes of movement in the world.

The volume’s appendices describe the sixty sites, their surface assemblages, and the survey’s ceramic typology.

The Egyptian Book of the Dead: Documents in the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago

Edited by Thomas George Allen

The first digital reprint.

Oriental Institute Publications 82

ISBN-13: 978-1-885923-80-6

Chicago: *The University of Chicago Press and the Oriental Institute, 1960*

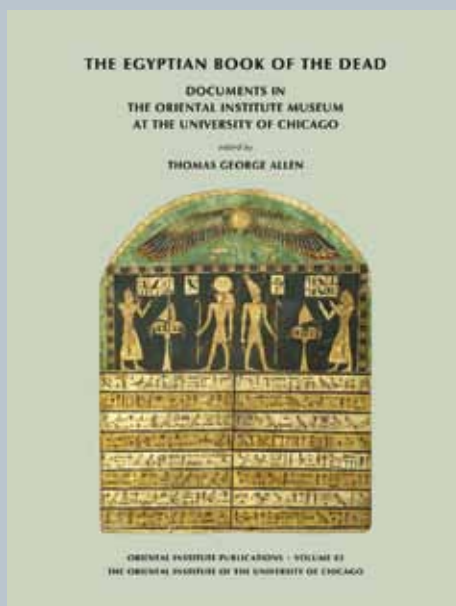
Pp. xxxiii + 289; 131 plates; hard cover

\$75.00

Hope for life after death is evidenced even in prehistoric times in Upper Egypt. The first written aids for attaining and supporting life in the hereafter were the Pyramid Texts inscribed within royal tombs toward the end of the Old Kingdom. In the Middle Kingdom, many texts were borrowed from the pyramid chambers and mingled with new spells;

this new form, which today we call Coffin Texts, were usually written inside coffins. These eventually gave way to what we now know as the Book of the Dead. The collections of spells were usually written on rolls of papyrus, that is, in the form of an Egyptian book.

Presented here are seventy Book of the Dead documents housed in the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago. These documents, represented in whole or in part—all Eighteenth Dynasty or later—include seven papyri, three coffins, a shroud, a statuette, three stelae or similar, and fifty-five ushabties.



These books are available from the David Brown Book Company/Oxbow Books — www.oxbowbooks.com

SPRING 2011 CALENDAR

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

APRIL

3 | SUNDAY

Mt. Nimrud: Throne of the Gods

Film
2:00 PM
See page 15 for details

6 | WEDNESDAY

Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization

Gallery Tour
12:15 PM
See page 18 for details

Sasanian Iran: The Other Great Empire of Late Antiquity

Members' Lecture
7:00 PM
See page 16 for details

10 | SUNDAY

Nubia 64: Saving the Temples of Ancient Egypt

Film
2:00 PM
See page 15 for details

13 | WEDNESDAY

First Impressions: Seals in the Ancient Middle East

Adult Education Course
7:00 PM
See page 14 for details

14 | THURSDAY

Intermediate Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs

Adult Education Course
7:00 PM
See page 14 for details

16 | SATURDAY

Día del Niño

Family Event
University of Illinois Pavillion
11:00 AM
See page 16 for details

The Splendors of Assyria: History and Culture of an Ancient Empire

Adult Education Course
1:30 PM
See page 14 for details

17 | SUNDAY

Noah's Flood in Context: Legend or History?

