

Charles E. Jones

At the very end of this year, **Charles E. Jones** moved to Athens Greece, where he has taken the position as Head of the Blegen Library (<http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/blegen>) at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. He took this position following more than twenty-two interesting and productive years as the Librarian of the Oriental Institute. He will retain his Research Associate position in the Oriental Institute and will continue working on the material from the Oriental Institute's Iranian expedition excavated at Persepolis and on a variety of other projects, such as the Iraq Working Group (<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/iraq.html>), and the Oriental Institute's continuing collaboration with ETANA (<http://www.etana.org/>).

In his role as editor of Abzu (<http://www.etana.org/abzu/>) for the Oriental Institute and ETANA, Jones cataloged nearly a thousand items in the database and distributed monthly updates on new material by means of the mailing list ETANA-Abzu-news (<http://www.etana.org/abzu/>). In October Abzu marked ten continuous years of service on-line — Abzu was a public resource a little more than a year after the World Wide Web entered the public domain. Also in collaboration with ETANA, another suite of digitized volumes — available publicly and free of charge — was added to the Core Texts. From the Oriental Institute's collections are the portfolios of imagery published by Austen Henry Layard and this year we also completed the processing of thirty-eight volumes of the series Cuneiform Texts Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum (1896–1925). Of the 8,001 items currently accessible via Abzu, 594 are classified as digitized books.

Among many activities at the Oriental Institute Jones participated in a pair of committees which articulated and implemented Oriental Institute policy on on-line publication. Among the immediate tangible results of this new policy is the publication on-line of a number of recent Oriental Institute books, all of which are available via the Publications Office Home Page (http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/Elec_Publications.html) as well as via Abzu.

Jones continued to collaborate with Clemens Reichel on the development of resources for the Iraq Working Group (<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/iraq.html>). Jones' primary contributions are the management of the IraqCrisis Mailing list (<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/iraqcrisis>), which remains a nexus for the distribution of substantive information on threatened cultural heritage in Iraq, and as a member of the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) Committee on Iraqi Libraries (<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/mela/melairaq.html>) convened to coordinate the organization's response to the damage and destruction suffered by libraries in Iraq during and after the war in March and April 2003. It is with some sadness and frustration that we see a continued need for these resources and organizations to exist.

If they should find themselves in Greece, members and friends of the Oriental Institute are encouraged to visit him there in his new role.