

Thomas A. Holland

Thomas A. Holland is happy to report that the final volumes of the Tell es-Sweyhat excavations in Syria were computer formatted by the Publications Office at the end of 2006 and were published by the Oriental Institute in January 2007 (*Tell Es-Sweyhat, Syria, Vol. 2: Archaeology of the Bronze Age, Hellenistic, and Roman Remains at an Ancient Town on the Euphrates River* [two volumes, text and plates], Oriental Institute Publications 125 [Chicago: Oriental Institute, 2006]).

As reported in last year's *The Oriental Institute 2005–2006 Annual Report*, pp. 99–101, Holland began to edit a new volume to mark the one hundredth anniversary of Oriental Institute publications, which is entitled *Publications of the Oriental Institute 1906–2006: Exploring and Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Investigations into the History and Civilizations of the Near East* (with an Introduction by Gil J. Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute), and will be published in the series Oriental Institute Communications, volume 30. This volume is intended to complement and serve as a guide to all Oriental Institute publications up to 2006 that will eventually be available online. Holland completed this volume towards the end of 2006 and it is now in press with the Publications Office.

At his pre-retirement celebration in December, Holland presented two in-house talks, illustrated with slides, concerning his travels in Africa and his archaeological field work in the Near East. Beginning in 1965, he worked with Peter J. Parr at Petra, Kathleen M. Kenyon at Jerusalem, and Crystal-M. Bennett at Tawilan, all in Jordan. During 1971, he worked on the first field season at Umm Dabaghiyah, Iraq, with Diana Helbaek. In 1972 he was a field supervisor on the first field season at Tell Abu Hureyra, a Neolithic site excavated by Andrew M. T. Moore beside the Euphrates River in northern Syria. From 1973 until 1975 he directed the first seasons of excavations at Tell es-Sweyhat, which was one of the sites on the east bank of the Euphrates Tabqa Dam rescue excavations that was sponsored by the Ashmolean Museum, the University of Oxford. During the years 1976, 1978, and 1980 he acted as Assistant Director of Excavations at Tell Brak, Syria, under the directorship of David Oates. Excavations were renewed at Tell es-Sweyhat under the sponsorship of the Oriental Institute and the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, which consisted of three field seasons conducted during 1989, 1991, and 1992.

Holland was honored at the conclusion of his talks by a splendid Oriental Institute party amidst the grand setting of the Director's Office at which time he was presented with a very beautiful mahogany and onyx plaque decorated in gold lettering with the following inscription: *The Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, Presented to Tom Holland, In Recognition of 22 Outstanding Years of Service, 1984–2006.*

Holland wishes to thank all of the Oriental Institute and NELC faculty, staff, graduate students, and members who made his twenty-two years working in the Publications Office such a memorable experience.