Film
2:00 PM
See page 15 for details

19 | TUESDAY

Cuneiform by Mail

Correspondence Course
See page 19 for details

24 | SUNDAY

Breasted Hall Closed for Easter Sunday

27 | WEDNESDAY

Incredible Isfahan: Discovering Persia's Past

Film Premiere
6:00 PM
See page 15 for details

MAY

1 | SUNDAY

Ancient Treasures of the Deep

Film
2:00 PM
See page 15 for details

2 | MONDAY

Feast with the Pharaohs

2011 Oriental Institute Gala
See page 22 for details

4 | WEDNESDAY

The Lure of the Relic: Collecting the Holy Land

Members' Lecture
7:00 PM
See page 16 for details

8 | SUNDAY

Women Pharaohs

Film
2:00 PM
See page 15 for details

11 | WEDNESDAY

Before — and After — the Pyramids

Gallery Tour
12:15 PM
See page 18 for details

15 | SUNDAY

Mesopotamia: I Have Conquered the River

Film
2:00 PM
See page 15 for details

21 | SATURDAY

The Scorpion King: Egypt Before the Pharaohs

Film and Discussion Panel
1:30 PM
See page 17 for details

22 | SUNDAY

Alexander the Great

Film
2:00 PM
See page 15 for details

SPRING 2011 CALENDAR

29 | SUNDAY

Breasted Hall Closed for Memorial Day Weekend

12 | SUNDAY

Egypt's Golden Empire, Part II

Film
2:00 PM
See page 15 for details

JUNE

1 | WEDNESDAY

Neolithic Iraq: Seven Seasons at Tell es-Sawwan

Members' Lecture
7:00 PM
See page 16 for details

19 | SUNDAY

Children of the Sun

Film
2:00 PM
See page 15 for details

5 | SUNDAY

Egypt's Golden Empire, Part I

Film
2:00 PM
See page 15 for details

26 | SUNDAY

A Legend in the Taurus Mountains

Film
2:00 PM
See page 15 for details



EDUCATION PROGRAMS REGISTRATION FORM

Don't miss out — register early!

Please enroll me in the following Public Education Program(s):

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> First Impressions: Seals in the Ancient Middle East	_____ \$240	_____ \$290	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs	_____ \$295	_____ \$345	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> The Splendors of Assyria: History and Culture of an Ancient Empire	_____ \$175	_____ \$225	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cuneiform by Mail	_____ \$255	_____ \$295	_____

The Scorpion King: Egypt Before the Pharaohs
Free, but pre-registration required; call Public Education at (773) 702-9507

GRAND TOTAL _____

K-12 teachers seeking CPDUs for eligible programs, please check here.

*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 Credit card

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 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 Education Office reserves the right to refuse to retain any student in any class at any time.

SPRING ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

The following three courses are co-sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies. Each course provides Teacher Recertification CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education, and each counts as an elective for the Graham School's non-credit certificate in Arabic Language and Cultures. For more information, call Public Education at (773) 702-9507.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: SEALS IN THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST

Oya Topçuoğlu

Wednesdays, April 13–June 1

7:00–9:00 PM

Oriental Institute

Did you get your passport stamped lately? Or watch post office personnel stamp your envelope? Those rubber stamps may look like ordinary objects, but they have their origins in the intricately carved and exquisitely beautiful stamp and cylinder seals invented thousands of years ago in the ancient Middle East. Discover how examining the extensive array of ancient seals in the Oriental Institute's collection can reveal a wealth of information about life and culture in the ancient Middle East, and learn how these art objects were made and used as you roll your own "first impressions" with ancient-style replicas.

INSTRUCTOR: Oya Topçuoğlu, a graduate student in Mesopotamian archaeology in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, specializes in seals and sealing practices in the Middle East.

CPDUs: 16

REQUIRED TEXT: Dominique Collon. *First Impressions: Cylinder Seals in the Ancient Near East*. The British Museum Press, 2006.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Wednesdays beginning April 13 continuing through June 1. Pre-registration is required. Call the Oriental Institute at (773) 702-9507 to pre-register.

INTERMEDIATE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS

Foy Scalf

Thursdays, April 14–June 2

7:00–9:00 PM

Oriental Institute

Expand your knowledge of the "divine words" of ancient Egypt! This course — a continuation of Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs (Winter 2011) — covers the script and grammar of Middle Egyptian, the classical phase of the ancient Egyptian language. Each class focuses on grammatical analysis, discussion of exercises, and readings from short historical and literary texts. Due to our limited meeting time, preparation outside of the classroom is essential. Students should be prepared to spend at least 6–10 hours per week of independent study in order to maximize their understanding of Egyptian grammar.

REQUIREMENTS: Completion of Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs or similar previous study as approved by instructor.

INSTRUCTOR: Foy Scalf is a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago. He specializes in the religious literature of Greco-Roman Egypt.

