



# News & Notes

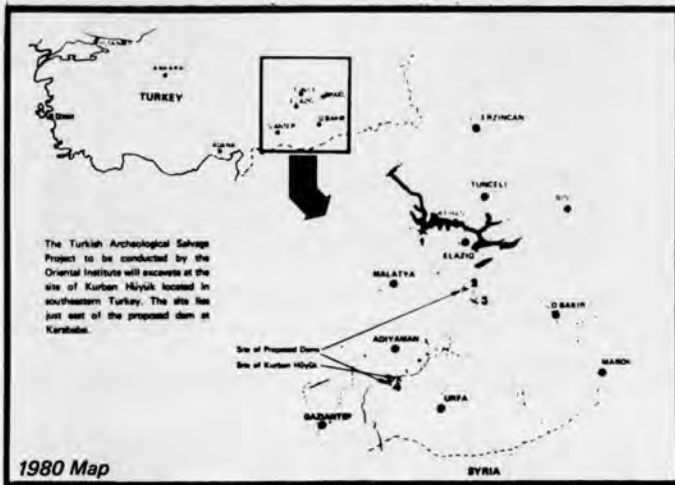
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## EXPEDITION UNCOVERS THIRD MILLENNIUM FINDS



Antakya, Hatay Turkey

play in the Assyrian hall of the Institute museum. We also visited the sites of Tell Tayinat (where our Neo-Hittite material comes from) and Alalakh, the famous second millennium B.C. city excavated by Sir Leonard Woolley. Tell Tayinat is now built over by a factory, but Alalakh's palaces and gateway are a tourist attraction.

It seems fitting that another Oriental Institute expedition should be working in the general vicinity of its work half a century later, but why so? The Amuq sequence included remains of the fourth and third millennia B.C. (Phases E-J) when the process of town formation first took place in this part of the Fertile Crescent. The excavations of Kurban Höyük are intended to obtain further information on this phenomenon, and it now seems that we will be able to do so. But let me go back to the beginning of the season.

Six of us left Kennedy airport on June 2, and by pure accident, were on the same flight as Professor Richard Ellis and others of the Bryn Mawr salvage expedition to the Euphrates. They are digging Gritille, a site upstream and across the river from us. In any case, all the preparations went smoothly for us, and we arrived in our new dighouse in the village of Cūmcūme on June 13. Excavations began on June 19, slightly later than I had hoped for, due to a number of official visits. Once started, however, we have moved at a creditable pace, with our staff building up to fifteen members from five countries, and our local work force reaching almost sixty laborers from three villages. Large as this may seem, the size of the staff has been the principal constraint on our progress—even though the staff is already two and half times that of last season. Our Turkish colleagues and the Eski Eserler (Turkish Department of Antiquities) have been most kind and cooperative in helping to remove potential difficulties and to smooth the path for our work. Both the heat (110 degrees F in the shade and 130 degrees F in the sun) and the Moslem month of fasting, Ramazan, have been less difficult than I had feared.

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It has been exactly a year since I last wrote to you. At that time, during the holidays of seker bayram, the first season of salvage excavations at Kurban Höyük in southeastern Turkey had just ended. Today is the first day of bayram once again, but we are only about two-thirds of the way through our regular season. The expedition is presently on its mid-season break, and I am sprawled on a comfortable bed in an Antakya hotel. As a brief digression, let me point out that our visit to the Hatay does bear both nostalgic and academic interest for our excavations.

Fifty years ago, the Oriental Institute Syro-Hittite expedition (with Prof. Robert Braidwood then a fledgeling archaeologist/architect) carried out some pioneering work on the Amuq plain, where Antakya (ancient Antioch) is situated. This work included the first full chronological sequence for the area (published as an Oriental Institute Publication). Our excavation is intended principally to fill in details in the light of that work, which to a great extent is still regarded as the standard for this region. Today, we saw some of the finds from that project in the Antakya museum; the rest is on dis-



Leon Marfoe, Director of Expedition.



Kurban, view to north of step trench/workmen.