CPDUs: 16

REQUIRED TEXTS:

James E. Hoch. *Middle Egyptian Grammar*.

Mississauga: Benben Publications, 1997.

James E. Hoch. *Middle Egyptian Grammar: Sign List*.

Mississauga: Benben Publications, 1998.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Alan H. Gardiner. *Egyptian Grammar: An Introduction to the Study of Hieroglyphs*. 3rd edition. London: Oxford University Press, 1957.

Raymond O. Faulkner. *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1964.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Thursdays beginning April 14 continuing through June 2. Pre-registration is required.

THE SPLENDORS OF ASSYRIA: HISTORY AND CULTURE OF AN ANCIENT EMPIRE

Vincent J. van Exel

Saturdays, April 16–May 21

1:30–3:30 PM

Oriental Institute

Never before had the world known a power equal to that of the Neo-Assyrian empire (tenth century–605 BC). From their sumptuous capitals in northern Iraq, the Assyrians ultimately subjugated two of the cradles of civilization: Mesopotamia and Egypt. Discover the art, archaeology, and history of the Neo-Assyrian empire — its royal propaganda, religious ideologies, and military prowess. A visit to the Oriental Institute Museum will introduce you to colossal sculptures from the palace of Assyrian king Sargon II. We will also discuss the lasting legacy of Assyria in contexts ranging from biblical traditions to the modern state formation of Iraq.

INSTRUCTOR: Vincent J. van Exel, a graduate student in Near Eastern archaeology in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, has excavated extensively in Syria and Turkey.

CPDUs: 12

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Paul Collins. *Assyrian Palace Sculptures*. London: British Museum Press, 2008.

Joan and David Oates. *Nimrud: An Assyrian Imperial City Revealed*. London: The British School of Archaeology in Iraq, 2008.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute on Saturday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 PM beginning April 16 and continuing through May 21. Pre-registration is required.

SUNDAY FILMS

On Sunday afternoons at 2:00, enjoy the best in documentary and feature films on the ancient Near East at the Oriental Institute. Unless otherwise noted, films run approximately 30–50 minutes. Admission is free. Following the films, museum docents will be available in the galleries to answer questions about our exhibits.

April 3 *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.

April 10 *Nubia 64* (1987)

Winner of the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival, this film highlights the unprecedented international campaign to salvage and reconstruct ancient monuments in Egypt and Sudan that were threatened by the building of the Aswan Dam. The film's rare footage tells the story in human terms, vividly documenting the campaign's massive efforts to save temples and shrines.

April 17 *Noah's Flood in Context: Legend or History?* (2004)

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

April 24 Easter Sunday. No film showing.

May 1 *Ancient Treasures of the Deep* (1987)

From the PBS Nova series, this classic documentary on the underwater excavation of a fourteenth-century BC shipwreck found off the southern coast of Turkey shows how trade united the ancient world from Africa to the Baltic.

May 8 *Women Pharaohs* (2001)

Celebrate Mother's Day with this film that highlights major discoveries revealing the profound influence and power of royal women in ancient Egypt. From Providence Pictures and the Discovery Channel, this film features Oriental Institute research associate and Egyptologist Emily Teeter.

May 15 *Mesopotamia: I Have Conquered the River* (2000)

Explore ancient Mesopotamia — today's Iraq — in a film that examines the vital role of waterways in the development of this great ancient civilization. The film features a dramatic computerized re-creation of life along the Euphrates River more than 4,000 years ago.

May 22 *Alexander the Great* (2001)

This film from the Discovery Channel's Conquerors series profiles a warrior king of mythic proportions who lives on as an icon of martial prowess and figure of fascination.

May 29 Memorial Day weekend. No film showing.

The first Sundays in June feature *Egypt's Golden Empire* (2001), the two-part PBS series that explores ancient Egypt during its greatest age — the New Kingdom. Discover an era when art, learning, and technology were propelled to new heights, and ancient Egypt became the center of one of the first great empires in history.

This series was underwritten by Janet Johnson and Donald Whitcomb in memory of Egyptologist Frank Yurco.

June 5 *Egypt's Golden Empire Part I*. 90 minutes

June 12 *Egypt's Golden Empire Part II*. 90 minutes

June 19 *Children of the Sun* (2001)

The solar eclipse that took place in Iran in 1999 inspired Mansooreh 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.

June 26 *A Legend in the Taurus Mountains* (2004)

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



MEMBERS' LECTURES

SASANIAN IRAN: THE OTHER GREAT EMPIRE OF LATE ANTIQUITY

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

7:00 PM

Touraj Daryaee, University of
California—Irvine

The Sasanian empire (third–seventh centuries AD) established the first post-Hellenic civilization on an imperial scale in the ancient Near East. Sasanian values and traditions, such as ethical dualism and an imperial vision in the unity of the world, came to exercise an important influence in world history. Sasanian cultural and economic influence was felt from the Persian Gulf to the Yellow Sea and on the Silk Road to Syria. This lecture provides a preview of the political, social, and religious life in the Sasanian world.

The Oriental Institute Members' Lecture Series is a unique opportunity for supporters of the Oriental Institute to learn about the ancient Middle East from world-renowned scholars. Unless specified below, all lectures are held the first Wednesday of every month, October through June, at 7:00 PM in Breasted Hall at the Oriental Institute. These lectures are made possible by the generous support of Oriental Institute Members.

THE LURE OF THE RELIC: COLLECTING THE HOLY LAND

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

7:00 PM

Morag Kersel, Oriental Institute
& DePaul University

The relationship between people and things is a crucial avenue of investigation in understanding past cultures. While the social aspects of material culture have come under closer scrutiny over the past few decades, what remains largely unexplored are the reasons why people collect archeological artifacts. Employing case studies from Jordan, Israel, and Palestine, this lecture examines the collecting of archaeological materials from the Holy Land, the effects on the archaeological landscape, and the object biographies of those artifacts enmeshed in the trade in antiquities.

NEOLITHIC IRAQ: SEVEN SEASONS AT TELL ES-SAWWAN

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

7:00 PM

Donny George, Stony Brook University

In the 1960s, excavations at the Neolithic site of Tell es-Sawwan, located on the east bank of the Tigris River in modern Iraq, revealed important architectural remains and a cemetery for children. The children's graves contained grave goods made of alabaster in shapes and quantities previously unknown in Iraq. In this lecture, Donny George discusses the cemetery and other findings from seven seasons of excavation at Tell es-Sawwan and how these discoveries are shedding new light on this important period.

FAMILY EVENT

DIA DEL NIÑO

Saturday, April 16

11:00 am–4:00 pm

University of Illinois Pavilion

525 South Racine Avenue

Chicago, IL 60607

FREE

Join the Oriental Institute at Dia del Niño, a celebration honoring the city's children. Sponsored by Chicago's National Museum of Mexican Art, this annual event held at the University of Illinois Pavilion showcases the bilingual services and activities offered by the city's museums. At the Oriental Institute booth, discover our bilingual

gallery activity cards and learn about computer interactives that invite you to unlock the mysteries of ancient tombs; find toys, games, and animals from long ago; and dig like an archaeologist to uncover secrets of the past. Then explore the Pavilion to enjoy interactive exhibits and take-home activities from some of Chicago's most popular museums and cultural institutions.

RECORDS OF THEIR TIME: A JAMES HENRY BREASTED SOCIETY EVENT

Meghan Winston, Special Events Coordinator

On December 1, 2010, thirty-seven James Henry Breasted Society Members met at the Art Institute of Chicago for a private tour of the special exhibit, Ancient Chinese Bronzes from the Shouyang Studio: The Katherine and George Fan Collection. After a greeting from James Cuno, president of the Art Institute of Chicago, the tour, led by University of Chicago professor Dr. Edward Shaughnessy and Visible Language curator Dr. Christopher Woods, investigated the role of inscribed Chinese bronzes, highlighting the historical and technical elements of China's most prized cultural possession — its writing system. Following the tour, guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a seated dinner at the nearby University Club. The menu for the evening included duck spring rolls, lobster bisque, grilled chicken breast, and a citrus cheesecake.