Consequently, we have focused on only the three of the four areas begun last year, and have not opened any new excavation areas. What we have lost in new areas, however, has been more than compensated for by the sheer diligence of the team, and by the horizontal expansion and depth obtained. You may recall that Kurban Höyük consists of two low and extensive neighboring mounds connected by a saddle. This year, we have worked on the tops of the two mounds (Areas C and D), and in the step trench on the northern edge of the larger south mound (Area A).

Michael Ingraham (University of Toronto), with the aid of Canan Öztürk (Ankara University), has now made magnificent progress and gone considerably lower than the three phases discovered in the step trench last year. About six to seven new phrases have been discovered in the 10m of depth reached so far, and although their relationships are still uncertain, at least three are periods of substantial building remains. One particularly well-preserved level has yielded two rooms with free-standing walls a meter high, floors strewn with crushed pots, and a deep storage pit filled with seeds, fruit stones and pips. Both above and beneath this level, structures have now been found, the higher one apparently monumental in nature. With the exception of the lowest level at the foot of the mound, all phases seem to belong to the mid and late third millennium B.C.

The final occupation of the site has now been established in Area D on the flat plateau of the larger southern mound. There, Dan Potts (University of Copenhagen), together with a recent arrival, Aslahan Yener (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul), have done an admirable job of clearing about a half meter of topsoil to reveal a large (800 m<sup>2</sup>) complex of buildings. The numerous rooms found so far date to the latter part of the Early Bronze Age. In a room cleared just before bayram, about half a dozen complete pots were found lying on the floor. One is a characteristic grey burnished "Syrian bottle." On top of this final third millennium B.C. occupation, but only around the periphery of the south mound plateau, there is a large Medieval caravanserai built on an apparent courtyard plan. Bruce Verhaaren's (University of Chicago) work shows the building to be highly regular, oriented N-S and E-W, and predictable enough to be easily recognizable wherever it has been encountered. Because of a few Samarran splashed lead glazed wares, early sgraffiato, and incised plain wares, we can date this level to roughly the tenth and eleventh centuries (Abbasid-Seljuk). We are now in the process of removing it.

In Area C on the smaller north mound, Mary McDonald (University of Western Ontario, Canada), Mario Liverani (University of Rome), and Dan Rahami (University of Pennsylvania), soon to be joined by Mary Voigt (University of Pennsylvania), have together cleared about 500 m<sup>2</sup> of the fragmentary final phase, and are about to expose the better preserved level below. The principal features of both phases, both dating to about the mid/late third millennium B.C., are a series of pebble and cobble streets bordering individual buildings, and walls over a meter thick. Our understanding of this area is still slight, but it should be pointed out that all of our limited amounts of copper and most of our lithics and slag derive from this location, whereas most of our kiln wasters appear to come from the south mound. Furthermore, our pottery specialist, Guillermo Algaze (University of Chicago), thinks that these upper phases may equate with the lower phases of the south mound. I am not yet convinced.

Among the most exciting developments has been Mary Evins' (University of Chicago) deep sounding in Area C. Beneath about 2m of the later third millennium levels, she has now encountered another 2m or so of the poorly known

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## PROF. BRINKMAN HONORED AT GALA PARTY



John A. Brinkman

Gaiety prevailed in the Institute's museum in front of the Assyrian bull on a hot July afternoon when faculty and staff gathered to salute John A. Brinkman for "a job well done" during nine years as director of the Oriental Institute. There were speeches, laughter, anecdotes, and especially—tables laden with gourmet bits.

The highlight of the party was the presentation to Mr. Brinkman of a tablet which listed in cuneiform, the eight directors who have served during the entire history of the Oriental Institute. Someone quipped: "After the thousands of cuneiform tablets which he has transcribed, I wonder how many errors he will find on this one?"

The tablet is the result of many hours of labor, and is a token of real devotion and appreciation to a colleague and friend, who is admired and respected for the high rank which he holds among authorities in his field.

## FORMER INSTITUTE DIRECTOR RETURNS TO THE HELM

Robert McC. Adams succeeded John A. Brinkman on July 1, and thus became the ninth director of the Oriental Institute. Mr. Brinkman turned over the helm to Mr. Adams after serving three consecutive three-year terms.