A special thank-you goes out to Jim Sopranos for his guidance in planning this event, and to everyone else involved who ensured the night's success.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FILM SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION

THE SCORPION KING: EGYPT BEFORE THE PHARAOHS

Saturday, May 21

1:30–4:00 PM

FREE

Pre-registration required

Towering pyramids, massive temples, and names such as Tutankhamun make awareness of the land of the pharaohs almost commonplace in today's world. But the monuments, ceremonies, and symbols that characterize ancient Egypt began to appear long before pyramids rose on the landscape or the first pharaoh assumed the throne. Join us for a one-time-only public screening of the landmark National Geographic film "The Scorpion King" from the Egypt Unwrapped series to see how archaeologists are discovering evidence that reveals the rise of civilization, the unification of the state, and the emergence of writing in ancient Egypt more than 5,000 years ago.

Following the screening, meet the eminent scholars who appear in "The Scorpion King" during a panel discussion on their experiences during the making of the film and their discovery of early developments that are among the most important in the history of humankind.

Presented in conjunction with the special exhibit *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization*; the program's current panelists include:

Günter Dreyer, director of excavations for the German Archaeological Institute at Abydos, where he is re-excavating the royal tombs.

Renée Friedman, the Heagy Research Curator of early Egypt at the British Museum and director of the expedition to Hierakonpolis.

*Moderator and discussant: Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute research associate and curator of the *Before the Pyramids* exhibit.*

CPDUs: 3

This event, which will provide ample time for questions from the audience, also includes a reception with the panelists. The program is free but requires pre-registration. Call (773) 702-9507 to register.

IRANIAN FILM PREMIERE

INCREDIBLE ISFAHAN: DISCOVERING PERSIA'S PAST

Wednesday, April 27

Screening at 6:00 pm

Reception at 7:15 pm

FREE

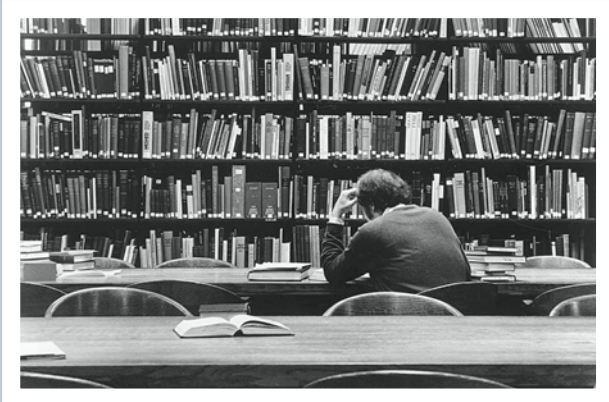
The Oriental Institute and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies invite you to the United States premiere of a major new documentary that presents the zenith of Iranian splendor as showcased in the magnificent city of Isfahan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This new pro-

duction from internationally acclaimed Iranian documentary filmmaker Farzin Rezaeian combines contemporary views with compelling computer-generated images to explore the cosmopolitan history, artistic traditions, and dazzling architectural monuments that make Isfahan the jewel in the crown of Persian cities.

This program begins with introductory remarks by Professor John Woods of the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, who appears in the film. Farzin Rezaeian will be with us to discuss his production and its companion book, which will be available for purchase at this event. The evening also includes a complimentary reception.

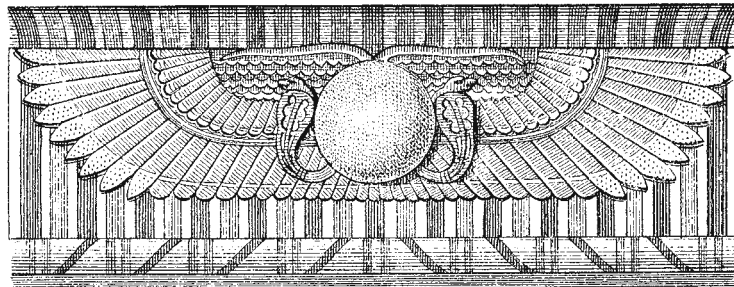


The Research Archives Adopt-a-Journal Campaign



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.



GALLERY TOURS

WITH EMILY TEETER

BEFORE THE PYRAMIDS: THE ORIGINS OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

12:15 PM

FREE

Be among the first to take a guided tour of our newest special exhibit, *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization*. Join Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute research associate and exhibit curator, to discuss extraordinary artifacts that reconstruct the lives of the early craftsmen, administrators, and kings whose legacies gave lasting shape to the great civilization that arose on the banks of the Nile.

BEFORE – AND AFTER – THE PYRAMIDS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

12:15 PM

FREE

Join Emily Teeter to tour and discuss artifacts in the *Before the Pyramids* exhibit that document the earliest appearances of farming, specialized crafts, the idea of life after death, semi-divine kings, and a unified state. Then visit the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery with Teeter to trace the trajectory of this cultural and political transformation as it gave rise to one of the most powerful and influential civilizations of the ancient world.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

CUNEIFORM BY MAIL

Monica Crews and Seunghee Yie

April 19 to August 9

Registration Deadline: April 8

Mesopotamia — used cuneiform to write a wide variety of documents such as law collections, business records, royal inscriptions, myths and epics, and scientific and astronomical observations.

While previous Cuneiform by Mail courses introduced the cuneiform writing system using Akkadian vocabulary from the first millennium BC, this revised course provides an introduction to the Sumerian language, including grammar, vocabulary, and script. Sumerian is one of the languages for which the cuneiform script is best known and was likely created. This class will give students a richer introduction to a language that used cuneiform as a script and to the cultures that used this script.

The cuneiform script is one of the oldest writing systems in the world. From 3100 BC to AD 75, scribes in the ancient Near East — particularly in ancient

Complete each lesson and return the exercises by mail or fax to the instructor, who will correct the exercises, answer any questions, and return the materials to you.

INSTRUCTORS: **Monica Crews and Seunghee Yie** are graduate students in Assyriology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. Ms. Crews' special interests include Sumerian grammar, Mesopotamian thought and literature, and the history and culture of Mesopotamia in the second millennium BC. Ms. Yie is a member of the Oriental Institute's Persepolis Fortification Archive Project and the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project. Her special interests are cuneiform, philology, and Achaemenid Persia.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Konrad Volk. *A Sumerian Reader*. Rome: Editrice Pontificio Biblico, 1999.

C. B. F. Walker. *Cuneiform*. Reading the Past 3. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

This course begins on Tuesday, April 19, and continues for sixteen weeks. Registration deadline is April 8. Pre-registration is required.

Exhibits of Note

Traveling in the United States? Put these exhibits on your schedule.

Fakes, Forgeries, and Mysteries

The Detroit Institute of Arts *
Through April 10, 2011

Archaeologists and Travelers in Ottoman Lands

University of Philadelphia Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology *
Through June 26, 2011

The Conservator's Art: Preserving Egypt's Past

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology
University of California at Berkeley
Through spring 2011

Mummies of the World: The Exhibition

Milwaukee Public Museum
Through December 17, 2011

Nefrina's World (forensic facial reconstruction of a 3rd-century BC Egyptian mummy)

Reading Public Museum *
West Reading, PA
Through 2011

Secret of the Silk Road

University of Philadelphia Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology *
Through June 5, 2011

Monsters, Demons and Winged Beasts: Composite Creatures in the Ancient World

The Michael C. Carlos Museum *
Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Through June 19, 2011

To Live Forever: Egyptian Treasures from the Brooklyn Museum

Norton Museum
West Palm Beach, FL
Through May 8, 2011
Nevada Museum of Art *
Reno, NV
June 11–September 4, 2011

Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs

Science Center of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN
Through September 5, 2011

The Search for Cleopatra, The Last Queen of Egypt

Cincinnati Museum Center
Through September 5, 2011

In Search of Bible Lands: From Jerusalem to Jordan in 19th Century Photography

Getty Villa, Malibu, CA
Through September 12, 2011

Egyptian Gallery

Bass Museum of Art *
Miami Beach, FL
Ongoing

New Ancient Egyptian Gallery

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art *
Kansas City, MO
Ongoing

The Egypt Experience: Secrets of the Tomb

Toledo Museum of Art
(This exhibit contains loans from the Oriental Institute)
Ongoing

* Denotes a North American Reciprocal Museum; Oriental Institute Associate-level Members and above can enjoy membership privileges at these institutions by presenting their OI Member card with its gold NARM sticker. Schedules change, so please check with the museum before your visit.