Mr. Adams resumes an office he held from 1962 until 1968, when his expeditions took him away to Iraq, Iran, Mexico, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. He is the Harold H. Swift Distinguished Service Professor of Anthropology, and the author of a number of books, the most recent of which is entitled *Heartland of Cities—Surveys of Ancient Settlement and Land Use on the Central Floodplain of the Euphrates*, and was published by the University of Chicago Press last winter. He is eminently well qualified to give the first lecture of this season's series on Ancient Technology, entitled "Managing Uncertainties in the Control of Water—the Case of Mesopotamia."

Mr. Brinkman, who is Professor of Mesopotamian History, is looking forward to a heavier schedule of teaching, more intensive research, writing, and editing. He is participating in the Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia editorial project at the University of Toronto, and serves as its editor-in-chief for Babylonian texts covering the period 1600 B.C.-A.D. 75. He plans to spend more time on his second volume of *Materials and Studies for Kassite History*. The first volume took almost seven years to write; and its preparation took Mr. Brinkman to more than a dozen museums on three continents to examine over twelve thousand Babylonian tablets written between 1600 and 1150 B.C.



Robert McC. Adams





"Kings' List" as memento for Mr. Brinkman as he turns over the directorship to Mr. Adams.  
Photos by Jean Grant

## CHICAGO HOUSE, LUXOR

The Field Director of the Epigraphic Survey, Dr. Lanny Bell, wishes to remind all Oriental Institute members who plan a trip to Egypt, and would like to visit Chicago House, the headquarters of the Oriental Institute in Luxor, to inform the Membership Office of the dates of their stay in Luxor as far as possible in advance of their arrival there. This information will be forwarded to Dr. Bell so that the visit will be anticipated.

Members are also advised to contact Chicago House immediately upon arrival in Luxor (telephone 2525) to arrange for the most convenient time to visit Chicago House, in terms of their own travel plans, the work schedule of the Epigraphic Survey, and the prior commitments of the Survey staff members. Although Dr. Bell reports that he has been able to show members around on very short notice, on his days off, and even as late as 10:00 at night, he regrets that there have been occasions on which it has proven impossible to accommodate members who arrived unexpectedly, especially when their time in Luxor was extremely limited.

Because we want all interested members to have an occasion to visit Chicago House, to meet the staff members of the Epigraphic Survey, and to have an introduction to the Survey's work, we hope that you will please keep in mind that this procedure will give our representatives in Luxor, opportunity to maximize the time available for your visit.

### MEMBERS' DAY

Sunday, October 25, 1981  
1:00 - 5:00 P.M.

The Institute opens all its doors for the membership. Refreshments will be served. Come and see what we do. Please R.S.V.P. (753-2389)

*The SUQ will feature a sale with special holiday items including cards.*

### Expedition Uncovers Third Millennium Finds (Continued)

earlier third millennium—just how early is still uncertain. But these remains are not the earliest at the site. For some time, fragments of pottery characteristic of the Uruk period in southern Mesopotamia—bevelled rim bowls, four lugged jars—had been appearing in later levels from the site. Just before bayram, the deep sounding reached levels that may date to this period (an Uruk bottle fragment, diagonal reserve slip jars, long "Canaanite" flint blades). These layers were almost two meters thick and overlay an even earlier late Chalcolithic level, which in turn seems to have rested on virgin soil. At least a portion of the site, therefore, may have just the time span that we seek.

Apart from the excavations, Tony Wilkinson from England has been continuing his geomorphology and land use study of the local region. In addition to a detailed mapping (at 1:5000 and 10,000) of landforms and modern fields and crops, he has begun to study the system of river terraces and their evolution, and to locate a number of new sites. In a rather unsystematic manner, the major neighboring contemporary sites, the wider river valley region and other points of potential significance to Kurban Höyük are also being visited. An interpretative synthesis is still a long way off, but I hope to include some remarks on this in a future letter.