INTRODUCING



BIRTHDAYS AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

For the first time, the Oriental Institute is offering Members' children a chance to experience an Archaeology Birthday Party in the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center.



Explore the galleries, make Ancient Egyptian-themed crafts, and participate in your very own archaeology dig!

- * \$450 for up to 15 children
- * Suggested for ages 7-14
- * 1 chaperone required for every 5 children

CONTACT PUBLIC EDUCATION AT 773.702.9507 OR OI-EDUCATION@UCHICAGO.EDU
FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO RESERVE A DATE

VOLUNTEER DAY December 6, 2010

The Oriental Institute held its annual Volunteer Day and Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on December 6, 2010, to recognize our volunteers' commitment and service, thank them for their efforts and dedication, and celebrate their achievements over the past year. Volunteers were treated to a special lecture by Dr. David Schloen on recent work at the Neubauer Expedition to Zincirli, Turkey. The Volunteer Recognition Award Ceremony followed, with eighteen volunteers being recognized for their years of service to the Oriental Institute Volunteer Program. After the ceremony, Gil Stein, Oriental Institute director, treated volunteers to a festive holiday luncheon at the Quadrangle Club.

The Oriental Institute Volunteer Program is a vital part of the Oriental Institute community, and we thank all of our volunteers for their dedication and friendship over the years. Volunteers provide pivotal support to our research, programs, events, and community outreach endeavors, many of which would not be possible without their hard work and commitment. Thank you for all that you do, and congratulations to the 2010 Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients.



2010 Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients. Top row from left to right: Margaret Manteufel, Semra Prescott, JoAnn Putz, Douglas Baldwin, George Sundell, Nancy Baum, Gabriella Cohen, Joy Schochet; Bottom row from left to right: Cathy Duenas (volunteer coordinator), Andrea Dudek, Teresa Hintzke, Christel Betz, Dario Giacomoni, Joe Diamond, Terry Friedman (volunteer coordinator)

Become a Volunteer!

Many volunteer opportunities are available to Members, including giving tours of the Museum galleries, assisting in outreach events, and working with Museum staff and Oriental Institute faculty on a variety of research projects. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, call the Volunteer Office at (773) 702-1845 or visit their website at <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/volunteer/> to download an application.

2010 Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients

Active Volunteers

Five Years

Gabriella Cohen
Andrea Dudek
Margaret Manteufel
Douglas Baldwin

Ten Years

Dario Giacomoni
Joseph Diamond
Nancy Patterson
Joy Schochet
Semra Prescott
George Sundell

Fifteen Years

Patricia McLaughlin

Twenty Years

Nancy Baum

Twenty-five Years

Christel Betz

Thirty-five Years

Teresa Hintzke

Emeritus Volunteers

Fifteen Years

Patricia Hume

Thirty Years

Deborah Aliber

Thirty-five Years

Ria Ahlstrom †
JoAnn Putz

(† Deceased during the year)



FEAST WITH THE PHARAOHS
The Oriental Institute Gala

SAVE THE DATE
to join us at
*The Oriental Institute
Museum Galleries*
on
Monday, May 2nd, 2011
6:00 PM

TO HONOR ALL OI EMERITUS DIRECTORS

Robert McC. Adams
John A. Brinkman
Gene B. Gragg
Janet H. Johnson
William M. Sumner

and to honor
The 2011 *Breasted Medallion* Recipient
O. J. Sopranos

INVITATION TO FOLLOW



JOIN/RENEW TODAY!

I would like to become a Member of the Oriental Institute / Please renew my Oriental Institute membership

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ E-mail: _____

- \$50 Annual Member
- \$40 Senior Member (65+)
- \$40 National Associate (US residents 100 miles from Chicago)
- \$75 Overseas Member (residents outside the US)
- \$100 Supporting Associate
- \$500 Sponsoring Associate
- \$1,000 James Henry Breasted Society

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

Account number: _____ Exp. date: _____ 3-digit security code: _____

Signature: _____

You can also renew by calling (773) 834-9777 or visiting us online at oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/

Questions? E-mail or call the Membership Office: oi-membership@uchicago.edu / (773) 834-9777

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

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Thanks to Tom and Linda Heagy, our special exhibit, *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization*, is opening this spring at the Oriental Institute (see page 3 for a preview of the exhibit). A generous gift from the Heagys provided many of the resources that were needed to bring this exhibit to life: curator salaries, object loan fees, exhibit design, the exhibition catalog, and more. Tom and Linda have been long-time supporters of the Oriental Institute, and Tom has been a member of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee since 1988.

Tom and Linda have a strong and long-standing interest in early ancient Egyptian history, which led them to fund the exhibition. Our special exhibition program is a staple of the Oriental Institute Museum. It allows us to continuously present new research to our Members and the general public and to build innovative educational programming based on the shows. The diverse subject matter of special exhibitions presented at the Oriental Institute provides a variety of opportunities for support, depending on a donor's personal interests.



Tom and Linda Heagy

Gifts such as Tom and Linda's help us continue the high-quality research and programming for which the Oriental Institute has earned its world-class reputation. If you are interested in making a gift to the Oriental Institute or would like information on giving opportunities, please call Rebecca Silverman in the Development Office at (773) 702-5062.

JANNOTTA GALLERY

At an exhibition preview dinner this past fall, we were able to snap a photo of Ned and Debby Jannotta in front of the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery, which was named in their honor on October 18, 2003. The Oriental Institute's Mesopotamian collection, acquired almost exclusively through archaeological excavations, is one of the largest and most important in the world; the naming of the gallery is a fitting tribute for the Jannottas, who have supported the Institute for nearly a decade.

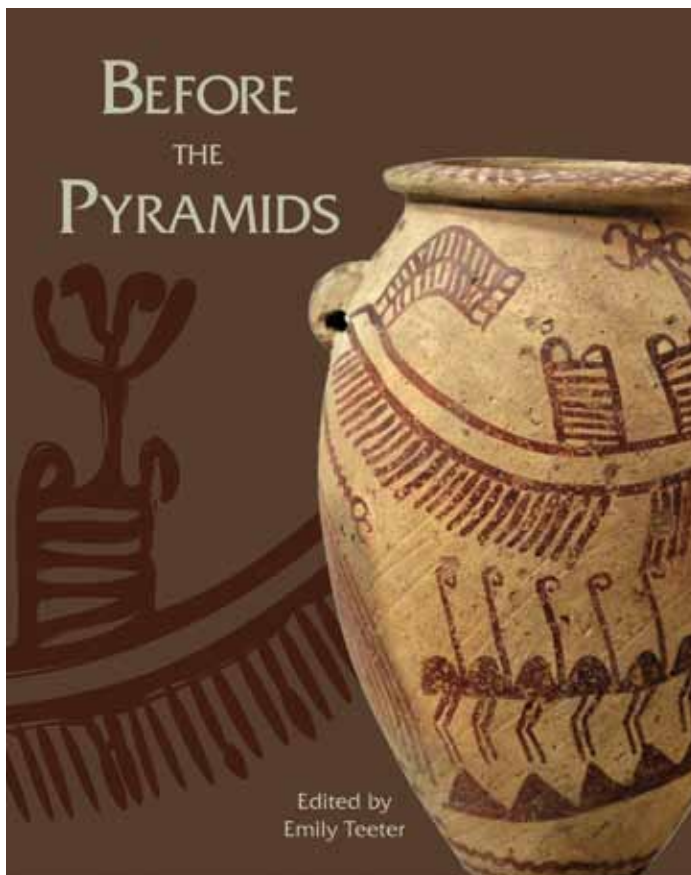


Debby and Ned Jannotta

the
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

The University of Chicago
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(773) 702-9514

THE SUQ **CORNER**



NEW AT THE SUQ

Before the Pyramids

Catalog for the new exhibit

Edited by Emily Teeter

304 pages

164 color images