Not all of our activities have been devoted to work. Perhaps the highlight of our social season was our July 4th bash, when we invited our American colleagues from Bryn Mawr University over for an overnight dinner party complete with overcooked goat kid and disco dancing. Judging from the mournful faces the morning after, a good time was had by all. Let it be noted, however, that the Oriental Institute continued its victorious athletic tradition when our opposite numbers declined our challenge of a softball game and hence lost by forfeit. I suspect, however, that our depleted team was just as glad. Unfortunately, revenge was swift for the Bryn Mawr people and came in the form of a 3:00 AM climb up Nemrut Dağ. We had been invited for dinner at Gritille, and afterwards, we joined our hosts for a trip to the mountain. Whereupon, our dig vehicle suffered a number of mishaps and had to be rescued by our colleagues. To add injury to insult, our vehicle lacked the power to make the final ascent up to the mountain and we had to get out and walk in the moonless night for the last hour and a half in the face of a howling wind. Some of us have still not recovered from this experience.

Unlike last season, when we were the only expedition digging in the region in the summer, we have had more venture-some guests this time. We have exchanged visits with an Ankara University team digging at the impressive (especially when descending the steep riverward face) Seljuk fortress at Horis Kale, for example. Also, both Professors Ekmel Derya (director of the dam project) and Machteld Mellink of Bryn Mawr have been in to see us, while Toni Cross, director of ARIT-Ankara spent ten days of her short vacation with us. Other local dignitaries have also dropped in.

There remains a lot to be done before most of the team leaves at the end of August. Apart from the existing trenches, a number of new probes in different sectors of the site are planned. In camp, Carol Snow (conservator), Hildy Potts (draftsman) and Judy Wilkinson (photographer/registrar) are heroically coping with the deluge of materials coming in from the site. Both Guillermo Algaze and I intend to stay until mid-November to wind things up. Fortunately, the logistics this year have been eased somewhat by past experience and our large dighouse. Aquatic antics in the Euphrates (not to be confused with our flotation efforts) and presently in the Bay of Iskenderun help to smooth ruffled tempers.

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*Expedition Uncovers Third Millennium Finds (Continued)*

And although the diet is narrow and the fishing uneventful, we are training our mascot—erstwhile named “Kitty Bey”—to hunt chickens. So far, bugs and sparrows proved to be formidable prey for him.

One (possibly more) cloud looms on the horizon. Mindful of the eight rooms stipulated in our rental contract, our landlord has slyly partitioned some rooms into further rooms, and has launched a campaign to raise our rent on that basis. On another front, our rented dig vehicle came with a licensed driver—but to our dismay also came with an unlicensed one, who turned out to be the owner of the vehicle. He insists on driving the vehicle at the most inopportune times—when surrounded by cordons of traffic police—and what is perhaps worse, is exceedingly parsimonious when it comes to car maintenance. During the Nemrut Dāg trip, he consented to buying a packet of tire patches when the Gritille driver brought two spare tires. So far, there have been few misadventures (unless Guillermo’s ill-conceived attempt to cross the Euphrates and his rescue by our well-named waterboy is considered one), but along with the continuing anticipation of discovery, there is not a small element of apprehension. Until I write again, then,

Best Wishes,  
Leon Marfoe

**ENJOY A FREE MOVIE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON**

Film showings in Breasted Hall of the Oriental Institute on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 o’clock have been remarkably well attended during the summer months, and have therefore been scheduled for the fall quarter. There is no charge.

- Oct. 11 Rivers of Time  
18 Megiddo: City of Destruction  
25 Members Day - Special showings
- Nov. 1 Iraq: Stairway to the Gods  
8 Iran: Landmarks in the Desert  
15 The Egyptologists  
22 Rivers of Time  
29 Megiddo: City of Destruction
- Dec. 6 Egypt: Gift of the Nile  
13 Iraq: Stairway to the Gods  
20 Iran: Landmarks in the Desert  
27 The Egyptologist

**November Members’ Lecture**

“Ancient Glassmaking: Experiments and Traditions”

Sidney Goldstein, from Corning Glass Museum

Breasted Hall, The Oriental Institute

Monday, November 16, 1981, at 8:00 o’clock

The Quadrangle Club, 1155 East 57th Street, will be opened to Oriental Institute members who wish to make dinner reservations. Please call Mrs. Strattman, 493-8601. Please remember that the privilege of the use of the dining room at the Quadrangle Club is a courtesy extended to members of the Oriental Institute only on the nights when there is an Oriental Institute lecture.



The Oriental Institute

The University of Chicago

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